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April 30th to May 6th 2021
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MIJAS IS MAGIC
EVERYBODY
LOVES THIS
COSTA RESORT

In our supplement this week we focus on the diversity of Mijas, from its famous pueblo to its popular beaches **INSIDE**



A lone piper played on the beach in the city on Wednesday.
SALVADOR SALAS

A tribute on the sand to lost loved ones

Covid-19 victims

La Misericordia beach in Malaga was the scene of a poignant recognition of the over 1,600 people in Malaga province who have died from coronavirus so far during the pandemic. Small placards with human shapes were laid out on the sand. **P2**

Costa tourism more upbeat as travel between provinces is allowed again

Local hotels will focus more on Andalusian weekend guests until borders with other regions reopen

Movement between the eight provinces of the Andalucía region was permitted again from Thursday morning, for the first time

since 17 January.

The Costa hoteliers' association said that more hotels would gradually start to open during May, especially at weekends.

Advance reservations to the area are increasing overall and the regional Tourism minister, on a visit to Marbella this week, urged the industry to focus on the Safe Andalucía message to attract more visitors back again. **P3**

Search on for cause of fire that destroyed Olivia's in La Cala **P10**

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Covid vaccination campaign among the elderly starts to yield results

The average age of patients admitted to hospital is the lowest of the pandemic and some are elderly people with coronavirus who decided not to be vaccinated

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MÁLAGA. Vaccination against coronavirus among the elderly in Spain is beginning to bring positive benefits. For weeks hospitals have been detecting a significant decrease in the average age of patients admitted with Covid-19. The immunity achieved in care homes and among those over 80 years of age, the first vaccinated groups, has changed the profile of hospitalised patients.

The change has been reported by both the main hospitals in Málaga city: the Regional (formerly the Carlos Haya) and the Virgen de la Victoria (Clínico). Covid-19 patients are now younger, with an average age of 60, and have less severe clinical diagnoses say the doctors.

This does not mean that the virus has lost virulence, but rather, being younger, people with the infection have fewer previous health problems and recover more quickly.

However there is still an age range that worries doctors: the group aged 60 to 80, who are still considered at risk due to their age and the low percentage who

are fully protected against the disease. Their vaccinations began a few weeks ago and they are far from reaching the immunity offered by the two doses of Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Moderna.

A medical expert said that proof that vaccines work is that now the majority of the elderly admitted for coronavirus were those who decided not to be vaccinated.

José Luis Velasco, deputy medical director of the Clínico said earlier this week, "Over 80 years old, we only have six patients and they were not vaccinated."

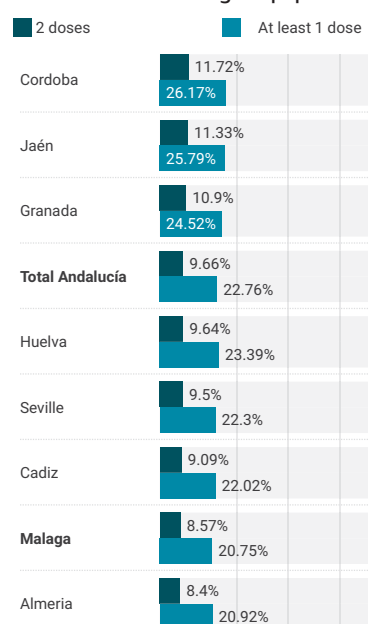
Of the 15 patients in hospital with Covid-19 over the age of 70, 14 had not received the vaccine: "When you discuss it with them, they tell you that they had fears and that is why they had not been vaccinated."

Over-68s can now make appointments for Covid vaccine directly

People born in 1953 or earlier were being encouraged to make their own appointments for their Covid-19 vaccinations this week. However the Andalusian health service stressed that those who were born in 1954 or later must still wait to be contacted first.

To make their appointment for their vaccines, if they have

Vaccination Percentage of population



Source: Junta de Andalucía. Data from 29 April.

not started the course already, those 68 or over can phone the Salud Responde line on 955 54 50 60, go online or contact their health centre, preferably by phone. The Salud Responde App will also be adapted shortly. Second dose appointments are not given out this way as patients should have been given a date when visiting for the first time.

On Thursday, 9.66 per cent of the regional population had had two doses and 22.76 per cent had had one dose.

Currently the age group with the highest percentage of admissions is people aged 70 to 79: "The average age has dropped a lot, and it continues to fall," said Velasco.

The deputy medical director said, "Now the elderly don't come from care homes and the infection rate in health workers has dropped a lot. The vaccine is the way out of the pandemic, but we still have to protect ourselves."

Changes requested

The regional minister of Health at the Junta de Andalucía, Jesús Aguirre, has said that he will be requesting changes to Spain's vaccination campaign.

The most important request, which would affect the vaccination schedule, is to increase the spacing of the second doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to eight weeks, "in order to increase the number of people with the first dose," Aguirre explained.

The other request is that the administration of the AstraZeneca vaccine be authorised for those over 18 years of age "who want to be given it voluntarily".

Aguirre said there are thousands of "paralysed" vaccines after the group of essential workers between 55 and 59 years old stopped being vaccinated with this formula.

He has also confirmed Andalucía will once again ask the government to allow free movement to those fully immunised with a vaccination certificate.

IN BRIEF



Colleagues mourn the teacher's death last month. **JOSELE**

MARBELLA

Local teacher's death still linked to vaccine

J.C. / A.F. A full autopsy and the medical history of the Marbella teacher who died in March after her first dose of vaccine have ruled out the presence of any illness that could have contributed to the massive haemorrhage she suffered. This continues to point to the AstraZeneca jab being the reason for Pilar González's death. However any criminal investigation has been ruled out by the courts as the autopsy could not officially attribute the death to a specific cause.

ANDALUCÍA

Private clinics handed 14m euros to help out

SUR. To deal with the negative impact on waiting lists, the Andalusian Health Service has a total of 14 million euros to carry out diagnostic tests and operations using private health centres and hospitals in Málaga province. About 45,000 patients are expected to benefit from diagnostic tests in private centres - including ultrasound, CT scans, MRI scans, mammograms cardiology stress tests - as well as around 100 different surgical procedures.

SPAIN

Minister says no to relaxing face mask rule

E. MIRANDA. The Spanish Government has no intention of lifting its mandatory wearing of face masks for the time being - not even for those people who already have the complete vaccine course; something that has already been done in Israel, the United States and Gibraltar. Minister of Health Carolina Darias said the situation in Spain still does not allow this mask-free scenario to be considered.

Slow drop in coronavirus case rates continues across the country

Málaga province has seen 1,621 deaths since the start of the pandemic, although the daily fatality rate is now very low

SUR

MÁLAGA. Covid-19 case numbers in Spain continued to slowly decline this week. On Thursday (29 April) the cumulative incidence rate nationally was 230.

In Andalucía, the rate fell for the tenth consecutive day to 225.7 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in the last 14 days, 25.9 fewer than a week earlier.

In Málaga province, including the Costa del Sol, the 14-day rate was 131 on Thursday, down from 138 a week earlier.

On Thursday there were 158 in Málaga province hospitalised with Covid-19 of whom 27 were in intensive care. Both numbers have been relatively flat throughout April.

The total number of cases now recorded in Málaga province since the start of the pandemic was 94,127 on Thursday, close to six per cent of the local population.

Although daily deaths have now declined, with just two deaths reported locally in the day, the total deceased in Málaga province,



One black figure placed in the Málaga sand for every local death. **S. SALAS**

including the Costa stood at 1,621 on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the CGT union organised an evocative tribute. Black figures on placards and sticks were distributed along Málaga's Misericordia beach, one

for every person who had lost their life.

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

Local tourism industry gears up for more reservations as provincial borders open up

The regional minister for Tourism is keen to focus on the Safe Andalucía message, especially with the UK expected to open up travel from mid-May

PILAR MARTÍNEZ / SUR

MALAGA. People in Andalucía were able to move freely between the eight regional provinces on Thursday morning this week for the first time since 17 January.

Although only a first step - other core restrictions such as a ban on land travel into the region and a nighttime curfew remain - the tourist industry on the Costa del Sol has already seen a rise in accommodation reservations and more announcements of the re-opening of hotels.

The president of Ahecos - the Costa hoteliers' association - José Luque told SUR, "A lot of hotels that can live off the Andalusian market at weekends at least are going to bring forward their re-opening and be active from May onwards."

He added that it will be in the



Their table awaits - this Axarquía boutique hotel reopened this month after 15 months closed, ready for the easing of travel restrictions **ÑITO SALAS**

third week of May when some move to opening all week, explaining that currently there are around 30 per cent of local hotels open, a figure that will go increasingly to 80 to 90 per cent "for sure" when more restrictions are eased.

The regional minister of Tourism and deputy regional president, Juan Marín, also spoke

about the good news this week on a visit to Marbella. He said that "one in four reservations that are being made throughout Spain are in Andalucía" and set the target for tourists at 20 million visitors this year.

"We are at a key moment for the sector," he told the media. "We're beginning to see the light

Spain is supporting May trials of a European digital certificate - the so-called Covid passport.

at the end of the tunnel but it is vitally important to continue with the safe tourist destination branding."

"Safe Andalucía must continue to be our selling point," he said, especially in view of the opening of the British market, scheduled for 17 May, and throughout Europe.

Speaking at the H&T hotel industry conference in Malaga earlier this week, the city's mayor, Francisco de la Torre, stressed, "We must tell the world that Spain is once again ready to receive visitors. The feeling of being in a good restaurant with good food and good company is not forgotten."

Spain is supporting trials in May of a European digital green certificate - the so-called Covid passport, in the hope it can be available from June to ease travel from more countries.

Night curfew hours remain the same, but closing time for bars is relaxed

SUR

MALAGA. Although movement restrictions between Andalucía's provinces were lifted this week, the perimeter of the region will remain closed and people can only enter and leave Andalucía for justified reasons.

There was a further small loosening in the rules on Thursday. Bars and restaurants may admit customers until 10.30pm and close at 11pm, although the curfew remains in place at 11pm until 6am. Shops may stay open until 10.30pm as well. Meetings remain limited to a maximum of six people outdoors and four people indoors.

The border closure of municipalities with a case rate of more than 500 cases per 100,000 people in 14 days remains. The closure of non-essential activity will be ordered if a municipality exceeds a rate of 1,000, except in places with fewer than 1,500, where "a risk assessment" will be carried out.

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Latest employment data puts Malaga province jobless rate at 22.4 per cent

The quarterly EPA report calculated that the local level has risen from 19.4% a year ago and puts the current average national rate at almost 16%

N. TRIGUERO / L. PALACIOS

MALAGA / MADRID. The first official EPA active population survey of 2021 has shown the con-

tinuing effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the jobless rate, with the figure now standing at 22.4% in Malaga province.

The EPA survey, published every three months, is generally seen as the most reliable measure of the number of unemployed in Spain.

Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, had 610,400 in work in the period January to March, 29,100 fewer than the

same three months last year. This was a 4.5% drop but excludes from the data those off work on ERTE furloughing schemes, which was just under 34,000 in March.

The EPA estimates that Malaga province had 176,400 unemployed in the first three months of 2021, 22,500 more than at the same point in 2020.

This translates into a provincial level of unemployment go-

ing up from 19.4% to 22.4% in a year.

The national average, based on EPA data, is 15.98% and the Andalusian regional average is 22.54%.

The rate of unemployment in Malaga province among women is four points higher than men (24.72% versus 20.33%).

National trends

On a national level, the number

of unemployed rose by 341,000 in the first quarter of this year compared to a year ago, with 474,500 jobs lost and 133,500 fewer people active in the job market compared to January to March 2020. This excludes more than 400,000 people affected by ERTes.

At the end of 2019, numbers out of work were falling by 3.4% a quarter. Numbers rose by 4.25% in the first quarter of 2020 with the outbreak of the virus and peaked at a 16% increase in the fourth quarter of 2020, falling back by 10.29% in the latest first quarter data of 2021.

The government is hoping that the Spanish economy will grow 6.5% in 2021.

Storm Lola leaves trail of destruction on Costa del Sol beaches

Benalmádena, Malaga and Torremolinos saw some of the worst damage and councils have called for a more permanent solution

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. Beaches along the Costa del Sol took a battering from storm Lola, which brought heavy rain, high winds and rough seas to the coast at the weekend.

The Atlantic storm hung over the south of Spain until Tuesday bringing instability and heavy rainfall. The coastline in Malaga, Torremolinos and Benalmádena was worst-hit, as the fierce waves ate away at the sandy beaches.

Víctor Navas, the mayor of Benalmádena, described the damage to the town's beaches as

"substantial" and called on the Junta de Andalucía and central government for more permanent action.

"The need to build barriers to protect our beaches is vital. We need solutions now - we can't wait any longer," he said.

Beach bars

Los Cangrejos beach bar in Benalmádena reopened its doors the previous weekend for the first time since September last year. Now they have been forced to close again as the storm washed away much of the establishment.

"It's been years since we suffered such great damage. The storm has eaten away two metres of sand and it has taken away part of the bar and toilets, in addition to the walkways and the awnings," said manager Andrés García.



The bad weather damaged chiringuitos in Benalmádena Costa. **ÑITO SALAS**



Debris washed onto the paseo near Malaga. **Ñ. SALAS**



Erosion alongside a Torremolinos beach. **J. CANALES**

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Guided tours for residents in a bid to boost local tourism

MIJAS

Mijas Secrets hopes to attract foreign residents to explore the delights that are on their own doorstep

IVÁN GELIBTER

With movement around the country still limited, Mijas town hall has set up an initiative to promote local tourism and try to bring activity back to the town.

The council's Tourism and Foreigners departments, coordinated by José Carlos Martín and Arancha López, respectively, have recently presented the initiative Mijas Secrets - an activity where tourist guides accompany foreign residents of the province to the his-



The activities are primarily centred around Mijas Pueblo. **SUR**

toric centre of the town to help them discover the most deeply rooted legends, as well as the town's historical, artistic, natural and cultural heritage in depth. These visits in turn also lead to spending by

the participants either in shops or restaurants, they say.

"So far participants have been delighted with the initiative as it allows them to get to know the town where they live, despite the

fact that some of them have been living there for many years," explained Arancha López.

The councillor explained that these tours are offered in English, German and several Scandinavian languages, in small groups that will, in time, be expanded in accordance with pandemic control restrictions. The tours cost between 12 and 22 euros depending on the activity in question and they all leave at 10am from the Mijas Pueblo Tourist Office and last approximately two hours. Reservations are required.

So far, several routes have taken place, including those dedicated to Semana Santa, The Legacy of Al Andalus, Crafts in Mijas, Mijas Today and Yesterday and Mijas Secrets.

Several of these are repeated in May, with the addition of Mijas Hidden Waterways on 13 May and Local Viticulture on 15 May (own vehicle required).

i For more information on the upcoming tours, visit:
<https://qrco.de/bc5gDA>

Benalmádena mayor told to resign over election protocol breach

I. GELIBTER

BENALMÁDENAS. The opposition PP on Benalmádena council has called for mayor Víctor Navas to resign after it was announced this week that Navas would have to go to court over an election protocol breach.

The PSOE politician shared messages on social media (which were quickly deleted) during the 'day of reflection' ahead of the elections in May 2019, calling for the public to "vote for the PSOE in the European and municipal elections, to consolidate the growth and transformation that we started".

Navas is facing a fine of up to 6,500 euros and claims he did not publish the posts himself, but accepts responsibility.



The feria space in Torremolinos where the casetas are located. **SUR**

Fairground to become year-round cultural space

TORREMOLINOS

Four casetas that are currently closed have been put out to tender in a bid to boost economic activity

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Torremolinos town hall has launched a project to transform the fairground into an year-round space for leisure, gastronomy and culture. The initiative is intended to attract visi-

tors to the area in a bid to boost economic activity.

Four currently closed casetas have been put out for tender, which will be able to function 365 days a year, and not just during the romería and feria in September. Of the four establishments available to rent, three have an area of 250 m2, and one of 900 m2.

The deadline for submitting a proposal is 10 May (www.torremolinos.es) and the initiative is open to anyone so long as their proposal adheres to the rules set out by the cultural department. These will include that any alterations or decoration must respect the essence of the area, and that the prospective owner of the business must acquire the corresponding licenses and permits to enable the type activity the venue will offer. In addition, the contract states that during the week of the fair, the casetas will have to adapt to the specific regulations set out by the town hall.

"The intention is for the space to become a place of recreation for all ages, but especially for the young," councillor for Culture David Tejeiro said.

Mobility Plan reopens debate over bicycles in Marbella

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. The presentation of the updated Mobility Plan by Marbella mayor Ángeles Muñoz has reignited demands for the improvement, expansion and consolidation of a safe road network for cyclists.

"We support a considerate and accessible model that adapts itself to the growing needs of its citizens and visitors within a modernised framework whose principal pillars are energy efficiency and environmental and social sustainability," said Mobility councillor, Enrique Rodríguez Flores.

Despite this, according to Arturo Reque, an architect who specialises in mobility, the council has always lacked the "courage" to undertake a genuine transformation. He advocates the establishment of an exchange system

whereby people travel to the periphery of an urban area in their own vehicles and then change to a different type of transport, such as bicycle, taxi or bus.

"In Marbella this could be near El Pirulí," said Reque, adding that if an identical system were set up in Puerto Banús, it could decrease congestion considerably. In San Pedro it would be simpler, given that there are already numerous alternative roads that cyclists can take to reach the centre safely.

Integration plan

Marbella council pointed out, "In the month of September, the town's network of cycle roads was expanded from 11 to 42." In addition to this, the plan for integrating cycle roads into the town centre is currently under review by municipal engineers so that it can be initiated this trimester.

This project, said Rodríguez, "includes expanding the network of bike racks and setting up rental stations for electric bikes. It aims to generate a network of cycle roads that interconnect the different zones".

Iconic Torre del Cable 'at risk of collapse' as calls grow for urgent study

MARBELLA

Underwater inspections suggest that its structure has been significantly compromised and urgent action is required

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

Several groups are warning that urgent action is required with the iconic Torre del Cable in Marbella at risk of collapse.

The alarm was first sounded after the Official Centre for Underwater Research (COIS) discovered, after various dives, that the structure under the surface had been compromised.

Now, engineers and groups such as the Asociación de Espigones Emergidos and Cilniana are call-



The Torre del Cable is part of the town's mining history. JOSELE

ing for a detailed study to be carried out in order to ascertain the risks and outline the maintenance actions that are necessary. "The tower is going to fall, what we don't know is when", says the president of Cilniana, Francisco López.

The tower, a remnant of the overhead cable runway that transported buckets of iron ore, forms part of "the memory of the town" and must be preserved, argued Ángel de la Torre, a mining engineer and partner at Cilniana.

Mijas prepares to give a further 10 million euros to the hospitality industry

I. GELIBTER

MIJAS. In addition to the 12 million euros paid out last year, Mijas council has announced a further 10-million-euro package - of at least 3,500 euros per beneficiary - for the town's hospitality sector.

The so-called Cometha Plan, announced on Tuesday, will be divided into two main lines of aid: Cometha Employment (8.5 million) and Cometha Tourism, (1.8 million). The employment-related component will have grants of between 3,500 and 6,000 euros depending on the number of workers: 3,500 for the self-employed or companies without employees; 5,000 for companies with 1 to 10 workers; and 6,000 for companies

with 11 to 25 workers.

In terms of tourism, Cometha will have grants of up to 50,000 euros depending on the type of tourist accommodation and from 25,000 to 75,000 in the case of golf courses, depending on the number of holes.

Regarding the requirements, mayor Josele González said that the companies and self-employed must be located in Mijas and have seen their 2020 turnover reduced by at least 30 per cent compared to 2019.

The call for applications will be published on the Mijas town hall website, on the council's notice board and in the Official Gazette of the Province of Malaga (BOPMA), with a deadline of 20 working days from the moment it is published.

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Donation helps maintain support for local food bank

MIJAS

Soroptimist International Costa del Sol received the aid from the Bonnik Hansen Stiftung foundation

T. BRYANT

MIJAS. Thanks to a recent financial donation, Soroptimist International Costa del Sol will be able to continue with its weekly delivery of fresh fruit, vegetables and eggs to the municipal foodbank



Helene and Bonnik Hansen (c) at the food bank in Las Lagunas. SUR

for at least another six months. The donation was received from German foundation Bonnik Hansen Stiftung, an association that has supported numerous national and international social and educational projects.

Last week, founders Bonnik Hansen and his wife Helene visited the foodbank in Las Lagunas, which is run by the Red Cross and the Social Services Department of Mijas town hall. They were welcomed by councillor for Social Services Hipolito Zapico, Red Cross representative, Ander Echebarria, and Soroptimist vice-president Daphne Theunissen.

"We were looking at ways to support the local people during these difficult times and liked the way Soroptimist has been supporting the foodbank. We are happy to get involved and make a difference," Bonnik Hansen said.

Soroptimist International is a worldwide women's organisation which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. The Mijas branch began the food project in April 2020 to assist people who had lost their livelihood because of the pandemic.

International singing star Toni Dallí dies, aged 88

SUR IN ENGLISH

MARBELLA. Toni Dallí, the international singing star who rose from the Yorkshire coalmines to become a household name around the world in the 50s and 60s has died at his home in Marbella. He was 88.

Originally from Pescara, Italy, Toni moved to Yorkshire in the late 40s, working in the mines and steel mills. His outstanding voice led to him singing in working men's clubs where he was spotted by Percy Livingston and Roy Holstein, who advised him to move to London. Success soon followed and by the 50s, he was a regular on stage and TV in both the UK and the US.

The 1980s saw Toni move to Marbella where he opened a hugely successful restaurant on the Golden Mile. Many of his friends from the entertainment and film world, including Jimmy



Dallí in Marbella in 2004. JOSELE

Tarback and Sean Connery were regular guests. Toni was also able to enjoy his other passions - golf, being a regular sight on Marbella's many courses and Ferrari, where he was a founder member of the Andalucía Ferrari Owners Club.

Toni's main passion, however, was his family. He was married to Valerie for over 60 years and the couple had four children with whom he has set up the hugely popular Dallí's Pasta Factory in Puerto Banús.

A month living among the remains of a house fire that killed her husband

TORREMOLINOS

Friends are trying to help the 81-year-old whose apartment was left uninhabitable after the blaze, but say nobody wants to know

F. TORRES / J. CANO

MALAGA. An 81-year-old woman is still living in the badly damaged apartment in El Bajondillo area of Torremolinos, over a month after it caught fire and her husband died in the blaze. Vera Lucía Martínez is in a delicate state of health anyway, and friends and neighbours are angry about the fact that nothing has been done to help her.



The state the property was left in after the fire. SUR

"Nobody is doing anything," says Olfat, a friend of the family. She says the insurers, Línea Directa, are partly responsible for this situation, but sources there told SUR that when there are fatalities the

investigations take time and the insurers have to analyse a large number of factors before paying the claim.

Vera Lucía's case is becoming more widely known now because

Olfat published a video of the apartment in its present state.

"She has no electric, no water, nowhere to cook, there is absolutely nothing here and the place reeks of smoke. It is disgraceful," she says.

Vera Lucía says she can't understand why the insurance company isn't doing anything. "They haven't even been to see the state of the place, they don't answer the phone, it's awful," she says. Every day, she relives the moment when she came back from the chemist with her husband's medication and saw police officers and fire fighters outside, and flames visible in her apartment. "My husband couldn't walk. The whole place was on fire and he couldn't get out. He couldn't move," she says.

After they contacted the town hall, Social Services have now offered Vera Lucía alternative accommodation while the problem is sorted out, but she has no idea how long that is going to take.

Coín steps up campaign to urge foreign residents to join local 'padrón'

COÍN

A. JIMÉNEZ. Coín town hall is stepping up a campaign to increase its registered population by urging foreign residents to ensure they are on the local census, the 'padrón'. The campaign began last year in collaboration with the British consulate, representing the largest group of foreign nationals in the town.

Despite an increase in Coín's total population of 702 in 2020, the council believes that there are residents, especially among the international community, who are not being counted.

Foreign nationals resident in Spain are required to confirm or update their padrón details every five years (or two years in the case of non-EU nationals without the right to long-term residency). While efforts are made to remind people when confirmation is due, the council advises residents to be aware of the need for this simple procedure to avoid being taken off the register.

Coín mayor, Francisco Santos, stressed the importance of the campaign: if the padrón does not reflect the real population, he said, the town loses out financially. Santos explained that the town receives funds for infrastructure and services from central government according to its population.

He also said that the town hall staff speak English, so British residents can complete their paperwork without problems.

"We want to strengthen the communication channels and to that end we are working with the consulate," said the mayor.

Construction of Malaga's megayacht marina expected to start next week

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. One of the biggest projects in Malaga - a new marina for megayachts in the city's port - is about to start. Permission from the council's urban planning department is "imminent", according to sources, and it will signal the start of works on the 8.5-million-euro project that it is hoped will be ready by Easter 2022.

Next Monday, 3 May, a plaque will be laid to mark the start of work and the event is expected to be attended by the Junta de Andalucía's spokesperson Elías Bendodo; the

president of the Port Authority, Carlos Rubio; and partners of the Igy Marinas consortium.

The comprehensive construction project includes: underwater works to reduce the swell in the marina; the landscaping of two breakwaters; running a new electricity power line to supply the craft; and the refurbishment of the existing glass building in front of the Club Mediterráneo.

Island Global Yachting, a leading international group in the management of luxury marinas, together with Ocean Capital Partners and Malaga businessman Domingo



SALVADOR SALAS

Two megayachts dock at the same time

In a taste of what is to come, two megayachts were docked in Malaga port at the same time this week: Tatoosh (92 metres), once owned by Microsoft co-founder Paul G. Allen, and Tango (78 metres), owned by Russian magnate Viktor Vekselberg. The former will remain for a month, while today is the last chance to see the latter.

de Torres are behind the project, to be called IGY Marina Málaga. Once it is operational, the ma-

rina will feature 31 berths for luxury craft between 24 and 180 metres in length.

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Investigation ongoing as former TOWIE star's restaurant is destroyed in a fire

Elliott Wright claimed on Instagram that Olivia's in La Cala de Mijas had been subjected to an arson attack

Á. FRÍAS / J. CANO / D. FINCH

MALAGA. The Guardia Civil are investigating the blaze that swept through the well-known Olivia's restaurant on the seafront in La Cala de Mijas in the early hours of Monday morning.

The alarm was raised at 5.30am when several calls were received by the 112 emergency control room warning of smoke and flames coming from the luxury restaurant.

Firefighters, Local Police and the Guardia Civil were quickly on the scene and the flames were finally brought under control around



Flames caused extensive damage to the premises. SUR

two hours later. Police remained at the scene, picking through the debris and trying to determine the cause of the blaze.

According to SUR sources, the majority of the premises was damaged by the flames although no injuries were reported.

The restaurant, popular among the expat community, is owned by

former The Only Way is Essex (TOWIE) star Elliott Wright.

Commenting on a video on Instagram, Wright said: "I can say now that it is arson. Someone's come and took my whole dream away, for whatever reason I'll never know, because I don't have any enemies as far as I'm aware, I didn't think I did."

Seafood fish tank suspected of sparking second restaurant fire

Firefighters were at La Pesquera del Faro restaurant located next to the Marbella marina for two hours on Tuesday

Á. F. / J. C.

MARBELLA. A fire has seriously damaged another Costa del Sol restaurant just a day after a blaze swept through Olivia's restaurant in La Cala de Mijas.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, 27 April, the alarm was raised at about 5pm when witnesses reported seeing smoke and flames coming from the La Pesquera del Faro restaurant located next to the Marbella marina, in the heart of the Costa del Sol town.

Local and National Police, firefighters and ambulances were quickly on the scene.

The rapid action of the firefighters, who were present for more than two hours, prevented the damage from being worse but a large part of the ground-floor restaurant was damaged.

A 48-year-old man was treated for smoke inhalation while trying to put out the flames before the fire brigade arrived.

Initial investigations suggest that fire started in a motor of one of the seafood tanks in the restaurant.

The owner of the La Pesquera chain, Ramón Mesa, said that on top of the difficult coronavirus situation that the entire hospitality sector is experiencing, the fire couldn't have happened at a worse time. "Now we must add the damage caused by this fire. But we will try to fix this as soon as possible to try and have a summer season," he said.



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An image captured by the movement-activated camera. SUR

Hidden camera helps solve cat killer mystery

A group of youths from Almogía, armed with air rifles, face animal abuse charges

J. C. / Á. F.

MALAGA. Police have investigated the killing of six cats that were found shot dead, the wounding of seven others and the disappearance - presumed dead - of a further five. Handled by the Seprona nature protection branch of the Guardia Civil, the investigation started last February when the owner of a farm in Almogía reported that her cats were being shot by a group of youths.

At great expense the woman had created the facilities in Almogía to serve a legally registered colony of stray cats that had, initially, been created in Malaga city.

The felines, 29 in total, adapted well to the area and were much

better cared for than in the city, according to the owner. However, from December onwards, they slowly began to disappear. In the village they blamed the birds of prey. By mid-February, the owner of the plot decided to install a camouflaged, snare camera, which is activated by movement. Just a day after the device was placed, the bloodiest "raid" took place.

There were several dead animals, others injured and some missing. Looking at the images on the camera, the owner discovered that a group of youths armed with air rifles had shot them.

Seprona took over the case and quickly identified two minors in the first phase and, later, two others aged between 15 and 17.

The Guardia Civil have seized the three air rifles allegedly used by the youths who face animal abuse charges. The case report has already been sent to the Juvenile Prosecutor's Office.

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COSTA DEL SOL

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Through her own personal experiences, Ms. Muscari understands that to be comfortable with somebody else, you have to be comfortable with yourself. If you can't love yourself, how are you going to love somebody else? She has learnt that you have to choose somebody for the beauty of sharing, of interests, of paths, of moments, etc.

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Simona Muscari Matchmaking Exclusive Club™ is different from other companies, primarily, thanks to its personalised approach and by welcoming people to come to find their happiness. This is not a usual "singles club" that offers a database and relies on an algorithm to search for a match. The company centres on humanity, true desires and the precious uniqueness of each person.

For Simona it's more than a job, it's a passion, a mission, because she has in her hands the opportunity of changing people's destiny. The possibility of changing their life by contributing to their happiness ... and there is nothing more beautiful than seeing her client's eyes shining with love. This is the greatest reward for her.

Contact Simona by email - simona@simonamuscari.com - for more information on how she can help you find that special someone to change your life for the better.

HERE AND THERE

MARBELLA

Starlite organisers looking to fill 400 vacancies for festival's tenth edition this summer

SUR. The Starlite recruitment team will be in Marbella from 4 to 6 May to select people to fill 400 of the more than 1,000 jobs that the famous music festival generates each year.

Staff will be recruited in the hospitality, ticketing, logistics and audiovisual areas and, as in previous years, applicants who want to apply for a job can do so through a web link (<https://empleo.landings.jobandtalent.com/starlitecatalanaoccidente>).

From 4 to 6 May, the festival will interview candidates in Marbella that have been selected through Jobandtalent, an employment and human resources platform that has digitised the



Crowds at a previous edition. JOSELE

application process.

Organisers say that candidates will be summoned in stages throughout the day to avoid crowds and they will take all the necessary measures to guarantee the safety of all attendees including a queuing system, temperature controls, disinfection measures and the mandatory use of a mask at all times.

MARBELLA

Bus interchange on the agenda in San Pedro

J. DUEÑAS. A project to build a bus interchange in San Pedro was set in motion this week after Marbella mayor Ángeles Muñoz and the regional Minister for Development, Marifrán Carazo, signed an agreement to promote its construction.

The project, which will be located where the A-7 and A-397 converge, is expected to have a budget of 750,000 euros, co-financed with European funds, potentially rising to one million euros depending on the number of bays it eventually has.

The idea is to create a central hub to bring together a number of different lines. At present, bus users have to go to three different stops located on Avenida Norberto Goizueta Daz, Avenida Luis Braille and Avenida Juan Vargas.

MARBELLA

Plans to create large public park near arch

J. D. Marbella mayor Ángeles Muñoz this week said that she hoped the land at Finca El Pinillo, next to the famous arch, would become council property again by the summer so that it could be converted into a large, public park (the contract granted for a similar project during the Gil era never materialised).

"The idea is that it will be a big, green area that complements all the new stretches of promenades that are being undertaken and that are adding value to our coast," she said.

The land, divided into three plots, covers a total of 43,918 square metres and will have walking routes as well as areas dedicated to the practice of sport. The most northerly part will house a car park.



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Two hundred protest in Maro against golf course, 700 homes and luxury hotel plans

The town hall's objective is to turn the area into a destination in its own right, which will form part of Nerja's tourism offer

EUGENIO CABEZAS

NERJA. Around 200 people gathered in Maro, near Nerja, on Sunday to protest against the plans of Sociedad Azucarera Larios landowners and Nerja town hall to build a golf course, 680 homes, luxury hotels and commercial areas on an area of 250 hectares of agricultural and protected land on the Tetuán fertile plain.

The protest came ahead of a council decision which was expected yesterday, Thursday, for the town to give the green light to the project, despite opposition



Protesters at the site of the proposed development on Sunday. E. CABEZAS

from some political parties and residents' groups.

A manifesto was read rejecting the plans of Nerja's local government team to approve the urban agreement that will set the

bureaucratic process in motion to start the project.

Protesters carried banners with messages including: 'Don't touch Maro', 'No to the Larios Plan', 'We do not want golfers as

neighbours, we prefer farmers' and 'We eat from this land'.

The group claimed, "The town council continues to put itself at the service of Larios' interests to destroy our extraordinary agri-

cultural protected area of the Las Mercedes and Maro area, expelling hundreds of tenant farmers."

The town hall and Larios' aim is to turn the area into a destination in its own right which will form part of Nerja's tourism offer.

Families and foreigners

Among the protesters were entire families with children of all ages from both Maro and Nerja, whose ancestors have cultivated the land for centuries and the families continue to do so.

There were also numerous foreigners who have rented plots of land from Larios in the area in recent years.

The protesters have already collected over 10,000 signatures against the project.

The project was first proposed in 2015 and in March 2020 Nerja town hall reactivated it by publishing a draft agreement with Larios.

Since then the town hall has received 61 written allegations from residents' groups and individuals opposing the plans.

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Local politicians demand 'urgent solution' for families of Casillas de la Vía slum houses

TORRE DEL MAR

The land that the 50 homes are situated on belongs to the Junta de Andalucía, which local politicians accuse of not keeping promises

E. CABEZAS

TORRE DEL MAR. Vélez-Málaga town hall on Monday communicated to the regional government, the Junta de Andalucía, the "urgent action" needed to find a solution for the approximately 100 people living in the slum houses of Torre del Mar, known as las Casillas de la Vía.

The land at the entrance to the town, near the Weekend Beach festival site and Mercadona, be-

longs to the Junta, which Vélez-Málaga town hall has accused of "not keeping promises for decades".

The 50 homes, which are not connected to mains water or electricity and do not receive a rubbish collection service, are occupied by families with young children and elderly people.

In March this year one man died when his home caught fire.

The councillor for Torre del Mar, Jesús Pérez Atencia, said in a written statement: "We have been having conversations with the Junta for many years and nobody has come up with a solution, despite the fact that day to day life for these people is becoming more and more complicated. We remind [the Junta] that a fire broke out in one of these homes just a few weeks ago."



Representatives from different organisations at Monday's launch. SUR

Collaborative project launched to protect native coral species

ALMUÑÉCAR

J. RHODES. Almuñécar town hall has joined forces with local organisations, diving clubs, the fishing community and other volunteers to launch the SOS Corales project, whose aim is to save and protect a rare species of coral that is native to the area.

The main objectives of the project, which was launched on Monday, include cleaning up the

seabed in the Punta de la Mona area, which is being destroyed by rubbish and in particular abandoned fishing equipment. So far this year volunteers involved in the project have removed 250 kilos of rubbish.

The group also plans to create a 'nursery' with a view to repopulating the coral and the group hopes to get fishing and other harmful activity banned from the area.

HERE AND THERE

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

Locals demand more signposts for tourists

E. C. A local residents' group representing Benajarafe and Chilches has asked Vélez-Málaga town hall to install more signposts to attract tourists to the villages. They said that there are only two information signs. The tourism councillor has promised to look into the proposal.

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

Baby food campaign to run throughout May

E. C. A campaign has been launched in the Axarquía to collect baby food and milk. Operación Potitos will run throughout May and donations can be left in participating pharmacies. Potito means jars of baby food. Facebook: runningplayasdetorredelmar.





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The Junta is reducing some taxes to boost the economy

Experts are confident that there will be no financial loss as every euro of reduction generates two to three of economic growth

HÉCTOR BARBOTA

SEVILLE. The Junta de Andalucía is working on a package of measures with the aim of making Andalucía the region with the lowest fiscal pressure in Spain. On Tuesday the Andalusian parliament voted to introduce some of these changes by decree this year, without waiting for a new law, the Ley de Tributos Ceditos, to come into force next year.

The term 'Tributos Ceditos' refers to taxes which are established and regulated by the State, but which are collected and sometimes managed by regional governments.

The package of new measures will apply to six sections: personal income tax, wealth tax, inheritance and gift tax, tax on property transfers and documented legal acts, a special tax on certain means of transport

and taxes on gaming.

The changes which will come into force this year are the reduction of the tax on property transfers and documented legal acts, and this is expected to benefit 275,000 people.

According to the Junta, this has been done to avoid a situation where a reduction which will benefit property buyers paralyses the market in the months until the new law comes into force.

The decree reduces the amount of tax which is applica-

The new Ley de Tributos Ceditos will come into force next year and will apply to six different areas of taxation

The Junta is confident that the tax reductions will result in more revenue through economic growth

ble to property transfers and the tax which applies to notarised documents. For example, if one individual sells a property valued at 180,000 euros to another individual, there will be a saving of 1,800 euros in tax.

As the measure means the overall price of new-builds will be lower, it is also expected to encourage more people to consider buying these.

The Junta believes that as well as boosting the property market, it will attract new investors and increase consumption in general. It says the increased economic activity will benefit the tax authorities through increased revenue from income tax and IVA.

It is calculated that this fiscal reduction will mean a loss of 24 million euros to the tax authorities, but they are confident not only that this sum can be recovered but that the measures will result in more revenue. The vice-president of the Junta, Juan Marín, says the experience of previous tax reductions has shown that every euro of reduction generates between two and three euros of economic growth.

THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

Growing pains



This week, the Bank of Spain presented a report highlighting the impact of Covid and the resulting economic hibernation on the next generation of Spaniards. None of the problems it discusses are new, but they have been exacerbated by the pandemic; and some of the most pressing issues, as the Bank's economic director Óscar Acre pointed out at Tuesday's unveiling, have been around for decades. Will Pedro Sánchez's government attempt unprecedented reform in these areas, thus preventing a second "lost generation" of young Spaniards?

Brussels has also been demanding that Spain implement reform, or at least put forward ideas for reform, in two of the areas to which Acre drew attention - jobs and pensions. Like the Bank, it has also repeatedly stressed the importance of reducing the amount of employees on temporary contracts, a segment of the workforce that's been especially vulnerable over the last year or so. In addition, the Bank's report expresses concerns over the quality of Spanish university education and the low or non-existent incomes of under-30s: as of December last year, 35% of this group had no earnings at all.

Despite a mounting generational crisis, though, there's not much evidence that the Spanish government is tackling these problems, even though doing so would make a lasting difference. Handing round yet another tranche of EU bailout funds is unlikely to have a greater impact, no mat-

ter how crusading and misty-eyed Sánchez becomes when discussing the Covid recovery bonanza.

So far, at least publicly, Spain's government seems more excited about digitalisation (one of its absolute favourite words), transforming Sub-Saharan Africa and pumping cash into multi-billion-dollar corporations such as Iberdrola and Telefónica. To fund its hopelessly ambitious "Focus Africa" dream, Spain is asking for even more money from the EU than it's set to receive in the Covid recovery package. Why not a "Focus Spain" plan instead or in addition, committed to improving the opportunities and skills of Spain's neglected next generation?

The underlying difference in approaches is between fostering self-reliance and sustainability rather than dependence, whether on external bodies such as the EU or on an unwieldy welfare state. Improving the lot of Spaniards in their teens, 20s and 30s would prevent or limit the brain-drain of young talent, would inject impetus and strength into the economy and would ultimately reduce the dependence of jobless, unqualified adults on the state - all of which is arguably more constructive than relying on EU emergency funds (and promptly squandering them) every time a crisis hits.

Spain's already seen one "lost generation" as a result of the global economic crisis of 2008-13; unfortunately, it doesn't look like the country's current government is doing much to avoid a second.

BCC makes welcome return to face-to-face networking

The British Chamber of Commerce held an upbeat networking breakfast this Thursday, the first face-to-face meeting of its kind since the start of the pandemic. Regional president for Andalucía, Derek Langley, welcomed members to the event, held at La Sala Banús, which was attended by British Consul Charmaine Arbouin and hosted in collaboration with Pérez de Vargas Abogados.



D. ANDREWS

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The ceremony at Gun Wharf on Tuesday morning. **SUR**

Gibraltar pays tribute to the victims of the 1951 Bedenham explosion

GIBRALTAR

DEBBIE BARTLETT. A wreath-laying ceremony took place on Tuesday morning to mark the 70th anniversary of the explosion of the naval armament carrier RFA Bedenham.

The ship had arrived in Gibraltar on 24 April 1951, and three days later the crew were unloading depth charges onto a lighter (a shallow-draft boat or barge used for the unloading of large ships) at Gun Wharf. One of the depth charges ignited, causing

a fire and explosion on the lighter which spread to the Bedenham itself. It also exploded, and the blast rocked Gibraltar and caused extensive damage to buildings in the area and the city centre.

Thirteen people were killed and hundreds suffered injuries.

At the commemoration, wreaths were laid by deputy chief minister Dr Joseph Garcia, mayor John Goncalvez, the heads of the Airport and Gibraltar Fire Rescue services and on behalf of the Civil Defence Association.

Police warn of text message scam which can result in the theft of personal data

GIBRALTAR

D. B. The Royal Gibraltar Police are warning of a phone scam which has been doing the rounds in the UK and may soon appear in Gibraltar. In the scam, people receive a text message claiming to be from DHL and stating that they have a parcel arriving. It reads: 'DHL: Your parcel is arriving, track here', followed by a link. If they click on it, the tracking app then steals their personal data.

A similar scam has been occurring recently in Spain, with a similarly-worded text message but not claiming to be from DHL. The advice from the police is the same: if you are expecting a delivery, only track it using the official company website.

If you receive a text message of this type, do not click the link in the message and never install any apps even if asked to do so. Delete the message from your phone.

IN BRIEF

During the operation. **SUR**

HEALTH

First transplant at St Bernard's hospital

D. B. The Gibraltar Health Authority has carried out its first human corneal transplant at St Bernard's Hospital. The surgery was performed by Consultant Ophthalmologist Dr Magdalena Popiela. The team worked closely with the Venice Eye Bank in Italy to source the corneal donor tissue. Until now, the patient would have had to spend several weeks in the UK for treatment following surgery there.

CULTURE

Culture v Covid show opens on Tuesday

D. B. The Culture v Covid exhibition at the John Mackintosh Hall will be officially inaugurated on Tuesday, 4 May. It features artistic and cultural works produced during the past year and shows how the arts have provided a life-line for many, bringing a focus, motivation, distraction and also entertainment during the pandemic. The display will be open to the public from 5 to 21 May.

CULTURE

Drama Festival to get under way from 17 May

D. B. It has been confirmed that this year's Gibraltar Drama Festival will take place from Monday 17 to Friday 21 May. All performances will take place at the Ince's Hall Theatre and there will be a total of 12 plays in all. Tickets are now on sale, with prices ranging from £6 for each performance session to £25 for a season ticket. For entry, all over-16s will have to show proof of a first Covid vaccine 14+ days ago, or a same-day lateral flow test, or have had Covid.

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Bullets and daggers posted to politicians trigger war of words

The left says threats show the risk of “fascism” in next week’s Madrid election, while the right says such letters are a long-standing part of political life

SUR

MADRID. The political campaigning for the bitterly fought Madrid regional elections taking place next week (4 May) has been focused this week on menacing packages sent to ministers and other left-wing politicians.

Faced with a rise in popularity of far-right Vox in the polls in the capital, parties on the left have linked the deliveries to a surge in “fascism” and intimidation. In contrast, right-wing parties have



The package sent to Unidas Podemos leader Pablo Iglesias. REUTERS

underplayed their significance, saying aggressive hate mail was normal for many politicians. They claim highlighting it is a tactic to divert attention from the “real issues” of the election campaign.

Last Friday, leader of Unidas Podemos Pablo Iglesias stormed out of a radio debate between candidates when the local leader of Vox, Rocio Monasterio, didn’t condemn the letters strongly enough for his liking.

Besides a letter sent to Iglesias with four bullets, similar packages also reached the offices of the Interior Minister and the head of the Guardia Civil.

Vox suggested that the letters could be fake and attention turned to how they managed to evade strict post office scanning. One person was reportedly removed from their position by Correos.

The Industry minister also appeared in the media this week to talk about a bloody knife received in the post, although the alleged sender, with a mental health condition, was found soon afterwards after adding his return address.

Right-leaning parties in the lead for Tuesday’s Madrid vote

SUR

MADRID. People in the Madrid region go to the polls next Tuesday (4 May) to choose a new regional president. The vote was called after sitting president, Isabel Ayuso, of the conservative PP ended her coalition with Ciudadanos.

Polls have repeatedly shown Ayuso with a strong lead over other parties but likely to need the support of Vox to form a majority regional government. Ciudadanos may not gain a single seat this time.

The second biggest party is expected to be the Socialist PSOE with Unidas Podemos under ex- deputy PM, Pablo Iglesias, polling fewer than Vox.

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Reporter David Beriain. EFE



Cameraman Roberto Fraile. SUR

Two Spanish journalists die in ambush in Burkina Faso

MADRID

MIGUEL ÁNGEL ALFONSO. The bodies of two Spanish journalists murdered in Burkina Faso by terrorists apparently linked to Al-Qaeda were expected to be flown back to Madrid today (Friday) by military plane.

David Beriain and Roberto Fraile were travelling in a convoy in a rural area in the south-east of the African country when they were ambushed and shot. The two men, who were well-known for reporting from dangerous areas, had been making a documentary about illegal hunt-

ing. An Irish anti-poaching campaigner, named as Rory Young, was also killed.

The convoy was made up of two vehicles and around 20 motorcycles carrying journalists, environmental workers and a military escort that is believed to have fled once the attack began. Reporter Beriain (44) and cameraman Fraile (47) had reportedly left one of the vehicles to take some drone video footage at the time.

A local Al-Qaeda group known as JNIM released a recorded statement saying, “We have killed three white men. We also have two vehicles with machine guns and two motorcycles.”

The Spanish authorities are investigating the hypothesis that the attackers were linked to the Al-Qaeda group as well as alternative theories of a roadside robbery or illegal hunters protecting themselves. The local Spanish consulate also commented on how difficult it had been to retrieve the bodies.

Eleven Spanish journalists have died in conflict zones since 1980.

IN BRIEF

BARCELONA

Covid-19 test concert was safe, say organisers

C. REINO. An indoor pop concert held in Barcelona’s Palau Sant Jordi late last month in a bid to see if Covid-19 would spread, or not, has been heralded a success by organisers.

A scientific study concluded that of the 4,592 people attending, only six reported positive for Covid-19 in the two weeks immediately after the event. These were all mild or asymptomatic cases.

All people tested negative before entering the venue and researchers believe that four people were infected at the event. The source of the infection of the other two isn’t known.

Campaigners are calling for the relaxing of restrictions on numbers at cultural events.



The disputed country house. EFE

GALICIA

Franco family given OK to keep personal items

SUR. A court has given the descendants of General Franco one month to get personal possessions out of a Galician mansion before the State takes full possession of it. The Pazo de Meirás estate was recently reclaimed by the government, who said Franco manipulated paperwork in the 1940s to make it look like a personal gift. The family lost possession but have won the right to remove items.

LETTERS
TO THE EDITORAn unlikely example
to follow

In the same way that a mechanic explains to their customers what's wrong with their car and then proposes a series of options for different budgets so that the owner can choose one or the other with full knowledge of the cause and price, medical professionals should follow suit and not overlook the fact that it is the patient who is the owner of his or her health and ultimately responsible for making decisions in this respect.

Whether it is the 'paid' doctor or the Social Security doctor, the food on their plate is paid for by the patient in front of him or her.

As far as I'm concerned, there is little difference between the tax authorities withholding part of our money to finance public hospitals and health centres and swiping our credit card or private insurance card at a luxurious private practice.

In one case as in the other, the doctor must know his place - no more and no less than that of a highly qualified adviser (this training also paid for by our taxes) in the recovery or maintenance of health - and, if they've forgotten this, it's up to each of us, as patients, to refresh their memory.

The future of the healthcare system depends to a large extent on the exercise of our rights towards those who care for our well-being.

MANUEL SUÁREZ

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

Speeches and I scream

Somewhere on an industrial estate in the back of beyond, hundreds of taxi drivers from around the world gather every year to share stories and congratulate each other on a job well done. There are prizes for, among other things, driving skills, customer care and honesty (this usually involves the handing in of valuables left in the cab).

The winner in each category is called to the stage to receive a little golden air freshener trophy. This is where the fun starts. The triumphant drivers are always asked to speak for a while on whatever subjects they wish while their utterances are broadcast live around the world. As they're taxi drivers, these speeches inevitably tend to focus on the current political and social situation in their own country. From bringing back the birch to legalising drugs, no stone is left unturned until,

eventually, the evening draws to a close and the happy hoards head home, slapping each other on the back as they go.

I just made that all up, of course, but it's basically what the Oscar ceremony is - a large group of people from a particular profession gathering together to recognise the ability of some of them to do a not particularly difficult job a bit better than their peers. For some reason, the winning actors are, indeed, always given the opportunity to offer their dubious wisdom on whatever subject they wish to an audience of millions. This year, however, most potential viewers found they had something much more interesting to do, like cleaning the limescale off the bath or feeding the cat. In fact, in the US, only 9.85 million people managed to put their supersize bucket o' chicken down for a minute and tune in. It was a record low by quite

some degree, the previous worst figure having been 23.6 million.

The pandemic undoubtedly played a role in all of this, as did the fact there were no blockbuster films involved but, surely, the fact that members of the general public have come to realise that they really don't like being preached at by people who pretend to be other people for a living, will also have played a part. Crikey, those interminable speeches are like listening to the local pub bore under a spotlight, albeit it in a spangly dress.

Given the raging lack of self-awareness in Hollywood, it's unlikely figures for the Oscars will improve any time soon and the protagonists will, of course, blame everything except themselves, including the sunshine, the moonlight and the boogie.

If they really wanted to know the truth, however, they could always ask a taxi driver.

IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE
ALEKK M. SAANDERS

Space tourism in Andalucía?

Ten years ago, the UN General Assembly declared 12 April as the International Day of Human Space Flight. Also this year the world celebrates the 60th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's flight. With such euphoria you can easily be inspired to experience something similar - zero gravity, or at least to fly to the edge of space to have a look at our blue planet.

On the grounds that many inventions, which at first cost lots of money, have become much cheaper over time, you might think that 60 years later it might no longer be an extravagant idea. There might even be no need to go as far as the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan or to Cape Canaveral in Florida. As it turned out, launching

into 'space' was meant to be possible within about 200 kilometres of Malaga.

Ten years ago, our own Andalucía bravely declared itself a space tourism destination. Wealthy passengers were promised that in Seville they would be able to experience the sensation of space travel on an Airbus, modified for parabolic flights. In 2011, 25 seconds of freefall were expected to cost 5,000 euros. Five years later, the price had increased to 7,000 euros when the subject of space tourism was revisited. I remember the headlines in local newspapers announced "Space travel for tourists in Andalucía would be a reality by 2018". Knowing that the Airbus factory is in Seville, you might assume that the pro-

ject was not a dream but a reality. However, on calling the Seville tourist office this April, they were completely unaware of any pending space scheme.

Fortunately, a couple of years ago, another space experience alternative appeared in Andalucía. This time it was Córdoba that ambitiously proclaimed itself an arena for low-cost stratospheric flights. Flying to the edge of space in a specially designed air balloon with a capsule was anticipated by the end of 2019 or early 2020. For extra reassurance, it was stressed that because of low wind turbulence, Córdoba Airport was a perfect spaceport for the balloon, fuelled by helium gas. Nevertheless, despite any wind advantages, the price might still be a significant obstacle for many. Compared to Seville, Córdoba was seeking wealthier people who wouldn't mind paying about 110,000 euros for a couple of hours' flight. Ironically, before it could be determined whether their planned opportunity would be successful or not, the space project was moved to Villacarrillo in Jaén province, where the experi-

mental flight centre, managed by the Andalusian Foundation for Aerospace Development, is located.

Recent sources, from February this year, stated that the flights would take place in 2021. However, in Jaén's city hall I was assured that they had never heard of this space project and advised to contact the spacedrome in Villacarrillo directly. There, I actually received confirmation that an experimental balloon flight had really been carried out, but that they have no information about the development of the project. To sustain my hope of becoming a 'space-man', I had to call the company directly; the office is located in Barcelona, but after dialling the number from their site I heard the unexpected message, "The number you have dialled does not exist."

It looks like my space dream must wait a little longer. Even if there were still websites where you can reserve your seat in the balloon or aeroplane launched from Andalusian soil to the heights, I now have my doubts; or rather I am less naïve or more realistic.

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New technology paves way for future of multimedia art

British photographer Michelle Chaplow has joined the revolutionary world of NFTs in a bid to protect copyright of digital artwork

TONY BRYANT

ESTEPONA. Award-winning international photographer Michelle Chaplow has joined a revolutionary new trend, tipped to be the future of digital art, by minting her first NFT, or non-fungible token, on the Ethereum Blockchain. The British photographer, who has lived in Estepona for 30 years, has always been an early adopter in terms of technology and she is fascinated by the world of NFTs.

NFTs now allow digital photographers to create something original that cannot be duplicated. Ethereum is a type of digital currency that is basically data on the internet created through something called a blockchain,

a shared digital ledger.

"The process involves taking a piece of digital art and doing something called minting, which basically means to turn it into an NFT. It's digitised with all the data, similar to a certificate of authentication that you receive when buying a piece art at a gallery," Michelle explains to SUR in English.

However, the buyer does not own the copyright of the artwork: this is retained by the artist. With the old-fashioned analogue photography, it is possible to make unlimited copies, but there is only ever one negative. In digital photography there is no negative, so, as Michelle points out, "the NFT becomes a reversed engineered negative".

"In terms of digital photography this concept moves away from a traditional digital image that can be copied, shared and duplicated endlessly. An NFT of a photograph is, in effect, the negative that existed for traditional analogue prints," the pho-



Award-winning international photographer Michelle Chaplow. **M. CHAPLOW**

to-photographer says.

Photography copyright is a huge issue worldwide and laws vary from country to country. Michelle is backing this new technology because she feels that it better protects the artist.

"The really interesting thing about this is that if an artist sells a painting for 500 euros and then becomes super famous, and that picture was later sold for half a million dollars, the artist would not get any portion of that fee. With digital art, the artist has a thing called a smart contract, which entitles them to ten per cent of any future sales. It's reg-

"This concept moves away from a traditional digital image that can be duplicated and shared endlessly. An NFT is, in effect, the negative that existed for traditional analogue prints"



Portrait of Eliza González. **M.C**

istered on the blockchain so it generates royalties when it changes hands the next time," she says.

Michelle, co-founder of the on-line platform, andalucia.com, will auction her first NFT portrait of world-renowned flamenco dancer Eliza González on 7 May. Over the next year, she will mint one image per month under the newly launched collection Andalucía Auras. Because andalucia.com is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, she will donate 25 per cent of the proceeds to local charities.

"I am very excited about the project. I've chosen the English Cemetery as my first charity because I love history and the historical aspect of that cemetery absolutely fascinates me," Michelle concludes.

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Macharaviaya's Damas de Gálvez present their new capes. **SUR**

Macharaviaya Damas de Gálvez presented with official capes

MACHARAVIAYA

J. R. The Damas de Gálvez association of Macharaviaya were presented with official capes on 17 April. These are worn by the women members of the various chapters of the Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez association in the

USA.

The Macharaviaya branch was officially recognised as an international chapter of the movement in November 2009 and an example of the capes was sent to the village to be reproduced for local members. The original cape is on display in Macharaviaya's museum.

The capes are traditionally worn on special occasions, such as American Independence Day.

The association was founded in the USA in 1976 to highlight the important role Bernardo de Gálvez, who was born in Macharaviaya, played during the American War of Independence.

Coffee morning raises over 500 euros to support animal charity

NERJA

J. R. The Costa Animal Society (CAS) raised over 500 euros at a coffee morning which was held in Fitzgerald's bar in Nerja last Saturday morning. The funds will go towards vets' bills, a neutering programme for stray cats and ongoing costs, according to a spokesperson for the charity. The next fundraiser is a 1980s and '90s themed quiz at Fitzgerald's on 5 May, starting at 7.30pm. See the CAS Facebook page for further details.



CAS coffee morning. **SUR**



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DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

Wrightia tinctoria

Named after Scottish physician and botanist Dr William Wright, *Wrightia* is a genus of shrubs and trees in the Apocynaceae family (dogbane).

There are around 23 species in the genus, most of which are native to Ethiopia, South Africa, Asia and parts of Australia. Most species are very fragrant except for *W. tor-*

mentosa and *W. viridifolia*, which have an unpleasant smell.

Wrightia tinctoria grows in both dry and moist regions and is a small to medium-sized tree which usually reaches about three metres but in ideal climates can reach fifteen metres.

It has a

smooth yellowish bark and has dark ovate green leaves that have felted undersides.

The cymes of white flowers form at the ends of the branches and can be up to 15cm across. As the blooms age they turn creamy-yellow. The fruits are long and bean-like, dark-green speckled with white. The seeds are narrow, flat and brown and have fine, silky hairs at one end to aid wind dispersal.

Although *Wrightia* can be propagated from seeds, the plant will take from five to eight years to flower and is slow growing.

It is not drought or frost tolerant and needs regular irrigation in summer and adequate protection in the winter. It will grow in full sun or partial shade and needs free-draining soil. It can be copied and spreads by producing root suckers.

Wrightia tinctoria is commonly called pala indigo or dyers oleander as the flowers, leaves and roots are a source of a dye similar in colour to indigo. It is also called sweet indrajao. The flowers, leaves and fruits are harvested for use in traditional medicines and the very pale, almost white wood is used for carving, wood-turning and toy making.

When added to fresh milk, the white latex sap is said to add no taste and helps to keep it from turning sour longer.

In some countries, the trimmed branches of *Wrightia tinctoria* are spread over fields and ploughed into the soil as a green manure.



Wrightia tinctoria and close up of bloom. (inset). WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

READERS' PHOTOS



RICHARD ASFOUR

Poppy perfection

Reader Richard Asfour sent in this photo of a newly hatched Monarch butterfly settled on the stem of a single poppy. The poppy to the left is a double form, something which can happen quite frequently with self-sown seedlings.

A restful garden

The English Cemetery in Malaga has a wide variety of unusual and beautiful botanical species, and now is the perfect time to visit to see *Pittosporum tobira* (right) in magnificent bloom. The gardens have been kept in shape by a group of volunteers at the Cemetery who have been looking after the garden since the lack of income from visitors and cultural events (due to the pandemic) meant the charity had



L. P.

to dispense with the normal gardener.

The historic English Cemetery is open Saturdays and Sundays 10.30am to 3pm.

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

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

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Pounding the pavement for charity

GIBRALTAR

ASH BOLTON. Dozens of runners braved the rain to raise £265 during a 7km charity run in Gibraltar last Saturday.

The event was organised by local running club Carpe Diem and saw 36 runners from various clubs run in aid of the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation's (GBC) Open Day.

The relay had teams of three runners, whose names were drawn out of a hat prior to the race, compete for the fastest group time

across the finish line.

The race was won by Elliot Johnson, Chrissie Caetano and Lisa Olivera, who clocked 1.32:47 between them.

A raffle was also held after the event to win a dinner on the Sunborn Hotel, which raised a further £358 for the registered charity.

Cassandra Gaivizo, 44, an administration assistant, whose idea it was to hold the Cassie's Crazy Relay Race, said: "We had a great turn up for this event, which is for a very worthy cause.

"It was lovely to see the ambi-



Runners taking part in the charity relay event . JACK EVANS

ence created during the run and very rewarding to see the efforts, the sweats, but most of all - the smiles on everyone's faces.

"We would like to thank each and every person that has made

this happen."

The GBC Open Day happens every year and is the Rock's biggest fundraiser - with money raised going to local charities.

www.carpediemgibraltar.com

Age Care Calahonda to resume twice-weekly social meetings in May

CALAHONDA

T. BRYANT. Age Care Calahonda has announced that the twice-weekly social gatherings will resume on each Tuesday and Thursday between 10.45am and 12.45pm at the Calahonda Baptist Church. The organisation will reintroduce its Beginners Spanish and Chair Aerobics classes on Tuesdays, while a group sing-a-long with a pianist and guitarist will be held on the first Thursday of each month. Volunteers will also be on hand to offer advice concerning a variety of administrative procedures.

24-hour assistance is available from the Age Care emergency helpline: 635407255.

OBITUARY

David Waterman, photographer 1937- 2021

JENNIE RHODES

PERIANA. British photographer and long-term Periana resident David Waterman passed away on 22 April. He was 83.

David was a professional photographer and continued to work with his art up until his death.

Before coming to Spain, David was a freelance photo journalist in London. He won a number of awards for his photography including Sports Photographer of the Year and the World Press Photo.

When he moved to Spain in 1994, he started to run photography workshops from his home; the reformed Broches mill in Periana. He was a member of the village's Almazara cultural association for 16 years and his photos were regularly published in the association's quarterly magazine.

David was a popular and active member of both the Spanish and foreign communities in his adopted village.



David Waterman. E. ELLIOT



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OPINION. Words by Robert King, IB Advisor and Development, Swans International School

Applying to university; Getting the process right

MARBELLA

SUR. The Brexit vote has had many, many well known consequences. What is less known, in the public domain, is the impact on higher education of the 2016 referendum. British universities, still world leaders in many areas of academia, are now becoming very expensive for some. For example, for a Dutch passport holder that wanted to study, say, Theatre Studies in the UK, the average course fee is somewhere between 20 to 25,000 euros per year. Prior to Brexit, EU citizens would pay the same as British citizens (around 9,000 pounds or around 10,300 euros per academic year).

Most British passport holders living in Spain will now pay the same price as a student resident in the UK. However, that could change in 2028 and British residents, living outside the UK, will have to pay the same as their EU/International counterparts. But this, in turn, has had a knock-on effect on the EU university system. The upside is more choice; universities, across the community, led by

the Dutch, are expanding their courses that are delivered in English. Certain degrees, that in the past were mainly only offered by UK universities, are now being offered throughout Europe. Students in Spain, whether or not they are UK passport holders, now see new, interesting frontiers opening up to them for their higher education choices. And in many cases these choices come at a much cheaper cost.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) – the gold standard course that we offer at Swans Sixth Form – provides the academic rigour that universities across the world have said prepares undergraduates in the best possible manner. However, for our students, it is not just about what to do once you get to university, but how to get to the right university in the first place.

We know that navigating the variety of international systems of application can be stressful for our young people. We teach students that want to attend universities in Spain, across the EU, in the UK and further afield, so our expert team of

We teach students that want to attend universities in Spain, across the EU, in the UK and further afield, so our expert team of dedicated professionals offers guidance and support on how to access these institutions

dedicated and knowledgeable professionals offers guidance and support on how to access these institutions. Guiding students from an early age about their post-18 options is embedded throughout the curriculum lower down the school, with students getting to explore university options from as early as 13 years old. Students in the Sixth Form are supported throughout their two years in making the right choice,

writing their applications and liaising with their chosen place of study once an offer comes through. We also continue caring for our students once they have completed their exams and received their results, offering support should they change their mind about the course that they want to undertake, or if their circumstances have changed.

We know that the whole univer-

sity application process can be bewildering, which is why we ensure that students at Swans can be secure in the knowledge that our team is on hand to guide them through all stages of the process. For more information on Sixth Form options and university preparation, please contact Swans School. Tel: +34 952 902 755, admin@swansschool.net.



Swans. GaryEDW

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Maria Moro Bermudo joined Swans School in Early Years. Always a shining example of positivity, proactivity and pride, she later became our Sixth Form Head Girl. She now studies Human, Social and Political Sciences at the University of Cambridge.





Africa or southern Spain? Later in the year flamingos make Doñana reminiscent of the expansive lakes of east Africa. **SUR**

Andalucía, a world of destinations

Escapism. With the region now 'unlocked' there is plenty of variety to satiate your travel needs - all without having to leave the country

ANDREW FORBES



Seville's Moorish palaces will transport you to exotic Marrakech, the art galleries of Malaga might even rival those of Paris, the flamingo wetlands of Huelva will inspire like the wilds of Africa, the castles of Cordoba will remind you of Ireland, while the renaissance towers of Cadiz will make you feel like you're in Italy. Almeria's rugged Mediterranean shoreline is reminiscent of Scotland's west coast; the gargantuan waterfalls of Jaén's natural parks will impress as much as anything Norway has to offer, and the wilderness of Granada will

embrace you like the vast open spaces of Iceland.

Well, that was the promise of last year's 'Quédate en Andalucía' domestic tourism campaign, that encouraged us to holiday locally during the pandemic. We might not have been able to travel, but the wonders of the world were close by to enjoy.

Well, a year later and it's a case of déjà vu isn't it? After months of being locked in Malaga province, the Committee of Experts of the Junta de Andalucía have suggested that we must, for the time being, stay within the region for leisure travel.

So, here's my take on where to go in Andalucía to satisfy your wanderlust.

Cadizfornia Dreamin'

The first place I'm heading once the provincial frontiers open for leisure trips is the Costa de la Luz in Cadiz province. Little wonder this brilliant coast has been dubbed Cadizfornia, with its golden beaches and relaxed surfer vibe.

Tarifa is no longer a secret. This scruffy port town has emerged as a popular, boho destination served by chic boutique hotels and hip B&Bs. For an authentic take on this cool coast, head for Los Caños

de Meca, a shabby yet captivating beach community, that's a favourite with Spaniards.

The temperatures are sure to rise in May and June, so enjoy the beaches. Here you can take your pick; family, nudist, or gay – it's an open and inclusive culture in Los Caños de Meca – you'll feel like you're in 70s Southern California.

Subterranean surprises

The castles of Cordoba province might well be evocative of destinations further afield, and even into the realms of fantasy. The ancient, eighth-century Castillo de Almodóvar is certainly recognisable to Game of Thrones fans. But to experience a more off-the-beaten track experience of Cordoba, pay a visit to the village of Monturque.

At the heart of the Montilla-Moriles vineyards and wine route (these fortified wines of Cordoba might remind you a little of sherry, as they are made in the same style), the village of Monturque is a splendid place for a unique perspective of Cordoba. Here one finds 2,000-year-old Roman underground cisterns; vast chambers that have been excavated and are open to the public.

Discovered by accident in 1885, these are among the most important Roman cisterns in the world, said to be the fourth biggest. Built in the first century to serve luxurious Roman thermae (community bathhouses) they are now beautifully illuminated and make for a fascinating visit. So, no need to fly to Istanbul to see the fa-

mous, Basilica Cistern, as we've our very own subterranean surprise right here in Andalucía.

Creeks and canyons

I'm fairly sure that after a year of limited travel choices we all know our 'own backyard' of Malaga province better than ever. Its capital is indeed a welcome cultural hub, and the countryside has a wealth of attractions including the vertiginous Caminito del Rey hiking route that clings to the edge of the Gaitanes gorge.

However, Malaga now has a new, high-profile hiking route, the Sendero el Saltillo. Found in the Axarquía area, east of Malaga city, this demanding trail, through the stunning natural park of the Sierras de Tejeda, Almijara y Alhama, offers much of the excitement, spectacular views, and dramatic scenery one might associate with Arizona. But it's right on our doorstep, and what's more, access is free.

Martian marvels

Huelva province is of course home to one of Andalucía's most extraordinary national parks, Doñana, with its vast wetlands teeming with wildlife, including later in the year, the iconic pink flamingos that make the area reminiscent of the expansive lakes of east Africa.

May is one of the best months of the year to enjoy birding, and this year, with the suspension of the El Rocío festival, the birds will be more abundant than ever.

But for a truly otherworldly experience in Huelva, head to the mining area of Río Tinto, where the environment is so remarkable that astrobiologists and NASA scientists once tested space suits and robots here.

Copper, silver, and gold have been exploited from the Río Tinto area for some 5,000 years. Since it's rich in minerals, there's natural contamination from the iron in the earth as well as heavy metal pollution from the disused mines, giving the river a deep orange and red appearance.

Considered the closest one can get here on earth to a Martian environment, it has attracted attention of academics and researchers looking to see how bacteria can flourish in acidic oxygen-free environments.

The Río Tinto mining park is set to open a new 'Mars on Earth' experience this autumn.

High Sierra

One of my favourite hiking experiences was exploring the Berber villages of the Moroccan High Atlas, accompanied by a guide and our mule. It was quite unforgettable. The same magic of exploring timeless rural life can be en-



▲ The Malaga countryside has a wealth of attractions including the vertiginous Caminito del Rey hiking route.

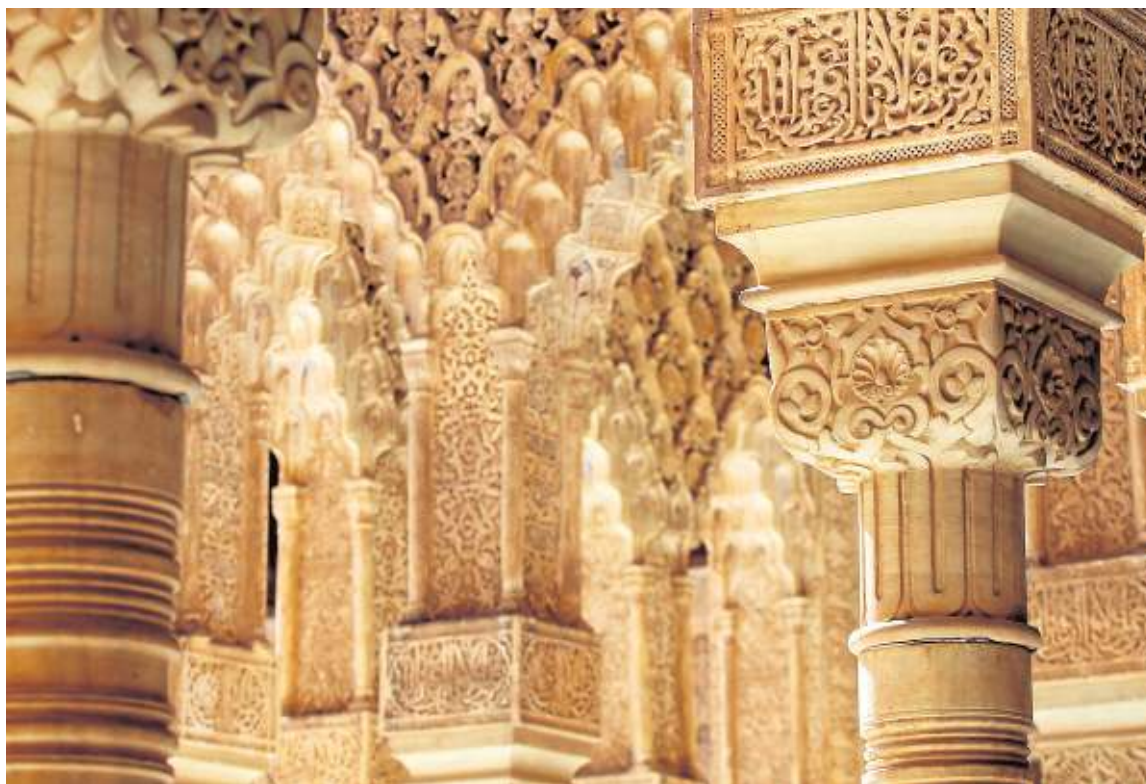
joyed in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada in Granada province. Here the Alpujarra Alta includes the emblematic villages of Pampaneira, Bubión, Capileira and Trevélez which offer an enchanting insight into ancient Andalucía, a time when North Africans came here in the eighth century.

This once inaccessible area still has communities based on Berber architecture; labyrinthine lanes through hamlets of tightly-packed flat-roof homes, with doorways protected by colourful, woven fabric curtains. The terraced hillsides still have historic agricultural irrigation that dates back millennia.

Crystal cave

The Sierra Nevada mountain range impacts the climate in Almería, making it the driest province of Andalucía. In fact, it's home to Europe's only desert, Tabernas. Since Sergio Leone's 'spaghetti westerns', it has been a favourite for film directors.

Mini theme parks now offer tourists the chance to witness cinematic shoot-outs and the opportunity to stroll through ageing film sets that convey the allure of 19th-



Arabian-style architecture can be found all over the region, but especially in Granada. **SUR**

century 'wild west' America.

New onto the tourist scene in Almería is the magnificent Geode of Pulpí. This remarkable hollow rock is full of huge crystals – a cave that you can actually crawl into, and experience the energy of these 60,000-year-old crystals.

This giant geode, the largest in Europe, was found within an abandoned mine in Pilar de Jaravía. So, no need to head to Mexico to

get your fix of crystal healing.

A Roman holiday

Although Andalucía's capital might mesmerise with its exotic Mudéjar palaces, a trip into rural Seville province can be equally enchanting. Surrounded by a sea of undulating sunflowers one finds Carmona, one of Europe's most ancient cities. A place of Roman ruins, Moorish castles, noble pal-

aces and renaissance spires, little wonder it's a Spanish National Monument. It certainly can give Italy a run for its money.

Yet, there's more. Ten minutes' walk out of the town (famous for its Puerto de Indias gin and vodka distilleries) there's one of Spain's most extensive Roman necropolises. A place of some 240 Roman tombs, considered a strategic element of Spain's history. Only now,

with the recent excavations and archaeological studies, are the secrets of this area being discovered.

Liquid gold

Some things just don't need to be compared to other countries; they're so quintessentially Andalusian. Take the olive groves of Jaén province. No other part of the world can truly be likened to this unique historical, cultural and natural landscape. UNESCO is considering listing the area, which is the world's largest producer of olive oil, with millions of olive trees.

'Oleoturismo' (olive oil tourism) offers insights, tours experiences and of course extra virgin olive oil tastings so visitors can truly get embraced by the region.

What's more, as home to the world heritage cities of Baeza and Úbeda, the majestic Sierras de Cazorla, Segura y las Villas natural park, as well as the impressive 'vía verde del aceite' Greenway cycling and hiking route, unsurprisingly, Jaén is emerging as a visitor destination.

So, it looks like we don't need to worry about PCR Covid tests and airport queues just yet. Andalucía can be our world of destinations.

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The Andalusian provinces



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ANDREW FORBES

Cadiz

Hotel Madreselva - Los Caños de Meca

Built in a hacienda style, the hotel's rooms open to a central courtyard patio filled with Mediterranean and subtropical plants. Each guest room has a small private terrace and simple en-suite bathroom with shower and tub, including amenities made with organic citrus essential oils. Reopens the last week of May 2021. califavejer.com/en/hotel-madreselva/



Hotel Madreselva.

Cordoba

Almodóvar Castle - Almodóvar del Río

The Castillo de Almodóvar, dating back to 740, has been a location for the international TV phenomenon Game of Thrones. This fairytale fortress offers self-guided and professional guided tours, historical enactments and cultural events. Reopens last week of May 2021.

castillodealmodovar.com

Roman Cisterns - Monturque

First-century Roman cisterns, open to the public. Call

ahead to make a reservation. Tours available most mornings. turismomonturque.com

Montilla-Moriles Wine Route

Itinerary for a self-drive tour of Cordoba's most distinctive wineries. From 1 to 23 May there is a Patios de Bodega festival showcasing the quintessential patios of the wineries.

turismoyvino.es

Malaga

El Saltillo hiking route - Canillas de Aceituno

Demanding 8km vertiginous walking route through the Sierra Tejeda. Recommended for experienced adult hikers. Impressive views of the La Maroma peak and the Almanchares river gorge.

canillasdeaceituno.es

Caminito del Rey hiking route - Ardales

Contemporary hiking trail along the route originally opened by Spain's King Alfonso XIII in 1921. Tickets must be purchased in advance, online. Suitable for families.

caminitodelrey.info/en/

Huelva

Río Tinto Mining Park

Visit the museum, ride the century-old British built railway



Los Caños de Meca.



Río Tinto.



Roman cisterns.



Vía Verde del Aceite.

and visit a mine. Book tickets in advance.

parquemineroderiotinto.es

Granada

Hotel Finca Los Llanos - Capileira

At almost 1,500 metres above sea level, this village is the per-

fect place to escape the sweltering heat. Finca Los Llanos is a family-run hotel with pool. Reopens end of June.

hotelfincalosllanos.com

Jarapas Hilacar - Bubiñ

Authentic loom workshop where you can see local 'jarapas artesanas alpujarreñas' (handmade rugs) being made. There's a shop too full of artisan products and foods like mountain honey. Check online for workshop opening times.

jarapahilacar.com

Almeria

Geode of Pulpí

This giant geode, with crystals up to two metres in length, can be visited during a fascinating subterranean tour of an abandoned silver, lead and iron mine. Reopens 12 June.

geodapulpi.es

Seville

Parador de Carmona

Classic Parador hospitality flair at this striking hotel, within a 14th-century Arabic fortress. Splendid base from which to explore the sights of Carmona.

parador.es

Carmona tourist office

Online resource to help plan your visit.

www.turismo.carmona.org

Jaén

Olive Oil Vía Verde

Spectacular Greenway that runs along the former railway line that used to carry olives to Malaga port.

andalucia.org/en/routes-via-verde-del-aceite

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

This magnificent building was originally built as a tribute to Tsar Nicholas I of Russia and was known as St Nicholas church until 1917. Built in the neoclassical style it was designed by Carl Ludvig Engel who surrounded the square on which it is located with other smaller buildings.

The square is usually the focus for the 1 May festivities which mark the end of the winter, the canonisation of the eighth-century German saint Walpurgis and International Labour Day.

It is traditional for those joining in the festivities to wear white caps, a tradition that dates back to the nineteenth century when engineering students would party at midnight on 30 April wearing their distinctive headwear.

If you can name the building, its location and the name of the festival you could win a prize.



The end of winter



Send your answer by email to english@diariosures. Please note that only answers with your name, address and telephone number will be considered.

Congratulations to Edward Bace who correctly identified last month's photo. It was of the Pitcairn islands (Pitcairn, Oeno, Henderson and Ducie) and the leader of the mutineers was Fletcher Christian. Your prize will be with you soon.

Send your answer to english@diariosur.es



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

30 APRIL 1931

The opening of Madrid-Barajas airport

The small airport outside the capital city has become one of the biggest and busiest in the world

Ninety years ago today, 30 April 1931, Madrid's Barajas airport welcomed its first official flight. The plane hadn't come far, less than 30 kilometres, in fact, from Getafe. Four sites had been proposed as the location for the new Madrid National Airport: Getafe, Carabanchel Alto, Vallecas and Barajas.

There were a few teething problems with the new airport, including the presence of a large number of birds which made taking-off difficult. That was resolved by using a solution dreamed up by the Americans some time beforehand. Six falcons were brought to Barajas,

and their presence deterred other birds from being near the planes.

The first destinations from Barajas were Barcelona and Seville, and the flights were operated by LAPE, the company we know nowadays as Iberia. The fare to Barcelona at that time was 150 pesetas, and to Seville 125 pesetas.

In 1965 the airport's name was officially changed from the Madrid National Airport to Madrid-Barajas, but after the death of Adolfo Suárez, the first democratically elected prime minister after the death of Franco, the authorities decided to commemorate him by renaming it Adolfo Suárez Ma-



The Madrid airport in a photo dating from 1933. Left, a poster for the LAPE airline that became Iberia. **SUR**

drid-Barajas.

What began as basically a small airfield grew and grew. In terms of terminal area, Barajas is now the biggest airport in the world

and it also has the longest civilian runway, the 18R-36L.

It is also one of the busiest in the world. In 2014, it was used by 41,833,374 passengers and the numbers continued to increase. The following year, it was the European airport with the highest rise in passengers, ahead of Rome-Fiumicino, Lon-

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Aeropuerto	Airport
Pasajero	Passenger
Avión	Aeroplane
Aeronave	Aircraft
Equipaje	Luggage
Pista	Runway
Despegar	To take off
Aterrizar	To land
Puerta de embarque	Boarding gate
Crecer	To grow
Salidas	Departures
Llegadas	Arrivals
Viajero	Traveller
Destino	Destination
Halcón	Falcon
Aerolínea	Airline
Tarifa	Fare

don Gatwick and Amsterdam, who normally top the list

However, as with all airports in Spain, the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic are clear from the passenger numbers for last year. Two years ago, 61,734,944 passengers used Madrid Barajas. Last year, that figure had dropped to just 17,112,389, a reduction of 72.3 per cent.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

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EXHIBITIONS

Carmen Aros

EL MORCHE. From 29 April to 26 May. Biobeach Club restaurant. Exhibition of works by Chilean painter Carmen Aros.

Cristina Harillo

ESTEPONA. Until 13 May. Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores. The exhibition Mis Paraísos consists of fifteen, large format works by artist Cristina Harillo and can be visited from Tues to Sat, 9am to 6pm.

Así Somos

TORREMOLINOS. Until 16 May. Casa de Los Navajas. An exhibition of around fifty photographs of people who live in Torremolinos. They were all taken by photographer Miguel Ángel Linares.

Colección del Museo Ruso

MALAGA. Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat.

Temporary exhibitions. From 30 April until 12 October. The two temporary exhibitions currently at the museum are Iván Konstantínovich Aivazovsky and the Russian sea painters which includes 26 of Aivazovsky's own works and 13 of other famous



Así Somos, Torremolinos

seascape artists such as Konstantín Krugovijin, Aleksandr Dórogov, Alekséi Bogoliubov, Konstantín Istomin, Vasili Shujaev, Borís Yákovlev, Vasili Meshkov and Izraíl Lizak. **Annual exhibition.** From 30 April until 29 May 2022, the museum will be exhibiting 183 works entitled Guerra y Paz en el arte Ruso (War and Peace in Russian arte). Many leading artists with close ties to Russia formed an international school of battle painting. Among them were Gottfried Willewalde, Theodor Horschelt, Aleksandr Kotzebue, Adolph Charlemagne, Franz Roubaud and Rudolf Frenz, with Englishman George Dawe. Sculptors Piotr Klodt and Yevgueni Lanceray also devoted themselves to this theme. The paintings weren't limited to battles but also reflected the effect of war on every day living. The exhibition includes works on this theme by Kazimir Malévich, Sofia Dímshits-Tolstaia, Aleksandr Labás, Izraíl Lizak and Yuri Jrzhanovski among others.

Galería JM

MALAGA. C/ Duquesa de Parcent, 12. Selva de Tiempo is the title of the current exhibition at the gallery by artist José Luís Valverde depicting the connection between the living and the dead. He says it was inspired by the sight of an enormous tree that had broken through stonework and was growing out of an old grave. There is also a collective exhibition called Panorama by artists such as Miki Leal, Alejandro Castillo and Chema Cobo among others. It is on display until 23 July.

Carmen Campos

MALAGA. Until 24 May. La Casa Amarilla, C/Santos. The Casa Amarilla is exhibiting This Is An Untitled Project, a photographic work by young Malaga artist Carmen



Colección del Museo Ruso, Malaga.

Campos. www.lcamalaga.com

Carmen Thyssen Museum

MALAGA. C/ Compañía, 10. 10am - 8pm Tuesday to Sunday. **Giovanni Battista Piranesi.** The Italian's artist's work may seem at first glance like a selection of 14 of his very obscure and detailed engravings which the Thyssen has received from the Museo de Bellas Artes de Valencia. However, he is considered the precursor of the nightmares of reason that later influenced Goya. The legacy of the Italian artist is now on display and demonstrates in great detail his imaginary prisons. Created in a feverish moment, the painter has recreated a convoluted world, dark and full of staircases. The past collections of the Thyssen museum can be viewed online at www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org

LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

International Jazz Day

MALAGA. 30 April, 1 May, 6 to 8pm. Plaza de la Merced. Two-day event to coincide with International Jazz Day (30 April) presents some of the region's most-celebrated jazz musicians: The Lito Blues Band, The Pepa Niebla Quintet, the Malaga

Jazz Collective and more. Capacity limited to 300 but spectators can enjoy the sound from nearby bar terraces.

Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

MALAGA. Various venues. **30 April, 2 May 6pm.** The Barber of Seville. Teatro Cervantes. **6, 7 May, 7pm.** Schuman's Overture to Genoveva, Brahms Concerto for violin and orchestra in D major followed by Brahms Second Symphony in D major. Teatro Cervantes. Tickets: www.entradas.mientrada.net

Mundo Divino

MALAGA. 1 May, 8pm. La Cochera Cabaret, Avda de los Guindos. María del Tango and Carlos 'El Calimbero', present this concert of flamenco, classic, Andalusian, folklore, psychedelic and experimental music.

Coco for children

ESTEPONA. 2 May, 5pm. Auditorio Felipe VI. Coco is a musical adaptation of a famous film of the same name based on the Mexican tradition of the Día de Muertos. Tickets: www.tafestepona.com, call: 952800441 or from the box office on the day.

Rock of the Ages

RIVIERA DEL SOL. 5 May, 7pm. Village Inn Bar and Restaurant, C/Esmeralda. 15€.

Lucy Pardoe and Ollie Hughes are in concert. The ticket price includes a choice of three main courses and small glass of beer or wine. Call: 622399366 or email: lucypardoe@hotmail.co.uk

Fígaro

ONLINE. 8 May, 7pm. Via Zoom. 10€ Three operas, three composers and one protagonist: the immortal Fígaro. Call: 654013232. Reservations: reservas@musicaconencanto.org / 654013232 / www.musicaconencanto.org

FLAMENCO

Flamenco Wednesday

MIJAS. Every Wednesday, 12pm. Plaza Virgen de la Peña. Live flamenco performance weekly in the plaza.

Paseos Flamenco

MALAGA. Sundays, 9.30 -11am. May and June. 10€. **2 May.** Plaza de la Merced. **16 May.** El Perchel and La Trinidad. **23 May.** Cafés Cantantes and Tablaos Flamencos. **6 June.** Juan Breva. **20 June.** El Palo. Reservations call 687607526 or email: flamencamalaga@hotmail.com

Ábrego

MALAGA. 8 May, 12pm. La Cochera Cabaret, Avda de los Guindos. A flamenco concert formed by the quartet made up of flautist Javi León, saxophonist Juan Diego Sáez, guitarist Alberto Torres and drummer Chico Carmona.

Soul Brothers invite audience to participate in promotional video

ESTEPONA

The duo will perform three sets in tribute to The Drifters, The Stylistics and The Temptations

TONY BRYANT

Popular Costa duo The Soul Brothers have invited the public to participate in the recording of a new promotional video at a concert that will take place in the 90 Mile Bar in Villacana, Estepona, tomorrow (Saturday).

The musicians will perform three sets offering tributes to The Drifters, The Stylistics and The Temptations, whose combined hits include classics like Save the Last Dance For Me, Betcha By Golly Wow and The Way You Do the Things You Do. The



The Soul Brothers will perform in Estepona on Saturday. **SUR**

repertoire will also include hits of other renowned soul artists like Wilson Pickett and Sam and Dave.

The duo consists of James Ray, a saxophonist and vocalist who has performed in venues throughout Europe and the Middle East; and Frankie B, a singer who has made his

mark on the soul scene on the Costa del Sol.

The show starts at 4.30pm and entrance is free, although those wishing to attend are advised to arrive early as capacity will be limited due to coronavirus restrictions.

Reservations can be made on 952885580.

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Ana S. Valderrábanos debuts at the CAC Málaga with the exhibition Borderline

The artist and graphic illustrator is exhibiting fifty works in which she seeks to reconcile art and craftsmanship

SUR

MÁLAGA. The Centro de Arte Contemporáneo (CAC) Málaga hosts Borderline, the first exhibition of artist Ana S. Valderrábanos. Over fifty works on display seek to reconcile art and craftsmanship with the mind playing the main role at the exhibition which runs until 20 June. The works are displayed in the Sala Coracha of the Museo del Patrimonio Municipal in Paseo Reding and demonstrate a personal influence over the art and a more intellectual influence on the craftsmanship. These are supported by the artist's thoughts and feelings expressed in calligraphy.

Inspired by paintings or photography, Valderrábanos uses thread as a tool to draw with. In this way she not only captures quotes and her thoughts but also alludes to phrases that create com-



The exhibition by Ana S. Valderrábanos in the CAC Málaga - La Coracha. SALVADOR SALAS

licity between people. Her works are influenced by artists such as Klimt and Schiele, as well as the American figurative painter Michael Carson and Milt Kobayashi.

Valderrábanos (born in Córdoba in 1969) uses the figure of a woman as a tool to represent the states of the soul, calm or

pleasure. Her female figures are anonymous with various poses that represent more intimate or psychological thoughts. There are also works that allude to the Covid pandemic.

The artist uses various techniques with oils on a base of wood that allow free backwards and for-

wards movement, scratching and smudging the vibrant colours of the scenes depicting women reflecting the state of the soul such as in her series Área de Descanso. The exhibition includes large format works combined with embroidery and untreated canvases.

While the smaller works are

expressed with thread, fabrics such as antique sheets, special garments such as a girl's nightgown which she uses to pay tribute to Louise Bourgeois and a autobiographical shirt with phrases from her loved ones and her inspirations are also used.

Reflections and irony

Arte y humor highlights the quote by Maurizio Cattelan: "I think humour and irony include tragedy in itself, as if they were two sides of the same coin. In both cases, laughter is a Trojan horse to enter into direct contact with the unconscious." In Jung she reflects on self-knowledge, the collective unconscious and the importance of introspection based on the thoughts of Carl Gustav Jung with quotes such as "Who looks outside dreams; who looks inside awakes." In Art Blessed she addresses the benefits of having art around: "The appreciation of art helps us to understand life, ourselves and our environment".

Ana S. Valderrábanos is an artist and graphic illustrator. She graduated in Fine Arts specialising in painting from the Santa Isabel de Hungría Faculty in Seville in 2002. Her career includes solo exhibitions such as Hilo, Sala La Revuelta, Seville (2015); Área de descanso, Mur-nau Art Gallery, Seville (2009) and ROJO 1925, Abades 47, Seville (2018).



THEATRE AND DANCE

Todo Danza

MARBELLA. Until 15 May. Teatro Ciudad de Marbella.

One of the most prestigious dance festivals in Spain, Marbella Todo Danza offers a wide variety of dance performances including classical, contemporary, flamenco and shows especially for children. All the performances take place at 8pm except for those for children which will start at 12pm. More information: www.marbella.es

CHARITY

ARCH charity quiz

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. 1 May, 2pm. 2.50€ per person.

The venue for the charity quiz is the terrace of El Bichito between Coín and Alhaurín el Grande. Food is avail-

able from 1pm. Tables are limited to six people. For more information and to reserve a table call: Manuela on 616835000 (or WhatsApp). www.horserescuespain.org

Collective Calling Spring Fair

ESTEPONA. 1 May, 12-5pm. Tikitano Besaya restaurant, Urb. Guadalmansa.

Music, food games and stalls. Two-course lunch 35€ adults, 18€ children. The event is hosted by the Collective Calling charity who support families struggling here on the coast and also they have a project to help treat children in Tanzania. The event is sponsored by Mariposa Energia, Spence Clarke Accountants, Helicópteros Sanitarios, Ibex Insurance and the Rotary Club Marbella with Aloha Interact from Aloha College. Tickets: 671316551 or email: eventos@grupobesaya.com



Fashion show for ACE charity

LA CALA DE MIJAS. 12 May, 7pm. The Times Sports Bar & Grill, C/Cár-

tama. 10€.

The event features live entertainment by Paul Anthony, former lead singer with the acclaimed Jersey Boys. The ticket price includes a selection of meals including vegetarian options. Tickets must be pre-paid in accordance with Covid regulations. They are available from The Times Bar or call: 647647671. www.ace-charity.org/en

MORE IDEAS

Diver Arte for children

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

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

Pop Art workshops

TORREMOLINOS. Centro Cultural Pablo Ruiz Picasso. Free.

Free workshops to learn pop art for children aged between 12 and 16 years. Reservations: 952385182 or email: bibliotecapicasso@torremolinos.es

14 May, 6.30 - 8pm. Workshop for Keith Haring drawing.

Lux Mundi

TORRE DEL MAR. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Avda Moscatel.

Taizé Prayer. 30 April, 8.45pm. San Andrés church. Taizé prayer is a monthly invitation to join in prayer. Send an email to be included in them: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org.

O. V. FILMS

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

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

MÁLAGA. Centro de Ocio, Plaza Mayor, Avda Alfonso Ponce León. Tel: 902902103. www.yelmocines.es.

Chaos Walking: 17.00, 19.15 (every day)

Mortal Kombat: 13.20 (Sun)

The Fellowship of the Ring: 13.00 (Sun); 17.30 (every day)

Promising Young Woman: 19.35 (Tues)

Yelmo Cines, Rincón

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

Promising Young Woman: 19.30 (Tues)

The Fellowship of the Ring: 18.00 (Tues)

Nomadland: 19.20 (Tues)

Chaos Walking: 20.20 (Tues)

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

MÁLAGA. Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902220922

Promising Young Woman: 19.45 (Tues)

Chaos Walking: 20.20 (Tues)

Nomadland: 19.20 (Tues)

The Father: 17.30 (Tues)

Minamata: 19.55 (Tues)

The Fellowship of the Ring: 19.10 (Tues)

Nobody: 18.05 (Tues)

Original Version films

MARBELLA. IES Río Verde, Marbella. Centro Municipal de Música, San Pedro.

The Peanut Butter Falcon: 6 May (Marbella), 7 May (San Pedro).

Cinesur Miramar

FUENGIROLA. Avda de la Encarnación. Tel: 952198600.

Chaos Walking: 20.00 (every day)

Nobody: 18.00 (every day)

Minamata: 17.00 (every day)

Cinesur Ingenio

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

Nobody: 19.25 (Tues)

Chaos Walking: 18.40 (Tues)

Cine Albéniz

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

Nomadland: 12.15 (Sat, Sun); 17.00, 19.45 (every day)

- 30 APRIL - 16 MAY -

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Why is aloe vera so beneficial?

Cosmetics. It has scientifically proven benefits for the skin, but there is no evidence that it is healthy to eat

ISABEL IBÁÑEZ



As soon as we hear the words aloe vera, we start thinking of the magical, maybe even miraculous, benefits of this plant. It has been around since the times of Ancient Egypt, and is usually associated with skin care but in recent years it has also appeared in soft drinks, yoghurts and as part of slimming diets. The question is: how much of this is supported by science?

Beatriz Robles, a dietician-nutritionist and author, refers to this as a 'halo effect': "It happens when certain characteristics of a product lead us to apply its positive benefits to other aspects. That is why it is so widely believed that aloe vera's properties as a cosmetic can be applied to food as well, but it isn't actually as easy as that," she says.

She is referring to food products which can be three times as expensive if they contain just a small amount of aloe, and supplements in the form of juice or capsules

which are advertised as being helpful for stomach problems, or easing internal inflammatory problems, or assisting with weight loss. "But the European Commission does not permit any claims to be made about the supposed health properties of aloe or any of its components unless they have been scientifically proven, and the European Food Safety Authority is responsible for verifying them," she says.

Beatriz explains that occasionally consuming pieces of aloe in a yoghurt or salad does not expose us to large amounts of toxic components, but doing so regularly brings us directly up against HADs, hydroxyanthracene derivatives. These are different components found in plants such as aloe which, although it is authorised as a medication for constipation, can cause problems if taken in a more concentrated form. "Especially if the products claim, illegally, that they have a laxative effect, because that

is due to the presence of HADs," she says. (

Beatriz says this HADs content is the reason the EFSA includes aloe among the botanical substances with components which can cause adverse effects if used in food or supplements. "And the International Agency for Research on Cancer says aloe extract obtained from the whole leaf is possibly carcinogenic for humans," she adds.

She points out that it is wrong to suppose that aloe vera can be used in food just because it is authorised as a short-term medication for occasional constipation.

"As a medication it is subject to safety controls, and that is not the case with foods or supplements," she stresses.

"The belief has spread that if something is good for the skin, it must also be good as a food, but that is not the case"

The European Commission is investigating whether the presence of HADs in foods and supplements should be restricted, prohibited or subject to control, and this is something which could affect the possibility of using aloe vera as an ingredient. Beatriz says that as there is no evidence that it has health benefits beyond its effect on constipation, and bear-

ing in mind the possible risks, it is better only to use it for cosmetic purposes.

Applications in cosmetics

Javier del Boz, a dermatologist at the Regional Universitario hospital in Malaga and vice-president of the Andalusian branch of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology, says aloe vera does have benefits for the skin.

"It has been sold for years as a type of panacea, the product that can heal everything. It has traditionally been used to treat cutaneous lesions such as cuts, insect bites and eczema. It does seem to have proven anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial and healing properties, and the latter seem to be due to substances it contains such

Cleopatra used aloe for her skin and soldiers healed their wounds with it

I. I.

Cleopatra is said to have bathed in asses' milk to care for her skin, but the most famous queen of Egypt also added another ingredient to her bath: aloe vera, which kept her skin looking young and made her a true legend in feminine beauty.

Alexander the Great used to advise his soldiers to put aloe juice on their war wounds, and

those in the Roman Empire used the gel from this plant to heal their wounds after battles. It seems the Mayans also used it, even for headaches, and it was a favourite among Samurai warriors, too. The plant is even said to have aphrodisiac properties, because it is mentioned in the Kama Sutra.

The International Aloe Science Council website says that in 1862 George Ebers discov-

ered how ancient this plant was from an Egyptian papyrus from the year 3,500 BC.

There are more than 200 different types of aloe vera in nature, and the plant is also called lily of the desert, where it grows totally spontaneously.

The association says the aloe gel extracted from this plant contains more than 75 nutrients and 200 active components which include 20 minerals, 18 aminoacids and 12 vitamins.

"The leaf of an aloe vera plant is an excellent first aid kit to disinfect minor wounds such as cuts and to treat insect bites and skins," it says.

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as aloesin, aloin and emodin. It has even been used to heal the scars from caesareans and other surgical wounds," he says.

Dr del Boz also says that due to its restorative effect, it could be useful in preventing and treating dermatitis resulting from exposure to ultraviolet rays or radiotherapy, although he warns that reviews so far have not been conclusive.

He also points out that other research defends its use to prevent or treat skin ulcers resulting from applied pressure or diabetes, and it may even help to improve psoriasis. "Aloe vera derivatives can be used to treat superficial wounds or burns as long as there are no signs of infection," he says.

So have its beneficial effects been exaggerated? "It can be very useful, but it can't be used to treat any skin problem nor is it suitable for all types of skin. If something is natural, it doesn't always mean it is the best, and these 'natural products' are not completely innocuous. There have been cases of eczemas and rashes among people who have applied aloe derivatives. The cosmetics that contain aloe vera must have a limited concentration of its derivatives and

the amount of pesticide used on plants for these purposes is also limited, something which people should bear in mind when home-made aloe vera is used. Some of the adverse reactions can be related to other excipients in the content or may depend on the concentration of the products. Some studies have shown anti-carcinogenic properties, but it would not be correct to base the treatment of any type of cancer, skin cancer or otherwise, on its use. It is important to be cautious and consult a doctor first," he says.

So if we decide to use aloe vera for our skin, should we apply it as a cream or can we ingest it? Dr de Boz says the majority of studies in relation to the skin refer to it as a topical product, generally in the form of a gel, but there are some based on the ingestion of aloe derivatives. The results of some of these seemed to show an improvement in skin elasticity, and even improvements to facial wrinkles. Equally, in a study using mice with atopic dermatitis, they were seen to improve. These are still preliminary studies, but the oral use of aloe vera is beginning to look promising in this respect.

Lions back on track with support projects

The association has resumed its dementia and diabetes support groups to offer sufferers and carers medical advice and assistance

T. BRYANT

MIJAS. La Cala de Mijas Lions Club's diabetic and dementia support groups will resume their fortnightly meetings next week at Bar Tuta, Jardín Botánico, in La Cala de Mijas.

Run by Anne Bowles, the Diabetic Support Group, which is supported by the welfare department of Age Care, meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 11am. Meetings offer help and education concerning everything from diet, exercise and general information about the different types of diabetes. The group also has regular guest speakers and a nurse who offers blood pressure and glucose tests.

The Dementia Support Group holds a two-hour meeting from 10.30am on the second and



Diabetes leader Anne Bowles. SUR

fourth Monday of each month. The meetings are attended by trained staff and a qualified nurse, who offer assistance with medical queries and respite care. The group provides support and friendship to the carers in order to allow them to cope better by sharing their feelings and experiences, while their loved ones are kept stimulated with special activities.

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First catch your tuna

ANDREW J. LINN



Different nations have their own ideas of what constitutes fair play. While the Spanish trek over the hills when the hunting season begins, the English prefer the prey to be driven to them. Much the same procedure is employed to catch tuna. What is known as the almadraba, allegedly 2,000

years old, relies on a myriad of underwater nets to trap the fish as they make their way through the Gibraltar Straits. The San Pedro Alcántara grid once employed 500 men. It was financed by two well-known Marbella families, Lima and MacKintosh, but was destroyed in the Great Storm of 1958 and never

reconstructed. Almadrabas are still used in Zahara, Conil, La Línea, Tarifa, and Sancti Petri, but, in the same way that there is perpetual conflict between the boats that net salmon in the estuaries and the rod fishermen working from the riverbanks, netting tuna does not give the fish a chance. Once sufficient tuna have

The almadraba, allegedly 2,000 years old, relies on a myriad of underwater nets to trap the fish

massed in the killing zone, the net is raised upwards and the bloodbath commences. Whereas previously it was a question of gaffing the fish in the eyes so as not to damage the carcass, now shooters with special rifles drop into the net among the fish and skillfully carry out their unpleasant work. Many of the tuna are in perfect condition during the almadraba season, weighing up to 300 kilos, and after a ban on fishing in 2006 that allowed them to repopulate, they are now back to good levels. Ninety per cent used to go to Japan; that figure is now down to fifty per cent.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Habla de la Tierra

Not many wines are made in Extremadura, and people said the founders of the Habla bodega were mad. Maybe they were right as global warming is a feature of this already hot region. Not for the faint-hearted at 13.5% alcohol, but a great accompaniment to hearty food. Cabernet, Tempranillo and Syrah. Around seven euros.



The pineapple, the status symbol of Georgian Britain

The juicy fruit is called 'ananas' in almost every European language except English and Spanish. But why?

LAURENCE CRUMBIE

MALAGA. There are some words which are nearly identical across multiple languages. Perhaps the best known is 'wine', which is cognate with 'vino' (Spanish, Italian), 'wino' (Polish), 'vinho' (Portuguese), 'vin' (Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, Romanian, French) and many others. But even more intriguing is the word for 'pineapple', which goes by 'ananas' (or something similar) in almost every European language except English and Spanish. Even in Myanmar, far away from its native South America, this prickly, sweet fruit is called ananas. The pineapple was 'discovered' by none other than Christopher Columbus on the island of Guadeloupe in 1493, who named it 'piña de Indes' (pine of the Indies) due

to its resemblance to a pinecone. While the term piña stuck in Spanish, the Portuguese gathered pineapples from Brazil and named them ananás after the Tupi nanas, meaning "excellent fruit". Thence the fruit spread across the globe throughout the 16th century. The Spanish took it to Africa and commenced cultivation in various Pacific regions including Hawaii, where it is called paina, while the Portuguese transported it to parts of Asia as well as mainland Europe, explaining the prevalence of the term ananas in those areas. Presumably, said Dr Lauren O'Hagan, a Visiting Scholar in the Centre for Language and Commu-



The fruit and in Georgian architecture (left). WIKIMEDIA/FOTOLIA

nication Research at Cardiff University, the fruit from the New World reached Britain via Spain and gained its name through an amalgamation of piña and 'apple'. "Apple was used at the time in English to refer to any type of foreign fruit or vegetable, so peach was 'Persian apple', potato was 'earth apple', tomato 'love apple', et cetera," explained O'Hagan. The pineapple seized the imagination of the British public. Believed by some to have been the sensuous fruit that tempted Eve,

it was grown locally in specially designed 'pineries' that incurred high costs due to the amount of heat and lighting required. Consequently, a single specimen could fetch prices equivalent to £6,500, turning the pineapple into 'the status symbol of Georgian Britain'. "Anybody looking to showcase their wealth and class had one," O'Hagan told SUR in English. "They weren't to eat but rather to display as dinnertime ornaments, passed from party to party until they rotted or carried under a person's arm as they walked in the streets. "Such was their popularity that

Christopher Columbus called it 'piña de Indes' (pine of the Indies) as it resembled a pine cone

A single specimen could fetch the equivalent of £6,500 in Georgian Britain and pineapple theft was rife

pineapple theft was rife and a crime that resulted in seven years' transportation to Australia, while pineapple rental shops sprung up around the country and pineapple designs became used in everything from carriages, plinths, gates and garden temples to jelly moulds, teapots, clock cases and bookends." The fruit's crown was even considered a symbol of the divine right of the monarch, leading Charles II to commission a painting of himself with a 'King Pine', as it was fondly known. However, this curious craze came to an end in the 19th century when European powers began importing fruits from the colonies by steamship. Suddenly, the sensuous delicacy was cheaper than potatoes and could be purchased by even the lowliest circles of society, peeling away the regal status it had enjoyed for more than 200 years.



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Davidovich, in the world top 50

Now in 48th place in the rankings, he can skip the qualifiers for any ATP Tour event and is just 110 points off being the fourth-highest Spaniard and earning a place at the Olympics

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

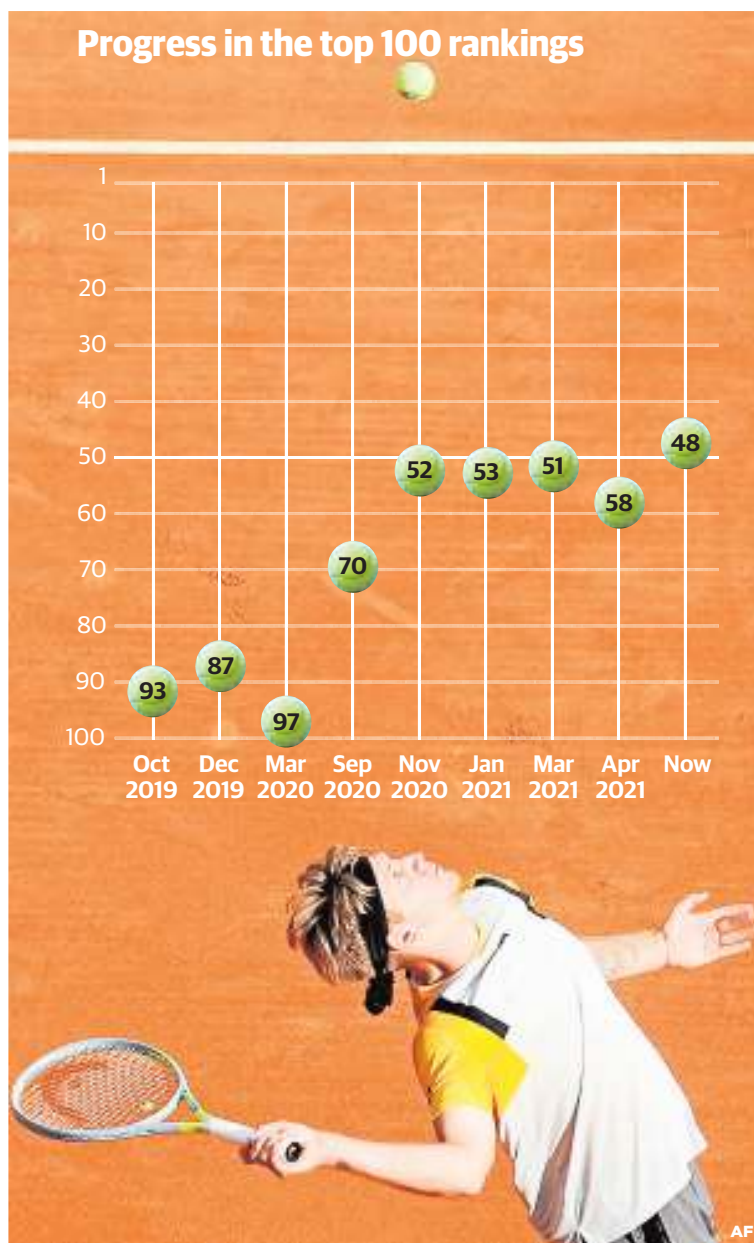
MALAGA. On 21 October 2019, Alejandro Davidovich broke into the top 100 of the ATP rankings for the first time. Now, after a great week in Monte Carlo a fortnight ago, where he was the youngest Spanish quarter-finalist at a Masters 1000 since Rafa Nadal in 2008 (Miami), he added 160 points and climbed ten places, from 58th to 48th on 19 April.

In his best competition to date, the 21-year-old based in Fuengirola eliminated De Miñaur (25th), Berrettini (10th, in his first win against a top ten player) and Pouille (86th) before he retired due to injury against Tsitsipas (5th) in the quarters.

Access to any draw

With his current ranking (unchanged this week despite being eliminated from the round of 16 in the ATP 500 in Barcelona by Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik (42nd)), Davidovich now has access to all competitions on the ATP Tour without the need to play in the qualifying rounds.

As Davidovich is known to be more comfortable on clay courts (despite his high performance levels at the end of 2020 in fast indoor tournaments), he has high hopes for his return to Estoril (he was a semi-finalist there in 2019) and in Rome, Madrid and at



Roland Garros.

Attractive playing style

Davidovich is known for his adaptable and attractive playing style and often uses drop shots and lobs to great effect. This is particularly

seen in his ability to win long rallies from the back of the court. However, one aspect of his game that is often overlooked is his capacity to win return points from the first serve. Indeed, his conversion record of 33.4 per cent is the

Quarter-final place sealed in favourite tournament

DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. Alejandro Davidovich has enjoyed a strong start this week to the Millenium Estoril Open, an ATP 250 in which he feels very comfortable (he reached the semi-finals last time out in 2019).

This time, on Wednesday, he booked his place in the quarter-finals with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Jérémy Chardy, having already dispatched Pablo Andújar in the round of 32.

Today, Friday, he takes on Ugo Humbert.

14th-best on the ATP Tour,

Although his record of winning return points against the second serve is higher at 52.27%, this is only the 18th-best.

The Olympic Games

Davidovich's current ranking means he remains the fifth-highest ranked Spanish player, though very close to the fourth - Albert Ramos (46th). Taking this spot would see Davidovich qualify for the Olympic Games, as there is a maximum quota of four players per country in the singles draw, and assuming that Rafa Nadal, Pablo Carreño and Roberto Bautista don't withdraw from this event, for which the protocols are not yet known.

At the moment, Ramos has 110 ATP points more than Davidovich, and the qualifying cut-off date is 8 June.

Nadal battles back against Tsitsipas to win the twelfth Barcelona Open trophy of his career

ENRIC GARDINER

BARCELONA. Rafael Nadal secured the twelfth Barcelona Open title of his career on Sunday after a gripping final against Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas. Nadal came back from a match point and eventually won the encounter 6-4, 6-7, 7-5.

Tsitsipas started brightly and quickly raced into a 3-1 lead before Nadal battled back to take the first set. The second set followed a similar pattern but the Greek this time came out on top in a tie-breaker to take the encounter to a decisive third set.

In the final stages, Tsitsipas led 5-4 and seemed on the verge of victory before Nadal saved a match point on his own serve. The Spaniard then took the final two games to wrap up an exhibition of over three and a half hours.

The 'Godó' win takes Nadal up to second in the World Rankings, ahead of Daniil Medvedev.



Nadal celebrates the win. EFE

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Narrow defeat sees Malaga's lacklustre home form continue

A controversial early penalty condemned the Blue and Whites to defeat against Fuenlabrada on Saturday afternoon

DAVID BALMER

MALAGA. Malaga's patchy form at La Rosaleda continued as Sergio Pellicer's side fell to a 1-0 defeat to Fuenlabrada on Saturday afternoon. The only goal of the game came after the visitors were awarded a penalty following a dubious Malaga handball.

The game's main flashpoint came after only nine minutes when Fuenlabrada were awarded a penalty after Caye Quintana was judged rather harshly to have handled the ball. Despite Malaga's protests, a lengthy VAR review upheld the decision and Randy Nteka stepped up to give his side the lead.

Things could have gotten worse for Malaga just five minutes later when their former academy product Álex Mula had two good chances in quick succession. For his first opportunity, he perhaps should have done better but could only sweep his volley wide. Seconds later, he was played onside and came up one-on-one against Dani Barrio,



Randy Nteka's well-taken penalty gave the visitors an early lead. **ÑITO SALAS**

who produced a very good save.

A short while after, Barrio was once again justifying his introduction into the team ahead of Juan Soriano when he made a top-drawer stop to keep out Borja Garcés.

Although Malaga were eventually able to weather this storm defensively, they still provided next to nothing as an attacking threat and didn't have a shot on

target in the first half, missing the impetus given by Jozabed from midfield, absent because of a fractured finger.

At half time, Jairo Samperio came on for Stefan Scepovic, with the Serbian striker not having been able to get into the game. With it came a switch from 4-1-4-1 to 4-2-3-1 and Malaga's best opportunity to equalise came just after the hour

mark when Caye flashed a header wide.

However, Fuenlabrada continued to cause their hosts problems and went close fifteen minutes from time when Mula cut inside, but his effort did not find the target. Malaga's final opportunity came in the 90th minute when Cristian saw his potshot deflected behind for a corner. Pellicer led the protests for a

0-1

MALAGA-FUENLABRADA

Malaga: Dani Barrio; Benítez, Juande, Lombán, Matos (Cristo, 46'); Escassi; Joaquín (Larrubia, 76'), Ramón (Cristian, 62'), Caye Quintana, Rahmani (Larrubia, 85'), Scepovic (Jairo, 46'). Unused substitutes: Soriano, Dani Strindholm, Alexander González, Ismael, Quintana, Julio, Guerrero.

Fuenlabrada: Belman; Sotillos, Pulido, Diéguez, Glauder; Pathé Ciss, Cristóbal (Fuentes, 87'), Mula (Iribas, 84'), Iban Salvador (Espinosa, 67'); Nteka, Borja Garcés (Kante, 67'). Unused substitutes: Pol, Rosic, Pol Valentín, Jano, Damián.

Goals: 0-1 Nteka (11', pen).

Referee: Iglesias Villanueva. Yellow cards for Rahmani, Cristian, Mula and Diéguez.

Venue: La Rosaleda.

penalty, claiming the ball had struck a Fuenlabrada player on the arm, but this only seemed to demonstrate his frustration at his team's inability to score.

Following the game, the boss said: "I'm not going to look for excuses, as our opponents deserved the win. Dani Barrio kept us in the game with his saves." He added: "We have to pick ourselves up for the upcoming games."

Malaga fall one place to tenth following the defeat with an 11-point cushion above the relegation places with 18 still to play for. At the end of play, the distance to the play-off places was seven.

Next up is a trip to table-topping Espanyol next Sunday afternoon (kick-off 4pm).

Draw not enough to lift Malaga Femenino from the relegation mire

With his side sitting fourth-bottom in the relegation play-off group, Javi Ramos is still waiting for his first win as boss

VALENCIA B 1
MALAGA 1

LUIS CARBONELL. ADG

VALENCIA. Malaga's women's team remain without a win in their six games played in the season's relegation phase following a 1-1 draw away to Valencia B on Saturday afternoon. The result means new manager Javi Ramos has not won either of his games in charge, despite his side dominating much of the encounter.

After sixteen minutes, the hosts had a penalty after Candela clipped an opponent's leg. María



A Malaga player challenges for the ball in the air. **J. CATALÁN / ADG MEDIA**

Ortiz duly converted, provoking a good reaction from Malaga.

Indeed, six minutes later, they were level when Edna's shot went off the post and into the net.

As the half wore on, Malaga seemed the more likely to score again, most notably when María Ruiz's shot cannoned off the crossbar.

Although the Valencia-based team improved after the interval, Malaga had the best opportunities to find the winner. Claudia Jiménez had a couple of decent chances while María Ruiz again found herself denied by the woodwork. Ultimately, however, the goal was not forthcoming.

With four games to go in Group South D, Malaga are three points off safety and lie seventh out of ten teams. A home tie against Joventut Almàsora on Sunday is next up for Malaga in their battle to avoid dropping to the third division.

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

The final countdown

The race for the title in Spain this season is certainly the most exciting in Europe



There are many arguments at the bar contending "the best league in the world"; but nobody can argue against La Liga winning the vote for the most entertainingly chaotic and fiercely contested.

It's now a four-club chase to the championship as Sevilla have gathered momentum and elbowed their way into the picture. Six wins in a run of seven unbeaten games means they are hoping to become the Leicester City of Spain and disrupt the traditionally closed market.

The story comes with comedy value as well as the Andalusian derby with Granada finished then started again then finally finished in slapstick fashion.

As Granada edged the game back to 2-1, the fourth official signalled a minimum of four



Sevilla have crept into the running to make it a four-way contest. EFE

added minutes. The referee blew his whistle at three minutes. Club officials pointed out the mistake as players exchanged shirts, some raced to be first in the shower and others just collapsed with fatigue. When Señor Bengotxea ac-

knowledge his mistake, the bemused players had to regroup, fix shinguards and reclaim the swapped shirts. A minute later, the result was official: Sevilla were officially just three points from Liga leaders Atlético having assured their first priority -

qualification for the next Champions League campaign.

Coach Julen Lopetegui and his players are proving to be the uninvited guests to an exclusive party. The other three are all part of the European Super League shenanigans.

Sevilla can play for fun and create unrest, while Atlético, Real Madrid, and Barcelona stress the season out.

In this uniquely condensed season, the champions of most top leagues will be the clubs with endurance rather than individual excellence. Sevilla have no stars. It is a collective of driven and well-coached professionals.

This was always the boast of Atlético who have led the race for most of the rounds but look a little heavy-legged. Defeat to Athletic Bilbao leaves them just two points ahead of Real Madrid and Barcelona.

Since losing El Clásico and exiting the Champions League, Barça have won three successive games. Antoine Griezmann is leading the charge with five goals in six games. The Catalans also have the advantage of an extra game to play.

Real Madrid have engaged cruise control. They are like a vehicle doing 65 miles per hour in a 70 zone. The club known for glamour and razzmatazz have posted scoreless draws against Real Betis, Getafe and Liverpool. They held Chelsea to a one-one cliff-hanger.

Zidane won't allow his players to step on the gas until he knows which way the road heads after the second leg in London. He's charted this journey many times and generally reaches the destination bang on time.

It promises to be the tightest finish since 2006-07, when Real Madrid edged it on the head-to-head results with Barça. That edition was a marathon ten-month season which started in August and ended late in June. This is the opposite. It was a late September start and will be a mid-May finale.

What happens next? Nobody knows! It could well go down to the final whistle, or even the whistle after that.

Winning run comes to a disappointing end

After three wins on the bounce, Abraham García's side were comprehensively beaten on the road

YECLANO
MARBELLA

3
1

ADG

MURCIA. Marbella saw their three-game winning run ended as they were comprehensively

beaten 3-1 away to Yeclano on Sunday afternoon.

After a balanced opening half hour, Yeclano took the lead when Fenoll picked up on a defensive error and played in Luis Castillo. Marbella did not respond well to going behind and found themselves overrun in midfield by the side from Murcia.

Seconds after the restart, Yeclano doubled their advantage when Vaquero lost his man and slotted past Alfonso Herrero.

Any hopes of a Marbella comeback were ended when Edu Ramos brought down Karim in

the box in the 82nd minute. The same attacker converted the spotkick to secure the win.

A header from Tresaco two minutes from time provided some consolation for Marbella.

The result ends both Marbella's 100 per cent record in their relegation play-off group and the perfect start made by new boss Abraham García.

With four games remaining, Marbella slip one place to third in their eight-team group. The worst third-placed team across the five groups will be double-relegated to the new Tercera RFEF (fifth tier) instead of only to the Segunda RFEF (fourth tier).

Marbella must now travel to second-placed El Ejido on Sunday afternoon for what could be a decisive fixture.



J. R. PADILLA

Vélez
celebrate
promotion

With two games left to spare, Vélez CF have gained promotion to the Segunda RFEF, the new Spanish fourth tier, after 15 consecutive years in Tercera. The Axarquía club hope to go up as league champions.

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Local padel star falls at the final hurdle in Alicante Open

Alhaurín de la Torre's Álex Ruiz has come up short for the second competition in a row. After losing the final of the Adelsas Madrid Open (the opening event of this season's World Padel Tour), this time, he and his partner Franco Stupaczuk were runners up in the Alicante Open which concluded this weekend. The Spanish-Argentinian pairing lost the final to world number ones Juan Lebrón and Ale Galán (who they beat in the semi-finals in Madrid). In a contest which barely resembled their previous encounter, they were resoundly beaten in two sets (6-0 and 6-4). Despite the result, the pair now top the Race, the padel rankings for 2021.



WORLD PADEL TOUR

Lauro Golf come out on top in the 81st Copa Iberia

The oldest amateur tournament in Spain took place last weekend with 37 teams, each made up of four players, participating

PEDRO LUIS ALONSO

MALAGA. The team from Lauro Golf claimed victory at the 81st edition of the Iberian Cup played last weekend at the Real Club de Campo in Malaga city. In what is the oldest amateur competition in Spain - played every year without interruption since 1941 - 37 teams took part, each made up of four players.

The quartet made up of Salvador González, Javier Gallego, Helios Otero and Pablo García came away with the trophy having shot



The Laura Golf players lift the Copa Iberia trophy. **SUR**

a total of 434 over their six rounds (two on Friday and four on Saturday).

In second place, with 436 strokes, was Real Club de Campo A, which is composed of the two pairs of brothers Javier and Alejandro Carrere and Gonzalo and Antonio García. Real Sevilla Golf, made up of Francisco Bolaños, Álvaro García, Carlos Vázquez and Pedro García, took third place, with 451.

Javier Carrere Lobera and his brother Alejandro Carrere Lobera also took home the prize for the best pair on Friday, with 68 strokes (-4), while Javier Gallego's superb 64 (-8) secured him the distinction of best individual round of the tournament.

Each team played a total of 36 holes, the first 18 in foursomes and the second individually.

The prizes were handed out by the vice-president of the Diputación provincial authority, Juan Carlos Maldonado, the president of the Andalusian Golf Federation, Pablo Mansilla, the director of the Parador de Golf de Málaga, Javier Manzano, and the tournament's director of scoring, Alberto Bueno.

La Cala de Mijas confirmed as start point for 2021 Vuelta a Andalucía

DAVID BALMER

MALAGA. The official route for the 2021 Vuelta a Andalucía (Tour of Andalucía) cycling race taking place from 18 to 22 May has been announced by the event's organiser, Deporinter. The tour, part of the UCI ProSeries, will cover 807.6 kilometres in five days. It was initially due to take place in February but was postponed because of coronavirus restrictions.

The tour will begin on Tuesday 18 May in La Cala de Mijas (Malaga) and the first day will entail a 152.1km journey to Zahara de la Sierra (Cadiz). This stage will feature two mountain climbs - one category three and one category two - while there will also be an intermediate sprint in Coín.

The following day, riders will make the 183km journey between Iznájar (Cordoba) and Alcalá la Real (Jaén). Here, competitors will face three category three and two category two climbs. The intermediate sprint on this day will take place in Lucena (Cordoba).

The third stage takes place exclusively in Jaén province, travelling 175.1km between Beas de Segura and Villarrodrigo. This will be the most demanding day of the tour in terms of hill climbs. Indeed, there will be a total of six climbs - two apiece in categories one, two and three. On top of this, there will be an intermediate sprint in Hornos and then another in Segura de la Sierra.

The penultimate stage will cross 182.9km between Baza and Cúllar Vega, both in Granada, with one category two mountain climb.

On the final day, Saturday 22 May, riders will travel 114.5km between Vera and Pulpí in Almeria province. This will include two category three climbs and two intermediate sprints.

IN BRIEF

HANDBALL

Tickets for historic European final sold out

M. RIVAS. Malaga handball team Rincón Fertilidad announced earlier this week that all tickets for the first leg of the EHF Cup final, this Saturday at 7pm in Ciudad Jardín, had sold out.

Despite speculation that the historic tie might be played in the much bigger Palacio de los Deportes, the first game of the

showpiece against Lokomotiv Zagreb will take place in the team's normal venue in Ciudad Jardín, ahead of the return leg in Croatia on Saturday 8 May (6pm).

In compliance with coronavirus regulations, just under 400 spectators (between season ticket holders and general public) will be able to attend, while those not fortunate enough to get tickets will be able to watch both games live on Andalucía Televisión.



The Rincón Fertilidad players. **SUR**

GOLF

Azahara Muñoz fails to make an impact in LA

SUR. San Pedro-born golfer Azahara Muñoz had a disappointing weekend at the Hugel Air Premia LA Open in Los Angeles.

The golfer started off strongly with a card of 68 on the first day. However, that increased to 71 and 72 on the second and third days, respectively, leaving her outside the top 20.

Eventually, Muñoz finished in joint 39th place with a +2 on the final day (-1 overall).

SAILING

Moncada misses out on spot in the Olympics

M. R. Twenty-year-old Estepona sailor Ana Moncada saw her chances of going to the Olympic Games come to an end at the weekend. The young sailor had to finish as the top Spaniard in the international regatta in Vilamoura (Portugal), which took place between Saturday and Saturday. However, the best positioned was the reigning Spanish champion in the ILCA 6 (Laser Radial), Cristina Pujol.

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Town Hall	952801100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031

FUENGIROLA

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Taxi Service	952471000
Tourist Office	952467625
Town Hall	952589300
Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440

MALAGA

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Railway Station	902240202
Taxi Service	952345693
Tourist Office	951926020

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Town Hall	952761100
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MIJAS

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Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125
Taxi	952478288
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NERJA

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Town Hall	952548400
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Town Hall	952379400
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Town Hall	952374231
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951516019
952211797
952667955
952223346
952363591
952604383
952475108

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902502512
646060972
952212435
952310358
95225689
952661200
952771850
952236966


THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
Involving family sometime means brighter ideas coming from children! Make the most of this really creative time for you all. Inspire!




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
We all have something in us that is extra special. It is often a case of finding it. For most of this month bright ideas ping past you. Note them.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Others may appear to be especially irritating to you, particularly midweek. Counter this by giving them lots to do. Keeping them out of your hair also gives you some extra down time.




Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Love and living are reminding you what life was like before the disruptions. Did you count your blessings then? You certainly will be now.




Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
What you need now is a big dose of kindness and appreciation. Some of your friends may still be struggling themselves. Helping them could be helping yourself.




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Some frustrations that have built up around you are no more, which is a relief. By moving forward you also inspire others who do look to you for inspiration.



Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Be with people who answer some of those important questions for you. You seem so wise that there is a feeling that you know everything.



Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
Rushing ahead without thinking things through costs money. The chance for a real leap forward is coming. Pay attention, a casual approach should never be taken to legal matters.



Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Be with people who boost your spirits. In helping someone else you find a great bit of luck yourself. You could share this or make it the centre of your attention for some time.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Not everything that moves you forward needs to be hard work, remember. Making contact with a same-sex person from your past brings a lighter and more enhancing experience.



Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
A chance comment as the week begins starts you on a trail of investigation. Not quite Miss Marple but certainly something that fires the imagination.

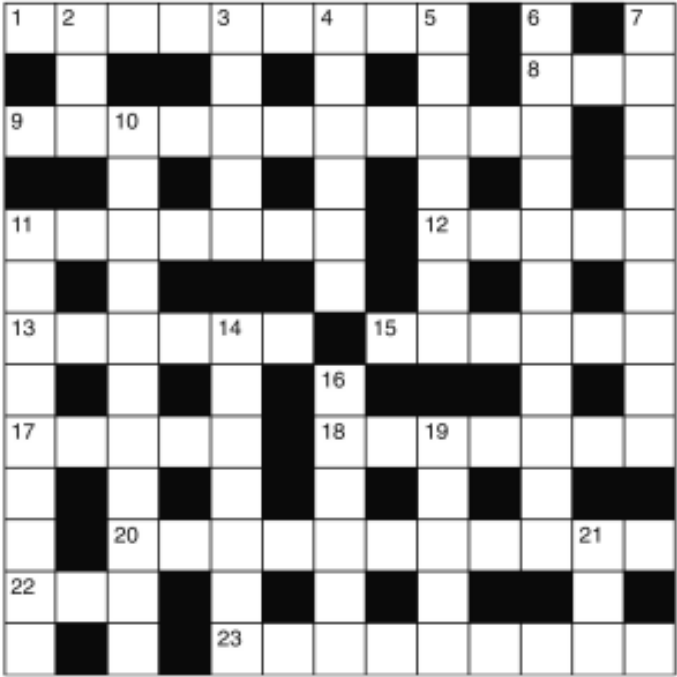


Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
With your imagination in full swing it could be the start of something big. That simple business idea or the next chapter of that book? Let the possibilities fire your imagination.

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11459

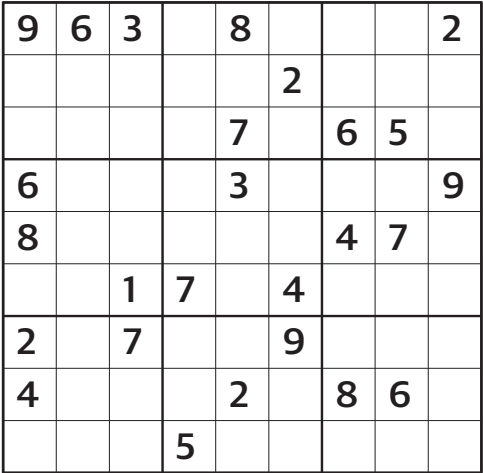


- Across
- 1 Dishonour seed order put on packing case (9)
 - 8 Nothing you and I are bound to pay (3)
 - 9 An offer in favour of social standing (11)
 - 11 Augur wager will be all right, even 50 per cent more (7)
 - 12 Unconcealed implication puts one out (5)
 - 13 Hothead leaves smoker's requisite on the wrong path (6)
 - 15 Something to fight with in awe - a pony perhaps (6)
 - 17 More subtle penalty exactor? (5)
 - 18 Perhaps dispel great anger through an atrocity (7)
 - 20 Find free tin not very good (11)
 - 22 Boy appears before long without ring (3)
 - 23 Seriously, be the breadwinner with new style (9)

- Down
- 2 A third of 23 given in audience (3)
 - 3 Criminal held by bishop (5)
 - 4 Foreigners in sale problems (8)
 - 5 Embodiment of almost epic volume (7)
 - 6 Think about confidence trick at entering church (11)
 - 7 Contrition offers half-hope for a number in pleasant surroundings (9)
 - 10 Not settled - extraordinary! (11)
 - 11 A jolly good time at fen base, perhaps (8)
 - 14 Shorten a spanner (7)
 - 16 Discuss taking one from tree (6)
 - 19 Subject of article by yours truly (5)
 - 21 There's nothing in being penniless (3)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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



THE WORDPUZZLER

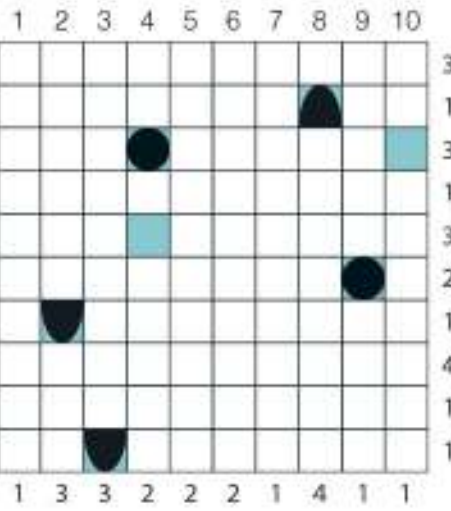
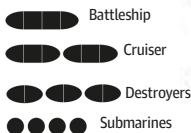


Can you identify the words missing from the titles of the Bruce Willis films listed below?

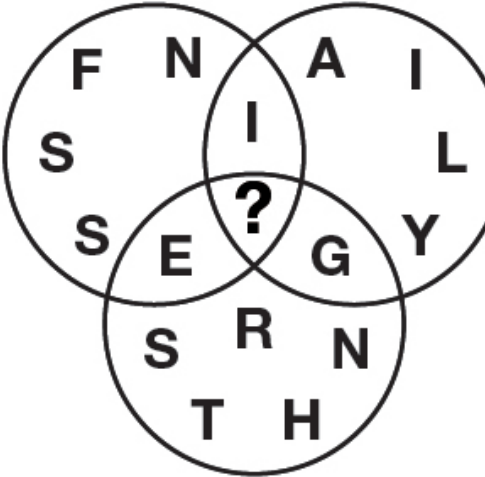
- 1. The Last Boy ---
- 2. --- Bathgate
- 3. Blind ---
- 4. Nobody's ---
- 5. --- of the Vanities
- 6. --- Fiction
- 7. --- Distance
- 8. --- Becomes Her
- 9. Hudson ---
- 10. Die ---

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

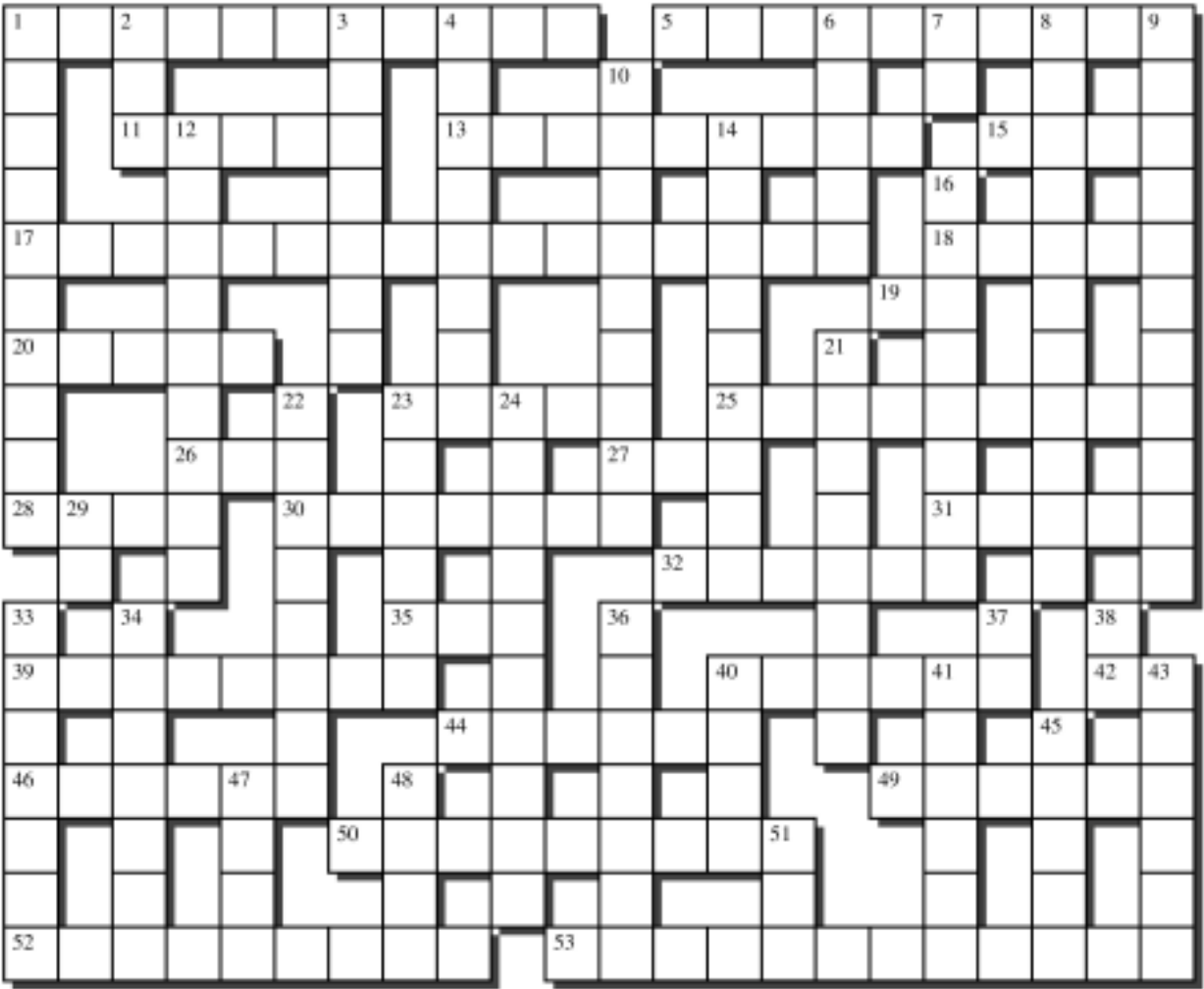


Instructions
Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters in each circle can be arranged to form words, names or terms on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

- Across
- 1) Anniversary (11)
 - 5) Architect (m) (10)
 - 11) Birth related (5)
 - 13) Capacity (9)
 - 15) Boss (m) (4)
 - 17) Boarding gate (6,2,8) (16)
 - 18) He avoids (5)
 - 19) Ace (2)
 - 20) Dwarf (f) (5)
 - 23) To fly (5)
 - 25) Skeleton (9)
 - 26) Road (3)
 - 27) To hear (3)
 - 28) Eleven (4)
 - 30) We believe (7)
 - 31) I acted (5)
 - 32) To set sail (6)
 - 35) I smelled (3)
 - 39) Travellers (8)
 - 40) I'll go down (6)
 - 42) To the (2)
 - 44) Customs (6)
 - 46) Orator (6)
 - 49) Aside (6)
 - 50) To land (9)
 - 52) Services (9)
 - 53) Communication (12)

- Down
- 1) Airport (10)
 - 2) Charged atom (3)
 - 3) Departures (7)
 - 4) Memory (8)
 - 6) I'll use (5)
 - 7) You (2)
 - 8) Growth (11)
 - 9) Operations (11)
 - 10) Passengers (9)
 - 12) Aircraft (pl) (9)
 - 14) Left (9)
 - 16) To take off (8)
 - 21) Luggage (8)
 - 22) To check in (8)
 - 23) Flights (6)
 - 24) Cleaner (f) (10)
 - 29) Nor (2)
 - 33) Planes (7)
 - 34) To shuffle (7)
 - 36) Traffic (7)
 - 37) Faith (2)
 - 38) The (f) (2)
 - 40) Dressing gown (4)
 - 41) Fast (f) (6)
 - 43) They arrive (6)
 - 45) I grew (5)
 - 47) UFO (4)
 - 48) Atheist (m) (4)
 - 51) Rum (3)



ANSWERS

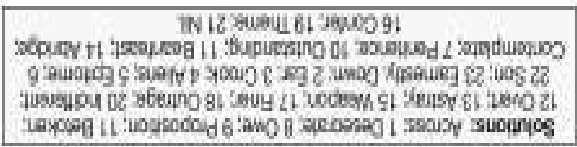
Quiz answers

Answer: Mante
Of interest: The mantle is the mostly-solid bulk of Earth's interior. The mantle lies between Earth's dense, super-heated core and its thin outer layer, the crust. The mantle is about 2,900 kilometers (1,802 miles) thick, and makes up 84% of Earth's total volume.
Answer: Sahara
Of interest: The Sahara is the largest desert in the world. Filling nearly all of northern Africa, it measures approximately 8,600,000 square kilometres (3,320,000 square miles).

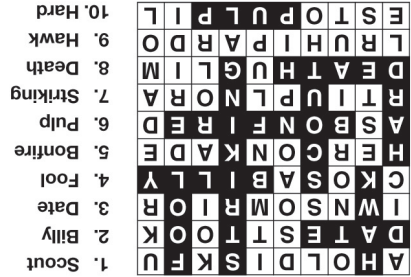
Language Crossword



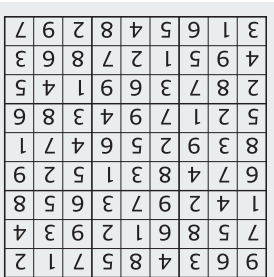
Cryptic Crossword



Wordpuzzler solution



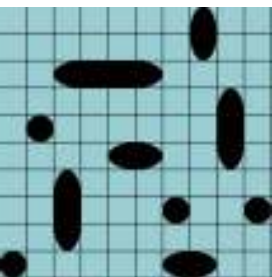
Sudoku solution



Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is T. Fitness, agility, strength, all athletic qualities.

Battleships



WHERE IS THIS?



A museum in Mudejar style

Last week:
Cuevas Bajas

This peaceful plaza is located on Calle Real near the San Juan Bautista church.



THE SUR IN ENGLISH CORNER

Let us know your news

At SUR in English we are proud of our reputation for publishing a wide variety of Spanish news of interest to our readers, and as part of the SUR media group we have access to all the best and most reliable sources. Another part of our remit is to publish all the local news concerning the English-speaking community in Andalucía, and for that, we have several sources including our team of roving reporters and you, the reader! We often get calls ask-

ing the question "Can you mention this in SUR in English?" The "this" can be anything from an art exhibition to an event in aid of charity, the establishment of a pressure group or a dolphin washed up on the shores of the Mediterranean. The answer to all of these is "yes". If it is of interest to our readers we can mention it. Email us at surinenglish.su@diariosur.es or contact us on on Facebook @surenglish and Twitter @SUR_english

Father Dmitry Osipenko has been serving at the Russian Orthodox Church on the Costa del Sol since 2009. The congregation is currently based in the Ascension church in San Pedro Alcántara, where Dmitry is preparing to celebrate Orthodox Easter, or Paskha, this weekend.

The Marbella priest told SUR in English that the presence of the Russian Orthodox Church in Spain dates back to 1761, when in Madrid, under the Russian envoy to Spain, Peter Repnin, the first church was established in the name of St Mary Magdalene. So-called 'house church' was attached to the embassy, hence moved several times with it.

In 1882, the church was abolished due to a reduction in government spending. In December 2011, the foundation stone of the Russian Orthodox Church was consecrated in Madrid. Additionally, over recent years, Russian Orthodox churches have also been constructed in Barcelona, in Altea (Valencia), and in Adeje (Canary Islands).

The church in Marbella is now preparing to move to new premises in Estepona. In 2017, it was announced that the new building would be the biggest Russian Orthodox church in Spain, and the first in Andalucía. The project includes the church and a social-cultural centre spread over nearly 6,000 square metres of land in Arroyo Las Cañas, on the way up to the Selwo park.

The Spanish architects planned this to be an iconic building, with a separate bell tower, constructed with Mediterranean materials.

Father Dmitry said that the church in Estepona is really unique and different from other Russian Orthodox churches in



Father Dmitry at a previous Paskha celebration in Marbella. SUR

Orthodox Easter on the Costa del Sol

Marbella. On 2 May this year, Orthodox Christians will be celebrating Easter. This time, the gap between Orthodox and Catholic or Protestant celebrations is almost a month. Marbella priest Dmitry Osipenko talks about the coming celebration

ALEKK M. SAANDERS



the country. It is almost finished but construction has stopped due to the pandemic because it's difficult to invite specialists from abroad for interior painting and decorating. The planned inauguration in 2021 will be postponed but the next Easter celebrations could be held in the new church.

Easter

In the meantime, Father Dmitry will hold Paskha, the main holiday of the Russian Orthodox Church, this weekend in the church in San Pedro.

Orthodox Easter is usually celebrated later than Catholic Easter, because the church follows the old Julian calendar, unlike the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches, which have been using the Gregorian calendar since the 16th century. Besides Russia and Ukraine, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Lebanon, Republic of Macedonia and Romania are among countries that officially celebrate Orthodox Easter.

Easter is preceded by 40 days of Great Lent. Those who observe it are not supposed to eat meat and, on some days, even vegetable oils. On the last Friday before Easter, no food or drink should be consumed until the evening. Instead of chocolate eggs, hen's eggs are dyed red using onion skins, while spinach and beetroot make them green and purple, respectively.

Traditionally on the evening of the Orthodox Easter Saturday, people go to church with traditional food - a special kind of yeast bread, and a pyramid-shaped cake made of cottage cheese and raisins. The foods are blessed during the church service.

Father Dmitry said, however, that this year the service will

have to be different due to the pandemic.

Events usually start around 11pm and before midnight the church lights are extinguished. After midnight, the church is illuminated with candlelight and the congregation forms a procession around the church.

The priest said: "This time this part of the celebration will not take place but we invite people for customary services in the morning and evening. The Sunday Easter service starts at 8.30am on 2 May."

Father Dmitry added that anyone who has questions about Orthodoxy and its peculiarities, is welcome to visit the church in Marbella and its website (www.rpc-marbella.es).

Western Europe

The Russian Orthodox Church in Western Europe was founded exactly one hundred years ago this month. After the onset of the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, the Church opposed the Soviet government that had banned the religion and was destroying temples around the country. On 8 April 1921, Patriarch Tikhon of Moscow and Metropolitan Benjamin of Petersburg issued a decree creating the Provisional Administration of Russian Parishes in Western Europe, centred in Paris.

In December 2018, the Holy Synod decided to dissolve the Archdiocese of Russian Orthodox churches in Western Europe, leading to the creation of the Diocese of Madrid and Lisbon. Nestor Sirotenko is Archbishop of the diocese. At the time of segregation, there were 11 parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church and communities in Portugal and 25 parishes with 17 priests in Spain.

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