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July 23rd to 29th 2021
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Tighter Level 3 restrictions applied on the Costa del Sol

The new regulations will affect the maximum capacities of bars and restaurants, shops and other venues

New restrictions to curb the spread of Covid-19 come into force today, Friday, after all of the health districts in the province of Malaga, in-

cluding the Costa del Sol, moved into alert Level 3. The changes mean a new maximum of four people seated together inside a bar or restaurant and no more than six can sit together on outdoor terraces. The rise in the 14-day cumulative Covid infection rate appeared to be slowing down at the end of this week, but was still high at 718 on Thursday. **P3**

Local tennis star Davidovich with the Olympic rings in the athlete's village. **SUR**

MALAGA DREAMS IN TOKYO

Local athletes are settled into the Olympic Village for the start of the Games **P36**

Eleven injured after car ploughs into bar terraces in Marbella **P2**

Gibraltar and UK say EU mandate would undermine sovereignty **P19**

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Fire, police and ambulance services were called to the scene of this incident. Right, National Police officers carried off the driver who was arrested and taken into custody. JOSELE / SUR

Eleven injured in Marbella as driver ploughs 50 metres through two pavement terraces

Two victims were still in hospital on Wednesday following the incident in the town centre on Monday, one in intensive care, awaiting tests

ÁLVARO FRÍAS / FERNANDO TORRES / JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. Eleven people were injured on Monday afternoon in Marbella after a vehicle mounted the pavement, driving for 50 metres through the terraces of two bars.

The incident occurred at around 3.20pm in Avenida Miguel Cano in the town centre.

Witnesses said the vehicle

mounted the pavement and ploughed into around 30 tables of the two establishments - a tapas bar and a sushi bar - where numerous customers were having lunch.

Following several calls to the emergency services, police, fire-fighters and ambulance crews were deployed to the scene.

Costa del Sol hospital

Eleven people were taken to the Costa del Sol hospital, the majority released after treatment for minor injuries.

On Wednesday two victims remained in hospital; the most serious, who suffered abdominal injuries, was reported to be stable in intensive care, where tests

are being carried out. The other was waiting for surgery on a broken leg.

The vehicle, a white SUV, was driven by a 30-year-old Spanish man who was apparently accompanied by passengers including his mother. He was arrested at the scene and tested negative for alcohol and drugs.

Apparently suffering some sort of mental disorder, the

The incident occurred at around 3.20 pm in Avenida Miguel Cano in the town centre

driver was held in police custody waiting for the results of a medical assessment before appearing before a court on Thursday.

Panic

The incident caused great panic and confusion among customers, staff and passers-by. According to witnesses the drive appeared to be manoeuvring to avoid driving into a pedestrian zone, but then turned towards the pavement terraces.

"We heard chairs moving and a terrible noise (...) and we saw people lying on the ground," said Oswaldo López who was working in a nearby shoe shop.

"There were children, a lot of

fear and a pregnant woman was on the ground; it was quite traumatising," said the witness.

He added that the driver had apparently "lost control" and was "quite nervous", saying that he was a local man, known to staff.

The following day, Jorge Martín, manager of the tapas bar affected, Taberna Casa Blanca, opened the premises as usual to "try to get back to normal".

He said he was "proud" of the "exemplary" actions of his staff, who when the car invaded the terrace immediately went to the aid of the customers, taking them ice and water from the bar. None of his staff was injured during the incident.

Wanted Dutch hitman arrested at his Torremolinos birthday party

JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MALAGA. The Guardia Civil have arrested a 31-year-old Dutch man who is, allegedly, a hitman and involved in "multiple murders" on the Costa del Sol and in the Netherlands.

Last June, the police on the Costa del Sol received information

from Dutch police about the presence of the wanted man in Spain, specifically in the Mijas area.

After undercover surveillance of the Mijas property where the man lived, officers discovered that the criminal frequented a pub in Torremolinos.

As friends of the man gathered to celebrate the wanted man's

birthday at the pub, members of the Guardia Civil's elite rapid action group raided the party and arrested the suspect, with the initials JLS.

Dutch authorities said the individual is considered a "dangerous hitman" and they have linked him to "multiple murders".

In Spain, the Guardia Civil believe the arrested man was involved in "settling of scores" crimes between drug-trafficking gangs, including an incident in Mijas in the summer of 2016, when a man was murdered and his 20-year-old girlfriend was left seriously injured after being shot five times.



The wanted man is taken into custody. SUR

Malaga province and Costa see tougher Level 3 rules for bars and restaurants

Because of the high cases rates locally, the regional government has tightened restrictions on venue capacities again

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MALAGA. Following rapidly rising case rates locally recently and news that the predominant variant of Covid-19 in Spain is now the more contagious Delta variant, the Junta de Andalucía regional government decided on Thursday that all six health districts of Malaga province, including the Costa del Sol, would move to alert level 3, from this Friday.

This means an important tightening of coronavirus measures primarily linked to capacities in public places that will affect the hospitality, shopping and culture sectors.

On Tuesday the regional

authority had already announced stricter capacity rules for towns, according to their alert level.

Level 3 restrictions mean that in bars and restaurants, there will be a maximum capacity limit of 50 per cent imposed indoors, with a limit of four people per table inside and six on the terraces, and social distancing measures must be complied with. The capacity in stores and shopping centres will be restricted to 60 per cent.

The number of people who can attend funerals (10 indoors and 20 outdoors), ceremonies and religious services (50 per cent capacity) and celebrations is also reduced: indoors, a maximum of 50 per cent of the capacity must be respected at tables or groupings of tables and, with a maximum of 100 people in closed spaces. Tables will have a limit of four people indoors. At outdoor celebrations, the maximum attendance will be 250 with six peo-



A waitress cleaning a table on a terrace in Malaga city centre. **sUR**

Cases are high, hospital numbers grow but signs of slowdown spotted

Despite the overall high Covid-19 levels in Andalucía (718 per 100,000 in the last 14 days in Malaga province on Thursday 22 July) and an increase in people being admitted to hospital (50% up week on week locally), rates in the region and Malaga province in particular appeared to be stabilising in the last few days of this week. On Thursday there were 880 new cases in Malaga, 25% down in a week.

ple per table. Musical performances and dancing will not be allowed. The capacity in cinemas and auditoriums is reduced to 60 per cent, with a seated audience. Gyms must also reduce their capacity by 50 per cent indoors with a maximum of ten people.

Nightlife bars and venues must close indoors if they do not serve food but can stay open outdoors at reduced capacity.

Another of the moves made by the regional government on Tuesday was to urge town halls to close their beaches at night.

Malaga city, Fuengirola and Vélez are among towns that decided to block the use of the beaches from 11pm to 7am to avoid young people congregating to drink.

Junta proposes night curfew for places with high infection rates

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MALAGA. After Tuesday's meeting with its committee of experts, the Junta de Andalucía announced that it would seek to impose a night curfew in towns with high Covid-19 infection rates. The measure, which would need the backing of the regional court, would apply to towns with a population of more than 5,000 if they had a 14-day cumulative infection rate of more than 1,000 per 100,000 inhabitants, the regional Health Minister announced.

There were fears earlier this week that this could be applied in Marbella where the rate reached 1,047 on Wednesday, although by Thursday the figure had slipped back down to 986. The mayor of Marbella, Ángeles Muñoz, said on Wednesday that the real infection rate in the town was not above 1,000, as the population is currently around three times the official registered figure due to summer visitors.

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More than 50 flights a day link Malaga and UK since the relaxation of quarantine rules

Holiday industry workers and tourists shared the same relief this week as the Costa del Sol airport recovered more of its pre-pandemic activity

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol celebrated England's 'Freedom Day' on Monday with nearly sixty take offs and landings between Malaga Airport and the UK.

The lifting of the ten-day quarantine requirement for fully vaccinated UK holidaymakers returning to England from Spanish destinations has seen the number of flights double compared with the previous month.

This new daily rate of between 50 and 60 connections is around a third of the volume of operations registered between Malaga and the UK in the summer of 2019, the year before the pandemic.

The lifting of quarantine regulations for travellers returning to England from amber-list countries, albeit only those who have been fully vaccinated through the British NHS system, was the main topic of conversation among holiday industry staff at the airport on Monday.

Miguel, a Nerja taxi driver who was waiting for a couple arriving from Liverpool to take them to the Balcón de Europa hotel, was hopeful. "It seems that things are livening up. Let's hope that finally we can be clear about the restrictions; we've been without work for more than a year."

Not far away it was a pleasant surprise to see the holiday giant TUI had set up its banners to greet its customers; and the private



Passengers arrive at the Costa del Sol airport on a flight from the UK on Monday. FRANCIS SILVA

transfer information desk for Jet2.com passengers was operating after the airline's year-long absence from the Costa del Sol airport. The fifth most important airline for Malaga in terms of passenger volume was back in action on Monday with flights from Birmingham and Leeds.

A young Jet2.com representative said that they were keen to get started again, "just as our customers are keen to get back to the Costa

del Sol".

In less than an hour as many as seven flights arrived from UK airports, bringing tourists from London, Liverpool, Southend and Glasgow, as well as the aforementioned Leeds and Birmingham.

The general hum of the arrivals area was interrupted by the cries of excitement coming from a group of girls, finally enjoying the delayed reunion with their friend from Malaga who had been at their school in England.

"We've been waiting two years to meet up again," they said before heading off to Marbella. "We've got a week to be together," they added.

With the same excitement but less commotion, an elderly passenger arriving from Liverpool only had eyes for a two-year-old girl he

picked up in his arms and didn't stop cuddling. He was double-jabbed, he said, and here to enjoy ten days on the Costa del Sol.

Meanwhile a couple on the London flight heading for Fuengirola said it was "time to come back to the Costa", where they "feel at home, or better".

The feeling of relief at being able to return to a favourite destination has also come as a relief for the tourism industry on the Costa del Sol, which depends so much on British visitors who normally make up 30 per cent of the arrivals at Malaga Airport.

Meanwhile hoteliers spoke of an upturn in bookings, although they are sticking for the time being to their forecasts of 58% occupancy in July and 62% in August.

Alert for scorching temperatures on the Costa del Sol this weekend

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MALAGA. Spain's state weather agency, Aemet, has activated amber alerts for high temperatures from yesterday, (Thursday, 22 July), in the provinces of Cordoba, Granada and Jaén. Malaga and the Costa del Sol will join in with the extra heat on Saturday (24 July).

In a prelude to a scorching weekend, Aemet has issued an amber warning for high temperatures in the Ronda and Antequera areas of Malaga province today (Friday) - with thermometers expected to reach 38 degrees between 2 and 9pm.

One day later, on Saturday, the weather agency has activated amber alerts in Malaga city, the towns of the Costa del Sol and in the Guadalhorce valley and maximum temperatures of up to 41 degrees are expected, again between 2 and 9pm.

Also at night

Not only is stifling heat expected during the day, but also at night with the minimum temperatures likely to be between 24 -26 degrees on Saturday.

However, weather expert José Luis Escudero says, "On Sunday (25 July) the minimum temperature will be very high and we could be close to the record, which is 28.8 degrees."

The Costa is facing, therefore, a few days that are the hottest of this summer so far.

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Backlogs in the courts, an existing problem made worse by the coronavirus pandemic

The chief judge in Malaga and president of the provincial high court are calling for more magistrates and judges to be assigned to the region

ÁLVARO FRÍAS / JUAN CANO

MALAGA. "Coronavirus hasn't helped". This is something you hear a lot in the justice system these days, from lawyers to prosecutors and magistrates, about the backlog in the Malaga courts. This is nothing new; it has been a problem for years, but it has been made worse by the pandemic. In fact the chief judge in Malaga, José María Páez, insists that the figures for 2020 cannot be taken into account because society as a whole, including the judicial system, was paralysed last year due to coronavirus.

For that reason, the latest figures are from before the pandemic. The amount of new cases



Malaga's court complex. NITO SALAS

the different courts can handle each year is decided by the Ministry of Justice and the General Council of the Judiciary (CGPJ). In Malaga, all these limits have been exceeded.

For example, the maximum for the magistrates courts

should be 1,200 cases, but in Malaga city there are over 2,200. The commercial courts began last year with 3,298 cases pending, which is the highest figure in Andalucía. "In the disputes tribunals, we closed 2019 with a figure of 7,431, the highest in Andalucía, while in Seville there were 1,000 fewer cases. Seville has 14 of these courts, and Malaga only has seven," says Páez.

For social cases, there were about 15,000 pending at the start of 2020, but Páez explains that, due to the pandemic, hearings had to be suspended, which meant that they had to be re-scheduled without any dates being available. As a result, appointments are now being made for these in 2023.

The backlog from before the pandemic and the paralysis of the justice system last year have highlighted all the problems faced by the courts, says the head of Malaga lawyers, Salvador González. "Now we expect the justice system to be completely overwhelmed again, with the end of the moratoria on bankruptcy proceedings and the temporary furloughs," he says.

Páez agrees that things are about to get even worse. "All the courts have a backlog and coronavirus is still going to cause delays," he says. The answer, he insists, is for the government to invest in the justice system. "For years in Malaga city we have been asking for another 26 judges and their teams, so we can handle the workload," he says.

Elsewhere in the province

With regard to the rest of Malaga province, the president of the provincial high court, Lourdes García Ortiz, says at least six more judges and their teams are needed to work in the different courts in Malaga. She quotes Estepona as an example, saying that it is suffering from a structural problem. "The courts there are completely overwhelmed. There are so many cases that they just can't deal with them all," she says.

Measures taken by different administrations to alleviate the damage to the justice system caused by the pandemic have helped to a certain extent, but they are considered insufficient. "A lot of work has only been done thanks to the sheer commitment of staff in the justice system, from civil servants to lawyers, prosecutors and judges," say representatives. "Otherwise it would not have been possible."



The area in Río Real where the events occurred. JOSELE

Young tourist dies in Marbella pool after taking 'laughing gas'

The autopsy confirmed on Thursday that the 26-year-old Swede died from a "pulmonary edema"

Á. DE LOS RÍOS / F. TORRES / Á. FRÍAS

MALAGA. A 26-year-old man died on Tuesday afternoon in the swimming pool of a house in Marbella, emergency services said.

The control room received a call at 5.44pm asking for emergency help for the young man, confirmed by National Police to be a Swedish holidaymaker, at a property on the Río Real residential estate.

Paramedics were alerted to the incident, but the man was pronounced dead at the scene.

The young man and his friends had rented the villa on the Río Real residential development, an exclusive area full of luxury homes, to celebrate a stag holiday. They had been celebrating the bachelor party for several days before the accident happened.

Emergency services

The Swedish citizen was spotted floating unconscious in the pool and pulled from the water by his friends. They performed resuscitation techniques, before being relieved by paramedics who managed to restart the young man's heart. But they could not stabilise it and it stopped beating again.

The autopsy confirmed that the cause of death was a "pulmonary edema" brought on after the young man had con-

sumed nitrous oxide before falling and losing consciousness.

Nitrous oxide

Several sources have told SUR the victim had consumed nitrous oxide, commonly known as 'laughing gas', moments before the incident.

The colourless gas has become increasingly common on the Costa del Sol for several years and can cause a sensation of euphoria and disinhibition. It can also lead to loss of balance and dizziness.

At the beginning of June there were several serious incidents (two in less than 24 hours) involving people who had, allegedly, taken the gas, including a girl who got out of a moving car and jumped off a bridge, while a 30-year-old man was left in a critical condition after misjudging a jump from a room balcony into a swimming pool during a party.

Similar cases

The most serious event related to this drug resulted in the death of a 23-year-old man who was found dead in his home by firefighters.

They broke into the property after being alerted by the young man's family, who called the police when they had heard nothing from him. Next to his dead body were hundreds of single-dose capsules of 'laughing gas', many of them empty, and a siphon of the type used for ingesting the substance.

Nitrous oxide has been used in medicine for years, particularly in dental surgeries where it is used in small amounts to achieve a sedative and analgesic effect.



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OSLO CONCILIATION BOARD

Extract from complaints currently being dealt with by Oslo Conciliation Board - Dept. 2 Case No. F2020-054655 and F2020-054658

Complainant: Lowell Finans AS
Defendant: Sjur Espen Hansen.
Last known address: Calle Tulipan 26, 29650 Mijas, Malaga, Spain

The Complainant has filed two complaints against the Defendant with Oslo Conciliation Board:

In case no. F2020-054655 with a demand for payment of NOK 43976,48 with the addition of interest at the legal rate and legal costs.

In case no. F2020-054658 with a demand for payment of NOK 19512,09 with the addition of interest at the legal rate and legal costs.

The Defendant is ordered to reply to the Conciliation Board in writing by **31.08.2021** stating whether or not the Defendant acknowledges and accepts the Complainant's claims. If a reply has not been delivered prior to the expiry of the stated time limit, judgment by default can be pronounced on the basis of the Complainant's representation of the facts of the case.

As the Defendant has no known address, service will be executed with authority in the Courts Act Section 181. The complaint and order to reply will be deemed to have been legally served when it has been posted at the legal venue for four weeks.

The documents pertaining to the case can be collected from the Conciliation Board's offices at Pilestredet 19, 0033 Oslo, Norway. The documents can be sent to a new address supplied by the Defendant if the Defendant so requests.

Police dogs sniff out a million euros in bank notes hidden in car

F. TORRES / Á. FRÍAS

MALAGA. Two police dogs have helped sniff out almost one million euros in bank notes, after a woman driver was pulled over at a routine National Police traffic control done in Malaga city a few days ago.

Initially officers thought the dogs were indicating the presence of drugs in the vehicle, but when it was carefully examined at the station, the police found exactly 999,630 euros - in 50, 20, 10 and five-euro notes - hidden in a secret compartment in the car boot. It was a big surprise.

National Police said the driver could not provide the necessary documentation the Spanish government requires for the transport of cash amounts over 10,000 euros - an anti-fraud measure designed to prevent money laundering.

The woman could now face charges.

Brit held in Estepona for hacking Twitter feeds including Obama's

The 22-year-old man was detained following an FBI investigation into attacks on 130 accounts covering politicians, companies and celebrities

Á. FRÍAS / F. TORRES

DATA. A 22-year-old British man has been arrested in Estepona, accused of hacking into 130 Twitter accounts of politicians, celebrities and companies in order to scam people.

Wanted by the American authorities under an international warrant, the man was arrested by Spain's National Police force on Tuesday this week, following investigations initiated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and with the collaboration of authorities in the UK.

The investigations began in July of last year after the Twitter accounts of numerous public figures such as the former US president Barack Obama, the current president Joe Biden, and the billionaire entrepreneurs Bill Gates and Jeff Bezos, were victims of



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The message that appeared on Barack Obama's Twitter account. SUR

the cyberattack, as well as companies such as Apple and Uber.

From the hacked profiles the scammer posted a message directing millions of followers to a scam, offering to double the money that users sent in Bitcoins to a virtual cryptocurrency wallet.

US authorities also believe the arrested individual could also be behind an attack on TikTok and Snapchat users.

The list of charges against the young British man is long, including unauthorised access to numerous computers and extortion.

More than 100 police involved in Nerja drug raids

EUGENIO CABEZAS

MARBELLA. The Guardia Civil has dealt another blow to drug trafficking in Malaga province.

More than 100 officers were involved in early-morning raids in Nerja this Wednesday, which resulted in the arrest of at least a dozen people.

Members of the force's elite rapid action group (GAR) joined regular officers to carry out at least a dozen searches of homes and hospitality businesses in the Axarquía town.

The operation focused on the sale of drugs, mainly hashish and cocaine.

A police dog unit was also called on, and a Guardia Civil vehicle was parked near the Ermita de las Angustias taxi rank to transfer the arrested people to the courts in Torrox.

The anti-drug operation remains open and more arrests have not been ruled out at a later date.

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Producers search for English-speaking extras for film

Casting will take place on 7 and 8 August in Frigiliana, where the film is due to be shot throughout October

EUGENIO CABEZAS

FRIGILIANA. Casting for around 65 extras for a film that will be shot entirely in Frigiliana is to take place on 7 and 8 August in the village's sport pavilion.

The award-winning film producer, Martin Nuza, and director Craig Ruddock, along with a cast of around 80 people, will start filming in the Axarquía village in October.

The film, whose title has not



Martin Nuza and Craig Ruddock with their partners in Frigiliana. **SUR**

been revealed, is a romantic action thriller. It was originally going to be filmed in Estepona and in other locations on the Costa del Sol, but after spending a weekend in Frigiliana, Nuza and his wife, "Saw the beauty of the village and the script was completely rewritten".

Casting will run from 9.30 am until 8pm on Saturday 7 August and on Sunday 8 from 10am to 5pm in the village's indoor sports pavilion.

The producers are looking for male actors between 29 and 40 years old who speak English and have Latin features, women between 18 and 25 in swimsuits for scenes in a swimming pool, men from 18 to 20 with a good level of English and men and women of all ages who will be recruited as extras.

They are also looking for production assistants with audiovisual experience, as well as local hairdressers and make-up artists.

Almuñécar runs campaign to warn of dangers of cigarette butts

SUR

ALMUÑÉCAR. The environmental association, Ecoconciencia, will be running a series of events on Almuñécar's beaches in July and August to raise awareness of the importance of correct of cigarette disposal.

They will be on the town's San Cristóbal beach on Saturday 31 July, Puerta del Mar on 7 August and Velilla beach on 21 August.

Ecoconciencia president, Nicole Menéndez, said that disposable ashtrays are available on the town's beaches and that cigarette butts "contain 400 toxic particles, poison wildlife and take 10 years to biodegrade."



New wildfire app handles 84 fires in Andalucía since its launch in June

The free app has been developed to replace the Wildfire Watch Andalusia Facebook group

TONY BRYANT

MALAGA. Every year during the summer, Andalucía, like numerous districts in Spain, is subjected to devastating wildfires that destroy thousands of hectares of land and countless homes. However, thanks to the determination of British expat Jill Leonard, residents who live in danger zones can now make use of a free app that alerts them when there is a fire in their area.

The app, which has handled 84 fires in Andalucía since it was launched last month, is automatically notified by Infoca, the official Andalusian forest fire emergency service. Jill is currently looking to add tweets from CPB

Malaga, the Provincial Firefighters Consortium of Malaga.

The app, which has a built-in translator, sends out information to anybody who has set it to their area. It also offers the possibility to inform others about approaching fires.

"The feedback we are getting is absolutely amazing, because its user friendly. It asks if you have phoned 112, which is the first thing anyone should do. I must stress that we are an information app, not an emergency service," Jill told SUR in English.

The wildfire app is automatically notified by Infoca, the official Andalusian forest fire emergency service

Jill, who lives in Coín, originally set up a Facebook group called Wildfire Watch Andalusia, but the workload became too consuming. After ten years of monitoring fires every day, Jill's health began to suffer and she quickly realised that she needed to find an easier way to facilitate access to important information concerning forest fires.

"It is very difficult to sit at the laptop for hours on end, watching Twitter to get information. To be honest, once it started to affect my health, something had to give. Thankfully, a dynamic web developer called Bas Buur asked if we were interested in turning the Malaga group into an Andalusian fire app. This appealed to me, because it is something that takes the group into the 21st century," Jill said.

The free app can be downloaded from Google Play and Apple iTunes.



Near the mountain town of Jubrique. **INFOCA**

Helicopters and specialist teams tackle local wildfires

SUR

MALAGA. Specialist firefighters were working on Monday this week to control and put out three wildfires in Malaga province at the same time.

The first fire was declared near the village of Salares in the Axarquía and a helicopter and team of firefighters sent to

the scene.

On the Torrox and Cómpeta border, another fire started in the Finca La Palmera area and the last to be declared was in Estepona in the afternoon.

The fire that destroyed around 400 hectares near the mountain village of Jubrique two weeks ago was finally declared as officially extinguished on Tuesday.

Benalmádena to give free bus travel to all official residents

SUR

BENALMÁDENA. Public transport in Benalmádena will be cost-free from the early part of next year to those passengers who are officially on the local 'padrón' census as residents. A review of bus routes and their frequency is also under way, the council has said.

"We are working on several ideas so that our town meets European green standards," said the mayor, Víctor Navas.

A system is being put in place whereby residents will be issued special bus pass cards to prove that they live in the Benalmádena municipal area.

Local council to open library for foreign residents in Los Boliches

A new premises, twice the size of the existing library, is being sought in order to fulfil the campaign promise of Fuengirola mayor, Ana Mula

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

FUENGIROLA. The town hall in Fuengirola is to set up an international library in the Los Boliches area.

Ruling councillors have approved plans to acquire premises for the new cultural facility. The scheme was promised to voters by Fuengirola's mayor, Ana Mula, in her election campaign.

Rodrigo Romero, councillor

for Foreign Residents, said, "A third of the population of Fuengirola are foreign nationals and looking after their needs and giving them services is fundamental so they feel at home. Although we'd love all of them to speak Spanish and to be able to express themselves in our language, I think it is a good gesture that we set up an international library."

The council will acquire premises double the size of the existing library in Los Boliches.

"We haven't got enough space," said Romero, adding that the council wants it to be in Los Boliches where most foreign residents live and there are no appropriate council-owned facilities available.



SUR

Coín's adds new paths to network

Councillors in Coín have opened two new walking routes and upgraded signs on the municipality's existing footpath network, which now stretches 80km. The new routes are Canteras Azules and Coín to Villafranco.

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Environmentalists call for tighter controls at protected Maro beaches

MARO

GENA - Ecologistas en Acción have warned of the "negative impact" of 3,000 people going to the protected area every day during summer

E. CABEZAS

MARO. Environmental organisation, GENA Ecologistas en Acción, have written to the Andalusian government to call for a limit on the amount of tourists using the beaches in the protected Maro cliffs area.

The organisation highlighted the "negative impact" of 3,000 people travelling to the beauty spot every day during the summer months.

In a letter sent to the Junta on Monday, Rafael Yus, GENA's presi-

dent, said that while people are looking for quieter beaches, especially since the start of the pandemic, the numbers seen on Maro's beaches are "unsustainable."

Yus also accused Nerja town hall of "always putting pressure on the Junta to allow greater tourism use" in the protected area. He referred to the plans to build a golf course, residential and hotel complex on the Vega de Maro area, which also falls within the protected natural park.

"Fortunately the Junta always responds that the protected area cannot be changed for tourism purposes," he added.

In the letter, Yus also said that the controls for snorkeling in the area, which is home to native species of rare coral, must be tightened to allow only "well chosen" divers who won't damage the ecosystem" and stop anyone from snorkeling there.



One of the stalls at the TAPAS summer fair in Alhaurín de la Torre. SUR

TAPAS choir hosts its annual fundraising summer craft fair

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE

T. BRYANT. TAPAS held its annual summer fair in Alhaurín de la Torre last week. The fair presented 23 craft stalls selling an array of items such as recycled goods, bric-a-brac, plants and

homemade jams and preserves. The choir also performed at the event, which raised funds for the funeral of a member who died recently. The amateur choir will also make a donation to two local charities (Pawsawhile and Centro Fahala).

HERE AND THERE

MALAGA

City's fair cancelled for this year too

SUR. Malaga council has decided to call off this year's huge Malaga Feria due to the rising number of Covid cases and general uncertainty. Normally held in August and cancelled last year, this year it had been hoped to organise it in September.

MALAGA

Larger stores to open on Sundays citywide

SUR. All stores in Malaga over 300 square metres and shopping centres can now open Sundays every year from 1 June to 30 September. This Sunday (24 July) is the first day the new rule is in force. Previously, only parts of the city were classed as areas with high tourist numbers and so allowed the summer Sunday opening.

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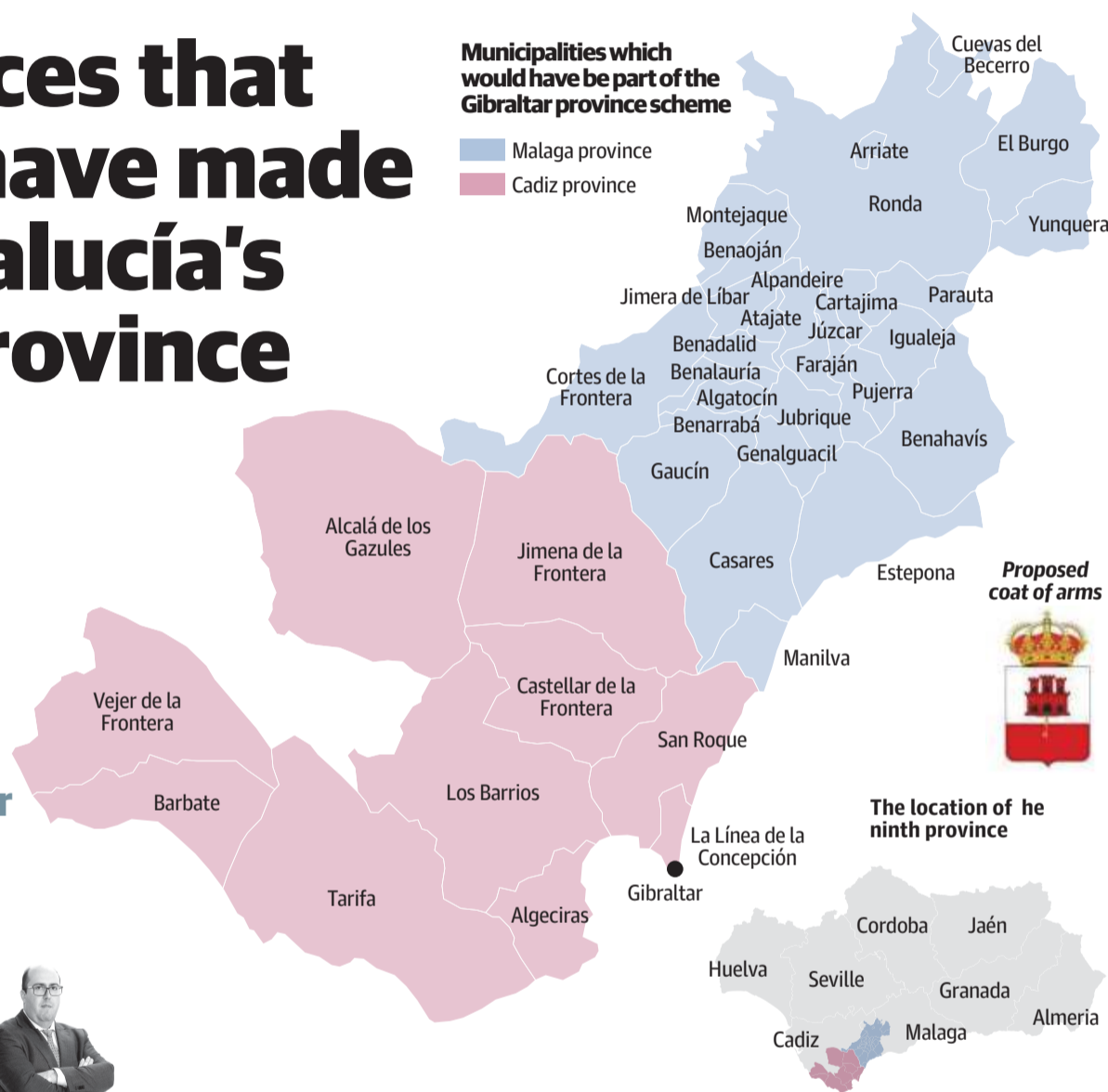
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The places that would have made up Andalucía's ninth province

History. In 1969, the Franco regime considered creating a new province, which would have included the Campo de Gibraltar and the Serranía de Ronda

ANTONIO M. ROMERO



reinforced the idea of creating the ninth province of Andalucía.

Peralta says there were two groups in the Franco regime: in favour of the idea were the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Fernando Castiella, and the Minister of Information and Tourism, Manuel Fraga. The mayors of the towns and villages in both areas also approved, as did the religious brotherhood of Hermandad de Alféreces Provisionales in Ronda, which was very influential.

Against the idea were writer José María Pemán, who carried great weight with the regime, the Malaga and Cadiz provincial governments and the Minister of the Interior, Camilo Alonso Vega.

Under this project, it was decided that the post of civil governor of the new province would be held by Carlos Robles Piquer, but there were arguments over where the provincial capital should be.

Some said it should be Algeciras or a newly created municipality called Gibraltar, which would be formed by the towns of Algeciras, La Línea, San Roque and Los Barrios (the last two of these were founded after the British took over Gibraltar in the 18th century, and were occupied by the Spanish population who left the Rock. La Línea segregated from San Roque in the 19th century). Others thought it should be Ronda.

In the end, nothing ever came of this proposal, even though a special governmental representative was appointed for the Campo de Gibraltar (not the Serranía de Ronda), who would have the powers of a civil governor. In fact, this position still exists today in a different form, representing the Junta de Andalucía: there is a Government Sub-delegate's office in the Campo de Gibraltar.

After the 1969 attempt failed, the project was shelved. In 1983 Professor Salustiano del Campo, who was from La Línea and Manuel Fraga himself tried to reactivate the idea, but it came to nothing. Nor could it materialise when the autonomous regions and the Andalusian statute came into being in 1982.

Nowadays, the idea of a ninth province in Andalucía is still no more than a dream and a page in Spanish history.

It may not be common knowledge, but the idea of creating a ninth province in Andalucía has been coming and going from the political and social agenda throughout the past 200 years. Fairly recently, in 1998, the then mayor of Algeciras, Patricio González, planned to hold a public consultation about the idea, although in the end it did not take place.

Before that, there were several other attempts which never went beyond the planning stage. The last was in 1969, when the Franco regime presented a very advanced project to create this new province, which was to be called Gibraltar and would include towns and villages in the Campo de Gibraltar and Serranía de Ronda areas.

If this project had gone ahead it would have meant that Malaga province would have lost Manilva, Casares, Estepona, Be-

nahavís, Gaucín, Cortes de la Frontera, Benarrabá, Algeciras, Benalauría, Benadalid, Atajate, Genalguacil, Júzcar, Jubrique, Pujerra, Faraján, Jimena de Líbar, Benaolán, Montejaque, Alpandeire, Cartajima, Igualeja, Parauta, Ronda, Arriate, Cuevas del Becerro, El Burgo and Yunquera.

They would have been joined by thirteen from Cadiz, including La Línea de la Concepción, Algeciras and Tarifa. The new province, at that time, would have had a population of around 300,000.

How did this idea come about? To find its origin, we need to look back to 1833, when the Secretary of State for Development, Javier de Burgos, began to divide the territory of Spain into regions and provinces. In the case of Andalucía, the four kingdoms that existed at that time (Seville, Cordoba, Jaén and Gra-

nada) were divided into eight provinces. Not everyone was happy about this partition and from that moment onwards different movements sprang up to argue for the need to create a ninth province in Ronda, its surrounding area and its areas of influence.

Three projects

Three projects to create this ninth province from municipalities in Malaga, Cadiz and Seville were drawn up (in 1843, 1854 and 1873). None of them ever came to fruition.

In 1965, the Franco regime approved a Development Plan for the Campo de Gibraltar to alleviate the situation in that area, which was underdeveloped compared with Gibraltar itself. It was in that context that the idea of a ninth province was revisited, to include the municipalities in the Campo de Gibraltar, others

nearby with which they had close historical links and the Serranía de Ronda (the town of Ronda had a natural exit down towards the coast at Algeciras and roads were being built via the Sierra to improve communications with the inland region. Both of these areas felt forgotten by their provinces, Cadiz and Malaga, says the official chronicler of Ronda, Faustino Peralta.

There was also a historical element to the plan, because in the Campo de Gibraltar and the Serranía de Ronda, the ancient towns of Al-Yazirat al Jadra and Takurunna respectively, together formed the Marinid kingdom of Abomelic.

For and against

In 1969 the political and diplomatic tensions between Spain and the United Kingdom resulted in the Gibraltar border being closed by Franco, and this also



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A pioneering petrol station

Eight of the 10 members of staff at Easygas near Cajiz have a disability and this model is replicated across the firm's 15 other establishments

EUGENIO CABEZAS

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Two decades ago, Joseba Barrenengoa was working as a public works engineer for a major construction firm. However, on a trip through the province of León, he saw a For Sale sign at a petrol station.

Without thinking too much about it, he decided to buy it. People with disabilities worked at the gas station and he decided to keep them on.

Although it took him a decade to open his second service station, when he did, he repeated this formula that allows integration into the workforce, through Spain's 'special employment centres'.

In August 2020, Barrenengoa

added another station to his company; in Cajiz, a small village just to the west of Vélez-Málaga.

The Cajiz station is the sixteenth in a network that extends through Andalucía, Catalonia, Alicante, León, Coruña, Gijón, Santander and Barrenengoa's home, the Basque Country.

Azahara Infante, Fran López, Loli Martínez, David Rubio, Sandra Guirado, Ricardo Castellano, Rodrigo Pérez and Yolanda Puñal work at the Easygas petrol station in Cajiz.

All of them have a physical disability. The other two members of staff are Águeda Márquez, who is a coordinator, and Sergio Garrido, another team member.

Each one of the eight workers has their own story to tell of hurdles that life has thrown at them. Azahara Infante, 32, from Rincón de la Victoria, had a kidney transplant in October 2019 and she also suffers from asthma and heart problems. "For me it is a great opportunity to work in something I like, since I studied elec-



Eight of the 10 employees at Easygas Cajiz. E. CABEZAS

tromechanics and I spent a few years working for a car hire company at the airport," she explained.

Fran López suffered a serious accident 15 years ago, while working as a delivery person and furniture assembler for a company in Vélez-Málaga. The accident led to a partial amputation of one leg, below the knee. He was just 24 years old at the time.

Far from giving up, Fran turned to sports, especially wheelchair basketball, which he has been

playing for more than a decade, with teams including Amivel, Juventud de Badalona and Almería.

"I was combining the coordination of Amivel car parks in Vélez with the team, but I left shortly before the pandemic, so this has been a great opportunity," he explained.

Loli Martínez, a 50-year-old resident of El Palo, has been battling anorexia nervosa for three decades. She was unemployed before getting the job at Easygas,

although she had previously worked in a nursery, as a sales clerk and cleaner. "It has been my salvation because with Covid-19 I was unemployed," she said.

Customer service

Barrenengoa is "very proud" of his staff, of whom 85 per cent of the 160 employees are disabled. "We are a network of petrol stations in which we provide direct service, the customer does not have to fill up their cars and our prices are among the cheapest on the market. But we are not a 'low-cost' model and our product is of the highest quality," boasts the Basque businessman, who is preparing two new openings, in Galicia and another two in Andalucía.

"All the customers we have in Spain are very satisfied, because they recognise that good customer service is fundamental and these people are phenomenal, they do a great job," said Barrenengoa, who admitted that with the pandemic, business fell by 50 per cent, "But we have recovered completely and we are even going up," he added.

Regarding the future of private cars, he considers that it will not be possible to implement the electric or hydrogen cell car "as fast as the politicians say", so he predicts that the technologies "will be shared equally in the coming decades".

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The iron bridge, a landmark connection for the two Cártamas

CÁRTAMA

The bridge over the Guadalhorce river, which is nearly 100 years old and was built in the style of Gustave Eiffel, has been given a new look

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

For centuries, the Guadalhorce river separated the villages of Cártama and Estación de Cártama. They were finally linked at the end of the 1920s when an iron bridge was constructed, putting an end to decades of failed connections when the river flooded. After nearly a century, this iconic bridge has just been given a complete overhaul and a new look.

“The creation of this bridge, which was built in the style of the famous engineer Gustave Eiffel, and its later reforms, have influenced Estación de Cártama’s urban development,” explains Fernando Bravo, the official chronicler of Cártama.

These latest works took several months to complete, but people have once again been able to use the bridge since it was officially reopened on 7 July. The improvements cost 520,650 euros and were financed by the council, which has now obtained ownership of the bridge after years of paperwork: when the local authority began to draw up plans for the improvements, town hall officials discovered that this would be impossible because neither the bridge nor the road across it were included in the register of municipal properties. “It has been a very long process since we applied to the Junta de Andalucía to have it ceded to us in 2016,” says the mayor, Jorge Gallardo.

The bridge was built between 1927 and 1931 in the style that is known as 20th-century functional architecture, by engineer Rafael Benjumea, the Count of Guadalhorce. In 1999, it underwent structural improvements and the latest works have been to “beautify and enhance it as the symbol of Cártama, and as a natural viewpoint,” says Gallardo.

The iron bridge is one of the most important architectural projects ever carried out in Cártama. It provided a definitive solution to the problems of crossing the Guadalhorce river, which originally had to be done by boat and later by wooden bridges that were destroyed when the water levels rose. Nearly a century later, this latest restoration has included repairing the 248-metre-long steel railings and the structure of the bridge, replacing 186 metres of galvanised steel plates and repairing some of

the beams, which covered an area of 679 square metres. The concrete has also been repaired and protected against corrosion. More than one kilometre of electric cable has been replaced and a remote-controlled electricity panel installed.

The lighting has also been modernised, and the whole bridge has been repainted. The authorities are now considering applying for it to be classified as a Monument of Cultural Interest, to provide it with some protection.



The iron bridge in Cártama, open again with a new look. SUR



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Only 53 per cent of employees in Malaga province work all year round

The average annual salary in the province is 16,235 euros, the second highest in Andalucía, but this is 17 per cent below the national average

NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. How much, on average, does a worker in Malaga province earn? That isn't actually an easy question to answer. Are we talking about how much employees actually take home? Or how much they would earn if they worked full-time for all 12 months of the year?

The figure can be very different because in Malaga and the Costa de Sol, due to seasonal tourism and job insecurity, 47 per cent

of workers never manage to work all year round. In fact, on average, only 71 per cent of their time is spent working full-time. This is because, "they have short periods of work, interruptions to contracts, and seasonal or part-time work," says an analysis of salaries in Malaga province in 2019, which is part of a study carried by trade union Comisiones Obreras.

This under-employment is one of the main causes of in-work poverty. In other words, the problem is not so much that salaries are low, but that many people are unable to work long enough during the year to earn a decent income.

The average gross annual salary in Malaga province in 2019 was 16,235 euros. That is 1,020 euros more than the Andalusian



Many jobs are seasonal. SUR

average (15,215), but 3,337 euros less (17%) than the national average of 19,572. In comparison with other provinces in Andalucía, Malaga is in second place behind Seville (16,271 euros).

And if we were to look at what they would have earned if they had worked full time all year? In that case, the average in Malaga in 2019 would have been 22,799 euros a year. The difference from the national average (25,284 euros) is lower than that affecting gross salaries, which indicates that part of the salary gap between Malaga and some other regions of Spain is due to the high rates of temporary and part-time work which affect the labour market.

The effective working time is one of the components that explains the wage gap suffered by women, young people and foreign workers, the "most castigated" groups in the Malaga labour market, according to the report.

Gender gap

Starting with the gender gap, the average gross salary for men (17,854 euros) is 3,420 euros a year higher than that of women (14,434), a difference of 23.7 per cent. If instead of gross salaries we look at the pay for time worked, the gap reduces to 9.4 per cent. This difference can be put down to the fact there are fewer women in management posts and more in jobs and sectors with lower salaries. Nor does the union rule out the existence of "business practices in which women's salaries are lower than those of men in equal professional conditions".

No less striking is the wage gap affecting young people. Under-

KEY FIGURES

16,235

euros was the 2019 average annual salary of workers on contract in Malaga province.

22,799

euros would be the average salary if all employees in Malaga worked full-time all year round.

23.7%

is the difference between the average salary of men and women in the province.

30s have a gross annual salary of just 9,006 euros, barely 55 per cent of the average salary in the province. A good part of this difference is because they work fewer days in a year. The average for the province is 71.2% of time actually worked, but for young people that drops to 47.9 per cent. Otherwise, the average salary of those under 30 years of age would be 18,813 euros, which is 82.5 per cent of the provincial average salary.

Something similar occurs with immigrants: the average salary for Spanish employees (16,914 euros) is 5,497 euros a year higher than that of foreign workers. This is partly because Spanish nationals work for more time in the year (73.4%) than foreigners (55.9%). However, in Andalucía, Malaga province has the lowest difference in average salary by nationality.

There are also big differences by sector. The highest average salary is in industry (20,118 euros), followed by services (16,620 euros) and construction (14,471 euros), with agriculture far behind (6,196 euros), once again due to the low percentage of time actually worked.



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Average salaries in Malaga

Gross annual salaries in euros
Source: Comisiones Obreras study.

Towns	Workers	Average salary
Rincón de la Victoria	18,200	20,959
Alhaurín de la Torre	15,425	18,197
Malaga	212,625	17,883
Torremolinos	25,275	17,873
Benalmádena	26,300	17,242
Estepona	25,550	16,473
Total province	615,100	16,235
Fuengirola	25,250	16,218
Antequera	17,700	16,096
Marbella	54,550	15,965
Mijas	32,225	15,058
Vélez-Málaga	29,325	14,480

Butane gas hit highest price since 2015

A new maximum cost for piped LPG gas also came into force on Tuesday, with a 10.7 per cent increase for the average customer

SUR

MALAGA. The price of the 12.5 kilo butane gas cylinder in Spain increased by 4.99 per cent to 15.37 euros on Tuesday this week, the fifth consecutive rise and reaching its highest level since March 2015.

The price rise was confirmed in the BOE Official State Gazette and the main blame has been put on the increase in the prices of raw materials (+ 12.91 per cent) and freight (+ 15.23 per cent), which were partially offset by the slight appreciation of the exchange rate of the euro against the dollar (+ 1.32 per cent).

This latest increase is added to the previous four, also of almost 5 per cent, in November 2020 and January, March and May 2021. Since September

last year, the maximum price of the butane cylinder has risen by 26.5 per cent.

The 15.37 euros price, as of this Tuesday, is the highest since March 2015, when it stood at 15.40 euros.

Bimonthly review

The maximum sale price of the butane cylinder is reviewed every two months on the third Tuesday of the odd-numbered months. This new price of butane will be in force for two months, until the third Tuesday of next September, when it will be examined again.

Currently, some 68 million cylinders of LPG are used in Spain, of which 53 million (78 per cent) are subject to the maximum government regulated price.

Regarding piped LPG gas, a new maximum price also came into force this Tuesday in Spain, and it will represent an increase of 10.7 per cent for the average customer, compared to the prices in force at the moment.

THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

In for a dollar



The purpose of Pedro Sánchez's trip to the US this week is to promote private American investment in Spain. He says he's aiming for \$500 billion to boost the 140 billion euros (\$165 billion) coming from the EU over the next few years, which seems like an excessive amount of money, until you remember how wildly ambitious the Spanish prime minister is about economic reform.

Sánchez's U.S. tour is part of a broader initiative, aimed at persuading foreign companies to pump cash into Spain - but the Socialist leader was busy doing the opposite back in the spring. At the end of April, he unveiled his "Focus Africa" plan with fanfare, visiting Senegal and Angola accompanied by representatives of a dozen Spanish companies. The project, he said, will improve infrastructure in key Sub-Saharan countries, thus tackling the fundamental causes of migration

and reducing the number of undocumented arrivals in Spain.

Although "Focus Africa" seems to have fallen off the agenda since its announcement, Sánchez spoke about it at the time as if it was the defining project of his premiership. In New York this week, though, he said that rebooting Spain's economy is his overarching goal, for which he needs the support of America's private sector.

The Socialist leader has apparently set himself the triple-aspect task of rejuvenating Spain's economy, reforming Sub-Saharan Africa and, almost as a by-product, solving a rapidly-escalating immigration problem. But in all three cases, corruption might be an even bigger obstacle to success than over-ambition.

One of the toughest problems Sánchez faces in implementing his "Focus Africa" plan is convincing Spain's business world to invest in a region in which gov-

ernments and businesses are plagued by bribery, fraud and mismanagement. One can't help wondering whether Spain's reputation in this respect might also be a hindrance to foreign investment, whether from the U.S. or elsewhere.

Having said that, it'd be a stretch to argue that Spain is as corrupt as countries such as Senegal and Angola: in Transparency International's 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index, Spain came in 32nd out of 179 countries, with a score of 62 (an improvement on 2017, when it hit an all-time low of 57 points); Senegal was placed 67th with 45 points and Angola 142nd with just 27 points.

Spain might not have sunk to such depths, but its most recent corruption investigations - into allegations of fraud and corporate espionage - concern Iberdrola, Repsol and CaixaBank, three of the country's biggest companies. That isn't doing much reputational good for the Spanish corporate world as a whole, especially at a time when Iberdrola is bidding for EU funds. Although perhaps not to the same extent, US and other international investors may be wary about Spain for the same reason that Spanish investors are about Sub-Saharan Africa.

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Pedro Sánchez (front row, 3rd left) on New York's Fifth Avenue on Wednesday with his entourage. EFE

PM steps out stateside to woo business leaders and investors

The whistlestop trip has been controversial as Pedro Sánchez did not meet with President Biden in Washington as other world leaders have

SUR

NEW YORK. The Prime Minister, Pedro Sánchez, was on a charm offensive in the United States this week in a bid to woo busi-

ness leaders and investors, promoting the benefits of investing in Spain.

On his first day on Wednesday, Sánchez held meetings in New York and appeared on US television before moving on to Los Angeles and San Francisco.

However, the visit was not without controversy even before it had started, as no meeting was scheduled with President Joe Biden in Washington. Commentators pointed out that Biden has

received several world leaders since coming to power, although the Spanish government said there is a good relationship with America and Biden is focused

Travelling with Sánchez were heads of five start-ups and the emphasis was on innovation, new technology and the green economy

on the Covid-19 pandemic and has little time.

Travelling with Sánchez were heads of five Spanish start-up companies and the emphasis on the whistlestop trip was on innovation, new technology and the future, green economy.

While in New York, Sánchez met with former city mayor and TV mogul, Michael Bloomberg, but not outgoing mayor Bill de Blasio. He also had talks with head of investment giant BlackRock, Larry Fink, and opened a Spanish trade and investment office in the iconic Chrysler building.

Stability and certainty

Speaking to the media, Sánchez said he had promised investors that Spain has "stability" and "certainty", reassuring them he is a politician that achieves things, passing laws, reforming and, with their help, bringing in investment.

Appearing on news-channel MSNBC's Morning Joe programme, Sánchez strayed into American domestic politics, unusually for a visiting world leader. "I think that when President Biden says that America is back, that is good news not just for you but for us as well," he said.

On Thursday, Sánchez flew to Los Angeles and was to visit the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where Spain helped make parts for exploration vehicles that went to Mars.

Today, (Friday, 23 July), the last day of his tour, he was due to be in the San Francisco area for meetings, including with Netflix and Apple.

Big drop in support for Catalan independence among 18-24 year olds, survey says

CRISTIAN REINO

BARCELONA. The latest figures from an annual survey have shown a big drop in support for Catalan independence among younger people since the illegal referendum was held in the region in 2017.

The survey records a 20 point decline in those saying 'yes' to independence in the 18-24 year group.

Four years ago, 56 per cent in this age range said 'yes' and 35 per cent 'no'. This year, the figures are the opposite way round, with 36 per cent for leaving Spain and 52 per cent in favour of staying.

Gabriel Colomé of UAB, the university in Barcelona that carried out the study, explained that in 2017 there was "disappointment" when the independence movement realised that "the road to utopia" had led them to "defeat". "We are talking about a generation that has suffered a financial crisis and a pandemic," he added

Third scaling of border fence in last two weeks by migrants sees three police injured

SUR

MELILLA. Three police officers were injured in the Spanish North African city of Melilla on Thursday morning after 238 immigrants scaled a six-metre-high border fence which separates the city from neighbouring Morocco.

A spokesperson said the immigrants, all of them men, breached the border at around 6.50am and two of the Guardia Civil officers were injured by metal hooks used by the group to scale the double fence.

Sources have confirmed that the migrants were detained and transferred to a temporary holding centre, where they will be quarantined.

This is the third mass scaling of the border fence in the last two weeks in Melilla, after one on 12 July, when 119 migrants entered, and on 14 July with 20.

Officials say they regularly face illegal migrants with offensive weapons.



Gibraltar and UK reject EU mandate as 'unacceptable'

The European Commission's draft mandate for negotiations proposes that Spanish officers staff the Schengen border

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The European Commission (EC) published its draft mandate for negotiations regarding Gibraltar's future relationship with the EU this week, but it was swiftly rejected by the Gibraltar and UK governments, who claimed that, among other things, it would undermine British sovereignty.

Gibraltar's chief minister, Fabian Picardo, was the first to speak out, just hours after the draft document was released, saying "the mandate published today strays unhelpfully from the New Year's Eve Framework Agreement and cannot form the basis for the negotiation of an agreement of a UK Treaty with the EU in relation to Gibraltar". He said Gibraltar would continue to plan for a situation where no

agreement was possible.

Soon afterwards the UK's Foreign Minister, Dominic Raab, said the EU mandate "directly conflicts" with the agreement made between Gibraltar, UK and Spain at the end of last year.

The main point which has led to such an angry response was the EC's proposal that Spanish officers should be responsible for manning the new Schengen border at Gibraltar's airport and port. This was a red line which Gibraltar

insisted from the start could not be crossed, and that is why it was proposed that officers from the EU's Frontex force should do so instead.

Spain's new Foreign Minister, José María Albares, who met Dominic Raab on Thursday, has also confirmed that Spain is committed to the terms of the preliminary agreement signed last year, and that the potential treaty would be good, not only for Gibraltar, but for the nearest area of Spain.



Dominic Raab, centre, with Fabian Picardo and Joseph Garcia. SUR (FILE PHOTO)

IN BRIEF



No large events allowed. SUR

COVID-19

Large events cancelled due to Covid cases

D.B. On Thursday the Gibraltar government announced that it was "reluctantly" cancelling all large events scheduled to be held on government premises until September, due to the steady increase in Covid-19 cases. The only events that are permitted are smaller, seated, ticketed events, and people attending those must be double vaccinated and have had a negative Covid test within the previous 24 hours.

MIGRATION

Police rescue and arrest illegal migrant

D.B. Royal Gibraltar Police officers rescued a man from a small inflatable body board two nautical miles south of Europa Point on Wednesday evening. The man, who is believed to have come from North Africa, was wearing a wet suit, and was in distress and clinging to the board when spotted during a routine patrol. He was taken to St Bernard's Hospital for treatment and then placed under arrest as an illegal immigrant.

HEALTH

Abortion law comes into force

D.B. Following last month's referendum, Gibraltar's new legislation allowing abortion has now come into force. Abortions may be carried out by Gibraltar Health Authority doctors at St Bernard's Hospital in certain, tightly defined circumstances. If, after a consultation, a woman decides to proceed with an abortion, two GHA doctors must be satisfied that the case falls within the scope of the law before the procedure can go ahead.

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Help each other

I have just read an article about Anne Hernandez, Founder of Brexpat's Spain Support Group. She said "I have done this to help my fellow Brits and I honestly don't think that deserves special merit or recognition. It is something we should all be doing, helping one another!"

Recently my husband and I needed help in an emergency. Our beautiful young daughter-in-law had died leaving behind her distraught husband our son, and our granddaughters aged 6 and 4. We needed to go to England for the funeral and did not have time to make our usual arrangements with house/dog sitters, so we asked around, our friends and on many Facebook groups whether anyone could look after our dogs at reasonable cost. The response was, yes so and so can at 10 euros per dog, so that would have been 16 days x 2 dogs €320.

However, one wonderful person who belongs to a club my husband is part of, phoned up to say that she was happy to come to the house and dog sit for us and did not wish to be paid.

Anne Hernandez, you are right and wrong. Yes we should all help each other. BUT you are wrong because YOU DO deserve recognition for what you have done and do.

BEVERLEY AND PETER SAUNDERS

Reaction to article
Shampanskoye

I can agree with the idea of the article. But please do not be patronising, if you are not well informed. Russians have a long tradition in producing sparkling wines. Maybe because of centuries-long ties between Russia and France. Their sparkling wine is called Igriskoye and many people like it. Romania has had a tradition of producing wines since Roman times. Romanian whites are probably better

than Spanish (particularly from Szatmar, Banat and the south-west region of Transylvania). Some reds from Wallachia region are as good as Rioja wines. As Czech I have to add that 99% of beers in Western Europe called lager, Pilsener or Pils have nothing in common with real lager. They are made artificially within a few days. Real lager needs at least 60 days to be ready with natural bubbles. Try the original one, Pilsner Urquell. Cheers.

BOREK NEST

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Home or away

As office workers begin to shuffle back to the, er, office, having spent a year or so working from home, a heated debate has arisen as to which system is preferable. Let's see if I can help.

First, the benefits of going into a place of work each day. Clearly, it's the more sociable option because it affords you the opportunity to talk about Love Island with Derek from accounts as you stand beside the water cooler for inordinately long breaks halfway through the morning. You may even find romance between the folders and staplers or, at worst, an ill-advised fling at the Christmas party with Wendy, the hitherto overly-shy secretary. Unfortunately, she will be far too embarrassed to do your photocopying for the next six months.

On the other hand, a daily commute can be a nightmare, especially if it involves legging it across numerous railway plat-

forms in a bid to make a last-minute connection, only to find that there are no seats left and you have to spend the next forty minutes sitting on the carriage floor next to a student on a gap year, practising the Peruvian nose flute.

Meanwhile, the plus points about staying at home to work, are fairly convincing. First, you don't have to get out of bed, unless it's for a Zoom meeting, in which case you can still leave your pyjama bottoms on, ready for a quick lie-down after two hours of Derek's virtual rejoinders to file all expense claims in triplicate before the twenty sixth.

Also, you can stop to make yourself a cheese and pickle sandwich whenever you like and also keep an eye on the cricket as you idly shuffle some papers you printed earlier for no discernible reason. It's wise to send the odd email to make your boss

think you're still on the ball. He won't, of course, but he's also working from home and his wife's just sent him to buy half a kilo of mushrooms, a tin opener and a pint of semi-skimmed milk, so he won't be back any time soon, especially if the pub's open.

On the down side, working in your house means your bed sheets are constantly covered in Hob Nob crumbs and your wife can send you shopping/to walk the dog/pick up the children/take some fairy cakes round to Mrs Rawsthorne at number forty six because her husband just left her, at any time. Mind you, using Zoom is so desperately frustrating that you'll actually look forward to chatting with Mrs Rawsthorne.

Frankly, then, it's all a bit of a minefield and I have no simple answer. Well, unless you count not getting a job in an office in the first place.

IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE
IVÁN GELIBTER

Enough is enough

We've seen it coming for that last few days but that doesn't make it any less outrageous. The Junta de Andalucía has jumped on the nonsense bandwagon and has proposed - as other regions governed by other parties have done - that they take away our freedom to go out at night once again.

They're doing it now, because it's the only way they have to show the general public that they are doing something, even though they're just putting on a sticking plaster that has absolutely no use apart from taking a new swipe at our rights as citizens.

The first state of alarm brought in due to the pandemic - and perhaps the sec-

ond - had a justified reason and saved thousands of lives, whatever the Constitutional Court - whose members should have retired by now according to their own rules - might say.

No one in Spain or in any other country knew what exactly was happening. It's never good to go over the top, but at least the they had the excuse of ignorance.

What they are saying now though is just a joke. Once again they are punishing the hospitality industry with limited opening times, when it's more than evident that the serious infections occur among the 50-plus age group who have not been vaccinated, and among young people.

What the Junta de Andalucía is really trying to tell us is that they are incapable of enforcing the law. With this new decision they are giving the impression that we are living in a kind of anarchy run by youngsters who go around having wild 'botellón' drinking parties that the police can't control.

It seems to me that their management of the health situation has been unable to trace the virus effectively. What's more they've made it so that it's impossible to make a face-to-face appointment with a doctor. And they have been unable to reduce the waiting time for a PCR test.

The administration is covering up its own shortfalls by attacking our rights. Enough is enough.



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Revealing the high-life of the 'Estonian Pablo Escobar'

Rainer Helin. The son of Toomas Helin tells SUR in English why he decided to lift the lid on the criminal underworld of Marbella

TONY BRYANT



Author Rainer Helin who has written The Drug Lord's Son. SUR

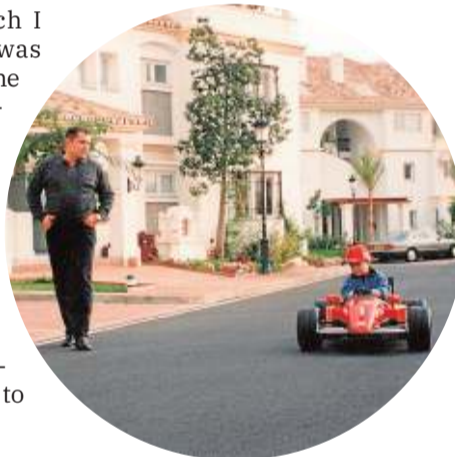
Marbella has long had an association with the jet-set and the rich and famous from all walks of life. Now a new book will lift the lid on the town's criminal element who chose Marbella to run their enterprises. Authored by Rainer Helin, the son of a notorious member of the Estonian underworld, the book opens the door to a glamorous lifestyle fuelled by drugs, beautiful women, Ferraris, yachts, and high-society parties attended by some of Europe's biggest criminal families.

Rainer, the son of Toomas Helin - a man known as the 'Esto-

nian Pablo Escobar' - was born in Zurich in 1992 and came to live in Marbella in 1995. After graduating from Tallinn University with a degree in Audio-visual Media from the Baltic Film and Media School, he spent several years working as a copywriter.

This first book, The Drug Lord's Son, is a true account of his childhood, which was spent between Marbella, Malta and Mallorca. The politely spoken 29-year-old, who was educated at Aloha College, decided to publish his memoirs following his father's sudden death in Marbella earlier this year.

"Writing the book, which I started several years ago, was something that helped me come to terms with the death my father. I was not in touch with him for the last seven years, but he actually called me a few days before he died, which was his way of asking for forgiveness and trying to make amends. This helped me remember him and my childhood in a bitter-sweet light," Rainer explains to SUR in English.



▲ The young Rainer with his notorious father in Marbella during the mid-1990s. SUR

Life of luxury

Also known as the 'drug baron of Marbella', Toomas Helin fled post-Soviet Estonia and headed to Marbella for a life of luxury, but his empire would be shattered after he received a seven-year jail sen-

tence for drug-related crimes in 2005. Estonian police considered him to be the leader of the Lin-nuvabriku crime group, the second most influential after the Albanians, although this was never proven during his trial.

During his criminal career, Toomas was also suspected of smuggling a tonne of cannabis from Africa into Europe. The case gained notoriety because bail was set at 1.5 million Estonian kroons, the largest bail ever set in Estonia at that time. He was also suspected of stealing more than 60 luxury cars from Germany and selling them in France and Spain, making a reputed profit of 4 million euros. However, Rainer says that, although his father was a criminal, he was not necessarily a bad man.

"My father was not so well known internationally, but in Estonia he had an infamous reputation, although he was a very private man. I grew up alongside the criminal underworld of Marbella, but my father did his best to keep our family as far away from that as possible," the author declares.

Rainer was a "naive teenager" when he realised what his father did for a living. He claims that he was not proud of his father's status and had no intentions of following in his footsteps.

"I would never go as far as to say I am proud of his reputation, but there are always two sides to every story. Maybe he wasn't the best husband, but he definitely tried to be a good father, although I never wanted to take the same route as him," he says.

Rainer now has a family of his own and he is determined to put his father's chequered past to rest, which he claims can be difficult to do, especially when visiting Estonia.

"Just because someone's father was a criminal does not necessarily mean that his children are the same, although we do have to sometimes pay the price for their notoriety," he concludes.

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Marbella-based author turns hospitality experience into fiction in latest novel

ASH MAER

MALAGA. A Marbella-based Brit is celebrating after publishing his third book - called The Hotel Manager.

Garry Waite, who has lived in Spain since 1986, recently promoted his latest publication at a book signing in Puerto Banús, Marbella.

Since semi-retiring in 2017, the Cheltenham-born former restaurateur has concentrated on his writing and now has several books to his name, including a novel, The Warm War, a



Garry Waite. SUR

thriller based on the Costa del Sol, and an autobiography, Half My Life, following his years before Spain and after his arrival.

His latest book is a fictitious thriller and follows the lives of a family who develop a wine business, who go into partnership with the owner of a hotel in Monte Carlo during World War II.

One hundred years

He said: "I hope I have captured the atmosphere that existed during this time and that you will find the journey that some of our protagonists took, over a period of more than one hundred years, up until the years of the 2000s, interesting and heart-warming."

The book is available on Amazon, at Bookworld España and at Book Shop in San Pedro for 15 euros.

Summer offers

Home is where the ART is...

REVIEW
GEORGINA OLIVER



They say “there’s no place like home”. Who am I to disagree - a tri-cultural ‘odd ball’, who thinks of three places as home? A fully-vaccinated, “post-Brexit agreement, permanent resident” of France, blessed with a “pied-à-mer”/ holiday home in El Palo, the old fishermen’s quarter on the eastern edge of Malaga city... I’ll always have a soft spot for my place of birth, forever associated with the “Swinging London” of my teenage years, as well as my first steps as a kid critic. No prizes for guessing what non-European country my “Homeland” might be.

Homecoming

In all three of these places, art has played a key role. My Provençal abode, a village house featuring sandstone walls and terracotta tiles, is adorned with all manner of artworks, ranging from a classic green and warm-hued landscape of Saint-Rémy to minimalist/conceptual pieces. On a smaller scale, but no less vital, the seafront “casita” we rent here wouldn’t feel like



Compromise by Don Bergland at CAC Málaga. FRANCIS SILVA

home, if we hadn’t replaced its standard Ikea prints with paintings of our choice.

What do I like so much about Malaga? What makes me keep coming back for more? Beyond the sunshine and laid-back Spanish lifestyle, Picasso’s “p.o.b.” is no mere port of call or resort; it’s home to half a dozen top-flight museums.

Where do I head for, fresh off the plane or train... for my first

contemporary art lover’s fix? No two ways about it. I zero in on the CAC (Centro de Arte Contemporáneo). There’s always something on the front or back burner in this XXL experimental art venue. Sometimes, I prefer the main exhibition; on other occasions, I’m more taken with the “second fiddle”: a show-within-a-show, proffering the intimacy of chamber music, as opposed to

the flamboyance of a symphony or fanfare.

Until mid-September, the CAC’s inner space-within-a-larger-space spotlights the pop-surrealist vision of Canadian mainstreamer Don Bergland. Entitled The Silence of Eternity, Bergland’s first museum solo show on this side of the Pond, combines digital imagery, based on 3D models of his own making, with traditional draughtsmanship and painterly techniques, the whole forming a series of introspective depictions of the human condition, each ‘staged’ like theatrical projects.

The pantomime-esque protagonists of his eerie mise-en-scènes are sometimes literally “incarnated” - morphed into slices of meat, sausages and suchlike. In a further twist of lowbrow irony, the titles of these off-kilter compositions are generally pretty unassuming. Homecoming (2017), to name but one.

“Moving fe(a)st”

The fourth edition of the “Estival” Contemporary Art Festival has taken up residence at the Ateneo de Málaga, and picked the travels and travails of Ulysses as its theme. At the helm of the event, the Casa Amarilla gallery/avant-garde workshop, named after Van Gogh’s Yellow House, has devised a multi-pronged programme of indoor and outdoor performances, videos and exhibitions. A group show presented in the Ateneo’s “Antesala” (antechamber/vestibule) sets the tone

with a provocative anti-domestic wall piece by Cristina Savage consisting of bright-coloured finger-wielding washing up gloves. Back in 2016, Savage created a sensation with a ‘sex-plicit’ feminist photographic/video essay dubbed “Home is Where the Heart is.”

Where I’m at

Which of this summer’s arty offerings did I catch a glimpse of before I last left town? The Russian Museum/Saint Petersburg Malaga’s then newly unveiled War and Peace accrochage. Miquel Barceló’s Metamorfosis, at the at the Museo Picasso - as usual a mega sensual display of the Mallorca-born painter and sculptor’s unbridled hedonism, à la Pablo.

What special treat did I miss by a “hare’s breath”, and rush to see as soon as I got back? The tribute to iron sculpture trailblazer Julio González (1876-1942), at the Malaga branch of the Centre Pompidou, aka El Cubo. The perfect complement to this homage to an eminent “Catalan in Paris” would be the Thyssen Museum’s thematic overview Painting Light. Catalan Masters from the Carmen Thyssen Collection, which I’ve yet to see.

My latest artistic thrill? La Segunda Oportunidad (The Second Opportunity), a cohort of post-apocalyptic sculptures displayed on the first floor of the Ateneo. Fashioned from recycled plastic by Julio Robledo alias “Dr Sedano”, this visionary body of work sure hits home, in our unsettling times.





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ILLUSTRATION LEAL

The most optimistic among us say the coronavirus lockdown helped us to get to know ourselves better. It is yet to be seen whether that is the case, but what does seem clear is that, after being obliged to stay inside our homes for so long, we have come to know our living accommodation down to the tiniest detail.

Our homes may have become fortresses against the pandemic, but they also started to feel a bit like cages. And while we paced from one wall to another, while we worked from home with views of the neighbour's laundry and we dreamed of open spaces, we learned a lot about other people's homes: we saw videos of how people were coping with lockdown in different countries and we could see how many of them had gardens and courtyards, ideal spaces to exercise and for the children to let off steam. We could also see the beautiful green, sunny gardens which formed backdrops for the wealthiest people in Spain.

The pandemic has made us more aware that there is something unusual about our way of living: Spain is a nation of apartments, because there are far more of those than any other type of home.

For years the figures have shown us to be the European country with the highest proportion of apartments, although in the most recent statistics from Eurostat our traditional companion at the top of this table, Latvia, has moved slightly ahead.

Why do the Spanish all live in flats?

Urban life. Only 34 per cent of people in France live in apartment blocks, while in Spain the figure is almost double. A combination of factors explains the trend

CARLOS BENITO



Sixty-six per cent of Latvians and nearly 65 per cent of Spanish residents live in apartments. Third on the list is Switzerland, with 62 per cent, while the European average is around 46 per cent.

In many countries the vast majority of the population live in houses: in Ireland, for example, only eight per cent live in an

apartment. In the UK (which has 20 million more inhabitants than Spain and is half the size), the figure is about 14 per cent, and in countries such as the Netherlands, Belgium, Croatia and Norway it is under 25 per cent.

Why do we live this way? What has led us to be a country of communities of neighbours, with a profile more like that of the Bal-

tic republics than neighbouring France, where the proportion of apartment-dweller is 34 per cent, or even Portugal with 45 per cent?

"We could be talking about several factors. Firstly, the use of land and resources. Construction in Spain has traditionally leaned towards high-rise building. That means there are fewer houses on offer, so they are more expensive. The second factor is that it is a residential product which demands greater economic effort. Finally, there is the variable of population density. People have to concentrate in the towns and cities, so horizontal construction would not be logical or profitable," says Ferran Font, the director of Studies at the Pisos.com online property portal.

Specialists in the history of town planning say this peculiarity has its roots in the rural exodus of the 1950s and 1960s. Spain is characterised by a late and intensive industrial development, which led to massive emigration from the countryside to the towns and cities: at the start of the 20th century, the urban population accounted for 32 per cent of the total, while in 1960 it had risen to 57 per cent and by 1980 was over 70 per cent, which is a particularly high figure.

Millions of people abandoned their village houses and moved to the towns. The Franco regime decided to house this massive amount of labour in apartment blocks, which were quick and cheap to build: it cost less to fit

30 families into one tall building than to distribute them in 30 houses.

That was a time when there were "strategies to minimise the cost of urbanisation and construction, pressure to maximise the lucrative aspect of the space available, and abusive speculation," as one study has described it. Houses increasingly became less important in Spain as a

MAJOR DIFFERENCES

A look at Europe

The ones with the most

The European countries with the highest proportion of citizens living in apartments are Latvia (65.9% of the population), Spain (64.6), Switzerland (62.2), Estonia, (60.9), Greece (59.2) and Lithuania (58.3).

Those with the least

At the bottom of the table is Ireland (only 8.2% of the population lives in blocks of apartments), North Macedonia (14.5), United Kingdom (14.8), Netherlands (20.5), Norway (21.7), Croatia (21.7) and Belgium (21.9).

Terraced or detached

The European country with the highest proportion of townhouses is the Netherlands (58 per cent of the population live in these, compared with 22 per cent of Spanish). In terms of detached houses, North Macedonia tops the list (72 per cent of its citizens live in these) and Croatia (68%).

whole: in the 1970s they went from 57 per cent of the total to 36 per cent, while vertical districts were created such as the Otxarkoaga in Bilbao and Badia del Valles, which was part of Barcelona but is now a municipality in its own right. For most Spanish people, owning a villa was something to dream about, the ultimate sign of status.

No car

Sociologists point out a couple of other factors. One has to do with mobility: working class Spaniards didn't used to have cars, so it was more practical to crowd them close to the centres of production. Of course, the number of cars in those days was nothing like the 24 million there are today: in 1960 there were only 290,000, and in 1970, 2.3 million.

Another more tangible aspect, is the Spanish character, if there really is such a thing. Compared with the individualism of people in other countries, for whom the possibility of living a private life is important, we are supposed to be more sociable, we appreciate the hustle and bustle of the districts we live in and we don't mind sharing a hive with other families. At least, until now, when some of us have started to feel like chained-up bulls.

"The lockdown and restrictions on mobility have made us rethink how we want to live. We have been confronted with a domestic space which comes far

from meeting the requirements of the home we dream of, because we have had the time to see what it lacks," says the expert from Pisos.com, where they have noted a growing demand for houses: contacts made regarding houses and villas to rent increased by 64 per cent in 2020, according to their records.

However, it seems very unlikely that this shows a changing trend in our way of living, because our towns have been configured around high-rise buildings. Also,

THE FIGURE

64.6%

of people in Spain live in apartments, according to the latest statistics from Eurostat. At the opposite end of the table we have Ireland, with 8.2% of the population, while the European average is around 46%.

this compact model is considered preferable from an ecological point of view these days, due to the lower use of land, water and energy and because it favours the use of public transport.

"Maybe this trend is slightly noticeable, but not significantly so," says Fernando Molini, a professor of Human Geography at the Autonomous University of Madrid.

"On one hand, the timescales for urban development greatly exceed the duration of the pan-

demic. On the other, the economic crisis will have a greater effect on the purchase of houses, because they are much more expensive. And what is most important: there is quite a strong consensus among urban planners that houses have a much higher environmental cost. Although the demand for houses may increase due to the pandemic and people working from home, in my opinion it will have little influence on urban planning policies as a whole."

The pros and cons of living in a house

What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a house compared with an apartment? Some points in its favour are obvious and have become particularly evident during the pandemic: houses and villas tend to be more spacious and have outdoor space. "They are also quieter and more private, and there is no dependence on a community of owners to carry out reforms, and you have fewer neighbours to create noise and disturbance," says Ferran Font. That last point became evident during the lockdown, when some apartment blocks, with all the properties permanently occupied, became pressure cookers because of the noise factor.

The downsides? Well, the price, to start with. "They cost more, not just to buy but also in maintenance: repairs, IBI, consumption..." he says. They also tend to be located away from the main facilities, so the occupants depend more on private transport, and the location of these houses also make them more likely to be burgled".



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GARDENING

Alpinia zerumbet

Alpinia zerumbet is an ever-green, tropical perennial native to Eastern Asia but found from India to Japan, New Guinea, The Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa and Australia. It forms large clumps of striking foliage up to three metres tall and has drooping racemes of exotic-looking waxy flowers which are pearly white on the outside and have bright yellow throats with red

markings on the inside. The blooms are followed by interesting, spherical fruits.

A member of the ginger family (Zingiberaceae) it spreads by rhizomes and seeds and needs rich, damp soil to which plenty of organic material has been added. The shell-like flowers appear after the second year and unlike

other gingers, they form on the ends of the leafy stems, not straight from the rhizome. Common names include shell ginger, pink porcelain lily and butterfly ginger.

The broad leaves are used in Japanese and Chinese cuisine, stuffed with rice and other fillings. They are also used for flavouring noodles and making tea and have been a traditional medicine for centuries.

In the Japanese town of Okinawa, the residents who regularly eat the leaves are statistically proven to live longer; the leaves contain a chemical substance that appears to prevent some heart diseases.

However shell ginger is classed as an invasive weed in some countries as in optimum conditions it will form large thickets, especially along the edges of water courses.

It is neither drought nor frost hardy and needs regular watering except in winter when it should be given plenty of protection and watering reduced to prevent the rhizomes rotting. In colder areas it can be grown just as a foliage plant and the beautiful variegated cultivars are ideal for this.

Besides adding tropical interest, shell ginger is also great in containers. The best location is somewhere where it will receive sun in the morning and some shade protection in the afternoon. The variegated cultivars look stunning brightening up shady corners.

The genus is named after Italian botanist and physician Prospero Alpini.



Alpinia zerumbet and variegated leaf cultivar (inset). FLICKR/WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS

Moth immunity

This year the Geranium moth seems to have attacked every Geranium in my garden. However Pelargoniums, which are in the same family, seem to be unscathed. The annoying little brown moth is an invader from Africa and lays its eggs on the leaves. The larvae burrow into the stem of the plant and thereby do the damage. The moth is attracted by the smell of the Geraniums and as Pelargoniums don't have the same scent, perhaps that is why they are spared. This photo of a healthy Pelargonium was sent in by Maria Hillen.



MARIA HILLEN



OLY FLEMING

Queen of the Night

Oly Fleming has sent in this photo of an Epiphyllum oxypetalum and says, "this plant is in our urbanisation's underground car park which gets daylight during the day in Mijas pueblo. It flowers about three times a year, always at night and the following morning they have wilted. I don't usually get five blooms together in one photo."

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

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NETWORKING

BCC members glad to meet face-to-face

SUR IN ENGLISH

The British Chamber of Commerce (Andalucía) has always been known for its networking and social events and these have been sorely missed by members over the last fifteen months.

There was a certain buzz, therefore, last Thursday at the Andalucía Summer Cocktail held at the Los Naranjos Golf Club, Marbella. It was only the second face-to-face event in 2021 and members were eager to network, mingle and catch up after such a long time apart.

Before the cocktail, an elite team of expert golfers faced off in a Texas Scramble. According to the caddy master, the level of golf displayed "defied description".

Following the debacle on the golf course, drinks and vegan tapas were served, sponsored by Spence Clarke Chartered Ac-

countants, one of the British Chamber of Commerce's longest-standing members.

During the evening, Regional Vice-President Derek Langley thanked all members for attending the event and promised more meetings and networking opportunities following the summer break.

Susan Spence Clarke then took to the stage and presented the team behind Spence Clarke Chartered Accountants.

Finally, Ken Lingwood, Los Naranjos Golf Members Relations Director, announced the winners of the Texas Scramble, which seemed to be judged more on effort than actual golf prowess.

The British Chamber of Commerce will be offering an Autumn Cocktail in October and will announce more events via its webpage: www.britishchamberspain.com in September.



Susan Spence Clarke introduces the team behind Spence Clarke Chartered Accountants. **SUR**



BCC members enjoy the outdoor summer cocktail event at the Los Naranjos Golf Club in Marbella. **SUR**



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EXHIBITIONS

Art Feast

SOTOGRADE. Saturdays, 4.30 - 11pm until 31 July. Puerto Deportivo, Plaza de las Palmeras.

Mosayko Art Música is holding an exhibition in the Galería de Arte Exterior at the port of works from international artists.

Udo Burkhardt

RONDA. From 2 August until 30 October. Cafe Blanco y Negro, C/Pozo. An exhibition by German painter Udo Berkhardt.



Udo Berkhardt, Ronda

Paco Canto

ESTEPONA. Until 29 July. Casa de Las Tejerías, Plaza de las Flores. Exhibition of works by Seville artist Francisco Canto.

Idowu Oluwaseun

MARBELLA. Until 30 July, 6-9pm. Reiniers Contemporary Art, Centro Comercial Camoján Corner, Local 9. Revolutions Per Minute. Side B, is the title of Idowu Oluwaseun's exhibition. In large format acrylics on canvas, the Lagos-born, Houston-based artist records his interpretations of the men and women of his homeland as brief, but pungent, indelible encounters.

OVO, Carlos Pesudo

MARBELLA. Until 24 July. Galería Yusto/Giner. La Ermita industrial estate, C/Madera, 9. A selection of artwork by Carlos Pesudo.

Festival of Contemporary Art

MÁLAGA. Until 31 July. Ateneo de Málaga.

The Viaje de Ulises (Ulysses' journey) is the theme for the fourth edition of

Gran Hotel de las Reinas drag show to stop off in Torremolinos

The two-hour show consists of risqué routines and fast-fire, brazen humour

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Some of Spain's top drag queens have come together to present a spectacular show entitled the Gran Hotel de las Reinas. The show, which has been featured on the Atresmedia television series on Antena 3, will begin its national tour at the Starlite festival in Marbella on July 29, after which, it will be performed at the municipal auditorium in Torremolinos on Saturdays from July 31 until August 28. The tour will also take in Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia.

The show consists of risqué routines, cabaret, hilarious characterisations and public participation. The performers will adorn colourful wigs, gaudy make-up and ostentatious outfits to perform a two-hour show that is laced with the fast-fire, brazen humour for which drags are renowned. Outrageous drag queen



The risqué drag show can be seen in Marbella and Torremolinos . SUR

Supremme de Luxe, who currently hosts the popular television show Drag Race Spain, will act as master of ceremonies. Born in Madrid in 1979, this charismatic artiste began working on the Madrid scene in 1997 and has since gone on to become one of the country's top drag artistes on stage and television.

Supreme de Luxe will be assisted by Paca La Piraña, a flamboyant drag queen - formerly known as Feneno -

who was described by '90s drag sensation RuPaul as one of the best drag acts in Spain.

The show also includes Arantxa Castilla La Mancha, Carmen Farala, Dovima Nurmi, Drag Vulcano, Hugaceo Crunchy, Inti, Killer Queen, Pupi Poisson, Sagittaria and The Macarena.

Tickets for the Starlite performance (10pm) and for the Torremolinos shows (8pm) are available from www.granhoteldelasreinas.es/

Estival, a festival of Contemporary Art organised by La Casa Amarilla with the support of the Ateneo de Málaga. It includes the work of eight artists Ismael Kachtihi del Moral, Marta O Nilsson, Eryk Pall, Cristina Savage, Javier Roz, Yolanda Dorda, David Burbano and Cristina Peralta, who have been heroes in their lives for different reasons.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo

MÁLAGA. CAC Málaga. C/Alemania.

Nalini Malani. Until 25 July. Can You Hear Me? is the title of this audio-visual exhibition by Indian artist Nalini Malani. It consists of an hour long video of her works which are influenced by feminism around the world.

Carmen Thyssen Museum

MÁLAGA. C/ Compañía, 10. 10am -

8pm Tuesday to Sunday.

Giovanni Battista Piranesi. Until 25 July. The Italian's artist's work may seem at first glance like a selection of 14 of his very obscure and detailed engravings, however, he is considered the precursor of the nightmares of reason that later influenced Goya. Created in a feverish moment, the painter has recreated a convoluted world, dark and full of staircases.

Museo Revello de Toro

MÁLAGA. C/Afligidos.

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

Bankers and businessmen. Until 25 July. The exhibition consists of eight portraits created between 1980 and 2009 of important Spanish figures in banking and businesses.



Paco Canto, Estepona.

One thousand years since Ibn Gabirol

MÁLAGA. Until August. Municipal public library Manuel Altolaguirre

(Cruz de Humilladero).

To commemorate a thousand years since the birth of Jewish philosopher and poet Salomon Ibn Gabirol, the town hall has arranged an exhibition in a comic-strip-style presentation based on the life and works of this illustrious Málaga resident.

Cinco & El

LANJARÓN. Until 29 July. La Fábrica, C/Hondillo.

Five women and Him is the title of this exhibition by the Artist's Network Alpujarra. The exhibit includes paintings, ceramics, sculpture and immersive music video installation 'Of Course', the premier screening.

LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

Theatre and musicals festival

BENALMÁDENA. 8 July - 29 August.

Municipal auditorium. www.audito 23 - 25 July. Jekyll & Hyde the musical.

27 - 29 July. The Magic of Broadway.

El Portón de Jazz

ALHAURÍN 'DE LA TORRE. Until 30 July.

23 July, 10pm. Toni Zenet and his band, Andalusian crooner.

30 July, 10pm. Tenorism. Saxophonists Daniel Torres and Enrique Oliver play original compositions as well as traditional modal and contemporary jazz.

Tickeys: <https://www.mientrada.net/>

Noches de Gibralfaro 2021

MÁLAGA. Plaza del Armas, Castillo Gibralfaro. 10pm. www.malaga.eu

23 July. Si Alguien Me Hubiera Dicho (theatre).

24 July. Insostenible Big Band, Duke Ellington: Retratos en jazz.

29 July. Orquesta Chekara. Andalusian music from the 11th century.

30 July. Paula Coronas: Esencia del Piano Español.

31 July. Málaga y Jerez: Simetrías Flamenecas.

Thursday concerts in the museum

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. 8pm. Free.

29 July. Músicas del Mundo.

5 August. Romances de Zarzuela.

All concerts by invitation email: mvvel@velezmalaga.es

The Hall

MÁLAGA. Calle Héroe de Sostoa, 65. 10€.

28 July, 10pm. Antonio Grande and Félix Rossy.



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TICKETS

The Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

MALAGA. Various venues.

23, 24 July. A special summer concert at the Colegio de Aparejadores y Arquitectos Técnicos de Málaga. Starting time not confirmed at time of going to press.

1 August, 12pm. The Elemma Trío: soprano Elsa Vitória Meneses, harpist Emelyne Lobel and María González Morón playing the French Horn. More information: www.orchestrafilarmonicademalaga.com Twitter: @filarmonimalaga or Facebook: www.facebook.com/Filarmonica-Malaga.

Todos con Proteo

MALAGA. 28 July, 8.30pm. Teatro Cervantes.

A gala night with Dry Martina, Fran Perea, Suzette Moncrief, Javier Ojeda and performances by Danza Invisible



Fran Perea, Todos con Proteo

and the Chiccolini Orquesta among many others. The event is to raise money for the Proteo Prometeo bookshop in Calle Nicasio which has been in the city centre since 1969. Tickets: <https://www.unientradas.es/>

Jardines de La Térmica

MALAGA. Until 31 July.

24 July, 9.30pm. Noche Transdisciplina. Audio / visual show.

31 July, 9.30pm. Freyma, Festiboy DJ.

Gypsy puppeteers

MALAGA. 30 July, 9.30pm. La Térmica. 6€.

Puppeteers, El Espejo Negro present La Cabra, a puppet show with flamenco music and songs, with authentic dancing by a Spanish gitano puppet troupe. Tickets: <https://entradas.mientrada.net/>

Concerts in La Fábrica

MALAGA. Trinidad Grund, 29. Free.

23 July, 5pm. Señor Mirinda.

30 July, 5pm. Queen of Magic.

31 July, 5pm. 20th Century Band. <https://lafabricadecerveza.com/>

La Costa de la Música

MARBELLA. Until 28 August, 10pm. Parque de la Constitución auditorium.

6 August. Mayte Martín. Flamenco singer.

Tickets from www.mientrada.net or from the ticket office from 7pm.

100% Estepona

ESTEPONA. Until 9 September. Various venues.

The festival this year will feature eight concerts by Estepona musicians. A full agenda can be found on www.estepona.es

Jazz and Blues Nights

TORREMOLINOS. Until 3 September, 9pm. Parque de la Batería. Free.

30 July. Belle MC Quartet.

13 August. Hot Nasho Y Los Culpa-bles.

20 August. Rachel Malka & The Jazz Makers.

27 August. Pana Brothers. <https://www.torremolinoscultura.es/>

Tango Málaga 2021

MALAGA. 30 July, 8.30pm. Teatro Echegaray. 15€.

Reborn in Buenos Aires, a tribute to Astor Piazzolla. <https://www.teatroechegaray.com/>

Andrés Suárez

MALAGA. 30 July, 10pm. Municipal auditorium Cortijo de Torres.

Galician singer-songwriter who started his career playing in the subway in Madrid and now draws huge audiences to his concerts whether solo or with his rock band.

A Night Of Jazz

MALAGA. 30 July, 9pm. English Cemetery, St George's Church.

With the Jitterbug Jazz Band. www.jazzparaeventos.com Tickets call: 638339691

Concert Music Festival

CHICLANA DE LA FRONTERA. Until



Puppet flamenco, La Térmica

23 August.

The festival includes concerts by David Bisbal, Ara Malikian, Oreja de Van Gogh, Pablo Alborán, Miguel Poveda, Melendi, Sara Baras, Raphael, Vanessa Martín, Manuel Carrasco and tribute acts God Save The Queen and Abba Mania among others. Tickets from www.ticketmaster.es or El Corte Inglés.

Starlite

MARBELLA. Until 4 September.

The Starlite Festival has a wide variety of live concerts including flamenco, fusion, Latin, rock and pop. International stars such as Tom Jones, Bonnie Tyler, Alan Parsons, David Bisbal, Melendi, La Oreja de Van Gogh, Plácido Domingo, Estopa and many more. More information and tickets: <https://starlitemar->

bella.com/en/

Música en el Patio

MALAGA. 24 July, 9.30pm. Museo Carmen Thyssen.

Flamenco singer Maui de Utrera, 'the Lady Gaga' of flamenco. Tickets: entradas.carmenthyssenmalaga.org

Terral Festival

MALAGA. Until 31 July. Teatro Cervantes.

The Terral festival presents a varied programme of concerts and shows. More information: <https://www.teatrocervantes.com/>

Jazz and flamenco

ALMUÑÉCAR. Parque el Majuelo

30 July, 10pm. Musical Chicago.

31 July, 10pm. Príncipes flamenco.

The Rob Sas Band

ESTEPONA. 23 July, 11.45pm. Louie Louie Bar, Estepona Port.

The Rob Sas Band is performing its first gig since February 2020 at the Louie Louie Bar.

Jazz en la Costa

ALMUÑÉCAR. Until 25 July, 10pm. Parque El Majuelo.

The annual jazz festival returns this year with six concerts.

23 July. Richard Bona and Alfredo Rodríguez Dúo.

24 July. Brad Mehlbau Trío.

25 July. David Murray Trío with Marta Sánchez.

More information: www.jazzgranada.es Tickets: www.ticketmaster.es

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LIVE CONCERTS AND MUSIC

Funky Town

TORREMOLINOS. 23 July, 8pm.
Plaza de Toros.

International names performing at the festival include Martha High and Madeline Bell as well as Javier Ojeda, Gordo Master, Julia Martín, Suzette Moncrieff and Noelia Sakura with the Big Band Funk Allstars.

Sister Sledge

MARBELLA. 30 July. Marbella Arena. Heatwave Promotions present Sister Sledge 2021 We Are Family. They will be performing with family members Debbie Sledge, Camille Sledge, Thaddeus Sledge, David Sledge, Tanya Tiet, and Sister Sledge's long-time Musical Director, renowned jazz saxophonist Dominic Amato. Tickets: 629056720. www.heatwavepromotions.com

THEATRE AND DANCE

Swan Lake

MARBELLA. 23 July, 10pm. Auditorio Starlite Festival. Irina Kolesnikova and the St Petersburg ballet perform Swan Lake. Tickets: <https://starlitemarbella.koobin.com/irinakolesnikova>

Contemporary Dance

MÁLAGA. 23, 24, 25 July, 8.30pm. Teatro Echegaray. Baleia 2.0 perform a contemporary dance/theatre show which addresses the problem of pollution of the oceans.

Local tribute band brings progressive rock to Monda

TONY BRYANT

MONDA. Fans of progressive rock music will enjoy the Rocking the Castle night at the Hotel Castillo in Monda on Friday 30 July.

The event presents Rock of the Ages, a local four-piece band that reproduce the hits of legendary groups such as Starship, Toto, Bon Jovi, Queen, Def Leppard and The Eagles.

The brainchild of popular Costa duo Lucy Pardoe and Ollie Hughes, the tribute band has gained a considerable following on the coast with the show, which is loosely based on the jukebox musical Rock of Ages.

The concert will be held on the patio of the hotel and guests will have the opportunity to reserve tickets just for



Rock of the Ages singers Lucy Pardoe and Ollie Hughes. SUR

the concert, which includes a drink on arrival (15 euros), or with a set menu (65 euros).

Reservations for the two-hour show, which starts at

9pm, can be made on 952459836.

Audience capacity will be restricted, so early bookings are advised.

<https://www.teatroechegaray.com/>

La Llamada, a musical

MÁLAGA. 23, 24, 25 July, 8.30pm. Teatro Cervantes. La Llamada is a comedy about

friendship, first love and finding oneself. Electro-Latin and Whitney Houston that will take you straight to heaven with original songs and a live rock band. www.lallamadaelmusical.es

Don Giovanni

MÁLAGA. 24 July, 9pm. English Cemetery. An adaptation of Mozart's famous opera Don Giovanni by the Malaga group El Último Trovador. Tickets:

<https://bit.ly/3xNdf70>

Classical 2021

ESTEPONA. From 23 July until 3 September. Plaza del Reloj. 23 July, 10pm. Piano and viola recital. 6 August, 10pm. Piano recital.

Municipal band

ESTEPONA. Sundays until 29 August, 9pm. Plaza del Reloj, Temple Maestro Manuel Navarro Mollor. The concert is dedicated to the province of Malaga with compositions by Alfonso Guerra as well as classical works, film scores and zarzuelas.

The Season of Dance

ESTEPONA. Until 4 September, 9.30pm. various venues. 27 July. Gala show with Martina Tes-saaro. Plaza ABC. 30 July. Peña Flamenca students. Plaza Fuerzas Armadas.

FLAMENCO

Paseo Flamenco

MÁLAGA. Sundays, 9.30 -11am. 10€. 25 July. Plaza de la Merced. Reservations call 687607526 or email: flamencamálaga@hotmail.com

Ciclo Flamenco

TORREMOLINOS. Various venues. 10pm. Free with invitation: cultura@torremolinos.es 24 July. Compañía Manuel Roldán. Plaza San Miguel.

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Fashion Show

MARBELLA. 29 July, 8pm. Centro Plaza shopping centre.
A fashion show to raise funds for Todos con Adán, a charity that investigates ethylmalonic encephalopathy. 10€ donation entry.

ACE Quiz

LA CALA DE MIJAS. 31 July, 3pm. Bar Tuta, Urb Jardín Botánico.
Hosted by John Sharples with rock'n roll bingo, raffle and grand charity auction to win an inflatable spa retailing at 499 euros and donated by Favells. Limited capacity. Tickets 5€: Bar Tuta 951515699. Food donations for ACE Dog Shelter gratefully received.

MORE IDEAS

Verano Joven 2021

TORREMOLINOS. Free classes and workshops. 12-35 year olds.
Paddlesurf and volleyball. 22 July, 5, 19 August. 10am-2pm. Playamar.
Get on stage (talent contest). 24, 31 July, 7, 12 August. 9pm. Plaza San Miguel.
Create a Comic Character. 20 July, 7.30-9pm. Casa de la Juventud.
Digital surrealism. 27 July, 7.30-9pm. Casa de la Juventud.

Chess games

ESTEPONA. Until 27 August, Mon-Fri 7-10pm. Paseo Marítimo.
The Escuela Municipal de Ajedrez



Tour of the Cathedral roof, Malaga

(EMAE) has organised chess matches to be played on the six giant chess boards on the promenade as well as on tables. The free games are open to everyone. www.ajedrezestepona.com

Dance and choreography workshops

MÁLAGA. Until 24 July and 26-30 July. Málaga Circo LOOM, Polígono Industrial La Estrella. C/Cuevas San Marcos. 60€ each course.
The Fernando Hurtado Dance Company will be holding two, week-long classes for dance and choreography. More information and registration: ciafernandohurtado@gmail.com

Sandcastle competition

LA HERRADURA. 30 July, 10.30am. Playa La Herradura.
Opposite the town hall.

Night of mystery

MÁLAGA. 24 July, 9 and 9.45pm. Cementerio Histórico San Miguel.
A tour of the cemetery (in Spanish)

with tales of some of the gruesome ends that the inhabitants met and the mysteries that surround their deaths. Actors recreate some of the episodes from history starting from the interior of the Heredia chapel. <http://cementoriosanmiguel.malaga.eu/>

Night visits and theatre in the Botanical gardens

MÁLAGA. 23, 30 July, 9.30pm. Jardín Botánico la Concepción. 9€.
A theatrical tour of the gardens and the library of the old Casa Palacio belonging to the Marquis of Casa Loring. Reservations: 951 92 61 80

Summer Street

MÁLAGA. 29 July, 5-9pm. Calle San Juan.
Around twenty establishments in the old quarter of Malaga centre will be offering workshops, exhibitions, perfume sampling, fashion shows etc

Cathedral rooftop tour

MÁLAGA. 31 July, 10am. Meet on the corner of the Museo de Málaga and

Calle Cortina del Muelle. 12€ (6€ under 12s)
An architectural tour of the roof of Malaga cathedral with information on the different stages of construction, styles and decoration.

Lux Mundi

TORRE DEL MAR. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Avda Moscatel.
Taizé Prayer. 30 July, 8.45pm. San Andrés church.
FUENGIROLA. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, C/Nueva 3.
Taizé Prayer. 29 July, 7.45pm at San José church. Taizé prayer is a monthly invitation to join in prayer. Send an email to be included in them: lux-mundif@gmail.com.

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.
Cruella: 13.10 (Sun).
In The Heights: 12.20 (Sun).
Fast and Furious 9: 22.10 (Tues).
Space Jam: A New Legacy: 12.30 (Sun); 20.00 (Tues).
Black Widow: 12.35 (Sun); 19.30 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón

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

www.yelmocines.es

Space Jam: A New Legacy: 21.30 (Tues).
Black Widow: 22.15 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

MÁLAGA. Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902220922
Off The Rails: 18.55 (Tues).
Space Jam: A New Legacy: 20.00 (Tues.).
Black Widow: 19.00 (Tues).

Cinesur Miramar

FUENGIROLA. Avda de la Encarnación. Tel: 952198600.
Space Jam: A New Legacy: 17.00 (every day).
The Forever Purge: 18.35 (Tues).
Peter Rabbit: 17.30 (every day)
Black Widow: 22.00 (every day).

Cinesur Ingenio

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Avda Juan Carlos, 1. Tel: 667773187.
Fast & Furious 9: 16.50 (Tues).
Black Widow: 17.30 (Tues).
Space Jam: 17.40 (Tues).
The Purgue: 22.50 (Tues).

Cine Albéniz

MÁLAGA. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295. www.cinealbeniz.com
David Lynch: Lost Highway: 20.30 (29 July).
David Lynch: A Straight Story: 5 August. www.unientradas.es.

Fancine de Verano

MÁLAGA. Muelle Uno, Malaga port.
Beetle Juice: 22.00 (29 July).

<p>23/7 IRINA KOLESNIKOVA EL LAGO DE LOS CISNES</p>	<p>24/7 NOTAS DE CINE Colaboración especial: Antonio Banderas</p>			<p>26/7 17/8 PABLO LÓPEZ</p>	<p>2/8 27/8 MORAT</p>
<p>3/8 DAVID OTERO, DESPIATOS & JAULA DE GRILLOS</p>	<p>5/8 25/8 RAPHAEL</p>	<p>9/8 ESTRELLA MORENTE & JOSÉ MERCÉ</p>	<p>13/8 TOMATITO Artistas invitados: Duquende, Israel Fernández & Antonio Reyes</p>	<p>14/8 BONNIE TYLER</p>	<p>16/8 TOM JONES Surrounded By Time</p>
<p>21/8 ANTONIO JOSÉ</p>	<p>23/8 DAVID BISBAL</p>	<p>26/8 ROZALÉN</p>	<p>28/8 ARA MALIKIAN</p>	<p>1/9 THE BOOTLEG BEATLES</p>	<p>3/9 LOLA ÍNDIGO</p>

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The first celebrity chef

ANDREW J. LINN



Can it be assumed that all chefs are happy with the never-ending media attention? Apart from the famous few who do not need identification, the other 90% surely prefer to work away in their kitchens while occasionally receiving plaudits

from contented customers. This hard core hates the limelight, and curses the day a camera was first invited into a restaurant kitchen. The archetypal celebrity chef is allegedly Wolfgang Puck, shortly to be immortalised in a Disney documentary. When the Austrian

arrived in the USA in 1974 the only way was up, and by hard work and a flair for publicity, his first Beverly Hill's restaurant, Spago (1982), allegedly changed the way Americans ate. Until then chefs were invisible, and it was restaurant owners who were the shop fronts, but Puck developed what many people consider vulgar techniques, such as serving dishes to a musical accompaniment. The big names couldn't keep away from his restaurants. TV personality Johnny Carson would buy Puck's pizzas and freeze them at home, giving

the chef the idea of expanding into the frozen food business. There are now Spagos everywhere, from Las Vegas to Istanbul. But for all the praise heaped on Puck by the US media, there is little evidence that he has ever more than a mediocre cook. To feed Hollywood legends to the extent that they beat a path to your door has always been more a matter of having a good nose for self-promotion than kitchen skills, and the evidence suggests that even the foul-mouthed Jamie Oliver is a better cook than Puck ever was.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Alta Pavina Citius Pinot Noir

A pure Pinot Noir with ripe red fruit and integrated oak, after 18 months in Burgundy barrels. Deliciously ripe, reflecting the character of the year. Only 35,000 bottles produced in June 2019. Vinos de la Tierra de Castilla. Worth the slightly elevated price tag of around 19 euros.



Malaga wines whose names you won't forget

In recent years there has been a tendency to give unusual names to wines, and Malaga wineries are no strangers to this trend

JAVIER ALMELLONES

MALAGA. These days, there are many Spanish wines attracting attention with striking names, such as Cojón de Gato (cat's testicle), Teta de Monja (nun's tit) or Habla del Silencio (speak of the silence). Malaga wineries haven't been afraid to follow the trend.

Some names can be closely identified with the local area (such as El Chavea, a term for a young boy or child) and others refer to historical characters, such as bandits and war heroes. There are even some that allude to judicial expressions. Here are some of the ones that are difficult to forget and are made in Malaga.

La Ola del Melillero

Outside of Malaga this is difficult

to explain but the Ola de Melillero (Melilla wave) is a phenomenon that occurs on the beaches of Malaga when the high speed ferry that travels the route between Melilla in Africa and Malaga arrives in port. The resulting swell often catches people out on the beach. The name corresponds to a dry white wine made with Pedro Ximénez grapes, from Bodega Victoria Ordóñez & Hijos.

Retumba

The Malaga sommelier Luis Palma swore that if he recovered the motorcycle that had been stolen in London he would return to Spain, sell it and with the money he would buy a vineyard. He got the bike back and rode it back to Spain ending up in the Axarquía where he bought the small vineyard Retumba (meaning echo or resonate). This sweet Muscat wine, has received public and critical acclaim.

Perezoso

In Ronda, the González Beltrá



The Malvajo 'bad luck' wine . sur

bodega has a red and a rosé called Perezoso but the meaning of this adjective (lazy) has nothing to do with the wine. It actually refers to the small pools that are still preserved in the Finca Nogalera, at the foot of the Tagus. Known locally as 'perezosos', they were where the fruit was washed before being taken to the market.

Píxel

The name Píxel seems to give an air of avant-garde to this wine

made at Bodegas Bentomiz. But the name alludes to the grapes with which it is made. That is, Pedro Ximénez, which is often abbreviated to PX in text, and Muscatel. The owners of the winery, Clara and André, decided to create an original acronym of both varieties for their surprising dry wine.

Pasos Largos

Pasos Largos (Long Steps) was the name of one of Malaga's most

notorious bandits and his name has been given to this red 'coupage' from the winery of the same name, located in Ronda. But it is far from being the only bandit's nickname used to name wines made in Malaga. Among others, there are Pernaes and Vivillo, both from Málaga Virgen, and El Lero, from Bodegas Lara.

Malvajo

There are several traditional Malaga words in the nomenclature of some wineries. Among them is this wine created by a bodega in Mijas, which makes 'garage wines'. The name of the company is Malvajo, a local word for bad luck, which has been used to name one of its reds.

El Chavea

In the iconic Antigua Casa de Guardia winery, they also have a wine with a very 'Malaguista' name. It is El Chavea, a word used in the city and surroundings to refer to a boy or even a child. El Chavea is a natural sweet wine made from Muscat of Alexandria grapes and without aging.

Quitapenas

Bodega Quitapenas (drown your sorrows) has been in Malaga for so long that few even think twice about the meaning behind its name. It produces several wines with that label (Dorado, Plata, Dry and Vermouth, among others).



Do you want to stay young and fit forever?

There is no magic way to do it, but these tips will help

CARMEN BARREIRO



I am a 60-year-old woman, menopausal and the mother of two. When I go out, it's rare for anyone to turn their heads to look at me. There is nothing about me to attract attention. I pass by totally unnoticed. But when I go running, that's a different story. Then people always turn their heads to watch me."

Loles Vives has exercised all her life. She has been Spanish speed 'recordwoman' in all categories from the age of 12 to the present day. Her long sporting career, combined with her training as a biologist and her studies in nutrition, have given her "enough experience" to know first-hand the keys that will help us to have a young and healthy body all through our lives.

"There is no point in not having wrinkles if you're incapable of walking without dragging your feet," says this athlete and author, whose book 'Mantente siempre joven y en forma' is about staying young and fit. Here, she gives us ten pieces of advice which have helped her to "make a pact with the devil".

1 Get off the sofa and MOVE. If there is one thing we know for sure, it is that "a sedentary lifestyle is bad for you, it causes premature ageing and kills", so you know what to do: get off the sofa and get moving. "Walk, run, play, climb stairs, dance, whatever...it's a case of not staying still for very long at a time. As well as moving regularly, a particular physical activity is highly recommended. Whatever you fancy or motivates you. Work it out in your head. Human beings are designed to keep moving. Here's a statistic for you: in just one day with no activity, the body loses up to 150 grammes of muscle mass, which is the equivalent of a kilo per week, and it also makes you fat," insists Vives.

The World Health Organisation recommends that adults between the ages of 18 and 64 spend at least 150 minutes a week doing moderate intensity aerobic exercise or 75 minutes of high intensity exercise to keep in shape.

2 Make the EFFORT. Rafa Nadal's physical trainer says that making an effort has a rejuvenating effect. Not that many people take much notice. "If your muscles are wasted you can't even cut a steak," warns Vives. From the age of 40 onwards, we lose muscle mass: about eight per cent per decade, and that percentage doubles after the age of 70, which is why strengthening exercises are so important. "In men, the loss is more gradual, but in women it happens more suddenly once they have the menopause," she explains.

3 REST, the invisible training. Vives is very clear about this. "Sleeping, resting and recovering are three fundamental aspects for pacting with the devil," she says. Trainers of elite athletes consider rest to be part of what they call invisible training, together with sleep, nutrition, physiotherapy sessions and psychological care. And, of course, the training sessions, which can be "changed, adapted or suspended".

4 Don't ill-treat your JOINTS. In the book, Loles says "it's better to have crows' feet than a callus". Looking after joints is another "essential condition if you want to grow old dancing reggaeton," she says. In this case, excess weight is one of the main enemies of knee pain, as this is the joint most vulnerable to wear and tear. Again, strengthening work is essential to avoid injuries.

5 STRENGTHEN heart and back According to traumatologist Rafael González Díaz, 85 per cent of lower back pain is non-specific and can be cured with exercise, ergonomic measures, physiotherapy and good posture. "The key is physical activity," says

this specialist. In fact, many pains and spinal problems are rarely as serious as they seem. A piece of advice: strengthen your CORE (abdominals, lower back, buttocks, pelvic floor, diaphragm...) and activate the heart "without exceeding your maximum cardiac rate".



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6 Forget about draconian DIETS. In reality, we all know the magic formula for staying in shape. Exercise and a healthy diet. There is no other. So, which is the most healthy diet? Mediterranean, Asian, vegan...? "Actually, there is no healthy diet which is suitable for everyone, but we do know with some certainty what is good for us and what isn't," says Vives. Most scientific societies recommend that the amount of fat consumed should not be more than 30 to 35 per cent of total calories, but it is not just the amount that is important but also the type of fat we consume. Quantity and quality determine its effect on our health.

7 Get on the SCALES. "If the scales say you are putting on weight it is time to take action, or the day will come when instead of them showing two or three extra kilos you will find you have a real problem of obesity," says Vives. She advises not following any diet "which is well-known, or fashionable, or has a specific name (such as Atkins, Dunkan etc) or which promises that you will lose prodigious amounts of weight". In her view, a weight loss diet should be "exclusive to each person".

8 Don't POISON your body. This can basically be summed up as "don't smoke; keep alcohol to a minimum; don't abuse medications and bear in mind that drugs kill". And no more sunshine than you need.

9 Have medical CHECK-UPS. Don't be lazy or afraid about going to the doctor for regular checkups and blood tests. "It's also a good idea to take a strength test before taking up a sport."

10 SEX, synonymous with happiness. Loles Vives says sex should not be missing because "it is synonymous with happiness". Practising sex "reduces stress, increases wellbeing, helps you sleep, strengthens women's pelvic floors... it's the best medicine there is!" she says.

Telephone consultations and staff shortages are making it difficult for patients to see their GPs

With so many health workers on holiday and an increasing number of positive Covid-19 cases, most medical centres have no appointments for at least two weeks

ALBERTO GÓMEZ

MALAGA. The pandemic has exacerbated the problems which were already affecting health care in Malaga. It is still almost impossible to see a doctor in person, anywhere in the province. When someone tries to make an appointment via Salud Responde, they receive an automatic message saying there are none available in the next 14 days. When there are some, they are all telephone consultations. It is impossible to see a GP without speaking to them on the phone first, even when it is obvious that a physical examination will be necessary.

Even a simple check-up has become an ordeal. Irene, who is 19, is an example. Several weeks ago she noticed a lump behind her ear. She tried to make an appointment via Salud Responde, but it was impossible. She went to the health centre with her mother, and was seen by a nurse, who said she didn't think the lump was anything important, but that a doctor should see it. Even though Irene had been told by the nurse to see her GP, she still had to make an appointment and only a telephone consultation was possible. "My mother complained," she says, "because the nurse told us that my doctor needed to examine me."



People queue outside a health centre in Malaga. FRANCIS SILVA

Something similar happened to Manuel, who is 40, when he went to the Regional Hospital in Malaga with a sprained shoulder. They put his arm in a sling and told him to make an appointment to see his doctor, to check his progress.

"First there were no appointments, then they arranged a sick note for me over the phone. A week later I rang for an appointment for my check-up, but they said I had to speak to the doctor by phone first. I need him to see how my shoulder is doing. My arm is in a sling. How can he do that by phone?" he says.

Then there were no appointments again, according to Salud Responde. These problems continued for several days, "until finally I managed to get a phone appointment with another doctor at the health centre, and she told me to go and see her". This situation, say some professionals, has led to more people going to A&E for medical attention.

The rise in Covid-19 cases in recent weeks is putting more pressure on the health care system, and it is not only the hospitals that are affected.

Under pressure

Every wave of the pandemic is affecting primary healthcare as well, because health centres are responsible for diagnosing and tracing Covid-19 cases and monitor-

ing patients who test positive but do not need hospital treatment. Those are the majority, especially in a wave in which most cases are in people aged between 15 and 29.

The Medical Union of Malaga says the situation is now "critical", with each GP having to make up to 60 or 70 phone calls a day.

This new outbreak of cases has coincided with the holiday season. Half of the staff are away and the Andalusian Health Service has barely covered their absence. In addition, most health centres are only open in the mornings.

Nor is it just the doctors who are overworked. Nurses, on whose shoulders the weight of the vaccination campaign has fallen, are unable to carry out all their normal duties either.

Unions are demanding that replacements be allocated for all staff who are on leave, and the Andalusian Health Ministry has just announced over 25,000 replacements this summer, 5,414 of them in Malaga province, to try to meet the demands on the system from residents and tourists who need medical care.

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Tennis-star Davidovich with the symbolic Olympic rings in the athletes' village. **SUR**Torrontegui met up with the ex-Málaga goalkeeper Ochoa. **SUR**Castellanos and Sole (handball) at the airport. **C. D. S. MÁLAGA**Marta López (handball). **SUR**Benítez, in a selfie with the Taekwondo team. **SUR**

The first contingent of elite sportsmen and women from Malaga province arrived in the Olympic village in Tokyo last week and earlier this week ahead of the opening ceremony.

Marta López, Sole López and Alejandro Davidovich, among others, reported that they were enjoying settling into the modern facilities in Japan. It is a strange environment for the competitors, very unlike that of previous Games.

After endless bureaucratic hurdles, several Covid tests and a flight of more than fifteen hours (from Madrid), on arrival the top athletes spent several more long hours doing paperwork and downloading an app designed to keep track of all the residents at the complex during their stay at the Olympics.

The village

The village, which the sportsmen and women are not allowed to leave except to compete, is made up of some 109 acres including accommodation, gyms, dining rooms, shops and a medical clinic.

As well as finding themselves being shuttled around in driverless buses, the athletes will

Malaga competitors - raring to go in Tokyo

Olympic village. Handballers Marta López and Sole López and tennis star Alejandro Davidovich as well as local coaches and physiotherapists have already settled into the modern facilities

MARINA RIVAS



have spotted one of the traditions of the Olympic village missing this year- the presence of the fast-food chain McDonald's.

Malaga's representatives include numerous behind-the-scenes professionals as well as competitors. Marcelino Torrontegui was the first to reach Japan. The physiotherapist and podiatrist arrived with a small number of the Spanish Olympic Committee last week.

He was soon joined by two Malaga athletes: local handball stars Marta López and Sole López. They arrived last Sunday after a somewhat bumpy flight which took almost half a day longer to take off from Madrid due to excess weight and high temperatures.

This is the first Games for Sole, captain of Costa del Sol Malaga handball team, and the third for Marta, a winger for Rapid of Bucharest. Also in the women's handball team in Tokyo is Costa del Sol club goalkeeper Merche Castellanos.

Davidovich arrives

Local tennis star Alejandro Davidovich also arrived in the Japanese capital this week. The num-

ber 36 of the ATP ranking is the youngest of the Malaga expedition at these Games in which he also makes his debut - born in June 1999, he is only four months younger than the swimmer Paula Ruiz.

All of them, both the handball players and the promising tennis player, have been training in the Japanese facilities, finalising details for the start of their competitions after this Friday's traditional opening ceremony.

Other Malaga athletes

Also staying in the village is the Olympic champion in Barcelona 1992 and three times Olympian, Elena Benítez, current technical director of the Spanish Taekwondo Federation. Damián Quintero (karate), Sergio Scariolo, Enrique Salinas, Carlos Salas and Ángel Sánchez Cañete (as coach and staff of the basketball team) are also in the Costa del Sol contingent.

In the case of swimmer Paula Ruiz, she will train outside the Olympic village first and travel later.

Meanwhile golfer Azahara Muñoz will not sleep in the village, but in a hotel set up for Olympic athletes as the golf course is too far from away.



WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

23 JULY 1980

Spain wins first Olympic medal for swimming

David López-Zubero came third in the 100 metre butterfly event at the Summer Olympics in Moscow, winning the coveted bronze medal for his country

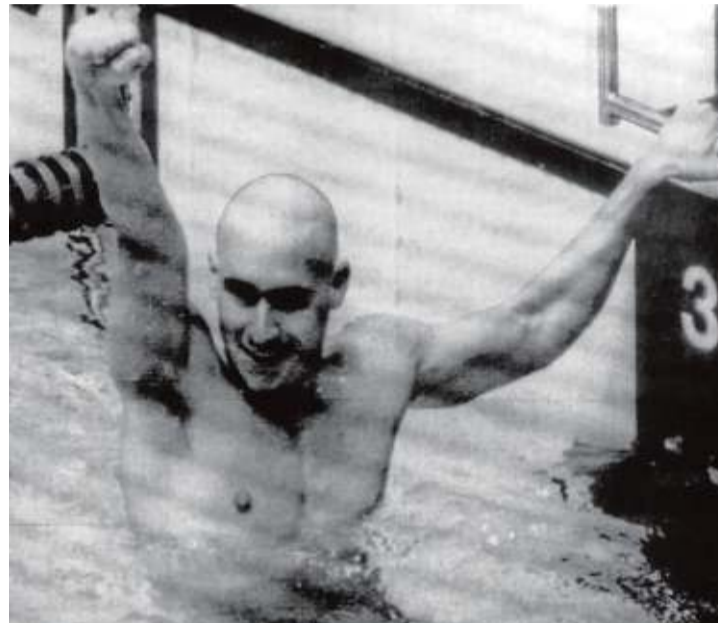
On 23 July 1980, David López-Zubero became the first Spanish swimmer to win an Olympic medal. He came third in the 100 metres butterfly with a time of 55.13 seconds, earning him a bronze at the Games in Moscow. The gold medal for this event was won by Sweden's Pär Arvidsson, with a time of 54.92, and silver was taken by Germany's Roger Pytel, who completed the race in 54.94 seconds.

David represented Spain in three consecutive Olympics, starting in 1976, and in the 1984 edition he tied in twelfth

place in the 100 metre butterfly and came eleventh with the Spanish men's team in the 4 x 1,000 freestyle relay. He is the older brother of the 1992 Olympic champion in the 200-metre backstroke, Martin López-Zubero.

Spain has a long history of competing in the Olympic Games. The country first took part in 1900, and Spanish athletes have competed in most Summer Olympics since 1920, although it withdrew from the competition in Nazi Germany in 1936 because of the Spanish Civil War, and it also boycotted the 1956 Games in Melbourne because of the Soviet Union's invasion of Hungary. Spain has, however, participated in every Winter Games since 1936.

Altogether, Spanish athletes have won 151 medals in 28 sports since the Summer Olympic Games began, with golds for sailing, canoeing, cy-



David López, celebrating his bronze in Moscow in July 1980. **SUR**

cling, athletics, gymnastics, judo, tennis, swimming, taekwondo, field hockey, horse-riding, football, water polo, weightlifting, archery, badmin-

ton and Basque pelota. Spain also won a gold medal for Alpine skiing in the Winter Games at Saporro in 1972, thanks to the late Francisco Fer-

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Nadador	Swimmer
Natación	Swimming
Medalla	Medal
Bronce	Bronze
Plata	Silver
Oro	Gold
Juegos Olímpico	Games
Mariposa	Olympic
Atletismo	Butterfly
Deporte	Athletics
Baloncesto	Sport
Balmano	Basketball
Halterofilia	Handball
Ciclismo	Weight-lifting
Equitación	Cycling
Esgrima	Horse-riding
Vela	Fencing
Piragüismo	Sailing
	Canoeing

nandez Ochoa's surprise win in the slalom.

Although Spain has applied to host the Olympics on numerous occasions, it has only been selected once, Barcelona in 1992. However, those Games have been described as the most successful ever.

Bilingual crossword inside back page

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A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

Playing cards

La Liga is starting to resemble the American sports league where there are no transfer fees and clubs trade players



It really hit home just where football sits right now when Real Madrid staged the unveiling of their biggest signing of the summer - a centre-half on a free transfer.

It's absolutely no disrespect to David Alaba who is one of the most accomplished in the world in his position and an ideal replacement for the legendary Sergio Ramos.

However, historically, July is the month when the world's media is invited to Madrid or Barcelona to be introduced to the latest Galácticos.

We'd have David Beckham staging a photo with a selected schoolboy, Ronaldinho flashing a smile at the cameras, Luis Figo caught evading awkward questions as he did tackles, Zinedine Zidane ball-juggling or Antoine Griezmann posing for centre stage in the centre circle.

In 2021, it's a case of which club can brag about the best free transfer of the summer.

As they go, Alaba is quite a

coup. He still in his peak years at the age of 29 and leaves a huge hole in the Bayern Munich defence. He brings medals from all the major tournaments from his decade in the Bundesliga.

Barcelona are still to register Memphis Depay, Eric Garcia and Sergio Agüero. These are three very decent free transfers who will freshen up their squad. The issue remains about who will depart to fund their wages?

La Liga is starting to resemble the American sports league where there are no transfer fees and clubs trade players like playing cards.

Barcelona would ideally like to get Antoine Griezmann off the payroll. His wages are really upsetting the balance books and the accountants have more of a say in who comes and goes than the coach these days. They don't want to totally write off the €120 million fee paid just two years ago so they need to make a swap.

Many names have been

banded about. The most frequent is Saul Ñíguez of Atletico Madrid.

The athletic Spain international would be welcomed at most top clubs. He's been a driving force in Atletico's midfield for almost a decade and is still only 26.

Ironically, the champions are the only club to have invested heavily in a player this summer.

Rodrigo de Paul arrived from Udinese for €35 million and that could mean that Saúl is surplus. It's no reflection on his talent, just his

market value.

The only other big money transfer is expected to be an outgoing at Real Madrid. Raphael Varane is reportedly in negotiations with Manchester United who would love his world-class talent. He'd leave a gap in the team but fill a €50 million gap in the Bernabéu bank balance.

Once it was the club with the best coach and players who would claim the title, this season the most important person in any football organisation is the number cruncher.

No longer is it the tapping of words into a laptop that created the headlines; now, it's a tapping of figures into a calculator.



Barcelona's Antoine Griezmann celebrates scoring a goal. **ALBERT GEA**

Spanish footballers disappoint in their Tokyo Olympic debut

SUR

TOKYO. The Spanish football team did not have a good debut at the Olympics on Thursday. They drew 0-0 with Egypt in a match that does not invite optimism for the rest of the competition.

Spain kicked off with a starting eleven that included players like Pedri, Pau Torres and Marco Asensio. But they could not find a way to overcome the tenacious Egyptians.

That is precisely why Rafa Mir's missed header at the end, possibly the best chance of the

game, was such a pity.

Injuries added to the negative news of the day. Both Dani Ceballos and Óscar Mingueza were forced to retire, and their absence caused Spain to lose some momentum, even though they still dominated the match.

Against five defenders, coach De la Fuente had chosen to play without a pure striker. And the truth is that it worked well in the beginning. But it was of no use.

Whether it was from the left or the right, Spain simply were unable to score.

In the second half, physical fatigue was clear and De la Fuente introduced changes. Rafa Mir, Bryan Gil and Carlos Soler were brought on.

And it was precisely Gil who passed Mir the ball for the aforementioned failed header.

Despite the disappointing result, the quality of Spain's players suggests they will advance in the competition without too many problems. Of course, another stumble could complicate the situation.

Physical improvements are needed if the squad want to stay in the running for a medal.



Rafa Mir regrets a missed scoring opportunity. **REUTERS**

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Covid-19 Regular Updates

Malaga beat Vélez in their first preseason friendly

The Blue and Whites, still with signings to be made, gave their first impressions in a match with many modifications and few conclusions

0-2
VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

BORJA GUTIÉRREZ

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Malaga coach José Alberto López had a surprising starting eleven for the first friendly of the preseason, with Javi Jiménez and Ismael Gutiérrez as recent signings, and five of the most outstanding homegrown players in the first weeks of training (Murillo, Moussa, Kevin, Roberto and Larrubia).

These players quickly found themselves in a comfortable match

NEXT FRIENDLIES

► **Malaga-Sevilla Atl. (Saturday 24 July).** The match will be played on the Federation field at 7pm and on 101 Television.

► **Malaga-Alcorcón (Saturday 31 July).** Marbella Football Center, at 10am, and on 101 Television.

► **Malaga-Almería (Saturday 31 July).** Marbella Football Center, at 7pm, on 101 Televisión.

as Vélez suffered an own goal in the first minute of the clash due to a misunderstanding between the defence and the goalkeeper.

The local response was to step up the intensity, pushed by the goal conceded and the support of the numerous local fans. But that initiative was shortlived because physical preparation is limited at this point in the preseason. The same happened with Malaga. Coach José Alberto López was very



A moment of the game played on Wednesday. **SALVADOR SALAS**

active on the sideline and was on top of his players, watching each movement closely, especially in the first half. New signing Ismael Gutiérrez was one of the main focuses of the coach.

The second Malaga goal came from Jairo, in the 23rd minute. The Cantabrian winger scored effectively, making the most of a solent assist from Larrubia.

The Malaga youth player, starting his second year with the first team, was one of the most active, so much so that he could have scored a beautifully set-up goal

that did not work out.

Malaga's last confirmed signing also made his debut: Brandon. He played from minute 22 until the break. For the second half, as is usual in this type of friendly, both

teams radically changed their eleven.

Hicham's reappearance was outstanding. Lombán, who played in the last minutes, had a good chance from a direct free kick, demonstrating once again his quality.

The youth team goalkeeper, Gonzalo, also made a great save, preventing a goal from the Vélez side shortly before the end.

In short, the game was a first contact test that has not offered too many conclusions beyond what was displayed in the first few minutes.

Malaga's latest signing, Brandon Thomas, made his debut in the match against Vélez-Málaga on Wednesday

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Costa Vikings win the Southern Cricket League at the Cartama Oval

The league came to an end on Sunday 18 July after the Costa Vikings beat Granada CC

LAURENCE CRUMBIE

MALAGA. The Southern Cricket League (SCL) reached its conclusion on Sunday 18 July, with the Costa Vikings claiming the title. They went into their final match on Sunday, against Granada CC,

with the trophy already at their fingertips by virtue of winning all their previous fixtures.

The day did not start easily for them. After winning the toss and electing to bat, the Costa Vikings lost three wickets with barely 30 runs on the board, putting them

under pressure. However, Maanav Nayak and Marc Gouws proved their mettle by putting on a partnership of 108 for the fourth wicket, leading the Costa Vikings to post 204/8 after their 20 overs.

The Costa Vikings followed up this prowess with the bat with superb bowling, restricting Granada CC to 128/6 in their 20 overs. Pick of the bowlers was Richard Hatchman (3/22), but Maanav Nayak also bowled excellently (2/18) and was awarded Man of the Match.

In the afternoon match, Granada CC won the toss and elected to bat, with captain Adrian Riley mixing up the batting order to give others a go. After ending the powerplay on 26/1, Granada CC encountered trouble in the seventh over when Philip Townsend and Brett Ross, the man in form, were both dismissed by Louis Bruce within the space of two balls. Granada CC was not able to recover from this and ended their innings on 88/6 – a score which the Costa Vikings chased down for the loss of just one wicket, securing the SCL title.

The final league table saw the Costa Vikings unbeaten at the top (12 points), with Malaga CC in second (8 points), the Costa del Sol Crusaders in third (2 points), and Granada CC in fourth (2 points) due to their lower net run rate. Now, these teams will be looking forward to watching the inaugural European Cricket Championship, which will commence on September 13 at the Cártama Oval.



A moment of the final played against Granada CC. **sUR**

Great result for Malaga basketball in the prestigious Quai 54 tournament

JUAN CALDERÓN

MALAGA. Malaga basketball showed its great potential last weekend in Paris at the prestigious Quai 54 ‘street’ basketball tournament. This is the most important of its kind in Europe and one of the most prestigious in the world; not in vain it calls itself the World Cup of the specialty. Malaga’s El Palo team were the stars of the event by achieving victory in the female category and reaching the semifinals in men.

The women’s team from El Palo, not one hundred per cent made up of players from Malaga, came out on top, completing an excellent tournament. In the case of the girls, there were also well-known names from local and national basketball, such as Gema García, Elena Oma, Georgina Bahi, Laia Flores, Aitana Cuevas, Marta Canella, Itziar, Cecilia, Isa Iatorre and Gracia.

Quai 54 is also an event for lovers of urban art, music and alternative trends that brings together thousands of fans and includes a spectacular dunk contest.

The competition could not be held last year due to the pandemic and this summer it has returned in style with the support of Nike.

Momo González chalks up the first title of his career on the world’s top padel tour

MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. Antequera-born 24-year-old Momo González, along with his partner, the Valencian Javi Rico, gained the first title of his career last Sunday on the world’s top padel tour; and to

make it even more special, he did it at home, at the Tau Cerámica Challenger in Marbella.

It was the second final that the Antequera player has faced in his career, after being runner-up in the Santander Open

this season and, although the match was difficult, he did not miss the opportunity this time. González (No. 18 in the ‘ranking’) and Rico (No. 14), beat the experienced Tito Allemandi (Momo’s ex-partner) and Coki Nieto (Javi’s ex-partner and one

of the great promises of the tour).

There was an unprecedented coincidence in this Marbella Challenger; never before had Momo González and the Malaga veteran Carolina Navarro (No. 18) reached the final of the same tournament. In fact, the former world women’s number one had not gained a position in a final since 2019.

However, the change of partner suited Navarro, because she

recovered some of her former competitive and exciting play. Without a doubt the pair make a competition duo that will have people talking.

Navarro had previously made a surprise move when she broke ties a few days ago with her partner of 12 years, Ceci Reiter, but also when she announced that she would part up with one of the most versatile and powerful players in recent years, Madrid’s Eli Amatriain (No. 17).



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ANDALUSIAN HEALTH SERVICE		Tourist Office	952768760	Tourist Office	952442494
Salud Responde	955545060	Town Hall	952761100	Town Hall	952374231
(Doctors' appointments and advice)		Foreign Residents Dept.	952768760	Foreign Residents Dept.	952442494
ESTEPONA		MIJAS		VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA	
Bus Station	955038665	Town Hall	952485900	Bus Station	952503162
Taxi Service	952802900	Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125	Taxi	952540016
Tourist Office	952802002	Taxi	952478288	Town Hall	952559100
Town Hall	952801100	Tourism Office	952589034	Tourist Office	952541104
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031	Foreign Resident Dept.	952589010	GIBRALTAR	
		NERJA		General emergency	199/112(mobiles)
		Bus Station	902422242	Fire/ambulance (emergency)	190
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THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
With fiery Mars facing off with upbeat Jupiter, you'll reap the benefit of past efforts and see new developments taking shape before your eyes.




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
A dream or intuitive nudge is worth taking note of, especially if it speaks to you in a meaningful way. Following through can be a game-changer.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
With chatty Mercury entering charismatic Leo, you could be ultra-persuasive and find it easy to sell an idea or brilliant plan.



Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
Expansive Jupiter moves back into Aquarius and your sector of goals and ambitions, making this a time to source your priorities and enhance your inner game.



Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
In the company of the radiant Sun, this is a great time for connecting with kindred spirits, getting involved in money-raising projects and learning new skills.



Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
Get your financial priorities in order, as this can assist you in taking back control and knowing when to spend and when to save your money.



Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
If you need support for a project, or want to sell something to someone, your charisma can easily impress others. Advice you are given could put you in a very good position.




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
You may decide to make a bold move that you've been in two minds about for some time. It might take a while to see results, but you will get there and be pleased.




Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
As Mercury enters Leo, you may be looking to liaise with movers and shakers who can help you with your own plans. Romance looks set to flourish and a bond could be rekindled.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Ready to move ahead with your career? The coming weeks are perfect for this. There are opportunities for your home and family life to take a positive turn too.

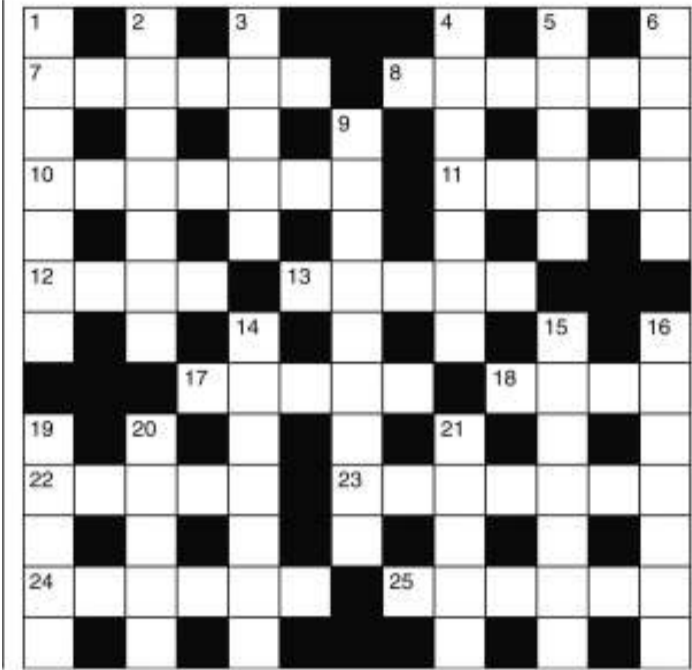


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
You'll have a way with words that gets others interested in what you have to say, and it may result in a connection or offer that is very valuable to you. Keep an open mind at the weekend.



Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
With jovial Jupiter rewinding back into Aquarius, your personal finances may benefit from new opportunities to enhance your income.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11471



- Across**

 - 7 See 20 Down
 - 8 Those who do this make a row (4,2)
 - 10 A pot-pouri for the gleeman (7)
 - 11 One wader removed from another one (5)
 - 12 See 17 Across
 - 13 Worn out car wheels are, we hear (5)
 - 17 and 12Ac Kate means to produce a bird sanctuary, maybe (4,1,4)
 - 18 One with a fearfully big part in children's stories (4)
 - 22 One encounter in the ring is concerning (5)
 - 23 Paying for the service of dumping rubbish (7)
 - 24 A fine finish could be the result (6)
 - 25 Just the thing for removing the record (6)
- Down**

 - 1 Red limousine belonging to me (7)
 - 2 Naive but sounding 'orribly unsympathetic (7)
 - 3 Chase round a favourite resort (5)
 - 4 The craft of the arsonist? (7)
 - 5 Stone fruit seen before the end of April (5)
 - 6 Declined to go around quietly - mate out punishment (5)
 - 9 Householders badly affected by tiredness (9)
 - 14 Tears up untidy agricultural patch (7)
 - 15 Once more a good man is in opposition (7)
 - 16 Public houses are about to encourage vagrants (7)
 - 19 Meeting that will settle a point in court (5)
 - 20 and 7 Ac Give wide publicity to row overseas (5,6)
 - 21 Superfluous piece of rigging with point at the end (5)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

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

THE WORDPUZZLER

S	C	O	R	I	B	A	G	E	R
M	A	R	Y	O	O	M	E	R	O
A	C	H	U	S	T	A	O	I	J
R	E	A	R	T	H	U	R	S	E
I	N	D	I	G	O	L	G	T	R
O	P	I	N	E	M	I	E	R	R
N	A	P	G	A	A	M	L	O	Y
E	J	A	M	E	S	S	Y	R	A
S	P	U	A	R	T	I	O	L	N
T	U	L	I	N	I	K	I	T	A

- Can you identify the first names of the famous diabetics listed below?
- 1. Andropov
 - 2. Garcia
 - 3. Cagney
 - 4. Ashe
 - 5. Puzo
 - 6. Khrushchev
 - 7. Lucas
 - 8. Cezanne
 - 9. Edison
 - 10. Tyler Moore

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



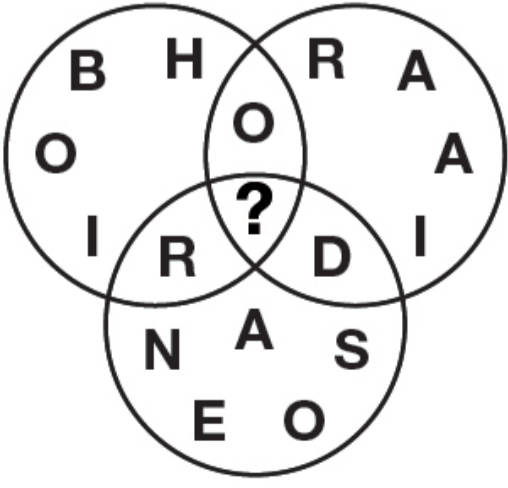
BATTLESHIPS

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

- Battleship
- Cruiser
- Destroyers
- Submarines

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

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?

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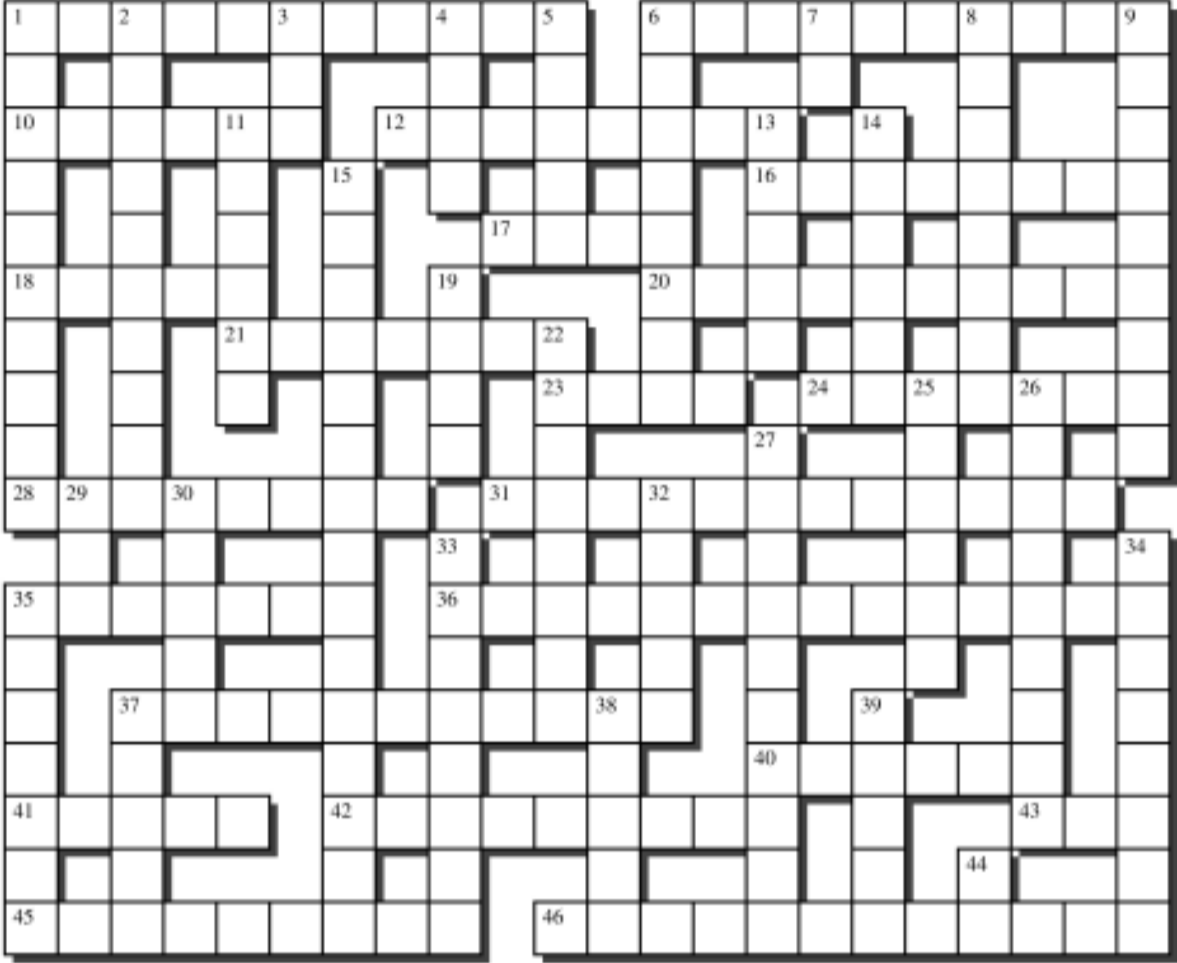


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LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD



Across

- 1) Sports people (11)
- 6) Horse riding (10)
- 10) Serious (m.pl) (6)
- 12) Disaster (8)
- 16) Butterfly (8)
- 17) To read (4)
- 18) Feather (5)
- 20) Basketball (10)
- 21) They played (7)
- 23) Air (4)
- 24) Sport (7)
- 28) Loving (m.pl) (8)
- 31) Weight-lifting (12)
- 35) Mannequin (7)
- 36) Soviet Union (5,9) (14)
- 37) To disappoint (11)
- 40) Dove (6)
- 41) Book (5)
- 42) Ceremony (9)
- 43) Net (3)
- 45) Athletics (9)
- 46) Nationality (12)

Down

- 1) Discipline (10)
- 2) Canoeing (10)
- 3) Cough (3)
- 4) Train (4)
- 5) Soft (5)
- 6) To disturb (8)
- 7) To go (2)
- 8) Complete (m) (8)
- 9) Swimmers (9)
- 11) Swell (6)
- 13) He emulates (5)
- 14) Bronze (6)
- 15) Olympic Games (6,9) (15)
- 19) Cross (4)
- 22) Swimming (8)
- 25) Countries (6)
- 26) To reboot (9)
- 27) Worried (m) (10)
- 29) Mine (f) (3)
- 30) I reigned (5)
- 32) To have (5)
- 33) Covered (m) (8)
- 34) Quantity (8)
- 35) Medal (7)
- 37) Weak (5)
- 38) Now (5)
- 39) Silver (5)
- 44) My (2)

QUIZ

Which girl's name comes from the Greek word for peace?

1. Melissa 2. Dorothea
3. Irene 4. Sophia



In which sea did the HMHS Britannic sink in WWI

1. Aegean 2. Baltic 3. Red
4. Irish

Where did slaves known as Odalisques live and work?

1. A Roman household 2. A harem
3. A temple 4. A farm

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ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Answer: Irene
Of interest: Irene is the Greek name is of Greek origin (Ειρήνη) meaning "peace". In mythology, Irene is the Greek goddess of peace.
Answer: Aegean
Of interest: Britannic was the largest ship lost in the First World War, she was the sister ship of RMS Titanic and was serving as a hospital ship when she hit a mine on 21 November 1916, sinking in just 55 minutes. Thirty people died, the other 1,035 were rescued from the water and the lifeboats.
Answer: A harem
Of interest: An odalisque is the name given to a female slave or concubine in a harem, especially in that of the sultan of Turkey.

Circlegram

The letter represented by the question mark is N. Robinson, Adriano, Anderson, all Brazilian footballers.

Cryptic Crossword

Solution: Across: 7 Abroad; 8 Line up; 10 Mistrange; 11 Heron; 12 Nest; 13 Tired; 17 Make a; 18 Ours; 22 About; 23 Tipping; 24 Lubber; 25 Eraser; Down: 1 Carmine; 2 Arches; 3 Haunt; 4 Lighter; 5 Pearl; 6 Spank; 9 Residents; 14 Pasture; 15 Against; 16 Beggar; 19 Rally; 20 Noise; 21 Spare.

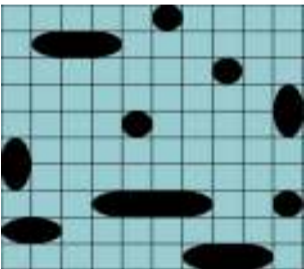
Wordpuzzler solution

1. Yuri
2. Jerry
3. James
4. Arthur
5. Mario
6. Nikita
7. George
8. Paul
9. Thomas
10. Mary

Language Crossword

ACROSS:
1. LIBERTY 2. GIBRALTAR 3. BARRICADE 4. BARRICADE 5. BARRICADE 6. BARRICADE 7. BARRICADE 8. BARRICADE 9. BARRICADE 10. BARRICADE 11. BARRICADE 12. BARRICADE 13. BARRICADE 14. BARRICADE 15. BARRICADE 16. BARRICADE 17. BARRICADE 18. BARRICADE 19. BARRICADE 20. BARRICADE 21. BARRICADE 22. BARRICADE 23. BARRICADE 24. BARRICADE 25. BARRICADE 26. BARRICADE 27. BARRICADE 28. BARRICADE 29. BARRICADE 30. BARRICADE 31. BARRICADE 32. BARRICADE 33. BARRICADE 34. BARRICADE 35. BARRICADE 36. BARRICADE 37. BARRICADE 38. BARRICADE 39. BARRICADE 40. BARRICADE 41. BARRICADE 42. BARRICADE 43. BARRICADE 44. BARRICADE 45. BARRICADE 46. BARRICADE 47. BARRICADE 48. BARRICADE 49. BARRICADE 50. BARRICADE 51. BARRICADE 52. BARRICADE 53. BARRICADE 54. BARRICADE 55. BARRICADE 56. BARRICADE 57. BARRICADE 58. BARRICADE 59. BARRICADE 60. BARRICADE 61. BARRICADE 62. BARRICADE 63. BARRICADE 64. BARRICADE 65. BARRICADE 66. BARRICADE 67. BARRICADE 68. BARRICADE 69. BARRICADE 70. BARRICADE 71. BARRICADE 72. BARRICADE 73. BARRICADE 74. BARRICADE 75. BARRICADE 76. BARRICADE 77. BARRICADE 78. BARRICADE 79. BARRICADE 80. BARRICADE 81. BARRICADE 82. BARRICADE 83. BARRICADE 84. BARRICADE 85. BARRICADE 86. BARRICADE 87. BARRICADE 88. BARRICADE 89. BARRICADE 90. BARRICADE 91. BARRICADE 92. BARRICADE 93. BARRICADE 94. BARRICADE 95. BARRICADE 96. BARRICADE 97. BARRICADE 98. BARRICADE 99. BARRICADE 100. BARRICADE

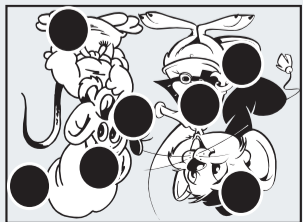
Battleships



Sudoku solution

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

The seven differences



In 2015, Antonio Banderas decided to move to the UK to study design and dressmaking at the prestigious Central Saint Martins school of art and fashion. There, he chose to live in a prefabricated house which had been built by the German studio Huf Haus.

This mansion is in Surrey, just 30 kilometres from London, and the actor and his partner Nicole Kimpel enjoyed living there while he was studying. However, following his triumphs in Hollywood and international recognition for his work in film and theatre, the actor has now decided to return to Spain, where he is involved in different initiatives and where, he says, his "life project" is based.

He has now taken the definitive step by putting this London home on sale for 3.5 million euros. It is one of just 200 prefabricated luxury houses built by Huf Haus in the UK, and he paid 3.1 million euros for it in 2016.

The house, with its gabled roof, is set in the countryside and has clean, avant-garde lines, with glass and wood as the main features. It has five bedrooms, several receptions rooms and a leisure area, a gym, a sauna and a large garden with a swimming pool. Banderas moved there to escape from the stressful pace of life in the USA and to enjoy the freedom of Surrey, known as the Beverly Hills of the UK, where other celebrities such as Kate Winslet and Cate Blanchett also have homes.

The house was built in an immense factory in Germany and the couple had input into its design, because the company offers a basic version inspired by Bauhaus architecture, with simple, functional, unadorned buildings that can be modified to suit the tastes of the purchasers. It was then trans-



Banderas paid 3.1 million euros for this prefabricated property. **R. C.**

Banderas puts Surrey mansion on the market

New projects. The Malaga actor, who has just confirmed he is taking part in the new Indiana Jones movie, is selling his UK 'student accommodation'



▲ Home. Antonio Banderas has always said that he 'prefers to be in Malaga than anywhere else'. **AFP**

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS / ISABEL MÉNDEZ

ported and assembled at its destination.

One of the main attractions is that the house is energy-efficient and is set amid surroundings which are ideal for moving around by bicycle. It was an ideal love nest but, as Banderas himself made clear when he received the Award of Honour at the Festival of Malaga in 2017, his energies are focused on the city of his birth.

There, in Malaga city a few years ago, he set up the Soho Theatre in the old Teatro Alameda, a project that he managed to get off the ground without public funding by putting all his knowhow and what he had learned in the American industry into effect.

The pandemic has meant that the initiative has not been able to develop as quickly as he had hoped, but far from being discouraged, Banderas set up a production company to create projects for television and we have just learned that he is to appear in one of the longest-running and most popular adventure film franchises in the cinema world. He confirmed his participation in the fifth installment of Indiana Jones after two prestigious publications in the United States, Deadline and Variety, reported that he had reached an agreement to join the cast, which features other well-known actors such as Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Mads Mikkelsen, Boyd Holbrook and Shaunette Renée Wilson, in addition to Harrison Ford, who plays the lead role.

This fifth Indiana Jones film, which is produced by Disney Studios, will be directed by James Mangold, and not Steven Spielberg, who directed the first four. It is scheduled to open in cinemas on 29 July 2022.

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