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A DIFFERENT KIND OF MIGRANT RESCUE

Mamadou, who is waiting to be granted asylum, tells how he saved a city swimmer's life **P12**



Go-ahead given for Britons to swap to Spanish driving licences

Those UK residents who have been stopped from driving since last May can finally get on the road again

The Spanish Cabinet gave the green light this week to the new process for British drivers who spend more than six months in Spain to swap their UK permit to a Spanish one without being forced

to take a theory exam and practical driving test. The long-awaited deal had been done for a few weeks but was waiting the all-important ministers' rubber stamp.

Those British licence holders who recently came to live or missed the pre-Brexit easier swap deadline can now apply to the DGT for their Spanish licence. They can use their UK licence for six months again while they do so. **P3**



Residents and visitors to the Costa throw coloured powder at the festival in Benalmádena. **MARINA RIVAS**

SPRING COLOURS

The Hindu community celebrated Holi last weekend **P10**

Estepona's futuristic new town hall with environmentally friendly features is officially opened **P6**

Malaga film festival reaches its climax after a week of sunny skies adds a buzz to the screenings **P24**

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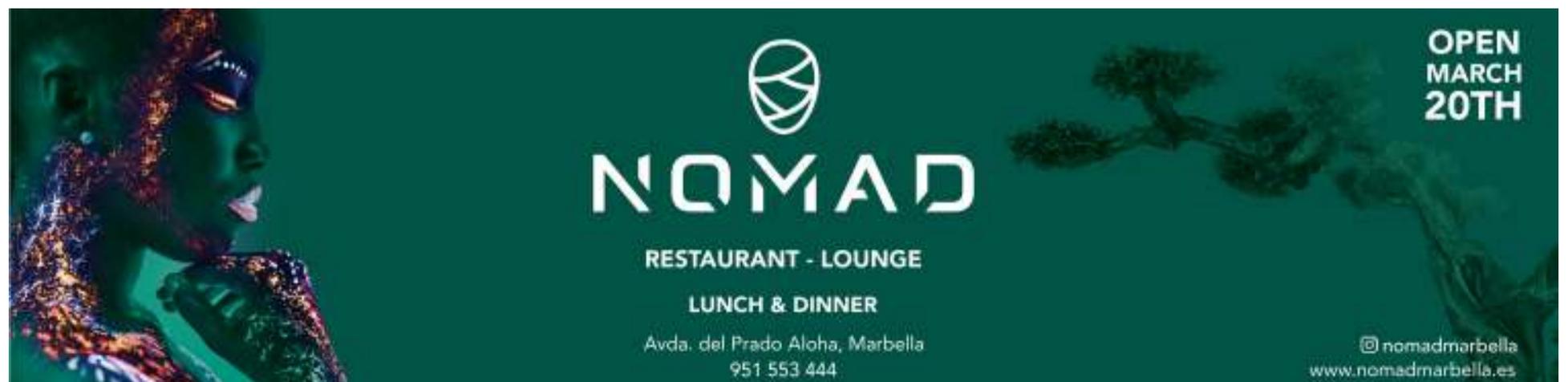

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Over 20 per cent of self-employed workers in Malaga province are not Spanish

The strength of tourism and the presence of technology companies are partly why so many people in the province are so-called 'autónomos'

CRISTINA VALLEJO



MÁLAGA. Malaga is the province of Andalucía which has the highest number of self-employed workers. The latest figures from the Social Security authorities show that 83,132 people in the province are registered as 'autónomo', and that is considerably more than in Seville province, where there are fewer than 75,000.

Nor does Malaga only stand out for the number of self-employed workers, but also for how this has grown in recent years. The work ministry website, which has data going back to 2016, shows that between that year and the third quarter of 2022 the number rose by almost 16 per cent, whereas in Andalucía as a whole the increase was just over nine per cent and in Spain less than three per cent.

Why is there this difference? José Luis Perea, who is head of the self-employed workers association (ATA), says there is a certain entrepreneurial spirit in Malaga, especially on the Costa del Sol, and it is structural in nature rather than not cyclical.

He also says measures introduced by the Andalusian government to reduce social security payments for the newly self-employed have encouraged people to start working for themselves, and the strength of Malaga's tourism sector is another important factor, because the sheer number of visitors to the area provides numerous opportunities for people to set up in business on their own in order to provide services for them.

In fact, it is noticeable that 80 per cent of workers in Malaga's services sector are 'autónomos', compared with 73 per cent in Andalucía and a similar proportion in Spain as a whole.

Malaga is similar to the Canary Islands in this respect but their figures are higher than the Balearics and Valencia, the two other most popular Spanish holiday destinations.

The number of technology companies in Malaga province should also be taken into account, some of which are major

Changes in the number of self-employed workers

	Q32022	Q42021	Q42020	Q42019	Q42018	Q42017	Q42016
MÁLAGA	83,132	82,454	79,693	77,819	75,697	72,424	71,770
ANDALUCÍA	374,665	373,774	365,187	358,488	353,122	342,682	343,202
SPAIN	2,027,994	2,033,891	2,003,991	1,998,457	1,993,902	1,962,774	1,972,985

Foreigners

	Number	%
Málaga	18.809	22,63%
Andalucía	39.265	10,48%
Spain	270.381	13,33%

Minimum social security payments

	Number	%
Málaga	73.811	88,79%
Andalucía	327.197	87,33%
Spain	1.730.689	85,34%

No employees

	Number	%
Málaga	64.866	78,03%
Andalucía	282.765	75,47%
Spain	1.606.466	79,21%

Service sector

	Number	%
Málaga	67.012	80,61%
Andalucía	275.234	73,46%
Spain	1.491.506	73,55%

Under 40 years of age

	Number	%
Málaga	24.303	29,23%
Andalucía	108.345	28,92%
Spain	521.216	25,70%

Self-employed for five years or more

	Number	%
Málaga	38.990	46,90%
Andalucía	196.663	52,49%
Spain	1.142.022	56,31%

Source: INE

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international names. Numerous startup businesses have been created on a self-employed basis as a result of their presence in the province in order to provide services to them.

More than 20% of self-employed are foreigners

The ecosystem generated by these businesses, and other geographical characteristics of Malaga province, have attracted digital nomads from all over the world in recent years, to such an extent that over 20 per cent of those registered as self-employed are foreigners: 22 per cent, in fact, which is more than 18,800 people.

The figure for foreign self-employed workers Spain as a whole is 13.3 per cent of the total, and it is barely 10.5 per cent for the region of Andalucía.

Those in Malaga province account for half of the total of for-

eign 'autónomo' workers, and it is the fourth province in the country in this respect. Only in Madrid, Barcelona and Alicante are the figures higher.

Lowest social security rate

One aspect in which the self-employed in Malaga do coincide with Andalucía and Spain is that the vast majority paid the minimum rate of social security in 2022. In fact, there are comparatively more self-employed people in this province paying the lowest rate than in the region or the country: the figure for Malaga is 89 per cent of the total, compared with 87 and 85 per cent respectively.

In addition, most of them are registered as self-employed businesses with no employees: those account for 78 per cent in Malaga, whereas in Andalucía the figure is 75 per cent and in Spain it is 79 per cent.

Sources at the self-employed workers union of Andalucía (UATAE) explain that the fact that so many people are paying in the minimum rate of social security payments every month may be because their earnings are low, or because they are very young and are therefore not concerned about their retirement situation yet.

The most recent figures show that nearly 30 per cent of self-employed workers in Malaga province are under the age of 40, whereas the figure for Spain

is 25.7 per cent.

José Luis Perea of ATA also adds that another cause of so many people paying as little as they can could be the fear that their business will not be successful. That concern tends to be greater in the early days of their new venture.

In Spain, 56.3 per cent of self-employed people have been registered as such for five years or more, whereas in Malaga province the figure is ten per cent lower.

A changing system

This model of lower social security payments resulting in fewer benefits is now coming to an end in this country. From this year onwards, and progressively, the amount of money that self-employed workers will be able to pay as their social security contributions each month will depend on their level of income, and this will bring with it several improvements to their rights.

This is basically what is involved in the latest reform of the system which has been designed by Minister for Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations José Luis Escrivá.

As José Luis Pérez explains, the aim is that, eventually, being self-employed will mean having practically the same rights as people who are employees of companies and therefore have work contracts with more retirement benefits.

"You join the world of the self-employed through vocation or because of need"

Working for oneself can be a precarious business. On one hand, there is the problem with the 'fake self-employed', where firms avoid the higher costs of taking on staff by hiring 'autónomos' instead for fixed

roles. But on the other hand, setting up in business can be a way forward after being made redundant, especially for someone aged 40 to 45. "You join the world of the self-employed through vocation or because of need," say sources at the ATA.

The inconvenience of doing so for the second reason, explains the UATAE, is that people often lack the entrepreneurial spirit, the dedication needed to

create a business of their own, or they just fancy a life without bosses. In addition, those who do so because they want to be independent rarely have as much stability or drive and are more likely to suffer ups and downs because they do not normally understand the conditions of the market. And in many cases, if the opportunity arises, they end up going back to work for somebody else.

Relief for Britons as Spain approves driving licence swap

Many UK residents who still hold a British permit had been stopped from driving while waiting for an easy exchange arrangement to be agreed

SUR IN ENGLISH

MALAGA. There was a mixture of relief and joy - and perhaps a bit of disbelief - this week for thousands of Britons living in Spain who have been unable to drive on Spanish roads since May last year.

On Tuesday, the Spanish Cabinet finally approved the deal between Madrid and London which allows a British resident to swap a UK driving licence to a Spanish one without taking a test, including those with expired licences. Those already affected now have six months to complete the exchange.

The previous easy-swap process for Britons ended after Brexit and both sides failed to successfully negotiate a new bilateral ar-

angement until recently. Since Brexit, a UK licence is only valid for six months after a Briton comes to live in Spain. The only alternative since the middle of 2022 has been to take a Spanish test from scratch, which had long waiting times. Most of those affected chose not to take a Spanish test.

Throughout the wait, the British Embassy's Brits in Spain Facebook page had kept people informed of how the slow negotiations had been going.

Ambassador's latest message

The UK ambassador, Hugh Elliott, said in his message after the announcement that the deal would go live from Thursday this week, 16 March, and that he hoped it would be the last time he would need to make an update.

Many UK residents expressed appreciation that the wait was over. Drivers who still have a valid UK photocard licence or an expired one can consult the Spanish DGT website for the exact new process.

There was some confusion



Many UK residents can now drive again without fear of being fined. **sUR**

however on Thursday as the DGT published details on its website.

Some of those affected who had renewed an expired licence in the UK while resident in Spain in the intervening period, which was technically a breach of long-standing rules, were unclear if their recently renewed UK licences would now be accepted by Spanish authorities for exchange or not.

The UK Embassy said it was planning a Facebook Live forum to answer questions on the new agreement in the coming weeks.

Tourists and short-term visitors to Spain from the UK can continue to drive using their valid British licence as before.

As part of the arrangement, the authorities in both countries will be stepping up their exchange of information on drivers to enable them to enforce traffic fines more effectively, even for visitors.

More information :

www.facebook.com/britainspain

www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain#driving-in-spain

Gibraltar driving licences part of UK-Spain exchange pact

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GIBRALTAR. People who hold Gibraltar-issued driving licences will be able to continue to use them when visiting Spain without the need for an International Driving Permit now that the UK and Spain have reached an agreement over reciprocal recognition and exchange of driving licences.

The Gibraltar government issued a statement welcoming the approval by Spain's Cabinet and explained that it will be applied regardless of the outcome of the ongoing negotiations over Gibraltar's future relationship with the European Union.

Now that this agreement is in force, holders of Gibraltar driving licences who are officially resident in Spain may exchange them for a Spanish licence without needing to take a practical or theory test. This must be done within six months from 16 March, (or after six months of going to live in Spain).

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Costa beaches to get new sand year-round, not just after storms

Two projects have been put out to tender to cover the 173 kilometres of coastline between Nerja and Manilva, with a focus on 58 beaches

FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

MALAGA. The Spanish government's coastal authority is to allocate 2.6 million euros a year in ongoing expenditure to ensure the continuous replenishment of sand and the conservation of beaches along the Costa del Sol.

At present the Dirección General de Costas allocates around

200,000 euros each year to conservation work on Malaga province's beaches in addition to undertaking emergency work following storms.

The new contract aims to establish a continuous and lasting plan and two projects have been put out to tender to cover the 173 kilometres of coastline between Nerja and

Much of the sand will be transferred from other beaches and the rest taken from river and stream beds

Manilva, with a focus on 58 beaches. The west coast project has a budget of just over 1.6 million euros (IVA sales tax included) and just over 990,000 euros has been set aside for the east coast works.

In total, the expectation is to transfer around 430,600 cubic metres of sand, of which 80% (348,100) will come from transfers between beaches.

Another 72,500 cubic metres will come from river and stream beds: from the Guadalhorce, Vélez, Benamargosa and Íberos on the eastern coast; and the Enterríos, Guadalmina, Velerin, Padrón, Castor, Guadalmasa and Ovejeros in the west.

THE 13 STRETCHES

► **Manilva.** La Duquesa, Castillo, Sabinillas, Manilva and Ancha.

► **Casares.** Ancha, Playa Chica and Torre la Sal.

► **Estepona.** Arroyo Vaquero, El Cristo, La Rada, Punta Plata-Padrón, Guadalmasa, El Saladillo, Benamara, Casasola, Cabo Bermejo, Isdabe, Kempisky and Playa Ángel.

► **Marbella.** Guadalmina, San Pedro, Río Verde, Fontanilla, Venus-Bajadilla, El Cable, Pinillo, Las Chapas and Cabopino.

► **Mijas.** Calahonda, Bombo and Butibamba.

► **Fuengirola.** Santa Amalia-Fuengirola, Los Boliches, Tor-

reblanca and Carvajal.

► **Benalmádena.** Torremuelle, Torrevigía, Santa Ana and Malapesquera.

► **Torremolinos.** Bajondillo, Carihuela and Playamar.

► **Malaga.** Guadalmar, Malagueta and Pedregalejo.

► **Rincón de la Victoria.** Rincón and Los Rubios.

► **Vélez-Algarrobo.** Chilches, Benjarafe, Valle Niza, Almayate and Torre del Mar.

► **Torrox.** Ferrara and Peñoncillo.

► **Nerja.** El Playazo, Chucho and Torrecilla.

Mercury rises on the coast

Even before the official start of spring, unusually high temperatures on the Costa del Sol last weekend led many to discard their hats, coats and scarves and don their swimsuits to head to the beach. The mercury hit 30C in some areas as the weather event dubbed the '96-hour-summer' rolled in and quickly rolled out again. This week national weather agency Aemet warned of a "rollercoaster" few days with sudden "sharp rises and falls" in temperatures which are expected to be "between 5C and 10C above normal" for the time of year. Spring is just around the corner but the forecast indicates that unstable weather will herald the start of the season.



FRANCIS SILVA

Two Benalmádena beaches to close from next week for breakwater works

MARINA RIVAS

BENALMÁDENA. Two beaches in Benalmádena, Torrebermeja and Las Gaviotas, will be closed to the public on weekdays from Monday 20 March while work takes place on the extension of the Malapesquera breakwater, the town hall announced earlier this week. Beach bars and other seaside businesses will be able to open as usual. The beaches will reopen to the public for the weekend on Friday afternoons, when the machinery stops working. Work is expected to stop at the beginning of July for a biological stoppage period until December to protect an endangered species of limpet.

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New Estepona town hall building officially opens

Latticework will keep out the sun's rays while solar panels on the roof will collect the energy needed to make it self-sufficient

DAVID LERMA

ESTEPONA. Hundreds of local residents attended the official opening of the new Estepona town hall on Friday last week. The building even includes a slide connecting the fourth and fifth floors - an iconic reminder of the town's failed attempt to have a long public slide in a nearby park. That closed the day after it opened four years ago after users were injured when sliding down it.

Now Estepona's mayor, José María García Urbano, is able to



For the moment, the ground floor is operational. JOSELE

laugh at the mistake and has incorporated a slide into the design of the new council headquarters. However, this unusual facility is for the use of town hall staff but may be available to the public occasionally.

At the moment it is just the ground floor of the building that is open to the public while work to the upper floors is ongoing. During the opening ceremony, García Urbano said, "This is the culmination of twelve years of tremendous work."

The white latticework covering the new town hall is designed to keep out the sun's rays, while on its roof solar panels will collect the energy needed to make it self-sufficient. However, the budget for the state-of-the-art environmentally friendly building overran by 1.8 million euros.

The president of Malaga's provincial authority, the Diputación, Francisco Salado, said that the new building would "make history", and added: "What Estepona has done will be studied, it is a benchmark for sustainable modernity."

Air Serbia links Costa del Sol and Belgrade with new all-year-round direct flight

PILAR MARTINEZ

MALAGA. Air Serbia is to connect Malaga Airport with a direct flight to Belgrade, the Serbian capital. This was confirmed to SUR by Maja Radivojevic, the company's manager for Spain and Portugal, during the ITB travel fair in Berlin. She said that the route to the Costa del Sol is considered the gateway to southern Europe and is in great demand from Serbs. "We are seeing a high demand for travellers from Serbia. Andalucía, the Costa del Sol, Malaga and Marbella have a great pull." The flight will be operated twice a week and it is planned to maintain it throughout the year.

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Famous Marbella clinic creates a space for insects to thrive

The Arboretum Foundation has helped with the project that will allow pollinating invertebrates to feed and safely reproduce

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. The well-known Marbella Buchinger Wilhelmi Clinic, which over the years has seen a long list of celebrity clients, now has guests of equally high global standing - pollinating insects - thanks to the Arboretum Foundation, which has created the first pollen refuge in the clinic's grounds.

This is a joint project carried out in a 30-square-metre area

where the association, together with the clinic, has created a space in which bees, wasps and butterflies can feed and reproduce. They have transformed the ornamental garden into a sustainable and ecological habitat where plants such as malwos, daisies, caraway and marigolds grow.

Pollinators

The foundation explained that "it was essential to have good orientation, lighting and protection from the wind to ensure not only food for the pollinators, but also protection for them to lay their eggs and be able to multiply". It went on to say that it will provide "a place where bees, wasps, butterflies and beetles



Clinic directors Víctor Wilhelmi and Katharina Roher-Zaiser. SUR

have a safe space for food and shelter".

For Victor Wilhelmi, director of the clinic, the benefits and significance of this initiative are many. He explained that the clinic helps its clients, "through

self-healing processes of the body and access to good and healthy nutrition, and since seeds and their care bear good fruit, we believe that bees play an important role in the process".

Europe's longest classic car run, with 140 vehicles taking part, rolls into Ronda

VANESSA MELGAR

RONDA. The Spain Classic Raid IX, the longest classic car run in Europe, will stop off in Ronda on Saturday 18 March, as the participating vehicles are scheduled to make a stop at the town's bullring. The race runs from Cadiz to Santander, crossing Spain - from top to the bottom - in eight days over eight stages. The Ronda stage will be the first, starting in Cadiz and finishing in Antequera. In total, the participants will cover 2,000 kilometres, with an average of 250 kilometres per day. In total, there will be 140 cars which are 25 years old or older taking part.

Triple A animal shelter undergoes a major 1.5-million-euro renovation

The town hall is funding the project to completely modernise the centre that currently houses around 250 dogs and 300 cats

JOAQUINA DUEÑAS

MARBELLA. Marbella town hall is undertaking the complete renovation of the Triple A animal shelter with a 1.5-million-euro project that aims to modernise the centre that is more than 30 years old.

The mayor of Marbella, Ángeles Muñoz, and local councillor, Diego López, visited the site, accompanied by the vice-president of the association, Lila Van Tongeren, and Susi Berman, a member of the board of directors. At the meeting, Triple A representatives spoke of the need to make a series of ad-



The plans for the centre include more open space. JOSELE

justments in order to have more open-air patios. The plans for the new building were made under the previous board. Berman said that “the most important thing is more

freedom for the animals because they cannot be kept in cages all their lives”. She explained that it can “take years to find a family” for the animals.

Popular La Paloma park in Benalmádena is declared a smoke-free zone

An agreement has been reached between the town hall and a Spanish cancer association to raise awareness of the risk of smoking

MARINA RIVAS

BENALMÁDEN. The council in Benalmádena has strengthened ties with leading Spanish cancer charity AECC as one of its best-known attractions has been declared a ‘smoke-free space’. This is the Parque de la Paloma, opened in 1995 and considered the green lung of the town thanks to its 200,000 square metres of greenery, together with an artificial lake and even animals.

Town mayor, Víctor Navas,

said, “We are the first large town on the Costa del Sol to have a tobacco-free zone.”

There is a sign on each entrance gate to the park, but it is only there to raise awareness of the risks of smoking and that 80 per cent of lung tumours are directly related to tobacco use, as the measure cannot legally be enforced.

Passive smoking

The AECC has reminded users how harmful passive smoke inhalation by people or even children can be. Tobacco smoke increases the chances in minors who are regularly exposed to it of ear infections by half, asthma attacks by 20%, respiratory infections by 30%. It also doubles the risk of having lung cancer in the future.

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Council buys ‘quiet’ leaf blowers and street cleaning machinery

J.D.

MARBELLA. Marbella town hall has invested in eleven leaf blowers and other machines to “minimise the inconvenience to the public and facilitate the work of the operatives” according to councillor Diego López. He explained, “They are quieter tools, vibrate less and are more ergonomic, so they are more comfortable for the workers because they can be attached to their bodies, hooking them to the waist, and they do not have to carry them in their hands.”

He added that “the blowers also improve efficiency because, as they are quieter, the working day can start earlier”.

The purchase of the new machinery forms part of a strategy to modernise the street cleaning and urban waste department.



Málaga TechPark celebrates 30 years with awards event

In 1993, Malaga opened what was then called the Andalucía Technology Park (PTA). Now, after being renamed, the Málaga TechPark celebrated its thirtieth birthday with an awards event on Tuesday at the city's exhibition and conference centre. Companies honoured included Accenture, Corporación Altra, Aertec Solutions, EY España, Ericsson, Dekra, Opplus, Indra, Google, Oracle and Innova IRV.

Threat of strike over Malaga Airport control tower privatisation

MATÍAS STUBER

MALAGA. The CCOO union has announced that all of their 560 members at Malaga Airport, and not just the air traffic controllers, would stop work if the Spanish government pressed ahead with its plans to privatise the control tower.

Unions and workers have intensified their rejection of the privatisation plan, alluding to the fact that “the quality of service will be lost” and that it will not mean any real savings in economic terms.

The only thing that would be achieved, according to CCOO, would be a diversion of costs to benefit the private companies that take charge of the control towers.

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Holi, a cultural celebration bathing Benalmádena in multicolour dye

Hindu community. Hundreds of people gathered in Benalmádena to take part in the traditional Indian festival that celebrates the arrival of spring and the triumph of good over evil



Dance.

A Bollywood DJ made sure that there was plenty of dancing at the Bollywood party. **M. RIVAS**



Colour

A group of participants pose for SUR throwing colour into the air. **M. RIVAS**

Multicultural.

Hindu residents and tourists joined in the festivities. **M. RIVAS**



we are all one, that we are all equal, no one is more than anyone else," said Ravi Tharani, one of the organisers of the Benalmádena event.

Around 500 people attended on Sunday, including people from the Hindu community across the province as well as tourists and Benalmádena residents.

The fun also included some fundraising as donations were collected to help with the maintenance of the local Hindu temple.

All joined in with the laughter, dancing, and the throwing of powder, helped along with music by Bollywood DJ Prince and DJ Kunal.

Typical Indian dishes were provided by two local businesses: Harry's Restro and Niña Bonita, and a bouncy castle was set up for children.

Along with the laughter and dancing, the good weather helped unite cultures in Benalmádena.

MARINA RIVAS

The Hindu community of Benalmádena, one of the largest in the province of Malaga, came together on Sunday to celebrate Holi, an Indian tradition that marks the arrival of spring.

The festival, celebrated in India

and Nepal, marks the arrival of the new season, new beginnings and, above all, the triumph of good over evil.

Holi is internationally known as the festival of colours, where participants throw different coloured powders over each other as

a symbol of equality.

"Covering ourselves in colour is a way of giving equality to everyone, economically, socially and racially. When you are all the same, you don't know who has more or less money or who is black or white. It is like a way of saying that

The festive event also helped raise funds to help maintain the local Hindu temple

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Mamadou, the migrant who overcame his fear of the sea to save a life on a Costa beach

Bravery. The 19-year-old, who is waiting for his asylum application to be processed by Spanish authorities, rescued a swimmer in distress off a Malaga beach

IRENE QUIRANTE



An act of humanity can break down barriers. This is the story of Mamadou, a 19-year-old from Senegal who, despite his fear of the sea, went to the rescue of a bather who was calling for help off La Malagueta beach in Malaga.

"I realised that something was wrong because people were looking at the water, as if they were worried. When I saw what was happening I knew I had to do something; in my heart, it was impossible not to help," explained Mamadou.

He remembered the faces of various friends and acquaintances who all died at sea after entrusting their fate to a crossing in a small boat in search of a better life. "I didn't want the same thing to happen to the swimmer."

Risked his life

It was early February when Mamadou risked his life in the sea once again. Details are hazy, and he has no idea how long it took him to reach the man in distress. He does remember that by the time they both reached the shore, he

felt completely exhausted and freezing cold.

Once at the shore, he could see that the man was conscious, and that another man, believed to be a tourist, was helping him. Mamadou required medical attention for hypothermia and was transferred to hospital by ambulance.

Mamadou did not get the chance to speak to the person whose life he saved, although he would have liked to. He later learned that it was a 45-year-old Spanish man.

Within hours, he was discharged but returned to the hospital soon after to check that everything was in order. "I have a heart problem," he explained. It was this heart condition that led him to decide to leave Senegal, where, he says, he had no chance of receiving treatment.

Boat trip from Senegal

Mamadou grew up in Mbour, a coastal region about 80 kilometres from the capital, Dakar. He arrived in the Canary Islands when he was still 17 years old, surviving a boat trip that lasted ten days. He remembers that close to a hundred



Mamadou, the young man who rescued the drowning bather. NITO SALAS

people travelled with him and that, in the middle of the immensity of the sea, he was convinced on several occasions that that could be the end of his life.

According to data from the Spanish Commission for Refugee Assistance (CEAR), 812 people died last year trying to reach the Spanish coast from parts of Africa. The Canary Islands route has become the main route of entry by sea to Spain, but it is also one of the deadliest. More than 1,500 people lost their lives trying to arrive by boat from 2021 to October 2022.

Asylum application

Mamadou arrived in the Canary Islands the same year as the outbreak of the pandemic and about eleven months ago he was transferred to Malaga. He wants to train and work in catering and imagines himself earning a living in a kitchen. Although, for the moment, these dreams are on hold, as his

asylum application has not yet been approved.

The young Senegalese man has the support of CEAR, which has given him shelter in one of its housing facilities, helps him with Spanish classes and assists him in the legal procedure to try to resolve the asylum application. Most importantly, he has the emotional support of CEAR, which is the closest thing to a family that the young man has in Malaga.

His life has been linked to the coast since he was a child. In his home country, he spent his days at the port, buying and selling fish. Since he was a boy, he heard stories of neighbours who tried to migrate to Europe and were never heard from again. This is where his respect and fear for the sea grew, and despite everything, Mamadou did not hesitate to overcome his fear when he heard the cries for help on La Malagueta beach.

Candidate for city mayor would ban new tourist apartments

ANTONIO M. ROMERO

MALAGA. The PSOE candidate for mayor of Malaga city in May's municipal elections has said he wants to follow the example of Palma de Mallorca if he is elected and ban new tourist apartments "to avoid urban speculation".

Daniel Pérez made the announcement on his Twitter account this week in a video recorded with the mayor of Palma, José Hila, since the objective of the candidate is to follow the example of the Balearic island capital, where

the ban on tourists holidays using normal family homes in the city began in 2018. That measure has recently been upheld by a Supreme Court ruling.

"Malaga suffers from a serious housing shortage and one of the major factors is tourist housing, which is eating up the city, especially in the centre, and is making it impossible for locals to find rental properties. You have to take action. A brave mayor is needed to put a stop to tourist rentals that are creating a serious problem in the city. Can it be done? It only takes will, as municipalities such as Palma de Mallorca have shown by providing a solution to the problem," said Pérez. However, the AVVA association of tourist housing in Andalucía accused Pérez of using the tourist industry as a scapegoat for other problems.

112 REPORTS

FUENGIROLA

Woman dies in apartment fire

M. RIVAS. A woman in her 70s died on Thursday after fire broke out in her home in a block of flats in Avenida Ramón y Cajal, Fuengirola. The fire brigade received an emergency call just before noon, but when they arrived at the scene they found the woman dead inside the property. Assisted by the Local Police, they cordoned off the area until the fire had been extinguished. Fuengirola town hall has decreed official mourning from this Friday at 12 noon.

MIJAS

Woman gives birth on La Cala de Mijas road

I. QUIRANTE. A pregnant woman gave birth in the middle of a road in La Cala de Mijas after her baby decided to make an early appearance while her friends were taking her to hospital. After pulling over near a roundabout on the A-7 coast road, the friends helped deliver the baby with the help of the emergency services on the other end of the phone, giving them instructions so they would know what to do. Mother and baby were both fine.

AXARQUÍA

Owner of two starved dogs arrested

E.P. Police have rescued a hunting hound that was found at death's door on a farm in the Axarquía region of Malaga province. The dog was found malnourished, in a dark toolshed, and tied up with short wires anchored to the wall, which prevented the animal from fully lying down. At the same property officers also found another dog tied to a tree that was already dead due to lack of food and care. The owner was arrested.

TORREMOLINOS

Fugitive detained under European warrant

E.P. National Police in Torremolinos have arrested a man wanted by the French authorities under a European arrest warrant. He was sought in connection with drug trafficking, theft of weapons, assaulting a police officer and violent escape. The fugitive, living under a false identity, was arrested after a complaint of domestic abuse was made against him. Once in custody, police discovered his true identity.

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Black banners in protest over 'abandoned' town centre

Vélez-Málaga's mayor Antonio Moreno Ferrer admitted in a television interview that the situation is "complex"

EUGENIO CABEZAS

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. Around 200 black banners appeared on balconies in Vélez-Málaga town centre on Tuesday bearing the hashtag 'Vélez is dying'. The protest is over what the local residents describe as the "abandonment" of the town centre.

The initiative has come from the San Francisco and San Juan neighbourhood association, which has been calling for change for a number of years. President of the association Fran Delgado told the radio station Cadena Ser that they have been "overwhelmed" by the



One of the banners. **SUR**

requests to place flags on the balconies. In an interview on Axarquía television the mayor of Vélez, Antonio Moreno Ferrer, admitted that the situation in the town centre is "complex".

Residents have been asked to remove the banners for Holy Week.

Giant sculptures instrumental in attracting tourists

Benamocarra town hall has introduced a series of giant musical instruments around the village to pay tribute to the composer Eduardo Ocón (1833-1901), who was born there, and to its municipal band, which the town hall says is the oldest of its kind in Andalucía. So far there are six sculptures, which were unveiled in September 2022 to coincide with the village's 22nd Día de la Música, a day on which the deeply-rooted musical tradition is celebrated. A giant flamenco guitar, saxophone, clarinet, bass drum, cymbals and a horn can already be seen in Plaza del Calvario, Plaza de la Música and Salvador Palma Park. Councillor José Ramón Palomo has said that in the coming months a further six instruments will be added, "to increase the attraction and make visitors come to the village".



SUR

HERE AND THERE



Javier Salas and José Alberto Armijo at El Playazo beach on Tuesday. **E. C.**

NERJA

El Playazo widened following storms

E. CABEZAS. The central government's representative in Malaga, Javier Salas, visited Nerja on Tuesday to see the project to widen the town's El Playazo beach. After the recent storms, Andalucía's regional government and Nerja town hall agreed to carry out the

joint project to widen the strip of sand and set back private properties located behind the beach along the access lane.

Mayor of Nerja José Alberto Armijo called for the intervention to be accelerated so that it can be ready for Easter. Salas highlighted the "commitment" to developing the El Playazo promenade project, which has been in the pipeline since 2014.

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

Prison for man who slapped girl's buttocks

J. C. A 34-year-old man has been sentenced to one year in prison for slapping the buttocks of a teenage girl as she was taking a backpack out from her mother's car in July 2019. The Andalusian High Court of Justice (TSJA), which confirmed the sentence given by Malaga's provincial court in 2022, considered that the incident constitutes a crime of sexual abuse according to Spain's 10/2022 integral guarantee of freedom, or 'only yes is yes' law.

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA

Coastal path to be built after years of complaints

E. C. After eight years of delays and complaints from local residents and opposition groups, Vélez-Málaga town hall has awarded the project to complete a section of coastal path between Benajárfate and Chilches to the company Construcciones y Obras Verosa S. L. U. The project is expected to cost 1.2 million euros. The 2.5 kilometre stretch forms part of the project to connect Malaga's entire coastline. Work is due to begin in April.



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Food prices were up in February despite IVA cut on some items

The overall rate of annual inflation in Spain remained at 6% last month but food stood higher at 16.6%

EDURNE MARTÍNEZ

MADRID. Despite the IVA sales tax reductions in January, the price of food has continued to rise. In February, the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) in Spain for food stood at 16.6%, according to data from the country's national institute of statistics (INE). This represented a one point increase from the CPI in January.

The general annual inflation rate remained at 6% in February, one-tenth below what was forecast by the INE.

Given the recent rise in food prices, the Spanish government decided to reduce or eliminate IVA on some basic products. This cost-saving measure, which was applied from 1 January, had only a partial impact that month when food inflation remained at 15.4%, a rate that could have been "two per cent higher" if this measure



Food prices continue to rise. SUR

had not been taken, said Minister of Agriculture Luis Planas.

However, February saw more increases in food costs across practically all products with reduced IVA. Bread was more expensive by 0.8% in February compared to the previous month, milk by 1.7%, cheese by 0.5%, eggs by 0.7% and potatoes by 2.3%.

Food items where the IVA was reduced to 5% or 10% also increased in February. Olive oil became more expensive by 2.7%,

bottled water rose by 4.4% and coffee by 2.3%.

The rise in food prices translates into an increase of 924 euros per year in the shopping budget according to the calculations of the OCU consumers association.

The result of a recent survey by the group revealed that people in Spain have reduced their consumption of fresh products such as meat and fish by 32%, as well as fruit and vegetables by 18%, due to higher prices.

Firm that owns Zara announces record sales for 2022 and surge in profits

Amancio Ortega, founder, received 2.2 billion euros in dividends and his daughter, Marta Ortega, was paid 834,000 euros

EDURNE MARTÍNEZ

LA CORUÑA. The Spanish company that owns Zara and a raft of other high-street fashion brands recorded record sales last year.

Galicia-based Inditex got its turnover back to pre-Covid levels in 2022 and went a long way beyond that. The multinational, also behind names such as Bershka, Pull & Bear and Massimo Dutti, made 32.6 billion euros in sales, 17% more than in the 2021 financial year and 15% more than in 2019, before the outbreak of the pandemic. This caused a sharp drop in its revenue due to the closure of shops around the world.

Net profit also soared to 4.13 billion euros, 27% more than the previous year and 15% more than in 2019, according

to the accounts which were filed on Wednesday this week.

The announcement marked the first anniversary of Marta Ortega, daughter of founder Amancio Ortega, taking over as head of the company.

The good news came without the contribution of the Russian market, which represented 8.5% of the group's net operating profit but where, after the outbreak of the war, Inditex decided to suspend its activity and sell its more than 500 shops to the Daher group.

Despite these good results, the market did not react favourably and the company fell almost 5% on the stock market at midday, with shares at 27.7 euros per share.

Amancio Ortega, founder and largest shareholder, received 2.2 billion euros in dividends and Marta Ortega, who acts as non-executive chairperson, received 834,000 euros

The CEO, Óscar García Maцейras, who has also been in the post a year, earned 8.3 million euros including share benefits.

THE BIGGER PICTURE
JEREMY BLATCH

✉ jbl@ehh.gi

Stocks or bonds?



The investor debate over the effectiveness of stocks versus bonds is as old as investing itself. Today investors are being forced to confront the debate again. Since the financial crisis of 2008, the monetary policy of central banks has systematically destroyed the purchasing power of currency by keeping interest rates artificially low and inflating prices of stocks artificially high. As a result, owners of stocks have done well, while a majority of those without stocks have not.

Bonds - loans that pay a fixed interest (coupon) to the holder - have proved genuinely more reliable than stocks over time. Stocks - part-ownership of a company - have generally produced better long-term returns. In his classic book, *Stocks for the Long Run*, Professor Jeremy Siegal provides data showing that between 1821 and 2021, stocks have produced +6.9%, bonds have produced +3.6%, and treasury bills have produced cash equivalent of +2.5%. However, this assumes that the investor is always fully invested and does

not try to time when it is better to have more bonds, stocks or cash. Markets are made of people, and prices move in cycles. On occasions, this price fluctuation can be violent - as we have been witnessing in 2021 and 2022. This can make investors fearful until the pain forces them to sell at a loss, often never to return. This is precisely the wrong thing to do. The worst mistake an investor can make is to turn an unrealised capital loss into a permanent, irreplaceable loss.

For two decades, a portfolio of 60/40 allocations of stocks to bonds has given investors a modest safe return. Though this 60/40 allocation of stocks and bonds is now out of favour, it showed the invisible hand spoken about by Adam Smith, the celebrated economist of the 1800s: these portfolios produced consistent returns. Until they didn't!

For many investors since the crash of 2008, the solution has been to throw the baby out with the bathwater. Today with the US central bank leading the charge of aggressively raising interest

rates, yields on government treasury bonds are approaching 5%. This means that the yield from US Treasury bonds has fallen to forty-year lows. We know we will receive from US stocks a dividend currently of 1.74%.

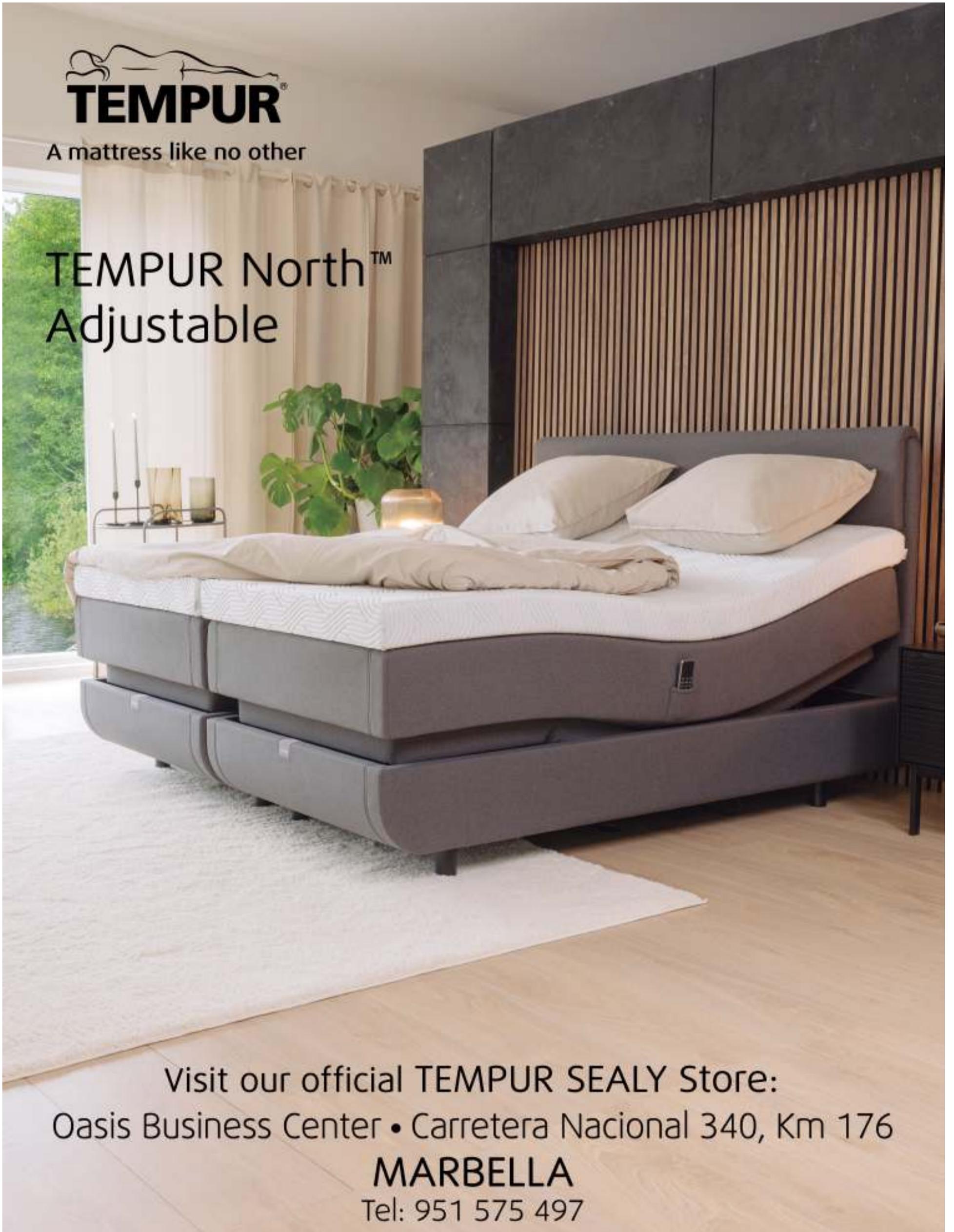
At the end of 2022, the sage of Omaha, Warren Buffet, held 92.7bn short term securities cash equivalent in the Berkshire Hathaway portfolio, and another 25bn in fixed interest securities, yielding a little more than cash. In addition, Berkshire held 308bn in stocks. Buffet's retirement portfolio for his wife is 90% invested in a broad US Index Fund with 10% in short-dated cash equivalent or fixed interest securities. In times of heightened uncertainty, it is very difficult to invest with conviction. To err on the side of safety may bring a feeling of short-term relief, but to buy when others are fearful and remaining invested will produce superior investment outcomes over time.

The author is a member of the Society of Trustees and Estate Practitioners and an investment counsellor. The comments and observations by the author are a reflection of his opinion and do not constitute an offer to buy and hold securities, nor does he receive any remuneration of any kind from names referred to.



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Spain to extradite Briton who hacked Twitter of Biden and Obama

US accuses man from Malaga known as Plugwalk Joe of 14 crimes including extortion, illegal access to computer systems and money laundering

MELCHOR SÁIZ-PARDO

MADRID. Spain has agreed to extradite Joseph James O'Connor, also known as Plugwalk Joe, to the United States.

The 23-year-old British man is accused of having launched a series of virtual attacks from Malaga in July 2020, which included the alleged hacking of the Twitter accounts of, among others, Joe Biden, Barack Obama, and Bill Gates.

He is also accused of extorting money from another personality and being involved in various robberies via the internet.

A top court has agreed to hand over O'Connor to face fourteen

criminal charges in the United States. In Spain, according to the interpretation of the judges, these charges would be equivalent to the crimes of discovery and disclosure of secrets, belonging to a criminal organisation, extortion, illegal access to computer systems, computer fraud and money laundering.

The court rejected all the arguments put forward by the defendant's team, including the disproportionality of the sentences which he could be given in the United States or that the jurisdiction for the prosecution should fall to the Spanish courts since the computer servers used were in Spain.

The investigation carried out by the United States alleges that O'Connor led a campaign of cyberattacks against 130 Twitter accounts as well as hacking the Snapchat account of a public figure who he tried to extort money from by threatening to spread nude photos of him.

Authorities in Washington have also linked the accused to several incidents of 'swatting', making of false hoax calls to emergency services. O'Connor allegedly called the police with false threats, including blowing up an airport and that an armed man wanted to kill his wife and children.

Joseph James O'Connor allegedly called the police with false threats, including blowing up an airport



Regional leaders with business and union representatives on Monday. EFE

Region signs social protection deal with unions and business

ANDALUCÍA

HÉCTOR BARBOTA. On Monday this week the president of the Junta de Andalucía, Juanma Moreno, signed a far-reaching agreement on social welfare financing after "complex" negotiations with regional trade union and employers' representatives.

The central part of the deal envisages allocating more than 3bn euros to strengthen primary care and GP services in Andalucía.

In total, some nine billion euros are expected to be spent, nearly half of which correspond to urgent measures to support families, workers, the self-employed

and companies, and to reinforce essential public services.

These include a direct aid voucher aimed at families with children in vulnerable conditions and below the severe poverty threshold. There will also be a one-off 200-euro food voucher for families with dependent children whose income is less than three times the minimum income indicator, currently set at 600 euros per month.

Other measures include guarantees on new mortgages taken out by the under-35s and grants for small firms and the self-employed.

IN BRIEF

ENERGY

Algeria is leading gas supplier once again

SUR. Algeria has once again become Spain's leading supplier of natural gas after a year in which the price crisis had been joined by the diplomatic conflict between the two countries over Spain's new stance on self-determination in its former Western Sahara colony. In the first two months of the year, 24.2 per cent of total imports came from Algeria, via the Mezgaz pipeline.

ACCIDENT

Crashed copter had undeclared passenger

SUR. A third person was involved in the Spanish traffic surveillance helicopter crash last week, despite original reports that only the pilot and the camera operator had been on board. Sources said the third occupant was the camera operator's wife, who was not authorised to be inside. The pilot of the aircraft was detained after showing positive in a drugs test.

THE EURO ZONE MARK NAYLER

Split three ways



Josep Borrell, formerly foreign minister under Pedro Sánchez and now occupant of the same role for the EU, seems to want to have it both ways in the dispute over Western Sahara. Last weekend he visited Algerian president Abdelmadjid Tebboune to assure him that Brussels is keen to find a solution to the North African country's standoff with Spain, which was triggered last March when Sánchez suddenly endorsed Morocco's autonomy plan for Western Sahara. Algeria, whose Polisario Front movement supports a UN-backed referendum for the Saharawi people, was furious.

Borrell initially backed Spain's announcement that Morocco's plan for Western Sahara was the most "serious, realistic and credible" way of resolving this seemingly intractable dispute. In a TV interview shortly after Sánchez announced the U-Turn, which

reversed decades of Spanish neutrality, Borrell said that the new stance was "still within the framework of the UN" and that the "the EU continues to advocate the same approach".

Algeria, one of Spain's largest suppliers of liquefied natural gas, was so angry at this EU-backed reversal of Spanish foreign policy that in June last year it suspended its twenty-year-old friendship treaty with Spain and froze import and export ties (excluding gas exports). Madrid seemed to have patched up relations with Rabat, but only at the cost of cordial diplomacy with another of its key north African allies.

You can imagine Morocco's surprise, therefore, when in August last year Borrell appeared to completely change tack over Western Sahara. Speaking to the Spanish TV channel RTVE, the PSOE member claimed that the position of both the Spanish

government and of the EU was "defending the holding of a consultation [i.e. referendum] so that it is the Sahrawi people who decide how they want their future to be".

Was this what it seemed - an endorsement of Algeria's call for a self-determination referendum for the Sahrawi population and a rejection of Morocco's autonomy plan? The two countries involved seemed to think so: Morocco slammed Borrell's remarks as "incoherent" and the country's foreign minister promptly cancelled a meeting the two had scheduled for September. The Polisario Front, though, felt vindicated, saying that the EU minister's announcement showed that "attempts to circumvent the right of the Sahrawi people have not only complicated the situation, but also kept it away from a just solution".

In urging Algeria to ease its hostilities with Spain, Borrell is trying to smooth over a diplomatic row to which he himself has made a substantial - and apparently self-contradictory - contribution. One wonders whether he has the diplomatic nuance to broker an agreement in this complex three-way affair, in which Spain can't please Morocco without angering Algeria or vice versa.

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Long-awaited Gibraltar runway tunnel to open within weeks

It has taken around 15 years to build, but at last drivers will no longer have to stop and wait while planes land and take off

DEBBIE BARTLETT

GIBRALTAR. The tunnel beneath the airport runway in Gibraltar should be open within a few weeks, chief minister Fabian Picardo said in response to a question raised in parliament on Wednesday.

This will be welcome news for drivers, because it will mean that traffic no longer has to cross the runway and will not be held up when planes land or take off.

By the time the 350-metre tunnel, which will be known as the Eastside Tunnel, is open, the project will have taken nearly 15 years to complete since the initial contract was awarded in 2008.

The chief minister said it would be open before the next meeting of the Gibraltar parliament takes place.



Gibraltar runway is currently crossed by traffic and pedestrians. D.B.

The project has been plagued with setbacks and delays and several completion dates have been indicated over the years but have come and gone.

Gibraltar is one of the few places in the world where traf-

fic and pedestrians have to cross an airport runway to gain access or to exit, but as the long-awaited tunnel will be for traffic only when it opens, those on foot and cyclists will still be able to enjoy this unusual experience.

IN BRIEF

ROYAL FAMILY

Royal portraits replaced in Gibraltar

D. B. The official portraits of the late Queen Elizabeth II at No 6 Convent Place, which is Gibraltar's equivalent of 10 Downing Street, and the residence of the Governor of Gibraltar, the Convent, have now been replaced with temporary portraits of King Charles III and the Queen Consort, Camilla.

Permanent official portraits of the royal couple will be dis-



Governor and chief minister. D.B.

played in the summer, following the Coronation.

CRIME

Gibraltar man jailed for 'terrifying' attack

D.B. A 34-year-old Gibraltar man has been sentenced to seven months in jail for threatening a woman with a saw on Christmas Day last year. Stuart Harrison is said to have grabbed her by the neck and struck her on the face, cutting her lip, before holding an 18-inch-long saw against her neck and saying he was going to cut her throat, in what the magistrate described in court as a "terrifying" attack.

CULTURE

Local authors to be included in a directory

D.B. The new Gibraltar National Book Council is inviting writers on the Rock to submit a brief biography, maximum 200 words, highlighting their work and linking to their websites, for inclusion in a directory of local authors. The GNBC is also organising a networking event in the near future, where authors can exchange ideas, give feedback and enjoy readings of selected works.

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Dealing with lost cards

I read Mark Nayler's article in SUR in English (Get In Line, February 10th) with interest, but also with disbelief. Mr Nayler was complaining about the length of time it took to get a replacement TIE and blaming it on Pedro Sánchez and his PSOE-led government.

I don't know where Mr Nayler lives, but my experience of carrying out the same procedure in Ronda recently was completely different.

I lost my wallet late on a Friday night in the town. I cancelled all my cards over that weekend and on the Monday went to the Comisaría de Policía to make a denuncia. My TIE was cancelled immediately. As the Foreigners' office is in the same building, I managed to get to speak to a nice lady in that department. She gave me the necessary forms and offered me a cita previa for the following week. I was going to be away from Spain, so she gave me one for two weeks hence.

That seemed like a long time to me; obviously not, if Mark Nayler's experience is

anything to go by!

At that meeting I handed in my completed forms with proof of payment of the fee and they took my fingerprints. I had to go back three weeks later to collect my new card.

The whole process took about six weeks. It would have been only four, if I could have taken the first appointment offered. Pretty efficient, I reckon. Pedro Sánchez is to be praised, methinks, for introducing such a well-organised system, in Ronda, at least.

Perhaps you should move to Ronda, Mr Nayler, or, better still, not lose your TIE.

PAUL WHITELOCK

Money misspent

Recently a new two-lane 500-metre-long public road was built beside Aloha College. There are 17 access metal covers and frames on one side incorrectly installed now sinking which will have a detrimental effect to vehicles. If ever an example of taxpayers' money incorrectly misspent and road building incompetence this is it.

CHEVALIER JOE TIERNAN

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THE MUSIC MAKER
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Fridge of sighs

The irony of the very telephones which have consistently numbered and stifled our imaginations with their constant barrage of largely inconsequential information being called 'smart' is vividly striking. However, it certainly doesn't stop there.

Samsung have recently developed a new feature for their smart refrigerators (no, really). This involves a camera which is able to identify what food you have in your fridge and suggest recipes that you can make with the available ingredients. I'd love to see what it could do with the cooled fayre available in my house: half a tub of margarine, some cider apple vinegar (absolutely no idea), an onion, three carrots that have seen better days, some bits of bacon, two eggs laid some time during the Boer War, six cherry tomatoes and a few mushrooms (these could conceivably be the direct offspring of the ageing carrots). I think the only possi-

ble conclusion that even the smartest app in the world could come up with would be some kind of ghastly soup concoction or a new recipe for penicillin.

Whenever I go to other people's houses, their fridges are unfailingly replete with an ample range of foodstuffs guaranteed to satisfy every whim of even the most discerning palate: a selection of hams, cheeses, sauces, wines and all manner of fruit and vegetables. Plus loads of jars of things that surely must have been sitting there longer than my carrots. There are two possible explanations for this. First, these people actually live like this and dine in the manner of Henry VIII every evening or, alternatively, they leg it to the shops the day before I arrive just because they're having somebody round and normally the contents of their fridge is as baffling and unappetising as mine. I do hope it's the latter, otherwise my life is little more than

a shameful sham.

A spokesperson for Samsung, who may or may not have a massive forehead and ill-fitting spectacles, said, "The average person wastes 238 pounds of food annually, making up 21% of the food they buy. Whisk's Food A.I. understands what's in your fridge and recommends recipes to use those ingredients up before they go bad." And there's the rub.

If you've got a fridge consistently jam-packed with a vast range of goodies, the chances are you'll end up wasting a fair share of what's in there. If, on the other hand, your selection of victuals is, let's say, rather more minimalist, your corresponding wastage will be much less which, I'm sure you'll agree, makes you an infinitely better person and a fine, upstanding citizen.

All of which leaves only one remaining question: why on earth did I once buy a bottle of apple cider vinegar?

IDÍGORAS



SUR in English

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Numbers

I've been failing maths since my last year at primary school. That summer was the first that I spent going to extra classes every morning so that I wouldn't have to retake the whole year. I passed the exam in September and chose pure sciences at secondary school so I could be in the same class as my best friend.

I found physics and chemistry really hard work, but I had to cheat at maths all the way through. My best friend really

was my best friend and we swapped papers in every exam.

On 8 March I was driving and listening to the radio. All day they were talking about women in science, the lack of motivation due to a variety of factors, such as the lack of examples to follow, gender stereotypes, unconscious bias and structural barriers.

I think about my experience and, except for the wonderful teacher I had at night school (something I had to go

through when I decided I wanted to go to university) where I got top marks all the time, I failed with all the others as they didn't make maths attractive.

They made it so I was scared when I walked into the class. Scared of the blackboard, scared of the numbers, scared of the subject. However the woman at night school taught maths in another light. Thanks to her, I lost my insecurity and my ineptitude in mathematics.

Today I can say that my work is 50 per cent words and 50 per cent numbers. I do my household and work accounts and I'm addicted to Excel spreadsheets.

Listening to the radio, I got the impression that what happened to me won't happen to girls in the future.

I like to think of the efforts that are being made and the paths being opened to make sure talent is not going unnoticed.

Talent such as that of those elderly women who can't read or write but still manage to administer their household finances.

These numbers have nothing to do with academic study and everything to do with survival. They are our lances and arrows. Contemporary hunting tools. For the most extreme survival.

I think it is so important for teaching to start from the beginning with care and affection, being treated with love rather than as a punishment.

Now I have a lock of grey hair on my forehead it's good to think that all that happened to me in the 80s and 90s. That I am of another generation and it doesn't happen any more. That teaching has to help you to shine, to find your diamond. And teach you to do sums without having to swap exam papers.



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IN THE FRAME

A musical journey from Motherwell to the Costa del Sol

Dex Park, who arrived in Malaga in 2003, talks to SUR in English about his early years in Glasgow and his life and career on the coast

TONY BRYANT



The Costa del Sol has long been known for its varied and exciting music scene. The region is popular with musicians from all over the globe, some of whom have been associated with world-renowned bands, while others are semi-professional musicians who are happy to earn a mediocre living performing along the coast.

Dex Park is a musician who arrived on the Costa del Sol in 2003 and has since gained a reputation for his incredible musicianship by performing in several established bands on the Costa, as well as being a regular face at the numerous jam sessions that bring together musicians from all over the province.

Dex is not a former member of a chart-topping rock band but he has had an interesting career.

Born in Motherwell in 1958, he began playing guitar in his early teens and went on to perform in an established Glasgow-based rock band called Dodger who appeared on the popular television programme, Back on the Streets.

Dex grew up believing he was the only musician in the fam-

ily, although he would learn later in life that his grandmother, who died before he was born, was a respected musician.

"Neither of my parents were musicians. I was around 20 when mother told me that my grandmother was a violinist and pianist who had played in the Scottish National Orchestra. This surprised me, but it could explain from where my musical roots evolve," the proud Scot tells SUR in English.

Passion for the Costa

The guitarist and vocalist, who studied Music Production and Sound Engineering at Glasgow College, came to live on the Costa del Sol with his family after enjoying numerous holidays in the area. They first settled in Fuengirola although later decided to move to a remote town in the Granada province. They returned to the coast one year later and set up home in El Faro.

"We had visited the coast for several holidays and we had talked about coming to live here many times. One day we just did it. We have no regrets about coming to live here. It's fantastic. We love this area,"



Dex Park has established himself as one of the most respected musicians on the Costa del Sol. SUR

he explains.

Before coming to live in Spain, Dex, who will celebrate his 65th birthday in July, was performing in an eight-piece band called Mac Floyd, a project that would prove beneficial many years later on the coast.

"We were a Pink Floyd tribute and at that time tribute bands hadn't really taken off, so we kind of got in there quite early on. We gigged all over the country in a van and then over to Belgium. It was a lot of travelling, but great fun," he says.

Since arriving in Spain, Dex has formed several popular groups, including Dirty Little Secrets, a pop and rock covers band; and Stone F3ee, a band that covered Hendrix, Clapton and Cream songs.

His current project is a five-piece band called Dead Ringer,

"We visited the coast for several holidays and we had talked about coming to live here many times. One day we just did it. We have no regrets"

a tribute to Meat Loaf, which he has taken to some of the top entertainment venues along the coast. He also performs in a duo called the Disclaimers, which is a scaled-down version of Dead Ringer.

"The five-piece is for the larger venues but we came up with the duo so we can perform at smaller bars and clubs. The duo is easier to organise because most of the members of the five-piece band also play in

other groups, so it can be difficult to get that together," he explains.

Along with his tribute bands, Dex is also one of the musicians who is participating in the Pink Floyd Experience, an ensemble of around a dozen local musicians and vocalists that are preparing for a one-off performance in the Benalmádena auditorium on Saturday 27 May. The project, the idea of fellow musician Steve Hughes, includes some of the coast's most celebrated performers who have come together to present the ultimate Pink Floyd experience.

"I was very happy to be asked to participate in this project. It's a lot of work, but it is all going to plan. It involves some great musicians and singers, so this is a great project to be involved with," he concludes.

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Malaga feasts on Spanish film

SUR
There has been a buzz in the air in Malaga this week after the city's annual film festival opened last weekend.

The warm, sunny weather has added the perfect backdrop to the style and glamour provided by the stream of actors and directors posing for cameras on Muelle Uno quayside and outside the Cervantes theatre and Albéniz cinema, two of the main venues for the screenings and events.

Meanwhile, street terraces have been spilling over all week with lanyard-wearing reporters, camera crews and professionals of the film industry, a sign of Malaga's growing importance on the global festival scene.

The Malaga festival is all about Spanish and Latin American film with around 200 screenings throughout this week.

Twenty films are competing in the main competition for the coveted 'biznaga' prizes, named after and made in the shape of the iconic flowers made with jasmine that are traditionally sold in the city's streets.

The events got off the ground last Friday with the opening gala



Singer Raphael on the red carpet outside the Cervantes theatre before receiving his honorary award at the gala on Friday. **M. FERNÁNDEZ**

at the Cervantes theatre, where the closing awards ceremony takes place on Saturday. A concert with pop group Amaral rounds off the festival on Sunday.



Spanish actress Blanca Portillo was awarded the Malaga SUR prize for her career that spans four decades. **MIGUE FERNÁNDEZ**



Flamenco singer Miguel Poveda takes selfie with fans before the gala. **B. L.**



Elena Sánchez and Marta Hazas presented the gala. **M. F.**

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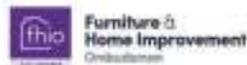
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THE STORY BEHIND A PLACE NAME

Cártama

From a village to a large Iberian town

The first records of the place name Cartima appear in Roman epigraphy, although the name has a clear Phoenician influence

antine-Visigothic buildings. These are covered with more recent constructions such as the shrine of Nuestra Señora de los Remedios and the Renaissance parish church of San Pedro. Despite all these changes, the town's name has remained intact.

The name Cártama evolved from Cartima, a word with a long history that lends its name to a theatre and schools in the town. This place name has the same root as Carthage, an ancient city in North Africa (in present-day Tunisia) that was the capital of the Punic state

founded by Phoenician emigrants.

Iberian town

As explained by the municipal archaeologist, Francisco Melero, this place name arose in the Phoenician-Punic context in the 6th century BCE.

"It is the moment in which the Phoenician colonisations of the south of the [Iberian] peninsula took place. Cártama was a village and later became an



An aerial view of modern-day Cártama. SUR

Iberian town, but the name has a clear Phoenician influence," he explained.

This root corresponds to populations that have the character of a city or large town, according to Melero.

"In Iberian times, Cartima became a large town. Although we do not have any Phoenician records that tell us, the origin is in that context."

The archaeologist points out that the name of Cartima does not appear in the works of the Greek or Latin authors "despite being an important town".

He says that the name appears for the first time in the Roman epigraphy found dur-

ing the excavations of the ancient basilica. "We see it on the pedestals of statues of gods, such as Iunia Rústica, which reads: first and perpetual priestess of Cartima."

Thus, he says, the first empirical proof of this name are the Roman epigraphs.

Although the Hispano-Roman populations evolved towards the Visigoths and Byzantines, all of these new communities maintained the site and also the name. Cartima appears written in Islamic documents from the 9th and 10th centuries, in the context of the revolt of Omar ben Hafsún.

"There was a perpetuity in

LANGUAGE FOOTNOTE

Ciudad	Town / City
Constitución	Constitution
Superponer	To superimpose
Vivienda	Dwelling
Muralla	Wall
Basílica	Basilica
Iglesia	Church
Edificio	Building
Visigodo	Visigoth
Bizantino	Byzantine
Ermita	Shrine
Remedio	Remedy
Renacimiento	Renaissance
Renacentista	Renaissance (adj.)
Raíz	Root
Emigrante	Emigrant
Instituto	Secondary school

Bilingual crossword inside back page

medieval times. It is significant that the Muslims, when they occupied the [Iberian] peninsula in the eighth century, also kept the name. At that time, remains of the Roman town were still visible."

Although the place name has Phoenician-Punic roots, the archaeologist explains the proof of a large town standing on the site in Iberian times.

"The necropolises that we have found were Iberian, and all the tombs have weapons and ceramics from those communities. It is a hybrid between the great city of the bay of Malaga, where the Phoenicians settled, and the Guadalhorce valley with its Iberian communities. This name is a paradigm that has many influences," he said.



ANDREA JIMÉNEZ

Cártama is one of the towns in Malaga province with the longest history. Digging in the Plaza de la Constitución has offered evidence of how layers of the town's past have been continuously superimposed over the last 2,800 years. This starts with dwellings from the Turdetanian civilisation and climbs up through houses and walls of an Iberian town, a Roman basilica and Byz-

ANDALUSIAN BIRD WATCH PETER JONES

Eagles in the skies

The Andalucía Bird Society recommends looking out for raptors and large soaring birds as they return to Europe

March is the big birding hurrah as hundreds, sometimes thousands, of raptors and large soaring birds arrive daily to our shores here in Andalucía. As these birds arrive on their northern journey from Africa, birdwatchers from across Europe and beyond head in the opposite direction to witness this migration from the southernmost outpost of the Iberian Peninsula, where the shortest sea crossing between neighbouring

Morocco and Spain exists and the 14km flyway concentrates gatherings of these large birds as they enter Europe. It is a spectacle and one of the many wonders of nature, truly an experience worth seeking by everyone.

Of course, many smaller birds will be making the same crossing over the Strait of Gibraltar with a great number choosing to make the journey at night-time to avoid predators under cover of darkness.



The short-toed eagle. PETER JONES

Throughout March to and including May, the spectacle of migration will be the focus of attention for a great many birdwatchers. I highly recommend readers spending a morning or even a whole day down on the southern coast between Algeciras and Tarifa, where there are many viewing points to see raptors in large numbers and at very close quarters.

I will be making an effort during March to visit Tarifa, but most of my days will be spent in my mountains as some of our birds are already beginning their breeding season and it is an opportunity for me to assess populations and be hopeful that numbers might increase on the previous year. I will be spending my time like some demented Mother Hen, worrying, and fretting over favourite birds, hoping they have sur-

vived the rigours of winter and hoping to renew my familiarity with specific pairs and individuals. It might be frowned upon in certain quarters, but I have been attracted to individual birds and enjoy reacquainting myself with these friends in the wild.

Another aspect covered by my wanderings in the mountains during March is the dazzling springtime flower show, coloured clusters of spring flowering plants that will be forming a veritable tapestry of vibrant colour on meadows and the understorey of our open woodlands.

I am hoping you will all enjoy the beginnings of our spring and find time to spend with our wonderful regional wildlife.

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Young things

In Picasso's footsteps... A fresh take on existential angst

REVIEW
GEORGINA
OLIVER



Can you hear that flourish of paso doble-like drumrolls heralding Celebration Picasso 1973-2023: the international art scene's grand parade of events linked to the 50th anniversary of the death of Malaga's eternal "favourite son"? Brit fashion designer extraordinaire Paul Smith has given the Musée Picasso in Paris a multi-hued makeover featuring wallpaper that echoes his signature bright-coloured shirt stripes, and - speaking of jubilees - Museo Picasso Málaga will be celebrating its twentieth with two major tributes; the first (Picasso: Matter and Body) opens in May, heading next for Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum, while the second will highlight the mega iconic artist's influence on future generations.

In the same celebratory spirit, the Malagueta bullring's Cultural Centre (Paseo Reding, 9) presents Picasso y los Años Dorados de la Costa Azul (Picasso and the Golden Years of the Côte d'Azur); this recently inaugurated exhibition incorporating 142 "Pablo moments" seized by Irish photographer Edward Quinn will be the perfect accompaniment to a festive Picassian bullfight scheduled on 8 April (the day of this emi-

Guernica paved the way for the bold graphic effects and dramatic imagery deployed by urban artists today



The four young artists who created the mural at the Alianza Francesa. **SUR**

nently photogenic aficionado's passing). Even the most adamant anti-corrída opponents may succumb to the charm of Quinn's candidly captured family and celebrity snaps, filled with Mediterranean joie de vivre.

Ephemeral mural

What would Pablo Ruiz Picasso think of the profusion of art memes representing his world-famous Guernica as a symbol of present-day Disasters of War? Who knows? However, it is hardly surprising that his XXL oil on canvas unveiled at the Paris World Fair in 1937 - before being entrusted to New York's MoMA during the Franco era, and finally entering the

permanent collection of Madrid's Reina Sofía museum - has continued to be a universal source of inspiration; often alluded to in street art and skate culture, it paved the way for the bold graphic effects and dramatic imagery deployed by urban artists today.

L'Émotion du Moment is the title of a collective project exploring the mood of the moment, to be seen until 27 May at the Alianza Francesa French language institute and cultural centre (Calle Canales, 11 - within steps of María Zambrano train station). Taking its cue from Fleurs du Mal (Flowers of Evil) poet Charles Baudelaire and the existential angst he expressed in numerous es-

says, the star attraction of this collaboration between YMAS (Young Malaga-based Artists) is a striking ephemeral mural. Perhaps because it consists of converging black and white symbols and distorted figures, Picasso's Guernica springs to mind, but the comparison with the 20th century trailblazer stops there. The acute sense of terror and physical pain associated with the Civil War bombings is absent from this stream of consciousness collaboration spotlighting the mental health issues that affected so many youngsters under lockdown.

Tattoo artist Diego alias Flores Cósmico explains that his fellow participants, who all go by pseudonyms (Misfortune,

Cristóbal Lápiz, Perpetual), pooled their resources, in "cocktail shaker" mode: "We brainstormed, each of us coming up with ideas, which we wove into the final result, using a projector."

Nobody's business

How would the creator of Guernica react to the news that one of France's best-known conceptualists, Jean-Pierre Raynaud, has donated an artwork inspired by his anti-war masterpiece to Ukraine's National Museum of Art? The author's detractors consider that his "self-proclaimed homage" is out of place, that it has nothing in common with the original other than its dimensions (7.7 x 3.49 metres), whereas Raynaud claims that his updated version displaying no-entry signs and black bars on a white background is a protest against violence, no more no less: "I am not an anecdotal artist. I show the thought, not the details."

Only 22 and Almost Famous (if you remember the movie, you're showing your age...), Eva aka VAZ discussed her thought-provoking installation at Galería JM (Calle Duquesa de Parcent, 12 - in the arty Soho district - till 13 May), over a beer. A friend of Diego's, VAZ rolled up her sleeve to reveal a tattoo by... guess who? Flores Cósmico.

The main thread of her basement show, incorporating black ink drawings of little "Nobodies" - caught in the labyrinth of existence (represented by expanses of parallel hatching or unbroken circular lines) - is the concept of "heterotopia" (alternative spaces within spaces) developed by French Theory philosopher Michel Foucault. "I fell in love with it, and took it one step further."

About to move on, this Malaga-born English-speaker - a St George's alumna, who studied fine art in Dublin and London as a teen - is the kind of kid who doesn't stay in any one place too long. Next stop: Berlin, for a two-year art-related MA focusing on "space strategies". What else?



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GRANADA

C.S. HS Group is an expert in water treatment. The company's founder, Heribert Schneider, has been working for more than 40 years in the sector. He started his career in the sewage, industrial and drinking-water treatment business. He has worked at the Aabachtalsperre Reservoir for the Bad Wünnenberg (West Germany) Water Association. It was there that Herr Schneider learnt about the quality and production of drinking water and how to

measure and control permanently water quality. His professional expertise has been mainly focussed on water treatment and separation in international projects. Since 2010 Heribert has been living in Spain, more precisely in Granada, where he founded his company. Since its formation, the principal line of business has been in hospital engineering; developing water purification equipment and the treatment of dangerous liquids produced by clinical analysis laboratories. Some of the most well-known hospitals in Spain have benefitted from HS Group's technology. Its systems, to create ultrapure and pure water, are presently installed in more than 40 hospitals across Spain.

HS Group continues innovating and has now transferred the same technology used in hospitals to the home. "We can offer individual machines which produce

from one to 500 litres of purified water an hour. We can offer both standard and made-to-measure systems" explains Herr Schneider. These purifiers are able to remove lime, "we can soften hard water, especially in the coastal areas, and can use inverse osmosis to purify tap water and remove any kind of impurities". One of the main advantages of these systems is their easy installation and price. "We are manufacturers, this means that our machines are very affordable and do not need specialist maintenance".

One could say that Heribert Schneider has dedicated his life to water. His innovative water-purification systems have even travelled to Haiti. A hundred of his mobile purification systems, which do not need electricity, were donated to Caritas to combat the spread of cholera in that country.



Heribert Schneider.

Water is the fountain of life and the German businessman is a shining example of this. Thanks to his machines, thousands of people benefit, on a daily basis, from quality water which is now available as well to private households.



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GARDENING

The tree tomato

Solanum betaceum (synonym *Cyphomandra betaceum* and often called tomatillo or tree tomato) is a small tree or shrub native to the Andes and found in Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Bolivia and Indonesia. Although not frost hardy, it reportedly will survive temperatures as low as -2C, making it suitable for some inland areas as well as

the coast of southern Spain. A member of the potato family (*Solanaceae*), the tree tomato will reach a height of around five metres in ideal conditions, although around two metres is more common. It is evergreen but in cold winters may drop some of its leaves. The leaves are large

(up to 30cm by 20cm) and heart-shaped and covered with fine hairs.

From spring through to late summer, clusters of fragrant flowers up to 1cm across form. These are followed by glossy fruits which resemble a plum tomato. When ripe they are red or orange, as is the flesh, and are said to be aromatic with a sweet-sour flavour. In Indonesia they are used to make a chutney but they can also be used in sweet dishes such as ice-cream and jam. The fruits have a thin skin which is quite bitter but easily removed by submerging in boiling water.

An ideal location for a tree tomato would be in a spot that gets plenty of sun in the mornings and some shade in the afternoon. *Solanum betaceum* is not drought resistant and will need regular watering in the summer. It is not fussy about soil type but one with plenty of organic matter added is preferable.

The tree tomato is shallow rooted and may need staking in windy areas. It can be grown in the ground in temperate areas or in a large pot so it can be moved into a sheltered location in the winter.

Feeding every three weeks during the growing season and regularly pruning the branches will promote growth although a new tree may not fruit for two years while getting established.

Propagation is by cuttings or by seed.



Solanum betaceum leaves and flowers and fruit (inset). WIKIMEDIA

READERS' PHOTOS



SUE CHAPMAN

Exotic Bromeliads

Bromeliads are epiphytic, which means they grow in small pockets of soil trapped in clefts in rocks, tree branches etc but they are not parasitic. This example, a bird's nest bromeliad, was photographed by Sue Chapman who says, "this is growing in a pot on my terrace and has been out a couple of weeks now".



Richard and Doug Asfour/Coleman

Nature will find a way

This photo was sent by Richard and Doug who say, "message to self, when weeding between patio paving tiles be careful what you pull out. This white, touched with yellow, Freesia has self seeded underneath a marble coffee table. Left undisturbed nature will find a way to flourish".

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 they are out and about. Why not share them with others?

Email your photos to english@diariosur.es with a caption and a few words of explanation and you may get your photos published on this page. Alternatively, you can send them to us via Facebook ([surenglish](https://www.facebook.com/surenglish)) or Twitter (@SUR_English).



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EXHIBITIONS

Alicia Ramos Muñoz

MIJAS COSTA. Until 20 March. Centro Cultural La Cala.
Más de 40 Años Entre Pinceles (Over forty years among paint brushes) is the title of this exhibition by Alicia Ramos Muñoz.

Fernando Torres

MIJAS. Until 27 March. Casa Museo de Mijas.
Colores is the title of this exhibition of photos taken by Fernando Torres.

Faro Míguez

BENALMÁDENA. Until 26 May. Ormari Ceramic Art galleryC / Gabriel Escobar 26.
Seville artist Faro Míguez will be visiting the gallery at 6pm, 24 February for the inauguration of a series of his paintings entitled Fantasía. The collection reflects a world of imagination with animal themes in which the artist always hides a message and social criticism. There will also be a free art workshop for children after the inauguration.



Faro Míguez, Benalmádena.

Women who run the world

BENALMÁDENA. Until 23 July. Exhibition centre..
The Centro de Exposiciones is celebrating International Women's Day with an exhibition of photographs entitled Las Mujeres Que Llevan el Mundo. The collection consists of images taken by American artist, Lekha Singh.

Gallery Art Club

FUENGIROLA. Until 3 April. C/Quemada. Monday-Wednesday 11am-2pm. Thursday 5-9pm.
Exhibition of paintings inspired by the Axarquía countryside by Helen Hollmanns. Call: 637 559 039. www.galleryclub.com



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Reborn baby, Fuengirola

Reborn babies

FUENGIROLA. From 24 until 26 March. 4-9pm Fri; 11am-9pm Sat; 11am-8pm Sun. Hotel Las Palmeras, C/Martinez Catena.
The exhibition will consist of 80 Reborn babies, with their original certificates and a selection of their clothes and accessories. The exhibitors come from all over Spain. There will also be a charity raffle to win a Reborn baby to raise funds for Cordoba boy Hugo García Esquina who has cerebral palsy. More information: Carmen Madeja: 669818724

Ana Villalobos

ESTEPONA. Until 22 March. Casa de Las Tejerinas, Plaza de las Flores.
The latest exhibition at the gallery is a selection of paintings by Ana Villalobos.

Casa de Art

BENAHAVÍS. Parque Botánico Resort and Country Club, Las Lomas de Gualmina.
The gallery exhibits a selection of works by various artists as well as a hammered copper wall relief by the late sculptor, Rudy Haynal.

Museo Ralli

MARBELLA. Urb Coral Beach, Río Verde.
A selection of European contemporary art as well as unique pieces from emerging Latin-American artists in the permanent exhibition entitled Arte Europea: Surrealismo de Giorgio de Chirico a Francis Bacon. Free entry. During March there is a series of conferences and themed tours (in Spanish) www.museoralli.es

Sala Alfajar

MÁLAGA. Until 20 March. C/Císter1.
Karina Zothner: Al Oeste del Sur. An exhibition of large format paintings by Karina Zothner. www.alfajar.es

Museo Picasso Casa Natal

MÁLAGA. Until 28 May. Plaza de la Merced.
The Mallorcan artist Bernardí Roig will be exhibiting his works entitled El último rostro y la afonía del Minotauro. He is also exhibiting at the Museo Ruso and the Pompidou.
Picasso Ventana Abierta. Until 26 March. An exhibition of art created during the programme of art therapy supported by the Mental Health unit at Malaga hospital.

Archivo Municipal exhibition

MÁLAGA. Until 9 April. Salas Mingo-rance del Archivo Municipal, Alameda Principal.

Two-day blues, swing and rock and roll festival at Sunset Beach Club

Blues at Moonlight, which is usually held in November, will take place on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 March

TONY BRYANT

BENALMÁDENA. Fans of blues, rockabilly, honky-tonk and country music will enjoy the Blues at Moonlight Festival, which will be held at the Hotel Sunset Beach in Benalmádena Costa on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 March. This two-day version of the international rockabilly and American roots music festival, which is usually held in November, is organised by El Dandy Festivals.

The festival kicks off at 11pm on Saturday (doors open at 9pm) with a performance by the Jonas Molina Band, a blues outfit fronted by Madrid guitarist and singer Jonas Molina.

Molina began his career on the Madrid blues circuit performing his own compositions and covers of songs from the 1950s West Coast jump, swing and boogie scene. He soon established himself on the European



Bobby B will perform at Sunset Beach Club on Sunday 26 March. SUR

blues circuit, collaborating with numerous renowned artists such as Big Dez, Marco Cinnelli and Little G Weevil, among others.

His set pays tribute to legendary blues artists like Earl Hooker, Jimmy Vaughan and Duke Robillard, and he will also perform songs from his latest recording, Wiggle the Wig.

Local boy Bobby B and his band will bring the legendary music of Buddy Hollie and the Crickets to the stage on Sunday night (9pm). The talented young British musician has

earned a reputation on the Costa's music scene for his incredible musicianship, playing in several popular bands like The Jersey Boys and Route 66, as well as concentrating on his solo career.

The festival will also present popular American roots music DJ, Tall Mike.

Tickets to both concerts cost 15 euros in advance, or 20 euros at the door. There are also special packages for both nights and accommodation. For tickets and information, see www.bluesatmoonlight.com

Art for change exhibition. collection of 100 pieces to raise awareness about the Sustainable development goals. Mon-Fri 10am-1pm/5pm-8pm. Sat, Sun and holidays 10am-1pm.

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo MALAGA.

Friedrich Kunath. Until April There Must Be A Spanish Word For This Feeling is the title of the new exhibition at the CAC.

Imon Boy. Until 4 June. El principio de algo (The Start of Something) is the title of this exhibition. It is the first time that Imon Boy has held an solo exhibition at the CAC.

Joan Cornellà. Until 4 June. Dek Tau is the first solo exhibition by Joan Cornellà in a museum in Europe. The artist uses satire to show the dark side of human nature and surrealism to show exaggerated situations.

Gonzalo Lebrija. Until 30 April. Golden Hours is an exhibition by Mexican artist Gonzalo Lebrija which combines contemporary art, photography, sculptures and videos to reflect on existentialism beliefs.

MÁLAGA. CAC Málaga - La Coracha.
María Egea. Until 26 March. Malaga artist María Egea is exhibiting around 40 works created since 2010.

Picasso returns to la Malagueta.

MÁLAGA. Until 30 July. La Malagueta bullring.
The photographer Edward Quinn, took hundreds of intimate photos of Picasso from between 1951 and 1972.

They show a relaxed and happy Picasso, drawing with his children, family beach outings and playing a trumpet as well as attending a bullfight, one of Picasso's great loves.

Javier Calleja, Mr Günter, The Cat Show.

MÁLAGA. Until 6 September. Centro Cultural Fundación Unicaja, Plaza del Obispo.

The exhibition by this local artist is organised by Fundación Unicaja and Calleja Studio. The exhibition consists of large format sculptures and paintings in his iconic style.

L'émotion du moment

MÁLAGA. Until 27 May. Alianza Francesa, C/Canales.
A mural, based on the works of the nineteenth century French poet and art critic, Charles Baudelaire. The four styles of art that make up the mural, which aims to draw attention to mental health, were created by a group of artists called No Glory.

Museo Carmen Thyssen

MÁLAGA. C/ Compañía, 10. 10am - 8pm Tuesday to Sunday.
Street Life. Lisette Model and Helen Lewitt in New York. Until 11 June. The exhibition consists of around 20 images from the Mapfre Foundation of street life in the 1940s taken by women photographers Lisette Model and Helen Lewitt.

Luis Feito. La pintura misma. Colección del artista (1956-1962). Until 11

June. A collection of paintings of Luis Feito. www.carmenthyssen-malaga.org

Museo Revello de Toro

MÁLAGA. C/Fligidos, 29015.
Revello de Toro paintings in Fundación Unicaja's collection. Until 30 April. The Museo Revello de Toro is displaying nine portraits currently held in Fundación Unicaja's art collection.

Museo Jorge Rando

MÁLAGA. Until 26 September. C/ Cruz del Molinillo.
The new exhibitions at the Jorge Rando are Años jóvenes de un viejo maestro (1st part) and, from 20 March, Encuentro en la Arena in which Jorge Rando reflects on the bullfighting tradition and Picasso's love of the spectacle. www.jorgerando.org



Thyssen museum, Malaga

Casa Gerald Brenan

MALAGA. C/ Torremolinos. The exhibition series Estrellas para Brenan begins with an exhibition entitled Laberinto y Locura by Malaga artist Diego Santos. The works are centred on the legendary dancer Josephine Baker who reached the peak of her career in the mid-twentieth century.

Margaret Riordan

TORROX PUEBLO. Until April. La Casa Hotel, C/Baja. Local artist, Margaret Riordan is exhibiting some of her work.

Arte Sur En Femenino

ALMUÑÉCAR. Until 18 March. Casa de la Cultura. The Sala Rowland Fade in the culture centre will be displaying a collection of paintings by the Arte Sur association. The paintings, by eighteen



Diego Santos, Casa Brenan

female artists, aims to highlight the importance of women in society today in honour of International Woman's Day.

Coby Bloemsma

EL MORCHE. Until 23 March, Bio Beach Club. Torrox artist Coby Bloemsma is exhibiting a selection of her work.

Jan Katuin

IZNÁJAR. From 13 April until 28 May. Iznájar castle, Cordoba. Dutch photographer, Jan Katuin, will be exhibiting a selection of his photographs

MUSIC AND DANCE

La Cochera Cabaret

MALAGA. Avda de los Guindos. **18 March, 10pm.** Mario Díaz. **21 March, 9pm.** Alejandro Lerner. **24 March, 9pm.** AWA. Tickets: www.lacocheraentra-das.com/

Clarence Jazz Club

TORREMOLINOS. Calle Danza Invisible, 8. **17 March, 10pm.** Ayuga Trío. **18 March, 10pm.** Curtis Lundy **19 March, 6pm.** Piano jazz special: Dave Brubeck. **23 March, 10pm.** Jazz jam session. **24 March, 10pm.** Anti Sarpilla Trío. Tickets: www.clarencejazzclub.com

Velvet Club

MALAGA. C/Convalcientes, 11.

24, 25 March, 10pm. Polar live Weekend with Polar Nova, Martiz, Ayllon (Fri) and Respiro, Fulcanelli and Feo (Sat). Tickets: www.entradium.com or www.velvetclub.ess

Sala Trinchera

MALAGA. C/ Parauta. **17 March, 9pm.** Dano. Tickets: www.mecen.es

Cazbah Live Lounge

LA CALA DE MIJAS. Torrenueva, Avenida de Rota. 8pm **17 March, 9pm.** Spiders From Mars, Bowie tribute/Glam Rock band. **18 March, 8pm.** Charity Gala for children's cancer charity, Fundación Olivares. Posh frocks and dicky bow ties necessary. With tribute acts to Michael Bubl  and Frank Sinatra.. **23 March, 9pm.** Stereo Star Band. **24 March, 9.30pm.** Pop Party, Layla & 5 Minute Memory band (11.30pm). Info: the Cazbah Live Lounge Facebook page. Tickets: www.event-brite.es

Ventana Abierta Jazz Club

NERJA. Hotel Plaza Cavana, C/Granada. **24 March, 8pm.** Daniel Cano Quartet. www.ventana-abierta.es Call: 690073871

The Malaga Philharmonic Orchestra

MALAGA. **18 March, 7pm.** Conservatorio Superior de M sica de M laga. The 50th anniversary of the first con-



Jan Katuin, Izn jar

cert by Maestro Octav Calleya in Malaga. <http://orquestafilarmonicade-malaga.com>

Louie Louie Bar

ESTEPONA. Estepona port. **17 March, 11pm.** The Fargo Railroad Co. **17 March, 1am.** We Are Not DJs. **18 March, 9.30pm.** The KP Band. **18 March, 11.30pm.** Rata Pend n. **24 March, 11pm.** I'm An Alligator. **24 March, 1am.** We Are Not DJs. www.louielouierockbar.com/

Rob Sas

TORROX. 25 March, 8.30pm. Bar Los Amigos. Reservations recommended. **SEVILLE.** 1 April, 9pm. Mart n de la Jara. Kagarso Rock Festival. Facebook: Kolectivorocksierasur. Rob Sas is a veteran musician of Brit-

ish Rock of the 80s and has played alongside the John Coghlan Band (ex Status Quo); Nick Simper (Deep Purple) and Lindsay Bridgewater (Ozzy Osbourne) among others.

Miradas Al Sur

MALAGA. 17 March, 7pm. Sala de Conciertos Mar a Cristina. Free. Paula Coronas and the Atenea Ensemble strings quartet will be in concert.

Concert for Lent

MALAGA. 19 March, 7.30pm. Iglesia de San Juan Bautista. The Banda Municipal de M sica will be playing sacral music in the first half and processional in the second half of the concert.

Da Bruno

MARBELLA. Da Bruno Sul Mare. Paseo Mar timo. Thursdays piano music with Nikki and Sundays Sax and piano with Diario and Nikki. **22 March, 8.30pm.** Tribute to Tina Turner. To book a table call 95290 3318 or make a reservation online: www.dabruno.com/es-sul-mare

Harmonica Baroque Ensemble

MALAGA. 21 March, 8pm. Teatro Cervantes, C/Ramos Mar n. Harmonica Baroque Ensemble concert celebrating the works of Bach starring Antonio Serrano, Daniel Oyarz bal and Josetxu Obreg n. Book tickets online at www.unientradas.es

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MUSIC AND DANCE

Religious music series

MALAGA. From 21 until 24 March. Teatro Cervantes.

The series will include music by composers such as Bach, Buxtehude, Barbieri and Haydn among others, by the La Spagna music group accompanied by the El León de Oro choir.

There will also be some contemporary instrumentals by Harmonica Baroque and local group En Armonia. Tickets: www.unientradas.es

Sacral and ancient music

FRIGILIANA, ALMÁCHAR, COM-PETA. 19, 25 March, 1pm. Free

19 March. Parroquia de San Mateo Apóstolo, Almáchar.

25 March. Iglesia de Ntra Sra de la Asunción. Cómpeta.

The Cuarteto Con Fuoco with Antonio del Pino will be playing sixteenth century sonatas and works by Bach, Purcell and Pachebell among others. Reservations: www.ventana-abierta.es / 690073871

FLAMENCO

Flamenco show

ESTEPONA. 18 March, 9.30pm.

Peña Flamenca de Estepona, C/ Fuerzas Armadas.

A flamenco show with Vicente Román and Mamen Ruiz (vocals), Rubén Portillo (guitar), Carrete de Málaga and Luisa Chicano (dance). Reservations, call: 952 80 31 83 or 683 14 11 36 for more information.

A Tribute to Miguel de Molina

MALAGA. 11, 12 April, Teatro Cervantes.

The flamenco company Antonio de Verónica y Sara Cortés will be performing a special tribute to the life of Malaga singer Miguel de Molina. Tickets: www.unientradas.es or www.teatrocervantes.com

CHARITY

ARCH

ALHAURÍN EL GRANDE. Sundays, 10am-2pm. Hacienda Moreno, Viña Borrego.



The cast of My Fair Lady outside the Salón Varietés Theatre in Fuengirola during a dress rehearsal. **SUR**

Humorous tale of rags to riches comes to the Salón Varietés

The theatre's latest production, My Fair Lady, tells the story of the bizarre relationship of a high-society professor and a cockney flower girl

TONY BRYANT

FUENGIROLA. The Salón Varietés Theatre in Fuengirola will launch the first of one of its "big three" shows this weekend, a ten-night performance of the popular musical, My Fair Lady, which runs from tonight (Friday) until Sunday

26 March.

Ranked among the top 100 greatest American films of all time, the production is based on George Bernard Shaw's 1913 play Pygmalion, the amusing story of Eliza Doolittle, a cockney flower girl at Covent Garden market who meets the esteemed professor of speech and linguistics, Henry Higgins.

After being ridiculed by his colleague Colonel Pickering about Eliza's unrefined language skills and equally brash character, Higgins claims that he will teach Eliza to speak like

a lady of the highest society within six months.

Eliza, intrigued, accepts, although her father attempts to capitalise on Eliza's new lifestyle. Eliza persists and blossoms into a lady ready for Royal Ascot and a Royal Ball. She catches the eye of Freddie Enysford Hill and, smitten by her beauty and her cockney small talk, pursues and eventually persuades her to begin a life with him.

Rags to riches tale

The Salón Varietés Theatre's production of this well-loved,

amusing, rags-to-riches tale takes inspiration from both the stage and film versions and will include exquisite costumery, musical production and choreography.

The production is directed by John Gale and consists of a talented ensemble of singers, dancers and actors led by Costa favourite Melissa Carver as Eliza Doolittle. The cast will also include Tim Alexander as Henry Higgins, Peter Oliver as Colonel Pickering, Keith Spitalnick as Alfred Doolittle, Sheila Sanderson-Wohlmuth as Mrs Pierce, Nathan Homan as Freddie Enysford Hill, along with a supporting cast of around 15 performers.

With musical direction by James Burn and choreography by Alexandra Avery, the show is full of musical theatre favourites, such as Wouldn't it be Lovely, The Rain in Spain, I Could Have Danced All Night and Get Me to the Church on Time, among others.

The show will start each night at 7.30pm, (Sunday 7pm), while on Saturday 25 March the performance will take place at 2pm.

Tickets, which cost 20 euros, can be reserved on www.salon-varietes.com, or from the theatre's box office Monday to Friday between 11am and 2.30pm. Early reservations are recommended.

People with restricted mobility who require wheelchair space must make their reservation at the box office and not online (Box office call: 952 474542).

The ARCH team at the Rescue Centre for Horses and Donkeys are open Sundays and volunteers are on hand to explain the charity's work. More information on Facebook: Centro Andalusi de Rescate de Caballos or www.horserescuespain.org

ACE Dog Shelter Spring Fundraiser Dinner

FUENGIROLA. 18 March, 7pm. Vinea Restaurant (Paseo Marítimo).

The event begins with a complimentary glass of Cava, followed by a three-course dinner. Entertainment provided by singer Laura

Elen. There will also be a raffle. Tickets 35€ (includes a 13€ donation to ACE) bought in advance from Vinea, Ibea Insurance (Fuengirola). Or call: 647647671 / 606145359 / 711039124 or email: info@ace-charity.org

FIESTAS AND FERIAS

St Patrick's Day

FUENGIROLA. 17, 18 March. Caseta taurina. Fairground. Entry 2€.

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Fiesta de San José

LA HERRADURA. Until 19 March. The town hall is planning various activities to celebrate the festival of the town's patron saint. The Feria de Día takes place in the Jardines del Castillo this year.
VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. 18 March. The area of the town known as Triana is celebrating the Día de San José with live music, a procession and lots of activities for all the family.

MORE IDEAS

MOMA Motorbike Show

MALAGA. 24-26 March. Palacio de Ferias y Congresos. 8€. The show will include not only a



Fiesta de San José, La Herradura

wide range of models of motorbikes for sale but also tools, clothing and accessories for everything to do with motorbikes. There are around 50 makes of motorbikes represented at the event which will include the latest in electric motorbikes and a testing track, exhibitions and stunts. www.eventosmotor.com

Madinat Balish

VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA. 18 March, 10.30pm. Leaving from Plaza de la Constitución.

A tour of the narrow streets and experience the old medina of Vélez-Málaga with performances by actors playing historical figures. Duration 2.5 hours approx. 13€ in advance or 15€ on the day. Call 628 665 670 or email: sharqandalus@gmail.com

Lux Mundi

FUENGIROLA. Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre, C/Nueva 3.

Taizé Prayer. 17 March 6pm at San José church. Send an email to be included in prayers: luxmundif@gmail.com.

Coach trip to Vélez and Torre del Mar. 22 March. A guided tour of the historical parts of Vélez-Málaga followed by free time in Torre del Mar. Tickets: 25€ or 22€ with a Friend of Lux Mundi card. Call: 952 474 840 or email: luxmundif@gmail.com

O. V. FILMS

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



MOMA bike show, Malaga

night screenings weekends only.

Yelmo Cines, Plaza Mayor

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

Creed III: 12.25 (Sun).

Scream VI: 14.25 (Sun).

Everything, Everywhere, All At Once: 19.10 (Sun).

Shazam! Fury of the Gods: 12.15 (Sun); 19.40 (Tues).

Watcher: 20.20 (Tues).

Yelmo Cines, Rincón

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

Everything, Everywhere, All At Once: 19.00 (Tues).

Creed III: 21.50 (Tues).

Scream VI: 17.20 (Tues).

Shazam! Fury of the Gods: 19.40 (Tues).

What's Love Got To Do With It: 17.30

(Tues)

Yelmo Cines, Vialia

MALAGA. Centro Comercial Vialia. Tel: 902220922

The Whale: 13.20 (Sun).

The Fabelmans: 20.20 (Tues).

Shazam! Fury of the Gods: 13.00 (Sun); 19.40 (Tues).

The Banshees Of Inisherin: 12.35 (Sun).

Watcher: 20.10 (Tues).

Scream VI: 12.45 (Sun); 19.30 (Tues).

Creed III: 19.40 (Tues).

Opera: Coppelia: (Sun).

Cinesur Miramar

FUENGIROLA. Avda de la Encarnación. Tel: 952198600.

Opera: Turandot: 20.15 (Wed)

Raging Bull: 20.00 (Tues).

Cinesur Ingenio

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

Scream VI: 19.00 (Tues).

Raging Bull: 20.00 (Tues).

John Wick 4: 20.00 (Thurs).

Shazam! Fury Of The Gods: 17.40 18.00 (every day); 17.30 (Wed).

Opera: Turandot: 20.15 (22 March)

Red Dog

PUERTO BANÚS. Avda Julio Iglesias. <https://reddogcinemas.com/> 20 to 26 Jan.

Creed III: 12.00, 15.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.15, 19.30 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).

Shazam! Fury Of The Gods: 12.00, 15.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.00 (Fri, Mon-Thurs); 19.30 (every day).

Watcher: 17.15 (Fri, Mon-Thurs), 15.30, 20.00 (Sat, Sun)

Puss In Boots, The Last Wish: 12.00, 15.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.00 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).

Scream VI: 15.00, 19.40 (Sat, Sun); 17.15, 19.30 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).

Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania: 17.00 (Sat, Sun); 19.00 (Fri, Mon-Thurs).

Dungeons and Dragons: Honour Among Thieves: 19.20 (Sun).

What's Love Got To Do With It: 15.00 (Sat, Sun); 17.15 (every day).

Autocine Málaga

MALAGA. Guadalhorce Industrial Estate. Ctra. de la Azucarera Intelhorce.

www.autocines.com/cine-malaga/
Creed III: 21.00 (Until 23 March).

Cine Albéniz

MALAGA. C/ Alcazaba, 4. Tel: 902360295.

www.cinealbeniz.com

Triangle of Sadness: 17.00 (Mon-Thurs).

The Quiet Girl: 18.20 (Mon-Thurs)

Kineopolis La Cañada

MARBELLA. Crta Ojén. La Cañada Centro Comercial.

Shazam! Fury of the Gods: 18.00 (Mon-Thurs); 18.15 (Fri-Sun).

Scream VI: 19.40 (Mon-Thurs).

Louis Tomlinson: All Of Those Voices: 20.00 (Wed).

Everything, Everywhere, All At Once: 20.00 (Mon, Tues, Thurs); 20.40 (Wed); 20.45 (Fri, Sat).

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Vaping, not as harmless as people think

Fashionable. Scientists have found that vaping is not as innocuous as it seems and can damage lungs and impede breathing



It seems that vaping isn't as innocuous as it seems. Health care professionals have been warning about this ever since vaping began to be

fashionable, over ten years ago now, and new scientific evidence has provided additional data about how harmful it can be. A study by the Lawson Health

Research Institute, one of the most prestigious in Canada, has concluded that vaping can damage what is known as the pulmonary surfactant, a substance

in the lungs which is needed to facilitate the respiratory function. A lack of it can make breathing difficult, or even impossible.

The authors of the work, which has been published in the renowned Plos One magazine, admit that there is still no scientific evidence to confirm this



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other words checked by another research team who carry out exactly the same procedures to see if they reach the same conclusions, any science requires years of monitoring before the evidence can be considered conclusive. That is how scientific method works.

Nevertheless, practically all the studies carried out since electronic cigarettes appeared on the market point in the same direction: vaping is also harmful to health, as specialist Joseba Zabala, of the National Committee for the Prevention of Smoking (CNPT), has pointed out.

Some studies, although they are fewer in number, have preferred to focus on the advantages of this type of device to help people give up smoking.

Most of those are financed by the tobacco industry, "which has the greatest interest in extending vaping," says Zabala.

"They have found it to be a real bonanza. More than 80 per cent of new smokers, especially adolescents, start by using e-cigarettes, but what they think of as something innocuous can end up as an addiction".

BE CAREFUL WITH VAPING

What's wrong with it

A starting point, for an addiction to tobacco

A study by the Spanish Society of GPs (SemFYC) showed that 80% of teenagers who take up smoking started by using electronic cigarettes. One in every two say they have vaped occasionally or on a regular basis.

Harm, not as much but still a lot

Vaping appears to cause less damage than tobacco, because you inhale fewer toxic substances. But it is not innocuous. E-cigarettes also contain nicotine, and propylene glycol turns into drops (vapour) when it reaches 300 degrees, but solidifies when the temperature drops to 36 and turns into a deposit on the lungs.

And also, environmental damage

Cigarette ends are considered the biggest waste product on the planet and one of those that contaminate the most. Those from electronic cigarettes are made of plastic and most of them can only be used once.

Pulmonary surfactant is a critical element in the complex machinery that enables human beings to breathe. The name refers to a layer of phospholipids and proteins that covers the lungs and enables people to breathe with minimum effort. Without it, respiration would only be possible through mechanical ventilation.

Breathing

The group from the Lawson Institute which has produced this work, in which the Western University's Schulich School of Medicine and Odontology also participated, specialises in the study of surfactant.

"We realised that the first thing the vapour aerosol comes into contact with when it enters the lungs is this layer of lipids and proteins," explains Ruud Veldhuizen, the scientist behind the research.

The team examined different vaping devices and also flavours, additives and even nicotine, to determine the effects that each had on the surfactant.

What they found was that the liquids which are used in elec-

tronic cigarettes "do not have worse effects than nicotine, but some of the flavourings used, such as menthol, do," they said.

The group suspects that it is this damage that explains why people who vape have a greater susceptibility to developing pulmonary lesions, especially those who have been affected by respiratory viruses such as Covid.

"Our obligation is to make this information known. People have to know that vaping can be harmful for the lungs," Veldhuizen says.

One of the possible causes of this lung damage is, Joseba Zabala says, something called propylene glycol, an additive which is authorised by the health authorities for use in food but not for inhaling.

This product, the same one that rock groups use to make the stage appear smoky during concerts, is what the e-cigarettes use to provide the false sensation of exhaling smoke.

"It is not innocuous," these scientists have concluded. It irritates the eyes, the throat and now they know that it can also damage the respiratory tract as well.

finding definitively, but say that in no way affects the validity of their publication.

Why? Because, although it is still being peer-reviewed, in

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Cases of scalp ringworm caught at low-cost hairdressers, experts warn

Dermatologists in Spain have seen numerous patients with this contagious condition recently, all of them male with undercut, slicked-back hairstyles

IVÁN GELIBTER



It could be psoriasis or seborrheic dermatitis, but if a reddish circle appears on the back of the neck it may be something different. Dermatologists in Malaga are warning that there have been dozens of cases of tinea capitis recently; otherwise known as ringworm, this is a contagious condition caused by a fungus which affects the scalp, and practically all the patients these specialists have seen have something in common: they have been going to low-cost hairdressers to have and maintain an undercut, slicked-back hairstyle.

Dr José Ignacio Galvañ, who was one of the first dermatologists in Spain to detect this outbreak, says that for years the main cause of tinea capitis was through zoophilic fungi such as *Microsporum canis*, which is very common in animals and especially cats. However, after a while he began to suspect that these cases were different and the clinic he runs started to carry out their own mycological testing.

"We can say clearly that we are seeing an increase in tinea capitis due to an anthropophilic species of fungus," he says. In other words, it is passed from person to person, rather than from an animal to a human.

This type of tinea has been very common in Africa and the USA for some years now, but it was very unusual in Spain or



The affected area is often on the back of the neck. SUR

elsewhere in Europe.

After investigating further, Dr Galvañ was able to confirm that this type of ringworm which affects the scalp is called *Trichophyton tonsurans*. In his clinic alone he has seen dozens of recent cases, and it became obvious that there was a pattern: every one of these patients was a male who had had an undercut, slicked-back hairstyle.

This is a style which is in fashion internationally, with short, shaved hair at the sides and back of the head and long on the top and in the front. It means going to the hairdresser at least once a week to maintain it, and that can increase the contact the client has with razors which are infected.

In 100 per cent of these cases seen at Dr Galvañ's clinic, the patients had gone to a low-cost hairdresser.

"We examined and carried out tests on all the patients," says this specialist. The test is a simple and painless technique which involves taking a scrap-

ing from the affected area and then analysing it.

Anthropophilic fungus

"This is what helped us to realise that we were looking at an anthropophilic fungus, where the infection is passed from one person to another, and not the zoophilic type which people catch from animals," Dr Galvañ explains.

The most common symptoms of this ringworm are scaly lesions to the back and sides of the head. They look very similar to psoriasis or seborrheic dermatitis, and that led some specialists to treat the condition with topical corticosteroids. "That actually made it worse," he admits.

"Less frequently, patients came with inflammatory tinea or the so-called black dot tinea, where the affected area appears to be speckled with black dots" he says. The latter, which are sometimes imperceptible, often act as asymptomatic carriers.

Far from being identified at

just one clinic, cases of scalp ringworm have been detected all over the province, the Dermatology Department at the Clínico Hospital has confirmed. In recent months specialists there have seen a significant increase in cases.

Although as yet there are no specific figures, the dermatologists agree that the patient profile is the same: men who have had an undercut, slicked-back hairstyles at low-cost hairdressers.

Chain of transmission

For this reason, Dr Galvañ says it is important for hairdressers to be aware of this problem, and the health authorities must be able to identify and cut off the chain of transmission.

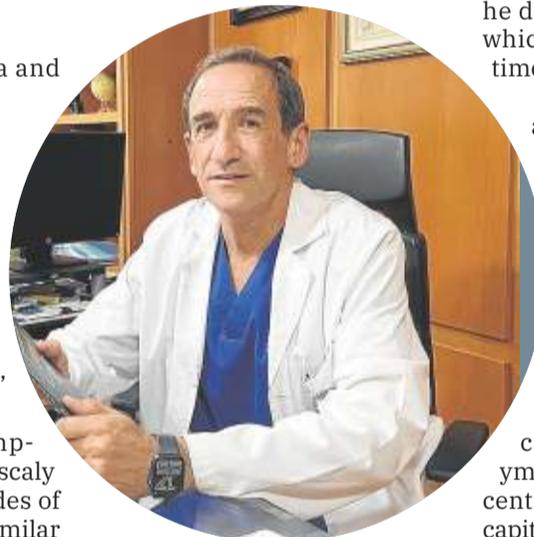
He also recommends that if anyone suspects that they may have tinea capitis, they should consult a specialist.

With regard to the short-term future, Dr Galvañ presented a report on this situation at the annual meeting of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology in Granada on 10 and 11 March, to call for further study and improved approach to what he describes as an "epidemic" which is occurring for the first time ever in Spain.

At the meeting he was awarded a prize for the Best Scientific Study Award for his pioneering research carried out in his private practice between 2021 and 2022, "with his own resources and for the love of medicine".

He studied twenty-six cases of this contagious disease and found that in most cases, the patients were asymptomatic. Thirty-eight per cent were diagnosed with tinea capitis, an eczema-like skin complaint. But he also found cases of tinea connubialis, in which the patient was affected after their partner had gone to the hairdresser (31%); inflammatory ringworm (8%), and even a case of a one-year-old girl with what appeared to be a cradle cap, which finally turned out to be ringworm which she had caught from her father.

He advised people to buy their own hair clippers and take them to the salon.



José Ignacio Galvañ

Tests on the patients revealed that this type of ringworm is spread from one person to another and not caught from animals

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The cream of the cream

ANDREW J. LINN



How would the history of sherry have turned out if Britain had not been such an important consumer of Jerez wines.

While other northern European countries drank sherry because it was cheap and high in alcohol, the British market was based on quality.

The great sherry houses were founded by the English and the Scots, begging Pedro Domecq's pardon of course, but he did have an English partner. Of course, the taste back then was for sweet varieties, and finos and manzanas were hardly exported.

Although we are now quite open to occasionally drinking sweet wines with dishes like foie gras and blue cheese, it has generally been consigned to the little old ladies' favourite tippie.

The House of Harvey was established in Bristol in 1871, the port being the destination of wines shipped from Spain, and the brand that made its name was Bristol Cream, a blend from 30 different barrels of varying ages.

It soon gained popularity worldwide, creating a new category of wine, cream

Although we now occasionally drink sweet wines, it has generally been consigned to being the little old ladies' favourite tippie

sherry.

Harvey's Bristol Cream achieved a royal warrant in 1895 from Queen Victoria, continuing to leave its mark on history in 2013, when it was chosen to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the late Queen's coronation.

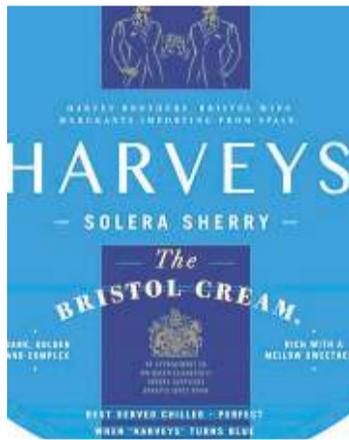
Perhaps uniquely it was served with ice and a twist of orange peel, allegedly the way her late majesty enjoyed it.

Ever inventive, the brand makeover brought with it a facility that many types of wine would benefit from: the label turns blue when the contents of the bottle have reached the correct drinking temperature.

WINE OF THE WEEK

Harvey's Bristol Cream

Possibly one of the most popular sherry brands outside Spain, it is 17.5° alcohol, and the price varies widely, averaging around 12 euros. Usual taste of raisins, nuts, prunes, figs, and definitely for the sweeter tooth.



Fuengirola business scoops trophy for best chocolate ice cream in Spain

A Costa del Sol ice cream parlour beat off stiff competition from 150 participants to win the national contest run by Helado Artesano

JUAN SOTO

FUENGIROLA. The best chocolate ice cream in Spain is made and sold in Fuengirola. The Caramelo ice cream parlour has just won first prize in a contest organised by the specialist magazine Helado Artesano in which more than 150 professionals from all over Spain took part.

New recipe

The product made by the artisan Matias Kuyumdjian was crowned the best in the country during an event held at the end of February at the Atalaya Park hotel in Estepona. The professional won with a recipe that he had been working on for four months and that he had only just included in his business offering.

"It is a mixture of pure chocolates from different origins," he revealed without giving further details about its preparation.

With the trophy in hand, he explained that the contest had two different phases: on the first day, the judges marked the contestants on an ice cream of their choice, between mango and dulce de leche.

Matias was second with his dulce de leche and therefore went through to the final. In the last round, the chosen flavour was chocolate, and his came out the winner.

"There was a high level of competition and just reaching the final was a source of pride," he admitted. However, being judged the winner "is a massive prestige on a personal level, beating so many renowned people".

Living on the Costa del Sol



Matias Kuyumdjian poses with the winner's trophy. SUR

since 2008, Matias Kuyumdjian has his business on Calle Boquetillo in Fuengirola. In addition to being an ice cream parlour, the establishment also works as a bakery and a pizzeria and the businessman boasts of making all the products in a traditional way and in full view of the customers.

The business opened in April 2019, just before the pandemic, and despite this it has made a name for itself in the neighbourhood.

After winning the award, both the chocolate flavour and the dulce de leche flavour ice creams have been incorporated into the menu (previously other recipes were used) and they are both going down well with the customers.

Coming from the world of pas-



The winning ice cream. SUR

try, Matias got hooked on making ice cream after doing some tests. "My secret is that I always listen to everyone because you never stop learning," he said.

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Young debutant rescues a point at the home of the league leaders

Álex Calvo, 19, scored the equaliser in the 86th minute, three minutes after coming onto the field for Malaga

2-2

LAS PALMAS-MALAGA

DARYL FINCH

MALAGA. It was a night to remember for Álex Calvo, the 19-year-old making his debut for Malaga. The young full-back ensured his side returned home from the Canaries with a point after his superb last-gasp equaliser sealed a 2-2 draw against league leaders Las Palmas on Saturday night.

Having come into this match-day 10 points from safety, Malaga would have held little hope of getting anything out of this game. And things went exactly to the script early on, when Julián Delmás handled the ball in the area in an action missed by practically everyone on the field - but not the VAR.

Veteran Las Palmas captain



Álex Calvo about to fire the ball into the net for the equaliser. **AGENCIA LOF**

Jonathan Viera tucked the penalty away straight down the middle - a massive setback for the Blue and Whites after just four minutes.

With the hosts on the front foot, Pejiño could have doubled his side's lead with an instep shot from the right-hand side of the area, but keeper Rubén Yáñez got down quick to block.

A route back into the game

Then, practically out of nowhere, came Malaga's chance to get back

into the game. Again, it was the VAR who intervened, deciding that Juande had been fouled by keeper Álvaro Valles as he rose to attempt to punch a hopeful long ball punted into his penalty area.

Having decided that the keeper had only succeeded in wiping out the Malaga defender, it was down to striker Fran Sol to take the spot-kick - and he did so with aplomb, sending the hapless keeper the wrong way.

Malaga could have gone in at the break with the lead had Fran Sol kept his composure just before half time. Instead, the forward volleyed Fran Villalba's perfectly weighted cross over the bar from barely six yards out.

With the scores level, the second half was cagey, with neither side seemingly willing to take any risks to break the deadlock. It became increasingly clear that something spectacular was required to get the go-ahead goal.

And so it proved. Pejiño, who was constantly a threat cutting in from the right, did exactly that, before unleashing a fearsome strike from 25 yards out. A goal worthy of winning any game.

Game-changing substitution

But then, in the 83rd minute, Malaga coach Sergio Pellicer brought Álex Calvo onto the field for his debut. At just 1.70 metres and with a thick mane of hair, the left-sider not only looked like a young Lionel Messi, but he channelled him too just minutes later.

After expertly controlling the ball, Calvo burst through the smallest of gaps between Álex Suárez and Eric Curbelo, leaving him free in front of goal to poke the ball through the legs of the keeper and ensure a share of the spoils at the Estadio de Gran Canaria.

After last week's setback against fellow strugglers Racing Santander, this point gives Malaga a slight glimmer of hope, albeit mostly in terms of a morale boost.

The Blue and Whites are 10 points from safety as Levante come to La Rosaleda tonight (9pm).



A LOOK AT LA LIGA
ROB PALMER
Commentator, ESPN

Real Madrid defy age and logic

They'll arrive having written the 'How To Win The Champions League' manual



Forget the Emmy-winning story of how the veteran Chicago Bulls team won one final NBA championship - Real Madrid are about to top 'The Last Dance'.

Not everyone recognises the greatness we are witnessing as Carlo Ancelotti's team defy age and logic to make a charge for the club's 15th European title.

At the time of writing, the bookies make them third-favourites but I'm backing them to retain the crown.

It's crazy really! The team should have been broken up a couple of years ago based on the number of miles on the clock, yet this collection of individuals is built for the Champions League.

The demands of week-in, week-out endeavours in La Liga is catching up with the golden oldies and so Ancelotti needs to manage their minutes. The team is built to peak once every couple of mid-weeks when top-level football resembles chess on a green baize. It's more about thinking and calculation. Real Madrid are the masters of this.

Luka Modrić is proving to still be the best midfielder in the world, even at the age of thirty-seven. Karim Benzema is a couple of years younger and living up to his Ballon d'Or reputation. These are just two of the seven players over the age of 30 in the starting line-up who beat Liverpool this week.

Given the age of the main players, this shouldn't be possible. The Modrić-Toni Kroos-Casemiro axis was finally broken up, but it was the junior member of the trio who was sold to Manchester United.

Aurélien Tchouaméni and Eduardo Camavinga are the heirs, but have to fight for a single spot alongside Modrić and Kroos. They are institutions at the institution.

Cleverly, Ancelotti is transitioning the club. Tchouaméni and Camavinga are being



Ancelotti and Júnior. **SUR**

teased into the team; Uruguayan Fede Valverde is now a prominent player.

Vinicius Júnior is on the verge of attaining galáctico status. In fact, his manager claims he's already a legend for scoring the winner in last season's Champions League final. It does seem like he's been around for ages; but only last year, he became the youngest scorer in a final since Lionel Messi.

Vini Jr isn't in the class of Messi or his predecessor Cristiano Ronaldo, but that is the secret to his success, they are a team. It's a collective that is bigger than one single player.

I've praised him enough in this column so let's quote Jürgen Klopp: "Carlo is the most relaxed manager I've met in my life. His man management is on a completely different level to anyone."

It's like the Real Madrid team is a listed building and he's rebuilding it brick-by-brick rather than a demolition.

I've submitted this article before the draw for the quarters and semi. It doesn't matter who they face, Real Madrid will arrive having written the instruction manual on "How to win the Champions League".

We are in the midst of greatness. Step aside Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen and Denis Rodman - these are the stars of 'One Last Dance: The Sequel'.

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A wicket is claimed in the Group E action at the Cártama Oval earlier this week. **SUR**

Big week ahead as European Cricket League draws to a close

CRICKET

The winner of cricket's equivalent of the Champions League, once again hosted in Cártama, will be crowned next Friday

SUR

MALAGA. The climax of the action at the Cártama Cricket Oval is now on the horizon as the majority of the European Cricket League group

stage action is brought to a close.

During the past week, Dreux (France) beat Forfarshire (Scotland) by 30 runs to win Group D last Saturday.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Group E went in favour of Roma CC (Italy). They beat Zagreb Sokol (Croatia) by a convincing 82 runs in the group final.

For the remainder of this week, CIYMS (Ireland), Punjab Lions Nicosia (Cyprus), Ariana KIF (Sweden), Istanbul KSK (Turkey) and Oeiras (Portugal) will be battling it out in Group F, the final of which will take

place on Saturday.

Championship Week

From Monday until Friday next week, all of the group winners until now will face off in the so-called Championship Week.

Five games per day will take place, with action commencing at 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm.

The final day, Friday, will see two qualifiers and an eliminator before the grand final at 7.30pm.

As always, entrance to the tournament is free.

Bea González just misses out on first World Padel Tour win of the season

PADEL

The local padel player, alongside partner Marta Ortega, lost out in the final of the La Rioja Open 1000 on Sunday in Argentina

MARINA RIVAS. Malaga padel player Bea González and partner Marta Ortega, from Madrid, narrowly missed out on their first title of the season, having to settle for second place in the first women's World Padel Tour tournament to be held in Argentina.

Sunday's final, held in front of a passionate crowd of almost 15,000 spectators at the Super Domo in La Rioja, saw the young pairing fall in a hard-fought duel of more than two hours and three sets to compatriots Gemma Triay and Ale Salazar (6-7, 6-4, 6-1).

González and Ortega started off on the front foot in the first set, which, through pure persis-



Action from Sunday's final in La Rioja, Argentina. **WORLD PADEL TOUR**

tence and energy, they eventually won the tie-break (6-7).

In the second set, the same tone was maintained. However, thanks to Triay's pure power, their opponents managed to break the number three pairing's serve and take the second set (6-4).

The third set was all or nothing. But it was Triay and Salazar who

had the coolest heads and, without making any unforced errors, they sealed the 6-1 win.

In the end, González and Ortega had to settle for the runners-up spot, but can come away with the feeling that they're now competing at a very high level. To be in contention for titles just two tournaments into the Tour shows how far they've come.

A new career high for Alejandro Davidovich

TENNIS

The Fuengirola-based player is now 26th in the ATP world rankings and Spain's fourth-best



Davidovich in action. **EFE**

P. L. ALONSO. Alejandro Davidovich rose to 26th place in the ATP rankings when they were updated on Monday - a career best for the Fuengirola-based local tennis star.

This came after the 23-year-old reached the last 16 of the Indian Wells Masters (he was eventually eliminated in the quarter-finals on Wednesday, losing 3-6 5-7 to Daniil Medvedev).

Until now, his best ranking was the 27th place he achieved last spring after finishing runner-up

in Monte Carlo.

With this latest update, Davidovich becomes Spain's fourth-best men's tennis player.

He has overtaken Roberto Bautista (now 28th) and sits behind only Carlos Alcaraz (second), Rafael Nadal (12th) and Pablo Carreño (17th).

Luis Ángel Maté denied chance to end career at this year's Vuelta a España

CYCLING

P. L. ALONSO. Marbella cyclist Luis Ángel Maté looks to have been denied the chance to compete in one last major race before he retires. This is because the 78th edition of La Vuelta a España, which will start in Barcelona on 26 August and run until 17 September, won't feature Maté's team Euskaltel, race organisers announced last week.

Following the rules of the International Cycling Union, the 18 UCI WorldTour teams automatically participate in the race. They are AG2R Citroën Team, Alpecin-Deceuninck, Astana, Bahrain Victorious, Bora-Hansgrohe, Cofidis, EF Education-Easypost, Groupama-FDJ, Ineos Grenadiers, Intermarché-Circus-Wanty, Jumbo-Visma; Movistar Team, Soudal Quick-Step, Team Arkea-Samsic, Team DSM, Team Jayco Alula,

Trek - Segafredo and UAE Team Emirates.

Two more spots are filled by the two best UCI ProTeams in the 2022 UCI Ranking - in this case the Lotto Dstny and TotalEnergies teams. The remaining two spots are filled by invited teams. Euskaltel was expected to be one of them, but missed out to Burgos and Caja Rural.

"It would be an extraordinary cherry on top of the cake to finish my career in Madrid in La Vuelta," Maté recently told SUR in an interview. However, it now seems that his chance to compete in another race of this calibre before he calls it a day has now gone.

That said, at 39 years of age, the rider can boast of having completed eleven editions of the Vuelta a España and six of the Tour de France, as well as never having retired in a 'grand tour'.

Malaga golfer Ana Peláez's excellent form continues in South Africa

GOLF

JUAN CALDERÓN. Ana Peláez secured a third, top-five finish in her last four tournaments by coming second in the Investec South African Women's Open, an event included in the Ladies European Tour calendar, as it concluded on

Saturday.

The Malaga-born golfer finished on -18, four strokes behind local player Ashleigh Buhai, who was unstoppable in the final round.

This performance ensured that Peláez's excellent start to the season continues.

Having also come second in the Joburg Open a week previously, Peláez is now in second place in the 'Race to Costa del Sol', the order of merit of the Ladies European Tour, which comes with 250,000 euros of prize money for the top three players of the year.

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Interactions with others look promising, so if you need to negotiate, you'll certainly have a persuasive edge. Your social life looks perkier too.

Pisces
February 20th - March 20th
The Sun glides into your sector of values, encouraging you to take stock and consider how to enhance your cash flow and get your money working harder for you.

Aries
March 21st - April 20th
The Sun enters your sign, giving you an energy boost and more pizzazz, so you'll be truly in your element and ready to take the world by storm.

Taurus
April 21st - May 21st
The Sun's move into a secluded zone encourages you to finish what you've started and resolve issues hanging over you.

Gemini
May 22nd - June 21st
Mars's entrance into your money zone may stir up a desire to be more financially secure. Plus, your beliefs might be about to change big time.

Cancer
June 22nd - July 23rd
The Sun joins Mercury and Jupiter making this a peak time for career decisions and promoting your skills and talent. Mars enters your sign encouraging you to tap inner strengths.

Leo
July 24th - August 23rd
A focus on fearless Aries, encourages you to take a leap of faith and do those things you've been putting off. Pluto changes signs too, and enters your sector of relating.

Virgo
August 24th - September 23rd
The New Moon in Aries is perfect for kickstarting plans that enhance finances and help you resolve emotional blocks. Need to see a life coach? Now is the time.

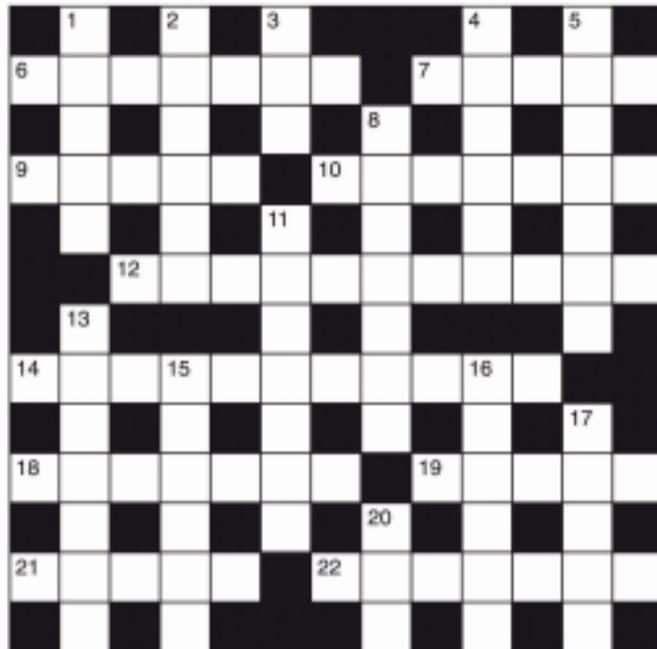
Libra
September 24th - October 23rd
As the Sun glides into Aries, this is a positive time for relationships. Want a better job, a promotion or more sales? Put in the effort now to reap rewards.

Scorpio
October 24th - November 22nd
You'll be ready to look at your lifestyle and improve it by altering habits and routines. Next week Pluto moves into Aquarius and your home zone, bringing changes to your domestic setup.

Sagittarius
November 23rd - December 21st
The emphasis on fitness and leisure increases next week, as the Sun enters Aries for four weeks. There are plenty of creative opportunities and a great chance to promote your skills.

Capricorn
December 22nd - January 20th
Family affairs look positive, and even if you're going through difficulties, key energies can bring support and anything else you need. Don't be afraid to ask for it, either.

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Across

- 6 Libertine going away with share of the profits (4-3)
- 7 Wide secondary highway (5)
- 9 Most of the men attempt to get admission (5)
- 10 News of the movements? (7)
- 12 Grilling for a triple graduate? (5,6)
- 14 By assembling table, hawk may commit an offence (5,3,3)
- 18 The scope of a direction-finding instrument (7)
- 19 Scoring attempts (5)
- 21 For example in all changes relating to the law (5)
- 22 Payment to the monarch's family (7)

Down

- 1 Jibe from the relation he deserted (5)
- 2 Look for a Roman Catholic he's worked up about (6)
- 3 12 ins short at the back (3)
- 4 Irritating job for the judge? (6)
- 5 Showed glee, Ai had glue mixed (7)
- 8 Dishonest violinist? (7)
- 11 Demonstration from potters' organisation (7)
- 13 Decor OK but somewhat awry (7)
- 15 A poor paper, it would seem (6)
- 16 One with heights to reach, of course (6)
- 17 Breaks in a score (5)
- 20 Not a high-pitched beastly noise (3)

SUDOKU BY HANZO

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

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

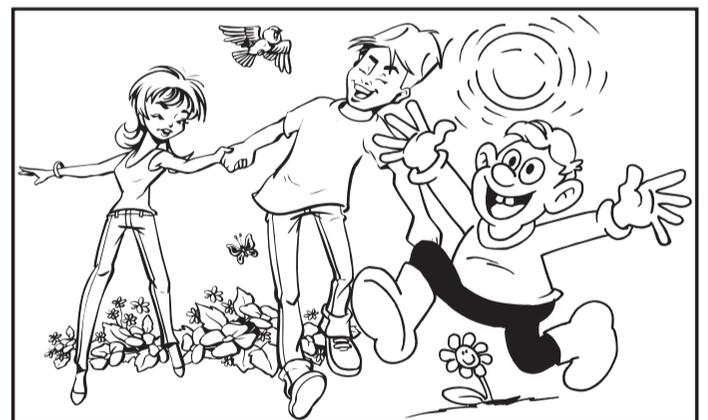
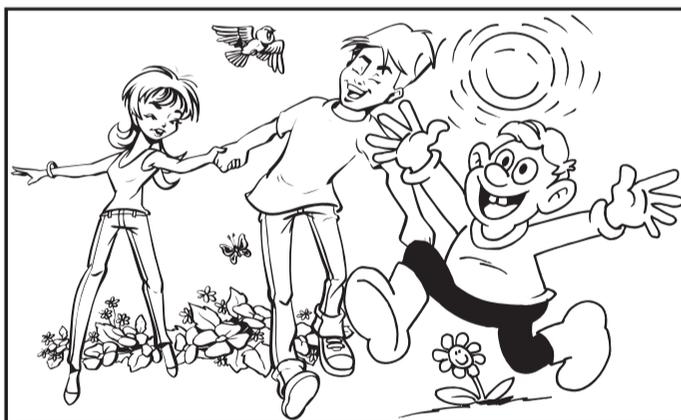
THE WORDPUZZLER

E	O	N	E	A	D	M	E	N	C
M	A	I	D	M	I	E	N	I	A
A	N	C	A	I	A	A	D	O	N
I	D	O	C	C	M	D	I	M	D
M	I	N	C	E	A	D	A	M	E
O	M	A	O	N	D	A	N	C	E
A	I	M	I	N	E	C	I	N	E
N	C	E	N	A	M	O	C	A	C
N	O	O	N	C	O	D	E	A	N
A	N	C	A	E	N	I	D	M	I

Can you identify the words that may be made from the letters of COMEDIAN from the clues listed below?

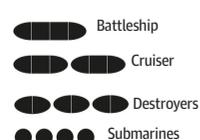
1. Monetary disc
2. Pleasant
3. Complain
4. Step routine
5. Honey wine
6. Devil
7. Grind
8. Cipher
9. Quarry
10. Rodents

THE SEVEN DIFFERENCES



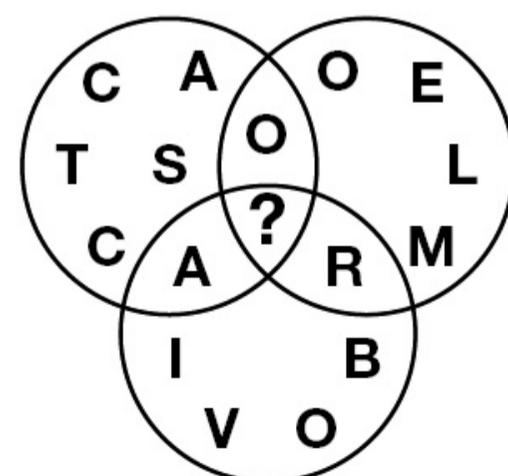
BATTLESHIPS

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 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.



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A		■									3
B							●				2
C											2
D						■					2
E			■								1
F											2
G											1
H											1
I											1
J								■			5
	1	1	3	3	1	2	2	4	0	3	

CIRCLEGRAM



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

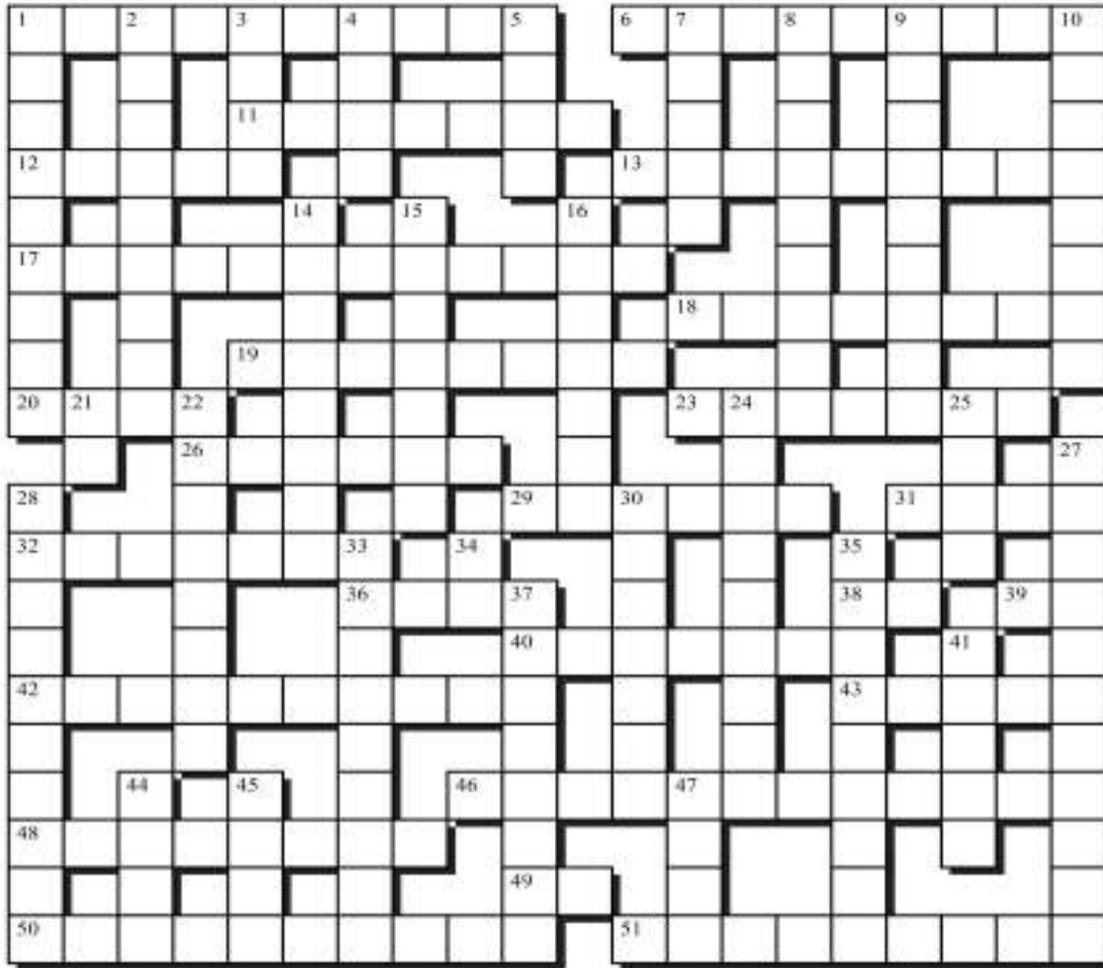
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LANGUAGE CROSSWORD FILL IN THE SPANISH WORD



Across

- 1) Emigrants (10)
- 6) To convert (9)
- 11) Church (7)
- 12) Happy (5)
- 13) Inhabitant (9)
- 17) Constitution (12)
- 18) Brick (8)
- 19) Towns (8)
- 20) Bland (f) (4)
- 23) I insist (7)
- 26) Coin (6)
- 29) Shrine (6)
- 31) Finger (4)
- 32) Otters (7)
- 36) Saucepan (4)
- 38) To go (2)
- 39) Your (2)
- 40) Meadow (7)
- 42) Influence (10)
- 43) I bit (5)
- 46) Renaissance (adj.) (12)
- 48) Workshops (8)
- 49) It's (2)
- 50) To superimpose (10)
- 51) Basilicas (9)

Down

- 1) Buildings (9)
- 2) Implants (9)
- 3) Root (4)
- 4) Void (m) (4)
- 5) Six (4)
- 7) Works (5)
- 8) Visigoths (9)
- 9) Spare parts (9)
- 10) Remedies (8)
- 14) Dwelling (8)
- 15) Founded (m) (7)
- 16) Dining room (7)
- 21) You (pl) (2)
- 22) Yellow (m) (8)
- 24) Nutrient (9)
- 25) Train (4)
- 27) Communities (11)
- 28) Secondary schools (10)
- 30) Wall (7)
- 33) Sleeping pill (9)
- 34) To the (2)
- 35) Diametrical (9)
- 37) To appear (8)
- 41) Strawberry (5)
- 44) Paperclip (4)
- 45) Worse (4)
- 47) Thing (4)

QUIZ

What protein is associated with sheep's wool?

- 1. collagen 2. keratin
- 3. formin 4. pikachurin



Short strands and knots combed out of wool before spinning are called what?

- 1. noils 2. burls 3. slubs
- 4. knurls

Wool yolk is the colloquial name for what substance found in sheep's wool?

- 1. keratin 2. serotonin
- 3. pomatum 4. lanolin

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ANSWERS

Quiz answers

Answer: Keratin
Sheep's wool is composed of about 95% keratin, a rich and renewable protein resource found in nature. It is the main component of wool, hair, feathers, nails and horns. **Answer: Noils.** Noils are the short fibres and knots that are removed during the combing process in spinning. These fibres are sometimes used as wadding or hand spun to create a weaker, inferior cloth. **Answer: Lanolin** (from Latin lana - wool, and oleum - oil), also called wool yolk, wool wax, or wool grease, is a wax secreted by the sebaceous glands of wool-bearing animals

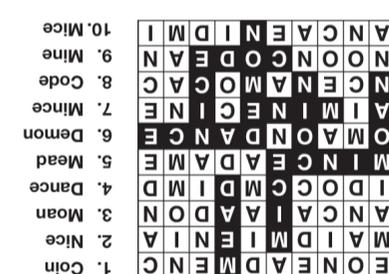
Circlegram

The letter represented by the Tremolo, Vibrato, all musical terms.

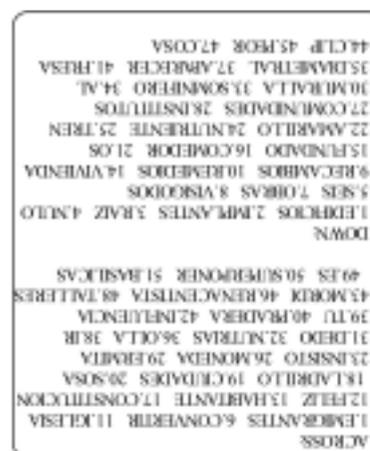
Cryptic Crossword

Solutions: Across: 6 Fake-off; 7 Broad; 9 Entry; 10 Tidings; 12 Third degree; 14 Break the law; 18 Compass; 19 Thes; 21 Legal; 22 Royalty. Down: 1 Taunt; 2 Search; 3 Art; 4 Trying; 5 Laughed; 6 Fiddler; 11 Protest; 13 Crooked; 15 Appeal; 16 Airman; 17 Fests; 20 Low.

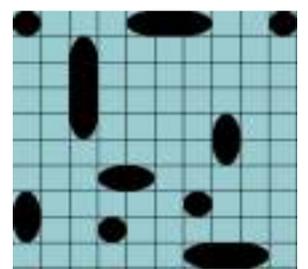
Wordpuzler solution



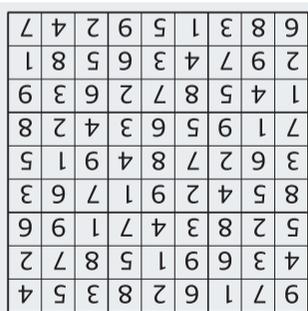
Language Crossword



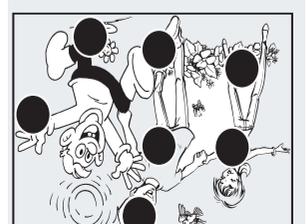
Battleships



Sudoku solution



The seven differences



It is dawn in Alhaurín el Grande. In Camino de la Fuente del Perro, a rural area less than ten minutes from the town centre, daily prayers begin at 7.30am in one of the most unusual parts of this residential development: a Buddhist temple which stands out among the small houses and olive groves due to its height. Inside, residents practise the teachings of Buddha before the working day begins at 9am, the time when they all do something for the community.

At the temple, they are welcomed by Guen Kelsang Chokga, a Kadampa Buddhist nun and resident teacher at the temple, who is also the spiritual director of the New Kadampa Tradition for Spain and Portugal.

This branch, which adapts the teachings of Buddha to contemporary society, began in Spain 25 years ago. Now, Malaga has become world famous for this modern branch of Buddhism and the temple in Alhaurín el Grande is the largest of this faith in Europe.

Beyond the religion, it aims to be a space which is open to everyone who wants to explore meditation more deeply and free their mind from the stresses of everyday life. They can go as a visitor, volunteer, habitual resident or a student on a weekend course.

"We place the emphasis on meditation, on listening to the teachings and putting them into practice, and we want to be open to the public. You don't have to believe in it, simply try it, and if it works for you then use it," says Guen Kelsang Chokga, who started studying the teachings of Buddha in 1998.

Beside the spacious temple, which is very light due to the dome made of glass windows, stand three small buildings with the names of Buddha's pure lands: Potala, Tushita and Keajra. This area is the epicentre of life in the community, and is where the residents and visitors stay.

"At present about 20 of us are living here. There is a very good atmosphere and we all help out,"



Buddhist meditation: a day at the Kadampa temple

Alhaurín el Grande. The town has become a well-known centre among worldwide followers of this branch of the religion

ANDREA JIMÉNEZ



says Stephanie, who runs the temple in Alhaurín and has lived there since 2014.

The community work begins at 9am and takes place in the different areas of the retreat. An image of the founding master of the tradition presides over the altar of the temple, where the teachings of Buddha are also located, with the

books which are used daily in the meditations and offering bowls.

Mateo is in charge of tidying these and keeping them clean, and it is one of his favourite tasks within the community.

"In 2016 I started to study the tradition in Barcelona. Last year my partner and I came to a festival at this temple and we loved it,



▲ The Kadampa temple is one of six around the world. SALVADOR SALAS



▲ Mateo is in charge of the books and offering bowls. SALVADOR SALAS

so now we are continuing our study programme here," says this former entrepreneur in the export sector who decided to change his life because its frantic pace was hard to cope with. "I was doing well, but I needed to stop. This life brings you a great deal of peace and tranquility," he explains.

Mateo is one of the habitual resi-

◀ Meditation class in the temple, led by teacher Guen Kelsang Chokga.

SALVADOR SALAS

dents, those who do contribute something financially to the community. But another way of living this experience in the Alhaurín temple is to be a volunteer like Marina, 26, who is Argentinian. We talked to her in the 'café of peace', the cafeteria at the centre.

"I have come for a week. I'm not a Buddhist and I don't know much about it, but I heard about this temple at a meditation centre in Malaga and wanted to come and see what it was like. It has been a really good experience," she said.

Volunteers

Volunteers who come for a week work six hours a day. Outside working hours they can participate in the classes and meditation sessions organised by the centre, and they have two days off a week to explore the area or to rest.

About 11.30am it is time for a coffee break in the private dining room. All the residents and volunteers meet there as part of their coexistence experience.

"We chat and get to know each other better, for about 15 minutes," says Miguel, who returns to the kitchen once the break is over. He was an officer in the Local Police force in Granada and decided to change his life by taking a sabbatical which would enable him to live in the Buddhist centre in Alhaurín.

"I heard about this place a few years ago at a meditation centre in Granada. I felt I needed a new path in life; my work was really stressful. I started coming here to Malaga sometimes, and then an opportunity came up for me to stay. I enjoy cooking," he says.

These days there are 1,300 centres around the world where people can study and practise modern Kadampa Buddhism in the local language. Most are centres for study and meditation.

There are also six 'temples for world peace', based on the sacred mandala of Buddha Heruka, including this one in Alhaurín el Grande.

There are open days on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, including a guided tour and free meditation class.

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