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October 22nd to 28th 2021
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OLIVE HARVEST. FROM TREE TO TABLE

Aloreña green table olives have protected status and are gathered with tradition and much care to ensure their high quality **P14-15**

Two-year wait for a Spanish Blue Badge parking permit

The regional authorities in Malaga province have admitted they cannot cope with demand for disability assessments and are prioritising urgent cases

Getting a permit to park in disabled spaces - known as Blue Badges and a mobility lifeline for many people - has turned into a waiting game in Malaga province.

The system, which users say was always slow, is now taking even longer to the extent that applicants are being warned they may need to wait up to two years.

A person needs an assessment of their level of disability at an official centre in Malaga city, which

is needed for other services as well, such as special benefits. Extra staff have been taken on but still not enough for the some 12,000 seen a year, based on pre-pandemic figures.

British residents - and holiday-makers as well - who have UK-issued Blue Badges now have the added complication that their permits are not officially valid to park following Brexit and many are still waiting for Spanish ones. **P2&3**



The annual procession of the patron saint of San Pedro Alcántara took place for the first time in two years on Tuesday. **JOSELE**

A procession to lift the spirits of a Costa community **P4**

Price rises are already hitting families with an estimated 750 euros of extra costs a year **P16**

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Bureaucratic backlog locally sees people with disabilities waiting two years for their assessment

The regional Ministry of Social Policies has taken on 15 extra staff but users are being warned in writing that there is a considerable delay in getting a Blue Badge

ANA
PÉREZ-BRYAN



MÁLAGA. People with physical and psychological disabilities often come up against brick walls in many aspects of their lives, but it is particularly difficult for them when one of these is their relationship with the authorities who, paradoxically, are supposed to cushion their difficulties by providing assistance, resources and documentation to accredit their special circumstances.

Confirmation of their level of disability, parking permits for people with reduced mobility, certificates of early retirement, reports to justify their need and eligibility for an adapted home, access to loans and social benefits - these are just some of the processes handled by the Disability Assessment Centre (CVD) in Málaga, but even after two shock programmes to improve the system, not only has the waiting time not reduced but it has actually become worse.

Because of the pandemic this service, which is run by the Junta de Andalucía's Ministry of Equality, Social Policies and Conciliation, has experienced even longer delays than normal in processing applications for assessment, so whereas people were already having to wait about a year and a half, it is now more likely to be two years before their assessment is completed at this centre in Málaga.

This increase in waiting time means the province is now the one with the longest delays, compared with other evaluation centres in the region. This is despite the fact that, in July last year, the regional government set up a three-month programme (from August to October) to reduce the backlog and has repeated it again this summer.

The 19 extra professionals who were contracted for this purpose in 2020 did speed up the processing and they worked overtime in the afternoons to shorten the waiting lists, paying special attention for cases involving children.

According to the data provided by the Ministry, during those three months in 2020 a total of



Above, one of the waiting rooms at the assessment centre in Málaga. SUR

2,043 assessments were carried out, which was over three times more than the 560 in the same period in 2019.

For the 2021 programme an extra 15 people were taken on and the results are expected to be similar, but the number of applications is still far higher than the service's resources. In fact, the CVD itself has been telling users that they should make an official complaint about the delays, which at the moment are two years.

SUR has seen an official letter which has been sent to people who had asked about progress in their case, and it makes reference to the centre being overwhelmed: "This Assessment Centre has verified that your application for Recognition of Degree of Disability... is being processed. We advise you that disability assessments are currently taking about two years from the time the application is registered."

These delays, which can also be checked via the disability information phone number in Andalucía (900 555 564), have exacerbated the situation at the CVD in Málaga, and it was something that been building up not just from before the pandemic but for a long time before that crisis began.

The Junta de Andalucía says these centres "had accumulated a long backlog of work with no

The centre in Málaga has longer delays than any other in Andalucía and has the fewest resources, bearing in mind the number of applications it has to deal with

Before the pandemic every day the centre registered between 150 and 180 applications and the professionals completed more than 70 assessments

change in the structure, organisation or procedures in the past 15 years," and among the main causes for this collapse it refers to "the ageing population, the economic crisis, the high rate of structural unemployment, new duties assigned under regulations, new situations resulting from Covid-19, etc".

The figures before the pandemic were as follows: every day the centre registered between 150 and 180 applications for general procedures (such as certificates, information and, above all, disability assessments) and the professionals completed more than 70 assessments each day. In other words, more than 1,440 a month and about 12,000 a year.

It should also be noted that Málaga is not only the worst province in Andalucía in terms of delays - it is also the one with the fewest staff, if you take into account the ratio of the disabled population of the province.

The most recent update of the statistics shows that Málaga has around 120,000 people with at least 33 per cent disability, higher than the figure for Seville, where it is fewer than 114,000.

If the focus is placed on resources, the assessment centre in Málaga has nine teams (each includes a doctor, a psychologist and a social worker) and around a dozen administrative

staff, while in Seville city there are twelve of these specialist teams.

The increase in the waiting list obliges those in charge of the service to use a triage system similar to that used in the Emergency department of a hospital. The technicians evaluate how urgent each application is when it arrives, in accordance with criteria set by regulations, and if a case is considered to fulfil the conditions to be classified as extremely urgent, it goes automatically to the top of the list. In essence, this would only occur if the life of the patient is seriously compromised. The remainder, who are the majority, are then dealt with in turn.

"The solution is a problem"

"What this means is that something which is meant to be the start of a solution for someone with disability turns into the main problem," complains Alfredo de Pablos, president of an association called Agrupación de Desarrollo Málaga Accesible. It consists of about 80 associations which are linked to disability and has been coming up against this "impossible bottleneck" at the CVD in Málaga for years.

"You have to bear in mind that without this document to prove the level of disability, children with problems cannot go to school, people can't access assistance, or therapies, or parking permits for people with limited mobility," says De Pablos, referring to just some of the problems caused by the delays.

He says the associations, which are the first place people tend to go to when faced with delays, asking for help with their applications, "are desperate" and are planning to ask for a formal meeting with Patricia Navarro, the regional government's Málaga representative, to put their case to her.

With regard to this collapse of the system, the regional government's Ministry of Equality, through the General Directorate for People with Disability and Inclusion, has said that it is "working to improve the service in all the assessment centres in Andalucía and especially in this one in Málaga province because of the high numbers of applications it deals with."

The shock plan (which is currently underway), streamlining processing through modernised technology and a new appointments system are among the measures they plan to use to achieve this.

Uncertainty over Blue Badges hits expats and holidaymakers

There has been a lot of confusion concerning the validity of the British disabled parking permits in Spain following the UK's exit from the EU

TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. One of the concerns for disabled expats living on the Costa del Sol is the time it takes to receive a parking permit - or Blue Badge - issued by the Spanish authorities. These worries have been added to by lack of certainty over whether British-issued Blue Badges are still valid in Spain after Brexit for both residents or holidaymakers.

In order to qualify for a Spanish-issued Blue Badge, a resident needs to go through the disability registration process. This has become a hurdle for many British expats, a problem pointed out by Linda Ewen, the welfare officer of Age Concern Fuengirola, Mijas and Benalmádena.

"In order to obtain a Spanish

disability badge, people need to first make an appointment with their own doctor, who will then refer them to social services.

"We are currently helping a lady who has been waiting for two years to receive her Spanish Blue Badge, but the process is long and there doesn't seem to be any sensible explanation for the delay. This is totally unacceptable, but that is how it is," Linda explained to SUR in English.

Although the charity cannot directly help with the actual process of registering as disabled, it can help people with information about where and how to register. It can also provide a translator to deal with the process, which is another "problem for many elderly Brits living on the coast".

"It has always been the same here in Spain. Even in the UK, it takes quite some time to receive a badge, but nowhere near as long as here. I know there is a backlog due to the pandemic, but I think the problem goes back



Delays and lack of clarity. SUR

further than this. We are constantly hearing about people struggling because of the wait. This is a big problem and something that needs addressing as soon as possible," she said.

Spain is one of several EU countries that no longer recognises the UK vehicle Blue Badge following Brexit.

The British government's gov.uk website states that UK disability parking badges are not currently recognised in Spain but negotiations are ongoing with several EU countries about possible acceptance.

It adds that those wishing to park on disabled spots in Spanish towns must be in possession of a Spanish disability badge. The website goes on to say that the international guidelines are "subject to change", advising travellers to Spain and expats living in Spain to check with the Spanish embassy or even their town council for any local rules.

However, although some other EU countries do not accept the British permit, such as Portugal, Italy, France, Greece and Luxembourg, there are many that will: these include Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands.

Have you been affected?

Are you faced with a delay getting a Spanish badge or have you stopped using your UK badge? If you have an opinion about this or any other topic in SUR in English, we want to hear from you. We may publish your comments.

Email: surinenglish.su@diariosur.es

International arrivals to England can swap PCRs for antigen tests from 24 October

SUR

MALAGA. From today (22 October) bookings are expected to be allowed with providers of cheaper lateral-flow tests in England - taken by vaccinated travellers two days after they arrive from so-called 'safe' countries, including Spain.

In two days time (24 October) arrivals in England will no longer have to take a dearer PCR test for Covid-19 but can take one of these quicker antigen tests, paying for it from a recognised private supplier.

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland still maintain the PCR test rule.

Tourism bosses in Malaga and the Costa del Sol are expecting to see the benefits of the cheaper tests in attracting the British market back - which has the highest market share of foreign tourism in the area.

In September Malaga Airport had 67% of the passenger levels it had in the same month before the pandemic.

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Emotion and tears as processions return to San Pedro

The patron saint blessed onlookers on a shorter route than usual in the first procession since the pandemic

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. People were eager to hit the streets in San Pedro Alcántara on Tuesday for a traditional event that they hadn't seen for two years. San Pedro's church was full, with others waiting outside in the square to see the procession of their patron saint being carried through the streets, the first religious one since the beginning of the pandemic.

The image left the church at midday, hoisted on shoulders to the rhythm of the Spanish national anthem.

Such was the emotion and the heat that there was one image carrier who fainted, although emergency services and the mayor of Marbella, Ángeles Muñoz, attended the man who was taken away by ambulance. Despite being a shorter route than most years, there were still plenty of onlookers, both local and from afar, including a group of English women. Linda, Barbara, Diana and another Barbara all spend half the year on the Costa del Sol and they always come to the procession in San Pedro. "First we watch the procession



Scenes from Tuesday's celebrations in San Pedro. JOSELE

and after we have some wine and tapas," said Linda.

Deputy mayor for San Pedro, Javier García, thanked the town for their calm behaviour which meant people could "have fun but also comply with all the health measures".

He also called the 'feria' festivities, the first since 2019 and which finished over the weekend, a resounding success, as well as praising the public services for their work throughout the events and making sure everyone stuck to the rules.

Full terraces

One of the feria's main objectives was that hotels and restaurants took centre stage. "We're very happy with San Pedro residents' enthusiasm to have fun. We wanted to recover the traditional feria's location in the centre," García said.

The town's streets were buzzing with activity, with terraces full of locals and visitors as San Pedro blessed his citizens again, accompanied by a local band.



Plans progress for future luxury homes in Marbella

Advances have been made on zonal plans where homes are to be built on plots in the Nagüeles area and near Marbella Club

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. The construction of 250 luxury homes in Marbella is closer to approval after a local government meeting last Monday. Initial approval for these homes falls under what is known as partial plans, which allows developers to continue the town's expansion despite leaving the current limits set by the master urban development plan, known as the PGOU.

The town hall spokesman, Félix Romero, specified that they had passed initial approval for the partial plan for the area known as Ver-

diales III, next to the Marbella Club, for which a "low density model implemented in other areas" has been established. This means that 34,000 square metres will be freed up for the construction of 28 luxury homes.

"It's a privileged area in Marbella where there will be new, quality investments that also respect the environment," said the spokesman. Marbella has also approved a draft for another partial plan in the Arroyo de la Cruz area, in Nagüeles. In this case, it's an essential procedure in order to be able to carry out the mandatory environmental assessment.

Urban planning continues to play a key role in the Marbella economy and its drive is a determining factor in the town's growth. The town hall is currently developing a new urban development scheme which hasn't been updated since

1986.

Spokesman Romero said that the plans will generate an important investment in the town although it can't yet be quantified. He also said that both plans are being developed based on the current PGOU, and verification checks have been established so that planning is compatible with the work that's been done on the new PGOU.

"These plans have been driven by private capital," he added. The town hall is in charge of verifying the legality of the plans and then carries out the necessary administrative procedures, which can be delayed for over a year.

The green light was also given to first occupancy licences on three homes worth around two million euros in total. Marbella council holds these developments as proof that it's still an attractive town to invest in.

Search starts for 100 staff at a five-star resort on the Costa del Sol

The selection process will start in Marbella this Friday and candidates must have at least one year of experience in a 4 or 5 star hotel

J. DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. Recruitment company Adecco has opened a selection process in Marbella to fill one hundred vacancies in the hotel sector.

Specifically, they are looking for candidates with a minimum of one year experience in 4 and 5-star hotels for the positions of waiters, bartenders and other catering assistants at a 5-star luxury establishment in the town. Candidates must be able to demonstrate they have had catering training and possess a



Staff required. SUR (FILE PHOTO)

good command of English.

Those interested must make an appointment by calling 600907404 or by email: m a l a g a . h o s t e l e - r i a @ a d e c c o . c o m .

The selection process begins today, 22 October. It will run for several weeks with individual and group interviews with the applicants.

Malaga protesters take part in Madrid march against solar megaparks

Protest groups from Casares, Coín and Álora went to the Spanish capital to take part in a demonstration organised by Aliente

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. Different groups of people in Malaga who are against the planned solar megaparks took part in a massive protest march in Madrid this week. It was organised by Aliente (Alianza Energía y Territorio), an association made up of more than 170 organisations from all over the country. Residents of municipalities such as Casares, Coín, Álora and Pizarra were there, together with protestors from Granada, Teruel, Zaragoza, León and

Valencia. They marched from Atocha to the Puerta del Sol to make their demands heard: they want a “distributed and fair” model of energy transition, and access to energy to be more democratic. “The way they are developing renewable energy projects is an offence against the locations, their biodiversity, their rights and their real options for the future. Our slogan is ‘Renewables, yes, but not like this’, and we want an energy model that, for once, puts people and life at the centre of things,” they explained.

The protesters from Malaga set off from two departure points. One was Álora, where the coach left at 7.55am with a second stop at Zalea before heading for Madrid. It contained representatives of groups from the whole Guadalquivir val-

ley and inland areas, where numerous solar parks have been planned. The other departure point was Casares, stopping at Casares Costa, Estepona, Benahavís and San Pedro Alcántara to pick up more members of protest groups from the Costa del Sol.

“Fair” energy transition

When the march ended at the Puerta del Sol, speeches were made by communicator Odile Rodríguez de la Fuente, university professor Margarita Mediavilla de Geeds-Uva and farmer Joaquín Araujo. Aliente spokespersons Luis Bolonio and Diana Osuna explained the objectives of this protest march and called for a “fair” energy transition.

The protesters say that these megaparks will mean more than



A moment during the protest march in Madrid. **sur**

10 million square metres of land will be covered in photovoltaic panels, especially in Coín, Alozaina, Casarabonela, Guaro, Monda, Ojén and Marbella.

“Expropriation of private land and the destruction of environ-

mentally valuable areas are becoming normalised now, and because the authorities are doing very little about it and applying very few resources to the problem, it’s up to the people to do something to get it stopped,” they say.

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Court rules ‘no one to blame’ after father and two children drowned in Mijas

MIJAS

The investigating judge has decided that no criminal charges should be pressed in connection with the tragedy

JUAN CANO / ÁLVARO FRÍAS

MIJAS. A court in Fuengirola has shelved the criminal inquiry into the deaths of a man and two of his children, both minors, in a Mijas Costa swimming pool at Christmas 2019.

The judge ruled that it could not be “duly justified” that a crime had been committed and that, after the numerous tests carried out, “it is not appropriate to blame the fatal outcome on any person”.

The tragic incident happened

on December 24, 2019, at the Club La Costa World resort, where London pastor Gabriel Diya was holidaying with his wife and three children - two girls, 9 and 14, and a 16-year-old boy.

According to witnesses, the nine-year-old girl had difficulty getting out of the pool, so both the father and her brother jumped into the water with the intention of helping her. All three drowned.

Lack of swimming skills

According to the judge’s report, they died of “suffocation due to submersion probably due to the lack of swimming skills coupled with the tension, nerves and panic they suffered trying to save their own lives and that of their family member”.

The court shelved the case, with the approval of the Public Prosecution’s Office, after studying the evidence in two reports from the Guardia Civil, among others.

A Mijas judicial police team report concluded that there was no “anomaly in the pool filter and cleaning system”, and, in addition, that “no element of the pool presented usage deficiencies” or “an added danger to activities in the aquatic environment”.

The Guardia Civil’s underwater search team, GEAS, reached the same conclusion after examining the swimming pool installation.

Throughout the court investigation, several expert reports issued both by technicians from the Junta del Andalucía, Mijas town council and others, at the request of the family of the deceased and insurance companies involved in the case, were also studied.

Although some found that the pool showed certain anomalies, it had the corresponding municipal opening licence and complied with the required technical certifications, as reported by the Superior Court of Justice of Andalucía (TSJA).

HERE AND THERE

MARBELLA

Best tourist destination in Europe nomination

J. M. MARTÍN. Marbella has been nominated for the 2022 Best Tourist Destination in Europe award, which is granted by the European Best Destinations travel

website. The advantages of this award are significant; the promotion is estimated at ten million euros, in addition to the diffusion on international media such as Forbes, Vogue, Yahoo and Geo. The title is awarded by an online vote on the European Best Destinations website from January 20 to February 10, 2022.

MARBELLA

New York Summit Awards held in Marbella

J. DUEÑAS. The fifth New York Summit Awards will be held in the Palacio de Ferias y Congresos, Marbella, on 19 November. It will be the first time that the event, which highlights Hispanic management and leadership, has been held outside the US. World leaders and experts in the field of economics, entrepreneurship, technology and innovation will attend.

MALAGA

Date set for switching on of Christmas lights

J. SOTO. Malaga has set the date for the official switch on of the city’s Christmas lights this year. As is tradition, the city council will turn on the festive lights on the last Friday in November, the 26th, although it is not yet known if there will be a light and sound show. The lighting appears to be much the same as last year, as the arches have already been installed in Calle Larios.

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Hundreds attend funeral mass for Cudeca founder Joan Hunt in Malaga Cathedral

Tribute was paid to the founder of the Cudeca hospice charity, who died in June, at the service on Monday

RACHEL HAYNES

MALAGA. More than 300 people were in Malaga Cathedral on Monday evening to attend the funeral mass for the founder of the Cudeca hospice foundation, Joan Hunt.

The British woman who will go down in history as the pioneer of palliative care on the Costa del Sol died on 24 June this year, aged 92.

Among the congregation at the service, which was led by the Bishop of Malaga, Jesús Catalá, were friends, volunteers and staff of the Benalmádena-based cancer care charity, as well as representatives of local and regional authorities and private institutions and the foundation's board of trustees.

Accompanying the president of Cudeca Ricardo Urdiales, were Juan Carlos Maldonado and Natasha Rivas, both vice-presidents of the Diputación provincial government; Carlos Bautista and María



Dr Marisa Martín reads a tribute to Joan Hunt at the service in Malaga Cathedral. FRANCIS SILVA

Dolores Fernández Trinidad representing the Junta de Andalucía; and city councillor Francisco Javier Pomares Fuertes.

Following the mass, during which the bishop spoke of the importance of Joan's contribution to the local community, the choir per-

formed the Hallelujah Chorus, music that charity's founder had specifically requested to be heard at her funeral.

A moving tribute was read by Cudeca's CEO and Medical Director, Marisa Martín. "Joan was an example of the power of determi-

nation, as well as of commitment on a social, moral and intellectual level," she said. Martín stressed Joan's belief in the collective spirit of a community and volunteering.

And when things weren't always going as well as she had hoped, said Martín, Joan taught them to



Joan Hunt died in June. SUR

have faith, with her words: "What was meant to be, will be."

It was back in 2015 that Joan left written instructions for her funeral. As well as her choice of music, she also asked for an anonymous poem to be read, based on the words from Mark (16:4) "And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away."

Cudeca's Medical Director reminded the congregation of Joan's habitual farewell message of "God bless".

"Now it's our turn to bid farewell to Joan with her 'God bless'," she said, "Rest in peace."

Joan's last wishes also included the following message: "Don't send flowers to my funeral; send a donation." Anyone who did not get a chance to attend the funeral and make a donation there is invited to visit the Cudeca website www.cudeca.org

Covid rate hovers close to 30 per 100,000 in Andalucía as Junta warns on flu this winter

The regional minister for Health says he expects mask-wearing to be in place in Andalucía until the spring

SUR

MALAGA. The regional minister for Health in Andalucía, Jesús Aguirre, said on Thursday this week that he expects a higher incidence of flu and other respiratory viruses this year than last.

He added that "the use of a facemask will still be heavily recommended throughout the winter, into spring".

On Thursday this week (21 October) the cumulative case rate across the eight provinces of Andalucía was 30.6 per 100,000 people in the last 14 days, up slightly on 29.8 the day before and up on the 28.4 a week earlier. The highest incidence rate in Andalucía was in the province of Almería and the lowest in Cadiz.

In Malaga province, including



Jesús Aguirre this week. EP

the Costa del Sol, the incidence rate on Thursday was 40.2 per 100,000, up from 37.7 cases the previous day. Costa del Sol and Guadalquivir valley health districts had the highest rates.

All the Andalucía region's health districts were officially placed on health alert Level Zero this week, meaning capacity and operating restrictions in bars, restaurants and shops were back to normal again.



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Meliá takes Las Arenas hotel in Benalmádena under its wing

Located on the beachfront, the hotel will be the chain's thirteenth establishment on the Costa del Sol from 2022

PILAR MARTÍNEZ

MALAGA. The Meliá hotel chain is set to grow on the Costa del Sol with the incorporation of Las Arenas in Benalmádena next year.

The hotel will form part of the Affiliated by Meliá network of independent establishments that maintain their own identity and, at the same time, benefit from Meliá's commercial leadership.

Meliá Hotels International has chosen Las Arenas for its "privileged location in one of the most popular destinations on the Costa del Sol and because it stands out for the high quality of what it offers, high standards of service and high levels of satisfaction."

The beachfront hotel has 162 rooms and extensive services which "in combination with its experience, make it the ideal place to enjoy the location," said the group. It also pointed out that the



The Las Arenas Hotel which will be joining the Meliá network. SUR

hotel has an outdoor pool and jacuzzi, as well as a restaurant and a terrace-bar, with a solarium and seating area, "where guests can enjoy incredible sunsets."

Gabriel Escarrer Jaume, executive vice president and CEO of Meliá, said, "It is a credit that places such as Las Arenas hotel, whose business is already well-established, join Meliá to go forward. Created in 2020, Affiliated by Meliá is a model that, through alli-

ances like this one, helps us grow while offering our support and know-how to independent hotels."

He explained that 38 hotels are already part of this network. Jaume said, "The network presents itself as an opportunity for independent hotels to work hand-in-hand with one of the main hotel companies and have Meliá's resources in terms of distribution and loyalty, in addition to other à la carte services adapted to their needs."

Go-ahead given to extend the breakwater on Benalmádena's coastline

The government has approved plans for the 80-metre extension between Santa Ana and Malapesquera beaches

IVÁN GELIBTER

BENALMÁDENA. The project to extend the breakwater between Santa Ana and Malapesquera beaches in Benalmádena is to go ahead with a budget of 600,000, announced Javier Salas, central government's representative in Malaga province, on Wednesday.

"The government has given the final go-ahead for this project which will help solve the problems of erosion and improve this stretch of the Benalmádena coastline," said Salas.

"This is one of the greatest tourist resources in the province and the government has shown its commitment to this sector of our economy," he added.

Salas also announced that the draft national budget for 2022 (if it is approved by MPs) includes 1.3 million euros for this type of project to protect and nurture the beaches in the province of Malaga.



Aerial view of Santa Ana and Malapesquera beaches. SUR

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COMMUNITY SPIRIT



Walkers and dogs before setting off on the charity ramble. **SUR**

Country ramble in aid of local dog sanctuary

MIJAS

T. BRYANT. The 11th edition of the Charity Country Ramble, which was held in Mijas last weekend, raised over 5,000 euros for Animal Care España (ACE). Thirty people and several of the dogs in the charity's care took part in the event, which has been organised each year since 2011 by dedicated fundraisers Chrissy & Hitch.

In order to continue caring for the 500 dogs currently in its care, the shelter is also appealing for dried food, blankets and old towels. Like all animal charities in the area, the organisation's fundraising efforts have been badly affected by the pandemic, and it is now appealing for extra donations and volunteers to help the animals during the winter months.
www.ace-charity.org

Age Concern members enjoy sell-out charity concert

MIJAS

T. B. Age Concern Fuengirola/Mijas/Benalmádena continued its fundraising drive with a sell-out event held at the Legends Show Bar in La Cala de Mijas last weekend. The event, which raised 1,275 euros, presented a night of live entertainment supplied by Simone Lisa Kennedy, who performed a tribute to Whitney Houston; and the coast's favourite comedy drag act, Dragtastic. There was also a raffle with prizes donated by PCC Wealth, and an auction for a bottle of Taittinger Champagne, which raised 150 euros for the charity.
"The only way to describe the evening is fantastic. The generosity of patrons was incredible and we are truly grateful" secretary Steve Marshall said.

La Cala Lions come together to raise 1,800 euros for Princess Lara Fund

MIJAS

T. BRYANT. Members of La Cala de Mijas Lions Club raised more than 1,800 euros during a charity event held at the villa of two of its members last week. The event was themed around the Oktoberfest cele-

brations and around 40 guests enjoyed German cuisine and an afternoon of fun and games. There was also a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses and individuals. All proceeds will be donated to the Princess Lara Fund.

The Lions are helping to raise the 50,000 euros needed to finance a life-saving operation for Lara, a child who has been disabled since birth.

"The Lions would like to thank all of the generous people who attended the event," spokesperson Anne Bowles said.

Marbella to host breast cancer fundraising run on 7 November

MARBELLA

J. DUEÑAS. Marbella's "Marea Rosa" road race to raise money for the fight against breast cancer is due to take place on 7 November. While the event was

suspended last year, there were more than 2,000 participants in 2019. The starting point will be at the AECC (Spanish cancer association) headquarters located on Avenida del Mar at 11am. There, participants will be able to enjoy the atmosphere with a musical performance by Los Tristes, a Marbella group who have been working with the association for years.

Attendees will be able to purchase merchandise for the breast cancer campaign and crafts made by the volunteers.

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112 REPORTS

MALAGA

Police smash gang smuggling drugs in cauliflower shipment

Á. FRÍAS / J. CANO. Guardia Civil officers have found 142 kilos of hashish and 148 kilos of marijuana hidden among crates of cauliflowers when they intercepted lorries leaving the Guadalhorce industrial estate in Malaga.

The investigation, christened Operation Torcal, resulted in the arrest of eleven alleged drug traffickers. It also uncovered 178 tonnes of marble worth more than four million euros hidden in a warehouse and, in raids on houses belonging to the gang, ten vehicles, 92,000 euros, 7,500 Swedish krona and 4,230 Swiss



One of the lorries seized. **SUR**

francs in cash and a large amount of high-end jewellery and watches.

The drugs were believed to be destined for distribution in various countries in the EU.

FUENGIROLA

Bather, 59, dies on Fuengirola beach

F. TORRES. The emergency services were alerted at 11.15am on Wednesday morning to a report that a man was drowning off Las Gaviotas beach in Fuengirola.

Local Police officers, who were first on the scene, at-

tempted to revive the Hungarian citizen for several minutes until paramedics arrived.

Although the paramedics took over the resuscitation manoeuvres, they were unable to revive the man and eventually were only able to certify his death.

Investigations by the National Police have ruled out the involvement of a third party in the death.

MARBELLA

Irish holidaymaker 24, drowns in swimming pool

Á. FRÍAS / J. CANO. A young Irish man, aged 24, has died in a swimming pool while on holiday in Marbella. The incident happened at Finca la Judía, a property located on the Camino del Ángel, in the Nueva Andalucía area of the town.

It is reported that a group of friends spent the night partying and went to bed. When they woke up they found their friend floating in the swimming pool.

One of the group raised the alarm and told the Andalucía 112 emergency control room they had found their friend floating in the water, and that they had already pulled him out of the pool.

Despite their efforts, the ambulance crew who arrived quickly on the scene were unable to save the young man and could only certify his death.

The body was transferred to the Institute of Legal Medicine in Malaga so that an autopsy could be performed.

National Police officers have opened an investigation into circumstances leading up to the death, although sources have told SUR that there were no signs of injury on the body of the young man, and it is believed that he drowned.

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Architect Freeda Nature with a model of her idea for the historic Axarquía industrial building. **SUR**

An alternative vision for Maro's old sugar cane factory

German architect Freeda Nature is proposing that the Vega de Maro site is turned into a sustainable cultural centre instead of hotels and a golf course

JENNIE RHODES

NERJA. Since Nerja town hall first announced plans to turn the Vega de Maro fields into a tourist resort comprising a golf course, hotels and homes, many people living in and around the area have opposed it.

There have been protests and alternative visions for the protected land, which is currently designated for agricultural use and where many families farm fields their ancestors once worked.

In recent years the area has also become popular among foreign residents, who have established cooperatives selling the organic produce they grow there and who call the area home.

One of these residents is a 37-year-old German permaculture architect and ecological engineer who goes by the artistic name of Freeda Nature.

As part of an architecture course she is studying online in Germany, Freeda was tasked with providing a concept for the redesign of an old building and she chose the abandoned San Joaquín sugar cane factory in Maro, which sits on the land in question. "They said we could use any old house and I thought of the factory," Freeda ex-

plained to SUR in English.

Freeda will be presenting her architectural vision, which is based on her experience of living in an ecovillage in Germany and takes into account the local landscape and residents. The presentation will be given in English, Spanish and German and will show, with plans and scale models, Freeda's own vision of what the factory could be used for.

She admits that she hasn't spoken to the town hall or landowners, the Larios family, through their property and land management business, Salsa, but she says she already has the support of many people living in the area, who also believe in an alternative to the golf course and hotel plans. "There are lots of options," explains Freeda.

She would like to see a cultural centre that is open to locals as well as a sustainable building and garden area, using the principles of permaculture, which she can bring from the ecovillage in Germany.

What is permaculture?

According to website permaculture.co.uk, the concept of per-

The next presentation of Freeda's project will be at the Arte con Subtítulos gallery this Sunday

maculture provides "an innovative framework for creating sustainable ways of living".

Permaculture philosophy, it goes on to say, is about "thinking carefully about the way we use our resources - food, energy, shelter and other material and non-material needs - it is possible to get much more out of life by using less. We can be more productive for less effort, reaping benefits for our environment and ourselves, for now and for generations to come".

The first presentation took place on Sunday 17 and another will take place on Sunday 24 October from 11am until 2pm at the Arte con Subtítulos gallery and studio on Calle Primula in Nerja, near to the street market. The sessions are free and Freeda will be on hand to answer any questions and explain her alternative vision for Maro.

Earlier this month, Axarquía-based environmental group Gena - Ecologistas en Acción, got together with Vélez-Málaga's friends of culture organisation to organise a march in Maro to protest against the development. Should Nerja town hall and Salsa get permission from the regional government, the project would see 250 hectares of agricultural land reclassified in order to build an 18-hole golf course, luxury hotels and 680 houses.

For further information about the presentation see the Facebook page Arte con Subtítulos.

IN BRIEF

TORRE DEL MAR

Town hall apologises over Squid Game poster

E. C. Torre del Mar's councillor Jesús Pérez Atencia has apologised after posters for this year's Halloween celebrations featured characters from the Netflix series Squid Game. The town hall had to change the poster hours after it was shared on social media after receiving criticism from opposition councillors and locals. Parents in Spain and the UK have been warned not to allow their children to watch the series, set in South Korea, due to its violent nature.

LA CALA DEL MORAL

Investigation under way into spate of tree fires

E. C. A police investigation is underway in La Cala del Moral following a spate of hedge and tree fires in the village, with a dozen incidents reported in one month.

Local Police and the Guardia Civil are looking for the perpetrator or perpetrators of the fires, which have caused "great alarm and fear" among local residents. Several residents have told SUR the events have occurred "mostly at weekends, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons".



Some of the recovered jewellery. **SUR**

SEDELLA

Former priest reported for 'stealing' valuable jewellery belonging to church

J. C. / E. C. Mayor of Sedella Francisco Abolafio Rodríguez has reported the Axarquía village's former priest for allegedly stealing jewellery and money which was kept in a safe alongside an image of its patron saint.

Following an investigation by the Bishop of Malaga and the Guardia Civil, the village has recovered 12 items. According to local residents, the former priest had dumped the safe at a recycling

centre. However, the money, thought to be in the region of 600 euros, has not been returned.

The safe was reported missing on 12 October, two days after the changeover between the old and new priest and as preparations were under way for a procession in the village to mark the Our Lady of Pilar holiday on 12 October.

Inquiries are ongoing and residents are considering taking legal action against the former priest.

NERJA

RBL walks to launch 2021 poppy appeal

J. R. The Nerja branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) has run a Poppy Walk to launch this year's poppy appeal. Nineteen walkers and two dogs participated in the event which took place last Sunday. The walk finished at the Chapel Bar in Nerja with a buffet and raffle which raised 150 euros. So far a total of 2,000 euros have been raised for the appeal. The Royal British Legion is this year celebrating its one hundredth anniversary.



The poppy appeal walkers. **SUR**



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From the olive tree to a tasty snack on the bar

Harvest. Green table olives are picked at this time of year, but this autumn's output is expected to be lower than in recent years

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ



► **Producer.** Juan Miguel Gómez, secretary of Copusán, the cooperative in Alozaina. MIGUEL FERNÁNDEZ



It's 8.30am on a farm in Alozaina. The crew is already on site, ready to start a new day's work. After spreading out between the trees, they start to pick the olives by hand, one branch after another.

It's just another day in the 2021 olive harvest, which starts in mid-September in many places in Malaga province and takes about five weeks. There are different procedures for the varieties of olive produced in the province, depending on the way they are picked and the weather conditions each year.

In this municipality in the Sierra de las Nieves there are different types, although one of them is the real star: the aloreña, a table olive with its own protected Denomination of Origin. "It is distinguished by its large size and the ease of removing the stone, which is known as 'floating stone'. It's the 'pata negra' ham of olives, there is none other like it," says Juan

Miguel Gómez, a producer and secretary of Copusán, the cooperative in Alozaina, which has around 800 members. Gómez, who is also the president of the Interprofesional de la Aceituna Aloreña association, has 1,400 of these aloreña olive trees on his land in Alozaina. His crew of eight pick the olives by hand with a method known as 'ordeño', which means they select the ones which are biggest and best-looking. The aloreña olive is very sensitive to bruising, which is why mechanised harvesting is not possible.

Every day is different

The crew normally divide themselves into groups of two, who carry a fabric 'bed' on which to place the olives which they pick. Occasionally they work individually, using a basket with handles (known as a 'macaco') to hold the harvested olives. The workers say every day is different, and the final result depends on how loaded the trees are. Normally they each pick about 180 kilos of olives from 30 trees.

On this occasion they are expecting the harvest to be smaller

than in previous years because of the "almost non-existent" spring and the short rain at the end of the summer, as these conditions have not favoured the growth of the olives.

"Last year we picked over 26,000 kilos; this year it will probably be about 25,000," says Gómez, who also has olive trees in Teba and Campillos. Those are mainly the hojiblanca variety, which is easier to harvest.

After a break for breakfast about 10am, the crew carry on with their day, which lasts until about 3 or 4pm following a short break for lunch. Once the cars are full of buckets of olives, they head for the cooperative to unload the day's harvest. It is then that special equipment separates the olives according to their quality: extra, first or second.

"This is new machinery and it has really helped us in our work. Before, we all used to arrive with our olives at the same time and there wasn't enough space," says José Manuel Gil, vice-president of the cooperative in Alozaina, who also has 2,000 olive trees in the village. "We're not expecting a big har-



◀ **Green olives.**
A worker picks the olives by hand on a farm in Alosaina.
M. F.



◀ **Harvest.**
The crew collect up the olives picked that day so they can be taken to the cooperative.
M. FERNÁNDEZ

▼ **Selection.**
The machinery at the cooperative selects the best olives.
M. FERNÁNDEZ

9.7%
lower, that's the olive harvest this year compared with 2020. According to the Junta de Andalucía, around 438,740 tonnes are expected to be picked in the region this year.

51,000
tonnes of olives will be picked in Malaga province this autumn.

19
million working days are expected during the harvest in Andalucía this year.

1.5
million tonnes of olive oil will be produced in Andalucía this year, 5.5% down on 2020.

Junta allocates 4.6 million euros for emergency work Sierra Bermeja

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. The Junta de Andalucía has set aside 4.6 million euros to spend on emergency actions in the area of the Sierra Bermeja and Genal Valley affected by last month's fire.

The devastating wildfire destroyed nearly 10,000 hectares and forced around 3,000 people in five municipalities to be evacuated from their homes.

The Junta's minister of Agriculture, Fishing, Livestock and Sustainable Development, Carmen Crespo, said last week that the first phase of the work will include the recovery of the burned land, clearing access to tracks, repairing rural lanes and the removal of elements to reduce flooding risks.

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vest this year; a lot of the olives are starting to go purple already," he says.

If the olives go purple, they are left to ripen on the tree and are picked later, once the green olive harvest is over, and used for other purposes. "When the branches of the trees bend because of the heat, we say they are 'august-ed'," José Manuel Gil tells us. He worked for more than 30 years for the old Sevillana electricity company before deciding to go back to his village and focus on his olives instead.

Although many of the workers are from Alosaina, some also come from other villages in inland Malaga province. "At weekends and on public holidays there are a lot more people in the country than usual, because entire families come to their land to pick the olives," says José Miguel Gómez.

Once at the cooperative, where about 20 people work during the busiest months of the harvest, the olives are carefully selected to meet the required quality. After passing through two digital scanners, the third check is manual: various members of

staff separate the smallest and lowest quality one by one; these will be used to make olive oil, a process which will begin at the end of October, once the harvest is over.

The egg-test method

The olives which have been selected are split, placed in brine and kept in large tanks inside the cooperative. The brine is made with the 'egg test' method, where an egg is placed in a container with water and salt is added until the egg floats, because that is the exact moment when the concentration of salt is ideal for sweetening the olives. After several days, they are seasoned with fennel, thyme, garlic and pepper before being packaged.

The cooperative in Alosaina is one of the many in the province that work flat-out at this time of year. According to figures from the Junta de Andalucía, it is estimated that olive production will be about 438,740 tonnes this year, which would be 9.7 per cent lower than in 2020.

Looking at the different prov-



Preparation. A worker at Copusán checks the state of the brine in which the olives are preserved. M. FERNÁNDEZ

inces in the region, the production in Seville is highest (301,000 tonnes of olives for eating), followed by Cordoba (80,000 tonnes) and Malaga (nearly 51,000). With regard to employment, there are expected to be 19 million days worked in the Andalusian countryside. In Malaga, the weather has reduced part of the hoped-for production, say sources at the farmers' association Asaja.

"We are expecting a drop of about ten per cent in the harvest in Seville, while in Cordoba the production will probably be higher than last year and in Malaga it will be 25 per cent lower," they say.

Meanwhile, Andalucía is expected to produce more than 1.5 million tonnes of olive oil this year, which would be 5.5 per cent less than last year.

Malaga's Aloreña olives star in a tapas route around the province

ALEKK M. SAANDERS

MALAGA. A total of 31 establishments throughout Malaga province are currently offering a variety of dishes based on the Aloreña olive as part of the Tapeando con la Aloreña campaign.

Running until 31 October, the promotion provides an opportunity to try the Aloreña in different dishes, ranging from salads to croquettes, tartars and brioches.

Most of the participating bars and restaurants are in Malaga city, along with others such as Venetiis (Benalmádena), Puente Real (Torremolinos), Teo (Marbella), Tipi Tapa (Fuengirola), Don Rudolfo (Estepona) as well as others in in Álora, Coín, Almayate, Alhaurín el Grande, Antequera, Pizarra, and Gaucín.

Participants can also enter a prize draw on Instagram.



Rising prices in the midst of the crisis are costing families an extra 750 euros a year

As well as the increase in electricity and fuel prices, shopping, natural gas and even a bottle of butane are all more expensive now

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ



MALAGA. Putting the washing machine on, shopping, putting fuel in the car, cooking, using hot water... what do all these everyday activities have in common? That's easy. They are all much more expensive than they were a year ago. The rise in prices to historic levels due to the general rise in energy costs is extending in all areas and squeezing families even more at a time when households are already severely under pressure due to unemployment and reduced salaries because of the pandemic. This is a perfect storm which, when translated into numbers, is costing families an average of 750 euros more a year.

Shopping basket. 366 euros more
Rises of up to 5% for basic products



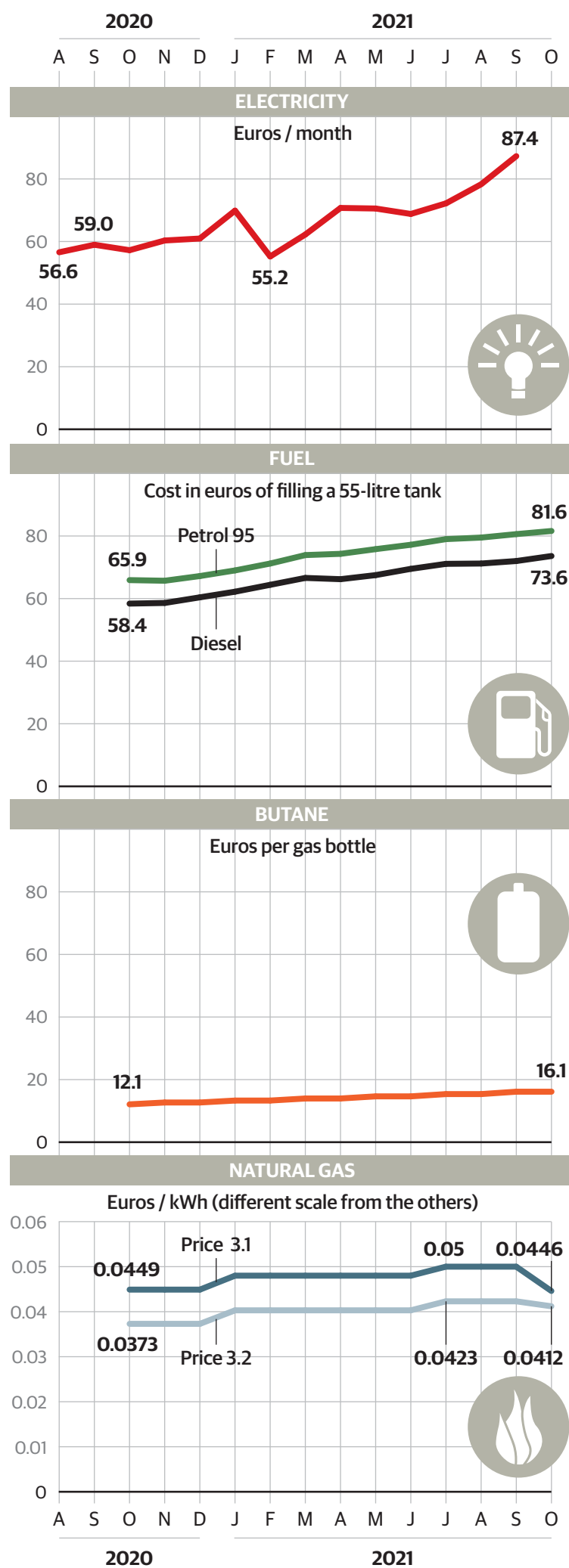
Practically half of this extra cost applies to shopping. If an average home spent 5,125 euros

in 2020 after a rise of 2.8% compared with the year before (4,986), in 2021 the cost has risen by 7.1 per cent to 5,491 euros, according to a study carried out by the Consumers and Users Organisation (OCU) each year. This shows that 55 per cent of food, hygiene and drugstore products are now more expensive, especially the rise of five per cent for basic items like milk, eggs and meat, as well as vegetable oils, soft drinks and juices with added sugar (in the latter case it is due to IVA being increased for this type of product).

This is once again reflected in the last Consumer Price Index (IPC), which rose another seven-tenths of a decimal point in September and shot up to an inter-annual rate of four per cent, the biggest leap since September 2008 (4.6%), which the National Institute of Statistics (INE) attributes mainly to the rise in electricity, gas and fuel. Altogether, it puts the increase last year at 27 per cent nationally, although in Malaga it rises to 30 per cent.

These are followed by expen-

Price variations in recent months



Source: OCU and Ministry of Industry

INFOGRAPHIC: E. HINOJOSA

INFLATION

4%

is the percentage by which the Consumer Price Index has risen between September 2020 and September this year. It is the biggest increase since September 2008, according to the National Institute of Statistics, which attributes it mainly to the rise in electricity, gas and fuel costs.

diture on personal mobility vehicles (bicycles and scooters), which rose by 12.8 per cent, hotel accommodation at 12.2 per cent and large durable goods for leisure and culture at 8.8 per cent.

Returning to basic products, foods in general in Malaga province have risen by 1.9 per cent, and non-alcoholic drinks by 6.8 per cent. On the positive side for family budgets, telephone equipment is one of the few items which have dropped in price, in this case by 10.7 per cent.

Electricity bills. 140 euros more
From one record to another despite changes of habit



When the INE places electricity as one of the services which is going up most in price, there is no mistake. Not even the reduction in IVA applied by the government or the calculations made by families to adapt their use of electricity to the cheapest times of day seem to have been able to contain the progressive rise in costs. In just one year, the average bill has risen from 58.97 euros in September 2020 to 87.4 euros last month, which is an inter-annual increment of 140 euros. If the aforementioned reduction to IVA from 21 to 10 per cent had not taken place, it would have shot up to 107 euros, according to calculations from the OCU.

As an example, these are two real cases. First, a household with five members, which even including the 25 per cent reduction for a large family, has paid 72.64 euros for the September bill compared with 49.78 in the same month last year (a rise of 44.6 per cent), even though the amount of electricity they used has gone down (359 kWh in 2021 and 369 in 2020) and only one-fifth of their energy was used at the most expensive times of day (from 10am to 2pm and from 6pm to 10pm). The other exam-

ple is a couple whose last bill was 90.15 euros for the 293kWh they used, while the 298kWh in September 2020 cost them 64.92 euros.

Gas. Between 50 and 70 euros more

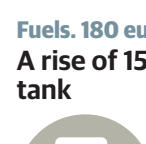
Natural gas goes up by 14 per cent, and butane heads for the roof



Continuing to look at domestic uses, natural gas has also gone up in price, so the average annual bill for a household that uses 7,500 kWh (the most common profile in Andalucía), is now, after the latest quarterly update by the government, 553 euros compared with 485 in October last year (14 per cent more), according to the OCU.

Equally, a bottle of butane has risen by 33.4 per cent in the past year after six upward revisions due to the rise in the cost of the raw material. The last increase, in September, put the price of a standard 12.5 kg bottle at 16.13 euros (compared with 12.09 in September 2020). This is the highest price since January 2015, when it reached the record high of 17.5 euros.

Fuels. 180 euros more
A rise of 15 euros to fill the tank



In this scenario of rising prices, the finishing touch is provided by fuels, immersed in a spiral of price rises that in the past 12 months have involved an increase of 25 per cent. Today, it costs 15 euros more to fill the tank than it did just a year ago.

Taking a 55 litre tank as a reference (the average for a normal car), filling up with 95-octane lead-free petrol costs 81.5 euros in Malaga province on average, while in October 2020 it would have been 65.8 euros. The average price per litre is 1.483 euros, although the Ministry of Industry says it has reached peaks of 1.579 in some places.

The case of diesel is similar, with an average price of 1.339 and thresholds up to 1.429 compared with 1.062 a year ago. The result? It means paying 73.6 euros to fill up the car, which is 26 per cent more than the 58.4 euros in 2020. Obviously, the impact varies depending on how much fuel each driver uses, but in the case of the vehicle being filled with diesel once a month, it costs an extra 180 euros. And that extra expense is if there is only one car in a household.



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Three Spanish PMs meet for a photo of unity

Former prime minister Felipe González, current PM Pedro Sánchez and former PM José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero took part in the 40th PSOE Socialist Party conference in Valencia last weekend. The attendance of the two former PMs was a coup for Sánchez, who had been keen to present an image of party unity to the world. González's contribution was especially eagerly awaited. In a speech, the veteran politician pledged loyalty to the current party leadership but added, "I say what I think and I think what I say." Sánchez was re-elected leader unopposed at the conference.



Sánchez assures MPs he is not going to free ETA prisoners in return for Budget support

MADRID

SUR. A political row has broken out over the potential future release of ETA prisoners from jail in the week that Spain remembered the tenth anniversary of the Basque terrorist movement giving up violence.

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez was forced to tell parliament that he had no plan to do a deal with EH-Bildu, the left-wing separatist party seen as politically closest to the old ETA movement, in return for EH-Bildu's five MPs supporting the Socialist-led minority coalition's Budget for Spain for next year.

Earlier in the week, Arnaldo Otegi, EH-Bildu leader, had said at an official event in the Basque Country that left wing separatists "felt the pain" of the deaths due to ETA bombs and shootings that lasted up to just over a decade ago and "it should never have happened". While Otegi was criticised for not fully apologising, many saw it as a positive move at the time of the tenth anniversary.

However, seven hours later Otegi was videoed telling a private, party meeting that "If we have to vote for the Budget to get the 200 [ETA] prisoners out, we will vote for them".

Amid opposition outrage Sánchez was adamant in front of MPs that no deal is involved.



Arnaldo Otegi

More residential areas evacuated in face of erratic lava flows on La Palma

LA PALMA

Thrillseekers have been warned not to get close to the eruption as four British tourists are identified from selfies taken well beyond police lines

SUR

MALAGA. More residents close to the Cumbre Vieja volcano were evacuated on Wednesday night.

As the lava flows swung to the north, towards a more built-up area, locals in the La Laguna neighbourhood were hurriedly told to leave their homes. By the evening the local petrol station had fallen - its fuel tanks had been emptied



Lava pouring towards houses on Thursday this week. **REUTERS**

already - and the district church was threatened.

There are now several fingers of lava spreading over the hillside as the flow of molten material con-

tinues and ash rains down on all the island. So far only one of the fingers has reached the sea, but others edge ever closer.

However, in a sign of how un-

predictable the lava flows are, by Thursday, the spread into La Laguna had slowed - for the time being at least - and swung back to the fingers nearest the sea.

By Thursday 2,185 buildings had been destroyed since the eruption began just over a month ago and 866 hectares (2,139 acres) were lost.

Police warned thrillseekers not to try to get close to the eruption to take selfies, as a group, reportedly of four Britons, visiting from Tenerife was identified by sharing photos well inside the cordoned-off area.

Meanwhile, there was apparent good news on Thursday that dogs trapped on a piece of farmland surrounded on all sides by lava had been rescued. Although a drone company had devised a way to reach them, reports said that an unknown group had reached and removed the stranded animals - in the latest twist in a story that had captured the attention of many on television and social media.

THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

Pick a number...



Any number. If further proof were needed (which it wasn't) of the often-farcical nature of making economic predictions, especially in the post-Covid climate, it's been provided over the last couple of weeks, during which time a number of bodies have hastily rejigged their forecasts for this year. The latest round of revisions - which probably won't be the last we see this year - was

prompted at the end of September, when Spain's National Statistics Agency (INE) said that GDP grew 1.1% in the second quarter of 2021, not 2.8%, as it had originally stated.

Two days before the INE released its revised second-quarter reading, the Bank of Spain had actually increased its growth projection for Spain in 2021, albeit by a tenth of a percentage point, from 6.2% to 6.3%. But after the INE re-

vealed that the second quarter wasn't quite the economic bonanza it had initially thought, the Bank said it would be revising its growth forecasts down for this year, although it's yet to release its tweaked estimate. Last week, the IMF also brought down its expansion forecast for Spain this year, from 6.2% to 5.7%, followed closely by La Caixa, which reduced 6.3% to 5%.

In making its reductive revision, the INE cited - amongst other factors - difficulties in measuring output because of the pandemic, a problem which affects all similar predictions, including, of course, the limitlessly optimistic forecasts of the Spanish government. The PSOE-led administration is sticking with 6.5%

for this year and 7% for 2022, projections made before the INE revision and - somewhat remarkably - not altered since. Or not yet, anyway.

Still, the INE revision doesn't necessarily constitute a political problem for Pedro Sánchez, as some commentators are suggesting. They say that it might dent his upbeat economic narrative - which is true, but only because such estimates can't really be used to support any kind of narrative. They simply fluctuate too much. What, ultimately, is their worth if they're changed so frequently - up, down, back up again, back down, in a ceaseless guessing game in which the final answer is never final?

How long, one wonders,

before these forecasts are changed retrospectively to fit economic reality, insofar as that's ever really represented by a set of numbers? Say, for example, that Spain's GDP actually expands by 8% this year, more than anyone's predicting this month: it's not beyond conceivability to imagine the IMF, Bank of Spain and OECD all making the same revision in early 2022: "Actually we'd like to increase our October 2021 forecasts to 8% to reflect what's happened after we made them. We're saying now that we predicted 8% then."

The fact that such a situation is conceivable shows how little value these chameleon-like guesstimates have in the first place.

Eastside agreement will save the government in the region of £330 million

GIBRALTAR

The ambitious project will be carried out by the TNG Global Foundation, which was only recently established on the Rock

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The Gibraltar government says it will be saving hundreds of millions of pounds in expenditure following an agreement with the TNG Global Foundation for the development of the Eastside Reclamation project.

TNG Global Foundation was recently established in Gibraltar by Mr Tuan Tran, who is also the beneficial owner of Trusted Novus Bank.

The Foundation says it has already begun working on the environmental impact assessment for the Eastside project, and will pay £90 million in cash to the government when the environmental certificates are granted and outline planning permission has

been received.

Under the agreement, TNG will immediately take over and complete the revetment works to protect the Hassan Centenary Terraces development, take over and complete the construction of the coastal protection works and consequent flattening of the Eastside site, including developing the marina for super yachts and building 400 berths for small boats.

The group will also be constructing 100 low-cost apartments and has undertaken to complete them within 36 months of receiving planning permission.

Another part of the agreement is for a public car park for 500 vehicles at the Eastside plot, and TNG will also be assuming ownership of and liability for the rubble on the site, apart from 200,000 cubic metres which the government will use for phase 2 of Hassan Centenary Terraces.

The government says the total direct value of the project to the community is estimated to be around £330 million, expenses which the taxpayer will not have to shoulder.



The reception was held in the Mayor's Parlour. SUR

Mayor of Gibraltar holds reception for Team Reilly

D.B. The mayor of Gibraltar, Christian Santos, held an evening reception for the 'Running 4 Reilly' team this week. This group of family and friends ran the London Royal Parks Half Marathon to raise money for the Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity in the British capital. They have raised almost £30,000 to date.

The team is named after Reilly Roper, a five-year-old who is now recovering from leukaemia, having received treatment at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

The mayor welcomed Reilly's parents Kevin and Catherine Roper, and his siblings Holly and Caitlyn to the Mayor's Parlour to acknowledge Team Reilly, the marathon participants consisting of Becca Ramirez, Louis Bado, Louise Gonçalves, Seamus Byrne, Dominic Hernandez and Julian Hernandez. The runners' families were also present to help celebrate the achievement.

Mr Santos described Reilly as a superhero and an inspiration to all who meet him, and said his story has touched the heart of the whole community.

IN BRIEF

BREXIT

Campo mayors meet Minister in Madrid

D.B. Mayors from the Campo de Gibraltar area of Spain had a meeting with the Foreign Minister, José María Albares, in Madrid this week to discuss the ongoing negotiations regarding Gibraltar's future relationship with the EU. After returning, the mayor of La Línea, Juan Franco, said the situation appeared to be positive so far and he hoped an end could be put to the uncertainty of the past five years.

COVID

Children aged 12 to 15 now receiving vaccine

D.B. Children aged 12 to 15 are now being offered the Covid vaccine in Gibraltar, following the recent delivery of 8,000 doses. The Pfizer BioNtech arrived sooner than expected, so the campaign has begun slightly earlier than planned. Take-up was high and nearly 750 school pupils were vaccinated on the first day. 4,000 people in Gibraltar have now also received their booster jab.

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Does it do us any good?

We all have profiles on social media so we can communicate with our friends and relatives. Does it really do us any good? Mainly young people, on platforms such as Instagram and TikTok, are using filters which completely disfigure your face, but at the same time make you feel more attractive. This is forcing very young girls in particular to start with aesthetic retouching from a very young age because of the stereotypes that society instills in us of what beauty is and what it is not.

Obviously, who am I to say what is right and what is wrong? But I see certain things that horrify me becoming more and more the norm, such as eating disorders or so many aesthetic adjustments that you no longer know who that person is.

Everyone does what they want with their body, but are you doing it for yourself or for what society is forcing on you?
LAIA GARCÍA

Dogs in Nerja

My wife and I owned a property in Capistrano for nearly 20 years and enjoyed many visits to Nerja.

A few years ago we sold the property and bought an apartment closer to the centre of town and we love being part of the community and being able to walk to all the wonderful bars and restaurants in Nerja.

The only downside is the

number of dogs and their resultant excrement on the streets.

While many dog owners clear up after their pets, some do not. The street cleaners do a marvellous job but it should not be their responsibility to remove dog mess.

Where we live in the UK it is rare to see dog excrement on the streets but unfortunately that is not the case in Nerja.

JOHN THROUP

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THE MUSIC MAKER
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A different corner

Whenever the subject of fussy customers comes up socially, no matter whom I may be talking to, I'm always fairly confident that my tale of the woman who once complained about the colour of the drinking straws in our pub will trump anybody else's anecdote by a country mile and, to be fair, it usually does.

This all changed recently when an architect friend of mine recounted a truly stunning experience he'd had the previous week.

"So, we'd built this massive luxury villa in a prime location, held a lavish completion party when it was all over and everything seemed to be perfectly fine, until a week or two later when the owner called me up out of the blue. Apparently, there was some discrepancy or other with one of the interior measurements, although he was a bit vague about the details on the

phone. Anyway, I went down the next day to take a look. Imagine my surprise when he pointed to one of the villa's many enormous windows and said that it was a millimetre shorter than on the drawings."

"Hahaha - so it was a bit smaller than you'd outlined."

"A bit, no - exactly one millimetre."

"Crumbs. What did you do?"

"Tried not to laugh, principally; he was so angry. There he was, crouched down over the window, tape measure in hand, pointing at the offending corner and beckoning for me to take a look, simultaneously calling to his wife to come in from the next room as a witness. Picture the scene - a purple-faced bloke in his sixties, hunched in the corner of his luxury living room, pointing furiously at something no-one else could see and shouting something about this wasn't what he'd paid

for. It was his poor wife I felt sorry for - she looked very sheepish indeed."

"I'm not surprised. How did it all pan out?"

"Well I waited for him to calm down from an incandescent level of rage to being merely very angry indeed and asked him to come over to where I was standing. He grudgingly obliged. I pointed to the 'problem corner' and then the vast expanse of glass it belonged to, suggesting in the politest of terms that he might be better off gazing upon panoramic views of the glistening Mediterranean sea that his windows afforded, rather than concentrating his efforts on the smallest corner in the world and its perceived shortcomings. I think I mentioned the word 'perspective' as politely as I could, made my excuses and left as his wife looked on, smiling apologetically. I stared at the sea all the way home."

IDÍGORAS

Are you wearing that scarf because you became a pirate to find treasure? What will you do with it?

Give it to research



SUR in English

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THE BOTTOM LINE
ALEKK M. SAANDERS

Better for Malaga than nothing

So, the Hermitage Museum looks to Malaga to open a Spanish branch. Great, although last week's news is new, at the same time, it sounds partly old. The reason being that this very prestigious Russian museum - the Hermitage - has been mentioned in Spanish newspapers with similar headlines over many years. However, instead of 'Malaga' it was first (in 2012) Barcelona, and later (2019) Madrid. Incidentally, the Hermitage was supposed to be the first Russian museum in Spain. However, now it has to be content being the second, because during all the almost ten-year-long negotiations, a branch of another

St Petersburg-based 'Russian Museum' was successfully opened in Malaga, in 2015.

Actually, it is hard to believe that the agreement to open a branch of the Hermitage in Barcelona was signed back in 2012. That decision was reasonable: this museum, from the second biggest city in Russia would then be located in the second biggest city of Spain. Additionally, both cities are each considered the cultural capitals of their country. That 'romantic' seven-year-period with meetings, ideas and design projects nevertheless ended in 'divorce'. At the very beginning of 2019, Barcelona city hall announced that the Her-

mitage would not be located in the port area. So the museum announced that it "might look for another city" to set up its branch.

And that "other city" appeared immediately. The Spanish capital offered a list of possible spaces that could house this new museum. Seeming quite flexible, Madrid probably wanted to take a chance with the Hermitage and 'win' its never-ending competition with Barcelona to be a greater cultural capital. However, the initial stage of negotiations didn't move forward, and eventually the matter was forgotten. Apparently, the megapolicy hosting attempts might be summed up with the comments of the director of the Hermitage, Mikhail Piotrovsky, who said that the art gallery is willing to "show its collections and share its experience", but "never impose it".

And now it looks like the Hermitage might choose to "show its collection" in Malaga, and Malaga is ready to "share its experience" in hosting Russian-St Petersburg mu-

seums. Additionally, by moving to Malaga, the Hermitage would come back to its initial plan to be located by the sea, because Malaga is ready to offer the western part of its port.

Having the Hermitage in Malaga would definitely be worthwhile. The Spanish people might appreciate it in much the same way as Juan Valera appreciated the Hermitage when he visited Russia in 1856. In his memoirs entitled *Cartas desde Rusia*, the Andalusian-born writer and diplomat - who was educated in Malaga - wrote of the Hermitage: "The many varieties of jasper, gilding, malachite, majestic portraits of emperors in elegant frames, a large number of skilfully painted paintings, sculptures of perfect beauty and gracefulness, and the unprecedented luxury of jewellery."

So, hopefully, the Hermitage will become a precious 'pearl' on Malaga's sightseeing tour, and contribute to making Malaga more cultural and more of a museum-city, especially (according to the city administration) as it will cost the city "nothing".

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IN THE FRAME

Determined to jump off the blues band wagon

Quality with confidence. Paul Stylianou has spent his entire life playing harmonica and his determination to succeed is beginning to bear fruit

TONY BRYANT



Paul Stylianou, one of the Costa's most charismatic musicians, has spent more than 20 years working in the local music scene, and his hard work and unfaltering determination is finally beginning to bear fruit.

Frontman of the renowned Blues Stompers Jump Review, Paul and his band are getting ready for the launch of their first CD of original material, and the official video, which is being filmed in Mijas later this month. They are also preparing for a series of live performances in Spain, the UK, Norway and Holland.

The straight-talking harmonica player and singer of British/Cypriot nationality, took time out from a busy schedule to talk about his journey on the road to success.

Born in London in 1974, Paul grew up around Deptford and New Cross. His early musical awakening came from his uncle, a punk rocker called Smiler.

"There has always been an element of music in my family.

My uncle was a renowned punk rocker. I used to visit his flat and spend hours listening to his massive record collection. I got hooked on a cassette by Sonny Boy Williamson I, and this is when I first became interested in the harmonica," Paul explains to SUR in English.

Uncle John bought Paul, who at the time was seven, his first harmonica and, although he began to play by ear, he did not take the instrument very seriously at the time.

At the age of 15, he began "sneaking" into pubs in London to attend open-mic nights, and it soon dawned on him that this was what he wanted to do.

"Obviously, I was not in the same league of professionalism as the other musicians. I was underage at that time, and going into the pubs and playing - or making a noise - was when I first began to take it seriously, but it was not the main thing at the time," he declares.

Back then he was "just a punky kid", who was also an avid skateboarder and took part



Paul Stylianou performing with The Stompers. SUR

in competitions around the UK, as well as in France and Germany.

Paul went to his father's native Cyprus in 1993, a period when he began jamming with musicians from a nearby military base.

He returned to London in 1998, and, after a few years, decided to take some time out. He first headed to Paris, but following a spur-of-the-moment decision, he decided to book a flight to Spain.

Paul arrived in Malaga in 2002 and headed to Fuengirola, a name that was familiar to him. He began hanging out in British pubs and was eventually offered bar work in the Lon-

don Pub. It was here that he started to meet other expat musicians and this opened the door to the local music scene.

"The music scene in Fuengirola is excellent and it just gets bigger and bigger. The amount of talent is phenomenal. I spent the first few years playing covers in local bands, but this was not what I wanted to do. It would be a few years before I came into contact with the serious blues players on the coast, and I soon began to make a name as a competent harmonica player," he says.

In 2016, Paul formed The Blues Stompers and the band began to establish themselves as a serious blues band with a difference, both on the coast, and also on the European blues circuit.

It was at this time that Paul realised he had "just one shot at this" and suggested including the band's own compositions into the repertoire.

"The first two years with The Stompers was getting people used to our kind of music, because we are completely different to what everyone else is doing. It's not about the songs, it's about how you interpret them," he explains.

Paul's determination to succeed was bolstered when the band caught the attention of Cambayá Records (Antequera), who are producing the new CD. The record company was overwhelmed by the band's originality, something that has been Paul's main objective, as he did not want to be part of the "X Factor syndrome".

"It's about taking time. If you do it right the first time, it saves a lot of hassle in the long run.

"We are all from different backgrounds, but we all have the same attitudes with regards to our music, which has been so important over the years. Our popularity is not something that happened overnight," he concludes.

"The first two years with The Stompers was spent getting people used to our music, because we are different to what everyone else is doing"

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Back to the 50s at Malaga's drive-in cinema

Popular attraction. The Autocine Malaga Metrovacesa, the second largest drive-in in Europe, has enjoyed a sell-out first fortnight

REGINA SOTORRÍO

Offering films, food and rock and roll, a time machine nestled in a Malaga industrial estate transports guests to the 50s as rockabilly music plays in the background.

Constructed on a 16,000-square-metre plot, the drive-in is, say its founders, about "living an entire experience."

Tamara Istambul and Cristina Porta are the co-founders behind the first permanent drive-in cinema in Andalucía, the second largest in Europe and the only one with a screen that exceeds

the size of a tennis court (250 square metres).

Residents on the Costa del Sol have wholeheartedly embraced the concept of the cinema with a sell-out opening fortnight.

During this inaugural month, the drive-in opens at 8pm from Monday to Sunday, two hours before the screening.

During that time there is live music and a children's area as well as a variety of food available, from a diner complete with Coca-Cola swivel chairs and padded benches to Mexican, pizza and



The drive-in has an American 50s aesthetic. FRANCIS SILVA

waffle trucks.

Classics and premieres will alternate on the drive-in's schedule with a change every two weeks.

The cinema has space for 250 vehicles that can park in front of the screen and the area can take close to 3,200 people in total.

The sound comes through the

car radio, with options to tune into either English or Spanish audio.

The film can also be watched from the bar and the terrace.

When the weather permits, 150 deckchairs will also be laid out.

The classic Grease - with one of its scenes set in a drive-in cin-

ema - premiered on the big screen for the opening week with a rockabilly concert and an Elvis Presley tribute act to entertain the cinema-goers. Venom, the latest of the Marvel movies, has taken over this week.

At weekends and holidays, the activities begin at noon with Rita's Brunch and family friendly themed events.

Last weekend, they also held a Campus University Party and Oktoberfest on Sunday, with paella and ham hock on the menu.

Autocine Malaga Metrovacesa has already agreed to host the Fancine (UMA's fantastic film festival) in its facilities, and they hope to work with the Malaga Film Festival.

They will also hold three private events and two concerts.

Autocine Malaga has been made possible due to the efforts of Tamara Istambul and Cristina Porta (who already launched Autocine Madrid Race in 2016), the sponsorship of Metrovacesa and other companies (Grupo Nieto, Balearia, Famadesa and Museo Automovilístico) and the support of three authorities that showed their support with their presence at the inauguration; the president of the Diputación, Francisco Salado, the mayor of Malaga, Francisco de la Torre, and the tourism delegate from the regional government, Nuria González.

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Carlos Magdalena, nicknamed the Messiah of plants, inspects the leaves of one specimen at Kew Gardens in London. **SUR**

'We forget that plants give us oxygen and enable us to survive'

Carlos Magdalena **Manager of Kew Gardens**

"In Spain you say you're a gardener and they think you sweep up the leaves in the park," he says about the lack of respect for his profession

MATÍAS STUBER

MALAGA. What is a plant? Perhaps it is a helpless, immovable object, condemned to put up with the whims of people or animals. Or a decorative ornament, in most cases pretty enough to end up in a pot on a balcony like sardines in a tin. "No, no and no," says Carlos Magdalena, who manages Kew Gardens, one of the most famous botanic gardens in the world. This week he was the star guest at Planeta Verde, a series of virtual conferences which took place at the La Térmica cultural centre in Malaga. In this interview, the man nicknamed the messiah of plants, shares his vision for the future with us.

—You have long hair, you wear horn-rimmed glasses and people call you the messiah of plants. Forgive me, but I imagine you breakfasting on dandelions.

—Hahaha! Well, no, I prefer crois-

sants, actually. I don't eat much greenery, to tell the truth. It must be because I see something of vegetable cannibalism in it.

—When one thinks about the mysteries of the world, time and plants usually come to mind.

—It's very possible. Also, the two are related. I believe one of the reasons that we don't understand plants well is because they don't fit our timescale. You look at a plant and it doesn't do a thing. You look at it a week later, and it has grown a metre.

—The existence of a plant seems limited to a type of eternal sleep. What is it that fascinates you about them?

—I'm fascinated by the biological wealth they represent. How they are constantly modifying everything. The climate, the ground, the habitat, the rainfall pattern... and they do it very passively. So much so, that we barely notice it. A redwood seed, which is a tiny thing, about one millimetre, has a genetic software programme that is more than 3,000 years old, which is going to establish alliances with fungi that exist in the soil or with bacteria that extract nitrogen from the air. We see plants as a type of background, but in fact they are the cen-

tre of the universe.

—We can imagine the life of an animal, but what is the life of a plant like, as it has no muscles or nervous system?

—That's the thing. It is much easier to have empathy for a cow or a dolphin than for a plant. One of the amazing things about plants is how they analyse and process masses of data. The humidity of the air, the dampness of the ground, the temperature, the light...they have the ability to distinguish more frequencies of light than we can even see, and with that they proceed to make decisions. I'll become dormant, I'll start to flower or I'll grow more thorns because they want to eat me.

QUOTE

SUSTAINABILITY

"There are people who walk on the planet like someone [with no respect] who would tread on a corpse"

—Shouldn't we feel sorry for them? Always exposed to the whims or caprices of people or animals?

—When a flower gives sugar to a hummingbird, we see the bird as the star of the film. But if there were no hummingbirds for a year, the plant wouldn't have a problem. However, if there are no flowers for even 12 hours, the hummingbirds would die. The birds are enslaved, they have to find the flower. If there are no plants, we have to move somewhere else. They give us oxygen and enable us to live. It's curious how we ignore that.

—The philosopher Emanuele Coccia called plants "the roots of the world".

—I would go along with that, in a way. The plants are the alchemists of the Earth. With a bit of water and light they are capable of generating everything else.

—So what do we do about anthropocentrism, the doctrine that places human beings as the centre of all things? Should it be invalidated?

—Of course it should be invalidated. That's the exact problem, the way we use the power we have as 'animals'. There are two types

of people. The ones who are inside the planet, in other words, you consider yourself part of it. And those that are on the planet, with that attitude of 'it's all mine'. And they walk on it like someone [with no respect] who would tread on a corpse.

—A plant aspires to reach the sun, but it is rooted in the earth. That seems an obvious contradiction.

—Not at all. The plants use the sun to condition the soil and generate everything else. They generate proteins, amino acids, compounds, medicines... the plants act as a connection with all the forces of the universe.

—Are the roots the most important part?

—In a way, yes. When you see a timelapse of how the roots operate, it is quite creepy. It looks very animalistic, at root level.

—And in life? You are an Asturian in London.

—I think so, yes. It is the part that you don't have in your genetic code but that has moulded you as well. Let's say your race, your skin colour, your height... all that is given to you. Your cultural roots do the rest. The combination of the two is what generates you.

—Is that why some people, when they are transplanted, wither like a plant moved from one pot to another?

—Maybe so. But there is also the possibility of improving. You might have a sad plant, which is half-dried out, then you plant it in the ground and that's where its roots are able to spread and flourish.

—Can England be considered the Mecca of botany?

—It's possible. Kew Gardens has been internationally renowned for a great many years. The oceanic climate favours it a great deal. It is hot in summer, but only for a short time. There are frosts, but not for long periods. It rains a lot.

—Voltaire described gardening as the most noble profession in the world. Do you feel flattered by that?

—I'd say I feel acknowledged by it. After all, Voltaire is not a cheap philosopher.

—Is your profession more recognised in England?

—In England, when you say you are Spanish, people probably think your job is washing dishes. But when I tell them I'm a gardener, something clicks. They see you as an interesting person and open up to you. In Spain you tell someone you're a gardener and they think you sweep up the leaves in parks.

—In Malaga there are pine trees on the mountains and less than half an hour away there are avocado plantations.

—Yes. Malaga is definitely a hot-spot of biodiversity.

—A final question. What music do you recommend we play for our plants on the balcony? Mozart, Nirvana or Daddy Yankee?

—Come as you are by Nirvana.



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READERS' PHOTOS



Queen of the Night

Diane Dewhirst from Mijas Golf sent in this photograph of her Cereus cactus which has just flowered. The blooms open at night and start to fade by dawn, depending on bats and moths for pollination. The common name for this cactus is Queen of the Night.



Celosia pampas plume

Raised from seeds bought at Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island, Western Canada, these stunning plumes are Celosias. Andrew Roberts says, "they are a little past their best having spent the summer on our roof terrace."

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).

GARDENING

Mandarin melonberry

The che, Chinese che, Chinese mulberry or mandarin melonberry is native to China and East Asia although it is found in most temperate regions of the world. Its botanical name is Maclura (synonym Cudrania) tricuspidata and it is a spreading bush or small tree that can grow up to about eight metres in height.

The melonberry is a member of the Moraceae family (breadfruit and mulberry) and is evergreen in warmer climates. It is drought resistant once established and will withstand short periods of freezing temperatures. Immature branches have long sharp thorns and the bark develops deep

furrows as it ages; Maclura tricuspidata can live up to around forty years. Melonberry plants are dioecious, either male or female, but male trees will have some female flowers and female trees will have some male flowers. Female trees are usually larger and more robust. For plentiful fruit both sexes will be needed although the berries that have been pollinated will then develop four to six edible seeds. Pollination is carried out by the wind and sometimes both male and female trees are planted in the same hole to maximise fruit production. The fruit is not a proper berry but a conglomeration of tiny fruits, like the mulberry. They turn dark red and are almost black when fully ripe. The taste is said to be a cross between a mulberry and a lychee and they need to be really ripe, when the sugar content is similar to that of a ripe fig, before picking. A way to tell if the fruit is ripe is to pull one off the branch and if the stem doesn't bleed white sap after then it is ripe. The juicy, dark red fruit will stain so the tree is best planted away from porous surfaces. The seeds can be used to raise new plants but they can take ten years to produce fruit. The melonberry can also be propagated by softwood cuttings taken mid-summer but the best plants are grafted onto Osage orange rootstocks. The rootstock provides a clean trunk and avoids the messy suckering that young melonberries are prone to.



Maclura tricuspidata and close-up of fruit (inset). WIKIMEDIA



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WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

22 OCTOBER 1978

John Paul II is inaugurated as the 264th Pope

The Polish cardinal visited Spain several times as pope and held an open-air mass in front of 600,000 people in Seville

Polish cardinal Karol Józef Wojtyła was elected Pope at the Vatican on 16 October 1978, and took the name John Paul II. The Papal inauguration was held six days later, on 22 October.

John Paul II was the first non-Italian pope since Pope Alexander VI (Spanish-born as Rodrigo de Borja) became the head of the Roman Catholic Church in 1492. However, in comparison to the Spanish pope, John Paul II was one of the best-known pontiffs,

most remembered for his charismatic nature, his love of youth and his attempts to improve the Roman Catholic Church's relations with Judaism, Islam, and the Eastern Orthodox Church.

John Paul II immediately went out to the entire world with a vigorous missionary spirit. He became one of the most travelled world leaders in history. During his pontificate, he visited 129 countries, and Spain was one of his frequent destinations.

John Paul II kissed Spanish soil for the first time, on 31 October 1982. That day he began a ten-day tour throughout the peninsula, visiting Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Seville, Zaragoza, Granada, Santiago, Toledo, Ávila, Salamanca, Segovia, as well as the shrines of Alba de Tormes, Loyola, Javier and Montserrat.



John Paul II greets followers as the new pope on 22 October 1978. EFE

From that very first visit the Polish Pope unleashed fervour among the Spanish faithful. Two years later, on his way to Latin America, he stopped in Zaragoza, but only for five hours. On his third visit, in August 1989, the Pontiff arrived as a pilgrim. He walked the last hundred metres that lead to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela and there put on the characteristic cape worn by the pilgrims.

His fourth trip took place in 1993, and focused mainly on Andalucía. Pope John Paul II attended the 45th International Eucharistic Congress that was

held in Seville. On 13 June, he conducted (with the help of a team of 1,400 Spanish priests) an open air Sunday mass for 600,000 people. The three-hour service ended at midday. In the afternoon, John Paul II had a private meeting at the Seville Cathedral with the delegates from 86 countries and saw the ancient dance of Los Seises. The Pope finished his day by opening a new residence for 48 elderly people in Seville where he made an appeal to governments, employers and workers to unite in the fight against unemployment.

The next stop in Andalucía was

Huelva province where he visited the Monastery of La Rábida and the Hermitage of El Rocío in Almonte. Incidentally, at El Rocío he created the motto "May the whole world be 'rociero'."

His fifth and last trip to Spain took place in May 2003, two years before his death.

A monument to Pope John Paul was erected among the orange trees in the Plaza de la Virgen de los Reyes in Seville, in 2012.

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Papa	Pope
Inaugurar	To inaugurate
Misa	Mass
Polaco	Polish
Vaticano	Vatican
Católico	Catholic
Pontífice	Pontiff
Iglesia	Church
Juventud	Youth
Misionero	Missionary
Peregrino	Pilgrim
Monasterio	Monastery
Visitar	To visit
Conocido	Known
Viajar	To travel

Bilingual crossword inside back page

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EXHIBITIONS

Udo Burkhardt

RONDA. Until 30 October. *Cafe Blanco y Negro, C/Pozo.*
An exhibition by German artist Udo Berkhardt.

Art Gaucín 2021

GAUCÍN. From 22 October until 28 November. In the new Town Hall, C/Convento 156.
The Human Presence and the Vision of the Artist is the theme for this year's edition of Art Gaucín, a collective exhibition by many international artists.



Catherine Hunter, Art Gaucín

Pol Laris

ESTEPONA. Until 28 October. *Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores.*
Belgian photographer Pol Laris is exhibiting a collection of 27 of his photos entitled *Luces, Colores y Materiales*.

Kjell Sporrang

ESTEPONA. Until 17 November. *Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores.*
Twenty-six works of various sizes and using different techniques by Swedish artist Kjell Sporrang.

Alexander Höller

MARBELLA. Until 30 November. *Reiners Contemporary Art, Centro Comercial Camojan Corner.*
La Tormenta is the title of the exhibition of eight large format works by German artist Alexander Höller. This is his first exhibition in Spain.

Alex Mañé

MARBELLA. Until 30 October. *Excellence Art Gallery.*
Barcelona artist Alex Mañé is exhibiting a selection of his works entitled 20.000. www.excellenceartgallery.com

Museo Ralli

MARBELLA. Urb Coral Beach, Río Verde.
A selection of European contemporary art as well as unique pieces from emerging Latin-American artists in the permanent exhibition entitled *Arte Europea: Surrealismo de Giorgio de Chirico a Francis Bacon*. Free entry.

Los Bravú

MARBELLA. Until 5 November. *Galería Yusto Giner, C/Madera.*
Los Bravú (Dea Gómez and Diego Omil) present their work for the first time at the Yusto / Giner gallery with ten canvases with classical mythol-

Blues at Moonlight returns to Benalmádena for 13th edition

The American roots music gathering has become one of the most prestigious events of its kind in Spain

TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. The thirteenth edition of the popular Blues at Moonlight festival will be held at the Hotel Sunset Beach in Benalmádena from Thursday 25 until Sunday 28 November.

This international rockabilly and American roots music gathering, organised by Active Sound Productions and Benalmádena town hall, has become one of the most prestigious events of its kind in Spain. This year's event will present 13 celebrated rock and roll musicians from France, the UK and Spain. Topping the bill is French rocker Jake Calypso and Red Hot, a group renowned for their incredible musicianship and exciting stage presence.

British rockabilly bands Lobo Jones and the Rhythm Hounds and The Danny McVey



British rockers Lobo Jones and the Rhythm Hounds on stage. SUR

Trio will also perform on the coveted stage at the Moonlight Lounge; along with The Uncle Charlie Combo, a 50s style rock and roll band from Seville who have gained a strong following by performing all over Europe.

Several renowned disc-jockeys from the UK will keep the music flowing in between acts.

The four-day festival will present some of the most celebrated roots music artistes on the scene and so it will be a must for lovers of blues, rock-

abilly, honky-tonk and country music.

Tickets for the Thursday and Sunday night sessions cost 15 euros. Tickets for Friday night cost 30 euros, while Saturday, the main event, is 35 euros. A special weekend pass costs 80 euros, and a special package including accommodation in the hotel is also available. For schedule and tickets, see www.bluesatmoonlight.com



Alex Mañé, Marbella.

ogy as the theme.

My Secret Garden

PUERTO BANÚS. Until 16 January, 2022.

Belgian artist Arne Quinze is exhibiting a collection of his aluminium sculptures, inspired by nature, around the streets and port of Puerto Banús.

BioGuitar exhibition

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. Until 6 November. *Biblioteca Municipal de Alhaurín el Grande.*

Malaga artist Pedro Aragón is exhibiting a collection of guitars made from recycled materials.

Cristóbal Ortega

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE. Until 20 November. *El Portón de Alhaurín de la Torre.*

Poemas de Piel is the title of this

exhibition by Malaga artist Cristóbal Ortega.

Javier Roz

MALAGA. Until 31 October. *Casa Amarilla, C/Santos 7.*

Oscura ladera Luminosa is the title of this exhibition by artist Javier Roz.

Jean-Marie Périer

MALAGA. Tues - Sunday, 11am-2pm and 5.30-8.30pm. *Centro Cultural La Malagueta.*

The photographer Jean-Marie Périer took thousands of photos of famous people, film and pop stars during his 40-year career. Around 200 of his photos, including subjects such as Bob Dylan, Stevie Wonder, Mick Jagger and the Beatles as well as French designers Yves St Laurent and Jean-Paul Gautier, are in an exhibition called *El Fotógrafo de las Estrellas* (the photographer of the Stars) at the centre.

Malaga Picasso Museum

MALAGA. *Museo Picasso Málaga, Calle San Agustín.*

El París de Brassai. The museum will be exhibiting a collection that not only concentrates on the photographer Brassai but also reflects the topography of Paris in the 30's and 40's.

Picasso exchange. The MPM has made an exchange with the Musée National Picasso-Paris and will be able to exhibit the wood and oil paint sculpture *Copa*, *Periódico* y *Dado* that Pablo Picasso created in 1914. The museum is also exhibiting *Bodegón con Cráneo*, *Puerros* y *Jarra* which

Picasso painted in 1945. It is on loan from the Fine Arts Museum in San Francisco. Both artworks are on display until February 2022. www.museopicassomalaga.org.

Picasso Casa Natal

MALAGA. Until 25 October. *Museo Casa Natal Picasso, Plaza de la Merced.*

The museum has been through all its stored documents and photographs to create this new exhibition of Picasso's connections with the literary world.

Colección del Museo Ruso

MALAGA. *Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat.*

Temporary exhibitions: From 29 October until 17 April 2022.

Avant-garde in Russian art. The exhibition reflects the journey of stylistic variety and innovative creation which broke with established conceptions



Jean-Marie Périer, Malaga

of art at the beginning of the 20th century. The Russian avant-garde artists such as Natalia and Mikhail Goncharova, Mikhail Larionov, Wassily Kandinsky and Kazimir Malevich, Alexander Rodchenko and Marc Rodchenko and Marc Chagall made themselves known in Europe with a unique style which distinguishes them from other movements.

Maiakovski, poet and artist. Vladimir Maiakovsky defined himself as a poet, but in reality his creative activity surpassed the limits of literature and entered the artistic and interpretative plane, being part of the group of actors of the early 20th century and a prominent member of futurism, as well as an emissary of the Russian revolution. His most important artistic contribution is to be found in his posters for the Russian Telegraph Agency which transcended the political tone.

Dostoevski bicentenary. Writer Fiódor Dostoevsky was born 200 years ago this year and the Russian Museum is commemorating his life with an exhibition of photographs, drawings and paintings of the writer as well as his funeral mask created by an unknown sculptor.

Centre Pompidou

MALAGA. *Muelle Uno.*
<https://centrepompidou-malaga.eu/>
El Sentido del Viento / Le Sens du Vent. Until May, 2022. A mural by Erik Pall is painted on the staircase at the entrance to the museum.

Pablo Capitán del Río. Located inside the cube is a sculpture by Pablo Capitán del Río representing the famous 'elephant's foot' inside the reactor at Chernobyl: a radioactive mass created after the explosion and one of the most toxic on earth. Just a few minutes in its presence will bring certain death to any living organism. The sculpture, which can only be seen from a distance, symbolises that which inhibits life in all its forms.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo

MALAGA. *CAC Málaga. C/Alemania.*

Cindy Sherman. Until 24 October.

Cindy Sherman: an interview (1980-1981) is a short ten minute film in which the American photographer talks about the different aspects relating to her works, her creative process and inspiration.

Mark Whalen. Until 28 November. *I Am Just Here* is an exhibition of twenty aluminium sculptures and wall reliefs by the Australian artist Mark Whalen.

MALAGA. *CAC Málaga - La Coracha. Museo del Patrimonio Municipal.*

Viajes Extraordinarios Until 7 November. The exhibition is of over 80 works by Sebastián Navas. The works include oils, acrylics and traditional Chinese inks, completed on canvases and paper.

Málagacrea 2021. A total of 182 pieces of art work were submitted for the *Muestra Joven de Artes Visuales Málagacrea 2021*. The eleven finalists will be on display until 7 November. The exhibition includes sculpture, paintings, photography, installations and video-art. Those participating in the competition were aged between 15 and 35 and were born, studying, working or residing in Malaga.



The advertisement features three modern, rectangular storage units with a combination of dark wood and light-colored wood paneling. The units are arranged in a cluster, with one unit in the foreground and two others behind it. The background is a light gray gradient. Below the units, there is a large, detailed black and white line drawing of a crowd of people, suggesting a busy event or exhibition.

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EXHIBITIONS

MálagaCrea Artes Visuales OFF 2021

MÁLAGA. From 4 November until 10 December. Caja Blanca, Av. del Editor Ángel Caffarena.

A selection of the works entered in the competition will be on display.



Málagacrea 2021 winner, Malaga.

Centro de Cultura Pedro Aparicio

MÁLAGA. Until 12 November. Teatro Cervantes.

The 150th anniversary of the Cervantes Theatre is celebrated with this exhibition of old posters, photographs, tickets etc from some of the very first shows at the theatre.

Daniel Quintero, Ibn Gabirol

MÁLAGA. Until 23 November. Centro Cultural de la Fundación Unicaja.

The artist Daniel Quintero uses the philosophy of Salomón Ibn Gabirol, how he lived and the customs and costume of the Jews during his lifetime around 1,000 years ago to create his painting. Thirty two of his works on this theme are on display.

Museo de Málaga

MÁLAGA. Palacio de la Aduana.

The new exhibition space in the Museo de Málaga is named after the artist Eugenio Chicano and contains an exhibition of 52 of his works. The museum is holding free tours of its archaeological collection every weekend entitled Leyendo-al Andalus. La Epigrafía Árabe del Museo de Málaga. The tour starts at 12.30pm.

La Luna en Málaga

MÁLAGA. Until 14 November. Museo de Patrimonio MUPAM.

An exhibition of 60 photographs by ten photographers which reflect their feelings and emotions about the city of Malaga.

Raoul Wallenberg

MÁLAGA. Until 29 October. Caja Blanca, Av. del Editor Ángel Caffarena.

The Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg risked his life to save thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. During the second World War he was responsible for protecting and rescuing Hungarian Jews and invented the Schutzpass, a new type of passport that allowed many to flee. <http://juventud.malaga.eu/es/la->

caja-blanca

Carmen Thyssen Museum

MÁLAGA. C/ Compañía, 10. 10am - 8pm Tuesday to Sunday.

Sorolla in Javea. Until 16 January 2022. Sorolla's summer vacation in Javea in 1905 was the catalyst for a series of paintings which demonstrate his recognised style coming to maturity with rocky coves and bright light reflecting off the sea with figures in the water. Around 20 canvases from that period have been lent by the Sorolla Museum in Madrid.

Paul Strand. From 16 November until 6 March 2022. The exhibition includes over one hundred photos taken by the legendary New York photographer.

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

Museum Jorge Rando

MÁLAGA. C/ Cruz del Molinillo. www.museojorgerando.org

The Jorge Rando museum is celebrating its seventh anniversary this year and has a special exhibition entitled Soldados by Jorge Rando. It is holding the inauguration of a new exhibition, in conjunction with The Chinese Art Museum, called Huellas de Oriente on 25 October. The exhibition will include pieces by Dao Zi, one of the main promoters of Christian contemporary art in China; Zhang Fuye, professor at the Academy of Fine Arts among many other accolades;

and Liu Xuguang, modern and contemporary artist and intellectual. www.jorgerando.org

Oliver H

MÁLAGA. Until 22 November. Alfajar Sala, C/ Císter, 1.

Flashback is an exhibition of photographs that capture light and silence.

Carlos Canal

MÁLAGA. Until 24 October. Salas Mingorance, Archivo Municipal.

The exhibition, Tombés. El rastro de los ausentes, is a collection of photographs, video and natural elements which reflect the anguish and devastation surrounding The Great War, the deaths, the war and the deforestation.

Artistas Sexitanos en Nerja

NERJA. Until 30 October. Sala



Daniel Quintero, Fundación Unicaja

Municipal de Nerja.

A collective exhibition of art from Antonio J. Arellano, Martín Morales, Paco Ariza, Dolores Salado, J. Martín and Mariángeles Raya demonstrating different styles, techniques and mediums.

La Vuelta a Ítaca de María Zambrano

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Until 2 November.

Palacio del Marqués de Beniel and Centro de Estudios de El Exilio.

The exhibition consists of over fifty pieces including photos, sculpture, ceramics, furniture, paintings and personal effects of María Zambrano, essayist and philosopher, who was born in the town.

Esteban D'Azúa

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Until 31 October.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo

Un Mundo Nuevo. El límite fotogénico de una Pandemia is an exhibition of photographs that reflects the often difficult story behind each person in the image during the pandemic.

X Meeting Art

ALMUÑECAR. Until 24 October. Casa de la Cultura.

Exhibitions and workshops by a number of international artists.

La Galería

ALMUÑECAR. Until 24 October, C/Vélez 2, Plaza de la Constitución.

Juan Illarraz will be exhibiting a selection of his works. A percentage of the



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RESORT



Collective exhibition, Nerja

sale of each painting will go to The Asociación Española Contra Cáncer (AECC).

La Fábrica
LANJARÓN. C/ Hondillo 119.
The Artists' Network Alpujarra (ANA) have an exhibition at La Fabrica
Collective exhibition. La Alpujarra: El Viaje. Until 31 October.

MUSIC AND DANCE

Cazbah Live Lounge

MIJAS COSTA. Doors open 8pm.
Avenida de Rota.
22 October. Five Minutes of Memory.
23 October. Queen of Magic.
27 October. Bachata Dance Show & Class.
Facebook: www.facebook.com/The-CazbahLiveLounge Call or Whatsapp 602535710

La Cochera Cabaret

MALAGA. Avda de los Guindos.
23 October, 8pm. Embusteros Babel Tour.
27 October, 7pm. El Pastor dance show with Roberto Torres, produced by Compañía Nómada.
28 October, 7pm. Dakini dance show with Paloma Hurtado.
29 October, 9pm. Vargas Blues Band. back in Memphis featuring John Byron Jagger.

Guitar Concert

MARBELLA. 22 October, 8pm. Hotel Don Pepe.

Los Amigos de la Música have organised a guitar recital by Bernardo García Huidobro in the Hotel Don Pepe. Tickets 25€ for non-members.

Piano Candlelight

ESTEPONA. 22 October, 8.30pm.
Centro Cultural Padre Manuel. Free.
Susanna Ikebana is holding a piano recital by candlelight.

Michael's Legacy

ESTEPONA 23 October, 9pm. Auditorio Felipe VI.
A tribute to the 'King of Pop' Michael Jackson. Tickets: www.tafestepona.com or from the box office.

The Rob Sas Band

ESTEPONA. 22 October, 10.30pm.
Louie Louie Bar, Estepona Port.
The Rob Sas band returns for a night of live rock music.

Granada Bull Festival

GRANADA. 23 October. Cortijo Del Conde.
Fusion and rock, rap and urban music concerts are planned for the two festival days. More information: www.bullmusicfestival.com

Noches Carnavaleras

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. 24 October. Clausura de San Francisco. 15€.
The event will include the great voices of José Antonio Molina (El Molina) and Hugo León and Comparsa band Tino Tovar's guitarist, Quique Jiménez.
Tickets: Óptica Vélez and Bar La Bulla in Vélez and El Pasaje in Malaga.

Chamber music

ESTEPONA. 29 October, 8.30pm.
Centro Cultural Padre Manuel. 10€.
The concert entitled Suspiros de España will include classical compositions of Spanish chamber music performed by Dúo de Violines: the concert violinists Walter Oscar Tejeda Carranza and Laura Mª Sánchez García. Bookings and tickets: 660753246 www.duoiberclasico.com

Cuadro Flamenco

MALAGA. Colmao del Museo de Flamenco Peña Juan Brea, C/Ramón Franquelo 4.
23 October, 8.30pm. Cuadro flamenco de María Pozo. Facebook-Instagram: Flamenka Paco Roji.

Costa del Soul Singers

FUENGIROLA. 24 October, 3.30pm.
Caribbean Bar, Paseo Marítimo, Carvajal.
The Costa del Soul Singers will be performing to raise money for the Cudeca Hospice. They will perform some of the most popular Motown and soul music and there will also be an Ice Bucket Challenge, raffle etc. For more information on the singing group: <https://www.facebook.com/costasoulsingers>



Michael's Legacy, Estepona

Flamenco and classical music concerts



Javier García Moreno will perform at the Picasso Culture Centre. **SUR**

Torremolinos' winter agenda will present several concerts by some of the regions top performers

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. As part of its winter cultural agenda, Torremolinos will host Los Conciertos de Picasso, a series of classical music and flamenco recitals, at the Picasso Cultural Centre from the end of October until December.

The cycle will present some of the area's top musicians, singers and dancers.

Professor of flamenco guitar and director of the Conservatory of Music of Malaga, Javier García Moreno, one of the most outstanding and respected guitarists of his generation, will perform on Friday 29 October.

The cycle continues on Friday 12 November with a

piano and cello concert; while flamenco will return the following Friday with Manuel de la Curra, a singer from Jerez de la Frontera who evolves from one of the mightiest flamenco clans in the history of the art.

The flamenco will continue on Saturday 11 December, with the company of Isaac de los Reyes, an outstanding young dancer who mixes flamenco, ballet and contemporary dance, creating a raw style that is deeply rooted in tradition. The final concert on Thursday 23 December will present local classical pianist Manuel López.

All concerts, which start at 8pm, are free, except for Isaac de los Reyes, which costs 20 euros. Tickets can be purchased at www.latiendadelasentradas.com.

More information, see www.torremolinos.es

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THEATRE

World Opera Day

MÁLAGA. 25 October, 8.30pm. Teatro Echegaray.
Voces en Feminino is the title of the recital which includes sopranos María Calvo, Marina Rojas and María Luz Román singing excerpts from famous operas. There is also a showing of Maria By Callas at the Albéniz cinema (see listings for cinemas).

No Amenece en Génova

TORREMOLINOS. 30 October, 9pm. Auditorio Municipal de Torremolinos. A show produced by Factoría Echegaray performed by Silencia Danza.

La Fábrica de la Magia

MÁLAGA. 31 October, 6.30pm, 1 November, 12pm. Teatro Cánovas. 8€. Especially created for Halloween, this show combines magic with spooky happenings where things just can't be as they appear... <https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/cultura/teatros>

Salon Varietés

FUENGIROLA. 7.30pm daily, 7pm Sunday. The Salon Varietés Theatre, Calle Emancipación.
Until 24 October. The smash hit Broadway musical The Little Shop of Horrors. Tickets: boxoffice@salonvarietestheatre.com or call: 952474542

FIESTAS AND FERIAS

Halloween

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. 29, 31 October. Corridor of terror, scary biscuit making for children, horror stories for brave children (Spanish) and Escape City 'The Masked Murderer' in the María Zambrano Park. Sign up for the activities in the Casa de la Juventud between 10am and 1pm or call: 610938776 On the 29th there is the Noche de Misterio en Casa Cervantes tour with ghostly stories, legends and a route around the haunted buildings in the town register: www.rutasmisteriosas.es

MORE IDEAS

Tapas Route

CALAHONDA. 22-30 October. This year there will be a wide variety of international dishes and flavours from Spanish, Indian, Italian, British, Chinese, Caribbean and Irish cuisine among others. Tapas and a drink will cost 2.95 euros. There is a raffle with 10 prizes valued at almost 700 euros, donated by local sponsors that will be awarded to 10 people who manage to complete this year's route.



TIMS choir, Los Boliches

Dreambeach Festival is back in time for Halloween

GRANADA

Dance, Techno and Drum n Bass are covered in this year's line up at Granada's Cortijo del Conde venue at the end of the month

JENNIE RHODES

GRANADA. The Dreambeach Festival returns to Granada for the first time since 2019, in time for the spookiest night of the year.

Billed as Dreambeach Halloween, the event will be held at the Cortijo del Conde on Saturday, 30 October from 6pm through to 6am on Sunday 31st.

Dance, Techno and Drum n Bass are the order of the day and among the highlights at this year's festival is Dutch DJ Armin van Buuren. He will be returning to the festival after his last appearance in 2019.

Also from Holland, dance duo



Armin van Buuren at Dreambeach in 2019. SUR

Sunnery James and Ryan Marciano will be doing a set as will Brian Cross, who is a firm favourite on the Spanish dance music scene.

For fans of techno, I Hate Models, the French DJ with his fusion of Techno, Acid and Industrial, and from the UK, Rebekah, a former model turned hard Techno DJ who made a name for herself in the underground scene in Berlin.

Anyone into Drum n Bass will get the chance to see Belgian DJ and producer Netsky, and Austrian duo Camo & Krooked.

Shuttle buses will run every 20 minutes in both directions from Triunfo on Avenida Constitución and stop at Villarejo on Avenida Andalucía.

Tickets are on sale for 60 euros and can be purchased at www.dreambeach.es/granada.

Outdoor Artisan Market

MARBELLA. 28 October, 6pm. Casca de Cocina & Bar, Urb La Montua. Stalls selling crafts etc. Food and drink available in the restaurant.

Winderlust wine tasting

MÁLAGA. English Cemetery. Spanish Wine Explorer. 22 October. www.winderlustmalaga.com for ticket information and booking. A percentage of the proceeds go to St George's Church.

Workshops

MIJAS COSTA. Aula de danza Teatro Las Lagunas. Donation of 3kg of non-perishable foodstuffs on first day of course.

Visual poetry at the cinema. 23, 24 October, 9am - 2pm. How to construct a 'poem' with light and photographic composition. Lecturer: Amanda Gutiérrez del Castillo.

Making short films. 6, 7 November, 9am - 2pm. Lecturer Javier Gómez Bello. Register: cultura@mijas.es or call:

952590380

Judas Roller Derby

MÁLAGA. 23 October, from 4pm. Skatepark Málaga Rubén Alcántara. C/Camino Cuarto.

The Torneo Costa del Sol of rollerskating consists of three matches with teams from Murcia, Madrid and Andalucía. <https://www.facebook.com/LasJudasMalagaRD>

Gaming Convention

GRANADA. 23, 24 October. Ferasa stadium.

Film, manga, animation, fantasy, K-Pop, Japanese culture and Cosplay Ficzone with videogames, e-sports, freeplay and new innovations and technology will be at the Feria de Muestras de Granada stadium. Tickets: www.ficzone.com, www.grana-dagaming.com, www.meeplefactory.es and entradasytickets.com

Salon Varietés luncheon

FUENGIROLA. 27 October, 2pm. Old Swiss House Restaurant.

Johnny G and Melissa Carver provide the entertainment at the three-course lunch in aid of the Salón Varietés Theatre, organised by T.L.C (Theatre Loyalty Club). T.L.C members 26€, non-members 30€. Bookings: 952474542 Email: fundraising@salonvarietes.com.

Polloween

MÁLAGA. 29, 30 October. Polo de Contenidos Digitales, Av. Sor Teresa Prat. Free.

Terror videogames, virtual reality, horror make-up, music and festival of



Roller Derby, Malaga

short horror films. On 31st October, Polo Digital will be showing some of the best entries for the Polloween Horror fest short film competition. <https://www.polodigital.eu/evento/polloween/> Fans of videogames can also enjoy samples of the National Indie Games Málaga entries as well as Resident Evil Village and Phasmophobia at the Tabalcalera Friday and Saturday.

TIMS choir

LOS BOLICHES. Wednesdays 7-9.30pm. St Andrew's Church. The choir has recently resumed rehearsals and would love to welcome new members. The International Music Society has an extensive repertoire including musical theatre, ballads, popular songs of yesteryear up to present times and Christmas songs including German and Spanish as well as English. There are no auditions and the ability to read music is less important

than enthusiasm and commitment. Visit their Facebook page or their website :- www.timschoir.org call: 654891790.

Family English Cemetery Days

MÁLAGA. Saturdays, 10.30am-3pm. Avda de Priés, 1.

Are you looking for a family activity for Saturday mornings, which is fun, educational and in the open air? Book a family visit to the English Cemetery and they will provide a route to follow to discover some fascinating Malaga history, and games to play along the way - in both English and Spanish. Reserve a time slot on <https://cementerioingles-malaga.org/en> under the "visits" tab. The entrance fee, (5€ per adult, 4€ per child) is payable on arrival and includes all materials for the games, which are adapted to all age groups.

Lux Mundi

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

Art Group. Wednesday 3 November, 10am-1pm in the centre.

Taizé Prayer. 29 October, 8.45pm. San Andrés church. Send an email to be included in them: luxmundi@luxmundi.org.

Salon Varietés 'Little Shop of Horrors'. 23 October. Various departure points. Tickets 34€ or 30€ if a Lux Mundi card holder, available from the Lux Mundi Centre.

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.

Dune: 12.30 (Sun), 19.05 (Tues).

No Time To Die: 12.25 (Sun); 21.35 (Tues).

Venom: Let There be Carnage: 12.30, 15.00 (Sun).

Halloween Kills: 12.10, 14.45 (Sun), 19.45 (Tues).

Ron Goes Wrong: 20.30 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

MÁLAGA. Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902220922

Venom: Let There be Carnage: 18.45 (Tues).

Dune: 22.00 (every day except Sat).

Halloween Kills: 21.00 (Tues).

No Time To Die: 21.30 (Tues).

Ron Goes Wrong: 20.30 (Tues).

Supernova: 20.05 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón

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

No Time To Die: 19.15 (Tues).

Venom: Let There be Carnage: 18.45 (Tues).

Halloween Kills: 22.30 (Tues).

Ron Goes Wrong: 17.00 (Tues).

Cine Albéniz

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

Maria By Callas: 18.00 (Mon).

Supernova: 16.30 (Mon), 18.30, 20.25 (every day except Thurs), 22.30 (Fri, Sat, Sun).

The illustration depicts a group of diverse people interacting with digital devices. A large tablet in the center displays the 'SUR in English' website with a headline about a 90-million-euro investment at Costa del Sol airport. To its right, a smartphone shows a similar article. Further right, a tablet displays a 'Welcome' message for the new website. Stylized icons of a sun, a heart, and a building are scattered around the devices. The background is a light blue gradient with a reflection effect on the ground.

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One in every three women with breast cancer loses their job because of their illness

Advances in the quality of life of patients with breast cancer are moving more slowly than the research and treatments for the illness

ÁNGEL ESCALERA



MALAGA. A third of women who develop breast cancer lose their jobs as a result of their illness, and this exacerbates the problems that arise when a breast tumor is diagnosed. About 1,100 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in Malaga province this year. Nearly 90 per cent will overcome it, thanks to advances in research and in treatments, which are progressing faster than the improvement in the quality of life of these patients.

To coincide with World Breast Cancer Day on 19 October, the Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer (AECC) pointed out that this type of tumor makes women who suf-



Joaquín Morales and Luisa Jiménez receive the donation from Teleférico Benalmádena cable car. **SUR**

fer from it more vulnerable. In a study into 'Financial toxicity in breast cancer' the association warned that nearly 34 per cent of patients had lost their job or had

been forced to give it up because of their illness, 70 per cent have ended up with no salary and practically no income and around 36 per cent are unable to work for 11 months.

The study shows that on average, with direct expenses and lack of income, there is a loss of 41,834 euros during the illness. Therefore, a patient with a breast tumor faces direct costs of 9,242 euros and a loss of income of 32,578 euros. The AECC is calling for inequality that exists around cancer, and specifically breast cancer, to be corrected. Last year in Spain, 33,875 new cases were diagnosed and 15 per cent of the patients are "in an extremely vulnerable financial and work situation," it says.

Once an increase in a patient's survival has been achieved, there are a series of consequences of a tumor which need to be improved. These include the health service reducing the delays which patients face in receiving lymphatic massage when they suffer from lymphoedema (an accumulation of fluid in the adipose tissues just be-

low the skin. This accumulation could also be considered an obstruction which causes inflammation and discomfort). Lymphoedema occurs more frequently after surgery to remove the tumor or damage to lymph glands as a result of the cancer treatment.

The president of the ASAMMA association for women in Malaga who have had breast cancer surgery, Francisca Aguilar, said this week that the Andalusian Health Service has to respond more quickly with physiotherapy for women with lymphoedema. Because of the existing delays, Asamma has a physiotherapist who gives lymphatic massage to people who need it.

About 1,100 patients will be diagnosed with breast cancer in Malaga this year. Tuesday 19 October was World Breast Cancer Day

Another issue that needs to be dealt with is the micropigmentation of the areolas of patients who have had a mastectomy. The Materno hospital set up a unit for this service, but it closed when the pandemic began, says Francisca.

On the positive side, she also points out that there are no longer delays of three or four years as there used to be for breast reconstruction following surgery. Now, a decree from the Junta de Andalucía guarantees that this procedure will be carried out within six months maximum. Also, with some patients, the reconstruction is carried out on the same day as the breast with the tumor is removed. In addition, the system which enables young women who are diagnosed with breast cancer to preserve their ovules before starting treatment is working well. This means that once they have overcome the illness, they can become pregnant.

Humanise the care

The head of medical oncology at the Regional and Clínico hospitals in Malaga, Emilio Alba, who is also a professor of oncology at the university, says improvements are needed in the procedures to improve patients' quality of life. "We need to humanise the care once we have made major progress in treatments and cures," he says, pointing out that nearly 90 per cent of patients treated for breast cancer in Malaga survive the illness. "What concerns us is that between March 2020 and March 2021 there were 25 per cent fewer diagnoses than in the same period the previous year. This suggests that one in every four patients has not been diagnosed because of the pandemic," he says.

Also to mark World Breast Cancer Day, the General Manager of the Benalmádena cable car, Alberto Martín, presented a cheque for 3,000 euros to the AECC, and this money will be used for research and the association's services.

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How to be supportive to someone who is suffering from breast cancer

It is as counterproductive to ignore the situation and not talk about it as it is to keep asking the patient how she is feeling

A. ESCALERA

MALAGA. The news that you have breast cancer has a psychological impact. "The first thing that passes through people's minds is that they are going to die, or could die," explains Mónica Caballero, a psycho-oncologist with the AECC cancer association in Malaga. That moment of diagnosis tends to be the most acute and most critical, because it is when fear of the future occurs, with uncertainty and anxiety which will be present throughout the process: all the time there is uncertainty, the anxiety will remain. The help of relatives and friends is essential so that patients have a shoulder to lean on. "In the guidelines we give to families and friends, we recommend being available for them and saying 'I'm here for whatever you need, whenever you need it'. They need to



Mónica Caballero, a psycho-oncologist at the AECC, with a patient. **SUR**

know you are there for them, but don't suffocate them, because there are times when the person needs to be alone, to adapt and think about their future," says Mónica.

Be there, but don't overdo it
Express interest, but don't keep asking how they feel

Mónica Caballero says people

should express interest in how the patient is, but not keep asking them how they feel all the time. It is important to show that you are available if needed, for example by asking "What can I do to help you?" she says. People should also be honest, and say "I'm here to help, but I don't know what to do," she explains. The patient will be very

grateful, because the message she receives is that someone is interested and concerned about her, but won't be too pushy. You should ring every three or four days, or once a week, depending on the relationship with the patient, so she knows you are there if needed. Express support from a distance, and show affection by, for example, sending them a bunch of flowers or basket of fruit, Mónica suggests.

Maintain communication
"Do you feel like talking about your illness?"

Because cancer is a difficult subject to deal with, people normally don't talk about it and communication breaks down. This should be avoided. It is essential to remain close to family members, friends and work colleagues. One recommendation from this psycho-oncologist is to ask the patient "Do you feel like talking about this?" because that gives them a way of talking about their emotions. Talking openly about cancer is beneficial because it breaks down the taboos around the illness. "But, I

must stress, always respect the patient's wishes. If she says she doesn't want to talk about it, or she seems uncomfortable when you bring it up, take notice, but don't distance yourself from her so she doesn't feel alone," says Mónica.

Don't let her overdo things
"Rest and look after yourself" is a way of saying "I love you"

Some women with breast cancer carry on with their daily lives as if nothing was happening. They take the children to school, cook meals and do the housework as usual, and people think they are fine. "But you have to realise that this woman is actually overburdened," says Mónica. In that situation, it's good to ask what you can do to help, and tell them to rest and look after themselves. "It's a way of saying you love them, and that's the message that gets through most clearly," she explains.

In the case of relatives who live with the patient, when they detect a change in her they should help and look after her, but without being overprotective. "She needs to carry on as normally as she can, but if her husband sees that she is worn out when she gets up to get the kids' breakfast, he should tell her it is too tiring for her and that he will do it instead. If she agrees, then go ahead, because just that simple gesture helps her a lot, but if she says no, then you have to respect her decision," says Mónica.

ASSSA

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MÁLAGA

SUR. Faced with the possibility of running a risk, people naturally take preventive measures. With this in mind, ensuring your health should be of the utmost importance, even more so than protecting material goods, such as a home or a car, which can be replaced. Health is irreplaceable, therefore its protection will be crucial in the long term.

Any time is an ideal time to take out insurance, but it is advisable to do so as soon as possible, as we can't anticipate unforeseen events and must ensure our health is protected when the time comes.

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The ‘other’ sherry

ANDREW J. LINN



Although every wine lover is aware that Spain’s fortified wines come from the sherry area around Jerez de la Frontera, many do not realise that there is a secondary ‘sherry’ region much closer to the Costa del Sol.

Montilla-Moriles wines have been referred to as poor man’s sherry, but they deserve more respect. Both these regions have more in common than producing similar wines, and the British influence has been part of their history. In Montilla there is a bodega

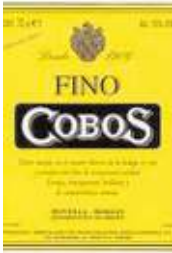
known as La Inglesa, named after Louise Rebecca Ward. She was married to Diego de Alvear of one of the most notable wine-producing families. Much smaller in area than Jerez and Sanlúcar, the provincial capital of Cordoba, and indeed the entire province, is a fervent consumer of the finos and amontillados. The main difference between the two regions lies in the grape varieties. While Jerez is unstintingly proud of its Palomino conviction, Montilla-Moriles employs mainly desert grape varieties, notably Moscatel and Pedro Ximénez, although most resulting wines

are dry. You may have drunk Montilla without realising it. Since Jerez bodegas were until recently forbidden to sell wine in bag-in-box format, most bars serve copas on draught and sell it as sherry - from Montilla. If one had to describe the distinction, the most obvious element would be the slightly more unctuous consistency of Montilla-Moriles, or, to put it bluntly, the fino is less delicate. As it costs around half the price, no one complains. The region’s foremost producer on a value-for-money basis is Cobos, making organic wines of a very high quality.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Fino Cobos

On 23/24 October there is an open day at many of Moriles’ top bodegas, and for a modest sum visitors can taste multiple wines: www.catademoriles.es Otherwise our Wine of the Week is Fino Cobos, an excellent dry Pedro Ximénez matured in wood for three years, light and made organically: 15° alcohol and to be drunk cold.



Cristina Aguilera: 20 years selling Christmas treats

The entrepreneur sells seasonal products at Delicias del Horno, a business that has opened eight temporary stores in the province

JUAN SOTO

MALAGA. Cristina Aguilera has spent half her life supplying the traditional Spanish mantecados and other handmade Christmas products to the sweet-toothed people of Malaga. Growing up among polvorones and hojald-rinas, this businesswoman from Antequera is one of the main reasons that Malaga can enjoy typical handmade treats every Christmas. Every year for the past twenty years, she has been selling the little cakes that are made daily in the bakery Los Antiguos de Antequera in pop-up shops that she opens every Christmas season. For her, Christmas began in mid-October, which is when she opened the eight stores that, under the Delicias del Horno brand, will sell the

most typical products of the holiday season until the end of December. In addition to the shop located in Calle Mármoles, they have other premises in Huelin, Cruz de Humilladero and Carretera de Cádiz (in the city), Torremolinos and in Antequera itself. Cristina has flour, lard and sesame seeds in her veins. She signed her first employment contract at the age of 14, although nearly all her memories are linked to the factory where her father worked. Two decades ago, the entrepreneur decided to embark on a new adventure and open the first shops in Malaga. Together with her sisters Virginia and Laura, she decided to try her luck in Malaga city, since the products were very popular with customers who came from there. Initially they started with three shops, but year after year they grew to the current eight. “What was hardest was running the stores as we were used to working, not managing,” she confesses. Cristina’s routine has not changed in recent years: she gets up at six in the morning to go to



Cristina serving in a temporary shop in Calle Mármoles. SALVADOR SALAS

the factory where they make the fresh products daily. She loads them into her car and takes them to the shop, which opens at 10 am. In the afternoon, while an employee manages the store, she returns to the factory to work. The same as last year She hopes that this year will at least be as good as last. Despite the pandemic, she knows that the people of Malaga like to buy the typical products, especially in the stores of the city. This year, as there are no mobility restrictions,

For Cristina, the Christmas season starts in October although the big sales of baked products don’t start until November

she hope the sales, which in 2020 stagnated because of the lockdowns, will recover. Although the work is based on traditional baked goods, Cristina usually introduces some new products every year. This

year, 2021, they have begun to offer yolk and sweet potato cortadillos and puff pastries made with natural orange juice. Among the top products sold each year are almond alfajores, marzipan and cakes made with egg yolk. The businesswoman confesses that the larger purchases will most likely begin in November, although for the moment they cannot complain about the sales they have. “For now people are buying for snacking; the kilos of cakes will be bought when the Christmas holidays approach,” she predicts.



Fitzpatrick becomes first Englishman to win the Andalucía Masters

The Yorkshire-born player finished six below par ahead of Soderberg and Lee in the tournament held at Valderrama

SUR

VALDERRAMA. Matt Fitzpatrick became the first Englishman to win the Andalucía Masters last Sunday as he took advantage of world-number-one Jon Rahm's early exit from the tournament. Fitzpatrick pulled off an orderly comeback to win at the Real Club Valderrama, where he finished with a score of 69, six below par, on his way to pick up the coveted oak tree trophy.

Fitzpatrick remained calm even when luck wasn't on his side. He underperformed with his putt shots, but ultimately ended the tournament with two birdies and not a single bogey to

his name. Overnight leader on Saturday, Laurie Canter was out of the running as he racked up several mistakes, paving the way for Sebastian Soderberg to take the lead up until the pitiless 17th hole on the final day. There, the Swede slipped up with a double bogey followed by another bogey on the 18th which handed Fitzpatrick the lead on a silver platter after his consecutive birdies on the 16th and 17th.

It was mission accomplished for Fitzpatrick, who was ecstatic after his victory. "It's on the bucket list to win around Valderrama, with the history that it has. To do it bogey free on Sunday as well is extra special," he said.

The Yorkshire-born player also explained the difficulty of the course as one where you cannot relax on any of the holes. "Hole 16 is a tough driver; 17, disaster can happen; 18, par is a great score. That was how I felt all day.



Juan Marín presents Matt Fitzpatrick with the Andalucía Masters trophy at Valderrama. EFE

I felt if I could hang in there, hang around and pick up a couple of birdies, pars were never a bad thing, and that's what I did," he said.

This win is Fitzpatrick's first of the season, his seventh on the European Tour and is now fifth in the Race to Dubai and will enter the world's top 25 players.

Jon Rahm

The great disappointment was Jon Rahm, number one in the world rankings, who on the second day of competition was

eliminated by failing to make the cut.

The Spanish golfer was disappointed with his contest in Valderrama and said that "it is the first time" that he does not want to "see a golf club" and that he "needs a rest".

Showcase for Andalucía

Juan Marín, vice president of the Junta de Andalucía and regional minister for Tourism was present on the last day of the tournament to show his support for an event that he considers to be

fundamental for showing off Andalucía to the world's media.

The politician presented Fitzpatrick with the trophy and he explained the economic contribution that the tournament has given the region as well as its capacity to draw both national and international tourists.

The competition attracted 36,541 spectators over the course of four days and looks set to continue to expand in future years as Andalucía cements itself as a venue for important competitions.

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Malaga has only managed two points in the last two matches. AGENCIA LOF

The VAR snatches away Malaga's first win on the road this season with minutes to go

Referees disallowed Genaro's late goal despite Huesca's Salvador touching the ball

SERGIO CORTÉS

MALAGA. Malaga CF go into their third game in only eight days on Saturday against Lugo after picking up just two points in their last couple of matches. The team looks to improve on their somewhat disappointing midweek result over

Huesca, where the Andalusian side scraped a point off their hosts, but did so with a sour taste in their mouth.

José Alberto's side did very well to hold Huesca off, reverting back to a defensive-minded midfield of two that wouldn't restrain the team going forwards. Despite not having overall control during the first 45 minutes, Malaga came out in the second half full of energy, which was reflected in the speed and depth with which they attacked.

The end result of this change in set up was a perfectly balanced game for Jose Alberto's men, although like their hosts they were unable to take advantage of all their chances.

But in the dying minutes of the game, Malaga took a late corner, which was headed by Paulino, came off Huesca's Cristian Salvador and was eventually headed in by Genaro.

But referee David Gálvez Rascón, after a long check with the VAR, decided against giving the goal, as

he deemed two Malaga players, Peybernes and Genaro, to be off-side.

This decision is very similar to a goal given to Kylian Mbappé against Spain in the Nations League final a couple of weeks ago, which makes Malaga's misfortune even more infuriating.

Against Zaragoza

But this frustration was enhanced after last weekend's 1-1 draw against Zaragoza at La Rosaleda.

Malaga generally had the rhythm required to win but lacked continuity to follow through.

José Alberto had gone back to a 4-4-2 formation that steadily became a 4-1-4-1, as the home side

The frustration was enhanced after last weekend's 1-1 draw against Zaragoza at La Rosaleda

"No one understands it"

At Malaga they don't want the refereeing decision that deprived them of getting three points in Huesca to pass by. The club feels very affected by the criteria used by the referee Gálvez Rascón on the pitch and from the video assistant referee (VAR) in Madrid to disallow

Genaro's goal. This affects the club twofold, after the same thing happened a week after the UEFA refereeing committee unanimously justified Mbappé's goal against Spain in the Nations League final.

"No one understands it," said Malaga's sporting director, Manolo Gaspar, minutes after the end of the match with a video posted to his Twitter in which the goal was clearly

SECOND DIVISION

Results of Matchday 11

Cartagena - Sporting	1-0
Huesca - Malaga	0-0
Tenerife - Eibar	0-1
Fuenlabrada - Amorebieta	0-0
Valladolid - Ibiza	1-1
Alcorcón - Leganés	3-3
Lugo - Las Palmas	2-0
Almería - Real Sociedad B	Thurs. night
Zaragoza - Ponferradina	Thurs. night
Mirandés - Girona	Thurs. night
Oviedo - Burgos	Thurs. night

Table

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
1. Eibar	11	6	3	2	17	13	21
2. Sporting	11	6	3	2	14	10	21
3. Almería	10	6	1	3	18	9	19
4. Ponferradina	10	5	3	2	13	8	18
5. Cartagena	11	6	0	5	16	17	18
6. Las Palmas	11	4	5	2	15	13	17
7. Tenerife	11	5	2	4	13	11	17
8. Valladolid	11	4	4	3	13	11	16
9. Huesca	11	4	3	4	14	10	15
10. Fuenlabrada	11	3	6	2	9	7	15
11. Lugo	11	3	6	2	13	12	15
12. Mirandés	10	4	2	4	16	14	14
13. Malaga	11	3	5	3	9	12	14
14. Oviedo	10	2	7	1	10	8	13
15. Ibiza	11	2	6	3	12	17	12
16. R. Sociedad B	10	2	5	3	10	10	11
17. Burgos	10	2	4	4	7	8	10
18. Zaragoza	10	1	7	2	6	8	10
19. Leganés	11	2	4	5	11	15	10
20. Girona	10	2	2	6	7	12	8
21. Amorebieta	11	1	5	5	10	16	8
22. Alcorcón	11	2	1	8	9	21	7

piled on the pressure in search of three points.

Brandon opened the scoring for Malaga close to the half-hour mark, beating his man to slot home Kevin's first-post cross.

But their lead would only last 15 minutes, as the Andalusians lack of communication- between Javi Jiménez and Genaro- ended in an inside pass for Zaragoza's Narváez, who surprised goalkeeper Dani Martín with a shot at the near post and equalised.

The second half wasn't much of an improvement for Malaga, as the decreasing individual performances soon affected the cohesion of the team.

Jozabed no longer came into play, Kevin seemed to fade away, while Roberto was often up the pitch on his own.

Substitutions weren't much help either. The introduction of Sekou and Antónín never really fazed the Zaragoza defence, which was more than happy to sit back and play the game out.

Malaga will hope to be able to turn their misfortunes around as they face Lugo, who sit just two points behind the Andalusians and are also yet to win a game this season away from home.



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A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, Sky Sports

The oddest build-up to a Clásico

On paper Real Madrid walk into the game as favourites after a decent start to the season compared to the daily crisis at FC Barcelona



It's the oddest and most underwhelming build up to a Clásico I've ever experienced.

For the first time since I started covering 'the greatest rivalry' in club football, the game lacks a spark and more importantly a true Galáctico.

Now Messi has departed, and Cristiano Ronaldo is long-gone, a global superstar won't be taking centre-stage. There are plenty of talented footballers, but no rock-star.

It seems the days of rivals for the Ballon d'Or battling it out for votes are gone - at least until Kylian Mbappe arrives

On paper Real Madrid walk into the game as favourites after a decent start to the season compared to the daily crisis at FC Barcelona.

Real's team is more mature, they have greater experience of major matches and new coach Carlo Ancelotti appears to have stability within the walls of the Bernabeu.

Most of the players he'll select will know exactly how to handle the pressure of the



Karim Benzema. AFP

showpiece Sunday.

Over at the Camp Nou, it's not just the stadium that is requiring a desperate rebuild, the foundations of the team are shaky as well.

In normal times Gerard Pique, Jordi Alba and Sergi Busquets would all have moved on for one lucrative final pay-

day in a cash-rich far-off league. The club would have invested in world-class replacements a couple of seasons ago. Instead, the veterans are still integral to the team and Barça are having to squeeze one final season out of them.

The upside of the desperate situation in Catalunya is the

pathway for players from the academy. Gavi, only seventeen, was fast-tracked from the youth side to the first team and soon earned a senior Spanish call up. Pedri and Ansu Fati have signed contracts with a one billion euro buy-out at the age of eighteen. Nico Gonzalez and Alex Balde are also teenag-

ers who could be the natural successors to Busquets and Alba.

On top of the kids, Ronald Araujo is developing into a top-class defender and there is hope for Eric Garcia.

With Fati, Gavi, Pedri, Araujo and Nico Barcelona could be going places and give Real a fright as the season advances. Sadly for them Pedri and Araujo are likely to miss the match with injury, Fati may not be 100% and Nico will only be seen if something happens to Busquets.

With the surprise element of the raw talent missing. Real heads into the game with a distinct advantage. Ancelotti is maximising the abilities of his squad and appears to have a better balance. Karim Benzema is in sensational form, young Brazilian Vinicius Junior is beginning to live up to his hype and there are top class options in every position.

It isn't a vintage Madrid team, but it still has a touch of class in comparison to Barcelona's glimpse of promise.

If the new kids were all available, I would fancy Barça to close the two-point gap on their age-old rivals. However, man for man, Ancelotti's team have far more experience and the signs are good for them to extend the lead to five points and inflict further misery on Ronald Koeman.

You can win things with kids... it's just a case of the Catalan kids not quite being ready for El Clásico.

Guerrero close to podium finish at Titan Desert

Cyclist Pablo Guerrero, from Coín, was agonisingly close to standing on the podium at the 16th annual Titan Desert, a challenging off-road mountain bike race set in the Moroccan desert, where cyclists can rack up to 600km over six stages. Guerrero, who was in second place after the first day and was in podium position for another four, suffered a puncture on the penultimate day, which saw him finish down in sixth.

"It was a puncture at a very difficult part of the stage. I carried a lot of problems and lost 40 minutes. I lost air until the finish line," he said.

Guerrero is convinced he would have finished higher up the standings. "Without the puncture on the second last day I would have finished third," Guerrero said.

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Tourist Office	952802002
Town Hall	952801100
Foreign Residents Dept.	952809031

FUENGIROLA

BusStation	952475066
Taxi Service	952471000
Tourist Office	952467625
Town Hall	952589300
Foreign Residents Dept.	952589440

MALAGA

Bus Station	952350061
Railway Station	902240202
Taxi Service	952345693
Tourist Office	951926020

MARBELLA

Bus Station	955038665
Taxi Service	952774488
Tourist Office	952768760
Town Hall	952761100
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MIJAS

Town Hall	952485900
Town Hall Las Lagunas	952473125
Taxi	952478288
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Bus Station	902422242
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Taxi Service	952520537
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Town Hall	952548400
Foreign Resident Dept.	952548401

TORREMOLINOS

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Tourist Office	952371909
Town Hall	952379400
Foreign Residents Dept.	952374231

BENALMÁDENA

Bus Station	902450550
Taxi Service	952441545
Tourist Office	952442494
Town Hall	952374231
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VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

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Taxi	952540016
Town Hall	952559100
Tourist Office	952541104

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Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
MSC Splendida	23/10	Funchal	Civitavecchia	08.00	14.00
Marella Explorer	24/10	Cadiz	Palamos	07.00	22.00
Silver Spirit	24/10	-	-	12.00	23.00
Sea Cloud II	24-25/10	Cadiz	Cadiz	16.00	19.00
Costa Diadema	26/10	Marseille	Cadiz	09.00	19.00
Queen Elizabeth	27/10	-	-	00.00	00.00
Marella Discovery	28-29/10	Palma	Cadiz	08.00	18.00
Mein Schiff 3	28/10	Valencia	Gibraltar	08.00	22.00
Spirit of Adventure	28/10	Almeria	Gibraltar	08.00	10.00



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952474891
951516019
952211797
952667955
952223346
952363591
952604383
952475108

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954293200
902502512
646060972
952212435
952310358
95225689
952661200
952771850
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THE STARS




Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
Need to make an impression? Don't let a fear of failure stop you in your tracks. Mars in Scorpio can give you the courage to aim high and keep going.




Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
The week starts on a fuzzy note, and because of this, you might miss out on something that's worth doing. By the weekend, you may regret your actions.




Aries
March 21st - April 20th
For much of this week you may be on cloud nine, with luscious Venus making dreamy aspects that encourage you to indulge.




Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
If you feel wary of someone you encounter, don't pretend it's all okay. Be polite but keep a distance, as they may have designs on you.




Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Over the weekend you could come down to earth with a bump if you're behind with your projects. Have promises to keep? It's worth going that extra mile to make someone happy.




Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
If an offer or opportunity seems too good to be true, then it likely is, Cancer. Don't buy, sign or commit until you've asked some searching questions.



Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
It could seem you've met the perfect person, and you'll enjoy spending time with them. How long will it last? Until you get disillusioned, which might be sooner than you think.




Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
The week ahead may start on a high, then end on a more sobering note. However your resourceful side could come to the rescue and you may find a way to do the impossible.



Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
Who are you fooling? Only yourself it seems. You may think you'll have hours to spare to take on a project but will you? Think big, but don't bite off more than you can chew.



Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
Is money burning a hole in your pocket? Is there something you've set your heart on? It may be a fabulous outfit or investing in an entrepreneurial idea. If it makes sense, then go for it.

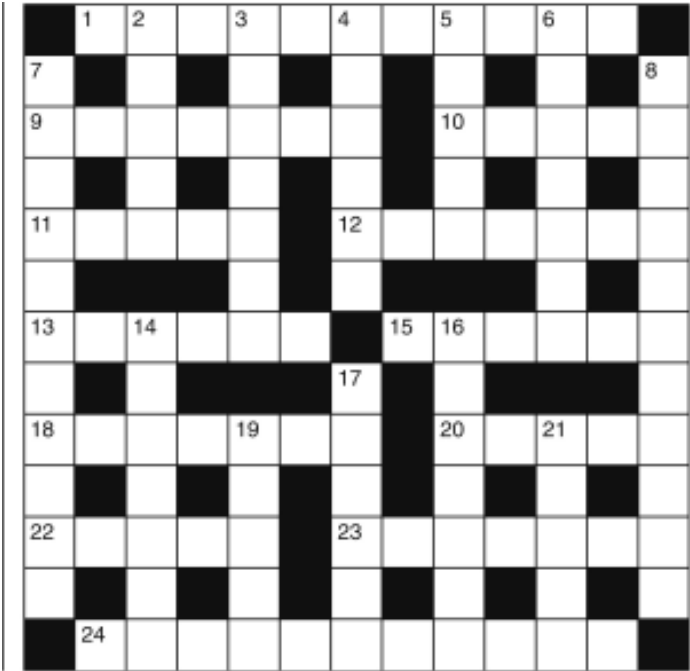


Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
You could get sucked into a family drama. If this looks to be the case, refuse to get involved. You'll only end up drained and exhausted, and all for nothing.



Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
A goal may seem out of your reach, but don't give up. With innovative energies working on your behalf, you may do the impossible. By next weekend you may have it all worked out.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11484



Across

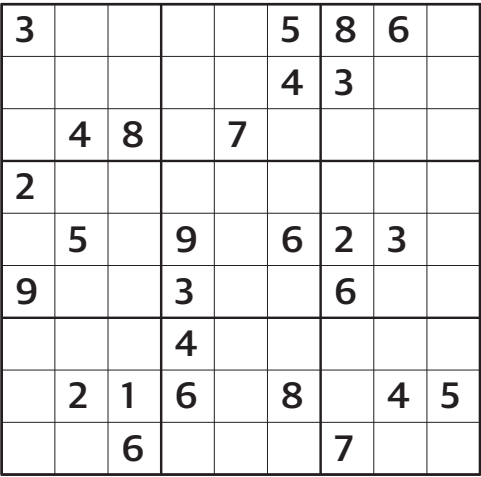
- 1 and 6Dn** Calm seas are difficult to fathom, we're told (5,6,3,4)
9 Sign of engagement removed - cease communication! (4,3)
10 An address given by the preacher (5)
11 One employed in the wardroom (5)
12 Defects in the hose used by firemen (7)
13 Plant container has different fertiliser (6)
15 Composer includes short musical piece in prominent feature (6)
18 One can't recall being affected by this (7)
20 Claud could be of high birth (5)
22 Rubbish food (5)
23 Guard cave! (4,3)
24 Black-coated workers (11)

Down

- 2** He may take a leading part in Britten oratorio (5)
3 She's a wildcat! (7)
4 Talk nonsensically about food that takes a battering (6)
5 Kept a watch on (5)
6 See 1 Across
7 Puts in a different bed (11)
8 Player is not miscast as this distinctive character (11)
14 One isn't affected by the strain (7)
16 Fish taken in near the harbour (7)
17 A colleague to hire out somewhere to sleep (6)
19 In the cupboards I eventually found a kitchen utensil (5)
21 Singers providing a certain amount of paper, we hear (5)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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



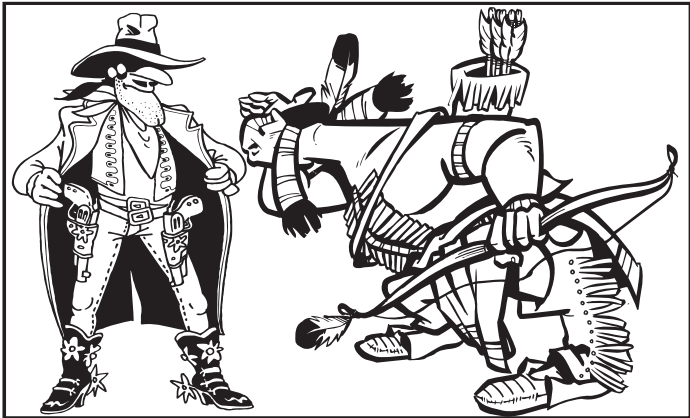
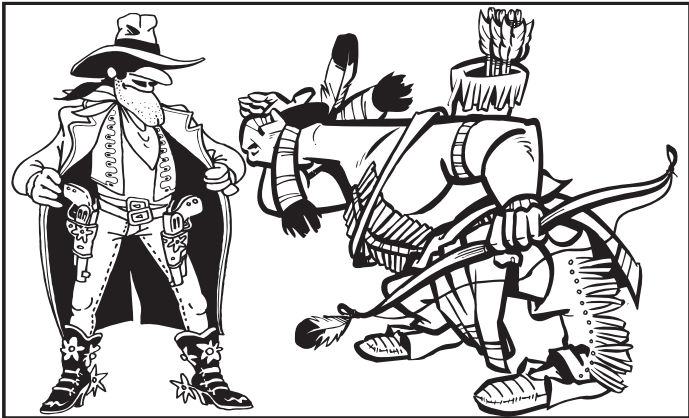
THE WORDPUZZLER



Can you identify the things that Can be eaten from the anagrams listed below?

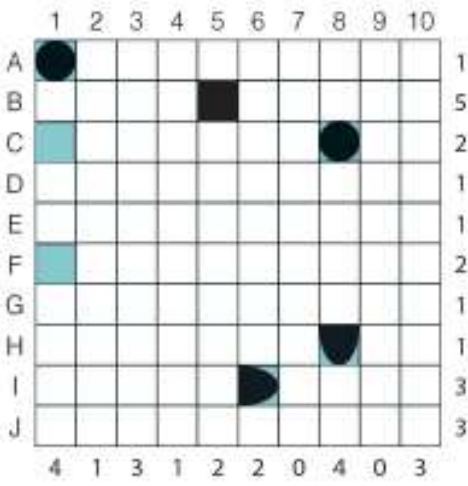
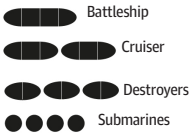
- 1. Bared
- 2. Eric
- 3. Barn
- 4. Rhea
- 5. Vale
- 6. West
- 7. Made
- 8. Wolf
- 9. Sham
- 10. Balm

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES

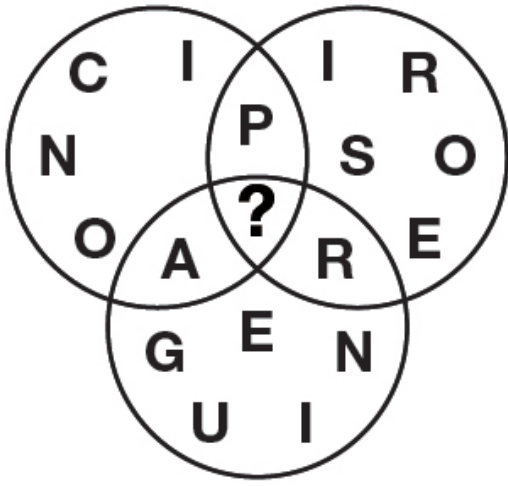


BATTLESHIPS

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.



CIRCLEGRAM



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

LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD

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Across

1) Catholic (m) (8)
5) Monasteries (11)
10) Knee (7)
11) Dilapidated (m) (7)
12) To go out (5)
13) Insipid (m) (4)
14) To visit (7)
15) Missionary (m) (9)
18) I share (8)
21) Cake (5)
23) Ring (3)
25) Pontiff (9)
26) Known (m) (8)
27) Flea market (6)
28) Popes (5)
29) Therapy (7)
34) Raining (9)
37) She laughs (3)
38) They dry (5)
40) Mettle (6)
42) Youth (8)
44) Necklaces (8)
45) West (5)
46) Cathedral (8)
48) Orthodox (8)
49) Eucharistic (11)

Down

1) Charismatic (m) (11)
2) Olive tree (5)
3) Church (7)
4) I heard (2)
5) Millionaires (11)
6) To narrate (6)
7) I hung out (5)
8) She breathes (7)
9) Priests (10)
12) Six (4)
16) Idle (m) (6)
17) Large (m.pl) (7)
19) From the same place (m.pl) (8)
20) To reign (6)
22) Wide (f) (5)
24) Morals (9)
30) Pilgrim (9)
31) To inaugurate (9)
32) Monument (9)
33) Vatican (8)
35) I'll forget (8)
36) I was unaware (6)
39) I consumed (7)
41) Polish (m) (6)
43) Queues (5)
47) I (2)

QUIZ

How many dots are used in each letter of the Braille system?

1.three 2. four 3. five 4. six



Which city does the River Lagan flow through?

1. Dublin 2. Belfast 3. Cork 4. Limerick

Don Alfonso is the lead role in which of Mozart's operas?

1. Cosi Fan Tutte 2. The Magic Flute 3. Don Giovanni 4. Aida

THE SUR IN ENGLISH COLUMN

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Early every Friday morning piles of SUR in English newspapers are packaged up, loaded into vans and distributed around Andalucía and Gibraltar. More than 43,000 copies land on the doorsteps of news-agents, supermarkets, shops and offices across the region.

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ANSWERS

Quiz answers

girls.
away. The two friends disguise
other men while their lovers are
francées of his friends to date
persuading the two young
to win a bet about infidelity by
Of interest: Don Alfonso hopes
Answer: Cosi Fan Tutte.
Lough, an inlet of the Irish Sea.
Belfast where it enters Belfast
mountain in County Down to
runs from the Slave Croob
Of interest: The River Lagan
Answer: Belfast
symbols and punctuation.
Fewer dots are used for
three dots high and two across.
the formation of a rectangle,
consists of six dots arranged in
which forms each letter,
Of interest: The Braille cell
Answer: Six

Circlegram

flowering plants.
primrose, geranium, all
question mark is M. Campton,
The letter represented by the

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 1 Still waters; 9 Ring off; 10 Marise; 11 Nurse; 12 Ladders; 13 Polish; 15 Chopin; 18 Annabel; 20 Ducal; 22 Tipped; 23 Look out; 24 Underhanded; Down: 2 Tenor; 3 Lioness; 4 Wafted; 5 Timed; 6 Run deep; 7 Transplants; 8 Personality; 14 Tension; 16 Haddock; 17 Pallet; 19 Sieve; 21 Choir.

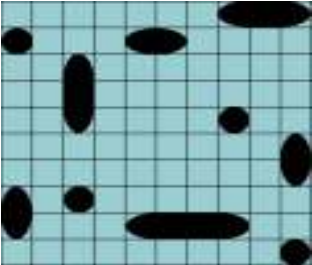
Wordpuzzler solution

10. Lamb	T	I	N	K	R	A	S	A	S	T	E	W
9. Hams	F	O	L	A	I	M	O	W	R			
8. Fowl	E	F	O	B	A	N	E	T				
7. Edam	T	A	D	I	M	E	H	O	P	E		
6. Stew	N	E	A	R	A	V	O	L	M	I		
5. Veal	O	V	E	A	L	E	S	T	A	N		
4. Hare	D	L	R	U	C	E	V	O	D	E		
3. Bran	L	I	B	O	R	I	C	E	L			
2. Rice	E	B	O	L	I	A	G	R	I	T		
1. Bread	S	O	C	I	D	H	O	R	L	Y		

Language Crossword

ACROSS:	1. CAVALLO 5. MONASTERIOS 10. RODILLA 11. RUINOSO 12. SAUR 13. OSO 14. VISTAR 15. MONJERO 16. COMPARTO 21. TARTA 22. ARO 23. PONTIFICE 24. CONOCIDO 27. ASTRIO 28. PAPA 29. TERAPIA 34. LOVENDO 37. RE 38. SECAN 40. TEMPLE 42. VENTIDO 44. COLLARES 45. GOSTE 46. CATEDRAL 48. OTODONO 49. EUCARISTICO
DOWN:	1. CARISMATICO 2. OLIVO 3. IGLESIA 4. OT 5. MILLONARIOS 6. NARRAR 7. TENDI 8. RESPIRA 9. SACERDOTES 12. SEIS 16. CORDO 17. GRANDES 19. PAISANOS 20. REINAR 22. ANCHA 24. MAJESTAS 30. REGRINO 31. NAQUERAR 32. MONUMENTO 33. VATICANO 35. OLIVAR 36. OSORE 39. CONSUELO 41. POLACO 43. COLAS 47. YO

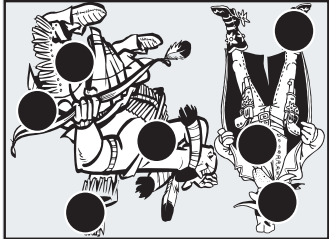
Battleships



Sudoku solution

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

The seven differences



The message that local businesswoman Paz Hurtado had been hoping for for two months finally arrived in the early hours of the morning. "Sister, we're in Malaga."

The words came from Ferozuddin Hussaini, the Afghani trader whose life she had just saved. And not just his: 35-year-old Hussaini arrived with his wife Shogofa, 34, his sister Sonia, 19, and his two children, Atina, 4, and Ali Arshad, 2. All five are now safe and free after two frenetic months of phone calls and negotiations with which Paz Hurtado, CEO of Hutesa Agroalimentaria SA, kept the promise she made to the Kabul importer of her olives in August, when he sent her a message, imploring her to get them out of there.

Sixty days later Paz stands at the door of the family's new home. Little Ali Ashad wraps himself around her leg, toy car in hand; Atina smiles for the first time, clutching two bread buns in her hands; Shogofa wraps her in the pashmina she was able to buy her in Kabul, probably with the little they had left when the Taliban seized their accounts; and Sonia holds her tight, because she is 19, a pretty young woman, a fatal combination in the Afghanistan of today.

"At last we're home," Hussaini whispers to Paz as they embrace. They have met only twice in the ten years they have known each other, but these five lives explain the connection, the pure instinct that makes them feel like long lost siblings.

Paz Hurtado and Ferozuddin Hussaini had had a business relationship since 2012 when he became the distributor in Afghanistan of the olives that Hutesa exports around the world.

"I'll never be able to thank her enough. That first message and its positive response was the start of our journey here," said Hussaini, now free of the stress of worrying whether they would make it.



Paz Hurtado embraces Hussaini and Shogofa as Sonia and Atina look on. **ÑITO SALAS**

From the horror of Kabul to the safety of Malaga

"We're home." An Afghani family arrives safely in Malaga thanks to the help of a local olive exporter, who answered their cry for help from Kabul

ANA PÉREZ-BRYAN



▲ Paz Hurtado with two-year-old Ali Ashad, who clung on to her throughout the interview. **ÑITO SALAS**

Now he has left behind the fear of seeing how the Taliban started to go from door to door looking for people who worked with foreign firms: "We had to move house five or six times," he explains. With his telephone acting as an umbilical cord between him and Hurtado, Hussaini recalls the lead-up to his new life in Malaga. From the moment his sister Sonia had to give up her studies of Economics at Kabul University to the day they closed his children's nursery school. Or when his wife and sister couldn't leave the house as "they didn't have a burka". The tears and terrified cries of his children when they saw a Taliban in the street "because they were armed and very frightening". Their desperate flight to the Torkham border, the only open crossing point between Afghanistan and Pakistan and the ten checkpoints at which they were asked "whether we collaborated with foreign firms". And the doubts about whether Sonia would get through or not.

Now the family are looking forward to a new life in Spain. Sonia would like to continue her studies here, learn the language and adapt to the customs.

"This has been the best thing I've ever done," says Hurtado, who is also taking care of providing the family with a home and a car, finding a school for the children and jobs for Hussaini, his wife and sister in the Hutesa plant in Fuente de Piedra, somewhere he already feels attached to.

They also have to be grateful to many others, both agree: "To the Spanish government, the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs, Cruz Roja, UNHCR, the CEOE, consulates... all of them," says the businesswoman, not wanting to leave anyone out.

Before she gets back in her car Paz turns to Shogofa and says: "Calm, calm, you're home now. See you on Monday."

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