



No return of mask wearing for now as Covid cases spike and sales of antigen tests surge



Music legend Diana Ross wows Marbella

Concert Festival. The show at Starlite was the only one in Spain on the glamorous star's current Thank You tour. **P22**

Authorities have stressed there are few serious cases and that there is no excessive pressure on hospitals

Covid-19 does not seem to have gone away quite yet. However, with virtually all cases mild or asymptomatic, health officials and politicians are stopping short of declaring the latest surge in cases to be a 'seventh wave'.

The rolling 14-day incidence rate per 100,000 for people over 60 testing positive climbed to 1,135 nationally on Tuesday, up by 35% in a week. Data is now only published for the over 60s

and twice a week, although some have called for daily case figures for all ages to be brought back.

In Andalucía, the infection rate is below the national average although sales of antigen tests in local chemists have risen threefold recently. Acting regional president, Juanma Moreno, ruled out more mask wearing in an interview on Thursday this week, as has the national Health minister. **P8**

Torremolinos train station finally gets proper facilities for limited mobility access **P4**

Staff shortages mean there are still a thousand hospitality jobs to be filled locally this summer **P6**

A new Netflix drama based on mythology and starring Hugh Grant starts filming on the Costa del Sol **P21**

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The CPI in June shot up to 10.22%, the highest rate since 1985. **MARCOS ÁLVAREZ**



Economic storm clouds mark the start of the summer

Uncertainty. The rising cost of everyday expenses is stretching the budgets of people in Malaga as the holiday season begins

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ



Summer has arrived, the forecasts for the peak tourist season are excellent and most people's holidays are just around the corner, if they have not started already.

However, for many families in Malaga province serious storm clouds are lurking on the horizon, because something very like a perfect storm is threatening the domestic economy of thousands of households, besieged by the constant increase in their everyday expenses.

The indicators are at maximum highs: prices are rising by 10.2 per cent, which is the highest inflation rate in 37 years; the Euribor (which sets the interest rates for most variable-type mortgages) ended June higher than it had been in the past ten years.

The price of fuel has gone up by more than 50 per cent in the past year and is now over two euros a litre and electricity bills have become a real nightmare for families and businesses alike.

The escalating prices have come to stay for basic items such as the weekly shop, energy and fuel, and analysts agree that prudence will be needed in the near future, with the war in Ukraine ongoing and uncertainty about what might happen in the next few months.

"In the first quarter of this year people started buying less in Andalucía and in Spain as a whole, because the prices of most of the items they normally buy have risen so much.

"In this scenario, which is ex-

pected to last through the second half of this year, further adjustments may have to be made, especially for families with low income and the businesses which have been most affected by the Covid-19 crisis," says José Antonio Muñoz of Analistas Económicos de Andalucía, the

company at Grupo Unicaja Banco that carries out studies.

The increased cost of food shopping is also of concern to the president of the Consumers Association of Malaga, Jesús Burgos:

"The CPI (Consumers Price Index) includes the rise in price

of many items, but if shoes cost more, as they are something you only buy every now and then, it is not the same as bread, which you buy almost daily.

The real problem is the cost of food, because all the basic things that people normally buy have gone up in price: meat, fish,

fruit and vegetables, bread, etc," he explains.

"Our analyses show that a small family is spending on average between 30 and 40 euros more on basic shopping than they did a year ago for the same things, and it looks as if prices are going to continue to rise," he says.

Going up at the same time

"A lot of things are becoming more expensive at the same time, that's the problem," Jesús Burgos says about a situation which thousands of families are facing when they need to go to the supermarket, fill the car and pay the electricity bill.

In line with his forecasts, Analistas Económicos de Andalucía are not expecting things to improve in the short term:

"The inflation data for June, which was the highest in 37 years (10.2% year on year) and the trend so far suggest that prices will continue to rise in the months to come.

However, there should be a sharp moderation from the second half of 2023," they say.

The increased cost of food, fuel and energy are in addition to mortgages, with the Euribor at its highest level for ten years. In practice, this means a notable increase in monthly mortgage repayments for those with variable interest rates.

To give two examples, for a variable-interest loan of 150,000 euros over 30 years the monthly payment will go up by about 90 euros, which is over 1,000 euros a year.

For a loan of 300,000 euros, the payment will go up by just over 180 euros a month, or more than 2,010 euros a year.

A cruel paradox

What is paradoxical about this situation is that mortgages have become more expensive because the European Central Bank has let slip that it will increase interest rates after the summer to slow down the rising inflation.

In other words the ECB wants to slow down the rise in prices but its first effect is to make mortgage repayments more expensive, because the money being lent will be at a higher interest rate.

"The simple threat of the ECB increasing interest rates has made mortgages go up. We have gone from a negative index of minus 0.5% at the start of the year to an expected 1% plus soon.

That point and a half means that repayments will go up con-

10.2%

is the year-on-year inflation rate for June. It is the highest figure in the past 37 years and is marked by the increased cost of basic food items and fuel

50%

is the average increase in the cost of the fuel most often used by individuals. The rise is in the past year and it means that the cost of a litre of fuel is now over two euros, everywhere

0.852%

was the Euribor rate at the end of June. It is the highest rate for the past decade and can result in the repayments on an average mortgage loan (150,000 euros over 30 years) going up by 1,000 euros a year

siderably.

If that was all that was happening families would be able to cope with it better, but the problem is that it is on top of all these other increases," says José Manuel Fernández of the Mortgage Credit Union (UCI).

And the short-term forecasts for this aspect are not looking good, either.

"Everything points to the Euribor continuing to rise, at least during the next few months, and that is very bad news for people with variable interest mortgages," says Miquel Riera, the head of mortgages for the specialist portal Helpmycash.

More expensive mortgages

"Most of the mortgages which have already been granted will go up, but so will those approved in the future," warns Riera.

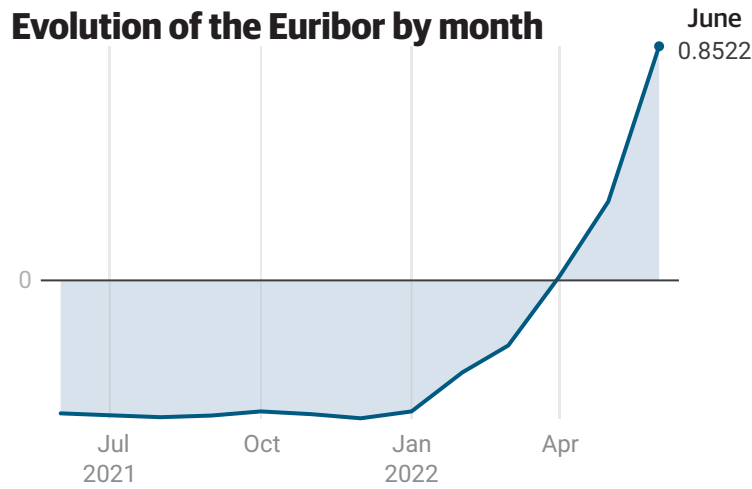
"The banks have been offering more expensive mortgages since February. At the start of this year it was relatively easy to find one at 1.5% and now the majority are around 2%.

"Banks are also going to be more demanding with their clients, going to ask for more solvency, more job stability," he says.

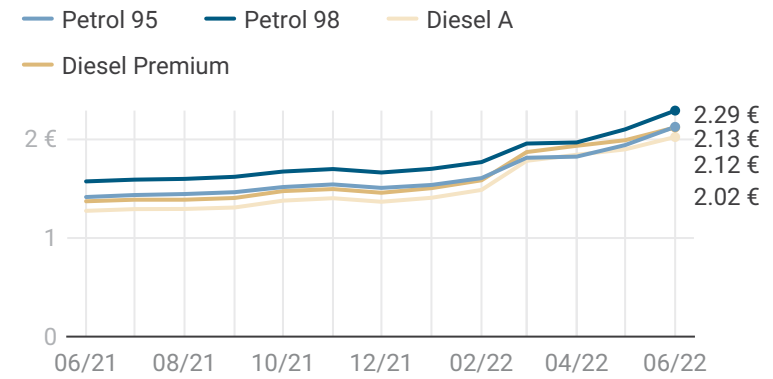
This half-empty glass for household economies of thousands of families can offer a half-full side if the forecasts from analysts such as Fernández and Riera are fulfilled, and which include a stabilisation in the sale price of properties.

If loans are more expensive and buyers have less money, it would be logical for prices, at least, to stop rising. "The rise in

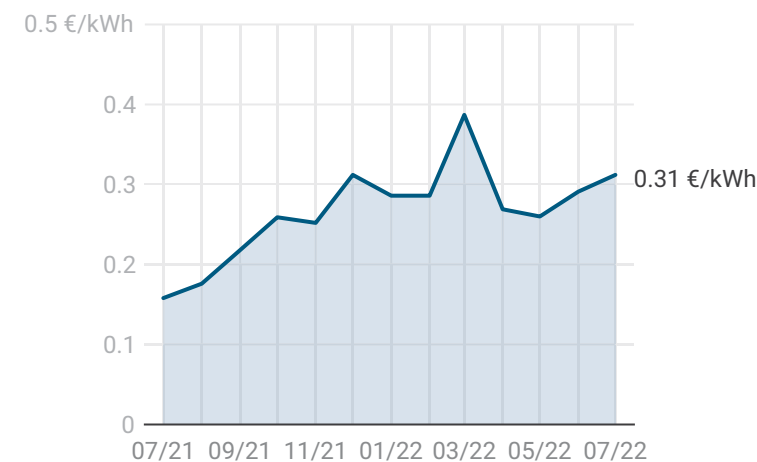
Evolution of the Euribor by month



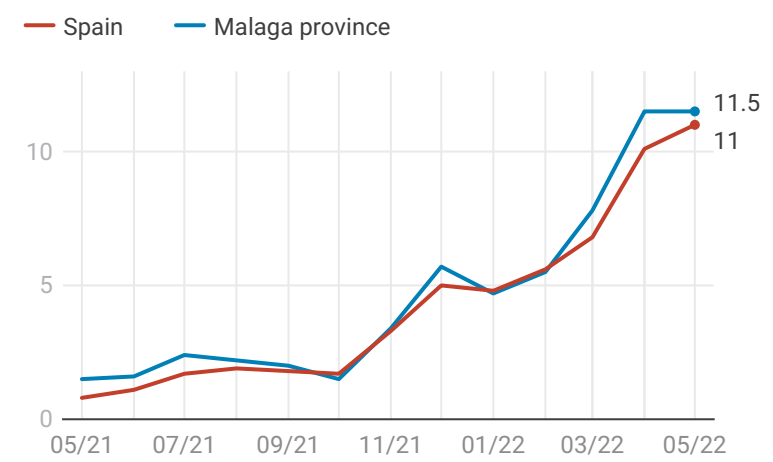
Price of a litre of fuel



Average price of electricity



CPI for food and non-alcoholic drinks



prices will moderate, because it is likely that demand will slow down or even fall," says Riera.

The Malaga exception

This could be another case of the so-called 'Malaga exception'. "In areas like Malaga, Barcelona and Madrid it is more difficult to forecast in this way, because the demand from international purchasers is more assured," says Riera.

It means that Malaga could maintain a situation which already exists and which also ap-

Analysts say they do not expect to see a moderation in the increase in prices of basic products in the short term

The excellent forecast for the peak tourist season provide a note of optimism in a scenario marked by uncertainty

plies to inflation: the cost of property rises more in this province because demand is so much higher, in many cases due to foreign tourism.

These visitors do, however, bring with them the promise of a better summer for the local and regional economy, with the consequent effect on employment and businesses, especially in the services sector.

"All the forecasts agree that the tourist season for Malaga province and the rest of the Andalusian costs will be excellent,"

say sources at Analistas Económicas de Andalucía, "with a very positive contribution to economic growth. Although the scenario won't be as dynamic as believed earlier this year, there is hope that the Malaga and Andalucía economies will maintain gradual growth and this will stabilise once the causes of uncertainty are alleviated."

That uncertainty is casting a shadow on the economic horizon of thousands of Malaga families, just when summer is knocking on the door.

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Following years of problems and delays, the remodelled train station in Plaza La Nogalera was officially opened on Monday. **SUR**

Torremolinos train station finally opens after extensive renovation works

The main improvements to the new station, which cost over seven million euros, include a panoramic lift, two escalators and a staircase

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. The long-awaited remodelling of the Torremolinos train station has finally come to an end, following the official opening, which took place on Monday (4 July).

The inauguration was attended

by the president of the Renfe railway operating company, Isaías Táboas, the mayor of Torremolinos, Margarita del Cid and the government representative in Andalucía, Pedro Fernández.

The station, in Plaza La Nogalera, is on the C-1 Costa del Sol local line, which runs from Malaga city centre to Fuengirola. It is one of the busiest stations, used by nearly 5,000 passengers a day, and this figure increases considerably during the high season.

Following years of problems and delays, the new station is now

completely accessible to travellers with reduced mobility.

The town's mayor, Margarita del Cid, put some of the blame for the delays on the former socialist council led by José Ortiz, due to their "false expectations" and "continual design changes".

The proposal to remodel the old train station was first announced in 2008, but failed to materialise. A new proposal in 2015 was rejected because it would still have caused problems for people with disabilities and would have compromised the evacuation of the station in

an emergency situation. The final proposal, which was accepted in 2018, was to build a new station complete with a lift to facilitate access.

Accessibility standards

Torremolinos was one of the few stations on the Malaga-Fuengirola line that failed to comply with accessibility standards in Andalucía. The single escalator was only operational for people leaving the station, despite repeated requests made by the Asensor Ya! organisation for the station to be modernised to al-

Torremolinos was one of the few stations on the Malaga-Fuengirola line that failed to comply with accessibility standards

low easier access for travellers with mobility problems and those with pushchairs and heavy luggage.

The main improvements to the new station, which has cost over seven million euros, include an accessible route between the Plaza de La Nogalera and the station's entrance, along with a new panoramic lift, two escalators and a staircase. The lobby has been completely redesigned and now has a new customer service, sales and information counter. The renovations also include two lifts inside the station to assist passengers who need to use the underpass under the tracks to reach another platform.

During the official opening ceremony, Margarita del Cid thanked "the immense patience" of the residents and local traders, declaring, "Torremolinos will finally have a station it deserves, one without accessibility problems."

Recovery of emblematic space

"This work has been eternal and has deprived us of this space for far too long. Torremolinos finally recovers the Plaza de La Nogalera, an emblematic space that has been disrupted throughout this long renovation procedure," the mayor said.

However, she explained that the project will not be completely finished until later this year.

"The renovation of the area will not be one hundred percent achieved until the paving of the rest of the square and the removal of all construction material is complete. We are working on a much broader project, which aspires to turn this emblematic square into one of the places of reference of the municipality."

There are not enough AVE high-speed trains to go around, admits Renfe boss

Speaking on the Costa, the company's president, Isaías Táboas, said a shortage of drivers is not the only problem affecting the Madrid - Malaga route

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. When the head of Renfe, the national train operating company, officially opened the remodelled La Nogalera station in Torremolinos this week, he faced complaints over the lack of AVE

high-speed services between Madrid and Malaga city, which is making travel difficult for many and ticket prices expensive.

Until now, Renfe had blamed a lack of drivers, but Isaías Táboas admitted there was an additional problem: there aren't enough trains to return the service to the level it was before the pandemic. The AVE network has grown over the last few years but the amount of rolling stock has not changed.

He added that from 15 July there would be one more serv-

ice a day from Malaga, bringing the total to 11 (there were 13 or 14 a day in 2019).

August delays

The railway infrastructure company, Adif, has also confirmed there will be delays of from five to 30 minutes on AVE services from Madrid to cities in Andalucía in August due to maintenance work.

The Renfe booking website is showing the amended timings, said a statement, and refunds or changes can be made.



An AVE high-speed train waits at Malaga station. **ÑITO SALAS**

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One thousand jobs still up for grabs in the Costa's hotel, bar and restaurant sectors

Businesses are facing the summer of recovery after the pandemic with a shortage of waiters, cooks and cleaners, among others

NURIA TRIGUERO

MALAGA. The Costa del Sol has been looking forward to a summer of recovery following the coronavirus pandemic, but there is a major problem: a shortage of staff in the hotel and hospitality sector, including waiters, cooks, kitchen assistants, cleaning and maintenance staff and others in hotels, bars, restaurants, beach clubs and 'chiringuito' beach restaurants all along the coast.

There are still around 1,000 vacancies despite the fact that in February, for the first time ever, the Aehcos hotel association organised a recruitment day in Malaga. In May, more than 92,000 people were working in the sector in Malaga province, which was more than the same month in 2018 and 2019. Those were exceptional months for tourism, but in 2022 it is still not enough.

The question is: how can there be a lack of workers in a province where 140,000 people are unemployed, of whom around 7,000 are



There are staff shortages in the hospitality sector. SUR

Many staff took different jobs during the pandemic and did not want to return to the hospitality sector when the chance came

experienced waiting staff?

"In the two years, when the sector came to a halt because of the pandemic, a lot of people had to find jobs in other sectors such as logistics, transport, retail or construction. After two years doing those jobs, when the chance came to go back to the

hospitality sector, they didn't want to," said Andrea Santana of the Adecco employment agency.

Another reason, more than salaries, is the working conditions. "It's true that it is a hard sector to work in," said Santana, who wants employers to make improvements such as organising straight shifts. In terms of salary, the hotels' hands are tied: they have to comply with the agreements they have with the unions and can't offer new staff more money. Employers also recognise the lack of affordable accommodation for staff as summer as rents soar on the coast.

Malaga city asks visitors to Love and Respect others

MALAGA

P. M. The city council in Malaga and Mahos hospitality association have launched a campaign, called Love & Respect, to discourage holiday-makers from anti-social behaviour while staying in the city. It stresses the need for coexistence, responsible alcohol consumption, noise control and to avoid inappropriate dress or costumes.

Posters are being put up, and publicity in the press and on social media will also remind visitors and residents that respect, civility and good relations with others are essential. The message is that it's fine to have fun in a destination like Malaga, but in a responsible fashion.

Councillor for Tourism, Jacobo Florido, said bars play a vital part in tourism in the city, and stressed that most tourists do behave impeccably and they know how to enjoy the city without causing a nuisance to others.



File photo of Ryanair planes. SUR

Cabin crew unions announce more strikes at Spanish airports this month

EUROPA PRESS

MALAGA. The USO and SITCPLA unions have announced 12 new strike days for Ryanair cabin crew members in Spain during the month. They will be from July 12 to 15, July 18 to 21 and July 25 to 28 at the ten Spanish airports where the airline operates.

Unions are demanding a change of attitude from the airline and that it resumes the negotiation of a collective agreement that includes decent working conditions and under Span-

ish legislation for its workers, Up until now, the Spanish strikes have forced the cancellation of more than 200 flights and have caused more than 1,000 delays throughout the country. Unions have criticised the fact that the company prefers to leave thousands of passengers "stranded on the ground" rather than sitting down to negotiate with its workers under Spanish law. This is denied by Ryanair, whose CEO has accused the airline of blackmailing the company and travellers.

Meanwhile, easyJet faces more stoppages on 15, 16, 17, 29, 30 and 31 July at the airports the airline uses as bases in Spain. These are Barcelona-El Prat, Malaga and Palma de Mallorca, where it has six, seven and five planes based respectively.



Tourists in Malaga city centre. FRANCIS SILVA

Foreign tourists in Andalucía spent more in May than before pandemic

ANDALUCÍA


PILAR MARTÍNEZ. May 2022 marked a turning point for spending by tourists in Andalucía. Figures just out show that international visitors spent a total of 1.1 billion euros in the region, which was more than in the same month before the pandemic.

So far this year, and before the peak season began, Spain has recovered 80% of the foreign tourists it had in 2019. The good

outlook for the summer, based on bookings so far, shows that international tourism is likely to continue its recovery in the next few months, despite rising prices. "Our country is very competitive and the price increases are a global phenomenon," said the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Reyes Maroto.

In May 1,036,243 visitors from abroad came to Andalucía. Their average budget was 1,100 euros, 12% higher than May 2021 and they spent about 144 euros a day, an increase of 29%. However, they stayed for a shorter time: 7.6 days.

Andalucía is the third most popular region of Spain after the Balearic Islands and Catalonia, and the UK remains its biggest source market.



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Pharmacies see sales of Covid-19 tests triple as cases surge

The national minister for Health has said she does not expect the increase of positive cases will lead to hospitals being overstretched

ÁNGEL ESCALERA / SUR

MALAGA. Sales of antigen tests to detect coronavirus have increased considerably in pharmacies in Malaga province recently, in many cases tripling.

The president of the Malaga College of Pharmacists, Francisco Florido, told SUR this week that the public was buying many more antigen tests than at the beginning of the summer, which indicates that infections have risen. The supply of tests to detect coronavirus is currently guaranteed, he added.

Sales of antigen tests have soared throughout Spain due to the more-contagious BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron variants, which are now the predominant ones. These



Antigen test sales are up. SUR

variants are proving able to easily infect people who have had three doses of the vaccine or who had increased antibodies from contracting Covid.

Nationally, Spain only continues to record positive Covid-19 cases in those over 60 years old. Those numbers have shot up in the last week. On Tuesday, (5 July), the cumulative incidence among over 60s was 1,135 cases per

100,000 in the last two weeks, up 35 per cent in a week. The authorities are crossing their fingers as the summer festival season, bringing more people into close contact, gets into full swing.

So far, the national Health ministry has avoided labelling the current surge as a 'seventh wave' of infections and resisted calls from some sides to bring back mask-wearing indoors or to start to report Covid cases in all age groups again.

"There is a growth in more-contagious strains, but we have seen in Portugal that they had this same surge a few weeks ago but this hasn't caused an increase in seriousness. In ICU we still have stable occupancy and, although we have seen an increase in hospital admissions, we are trying to monitor differences between those coming in because of Covid and those who [simply] have Covid," said Health minister Carolina Darias.

It was announced earlier this week that Queen Letizia had tested positive for Covid and her engagements were being cancelled.

Spain only continues to record positive Covid-19 cases in those over 60. Those numbers have shot up in the last week

Seven arrested on suspicion of robbing luxury villas on the Costa del Sol and Ibiza

Detectives suspected a new robbery was being planned late last month and laid in wait for the suspects as they left a ferry at Denia port

IRENE QUIRANTE

MALAGA. Five people have been detained in Malaga province and another two in Denia, Alicante, on suspicion of having broken into a house belonging to former Brazilian footballer Ronaldo Nazário in Ibiza on 28 June, where Italian footballer Marco Verrati was staying. They are also linked to at least nine robberies from expensive properties on the Costa del Sol.

With these arrests, the police have broken up an Albanian-based gang after an inquiry beginning at the end of last year into robberies at luxury homes in Malaga, Murcia and Ibiza.

They usually covered their faces with fancy dress masks and climbed over the outside walls, using highly sophisticated transmission equipment to commu-

nicate with each other.

A married couple from Malaga are also accused of collaborating with the gang by identifying luxury villas ideal for the robberies and providing vehicles, money and accommodation.

The police discovered that the suspects travelled on the same day to Malaga, Barcelona and Ibiza, which led them to believe they were planning another robbery. On 28 June they learned gang members could be on a ferry from Ibiza to Denia, and set up a surveillance operation in the port.

Meanwhile, they also received information that in the early hours of the morning a robbery had taken place in Ronaldo's villa in Ibiza and the thieves had stolen jewellery and watches worth three million euros.

As soon as the suspects' car drove off the ferry, the police stopped it and found several luxury watches inside the airbag compartment. Those matched the description of items which had gone missing from the villa. A detailed search of the vehicle afterwards revealed more hidden compartments.

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Marbella boosts police numbers and deploys more cameras for summer safety

The latest generation drones and vehicle number plate readers will operate in well-known hot spots, with Puerto Banús as a 'priority'

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. An increased police presence and some high-tech equipment will be deployed in Marbella this summer in a bid to deter and detect criminals.

The National Police will see their ranks boosted by 43 trainees in the town while Local Police will work longer shifts with a total of 22,000 hours of overtime.

The town councillor for Security, José Eduardo Díaz, said that during July and August both the police bodies would "redouble their efforts to provide more coverage and peace of mind to the public in the busiest areas" and that Puerto Banús "will be a priority".

The high-season security operation, launched on Wednesday, includes a helicopter and latest-generation drones that will be used to monitor golf courses at night when thieves take advantage of the poorly-lit areas to access adjacent residential areas.

The state-of-the-art technology means that officers on the ground can relay thermal camera imaging footage from the device to their mobile phones. Also, officers will have a portable drone detection system, in addition to a fixed one used at the police station. This enables the

neutralisation of drones and the ability to identify users.

Earlier in the week the council also revealed another 48 surveillance cameras will go 'live' in the town, adding to the 85 already operating.

They were installed in the second stage of a five-phase project costing a total of almost five million euros, with 80 per cent of the cost covered by EU funds.

Among the new locations for CCTV cameras are the entrance arch to the town, Orange Square and Ricardo Soriano, Severo Ochoa, Miguel Cano and Ramón y Cajal avenues.



Police officers with some of their top-end support equipment. SUR

Mijas water park reopens to public again after renovations

TONY BRYANT

MIJAS. The children's water park located in the Las Cañadas district of Mijas reopened its gates to the public last week after renovations and improvements were made to the facility.

The park, which will open between 10.30am and 8pm until the beginning of September, has a new shaded area with pergolas that was added at the request of local residents.

Two weather records were broken on the Costa in June

IGNACIO LILLO

MALAGA. The Spanish weather agency, Aemet, says two records were broken at Malaga Airport in June. The average maximum temperature during the day in June was 31.7C, which Aemet director Jesús Riesco has said is a record at the Costa del Sol airport. The previous record was set in 2003, at 30.4C.

The overall average temperature was also the highest ever at 26.1C, beating 2012 (25.5C) and 2017 (25.3C).

It is unusual for two weather records to be broken in one month, but it was attributed to a mass of very hot air arriving to Spain from North Africa.

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Well-known roundabout gets major makeover

An iconic roundabout at the entrance to Estepona has had a dramatic remodelling. A new decorative fountain, highlighted by coloured lights, now welcomes visitors to the town where the Avenidas de España and Andalucía converge. The town council has also improved the water distributor network in the area at the same time.

Coastal Path in Estepona nears completion with opening of new section

J. DUEÑAS

ESTEPONA. Francisco Salado, president of the Diputación, Malaga's provincial authority, has officially opened a new section of the Coastal Path in Estepona with the town's mayor, José María García Urbano.

The Senda Litoral coastal walking path in Estepona is now 90 per cent complete and has a main 20-kilometre-long section linking to other pedestrian paths.

Once completed the coastal path will stretch for 23 kilometres through the Costa del Sol

town.

The new section includes a 30-metre-long wooden pedestrian bridge over the Arroyo Vaquero, which connects the Bahía Dorada residential development and the Avenida de México.

Two concrete ramps give access to the bridge and, along with new paths, now link with the pedestrian sections by the Avenida de México.

Salado explained that the works have involved an investment of nearly 230,000 euros, with the Diputación contributing approximately 214,000 euros through the Municipal Economic Recovery Plan. The remainder was provided from the coffers of Estepona town hall.

The president also added that the provincial authority has granted funding, totalling 3.5 million euros, for a dozen Coastal Path projects along the Costa del Sol over the past six years.



The car collided with other vehicles before ploughing into a café. **SUR**

Over drink limit Brit arrested after crash

TORRE DEL MAR

Two people were left injured, one seriously, after the vehicle ploughed into the town's Solarium café

EUGENIO CABEZAS

TORRE DEL MAR. A 20-year-old British man has been arrested after ploughing into the Solarium café on Torre del Mar's sea front. The incident happened shortly after 3am on Wednesday morning. When breathalysed, the man was more than double the legal alcohol limit. Two people were injured including the 23-year-old passenger of the car who is in a serious condition in the Axarquía hospital.

All aboard Almuñécar's Trópico Express tourist train for summer service

ALMUÑÉCAR

J.R. Almuñécar's Trópico Express tourist train will run every evening from now until 9 September. The Trópico Express, driven by Fernando Matías, is scheduled to start at 7pm from Chinasol and will travel along the San Cristóbal promenades, Calle Guadix, Avenida Costa del Sol, Carrera de la Concepción, Avenida Rey Juan Carlos I, Paseo Puerta del Mar, Paseo de Reina Sofía and Velilla, before returning along other promenades. The service will finish around 12am.



The tropico Express. **SUR**



JENNIE RHODES

Weekend Beach festival

Torre del Mar singer and Eurovision 2022 hopeful Marta Sango was one of the opening acts at the Weekend Beach festival in Torre del Mar on Wednesday. 'Weekers' arrived in their thousands to attend the music event.

Fines of up to 1,500 euros for dumping garden waste on Rincón's streets

E. C.

R.DE LA VICTORIA. Rincón de la Victoria town hall has launched an awareness campaign to stop people from leaving garden waste or larger items by containers on the town's streets.

People caught could be fined up to 1,500 euros. Instead, larger items, furniture, electrical and electronic equipment, or other waste should be taken to the 'Punto Limpio' (recycling centre) from 8am to 2pm.

Gardening waste can be deposited inside the organic waste containers in airtight bags as long as they do not exceed 500 litres per day. When this limit is exceeded, the user must inform the Punto Limpio on 952971234 This number can also be used to report illegal dumping.



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An existing solar energy park at the heart of Malaga province. **SUR**

The Junta is assessing 170 solar energy projects in Malaga

Most applications are for photovoltaic parks with or without transmission lines, but some of the proposed projects are also for wind farms

V. MELGAR/ A. JIMÉNEZ / A. J. GUERRERO

MALAGA. The Junta de Andalucía is currently assessing a total of 63 projects for solar parks in Malaga province, according to the regional government's representative for Sustainable Development in the area. These include eight wind parks, one transmission line for the energy produced, and the rest consist of solar panels, either alone or with transmission lines or infrastructure.

The central government has delegated the responsibility for assessing these projects to the Junta if their output does not exceed 50 megawatts (MW), but if it does the application has to be made directly to Madrid.

In the first case, it is simpler, which is why many who want to build these solar parks are dividing them into smaller sections so they can apply to the Junta. The final go-ahead has to be given by the government, but prior approval of the environmental impact report is essential.

So far, the Andalusian government has evaluated 107 projects for which approval will either be given or rejected, by the Junta at this stage or by the government. These additional 63 mean there are currently 170 solar energy

parks planned in the province.

Councils and other groups have raised the alarm and called for help in the face of this avalanche of projects. They are opposed to the size of the proposed solar parks because of their environmental, social and economic consequences.

The same is happening elsewhere in Andalucía, encouraged by the arrival of EU funds to finance this type of project, and because of the hours of sunshine in the region. Town halls say they have received a huge number of enquiries from people who want to know whether their land would be suitable for the installations.

The councils' hands are practically tied, however. All they can do is indicate whether constructions of this type are permissible under the Urban Plan or not. Many councils have demanded the right to decide for themselves where solar parks can be located, have encouraged local residents to officially oppose the projects and want to modify their Urban Plans to limit these installations. People have also held protests and collected signatures on petitions, and are still making their opposition to the projects clear.

Viability

Of the projects currently being assessed by the Junta, 14 solar parks are planned in Antequera, one of which will be shared with Mollina, another with Casabermeja and one with Campillos, Álora and Valle de Abdalajís;

WHERE?

► **The centre and west of the province.** The projects for solar parks currently being assessed by the Junta would affect Antequera, Teba, Archidona, Cañete La Real, Humilladero and Ronda, Coín, Alozaina, Monda, Alhaurín de la Torre, Alhaurín El Grande, Marbella, Malaga and Nerja, among others. Manilva and Casares have the highest number of applications for wind parks, which are also being considered.

“This could be done differently. We are totally in favour of renewable energies, but this needs to be reorganised”

seven are planned in Teba; four in Archidona and Cañete La Real (in the latter, one is shared with Cuevas del Becerro and Ronda and the other with Almargen), Humilladero (one with Mollina and Fuente de Piedra) and Ronda.

There are also three projects planned in Casarabonela and Casares; two in Malaga (one with Almogía and Cártama); two in Gaucín; two in Cártama, with Coín, Alhaurín El Grande and Alhaurín de la Torre; and one each in Almargen, Alhaurín de la Torre, Almogía and Nerja, as well as another in the offing in

Coín, Alozaina, Monda, Guaro, Ojén and Marbella.

The Junta is also studying the environmental impact report for a transmission line in Teba and Campillos and five wind parks in Manilva (three shared with Casares and one with San Roque), Casabermeja, Antequera and Álora.

Due to the concentration in certain areas, some locations would not be viable for this equipment to be installed, mainly because of the effect on flora and fauna and protected areas and habitats.

Nowadays, wind energy production has become more developed in Malaga province, with 25 parks producing 628 MW of electricity. The Andalusian Energy Agency says this output will eventually reach 211.5 MW.

Opposition

For all the reasons above, many people in the province are against the proliferation of renewable energy projects. In the Serranía de Ronda there are no solar parks as yet, but Eduardo Sánchez, of the Platform of those Affected by Photovoltaic Projects in Ronda and the Serranía, says developers are pushing for three huge solar megaparks, and people have already lodged official objections.

“They would start to the north of Ronda and cross the Genal valley,” he says, and also points out that there is a project to build an electrical substation in Ronda in order to improve the railway line between Bobadilla and Algeciras, and in his opinion this is what has attracted so many projects: they would need to transmit the energy they produce.

“The shortest transmission line will be about 28 kilometres long, with 89 pylons,” he says. He has asked Ronda council, which says there are about 30 applications on the table, to oppose the substation project.

In the Guadalhorce valley, the residents' platforms say applications for projects continue to come in. They are particularly critical of the new RePowerEU route map which they say will turn Spain into “an energy colony for rich countries in northern Europe”. They are also dismayed at the new Land Law of Andalucía which removes protections from land which cannot be built on.

“This could be done differently. We are totally in favour of renewable energies, but this needs to be reorganised,” says Marisa Casal, the spokeswoman for the Río Grande Natural Valley Association, which began in Coín but now includes other platforms in Malaga and other Andalusian provinces.

In Antequera, the Cartaojal Sin Parques Fotovoltaicos group is also on the warpath over the seven projects that would isolate this outlying district. It would end up surrounded by a sea of solar panels covering the same area as 1,000 football pitches, says José Ángel López.

112S

COSTA DEL SOL

Police pull plug on electric scooter rider

R. MERINO. Guardia Civil police patrolling the AP-7 motorway between San Pedro Alcántara and Estepona couldn't believe their eyes. After several tip-offs they found a woman who had ridden 12km along the carriage-way. She appeared exhausted because her scooter had run out of battery power and she was using her legs to keep going. Police charged her and she now faces a fine of 200 euros.

MANILVA

Wrong way driver arrested on motorway

SUR. Police are investigating the driver of a car for travelling 17 kilometres in the opposite direction to traffic on the AP-7 motorway between the Malaga towns of Manilva and Estepona. Other motorists alerted the emergency services when they spotted the vehicle heading in the direction of Malaga, but using the lanes in the opposite direction, towards Algeciras (Cadiz).

The woman driver was arrested by the Guardia Civil.

PUERTO BANÚS

Marijuana club raided by police

I. QUIRANTE. An allegedly illegal smoking club where marijuana was being sold and consumed in Puerto Banús, Marbella, has been raided and closed down by Marbella's Local Police and three people have been arrested for their alleged involvement in a crime against public health. The officers seized more than 1,000 grammes of marijuana in different forms and containers, such as cigarettes, transparent bags, sweets and biscuits.

MARBELLA

British men in court after brutal attack on woman

J. CANO. Three tourists who beat up a woman they believed had stolen a watch have appeared in court. The prosecution team agreed to two proposed jail sentences being suspended on condition they do not reoffend, and the third being changed to a ban on entering Spain for ten years. The men paid 20,375 euros compensation to the victim.

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The majority of these goods are in the food section, both chilled and general foodstuffs, but they can also be found in other sections such as hygiene, textiles and cleaning. In fact, this week's offers are to be found in the hygiene section in Carrefour: BIO products such as aloe vera or hibiscus roll-on deodorant, solid shampoo, peach or almond shower gel, and alcohol-free mouthwash, among others.

The items are available under separate headers and on the shelves of each department, differentiated with signage for the customer's convenience.

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5.27€ per 100gr.

3x2



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0.40€ per 100 ml.

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THE EURO ZONE
MARK NAYLER

War and Peace



Spain is the country of 'no' to war - so said Podemos member and minister for equality Irene Montero in January, expressing her party's attitude towards military involvement in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Yet there was further proof last week that Podemos has hardly any clout in the Socialist-led coalition, with Pedro Sánchez announcing a hefty increase of Spain's military budget between now and 2029.

At a Nato summit in Madrid at the end of June, Sánchez made a rash promise to double Spain's military spending over the next six years to 2% of GDP, the goal set by the alliance (and currently met by just nine of its thirty members). One assumes this is another decision reached unilaterally by the Socialists, against the wishes of their junior partner Podemos. Podemos has consistently voiced criticism of Sánchez's decision to send weapons and fighter jets to Ukraine and only supports the provision of humanitarian aid.

The leftist party's input in the government's increasingly haphazard foreign policy, though, seems negligible. Podemos also complained of being sidelined in talks over the Western Sahara issue, which culminated in March with one of Sánchez's most baffling announcements to date - that

Podemos has consistently voiced criticism of Sánchez's decision to send weapons to Ukraine

Spain backed Moroccan hegemony over the disputed territory. Podemos, which supports the desert region's claim to independence, said that it hadn't even been consulted on the decision to reverse Spain's decades-old neutrality.

Following the cabinet meeting in which an extra thirteen billion euros for the military was approved, government spokeswoman Isabel Rodríguez trumpeted the coalition's "clear and firm response" to the Ukraine crisis. But the response now favoured - that of closer alignment with Nato's military intervention - is completely disowned by one of the two parties that's running Spain.

The coalition's official line on Ukraine has been so self-contradictory that back in March former opposition leader Pablo Casado asked Sánchez who was really in charge of foreign policy. Podemos' increasingly frequent complaints about being ignored, though, reveal the answer to that question: the Socialists. It's just that their idealistic, whining partners disagree with pretty much everything they say and do, as if Podemos members have somehow got it into their heads that their opinion matters. The impertinence!

Sidelined Podemos has asked for a cabinet meeting to discuss the government's spending priorities, no doubt concerned that public funds will be diverted from welfare projects to satisfy Nato. In the meantime, Spain will presumably maintain its all-purpose stance on Ukraine, as a country that says "'no' to war" while doubling its military spending. There's nothing whatsoever "clear and firm" about that.



MPs during a session in the Congreso debating chamber. EFE (FILE PHOTO)

Costa firm is chosen to protect MPs from cyberattacks

Ingenia pitched against 12 other firms for the prestigious contract to provide the service in Madrid's Congreso de los Diputados

ANTONIO JAVIER LÓPEZ

MALAGA. The Malaga area has a growing reputation for being home to companies expert at protecting against hacking and fraud on the internet. And now a long-established local specialist in cybersecurity has won the contract to keep the Congreso de los Diputados - the lower

chamber of Spain's parliament, in Madrid - safe from attack.

Ingenia, based on the Málaga Techpark, has the contract for an initial four years to provide a round-the-clock service for 1.4 million euros. Thirteen firms, including the giant Telefónica, bid for the contract.

Ingenia engineers will have to provide secure networks and software to protect the sensitive data received and sent by MPs and workers in the parliament.

The company, operating for almost thirty years, was bought last year by international consultancy firm Babel. In 2020 it turned over 21.8m euros.

Ernst & Young plans to boost its staff in Malaga to 2,000 over the next three years

A.J. LÓPEZ

MALAGA. There was more good news locally this week over the creation of jobs in the growing new technology sector.

Ernst & Young, the multinational services company which opened an office on Málaga TechPark in 2019, announced last month that it planned to double its number of employees to 1,000. Now it has decided to double that figure and employ 2,000 staff by 2025. And that, it seems, may be a conservative figure.

The plans were announced during the presentation of EY Global Delivery Services (EY GDS) on Tuesday morning this week (the new name for the former Malaga Excellence Technology). The Malaga base will become a global centre,

working with colleagues around the world to provide services to 97,600 professionals based in 25 countries. Malaga will focus on Europe, Middle East, India and Africa region, joining other bases in Poland and Hungary.

The president of EY España, Federico Linares, said at the presentation that if anyone were to ask him why the firm had chosen Malaga for its Delivery Centre, there were numerous reasons such as the infrastructure, connections and quality of life.

"But, above all, the local talent from Malaga and Andalucía, and the ability to attract and retain talent from the rest of Spain, Europe and the world. Malaga is now a technological hub of outstanding growth," he said.

Mercadona overtakes Zara-owner Inditex as the firm with best reputation in Spain

SUR

MADRID. Mercadona is top of the table of national companies with the best reputation for the first time, according to the 2022 survey carried out by Merco, a firm that monitors corporate reputation.

The supermarket has been in the second spot for the last ten surveys behind Inditex, the owner of brands such as Zara and Bershka.

Inditex this time has slipped down to second place.

Making up the other top ten firms with the best reputation in Spain, after Mercadona and Inditex, are: Once (the large charity that operates a lottery), Telefónica, Mapfre insurance, Repsol, Ikea, Coca Cola, Nestlé and Mutua Madrileña insurance.

Among the biggest risers in this year's ranking were: Hijos de Rivera (makers of Estrella Galicia beer), which went up from 49th to 26th position; Mango, (77th to 54th); Orange, (84th to 62nd); and Ferrovial (construction and services), from 89th to 72nd.



Mercadona rises

Big rise in number of new companies and self-employed setting up in Marbella

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. Despite storm clouds gathering over the business world, there was good news out of Marbella this week. The town has beaten its record for the creation of new registered companies, with the total operating up from 18,522 in 2019 to over 20,000 now - an increase of over 2,000.

The town is in sixth place for the number of new firms set up in the period, only behind Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Seville and Malaga. The biggest growth sectors are hospitality, construction and digital services.

At the same time, the number of self-employed (autónomos) are up by 10 per cent on May 2019. The mayor of Marbella has praised the figures.

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SHOPPING

Fines of up to 1,000 euros can be handed out for scooter offences

The electric devices to get around are convenient but the DGT traffic authority claims most users still do not know the rules

RAQUEL MERINO

MALAGA. With the boom in the use of electric scooters, Spain's traffic authority - the DGT - has issued a reminder about the rules and large potential fines that apply to users. Most scooter users claim to be unaware of the basic rules.

The most serious fault, according to the DGT, is that 43 per cent of users admitted to riding on the pavement. Some 12 per cent had reportedly suffered an accident



Scooter use has taken off. EFE

involving personal injury.

The traffic authority has reminded users that it is forbidden

to ride on pavements, pedestrian areas, crossings, motorways, dual carriageways, interurban roads or tunnels in urban areas. Speed must be between six and 25 km/h and it is compulsory to have a braking system, a bell, lights and reflective devices at the front and rear.

In addition, the DGT has noted that the authorised routes must be set out in bylaws by the relevant urban authority and, if there is no such law, it is permitted to circulate on any urban road.

The toughest penalties for scooter riders are those related to driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Electric scooter users can be subject to a breathalyser test, just like other drivers. A zero blood alcohol limit has been introduced for underage drivers. Fines of up to 1,000 euros can be issued.

Using a mobile phone or any other device while driving a scooter carries a fine of 200 euros; the same amount as if driving with headphones, driving at night without lighting or reflective clothing or not wearing a helmet (if the relevant municipal law makes this measure compulsory).

Coalition partners look to smooth a deal over defence spending to present a united front

PAULA DE LAS HERAS / SUR

MADRID. A potential crisis between the two partners in Spain's coalition government appeared to be ebbing away by the end of this week, as both sides reflected on what they had to lose by dynamiting their relationship.

Following recent disagreements between the PSOE Socialist and Unidas Podemos (UP), principally about the former's planned increase in defence spending in Spain, Yolanda Díaz, vice president of the government and UP leader, had ominously summoned a meeting of the cross-party committee that oversees the terms of the left-wing coalition.

But the call seems to have been

more for effect than real. By Wednesday this week, Díaz was saying she was hopeful that the apparent rift could be healed more easily. Next week is a planned debate on the State of the Nation in parliament and both sides want to show unity.

Unidas Podemos has rejected outright its PSOE partners aim to spend 2 per cent of national income on defence by 2029, to meet Nato obligations, and some compromise will be needed if the government is not to potentially fall.

Yolanda Díaz has said there is "no alternative" to finding an "imaginative" compromise.

Díaz's new movement

Meanwhile, signs of fracture on the left continued as Díaz planned to launch in Madrid today (8 July) a new radical political platform called Sumar (meaning Unite). Other leaders of Unidas Podemos (UP) are not attending. UP is an amalgam of left-wing parties and Díaz is of the Izquierda Unida side. The separate Podemos side will not be there.



Vehicles line up to cross from Spanish Ceuta into Morocco. EP

Transport operation to get North Africans home for the holidays is hit by border delays

SUR

MALAGA. After two summers with the Morocco-Spanish frontier closed, this July has seen the restart in earnest of the annual 'Operation Crossing the Strait'. This is the special arrangements by the authorities to speed up the journey back to North Africa for the summer holidays of hundreds of thousands of Moroccans and Algerians who live in Europe.

The busiest crossing routes are from Algeciras to Tangier in Morocco and to Spanish Ceuta on the African coast.

However, despite fluid road journeys through Spain and a short wait at Algeciras for a ferry, things have not been going smoothly on the land border between Ceuta and Morocco.

Last weekend there were waits of up to nine hours to clear border controls, with up to 900 cars waiting at a time in extreme heat. Some families had been travelling for over two days. Morocco's requirement for a Covid test result and only one lane to process passengers was being blamed.

The special operation is seeing record numbers using Spanish ports. In the first two weeks since officially starting on June 15, 188,253 passengers were recorded as crossing to Morocco or Algeria.

Passengers sailing from Malaga port to Spanish Melilla, before entering Morocco, were up 62 per cent alone on 2019 so far said local sources.



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Members of UK's European Scrutiny Committee on fact-finding visit to Gibraltar

The seven members had a busy schedule of visits and also met some of the residents affected by Blue ID Card problems at the border

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. Seven members of the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee have been in Gibraltar this week on a fact-finding visit.

They arrived on Tuesday for what has been a very busy few days, and attended a working lunch at No. 6 Convent Place with chief minister Fabian Picardo, deputy chief minister Dr Joseph García and other officials. The Governor of Gibraltar, Sir David Steel, was also present at the lunch. The MPs then went to visit the Naval Base for discussions about defence.

On Wednesday, the group were taken to visit the university, the airport, the border and the finance centre, and they held a private meeting with some of the



Tuesday's working lunch. FSUR

Gibraltar residents who hold blue ID cards and are being affected by problems at the border.

The EU Scrutiny Committee has 16 members from the UK's three main political parties and is chaired by Sir William Cash, who was one of the members visiting Gibraltar. It assesses the legal and/or political importance of draft EU legislation deposited in Parliament by the government.

The committee members flew back to the UK on Thursday.



The cheque for £4,000, presented to the charity. SUR

Donation to Prostate Cancer Gibraltar from sales of a book

D.B. The Prostate Cancer Gibraltar group has received a donation of £4,000 from the sales of a book called Gibraltar Then & Now by Robert Santos, which was published recently. The cheque was presented to the charity's CEO, Derek Ghio, by the CEO of Gibraltar Cultural Services, Seamus Byrne and the author.

The book has proved extremely popular. It has over 200 pages of photographs and anecdotes of Gibraltar's landscapes and streetscapes, and chapters dedicated to various districts across the Rock, with

a focus on Main Street.

Robert Santos began this project as a hobby as he enjoyed identifying buildings in historical pictures and seeing how those locations compare to the streetscapes today.

The book is not only an enjoyable read but a contribution to preserving Gibraltar's history and heritage. A few copies are still available from the John Mackintosh Hall and the Gibraltar National Museum, priced at £20.

Information about Prostate Cancer Gibraltar can be found at www.pcg.gi

IN BRIEF

POLITICS

Further EU talks in Madrid this week

D.B. Gibraltar's chief minister, Fabian Picardo, and deputy chief minister Dr Joseph García travelled to Madrid on Wednesday morning for two days of further technical talks over the potential Treaty to determine Gibraltar's future relationship with the EU and the nearest member group, Spain. Picardo said recently he was confident that an agreement will be possible.

NEWS

Customs to the rescue of stricken yacht

D.B. Gibraltar Customs officers had to come to the rescue of a 40-ft yacht which was in difficulties on Monday evening. Its steering had failed and it was drifting towards rocks near Sandy Bay. The couple on board could not lower the sail or lift the anchor. The officers boarded the sloop, cut its anchor, climbed the mast to adjust it and were then able to tow the vessel to safety.

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

High costs

How much posing, backslapping, kissing, endless smiling, financial waste, collective fakeness from the European leaders and their groups, how much delight from the organising government for a festive event together with its minions; meanwhile Putin and his troops increased the bombardment and military harassment in Ukraine, threats included, joining in the party, what else. I won't argue about the need for a military union, but if its high costs, while the country is going short, with abusive price rises and job insecurity, shops and businesses closing down, erosion of rights, more politicians laying down the law, non-stop immigration, some of it aggressive, cuts in essential health services when faced with pandemics and other known, or unknown, diseases. And on to all that I'll sprinkle a topping of loss of respect and the element of every-man-for-himself that is affecting society and that has us harking back to happier times. We'll need to get a job in one of the different parts of Nato to improve our lives given the huge budget they have and the safe haven it offers, as all the political jobs are full, there's no room and none of those go bankrupt or close, or face cuts."

ÁNGEL SANTAMARÍA

Missing my
motorway
pit stop

I am not writing to you to complain about the high motorway toll costs on the road from Fuengirola to Marbella (AP-7). I, like most of my neighbours in Estepona, and I suspect most of your readers, are resigned to it, in order to have a less stressful

journey back from the airport and to get there in once piece.

But why do we pay all that money in order to not have a decent place to have a wee? The service station restaurant by Marbella is closed. Does anybody know why? There is a dirty portacabin by the Repsol but no real facility as advertised. Are we entitled to a discount or a refund, do you know? **ALAN DAVIES**

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

Sound investment

Bob Dylan, or Lord Bobbington as he's sometimes known - at least in my house - has, as is his wont, come up with another corker.

Having sold off his entire back catalogue - including the harmonica solos - for a reported 200 million dollars back in 2020, the sand-and-glue voiced troubadour has just recorded a new version of Blowin' In The Wind with his current collaborator-in-chief, T Bone Burnett, who will presumably have some kind of steak (sic) in the profits.

There will be only one copy pressed of the song and conservative estimates point to it fetching about one million dollars at auction which will come in handy if the Bobster intends to give the seventeen houses he owns (according to biographer Howard Sounes) a

lick of paint any time soon.

Anyway, the latest recording will be pressed on a new type of record which combines the best of the materials used to make both CD and Vinyl discs providing the listener with 'the pinnacle of sound' according to T Bone. This is where I get a bit lost.

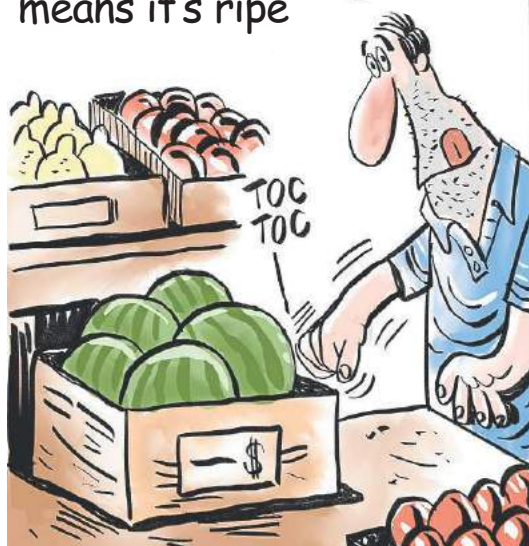
Many moons ago I visited a top-of-the-range music system shop with friend of mine who was nuts about sound - not music, mind you, just sound reproduction. He'd actually buy records he didn't like because they offered the right bass frequencies or something equally mind-numbing. He wasn't a particularly affluent chap, but that day he spent a small fortune on a top of the range sound system. Sure enough, next time I went round to his

house, he was playing some God-awful experimental jazz or something on his new system, eyes closed, nodding along like a plastic dog in a taxi. The thing is, his wife was using the blender in the next room with the door open. I spent the rest of the day, laughing loudly and heartily at his expense. The thing is, the pursuit of perfect sound only makes sense if you can listen in perfect conditions and, let's face it, you never can unless you own an isolated farm house in Galicia and a pair of headphones the size of Apollo 11.

Still, I hope Lord Bobbington and T Bone get a good price for showing a bit of initiative. Actually, come to think of it, they could probably get twice as much if they just took the harmonica solo out.

PACHI

If you tap a watermelon and it sounds hollow, it means it's ripe



But if you tap your wallet and it sounds hollow, that means it's empty



SUR in English

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NEIL HESKETH

The art of resignation

A week is a long time in politics. This time seven days ago Boris Johnson had just returned from Spain after proudly exercising power with other leaders at a Nato summit in Madrid. A week later, he has seen that power slip away from him.

There was a moment at last week's summit ahead of a dinner at Madrid's astonishing Prado art museum that Johnson was seen wandering off alone to admire the collection of paintings. He is a

well-known student of classics and, as a journalist, frequently drew parallels between history and day-to-day life. It is not recorded what he made of the works his gaze settled on. But if Boris had been reading the room, some clues to the next seven days and his fate would have been there among the most famous works.

Setting the scene would have been Renaissance masterpiece, The Garden of Earthly Delights, by Hieronymus Bosch, perhaps hung not too far away from Di-

ego Velázquez's, The Triumph of Bacchus.

There is also, among the top works, Saturn Devouring His Son by Francisco Goya. It depicts a Greek myth in which Saturn eats one of his sons because he fears he will overthrow him - for sons read Cabinet Ministers. And dramatically, Goya's The Third of May 1808, a terribly famous painting in Spain which is a bloody portrayal of Napoleonic troops executing the patriots. Not to mention Ruben's Three Graces, the link to which in this tale we shall leave to the imagination. Indeed, the writing did appear to be on the wall for Boris Johnson in Madrid last week.

And just as Boris was a passing observer last week at the Prado, we British citizens in southern Spain have been mere observers the last few days of life imitating art far away in Whitehall, more

resigned than ever. It has all seemed like a bit of a haze, happening in a country that feels all that bit more foreign- and alien- since Brexit.

Without the fine print ready yet on how we will be voting again in a British general election (should one happen soon); with many of us without the right to drive in Spain; with a deal on Gibraltar's future with the EU - so important to many - still not done, there is a real sense of unfinished business.

The huge disappointment felt by everyone, from Johnson himself to his fiercest opponents over "what might have been" is felt here too, south of the Pyrenees.

Whichever side you are on - a rejoicer at Boris going, or a supporter (still, or at one time) - we must all hope that whoever comes next will, this time, get the job done for us in Spain and Gibraltar.



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Low prices and simple furniture, that was Ikea's concept that revolutionised the world of furniture. The values of the company's founder, Ingvar Kamprad, who died in 2018, even reached Linus Frejd (Malmö, 1984), as he talks about concepts such as "cost control" or "simplicity" with absolute passion. Frejd is the general manager of the Malaga Ikea store and is one of the company's main executives in Spain. That's why it's strange to see him dressed in the same uniform as his colleagues for a person in such a high position.

—Is all the furniture in your house from Ikea or are there other pieces?

—It's a mix. Naturally, a lot is from Ikea. Especially the sofas, the mattresses; we love Ikea mattresses, armchairs, etc. Then we try to combine it. We like to mix it with some inherited furniture that we will always keep. We also love to visit the flea markets. We just got a dining table, six or seven metres long, it reminds me of having big family dinners.

—What does your brain think when it sees a piece of furniture?

—Swedes and Scandinavians spend a lot of time in our houses, much more than they do in Malaga. Also, the taxation and the prices, you can't afford to spend so much time out and about. You spend much more time at home, you have family and friends over for dinner. So we are born with a very keen interest [in interior design], as a general population. The first thing I look for is more of a sensation of 'I like it!', it's hard to explain. It's an aesthetic thing.

—Ikea clients will spend more than at a supermarket, right?

—The ambition, first and foremost, is to invite people to our shops. It's less of coming here and spending money and more of coming here and spending a great day and having an experience. Then, of course, with the shop it's a benefit; you can always go home, you can buy online or buy at one of our many touch points. The focus for the store in Malaga is more for you to come here for the experience and see the solutions.

—You suggest a visit to Ikea as an alternative to going to the cinema. Don't you think it's a bit pretentious?

—It should be an experience. We are aware that not everyone sees it like this. To stereotype, I'd say women are quite happy to spend a few hours here. Children tend to love it, with the restaurant, the meatballs and the play area. What we have an issue with is the husbands. I always had the dream to build a male kindergarden in an



Linus Frejd poses in one of the aisles at the Ikea Malaga store
SALVADOR SALAS

'I always had a dream to build a kindergarden for men in Ikea'

Linus Frejd. The Ikea Malaga store manager explains the company's vision and how unique the market is on the Costa del Sol

MATÍAS STUBER



▲ Linus Frejd cutting ham at one of the Ikea Malaga store's kitchen displays.
SALVADOR SALAS

Ikea store, but we haven't found the key yet. Maybe a sports bar, we will consider that in the future.

—Ikea's founder Ingvar Kamprad had the reputation of being stingy. Is that something that can be reflected in the company?

—Ikea isn't owned by anyone. It's essentially owned by the [Ikea] Foundation, which means you can look at it like Elon Musk and Tesla. Kamprad was very strong in the beginning to say that Ikea should be owned by many people. Which means that every year the profits will either be put into a charitable trust or reinvested in the company. Essentially, he could not take out ten euros from the company, which is quite amazing. This has inspired and created what Ikea is all about today.

—Does Ikea promote 'austerity' from the inside?

—What you're touching on is one of our core values, it's called cost consciousness and this is key for

us. We have all the money to be able to spend but we will do so extremely wisely. We will not spend money, because if we make a bad investment we know that we will not be able to keep the prices so low. This is still very much a living, breathing value within every person, step and decision in Ikea.

—And what are the core values of Ikea for you?

—For me, personally, I think cost consciousness is key for us. It's not so much about being a tightarse, or being cheap. Simplicity is another one. Our approach in Malaga is not about having a very strict hierarchy, or managers and co-workers. We are one great, big family that has a lot of challenges, and we will do them together. And if we can make a simple decision rather than a complex decision, we will always prefer to go for the simplest one.

—Is that why you dress like any other employee?

—We have uniforms for departments. We have people wearing

blue with white stripes and then others with yellow and white stripes.

—But you're a manager. Wouldn't you like to wear a suit and tie?

—I'd be very uncomfortable. I don't think I even own one, to be honest. The last time I wore a shirt was when we celebrated the 15th anniversary party, but not a tie, this is too much.

—What is the main key behind Ikea's success?

—I think it's the simplicity. More than that, it's the way we value people. For me the success in Ikea is not thanks to one person. Ingvar, of course, set the base, but then I see Ikea Malaga growing in a fantastic way and we have new ideas, we have new business ventures every day and I would say that none of the ideas come from me. They come from all the co-workers, we have 750 workers in the store.

—What is something that you try and introduce from the Swedish mentality in your day-to-day work?

—In Sweden we do not have hierarchies. We have a very individual and democratised focus. One thing I've learned living in a lot of countries is that Malaga is much the same. The people here are so fantastic, they're more competent and skilled than I am. But maybe what they don't do is see their own value. I think this is one of the things I try to focus on the most. In Sweden you would be more proud about who you are and less focused about what the manager or the government thinks of you. This is something I always try to build to make the people develop themselves.

—Is there any wiggle room to adapt Ikea to local taste or are the stores all the same?

—Malaga is a very unique market. What we do is have 75% of our range be a global standard and 25% will be specific to Spain. Here, more or less 30% of the turnover is from foreigners, which is super unique. When we do a kitchen or a living room, we stretch the percentage so much more. In Malaga we go for the 'malagueños' and we have 30% for foreigners. This is why the guys are working so much to get to know the needs and the dreams of the people, because we need to be extremely specific.

—If you could name an Ikea furniture piece, what would be the name you'd give it?

—It's tricky, because it would need to be a Swedish name. My dream would be to make an armchair specifically for the Malaga mayor's 80th birthday; he's inspired me so much. I'd call it 'Borgmästare'.

Filming starts for new Netflix series Kaos, starring Hugh Grant

The first day of filming was at Los Altos de Marbella, but other locations in Malaga province will include the Axarquía and Malaga city

FRANCISCO GRIÑÁN

MALAGA. There is huge curiosity about the filming of the new Netflix series Kaos on the Costa del Sol, but the details are being kept extremely secret.

On Monday residents of Los Altos de Marbella – one of the most exclusive residential developments on the Costa del Sol – were surprised to find dozens of caravans, trailers and cars heading towards a magnificent mansion where filming was about to take place.

A temporary car park had been prepared on a large piece of land nearby, and a large marquee was set up to protect the crew from the sun.

But there was little else to be seen. The property had been converted into an impregnable fortress to guard the secrets of this production and its international cast, which includes Janet McTeer, Nabhaan Rizwan, Cliff Curtis and, of course, Hugh Grant who is playing the lead role.

The presence of British actor Hugh Grant as Zeus also lends an air of comedy, albeit black comedy, to this fantasy story that begins with the god of gods facing a rebellion for which he was not prepared: a wrinkle on his forehead predicts old age and his downfall, and that leads to a neurosis that adds paranoia to his well-known classic conditions of narcissist, vengeful and insecure.

At the same time, Poseidon, god of the sea, is more concerned with the size of his megayacht and the party than with the wellbeing of the mortals who inhabit the Earth, where a revolution to change the



Production base and car park set up near the shoot's location. JOSELE



established order is beginning to take shape.

In fact, Grant did not take part in the filming on Monday, so those keen to catch a glimpse of the star of Four Weddings and a Funeral and Notting Hill will

have to hope for another chance.

This new production also includes a large number of extras, but they will be unable to pass on any secrets about the filming as mobile phones are banned from the set so no photographs can be taken or recordings made.

The devices have to be handed

over in the morning and collected at the end of the day.

Other locations in Malaga province planned by the production team for Kaos include parts of the Axarquía and Malaga city, before the actors and crew move on to Seville, Madrid and Valencia once all the scenes on the Costa del Sol are finished.

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SUMMER SOUNDS CONCERTS



Diva queen wows Starlite audience

Music legend Diana Ross, 78, appeared on the Starlite stage in Marbella on Wednesday night, the only date in Spain on her Thank You tour. The crowd, mainly composed of expats, was treated to all the singer's classic hits including I Will Survive as the concert's encore.



Top Spanish star shines

Vanessa Martín performed a compilation of her songs and presented material from her latest album in Marbella.



Weekend Beach is back

After a three-year hiatus due to Covid, thousands of 'Weekers' have returned to Torre del Mar's long-awaited festival in their droves, some getting into the spirit by wearing fancy dress costume. One of the highlights of Wednesday was a performance from Marta Sango, the locally born Eurovision hopeful. She told Sur in English exclusively after her show that it was "an absolute honour" to have the opportunity to perform in her home town. "I have been coming to the festival since the first year, so now to be performing here is incredible," she added.



Fuengirola castle date

One of Spain's top pop performers, Alejandro Sanz, took to the Marenostrum stage in the grounds of Sohail Castle this week.

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The foreign community come together for a fair in aid of the Red Cross

BENALMÁDENA

The first edition of the new Intercultural Fair will combine gastronomic and cultural activities, along with live music, dance performances and a craft market

TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. Benalmádena will host the first edition of its new Intercultural Fair in the Plaza de la Mezquita, Arroyo de la Miel, on Saturday 9 July, in aid of the local branch of the Red Cross.

Foreign nationals

The event will combine gastronomic and cultural activities along with live music, dance performances and a craft market.

Numerous groups that represent some of the 140 foreign nationalities that reside in the town, such as those from the UK, Argentina, Paraguay, Venezuela,

Colombia, Peru, Morocco, Senegal and Ukraine, are taking part in the fair.

Organised by the town hall and the Red Cross, the event will start at midday on Saturday 9th July and continue until 9pm, and all funds raised will go towards the international association's initiative to help vulnerable groups in danger of social exclusion.

The town's mayor, Víctor Navas, said, "There is great social cohesion in Benlamádena thanks to the solidarity and generosity of our citizens, and this event will give visibility to those that are going through difficult times".

The President of the Benalmádena branch of the Red Cross, Francisca López, added, "We have a lot of demand for help and our resources are limited, so that is why we decided to organise this charity festival, the benefits of which will serve those who depend on us in Benalmádena."

Rotary Club elects new president with a passion for the environment

MARBELLA

T. BRYANT. The Rotary Club Marbella-Guadalmina has elected its first ever Dutch president, Willem Falter, who assumed the role during a ceremony held last Friday.

Willem brings with him a wealth of business experience, and a deep passion for the environment, as he has already demonstrated during his time as a Rotarian.

Willem was the brains behind the club's EndPlasticSoup on the Costa del Sol campaign, a global initiative that seeks to ensure that there is no plastic soup in the world's oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and green spaces by 2050.

The Marbella-Guadalmina club's campaign resulted in the installation on a Mijas beach of a sculpture created from recycled plastic. The new president promises that the fish sculpture, which was installed earlier this year, is the first of many planned for other locations along the coast.

Willem says his themes for his presidential year are "harmony, activity, friendship and trans-



New president Willem Falter. SUR

parency", and he is also promising to actively encourage participation in all of the club's varied activities.

Chartered in December 2010, RC Marbella-Guadalmina was the first English speaking international Rotary Club on the Costa del Sol.

Since its inception, the club has supported numerous local and global initiatives in order to improve the lives of those in need.

Cudeca charity shop launches summer sale

FUENGIROLA

T.B. The Cudeca charity shop in Avenida Jesús Santos Rein, Fuengirola, launched its summer sale this week by reducing all ladies' trousers and skirts by 50 per cent. Other items of clothing and accessories will be included in the sale in the coming weeks.

Lux Mundi trip to Frigiliana Three Cultures Festival

FUENGIROLA

T.B. Lux Mundi Fuengirola has organised a trip to Frigiliana for the Three Cultures Festival, a tribute to the three cultures that have left their mark on medieval Spain: Islamic, Hebrew and Christian, on 26 August. Tickets available from the centre cost 23 euros (19 euros members). Reservations call: 606568145 or email lux-mundif@gmail.com.

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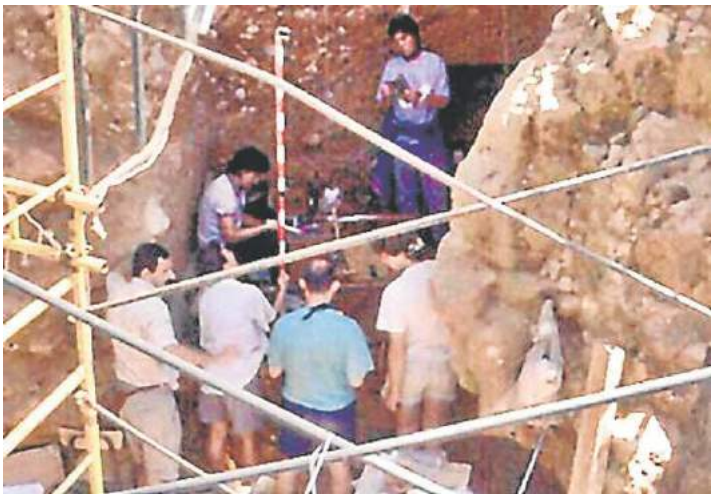
8 JULY 1994

Dig reveals remains of last common ancestor of modern humans

The find changed the general conception of human evolution on the European continent

The first remains of the last common ancestor of modern humans and Neanderthals - Homo antecessor - were discovered at the Atapuerca site in Burgos (Castilla y León) on 8 July 1994. Over the next twelve months, more than 80 bone fragments from six individuals, which included a child who had died at about ten years of age, were discovered. Atapuerca, declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco in 2000, is a set of archaeological and

paleontological sites that contain some of the oldest human remains on the Iberian Peninsula. The important discovery was made at the Gran Dolina site, thought to be the most important in Europe, due to the abundance and diversity of its remains. The archaeological significance of this region became apparent during the construction a railway line built in the 19th century. The line, now disused, ran through the Atapuerca mountains. The remains of the child, which mainly consisted of a skull, has since become known as the Gran Dolina child. The fossilised bones were discovered by Spanish archaeologist Aurora Martín Nájera,



Aurora Martín Nájera (top left) at the Gran Dolina site in Burgos. SUR

who, since its inception in 2010, has been the general coordinator of the Museum of Human Evolution in Burgos. Archaeologists also unearthed around 200 stone tools and hundreds of animal bones, all of which were believed to be at least 800,000 years old. The find changed the general conception concerning human evolution on the European continent. Because of the characteristics of their forehead and teeth, the archaeologist

first believed that the remains resembled Homo heidelbergensis, predecessor of the Neanderthal man. However, they also presented more modern characteristics, such as facial features typical of Homo sapiens; therefore, they were identified as the common ancestor of both. Cannibalism Researches were also able to perceive that these hominid primates practised cannibalism

due to the marks found on the bones, which suggested a process of dismemberment and extraction of meat. The remains are believed to be at least 250,000 years older than any other hominid discovered in western Europe, although the classification of the remains is still being debated by some researchers. **Bilingual crossword inside back page**

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Yacimiento	Site
Arqueología	Archaeology
Identificar	To identify
Especie	Species
Identificar	To identify
Herramienta	Tool
Hueso	Bone
Cráneo	Skull
Investigador	Researcher
Evolución	Evolution
Dientes	Teeth
Antepasado	Ancestor
Hallazgo	Find
Cerebro	Brain
Científicos	Scientists
Mandíbula	Jaw
Similitudes	Similarities
Desarrollo	Development



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SUR in English

DENISE BUSH



GARDENING

Langsdorff's tobacco

The genus *Nicotiana* (tobacco plants) has around 60 species and is a member of the nightshade family Solanaceae. *Nicotiana Langsdorffii*, sometimes called Langsdorff's tobacco, is native to Chile and Brazil and is a perennial in mild climates.

Like most of the genus, Langsdorff's tobacco has

sticky leaves and stems and is toxic if ingested. It grows to a height of nearly 1.5 metres in perfect conditions, although in most gardens it will probably only reach up to a metre. In early summer and through to autumn, *Nicotiana langsdorffii* will produce tall spikes of nodding, lime-green

flowers with blue anthers.

The tubular blooms are rich in pollen and nectar and attract lots of pollinators, especially bees and butterflies. Unlike some other species in the genus however, the flowers are not scented.

An ideal location would be at the back of a border where it should be planted in groups or swathes

where the lime-green leaves and flowers can create a contrast to other, brightly coloured flowering plants. There is a cultivar available at some online seed merchants called *N. langsdorffii* Bronze Queen which has

stunning maroon flowers. Although this tobacco plant will grow in full sun and is not fussy about soil type, dappled shade and a rich soil is preferable. It is not drought resistant and will benefit from regular watering during the hottest months.

In cool climates, Langsdorff's tobacco can be treated as an annual and sown from collected seed each year. A paper bag tied around the ripening pods will catch the very fine black seeds as they are expelled. Very often *Nicotiana langsdorffii* will self seed around the garden but it is unlikely to become invasive.

The species is named after G. I. Langsdorff, the Russian consul in Rio Janeiro who organised an expedition to explore the interior of Brazil in the 1820s.



Nicotiana langsdorffii and close up of flowers. WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



MARTIN J. CARTER

In the pink

Hydrangeas are notoriously difficult to grow in this part of Spain as they prefer cool summers and lots of rainfall, something reader Martin J. Carter knows as he comments about the success with his, "I never though it would work but with lots of water and feed..."

Gorgeous gone to seed

This photo was sent in by Rosalind Caplan who grew lots of *Nigella* this year and decided to bring the stems with the beautiful seed pods indoors to dry them. There are lots of plants that lend themselves to dried flower displays. The most common are *Limonium*, *Achillea*, *Xerochrysum*, *Gypsophila* and many grasses. Mix them with seed heads from *Alliums*, *Nigella*, *Lunaria* and *Scabious*. This is just the time of year to do it too.



ROSALIND CAPLAN

PHOTOS

Calling all gardeners

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

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

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SMART PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS Save money with solar power

IBI discounts for the installation of PV systems



ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE.

Many municipalities in Spain subsidise the installation of photovoltaic systems. Those who meet the relevant conditions can save up to 50 percent on property tax (IBI), in some cases over several years.

Solar power is currently on everyone's lips. For this reason, numerous town and villages are now offering grants or subsidies for solar installations.

In the province of Malaga, there are already several local authorities that reward the installation of solar panels on residential buildings with a deduction on property tax. Torremolinos, Vélez-Málaga and Alhaurín de la Torre grant a 50 per cent reduction in IBI, for the first year, on a solar system for personal use.

The city of Malaga, on the other hand, is not quite so generous: 15 per cent for a maximum of three years. Antequera offers 40 per cent and Ronda 30 per cent for the same period. Marbella offers a 25 per cent discount on the IBI for a total of five years.

You can easily find out what de-



ductions the various municipalities actually grant, on council tax, at the relevant municipal office or town hall.

Conditions

Local subsidies on IBI, depending on the amount, accelerate the amortisation of a photovoltaic system. However, the subsidies are

also tied to certain conditions regarding the system's output, depending on the size of the house. Smart Photovoltaic will help you to implement your system in such a way that your respective municipality council tax rebate conditions are met.

The company Smart Photovoltaic Systems S.L. is one of the leading photovoltaic system installation companies in commercial properties and private residences on the Costa del Sol and beyond. The owner of Smart Photovoltaic Systems is Frank Weiss who will be happy to provide you with a no-obligation quote for a suitable photovoltaic system for your home, business or commercial premises.

Smart Photovoltaic Systems

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EXHIBITIONS

Calavera Padre

MARBELLA. Until 30 September. Playa Padre Beach Club.

A total of thirteen contemporary artists will be decorating thirteen giant skulls designed by José Pinero. Each artist will demonstrate their own imagination in the final decoration.

Art for Freedom

MARBELLA. From 8 until 10 July, Wadström Tönnheim Gallery. Polígono Nueva Campana, Local 37.

An exhibition and sale of work by Ukrainian artists including Valeria Troubina, Daria Alyoshkina and Nazar Bilyk, among others.

Manuel Fernández Jimenez

MIJAS. Until 18 July. Centro Cultural La Cala de Mijas.

A selection of paintings are on display by this artist.



Tesoros Sobre Seda, Malaga

La Noche se Hace Arte

MALAGA. 9 July. Various venues in Churriana.

The district of Churriana will be holding 23 different cultural events including exhibitions, concerts, crafts and art workshops. www.malaga.eu

Vuelvo a Málaga

MALAGA. Until 22 August. Galería Alfajar, C/Cister 1.

The artist Encarnación Hernández is

Funky Town festival returns to Torremolinos bullring



Soul singer Suzette Moncrief will perform. SUR

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Lovers of soul, funk and disco music will enjoy the Funky Town Festival, which returns to Torremolinos on Friday 8 July for its fourth edition.

The popular event, which in the past has presented international stars such as George McCrae and Pino D'Angiò, will be held in the town's bullring.

This year's star guest is the American vocalist Martha High, a former backing singer with James Brown who has carved an illustrious career as a solo artist. High worked with the Godfather of Soul for more than 30 years, appearing on his ground-breaking album Original Funky Divas.

The festival will also present well-known Spanish pop singer Javier Ojeda, the front-man with the Torremolinos band, Danza Invisible, a group that had a string of hits during the 1980s and '90s.

He will be joined by Gordo Master, Julia Martín, and Suzette Moncrief, one of the Costa's most formidable funk and soul singers. In addition, the Málaga Funk Allstars Big Band, an ensemble consisting of some of the province's most competent musicians, will also participate.

Starting at 9pm, the festival, which is free, will also present top DJ La Vida de Jaime, who specialises in black music such as samba, calypso, soul, funk, hip hop and ska.

exhibiting a selection of her works including sculptures, paintings and jewellery. www.alfajar.es

Malaga Picasso Museum

MALAGA. Museo Picasso Málaga,

Calle San Agustín.

Book illustrations. Picasso illustrated many books during his lifetime. Until October a selection of prints from his original drawings will be on display.

Picasso Visto por Ortero. A selection

of around 60 photographs from the Roberto Otero Foundation. Roberto Otero took photos of Picasso as he went about his everyday life and during his painting. There are also some of his notebooks in which he recorded conversations he had with the artist.

Paula Rego. Until 21 August. Nearly 90 works make up the exhibition by Portuguese artist Paula Rego. It includes large oil and pastel works as well as smaller formats and collages. www.museopicassomalaga.org.

HM Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Exhibition

GIBRALTAR. Until 22 July. Gustavo Bacarissas Gallery, Casemates. Free. To mark the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. Organised by the Gibraltar National Archives. A full programme of events: www.culture.gi

Museo Ruso

MALAGA. Edificio Tabacalera, Avda Sor Teresa Prat.

La Razón de los Sueños. Las Formas y las Fronteras. Until October. The Russian Museum is hosting an exhibition of paintings, drawings and sculpture by many famous artists.

Ventana Abierta. Until 29 July. The association Ventana Abierta will be exhibiting works created by participants of the Arteterapia (art therapy) programme.

Centre Pompidou

MALAGA. Muelle Uno.

<https://centrepompidou-malaga.eu/>

La Arquitectura Japonesa desde 1950: Espacios Plurales. Until 19 September. Since 1950, the Japanese architectural scene has hovered between modernity and tradition, between references to the West and immersion in Japanese culture. Japanese architecture has acquired a remarkable singularity and visibility all over the world.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo

MALAGA.

Charles Sandison. Until 24 July. The CAC is presenting a video created by British artist Charles Sandison enti-

tled Rage, Love and Despair (2003). The content of the video reflects the emotions of rage, love and despair through coloured words that float across the screen and collide.

Ben Sledsens. Until 11 September. An exhibition by Belgian artist Ben Sledsens. It consists of 16 works in varying formats representing fictitious events inspired by the artist's imagination and everyday life.

Erik Parker. Until 28 August. An exhibition by German artist Erik Parker called Easy Freedom.

MALAGA. CAC Málaga - La Coracha.

Cristóbal Toral, Una Aventura Creadora. Until 13 September. The exhibition consists of 70 pieces including paintings, sculpture and installations.

Estival: Artistas Discolos

MALAGA. Until 29 July. La Casa Amarilla., C/Santos.

This will be the fifth contemporary art exhibition held by Casa Amarilla. <http://www.estivalmalaga.com/>

Tesoros Sobre Seda

MALAGA. Until 4 September. Archivo

Municipal, Salas Mingorance, The exhibition Tesoros Sobre Seda, Ensoñaciones Orientales (Treasures on Silk, Oriental Dreams) is aimed at bridging the gap between the East and the West through art. On display are works on black silk in the shape of a T, similar to a kimono, by 30 Spanish and Japanese artists, all of whom live in Spain.



Estival, Malaga

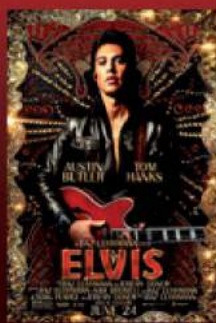
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Adrian Ensor, Granada

EXHIBITIONS

Carmen Thyssen Museum

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

Real(ismos). Until 4 September.

Real(ismos) is the new temporary exhibition at the museum. It consists of over 80 works, paintings, sculptures, etchings, photos and drawings by artists such as Dalí, Miró, Picasso and Mallo.

Letters. Until 25 September. The Thyssen museum is exhibiting 34 letters written by artists such as Van Gogh, Frida Kahlo, Pissarro, Degas, Manet and Lucien Freud among others, alongside some of the most important artworks.

Negra es la Noche. Until 25 September. The new temporary exhibition is a selection of works by three artists, José Gutiérrez Solana, Pancho Cossío and Francisco Boreas. The works illustrate the sordid side of daily life in Spain with marginalised groups of people, reprobates and down-and-outs. www.carmenthyssen-malaga.org

Museum Jorge Rando

MÁLAGA. Until 26 September. 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. The new exhibitions at the Jorge Rando are Años jóvenes de un viejo maestro (1st

part) and Ein ukrainisches Requiem, the latter painted this year by the artist. www.jorgerando.org

Caroline Krabbe

NERJA. Until 17 July. Museo de Nerja. A selection of ceramics and large format drawings by artist Caroline Krabbe will be on display.

Adrian Ensor

GRANADA. Until the end of the summer. Casa Natal Federico García Lorca, Fuente Vaqueros. Free. Renowned black and white photographic print artist Adrian Ensor is exhibiting photos of Lorca.

La Luz de la Alpujarra

ALPUJARRA. Until 31 July. Eco Tourism Centre Alquería de Morayma. An exhibition of watercolours by Annabel Keatley and Paul Armitage.

MUSIC AND DANCE

The Hole X Cabaret

MÁLAGA. Until 10 July. Recinto Ferial, Málaga.

Wednesdays and Thursdays. 8.30pm.

Fridays and Saturdays. 6pm and 10pm.

Sundays. 6pm.

Tickets: www.theholeshow.com

Museum concerts

MÁLAGA. Free.

Museo Carmen Thyssen.

8 July, 9.30pm. Chipi La Canalla & Javier Galiana.

9 July, 9pm. Cuarteto Carmen Thyssen.

www.carmenthyssenmalaga.org/ **Malaga Museum.**

12 July, 10pm. Dani de Morón, con 'Carte Blanche'.

13 July, 10pm. Astola y Ratón.

14 July, 10pm. Pedro El Granaino Jondo.

La Térmica.

9 July, 9pm. Joan As Police Woman, Hungry Butterfly and DJ Elio.

14,15 July, 9.30pm. Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra.

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

Jazz in the CAC

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo.

13 July, 9pm. Daniel Andrade Trío

20 July, 9pm. Noire Rhythm Bros.

Jazz en La Costa

ALMUÑÉCAR. From 19 July, 10pm. Parque El Majuelo.

19 July. Makaya McCraven.

20 July. Mulatu Astatke.

www.jazzgranada.es

Beat concerts

MÁLAGA. From 15 until 30 July. Teatro Echegaray.

A series of concerts by performers such as Arco, Twanguero, Ariel Brínguez, Pancho Varona, Los Malagatos and Çantamarta, will take place Fridays and Saturdays until the end of this month. Genres include pop-rock, guitar solos, urban rhythms, Afro-Cuban jazz and folk music. Tickets: www.teatrocervantes.com, www.teatroechegaray.com and www.unientradas.es

Finca El Portón Jazz

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE. Every Friday at 10pm throughout July.

8 July. Alain Pérez & La Orquesta.

15 July. Chicuelo & Marco Mezquida.

22 July. Aaron Goldberg Trío with Michael Mayo.

More details and tickets: www.mientrada.net or call: 952411043

Hugo Toscano

ESTEPONA. 15 July, 9.30 pm. Parque



Beat concerts, Malaga

Botánico Orquideario.

Hugo Toscano, founder and ex-guitarist of the Spanish group Elefantes will be in concert.

Pablo Milanés

ALHAURÍN DE LA TORRE. 16 July, 10pm. Finca El Portón, C/Juan Carlos. Cuban singer and composer Pablo Milanés will perform a varied programme of music including jazz, rumba, son and bolero.

Music&Pool Sunsets

BENALMÁDENA. Throughout the summer. Beach Club, Holiday World Resort.

8 July, 7pm. The Harlettes. Classic soul and funk hits.

Weekend Beach

TORRE DEL MAR. Until 9 July. Torre del Mar beach.

The festival has a varied line up of concerts with Indie, pop, electronic, rap etc. For full information and tickets: www.weekendbeach.es

Festival del Sol

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. 14 July until 6 August. Explanada del Cerro.

To promote tourism in the town, the town hall has organised a festival of concerts and activities for all the family. More information and tickets: www.giglon.com

Starlite

MARBELLA. Until 3 September. Auditorium of the Casa de Cultura.

The line-up for this year's edition of Starlite Occidental includes performances by Diana Ross, Sara Baras, Rapahel, Malú, Simple Minds, Christina Aguilera, Ara Malikian, Andrea Bocelli, Plácido Domingo, Jessie J, Ozuna, Myke Towers, Alan Parsons, Chucho Valdés and Vanesa Martín among many others.

Tickets and a complete programme of events: <http://starlitemarbella.com/es/>

Noches de Gibralfaro

MÁLAGA. Until 30 July, 10pm. Castillo de Gibralfaro.

Every weekend this month there will be concerts in the Castillo Gibralfaro.



El Portón Jazz, Alharín de la Torre

The music will cover a variety of genres including flamenco, classical and jazz. There will be a special bus from the city centre. The full programme and details of tickets: <https://unientradas.es/alcazabaygibralfaro/public/janto/>

Sophie Festival

TORREMOLINOS. Until 28 August.

Palacio de Congresos de Torremolinos. Electronic music festival taking place every Sunday for nine weeks. Includes artists such as Paul Kalkbrenner, Apollonia and Jamie Jones. www.sophie.es

Baile Ciudad de Málaga

MÁLAGA. 8 July. Auditorium Eduardo Ocón.

Eleven dance academies will be taking part in this dance competition. Free entry.

FLAMENCO

Flamenco ballet

FUENGIROLA. 12, 13 July, 10pm. Castillo de Sohail.

Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía.

Noches de Flamenco

MÁLAGA. 9 July, 9.30pm. Colmao de la Peña Juan Breva, C/Ramón Franguela.

A flamenco show with the Vanesa Campos "La India" flamenco group. Price: 20€ per person, includes a drink and aperitif. Reservations: 687 607 526



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Monday to Saturday: 7pm to 11.30pm. Sunday: 1pm to 4pm and 7pm to 11.00pm. Closed on Wednesdays







Flamenco and modern dance

ESTEPONA. 12 July, 9.30pm. Parque El Calvario.

A dance performance by the students of El Taller del Arte.

Flamenco show

ESTEPONA. 19 July, 9.30pm. Plaza Antonia Guerrero.

Students of the Peña Flamenca de Estepona dance school will be performing.

CHARITY

Concert for Cudeca

MARBELLA. 9 July. Clínica Buchinger Wilhelmi. 20€.

A fundraising concert with performances by Ana Crisman (harp), Perico Navarro (percussion) and Rosa Gómez (vocals). Bookings: pr@cudeca.org or call 952 564 910 Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm.

Golf tournament for Horizonte Proyecto Hombre

MARBELLA. 9 July. Club de Golf Aloha,

Individual Stableford format of play. Various mens and ladies categories, prizes. Email: reservas@clubdegolfaloha.com or call 952907085

FIESTAS AND FERIAS

Fiestas patronales

RINCÓN DE LA VICTORIA. From 14 until 17 July.

Feria en honor a Nuestra Señora Virgen del Carmen. www.rinconde-lavictoria.es

ALMUÑÉCAR. From 15 until 17 July.

Los Marineros district.

This small district of Almuñécar honours their patron saint with a festival in her name, Virgen del Carmen.

Feria de Estepona

ESTEPONA. Until 10 July.

Concerts, flamenco and contemporary dance performances head the varied list of events for the festival. <https://ayuntamiento.estepona.es/>

MORE IDEAS

Fashion Show

PUERTO BANÚS. 14, 15 July, 8.30pm. Avda de Lola Flores.

The fifth edition of the Marbella Fashion Show will feature summer fashions by national and international designers. Tickets: www.mientrada.net/evento/marbella-fashion-show

Wine Street

ESTEPONA. 14 July, 9pm. Plaza Manilva.

Live music, food and wine from Bodegas Juan Carlos Sancha. Limited places. Tickets: Take a Wine in Plaza Manilva or call: 618 92 41 92.

Lux Mundi

TORRE DEL MAR. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, Avda Moscatel. 952 543 334, luxmundi@lux-mundi.org.

Coach trip to Colomares Castle, Fuengirola and Molina de Inca

Botanical Gardens. 14 July. Bookings: 952543334 or email: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org



Thyssen concerts, Malaga

ORIGINAL VERSION 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

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

Minions: The Rise of Gru: 12.00, 13.15, 13.30, 13.55 (Sun); 16.30 (Fri-Sun, Wed); 20.15 (Tues).

Jurassic World Dominion: 17.30 (Tues).

Lightyear: 22.40 (Tues).

Thor: Love and Thunder: 13.45 (Sun); 16.30, 19.00, 21.30 (every day except Thurs); 23.15 (Wed).

Elvis: 12.35 (Sun); 20.30 (Mon, Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón

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

Lightyear: 15.50 (Tues).

Minions: The Rise of Gru: 20.45 (Tues).

Thor: Love and Thunder: 19.00 (Tues).

Top Gun Maverick: 22.20 (Tues).

Elvis: 18.50 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

MALAGA. Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902220922

Lightyear: 20.15 (Tues).

Elvis: 18.45 (Tues).

Thor: Love and Thunder: 13.00 (Sun);

19.00 (Tues); 21.30 (every day except Thurs)

Everything, Everywhere, All at Once: 12.40 (Sun).

Minions: The Rise of Gru: 17.50 (Tues).

Cinesur Miramar

FUENGIROLA. Avda de la Encarnación. Tel: 952198600.

Minions: The Rise of Gru: 12.00 (Sat, Sun); 16.30, 18.30 (Fri-Wed).

Elvis: 20.50 (Fri-Wed).

Thor: Love and Thunder: 12.15 (Sat, Sun); 16.45, 18.15, 19.15, 20.30, 21.45 (Fri-Wed).

Top Gun Maverick: 21.30 (Fri-Sun, Wed); 20.00, 22.30 (Mon, Tues, Thurs).

Jurassic World Dominion: 19.30 (Tues).

Black Phone: 16.15 (Tues).

Cinesur Ingenio

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

Jurassic World Dominion: 16.15 (Tues).

Minions: The Rise of Gru: 12.20 (every day).

Thor: Love and Thunder: 12.15, 16.45, 19.15, 21.45 (every day).

Elvis: 16.30 (Tue).

Cine Albéniz

MALAGA. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel:

902360295. www.cinealbeniz.com.

Opera from Madrid: Nabucco: 21.00 (15 July).

Cinesa

MARBELLA. La Cañada Commercial Centre.

Jurassic World Dominion: 18.35 (Tues); 21.55 (Mon, Wed).

Thor: Love and Thunder: 21.45 (Fri), 20.30 (Mon-Wed).

Red Dog

PUERTO BANÚS. Avda Julio Iglesias. <https://reddogcinemas.com/>

Jurassic World Dominion: 22.00 (Sat, Sun), 22.15 (Mon-Thurs).

Elvis: 19.00, 21.50 (every day).

Lightyear: 12.00 (Sun); 15.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.00 (every day).

Minions, The Rise of Gru: 12.00 (Sun) 15.00, 16.45, 18.30, 20.15, (Sat, Sun); 17.00, 18.45, 20.30 (Mon-Thurs).

Sonic the Hedgehog 2: 12.00 (Sun).

The Bad Guys: 12.30 (Sun).

Top Gun: Maverick: 17.30, 20.00, 22.20 (Sat, Sun); 17.00, 19.20, 21.45 (Mon-Thurs).

Thor: Love and Thunder: 15.00, 17.30, 19.40, 22.10 (Sat, Sun); 17.00, 19.20, 21.45 (Mon-Thurs).

Autocine Málaga

MALAGA. Guadalhorce Industrial Estate. Ctra. de la Azucarera

Intelhorce. www.autocines.com/cine-malaga/

Minions: 22.00 (Fri-Wed).

Cine Abierto

MALAGA. Until 29 August.

A total of 128 projections, 40 in the Cine Albéniz (at 11am), 34 on beaches and 23 in parks (at 10.15pm). Cine Albéniz showings need a ticket, the rest are free. <https://festivalde-malaga.com/cineabierto>

Torremolinos hosts series of free flamenco shows throughout July

The shows will present local dancer Manuel Roldán and several young emerging artists

TONY BRYANT

TORREMOLINOS. Enthusiasts of flamenco dance will enjoy a series of free shows that will be staged at different locations in Torremolinos throughout July. Under the banner of Flamenco Flama, the shows will present the inspirational dancer and choreographer Manuel Roldán, who was born in Torremolinos in 1985.

Roldán has received much praise for his unique style of dance, which is a fusion of traditional flamenco and classical dance.

After taking his first steps at the age of five, he completed his training at the Professional Dance Conservatory of Malaga in 2005. That same year, he was selected to be part of the Andalusian Dance Center.

This rising star of the flamenco scene has since performed all over Spain, as well



Manuel Roldán during a performance last summer. T. BRYANT

as undertaking several tours of the Middle East and Japan. He has danced at numerous coveted flamenco festivals, including the Bienal de Flamenco in Seville, and has also earned several awards for his shows.

For the performances in Torremolinos, each of which will be a different show, Roldán will be joined by several emerging contemporary flamenco artists, such as local dancer Maria del Mar

Suárez - La Chachi; Javiera de la Fuente, a Chilean dancer who is now based in Seville; and Aaron Molina, considered one of Malaga's most promising young singers.

The shows, which begin at 9.30pm, will take place in Plaza Chiriva (La Carihuella) on Tuesday 12 July; Avenida Palma de Mallorca on Wednesday 20th, and a final performance taking place in the Parque La Batería on Wednesday 27th.

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Unfair competition

ANDREW J. LINN



Most reputable wine-makers bust their guts to make as good a wine as they can. They want their reputations to hang on the market's acceptance of their efforts, and economic considerations may come in second. The quality of the product has priority over everything else.

Is it reasonable therefore that a superb, well-made, decently-priced wine should have to take a back seat to some manufactured celebrity-tagged invention? The situation is an insult to all serious winemakers. But isn't the public free to drink

this rubbish if it wants to? Possibly, providing it understands that its main purpose is to slake a thirst, look good on the table, impress one's friends, and pad the profits of the creator.

The sales of pop princess Kylie Minogue's wine brand are currently the fastest-growing in history, having exploded by a meteoric 314%. Last year Minogue's Prosecco rosé became a top wine brand after only 10 months in the stores. The new 'celebrity-first' procedure involves selecting someone like Minogue, Gordon Ramsay, Ian Botham, or whichever footballer

is currently top of the league, and tailoring a usually mediocre wine product to the purpose.

What wine is used? In Minogue's case we are not told, but a red wine sold under Take That singer Garry Barlow's name is allegedly "made from 100% Tempranillo, with the grapes harvested in Castile at night".

Welcome to the new world of vino, where wine is not chosen by the name of a bodega or a region or the vintage, but according to the celebrity's name on the label. A bottle of Kylie please.

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The Frenchman who brought us the 'tinto de verano'

Entrepreneur. Francisco Duffo Foix, born in France in 1873, introduced Coca Cola and Schweppes tonic to Spain

ÓSCAR B. DE OTÁLORA

The drink called 'tinto de verano' (summer red wine) is as much a tradition on summer holidays as the siesta or mosquitoes. However, this drink would never have been available in our bars, restaurants or on our beaches without the Duffo family.

Francisco Duffo Foix, who was born in France in 1873, was an entrepreneur whose family revolutionised the world of soft drinks in Spain by inventing La Casera.

Duffo Foix was a pioneer. After living in Argentina for a while he returned to Paris, where he worked as a representative for a British syphons company.

In 1914, the year the First World War started, he moved to San Sebastián. It appears he had

fallen in love with a young woman from the Guipúzcoa region and went to join her there.

Duffo introduced Coca Cola into Spain, and also Schweppes tonic. It was he who internationalised the bars. Then, however, the Civil War began and that put an end to the soft drinks. The wretchedness of Spain under Franco was no place for the frivolity of bubbles.

In this climate of poverty, Francisco's son, Félix Duffo, decided to create a drink so that Spanish households could at least have something a bit more sophisticated than water.

La Casera became an unprecedented success from 1950, when the very first batch went on sale, onwards. The lids and bottles have become icons and



Tinto de verano, a very Spanish summer tradition. **SUR**

nowadays they are much sought-after by collectors who hunt them down with passion.

Its advertisements - "If there's no Casera we're leaving" - are still a very fond memory for many Spanish people.

Tinto de verano - a long refreshing drink of red wine mixed with Casera and served with ice - has also become an icon of Spain, and this tradition of a Spanish summer is all due to a Frenchman, his love for a woman which brought him to Spain, his son and the companies that produced 300,000 litres of this soft drink an hour.

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How to keep your feet safe from dangers this summer

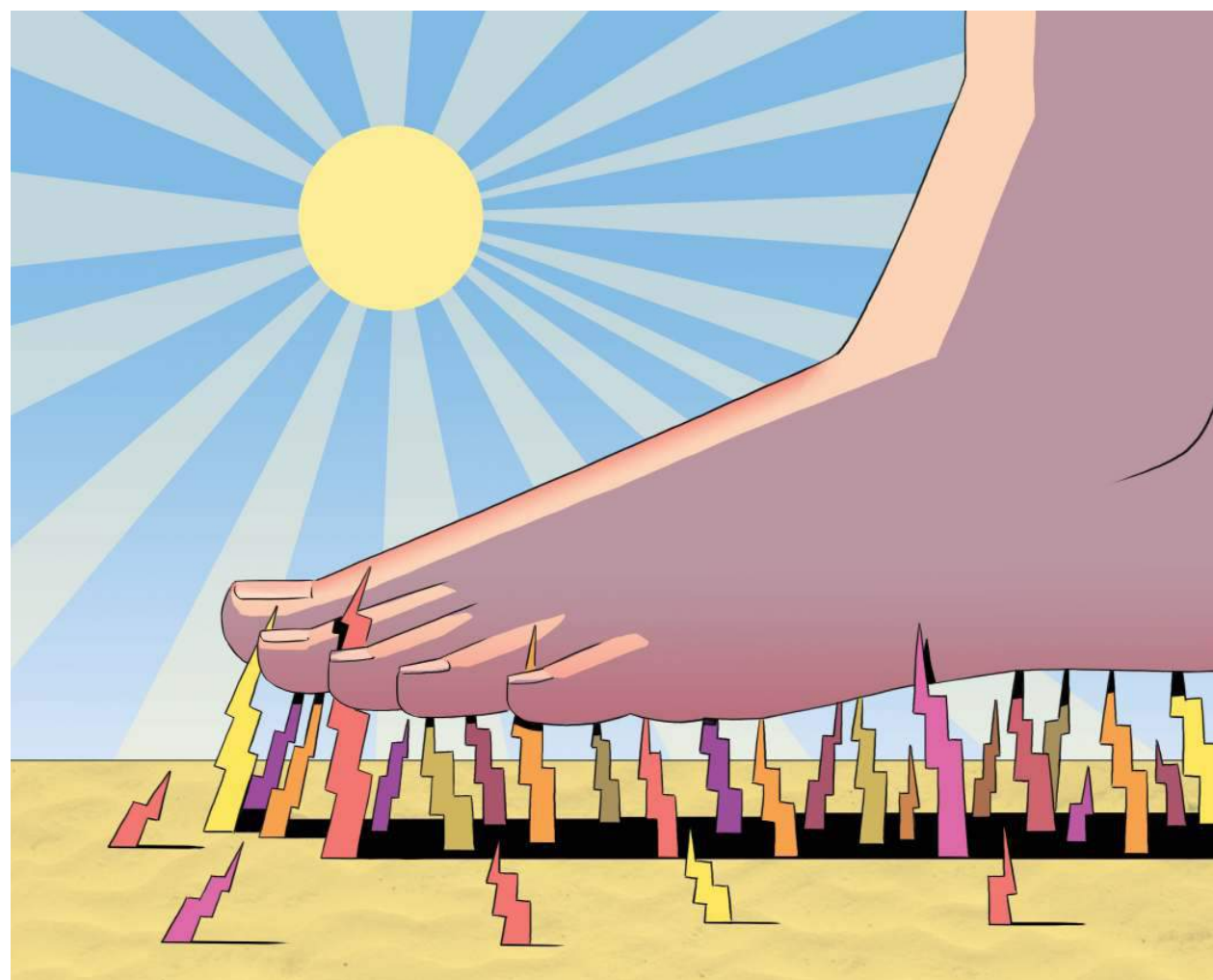
Happy feet. It's great to say goodbye to socks and closed shoes, isn't it? But this time of year is when many problems can occur, say podiatrists

SOLANGE VÁZQUEZ



If through some strange delirium we were to give our feet their own personality, we would imagine them feeling very excited about the arrival of summer, clapping - with the soles, of course - at the thought of seeing light after three months constrained by socks, tights and shoes. Sunshine, beach... freedom! But actually, if they knew what they were doing, they would tone down their euphoria

because this time of year can be problematic for them, according to Santiago Nieto, a specialist at the College of Podiatry in the Basque Country, who warns that summer dangers lurk around our feet. They may sound trivial, but anyone who has suffered from them knows that they can be quite disabling and even ruin those days of rest and relaxation we have been waiting for so long.



Sweating and fungal infections

The temperatures go up, the humidity rises and the sweat glands in the feet open up. This means we sweat a lot, which is not only

an unpleasant feeling in itself but also smells nasty.

"The sweat soaks the skin of the feet, especially between the toes. In other words, it becomes

soft and that can lead to painful cracks and the proliferation of fungi, which colonise the foot and irritate the skin," says Nieto.

► **Solution:** "You can buy anti-

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ILLUSTRACIÓN FELIP ARIZA

sweat products at pharmacies, and they close the sweat glands and reduce perspiration," he says.

Footwear

"When autumn arrives, podologists see the consequence of people having worn unsuitable footwear in the summer," says Santiago Nieto. Nearly everyone tends to wear models with no sole, very flat (so there is no protection for the bottom of the foot) and they are often made from synthetic materials which do not absorb the sweat and leave the toes damp...this is just one nonsense after the other, says Nieto. "Shoes that are very flat are going to cause pain in the bottom of the foot (such as plantar fasciitis) and at the back of the leg," he explains.

But sandals are made for wearing in the summer; you may say. "They are for using on a beach or around a swimming pool, not for walking in. I know some people wear them around town, but that isn't logical. The foot is very loose and you have to keep the sandal on by gripping between your toes," he explains. And then there are sandals with heels for summer parties and other celebrations, which transfer the whole load of the body to the front part of the foot, causing metatarsalgia (pain in that area).

► **Solution:** "The footwear needs to have a bit of sole and a heel which is not less than two centimetres and not more than four. Science has shown that this reduces foot problems," he says.

Blisters

So small and so painful...who hasn't had an outing, a trip, a wedding ruined by blisters? They appear at the most inconvenient times! "They are vesicles with water which appear through friction and sometimes go black if a capillary is broken," he explains.

► **Solution:** Wearing socks always helps, especially if you're going to have to walk. We always laugh at foreigners who wear thick socks with sandals, but it is practical. If that would be a step too far, there are other ways of preventing them.

"Put a thick layer of vaseline on the spot where you think the shoes are going to rub, or on the sole of the foot so it doesn't burn with the friction. Pharmacies also sell paraffin products for this," says Santiago Nieto. And if we already have a blister? The eternal question: do we burst it or not?

"If they are big, yes. Do it carefully and with a needle so the water comes out. Then disinfect the blister well with betadine or chlorhexidine, for example, and put a plaster over it. What you should never do is cut off the skin, because it leaves a very thin layer

Beware of cheap beauty treatments

Some people open businesses which carry out foot treatments (pedicures, massages) but they are not podiatrists. There can be risks involved in using these, "if they don't have the right materials and don't disinfect properly," says Santiago Nieto. Also, they may not carry out the technique properly. For example, you should not remove 100 per cent of hard skin and not cut all the cuticle, because this is what protects the area from infections and separates the skin from the nail. "Also, it's better not to use semi-permanent nail polish. It's very occlusive and means the nail can't breathe. Then, by the autumn, they have gone extremely white," he says. Every now and then, it's best to let them have a break from nail polish.

exposed and then you won't be able to walk" he says.

Burns

Feet can burn in the sun. "People seem to think their body ends at the ankle," says Nieto, ironically.

► **Solution:** Always put sun protection cream on, especially on the soles of the feet, because these burns are very painful.

Cuts

Rocks, shells... Be careful with cuts, which are very common in the summer. And avoid wounds caused by rounded toenails - always cut them straight across!

► **Solution:** "Disinfect the wound and cover it," says Nieto. "If they are very deep, see a doctor. Diabetics must be especially careful, because for them these types of injuries can lead to complications".

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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

I WAS HOMELESS AND HOPELESS,
NOW MY LIFE IS INCREDIBLE....

COSTA DEL SOL

AA. Joe is a 40-year-old, single man. A sales executive from London. At his worst he was homeless, alone, abusing alcohol and drugs. Today he says life is incredible, full, and he is present for himself and for others. Here is his story:

"During my childhood both my parents drank, but not alcoholically. I took my first drink at about eight years old, and despite be-

ing sick I loved the effect the alcohol produced. It gave me a feeling of ease and comfort, and life suddenly became manageable.

By the age of 15 I was taking drugs and drinking almost every day. In the beginning I was having fun, socialising, enjoying the alcohol and so-called party drugs, such as LSD, ecstasy, MDMA and cocaine, but eventually I was using them all to escape from reality.

I would use anything to change the way I felt - alcohol, drugs, prescription medication, relationships, sex, gambling, eating, work, exercise, crime and pornography. Friends and family were concerned about my well-being; they would tell me I was drinking excessively; they tried to make me see the damage I was doing to myself.

In the end my disease would take me to some very dark places: smoking crack, taking heroin, living on the streets, prison and completely cut off from all of those who loved and cared about me.

I first tried to get help 15 years ago, after my father died. The pain of his death increased my already excessive drug and alcohol abuse to the point where even I realised if I carried on, I would surely die. My drinking was out of control, and my life was in tatters - I reached out for help and ended up in what would be the first of several rehabilitation centres and mental health clinics.

I had first heard of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) through a mental health clinic in February 2007. I did not know what to expect but it turned out to be a good experience. I don't remember much of what was being said at my first meeting; however, I did feel for the first time I was not alone, that I was understood, and that people really knew what it was like to be me. The seed had been planted.

Despite receiving help and getting clean I just couldn't stick with it. My rock bottom finally came last year, and it was horrendous.

A place I would today call "Hell". My family and friends had turned their backs on me. I was homeless. I had lost nearly all my possessions. I was seriously underweight; I couldn't eat properly. I was enduring sleep deprivation. I had a warrant out for my arrest and pending court appearances. I was experiencing severe depression, paranoia and suicidal thoughts. I would describe my life at this point as non-existent and very, very, dark.

I went back to AA, and they welcomed me with open arms. I finally surrendered to the fact that I am an alcoholic and an addict. I attend four (or more) meetings a week, where I do service and help others. I work the 12-step programme, have a sponsor who guides me, and a connection to a power greater than myself.

Being honest about what is going on for me is paramount to my peace of mind. I do my best to stay open minded and remain teachable. Of course, I have my ups and downs, but I have many great supportive friends who are there beside me on this magical journey. I feel as though I can now live life on life's terms.

I am almost six months clean and sober. My life today is incredible, it is full. I am present for my-

self, and others, and I am a productive member of society.

To anyone struggling with alcohol I would say if I can do it, then so can you!! After 25 years of heavy drinking and drug abuse, I finally accepted that I could not stop and stay stopped on my own, I needed others.

I thought I was a hopeless case, however the fight to stay clean and sober is nowhere near as hard as the fight I endured to get my fix. I never thought I could live a happy life without using something to change the way I feel. Today I can. I follow a few simple suggestions and the rewards are far greater than anything I could have ever imagined."

There are meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous, with friendly people who will understand, held daily throughout the Costa del Sol. Meetings are free to attend, and anyone who thinks they may have a problem with alcohol is welcome.

AA COSTA DEL SOL

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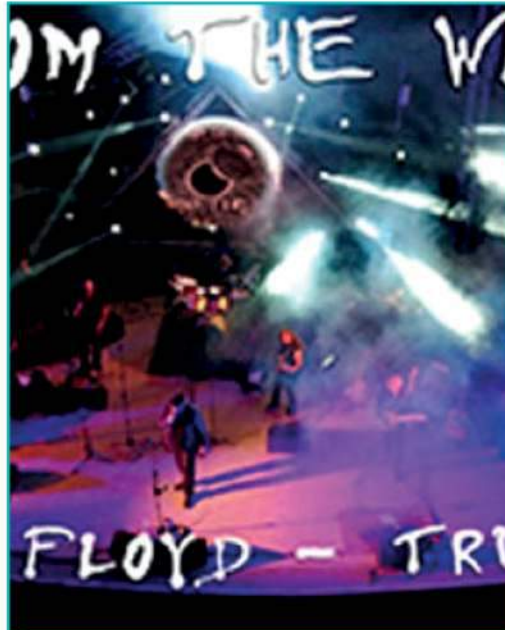


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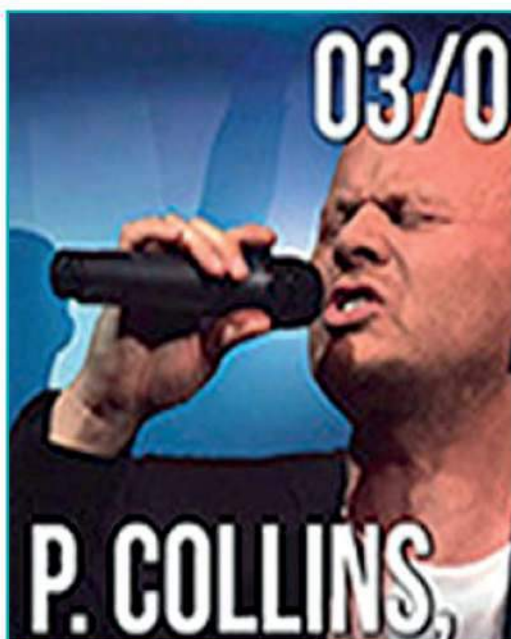


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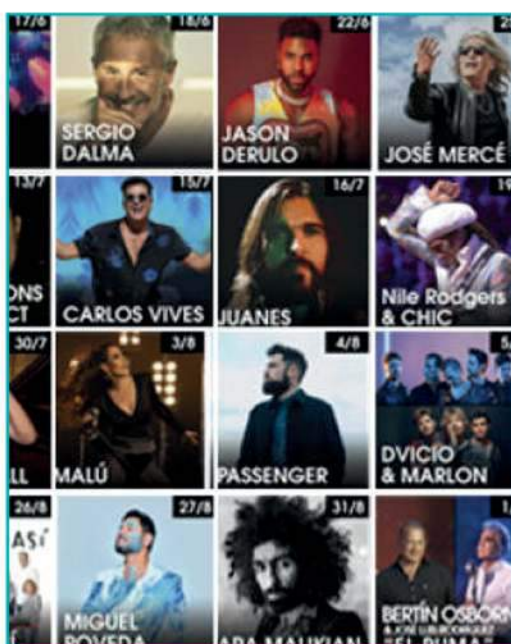


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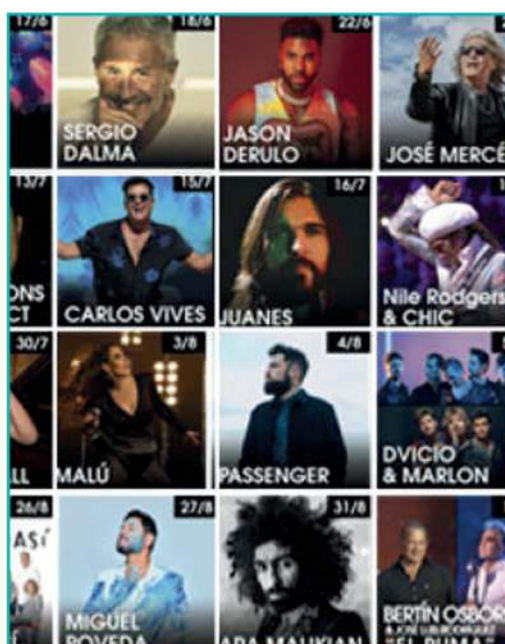


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Malaga players on the first day of pre-season. / MAVALPHOTO

Malaga get pre-season preparations under way

Pablo Guede instructed his players to show up for training at 7.30am on Monday for health tests and to work on fitness

BORJA GUTIÉRREZ

MALAGA. The summer holidays are over for Malaga players as they returned to work to get their pre-season preparations under way. Head coach Pablo Guede instructed his players to show up from 7.30am on Monday, 4 July, to go through the usual health checks and to work on their fitness levels ahead of the opening league game on 14 August.

After a rocky start to his managerial stint at the club, which saw him barely guide the Blue and Whites to safety, Guede will now start the season from scratch after a month of planning. The Argentine has already warned his men that the next few weeks will be tough, as he aims to get his players in peak physical condition which will aid his playing style.

Fresh faces

Some 25 players were summoned for the first week of the pre-season, including new signings Juanfran, the returning Aleix Febras and Unai Bustinza. More new faces ar-

rived in the following days in Fran Sol or veteran striker Rubén Castro, who were officially announced by the club on Wednesday.

Monday's return was also the first day of a three-phase pre-season. The Blue and Whites will work in the training facilities located in Malaga city until 19 July before heading to Estepona's for ten days, where they will train twice a day and play up to seven friendly matches to help fitness levels and improve teammate relations.

Only two friendlies have been announced: against Hull City on 16 July at 6.30pm at the Marbella Football Center; and then against Xerez on 30 July at 8.30pm at their stadium in Jerez.

Finally, the fortnight prior to their league opener against Burgos on 14 August will serve as a way to polish any imperfections the coaching staff may have picked up on.



A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER Commentator, ESPN

The market heats up

Transfers are still being made despite the Big Two



While transfer activity has reached an impasse at the "Big Two", there's been a flow of movement elsewhere in La Liga.

Athletic Bilbao have welcomed Ernesto Valverde back for a third spell in charge. It was a choice between two popular former coaches: the exciting and unpredictable Marcelo Bielsa, who was a running mate for one of the potential club presidents; or the likeable and reliable Valverde who has been enjoying life away from the game since his spell at Barcelona.

The incredible job he managed at the Camp Nou is only becoming evident now. He kept a lid on the internal troubles to clinch the double in 2018, win La Liga in 2019, and leave the club at the top of the table when he was dismissed.

There was an apparent communication with Manchester United about an interim position, but he's been happy working on his photography exhibitions until the right role came along.

Valverde and Athletic are made for each other. Previ-

ously, he's taken them into the Champions League, reached the final of the Copa del Rey and guided them to their first major trophy in 31 years by winning the Spanish Super Cup in 2015.

It's good to see another man synonymous with one club committing himself to another year. Joaquín Sánchez has played for four major clubs but enjoys legendary status at Real Betis, where he is the record appearance holder. He celebrated his 41st birthday a couple of weeks early by signing a new contract. It's not an emotional decision but one based on his contributions last season. He appeared 36 times and was prominent in the run to the cup final.

Another of Spain's veteran entertainers is changing clubs though. José Luis Morales has done more than any player to keep Levante in the top-flight and when they were relegated bring them back up. Like Joaquín, he'll go down in folklore as a club great. Without his goals, Levante wouldn't have kept their La Liga status since 2017. He gave them a chance of survival last season with 13 goals and seven assists.

Just before his 35th birthday, he's making the short journey to Villarreal. This offers him a chance to play in a team at the top end of La Liga and showcase his skills in a European competition.

There is a current trend for clubs to invest in experienced talent. Joselu, now 32, is vastly experienced and was on the wishlist of several clubs. He's chosen Espanyol for the next three seasons.

Axel Witsel, aged 33, is a low-profile but wise signing for Atlético Madrid. This is a sixth league in a 16-year career which has earned him 124 Belgium caps. He'll bring wisdom to a midfield that looked in need of leadership last season.

Real Madrid conducted their business early; Barcelona unveiled free agents Franck Kessie and Andreas Christensen and are still playing poker with Manchester United over the Frenkie de Jong sale which means they can't afford to bring in the top target Robert Lewandowski.



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Rafa Nadal is the only Spanish player left in Wimbledon

Both Carlos Alcaraz and Paula Badosa exited the All England Tennis Club following their defeats earlier in the week

ENRIC GARDINER

MALAGA. Rafa Nadal sealed a gruelling win over Taylor Fritz on Wednesday evening, defeating the American 3-6, 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 and 7-6 (10) in the quarter-finals at Wimbledon despite being in physical pain for much of the match. Fellow Spaniards Carlos Alcaraz and Paula Badosa were knocked out earlier in the week.

Nadal took to Centre Court at the All England Tennis Club with the weight of expectation on his shoulders following his fellow Spaniards' exits. The Mallorcan seemingly had a tough opponent to deal with, though Fritz wasted the chance to deal an injured Nadal the fatal blows that would have booked his place in the upcoming semi-final.

Through to the semi-final

The Mallorcan player seemed to reach cruising speed very early on in the first set, breaking Fritz's very first serve before going on to establish a 3-1 lead. But the American somehow strung together the next five games in his favour and claimed the first set.

But his problems were only beginning. Despite coming out strong in the second set by taking the first three games, his apparent injury was enough for him to call for treatment. But the Spaniard still squandered his lead and eventually found himself having to win the set in the twelfth game.

Nadal more than made up for



Rafa Nadal celebrates a point in his match against Taylor Fritz. AFP

his third set loss with an epic come back in the fourth, forcing a fifth and final set, which was when his resilience really shone.

The Mallorcan had shown little emotion throughout the match, but he was now celebrating every point he took. Both players took it to a tie break, with Nadal claiming an initial 5-0 lead. Fritz clawed back to make it 5-3, but that was as close as the American would get before losing the set.

Nadal will next face Nick Kyrgios today, 8 July, in the semi-finals, as he continues his fight for a third Wimbledon title.

Spanish disappointment

Carlos Alcaraz was on the verge of completing an impressive come back against Italian Jannik Sinner on Sunday, even if it was the

19-year-old Spaniard's worst match of tennis this year.

Alcaraz's first set was short of embarrassing, losing it 6-1, though he marginally improved in the second but still fell 6-4. He took the third set 7-6 (10) after an epic tie break, but his overexertion cost him the match with a fourth set that ended 6-3.

Even more devastating was Paula Badosa's defeat to ex-world number 1 Simona Halep, who just about beat the Spaniard in straight sets. Badosa won the first set's opening game, before the reins were handed over to her opponent, who won the next six.

She improved in the second set and both players shared the first four games, but Halep stormed her way into the quarter-finals by winning the following four.

Malaga's inaugural ATP Challenger tennis tournament a success

Constant Lestienne was the Open winner beating Emilio Gómez in Sunday's final (6-3, 5-7 and 6-2) in the Costa del Sol capital

MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. Constant Lestienne defeated Emilio Gómez 6-3, 5-7 and 6-2 on Sunday to become the winner of the inaugural Malaga Open. It was the city's first time hosting an ATP Challenger event, in what was a successful trial run for future editions of this tennis tournament which is aiming to become a staple on the sport's international calendar.

Emilio Gómez (ranked world number 151) had to settle for another second-place finish, after being beaten in the doubles final in the early hours of Sunday morning. Constant Lestienne (149th), who wasn't as powerful as his opponent, played an intelligent match, was more consistent in his play and recognised the Ecuadorian's weaknesses;

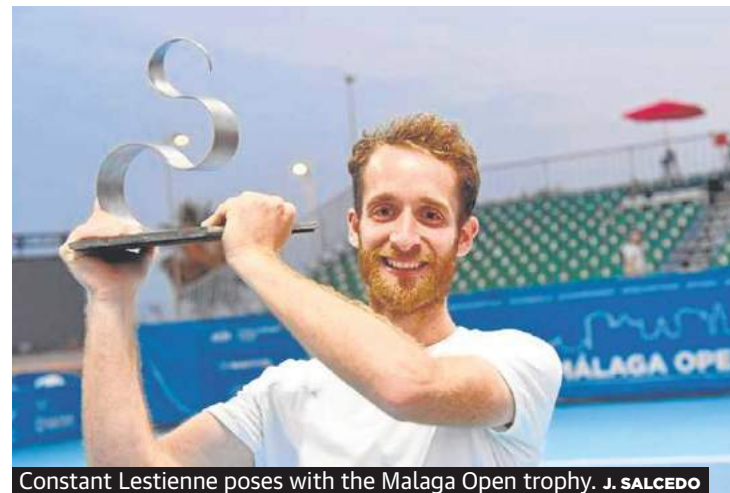
though the Frenchman at times found himself under pressure and without the majority of the support from the fans.

Slow start

Gómez initially found himself 3-0 down in a very short space of time and it seemed like he had lost the opening set. He found his form and won his next three service games, but it wasn't enough and lost the set 6-3 as Lestienne found spaces that his opponent couldn't reach.

The Frenchman made too many mistakes in the following set and gifted his opponent a 3-1 lead. Gómez then had his serve broken for Lestienne to go 5-4 up, but the Ecuadorian held on and eventually won 7-5.

However, Gómez's overexertion in the second set and the tiring day of tennis on Saturday meant that he ran out of steam for the final games of the evening. Lestienne brought out the best in himself and quickly put an end to the match with a convincing 6-2 set, earning the first individual trophy at the Malaga Open.



Constant Lestienne poses with the Malaga Open trophy. J. SALCEDO

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Spain's Carlos Sainz earns his first F1 victory at the British Grand Prix

The Ferrari driver picked up his first win during a chaotic Silverstone race, while Lewis Hamilton finished third and Fernando Alonso fifth

SHAY CONAGHAN

MALAGA. Carlos Sainz became only the second Spaniard to win a Formula 1 Grand Prix, making it to the top of the podium at the British Grand Prix in what was a chaotic race around the Silverstone track on Sunday.

Sergio Pérez took second place and Lewis Hamilton came in third, while Fernando Alonso settled for fifth.

Sainz, who had taken pole position in Saturday's wet qualifying session, was quickly passed by Red Bull's Max Verstappen before the race was red-flagged following a nasty, three-car crash into turn one that stopped the race for almost an hour.

The Ferrari driver did a better job to hold his position on the second restart, keeping Verstappen at bay by defending the first few corners.

A lucky break

After the first round of pit stops, the Red Bull driver overtook the Spaniard as he ran wide, before car damage and an overall loss of pace just a few laps later meant the Dutchman was out of



Carlos Sainz is sprayed with champagne by Hamilton on the podium. AFP

contention for the win.

As Sainz was visibly the slower of the two Ferrari cars, the Spaniard eventually agreed to switch places with teammate Charles Leclerc so that the Monaco-based driver could try and take the fight to Hamilton, who had inherited the lead, albeit without taking his pit stop.

However, luck was on the Spaniard's side as a yellow flag, shown for Esteban Ocon's Alpine being stuck on the main straight, meant that he could take another pit stop without losing too much time, but Leclerc was, bizarrely, ordered to stay out by the team.

This then gave Sainz a huge tyre wear advantage going into the final ten laps, although he questioned and ultimately defied team orders during the

safety car restart - the Ferrari pit wall wanted him to drop further behind his teammate and hold up Hamilton. Sainz replied that it wasn't logical, and the Spaniard breezed past his teammate to retake the lead. All that he had left to do was not mess up any of the remaining laps, which he ultimately did with ease, earning his first race win after 150 entries since debuting in 2015.

Further down the pack, the battle for the remaining two podium positions between Pérez, Hamilton and Leclerc remained relatively unchanged, which meant that Fernando Alonso had to settle for a fifth place finish, which is still his best performance in what has been a decent year.



De Amo and López pose with their silver medals in Algeria. SUR

Only two Malaga athletes win medals at the Mediterranean Games in Algeria

MARINA RIVAS

MALAGA. Only two local Malaga athletes managed to win medals at the Mediterranean Games held in Oran, Algeria. Miguel Ángel de Amo and David López helped the Spanish national volleyball team to a second place finish, though they lost in straight sets to Croatia in the final on Monday.

Spain breezed through all the rounds on their journey to the final, only losing once in the group stages and handing

France a heavy defeat in the semi-final. Against Croatia, the Spanish team struggled to find a way past their opponents in a match that was won by the finest of margins (25-22, 30-28 and 25-20). Despite missing out on gold, Spain still achieved one of their biggest feats in volleyball.

Local talent

The local Malaga players in the squad also played an important role. De Amo, who developed his game on the Costa del Sol, is the most experienced player in the side and came out of retirement just to take part in a Mediterranean Games.

López is an up-and-coming talent who currently plays for Unicaja Almería, where he won the Copa del Rey this season. The 20-year-old first took up the sport in Torremolinos.



Spain win world water polo championship

Spain's water polo team defeated Italy in the FINA World Championships final for a third time in their history, taking the gold medal for the first time in 21 years after forcing the match to go to a penalty shootout.



Rubén Ruzafa crosses the finishing line in fifth place. XTERRA

Local cross triathlete is fifth in XTerra championship

SHAY CONAGHAN

MALAGA. Local Rincón de la Victoria cross athlete Rubén Ruzafa took fifth place at the XTerra World Championship that was held in France on

Sunday. This is a repeat result of his season opener three weeks ago in the World Triathlon Cross Championships, held in Romania.

The XTerra race consists of three tests: a 1,500-metre

swim, a 40km bike ride and a 10km run on trails and forest paths. Ruzafa started off strongly by building a 40 second lead over the favourites and just falling behind 19-year-old sensation Bitados Panagiotis during the swimming segment.

The Rincón de la Victoria local took the overall lead of the race after an impressive bike ride, setting the fastest time with a 1:56:29 in what is his specialty. It put Ruzafa ahead by one minute and ten seconds over French brothers Arthur and Felix Forissier and two minutes and twenty seconds ahead of Arthur Serrieres.

But the final 10km run was where the Spaniard lost his advantage. The 37-year-old ran this final segment in 46:53, the slowest time out of the top six finishers, and it was too far off the overall winner Arthur Forissier's impressive time of 42:49. In the end, despite having the lead for much of the race, Ruzafa completed the event in 03:05:43, just over three minutes behind the French winner.

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Town Hall	952801100	NERJA	
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Tourist Office	952541104	Taxi	(00350) 20070027
Town Hall	952541104		
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MALAGA PORT INFORMATION

CRUISE SHIP MOVEMENTS (SOURCE: MALAGA PORT AUTHORITY)

Ship	Date	From	Next port	Docks	Sails
MSC Orchestra	10/07	Marseille	Cadiz	08.00	19.00
MSC Virtuosa	20/07	Cadiz	Alicante	07.00	16.00
MSC Orchestra	20/07	Marseille	Cadiz	08.00	19.00
Aidastella	23/07	Palma	Cadiz	08.00	18.00
World Traveller	23-24/07	Marbella	Valencia	17.00	13.00
Anthem o t Seas	26/07	Gibraltar	Valencia	07.00	16.00



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Belgium	Avda Ricardo Soriano 20-3C, Marbella	951516019	Austria	Alameda de Colón 26, Malaga	646060972
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Ireland	Avda. Los Boliches, Fuengirola	952475108	Hungary	Av. de Velásquez, (Crce aeropuerto) Malaga	952236966

THE STARS

Aquarius
January 21st - February 19th
With a Supermoon in an impressionable zone, you could doubt yourself just as you're about to move forward with something important.

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
Whatever you want to accomplish this week can be achieved with minimum effort, so there's no need to stress about it.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
Next week, you'll have an excellent opportunity to reinvent yourself. Remember to factor in time for family and hobbies too.

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
A complex situation could come to a head, just at a time when you may be busy with other things. If it doesn't concern you, you might be annoyed as others attempt to drag you into it.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
A potent Supermoon across your financial axis may highlight an issue you've been loath to acknowledge. Now you might have to.

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
You could feel emotional with a turbo-charged Full Moon bringing feelings out into the open. And with Uranus involved, something out of the blue might trigger this.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
Tempted to diverge from your usual routine? It's wise not to for now as Leo with powerful energies on the go this isn't the best time to tinker with what works.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
This looks to be an exciting time that bodes well for creative projects. And where affairs of the heart are concerned, you may decide to share something you've been holding back.

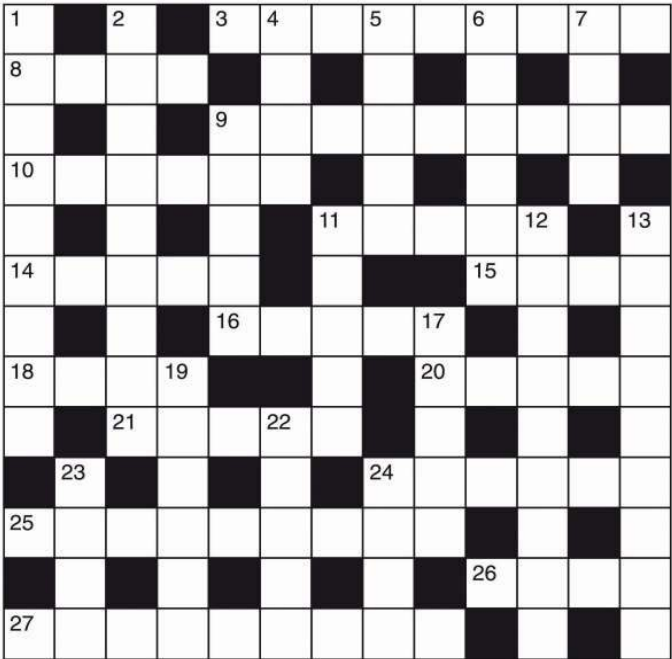
Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
You'll get a lot more satisfaction from helping others than you will from doing things for yourself. How's your work-life balance? This may be on your mind this week.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
No matter how impractical certain ideas seem, it's still worth having a go. With your strength of personality you have the ability to accomplish whatever you put your mind to.

Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
Feeling more emotional than usual? It would be no surprise, as this week's Supermoon can signify the end of one chapter in your life and the beginning of another.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
With a Full Moon in your sign, use the power of this lunar phase to propel you onwards and upwards. Try not to worry if others seem less than supportive.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD N° 11522



Across

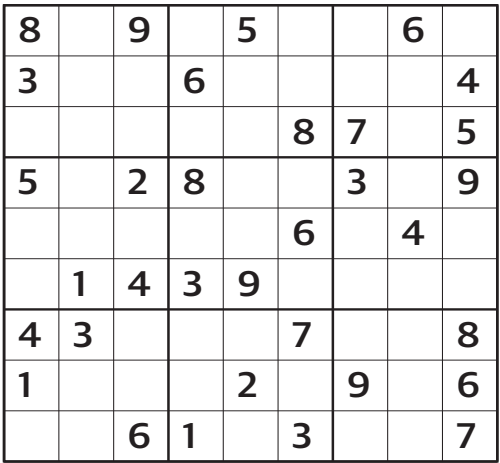
- 3 Push to the newspaper office (5,4)
- 8 Returning a bit of gin? (4)
- 9 Suddenly everyone appeared at the same time (3,2,4)
- 10 Steal the Spanish coin (6)
- 11 A lot of ships are fast (5)
- 14 Religious instruction writer has to mature (5)
- 15 Precipitation from Iran? (4)
- 16 Possibly has a knock-out hat (5)
- 18 A trial of brute strength (4)
- 20 The best 100 on paper (5)
- 21 Mean to be drunk (5)
- 24 Colour with abandon (6)
- 25 Feeling it will create enormous interest (9)
- 26 A propensity for being crooked (4)
- 27 Asking for the umpire's decision is attractive (9)

Down

- 1 Whatever the speed, anyhow (2,3,4)
- 2 Parade when April arrives (5,4)
- 4 Sound part of a bap (4)
- 5 Stop the engine and play for time (5)
- 6 Owl's nose (6)
- 7 Creatures taking the motorway to church (4)
- 9 A nose runs for a long time (5)
- 11 A sumptuous meal for Easter? (5)
- 12 See an insurance salesman and seek shelter (4,5)
- 13 Where a record will be kept shortly (2,1,6)
- 17 Once a strange sea (5)
- 19 Material found in suites (6)
- 22 The French put up with very warm inn (5)
- 23 He gets a record by the Beatles (4)
- 24 Complain when a chap has eaten nothing (4)

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



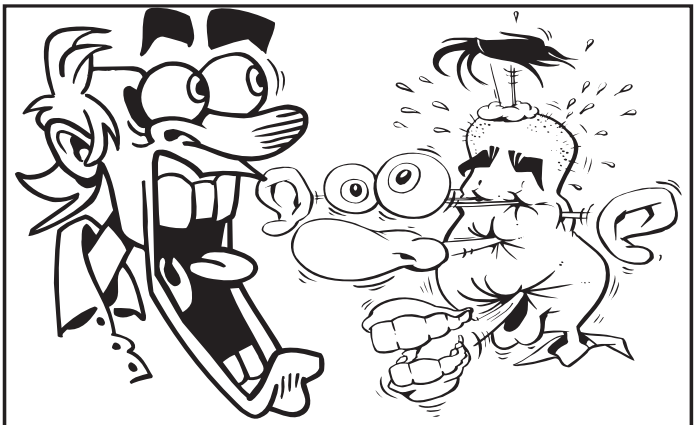
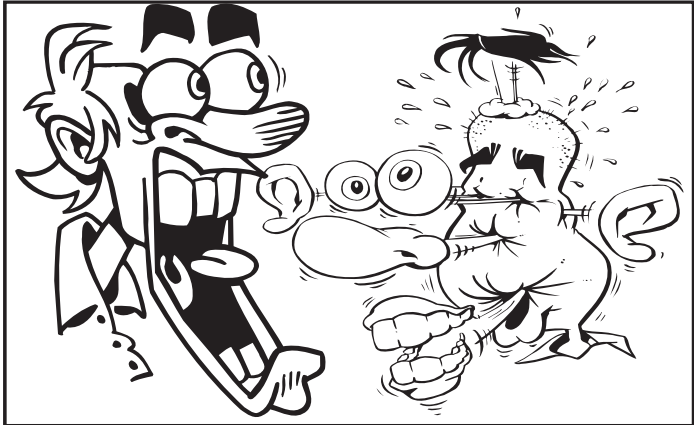
THE WORDPUZZLER



Can you identify the Old Testament figures from the anagrams listed below?

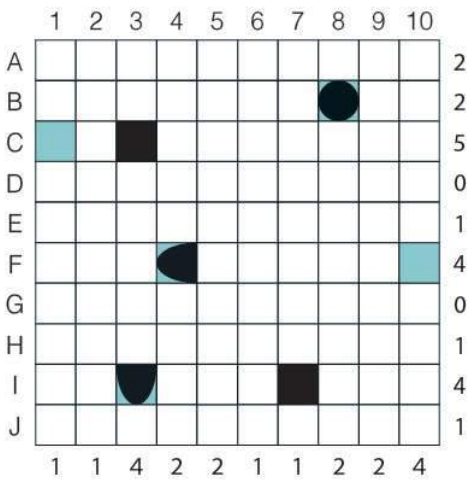
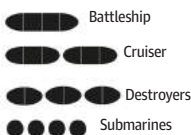
- 1. Hano
- 2. Maad
- 3. Nomass
- 4. Usea
- 5. Hurt
- 6. Inca
- 7. Sosme
- 8. Bojac
- 9. Acias
- 10. Honja

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES

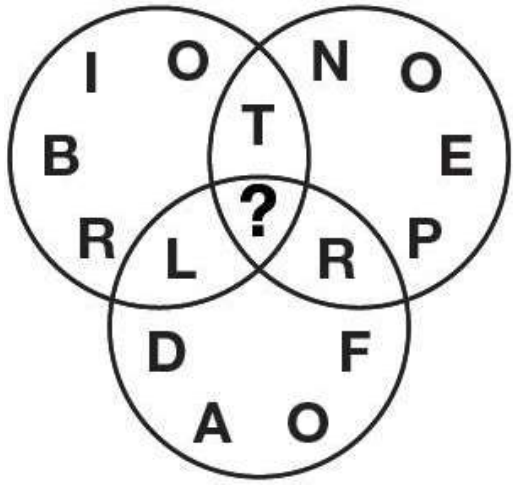


BATTLESHIPS

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.

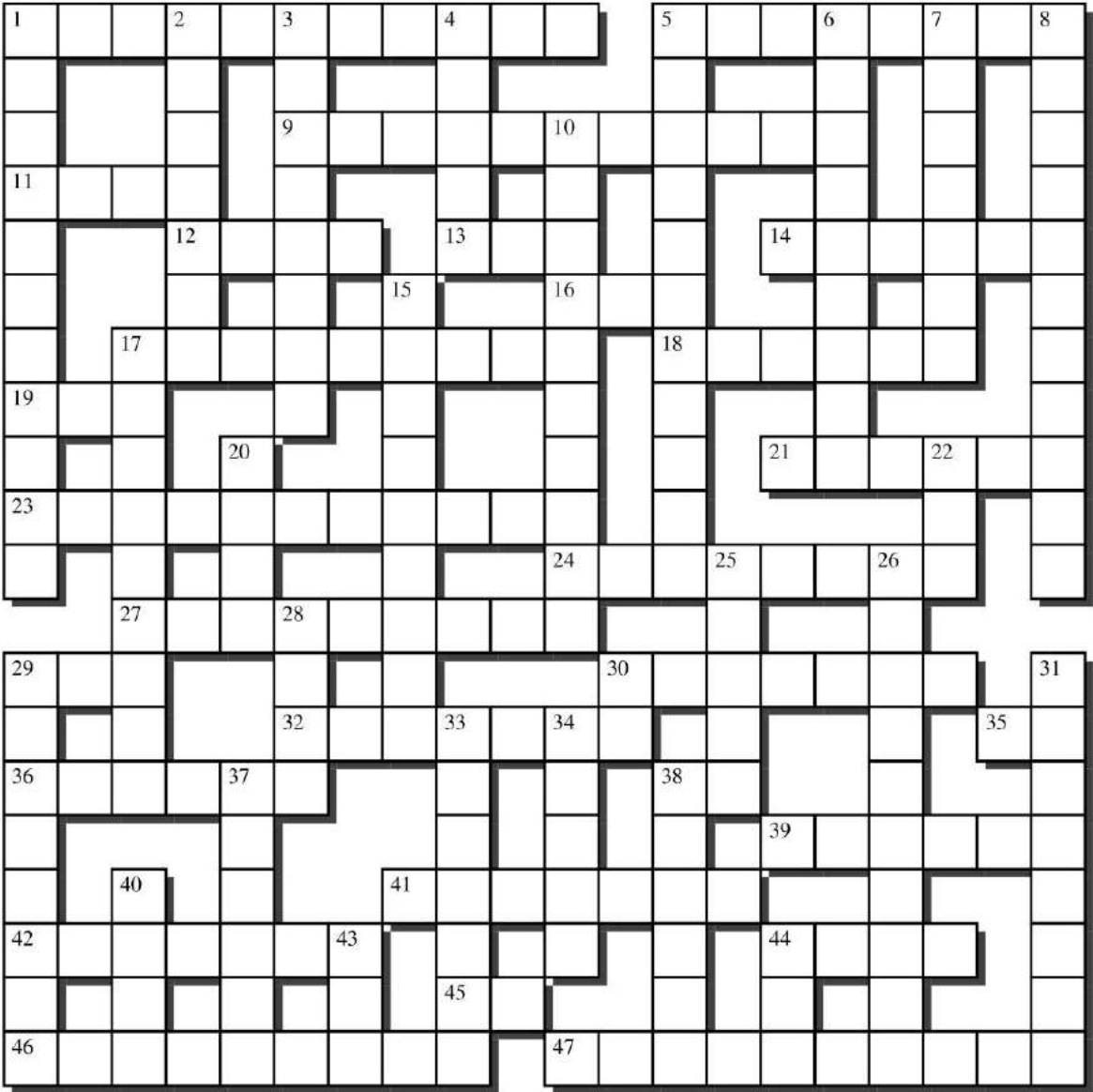


CIRCLEGRAM



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



- Across
- Down
- 1) Ancestors (11)

5) Brains (8)

9) Growth (11)

11) Udder (4)

12) Dinner (4)

13) Even (3)

14) Brothel (6)

16) Like that (3)

17) Reduced (f.pl) (9)

18) Fairs (6)

19) She hears (3)

21) Unit (6)

23) To identify (11)

24) I instruct (8)

27) Calm (m) (9)

29) There (3)

30) Fan (7)

32) Devils (7)

35) Now! (2)

36) Skull (6)

38) It has (perfect) (2)

39) Melting pot (6)

41) Teeth (7)

42) She would have (7)

44) Healthy (m) (4)

45) The (f) (2)

46) Observed (m) (9)

47) Development (10)
- 1) Archaeology (11)

2) Species (7)

3) To reach (8)

4) Shower (5)

5) Scientists (m) (11)

6) Evolution (9)

7) Fast (m.pl) (7)

8) Similarities (11)

10) Monastery (10)

15) Jaw (9)

17) Sudden (f) (9)

20) Another (f) (4)

22) He gave (3)

25) Plot (5)

26) Site (10)

28) Knot (4)

29) Ancestor (8)

30) Ace (2)

31) Find (8)

33) Bobbin (7)

34) Urine (5)

37) To go in (6)

38) Bones (6)

40) Some (m) (4)

43) Wing (3)

44) To be (3)

QUIZ

Approximately how many species of birds are there?

1. 4,000
2. 6,000
3. 8,000
4. 10,000



Superb, splendid, purple-crowned and lovely are all species of which bird?

1. warbler
2. titmouse
3. pigeon
4. fairywren

Which country has the flamingo as it national bird?

1. Africa
2. Thailand
3. Bermuda
4. The Bahamas

THE SUR IN ENGLISH COLUMN

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ANSWERS

Quiz answers

world.
main breeding grounds in the
and is listed as one of the four
large population of flamingoes
Of interest: The Bahamas has a
Answer: The Bahamas
eucalyptus woodlands.
and western Australia in mallee
throughout eastern, central,
They have a large range, found
of Australia's best known birds.
Of interest: Fairywrens are one
Answer: Fairywren
the planet.
most abundant animal types on
birds are considered one of the
many species of birds there are,
the globe. Because of how
10,000 species of birds around
studies, there are around
Of interest: According to most
Answer: 10,000

Circlegram

The letter represented by the
question mark is S. Bristol,
Preston, Salford, all English
cities.

Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 3 Press home; 8 Trap; 9 All at once; 10 Nickel; 11 Fleet; 14 Ripen; 15 Rain; 16 Shako; 18 Test; 20 Cream; 21 Tight; 24 Maroon; 25 Sensation; 26 Bent; 27 Appealing. Down: 1 At any rate; 2 March past; 4 Roll; 5 Stall; 6 Hooter; 7 Mice; 9 Aeons; 11 Feast; 12 Take cover; 13 In a minute; 17 Ocean; 19 Tissue; 22 Hotel; 23 Help;

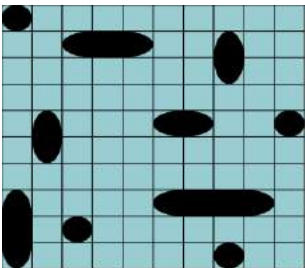
Wordpuzzler solution

1. Noah
2. Adam
3. Samso
4. Esau
5. Ruth
6. Cain
7. Moses
8. Jacob
9. Isaac
10. Jonah

Language Crossword

ACROSS:
1. ANTEPASADOS 5. CEREBROS
9. CRECIMIENTO 11. URBES 12. CENA 13. AUN
14. BURDEL 16. ASI 17. REBAJADAS 18. HERIAS
19. OYE 21. UNIDAD 23. IDENTIFICAR
24. INSTAURAR 27. TRAMONILLO 29. AHI
30. ABANICO 32. DIABLOS 35. YA 36. CRANEO
38. HA 39. CRISOL 41. DIENTES 42. TENDRIA
44. SANO 45. LA 46. OBSERVADO
47. DESARROLLO
DOWN:
1. ARQUEOLOGIA 2. ESPECIE 3. ALCANZAR
4. DUCHA 5. CIENTIFICOS 6. EVOLUCION
7. RAPIDOS 8. SIMILITUDES 10. MONASTERIO
15. MANDIBULA 17. REPENTINA 20. TRA
22. DIO 25. TRAMA 26. VACACIONES 28. NUDO
29. ANESTRO 30. AS 31. HALLAZGO
33. BOLLITO 34. ORINA 37. ENTARR 38. HUESOS
40. UNOS 43. ALA 44. SER

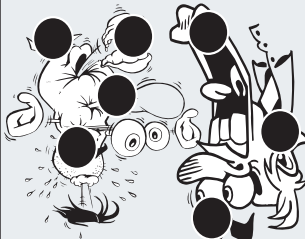
Battleships



Sudoku solution

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

The seven differences





◀ The sculpture of the waterskiing Venus has been restored.

SUR

Marbella's Venus of the sea, back where she belongs

Memories. A year after being taken down and restored, the water skier, sculpted by Francisco Fernández Burgos, is bringing back happy memories

DAVID LERMA

When the figure of the Roman goddess Venus in Marbella was on the jetty by the beach of the same name, she used to face the west. Now, the slim figure of the water skier has begun a new stage of her life, facing east and looking towards the ancient Old Town.

This Amazon of the water, the

goddess protecting her beach, has been a much-loved symbol of Marbella since 1972, and on 29 June local people gathered to watch the official ceremony to inaugurate her homecoming and swapped happy memories of their childhoods and their youths under her watchful eye.

The sun was not high enough to cast shadows on the Venus and it

was bright enough to admire the vitality of the figure which Jesús Gil ruined when he moved it to another location.

Now, after being restored, and a year after being removed from the Plaza de la Fontanilla, it is easy to see her relaxed and smiling face, her open gaze, and the turquoise tone of the bronze from which she was made glowing in the sunshine.

She was happy to be back.

Important to the town

Marbella council decided to restore the sculpture as it was an feature is something important symbol for the town. Cast by Francisco Fernández Burgos, a sculptor from Granada, and commissioned by the mayor, Francisco Canto, this emblem is

now on a platform on the circular walkway in the marina, a very popular spot with local residents and visitors alike.

When the jetties were removed in the early 1990s, the Venus was taken down and sent for restoration but this was crudely done, leaving her with her eyes blocked out and looking as if she would never have any possibility of movement. Now, she has been restored to her former beauty and vital appearance, and everyone attending the inauguration wanted to take photos.

It was the mayor of Marbella, Ángeles Muñoz, who said the figure had been dismantled and restored "properly" in Madrid, a process which took six months to complete.

Symbol of modernity

Her new location is, Muñoz said, the only suitable option for her in this area. "When the Venus was first installed she was a symbol of modernity and that is the image that Marbella always needs to have," she said.

The platform on which the figure stands, which has LED lighting and a water recycling pump, will be, Muñoz said, "a symbol of our identity and another attraction for tourists who visit our sea-front promenade".

"What we wanted was for the Venus to be situated as close to the sea as possible," she added.

And so there she is, embraced by its waters, leaning competently on her ski, in that curved body position which will be forever engraved in the memories of those who knew her before, and in the future memories of everyone who now sees her for the first time.

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