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ISSUE No. 1650 | 16 - 22 February 2017 **COSTA DE ALMERÍA** » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION WWW.EUROWEEKLYNEWS.COM

Sex gang smashed

Women trafficked into Spain for 10 years



NIGERIAN WOMEN: Were harshly treated and punished for the slightest infraction.

By Simon Firth

Police have broken up a gang who specialised in trafficking Nigerian women into Spain as sex workers.

It is thought they had been operating their smuggling route for at least 10 years.

The women were either hidden in lorries or brought across the Straits of Gibraltar in fast boats.

From there they were moved to so-called safe houses before being passed onto groups operating brothels in the south of Spain, including Almeria and Torrevieja.

In a joint operation code-named Odyssey, Spanish Police and Moroccan security agents targeted the criminals

responsible for transporting the women from Nigeria to Morocco.

One of the gang was said to be so wealthy he passed through multiple border crossings unhindered while transporting both women and children.

The investigations began when a 16-year-old Nigerian girl was found in a children's centre in Ceuta.

She began to give police de-

tails of how she was brought into Spanish territory.

When police investigations were completed, seven Nigerians, including two women, were arrested in Spain.

They are thought to be responsible for trafficking at least 39 women.

Each victim was treated harshly and punished with fines and beatings for the slightest infraction.

Police said the women were

forced into sex work for at least 12 hours a day. They were made to eat and sleep together in unhygienic conditions and even forced to take on additional work as cleaners and cooks to bring in extra money.

While the Spain-based gang was being disrupted, Moroccan security agents swooped on a property in Tangiers where the women were detained before being smuggled into Spain.

Prison punch-up

TRADE unions have expressed their concern for the safety of wardens at Almeria's El Acebuche jail after one was injured while trying to break up a fight earlier this week. The warden entered a cell to separate two fighting inmates and took one outside to calm him down but ended up receiving blows and being taken to hospital for treatment. [» See page 5](#)

Nuclear option

THE Spanish government has admitted it "cannot know" whether Donald Trump and his new government will uphold the agreement regarding clearing contamination from Palomares. In 2015 the US agreed to clear the area still affected by radioactive material from bombs dropped when two US air force planes collided above the province in 1966. [» See page 9](#)

Fishy affair

A RECENT incident which saw hundreds of people temporarily evacuated from their homes in El Patio in Almeria City's Pescaderia district has served to highlight the abandoned state of the entire area. Local residents say they cannot believe that the council has spent almost €1 million on cleaning up the nearby access areas to the city while ignoring the inside of the district. [» See page 12](#)

Poster boy

A MAN from Vera is under investigation suspected of putting up slanderous posters all over the Levante area calling the staff of a veterinary clinic criminals and animal murderers. The posters began to appear at the end of January and the Guardia Civil started keeping an eye on the places they were put up. [» See page 14](#)

Win a Car!

YOU CAN STILL BE THE WINNER OF A CAR! SEE PAGES 2, 6 & 7

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LOCAL NEWS

Five injured

FIVE people, four aged between 18 and 22 and one 40-year-old man, were injured when a van and a car crashed in Cuevas del Almanzora. Emergency services reported that the accident happened at 9am on Sunday morning and paramedics, firefighters, Guardia Civil and Local Police officers were dispatched to the scene.

Speedy trial

A DRIVER caught doing three times the speed limit on a road in Almeria City on January 26 is already standing trial. The car was caught doing a scorching 276 kph on a stretch of the N-340 road where the limit is 90 kph. The defendant faces a four-month jail sentence and three-year driving ban.

Cat burglar declawed

THE Guardia Civil has arrested a 23-year-old man for allegedly burgling a series of homes in San Juan de los Terreros and Pulpi. A number of homeowners reported that somebody had climbed up to balconies and windows in the homes and forced them open to enter, and the gravity-defying culprit has now been found.

Entries flow in for Win a Car competition

MOST of you are entering our great 'Win a Car' competition by filling in the form that's supplied online. It's quick and it's easy and you know it'll arrive.

That's not always the case with the post, but we're getting some coming in that way and we're happy to get them.

We don't discriminate between either - once you're in, you're in.

The prize is a Dacia Sandero Ambiance! It's a Romanian-made car from a manufacturer that's been French-owned since 1999. The car retails in the showrooms for nearly €10,500.

If your name is the first out of the hat, then the car is yours, it's as simple as that.

And if you haven't entered yet, then get that form off to us.

We're using the information to improve how we do things

on Spain's leading English-language newspaper.

Our survey is in all editions and we estimate that the online version will take you all of eight minutes. That's not that long for such a glittering prize.

If you're the winner, the car isn't the only part of your prize.

Abbeygate will insure you for 12 months which means added piece of mind and to top off your winning day there's a celebratory lunch or dinner for two people at La Sala Banus.

Our survey is on our website at www.euroweeklynnews.com.

No matter how you enter, and some of you have hand-delivered your entries, you'll go into the draw. So why not give it a go?

You have until March 23 to spend a few minutes putting in your survey answers and you



could be arriving at Euro Weekly News head office, to pick up a brand new car!

WIN A CAR: Why not give it a go?

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BREAKING NEWS:

GEOFF GARTLAND has been Managing Director of the *Round Town News (RTN)* since its inception at the turn of the century, but he has never been one to rest on his laurels.

After almost 20 years running the northern Costa Blanca's most thriving expatriate newspaper, Geoff is loved across the region.

A prominent spokesman for the local LGBT community, Geoff is a major campaigner for gay rights and a co-organiser of the hugely popular Benidorm Pride event.

He is a charismatic businessman and leader, and his tenure at the helm of *RTN* has seen it become a respected voice for his readers' opinions which reaches the very heart of their communities.

There are thus many parallels between Geoff and *Euro Weekly News (EWN)* Publishers Michel and Steven Euesden.

While Geoff hails from Yorkshire, Michel and Steven also have strong northern roots, albeit from the western side of the country.

Both newspapers are regarded as highly trusted names in Spain, with the *EWN* now racking up 21 years of loyal readership and the *RTN* not far behind.

But for the first time ever, the latter will not be on the streets this Friday as it takes a week's breather in preparation for an exciting development.

Don't forget to pick up copies of **both** your favourite local newspapers on Thursday February 23 and Friday February 24, when all will be revealed.



GEOFF GARTLAND: The founder of the Round Town News.

Armed raiders nabbed

ALMERIA police have arrested two men accused of violently robbing a married couple on their front doorstep.

The victims were accosted by two masked individuals as they attempted to enter their home, hitting the woman in the face with the butt of a gun and stabbing her partner in the left thigh.

Two shots were also fired before the assailants made off in the couple's high-end car.

Exports unaffected

THE latest data from the Andalucian Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development confirms that exports of fruit and vegetables to the UK have not been adversely affected by the Brexit bombshell.

According to the ministry, sales increased by 12 per cent between July and November 2016 compared to the same period in 2015.

More than 129,000 tonnes of produce with an estimated value of €154 million was exported to the UK, of which 87,000 tonnes was produced in Almeria's infamous 'Sea of Plastic.'

Working to protect

GENDER violence victims in Carboneras are to be better protected as the Local Police force is to join the VioGen network.

The agreement was made at the latest local security meeting, attended by local authorities and government delegate for Almeria Andres Garcia Lorca. Now the Secretary of State Security for the Ministry of the Interior will grant access to the integral gender violence case monitoring network to the police force.

Flying bullit

LOCAL POLICE in Almeria City have detained a 17-year-old boy after he crashed the car he was driving into a police patrol vehicle following a pursuit.

The chase began when police reported that a car was behaving suspiciously on Calle Instincion de Los Molinos, the driver putting his foot down as the officers approached.

He proceeded to hightail it towards the El Puche neighbourhood, sometimes drifting into the opposite lane.

As the two vehicles careered onto Avenida Mare Nostrum, the fugitive span his car around to face his pursuers before driving headlong towards them and slamming into their left wing.

The police car was rendered useless, and the runaway once again attempted to escape at high speed, but lost control and crashed into a lamp post.

The two occupants then fled on foot, with one still being at large as the *Euro Weekly News* went to press.

Jealous and violent attack

A RUSSIAN woman who the Local Police were sent out to help in Almeria City refused to report her other half even though he had allegedly dragged her down the street by her hair.

The police force dispatched a patrol to Calle Poeta Paco Aquino in the city centre after receiving a call from a man who said he had had to step in to stop an attack.

Upon their arrival the officers found the man accompanying a 34-year-old Russian woman. She claimed

that her jealous partner had grabbed her hair, pushed her over and dragged her along the pavement because he wanted to see her mobile phone and the contents of her handbag.

Although she insisted she did not require medical assistance and did not want to report her 52-year-old Spanish boyfriend, officers explained that protocols meant she had to accompany them to the station and give a statement.

INSIDE VIEW

News

1 - 29

Finance

33

Leapy Lee

39

TV



48

Letters

50

Time Out

52

Health & Beauty

54

Social

57

Albox

63

Property

69

Classifieds

74

Motors



76

Sport

79

Postscript to ponder

17.5

Number of hours the world's longest non-stop commercial flight will take, with Qatar Airways - who fly to Madrid and Barcelona - with the marathon routing from its Doha home base to Auckland, New Zealand.

Armed forces

MORE than 2,000 Spanish military personnel are deployed on missions in 15 foreign countries.

Most are soldiers in the Army with the biggest contingent serving in the Lebanon with the UN's blue helmet force. Spain contributes nearly 500 troops to the fight against Daesh where they are deployed with the Iraqi Army.

Fourteen soldiers are attached to the UN mission in Colombia as peace observers while in Afghanistan, Spain has 20 personnel based in the capital, Kabul. More than 140 officers and men are serving in the Indian Ocean with the EU's anti-piracy initiative.

Weapons held

FIFTY-EIGHT people have been arrested in a major Spanish policed crackdown on illegal weapons coming out of the Balkans. Seventeen police forces across Europe were involved, including agents from the US. The joint operation to combat arms trafficking was coordinated from Europol's control centre in The Hague.



Postcard

from

SALAMANCA



HOME to the oldest university in Spain, Salamanca is an ancient Celtic city in the community of Castile and Leon. It was once besieged by Hannibal, he of the Alps and elephants fame.

During the Spanish Civil War it was a nationalist stronghold, Franco being named Generalissimo while in the city. It is also the site of an unusual festival day on February 5 when women, symbolically at least in years gone by, would take over the reins of power in civic venues including the town hall.

While this was going on they were supposed to leave their men at home doing the housework. Nowadays they're more likely to take to the streets for a party with dancing and music.

The festival is based on St Agatha, regarded as the protector of women, who was persecuted for her Christian faith. The women are consequently known as Aguedas. Her refusal to accept the romantic entreaties of a Roman official led to her death in a Roman prison.

Sea rescue

TWELVE fishermen were rescued when their vessel sank off the northern coast of Spain. All the men were suffering from hypothermia but were otherwise uninjured when they were plucked from the sea. Seven of the crew were taken to a hospital in Asturias and the other five to a hospital in Galicia. Three helicopters and three lifeboats were launched after distress signals were received.

Defiant trio

THREE former members of the Catalan government, including its ex-president Artur Mas, say they have nothing to apologise for over their symbolic independence vote three years ago.

They are accused of criminal disobedience and breach of trust. The court trying them could impose bans from public office of 10 years if convicted. Less than half of those eligible to vote actually took part.

Smash-and-grab over

POLICE have smashed another gang using explosives to blow up cash machines. At least 23 people, most of them from Chile, were arrested over several months but details are only now being released.

The gang were involved in numerous crimes including burglary, identity theft, vehicle theft and the use of gas and explosives to blast open cash machines in Catalonia, Valencia and Madrid. In one robbery at a cash machine nails were thrown across roads to hinder the chances of police following them.

Birthdays

• **June Brown, Actress, February 16, 90**

British soap opera actress famous for playing Dot Cotton in the BBC soap Eastenders. At the 2005 British Soap Awards she won Best Actress and also received the Lifetime Achievement award. She received an MBE in 2008 in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

• **Rebecca Addington, Swimmer, February 17, 28**

Swimming star of the 2008 summer Olympics who won gold medals representing Great Britain in both the 400m and 800m freestyle events. She won bronze medals in the same events at the summer Olympics in 2012.

• **John Travolta, Actor/Producer, February 18, 63**



American actor and producer who has starred in films including Grease, Saturday Night Fever, Pulp Fiction and Get Shorty. He won an Emmy last year as a producer of American TV series American Crime Story. He is married to actress Kelly Preston.

• **Smokey Robinson, Singer, February 19, 77**

Motown singer from Amercia who founded the group The Miracles, whose hit songs include Tears of a Clown, I Second that Emotion and The Tracks of my Tears. He also had a solo career with hits such as Just to See Her and Being With You. Until 1988 he was vice president of Motown Records.

• **Gordon Brown, Politician, February 20, 66**

Former Labour Party leader who was the UK Prime Minister from 2007 until 2010. The recession hit during his term and the Labour Party fell out of favour with 91 seats lost in the 2010 general election which ended in a hung parliament.

First 3D printed bridge

A PARK in Madrid has made history with the installation of the world's first bridge constructed using a 3D printer.

The 40ft concrete structure represents the first time such technology has been utilised on such a scale. Because 3D printers do not need any casts or moulds, the costs of making the bridge were kept to a minimum.

The design team behind the project said the structure "reflected the complexities of nature's forms" and its design meant waste had been kept to a minimum "by recycling the raw material during manufacture."

The bridge is also being hailed as a first by those who believe a whole range of structures could now be manufactured much more cheaply using the same technique.

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OUR VIEW

Thank You

WITH all of the negative news coming from around the world, it is always heart-warming to know that there are so many kind, caring and generous people who will immediately react when their help is needed.

As soon as EWN became aware of the plight of four-year-old Leo Bermejo, we used every channel available to us to publicise his plight and to ask our readers and advertisers to help raise the funds to allow him to travel to Oklahoma for ground-breaking proton treatment.

After an appearance on Spectrum radio coupled with coverage on our website, the whole appeal was kick started and within a matter of days, much more than 50 per cent of the amount needed had been raised which meant that there was sufficient to allow for the first payment for treatment and accommodation to be made.

Soon after Leo travelled to the UK for a preparatory operation, the wonderful news arrived that an anonymous donation for the balance of the appeal had been received.

This reaction from our community in Spain is absolutely fantastic and this response is summed up in the words of the Dalai Lama, "Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive."

Now we want to hear your views.
YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION
www.euroweeklynews.com

Jail's safety concerns

By Eleanor Hawkins

TRADE unions have expressed their concern for the safety of wardens at Almeria's El Acebuche jail after one was injured while trying to break up a fight earlier this week.

The warden entered a cell to separate two fighting inmates and took one outside to calm him down but ended up receiving blows and being taken to hospital for treatment.

Although in this case the warden's injuries were not life-threatening, unions fear the worst as they have noted a sharp increase in violent situations over the last year.

"This increase in attacks on prison staff is the consequence of insufficient personnel at the centre which has worsened over recent years as those who leave are not replaced," Jose Hernandez, head of the Penitentiary Institutions section at CSIF trades union complained.

CSIF has therefore demanded a specific aggression protocol is drawn up for workers at El Acebuche and hopes "the competent administrations will take note of what has happened and take urgent measures to guarantee workers' safety and correct functioning of the prison."

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4,495€



Chevrolet Tacuma
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■ Terms of Entry:

Completed survey forms must reach Euro Weekly News by noon March 30, 2017 at the latest. Only FULLY completed forms received by the final deadline will be entered into the prize draw. All entrants must possess a current NIE number, hold a valid driving licence and must be aged 18 or over. Only one entry per person is allowed. Failure to meet these requirements will invalidate the entry. No cash alternatives.

No employees of EWN Media Group can enter.

The winner will be announced on April 20, 2017.

The winner will be required to take part in any promotional activity and EWN reserves the right to use the name of the winner and photographs in any publicity both in newspaper and online.

The winner will have to collect the car from the EWN offices in Benalmadena. Any expenses incurred by the winner in collecting the car will be their own responsibility.

Euro Weekly News takes no responsibility should the car offered differ from that pictured here in any way.

Tick box if you do not wish your personal details to be shared with third parties or to receive promotional information or special offers.

You and the EWN

How often do you read the EWN?

- Every week
- Regularly
- Monthly
- On occasions
- Very rarely

Which sections of the EWN do you read?

- Local News
- General Features
- Business
- Leapy Lee
- Other columnists
- Television
- Horoscopes
- Time Out
- Letters
- Health & Beauty
- Food/Social Scene
- Homes & Gardens
- Community
- Classified
- Motoring
- Sport

What do you THINK of the EWN?

.....

What do you EXPECT from the EWN?

.....

What would you like to CHANGE about the EWN?

.....

How long do you spend reading the EWN?

- Up to 10 minutes
- Up to 30 minutes
- Up to 45 minutes
- One hour or more

Do you find it difficult or easy to pick up your copy?

.....

Where do you usually pick up your copy?

.....

Do you have a suggested new distribution point?

.....

You and the EWN Online

Where do you primarily get your daily news from?

- Television
- Radio
- Newspaper
- Internet

What device do you browse the internet on?

- Desktop computer
- Laptop
- Tablet
- Mobile phone
- Smart TV

What time do you normally browse the internet?

- Morning
- Afternoon
- Evening
- All day

How often do you visit the www.euroweeklynews.com website?

- More than once a day
- Once a day
- Once a week
- Once a month
- Never

Do you subscribe to our daily news bulletins to your email inbox via the www.euroweeklynews.com website?

- Yes
- No

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-
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-

Q & A

Gender

- Female
- Male

How old are you?

- 18 – 21
- 22 – 35
- 36 – 50
- 51 – 70
- 71+

Status

- Single
- Married
- Separated/Divorced
- Widowed

Which other local newspapers do you read?

.....

How often do you eat out?

- Once a week
- More than once week
- Once a month
- Rarely

How long have you been reading the EWN?

.....

Do you have private health insurance?

- No
- Yes (specify).....

Have you ever used a currency exchange/money transfer company?

- No
- Yes (specify).....

Is your telephone

- Landline
- Mobile
- Both
- Name of your provider(s).....

Is your mobile

- Contract
- Pay as you go
- Name of network provider.....

What kind of mobile telephone do you use?

- Android
- iPhone
- Windows
- Other (specify).....

Is your internet

- Fibre Optic
- ADSL
- Other (specify).....

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NEWS EXTRA

A family affair

A FATHER and son were caught with almost 300 grams of hashish in their car by Almería City Local Police. Officers confiscated the drugs, along with a large knife and €365 in cash.

Accidents happen

THE traffic authority has reported that there were 659 accidents on Almería roads in 2016, in which 28 people died. The government has pledged to work to increase road safety.

Longer fair

ALMERIA City Council wants to start the annual fair a day early this year, meaning it will last a total of nine days as it did in the past.

FORCED TO WORK: The girl did domestic work in order to feed her mother's alcoholism.



Mother did not prostitute daughter

By Matt Ford

THE Prosecution Office in Almería has confirmed that a 13-year-old girl, suspected of having been forced into sexual work by her mother, has not in fact been working as a prostitute.

However, she was performing domestic work in exchange for cash

which she used to buy spirits and tobacco for her alcoholic parent, who would violently throw her out of the house if she returned empty-handed.

The mother, who is of Russian nationality, is now under investigation for neglect and mistreatment of her daughter and nine-year-old son.

A 59-year-old man with previous

sexual abuse convictions did hire the girl to work in his house but she refused his advances.

The owner of a local bakery where she worked for two or three euros per day has also been arrested for employing a minor.

The two children remain in the care of a specialised protection centre.

Abusive father faces prison

THE Public Prosecutor's office in Almería will be requesting almost 19 years in jail for a man accused of domestic violence, causing injuries and sexually abusing his three children.

The defendant has a previous record for injuring one of his sons and for violent behaviour towards his wife, the prosecutor's provisional conclusions report.

The father, over a number of years, dished out disproportionate punishments for 'ridiculous alleged misdemeanours' and the children's mother's fear of her aggressive partner stopped her from being able to do anything about it, the prosecutor insists.

The children, all under 18, were found by the Legal Medicine Institute to require psychological treatment and two of them suffer from anxiety and depression.

Altogether the prosecutor has requested 18 years and 10 months in jail, loss of custody and a restraining order banning him from going within 200 metres of the children or contacting them for 31 years plus €15,000 in damages for the youngsters.

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Uncertainty of decontamination

By Eleanor Hawkins

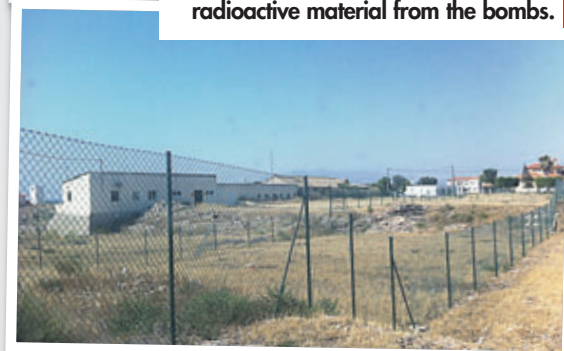
THE Spanish government has admitted it "cannot know" whether Donald Trump and his new government will uphold the agreement regarding clearing contamination from Palomares.

MP Eva Garcia Sempere announced that she had queried the matter and the central government had responded that "currently there is no way of knowing whether the new US government will affect the planned decontamination." It did, however, stress that relations between the two countries are solid and that conversations will continue with a view to meeting the goal of solving the Palomares problem.

The two countries reached an agreement in 2015 to clear the area still affected by radioactive material from bombs dropped when two US air force planes collided above the province in 1966.



CRASH SITE: Is still affected by radioactive material from the bombs.



IN just 18 months, her council team has managed to pay off 61.42 per cent of the debts left behind by the previous council, Garrucha Mayor Maria Lopez has announced.

The PSOE socialist mayor claimed that the previous Partido Popular council had run up more than €1 million in debts by the time she took over the town hall on June 1, 2015.

Paying off the debts

Now, Lopez reported, thanks to careful planning and municipalisation of public services, which has also created 130 jobs, €649,870 of the debt has been settled.

"We could get into arguments with the spokesman of the PP, which voters de-

ecided to remove from power, but it wouldn't make much sense. Anyway nobody, apart from a couple of exceptional cases, seems to oppose the way things are being done in Garrucha now," Lopez pronounced.

Runaway boy found

LOCAL POLICE in Almeria City saw a 12-year-old boy from Nijar who had run away from home safely reunited with his parents.

The boy was found in a disorientated state wandering through the city's 500 Viviendas district during school hours and taken to the police station, where he explained that he had run away.

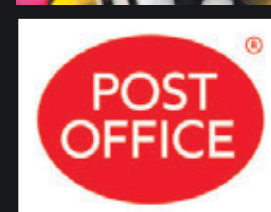
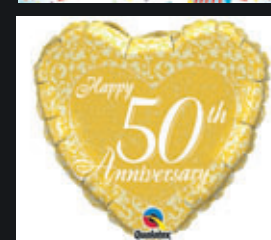
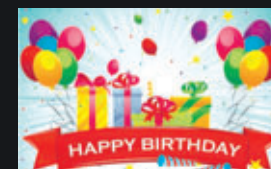
He had become annoyed with his parents the night before and, after breaking into his piggy bank, sneaked out of school that morning and caught a bus to the provincial capital. Once in the city he had started to wander the streets but got lost, the boy told officers.

After contacting the child's parents through his school, his father rushed to the station to collect him and said he was surprised as the boy was not problematic and there had never been any trouble before

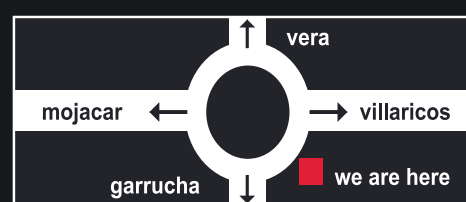
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By Eleanor Hawkins

Mayors accused

TIRED of waiting for demolition of the illegal hotel in El Algarrobo, Greenpeace has decided to try and take the current and former mayors of Carboneras to court.

The ecologist organisation has announced it has lodged a complaint with the Public Prosecutor for the Environ-

ment and Town Planning against Salvador Hernandez, the current mayor, and his predecessor Cristobal Fernandez. Both mayors, Green-

peace claims, could be guilty of disobedience and corrupt practice for failing to change the status of the land the hotel stands on and not insisting on its demolition.

The hotel is illegal and there is no chance of it being legalised and there are a number of high court sentences to this respect, however ecologists claim the mayors have blatantly disobeyed the courts.

"It's incredible to see how those in charge of Carboneras Council fail to respect the most basic principles of a democracy, ignoring even the orders of the high courts. Having run out of administrative processes,

Greenpeace has no choice but to take the matter to the criminal courts to have the illegal hotel demolished," Greenpeace lawyer Jose Manuel Marraco said.

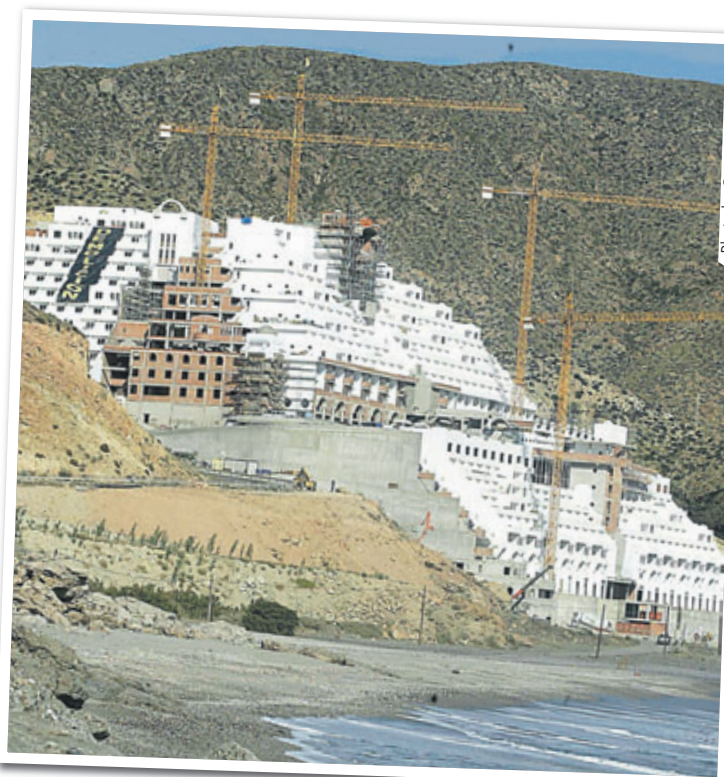


Photo by Greenpeace.org

EL ALGARROBICO: There is no chance of the hotel being legalised.

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NEWS EXTRA

Safety first

THE authorities are trying to decide where to install Almeria City's first intelligent junction system. Using V2V technology, the system aims to prevent accidents by warning drivers of the presence of others when visibility is low.

Joining up

ALMERIA Provincial Council and the Junta de Andalucía regional government signed a tourism promotion collaboration agreement in Malaga which will include specific promotional campaigns in the UK and Germany.

Big spender

THE mayor of Almeria City, Ramon Fernandez-Pacheco, announced that his council will be spending more than €500,000 on improvement works in La Cañada district this year.

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Fresh scrutiny for taxpayers in Spain

The Spanish tax office has announced new measures to crack down on tax fraud. Their tax inspections plan for 2017 revealed new IT tools and processes that will make it much easier to investigate the tax affairs of wealthy individuals.

More access to information

Now, the tax office (*Agencia Tributaria* or *Hacienda*) will be able to analyse and cross-reference data from a wide range of sources to detect possible tax fraud. This includes personal income and wealth tax returns, as well as *Modelo 720* declarations, etc.

Tax authorities are already benefiting from the new 'automatic exchange of information' regime, with Spain being one of over 100 countries that will share information on taxpayers' assets and income. Financial institutions reporting data across countries include banks, custodians, investment funds, certain insurance companies, trusts and foundations.



By Brett Hanson,
Partner,
Blevins Franks

Information being shared includes personal data such as your name and address, country of tax residence and tax identification number. Information about your accounts includes investment income you earned over the year, including interest, dividends, income from certain insurance contracts and annuities. Account balances are also reported, as are gross proceeds from the sale of financial assets.

With all this information combined, the new *Hacienda* system

will be capable of estimating the total wealth of each taxpayer in Spain.

Identifying 'fake' residency

One focus for the *Hacienda* will be identifying those who actually live in Spain but do not declare their income and assets here, usually claiming residency in a low taxation territory.

The tax office can now collect information from utility providers, as well as paperwork for vehicles and property ownership, to establish where individuals are effectively living. For example, they can check electricity bills to confirm whether a property is being lived in long enough to trigger residency. They can also identify if people have an income arising from letting out property without declaring it.

It is likely that they will look closely at those who have declared themselves resident in lower taxation territories like Gibraltar, Andorra and Portugal. This could also catch out expatriates who declare themselves

UK residents without realising they are actually tax resident in Spain.

Why the crackdown?

By penalising tax fraud, the Spanish government can recoup revenue to bring down budget deficits. Wealthy individuals are the latest target because the *Hacienda* sees them as more likely to use aggressive tax planning.

According to *Agencia Tributaria* chief, Santiago Menéndez, in the last five years, they collected €400 million from tax inspections of individuals with wealth over €10 million.

With all the latest tools, locally and internationally, the government has today, it is likely they will continue to profit in the future.

How might this affect you?

There should be little to worry about if you have been declaring your finances correctly. However, if you live in Spain but have assets or receive income abroad, it may be hard to determine what you should be

declaring and where tax is due. Getting it wrong may be easier than you think and result in costly fines and even prosecution.

With this fresh approach to tax evasion, it is more important than ever to take personalised, professional advice on your financial planning. As well as ensuring you meet your reporting obligations in Spain and anywhere else you have assets, your tax planning should aim to shelter your assets using tax compliant arrangements. For example, tax-efficient investment wrappers, offered through a Spanish compliant bond, could legitimately reduce tax on savings and investments.

An adviser with cross-border expertise can help you enjoy favourable tax treatment while offering peace of mind that you are meeting your tax obligations, here and in the UK.

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State of abandon

By Eleanor Hawkins

A RECENT incident which saw hundreds of people temporarily evacuated from their homes in El Patio in Almería City's Pescadería district has served to highlight the abandoned state of the entire area.

PSOE socialist party councillor at City Hall Manuel Vallejo has complained of an "unbearable lack of cleaning and maintenance which the Partido Popular is subjecting Pescadería to, especially in the Camino Viejo area where rubbish of all types is piling up and posing a

health risk."

PSOE councillors held a meeting with a number of neighbours' association representatives, who took them on a tour to see the worst areas, a letter has been sent to the mayor demanding something be done urgently.

Local residents say they cannot believe that the council has spent almost one million euros on cleaning up the nearby access areas to the city while ignoring the inside of the district. Roads are in such a bad state that, they say, in some areas potholes are so big they are accumulating piles of rubbish inside.

Not only that, Vallejo said, but this clear-up job involved demolition of warehouses which caused the earth to move and cracks have appeared in local homes. "The inhabitants are worried because this could be dangerous and when it rains their walls leak," the councillor said.

Regarding El Patio itself, Vallejo has asked the council to explain what it is going to do about the state of the complex to guarantee safety as the residents are clearly in no position to cover the costs of rehabilitation of the building.



PILED UP: Huge amounts of rubbish are posing a health risk.

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NEWS EXTRA

Surprise passengers

GUARDIA CIVIL officers posted at Almeria Port have found 23 illegal immigrants hidden in lorries, buses and other vehicles disembarking from ferries from Morocco in January alone.

Corruption concerns

THE winter 2017 General Public Opinion Survey (Egopa) for Andalucia shows people from Almeria worry more about corruption and politicians than their health.

Towed away

ALMERIA City Local Police has had five vehicles towed to the municipal pound. The vehicles were parked on Avenida del Mediterraneo and advertised for sale but uninsured.



WANTON VANDALISM: One of the things plain clothes officers will be watching out for.

Cops go undercover

By Eleanor Hawkins

PLAIN clothes Local Police officers have started patrolling various areas of Almeria City at night with a view to cracking down on crime.

This, Citizen Security councillor Maria Vazquez explained, will allow them to “make the most of the sur-

prise factor and catch those who break the law unawares.”

The officers, who will be supported by uniformed colleagues whenever necessary, will be patrolling busy and problem areas and paying particular attention to underage drinking, drugs, ‘looky looky men,’ vandalism, bullying or abuse and excessive noise among other problems.

While initially these patrols will only occur at night, the council hopes to also introduce them during the day in the near future, especially near schools to catch skivers.

“This is the continuation of an initiative we launched at Christmas with excellent results and will increase citizen safety,” Vazquez said.

Work to provide better services

WORK is set to start over the next few days on three of the main central streets in Turre.

Almeria Provincial Council has set aside €160,000 for the project, which includes work on Avenida de la Libertad, Calle Aire and Calle Rosales.

Work will include installing new drainage systems, removing overhead cables and putting them underground, resurfacing the streets and building new pavements.

Provincial Public Works delegate Oscar Liria explained that the project is an important one as not only will it improve the looks of three streets but will also improve basic services such as sewage, drains and supply. “The Provincial Plans are going to guarantee improved basic services in this town with a minimal impact on municipal coffers,” Liria promised.

Disgruntled pet owner caught

A MAN from Vera is under investigation suspected of putting up slanderous posters across the Levante area calling staff of a vet clinic criminals and animal murderers.

The posters began to appear at the end of January and the Guardia Civil started keeping an eye on the places they were put up. Late one

night they spotted a man putting more up and found he was carrying a bag containing multiple posters.

The police force reported the suspect had taken a pet to the clinic and was referred to an animal hospital, where the pet later died, due to a lack of necessary equipment to diagnose the problem.



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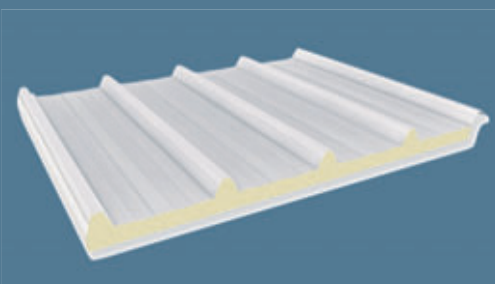
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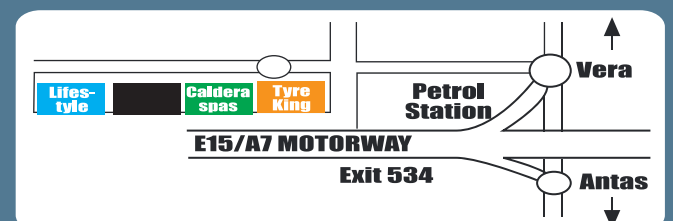
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NEWS EXTRA

New docks

THE Public Works and Housing department has announced a €7.3 million project to build new docks at Carboneras port, hoping to boost nautical and recreation activity and also provide new moorings for fishing boats.

More tests

ITV centres across Almería carried out MOT tests on 317,744 vehicles in 2016, 20,833 more than in 2015, the Junta de Andalucía regional government has reported.

Patients up

ALTOGETHER 2,576,676 medical appointments with GPs or paediatricians were booked through Salud Responde system last year. The number of people using the mobile app increased by 62.8 per cent compared to 2015.

Looking to the future

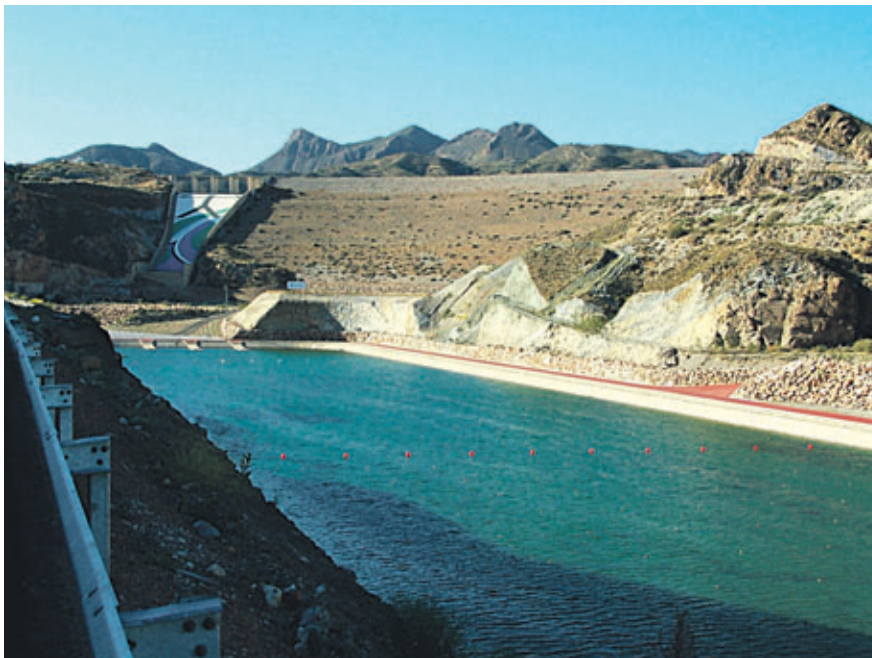
By Eleanor Hawkins

LOCAL businesspeople joined a meeting with Cuevas del Almanzora Council representatives to discuss the future of the Canal de Remo (rowing channel).

The channel, which remains largely unused, could see multimillion investment if a project to build an aquatic movie studio there continue, explained local mayor Salvador Hernandez.

The project has the support of Spain Film Commission and Andalucía Film Commission and would see the most modern studios in the country built in Cuevas, creating hundreds of jobs and bringing untold riches to the area.

There are also sporting events planned for the near future which will serve to bring the channel back to life, Hernandez has stressed. These, following



CANAL DE REMO: The channel needs to be put to good use.

in the path of last year's Guinness record for Dragonboat, will see the European Championships held there in 2019 bringing an estimated 5,000 rowers from all over the continent to town.

Thus, the mayor explained, he will for now be halting a process by which management of the channel had been put out to tender. There were just two applicants and neither seem to have convinced the judges.

"We need to put the channel to good use but not at any price and we need to avoid repeating the errors of the past, which did more harm than good," said Tourism councillor Indalecio Modesto Alonso.

Mirror, mirror on the wall

MOJACAR and Velez Blanco are both competing to see who is the most charming of them all by taking part in the Most Charming Place in Andalucía competition.

Website users proposed 18 different towns and villages across the region to take part in the competition, organised for the third year running by Andalucía Tipica, an online rural accommodation portal.

The two Almería locations were at the time of going to press waiting with bated breath for news on whether they would be amongst the 10 taking part in the final. The competition is a popular one which last year saw more than 100,000 people vote for their favourite destinations.

It is also great for business as, according to the organisers, demand for accommodation in participating areas increases by up to 40 per cent.

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Photo Credit: WWF España

WETLANDS IN PERIL: The record number of overwintering birds masks a grim reality.

Record wintering birds, despite wetlands suffering

By Matt Ford

RECORD numbers of wetland birds are overwintering in Andalucía, with close to a million recorded during the 2016 annual census.

This represents an increase of 115,000 over the previous record, set in 2014.

Around 645,000 of the birds counted during the census, which included 230 wetland sites, were in Doñana National Park, which straddles parts of Huelva and Sevilla provinces and is the largest wetland in southern Spain.

Regional Environmental councillor, Jose Fiscal, said:

“This increase is due in particular to the abundant rainfall that hit the Atlantic coast during autumn, which had led to excellent flooding in Doñana’s natural marshland.”

The councillor was speaking at a release of endangered species at the artificial Cañada de los Pajeros reserve in Puebla del Rio, Sevilla, in order to commemorate World Wetlands Day (WWD).

However, the positive news regarding the number of birds present in the region came as a scathing WWD report by SEO/Birdlife International concluded that Doñana, the Ebro Delta and the Albufera

de Valencia, Spain’s three most important wetlands, are on the verge of environmental collapse.

The Executive Director of the organisation, Asuncion Ruiz, explained how wetlands in Spain, a country that “has the potential to become the desert of Europe,” are reaching “a point of no return that will not only endanger nature, but also society.”

WWD commemorates the signing of the Ramsar International Convention on Wetlands in 1971.

However, Ruiz said that Spain “should drop its bragging over its status as the country with the third largest number of Ramsar sites,” because “its poor conservation standards may lead to its expulsion.”

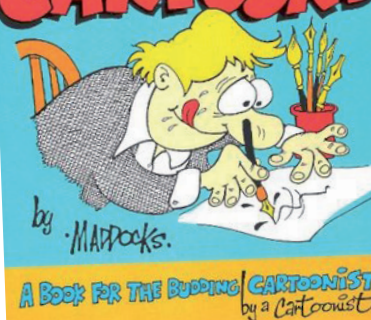
She added that the chronic situation in Doñana, the Ebro and Valencia has forced her organisation to open an official investigation “to assess whether Spain meets the requirements to remain in the catalogue.”

Wetlands are among the most fragile ecosystems on the planet, with around 60 per cent having disappeared during the 20th century, 87 per cent since the year 1700.

In Spain, the conservation status of an estimated 80 per cent of freshwater habitats fails to meet standards, with decades of pollution, over-exploitation and mismanagement having taken their toll.

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Stray feeders will face fines

By Eleanor Hawkins

BAD timing of new by-laws will mean volunteers who feed stray cats in Almeria City will face fines, the opposition has complained.

PSOE socialist representative at City Hall Ines Plaza has explained that the cleaning by-law, the first due to come into effect, will forbid feeding of animals on the public street. Although a new domestic animal by-law also due to come into effect in the near future will specify feeding points where authorised people will be allowed to care for strays, in the meantime they will be breaking the law, Plaza said.

This has led to more than 300 complaints being lodged with the council by animal



Photo by Daniel Ramirez/Wikimedia

INÉS PLAZA: Explained about the new by-law.

charities and environmental groups among others.

Plaza has also highlighted the low amount set aside in this year's budgets, €5,000, for the launch of a capture, sterilise and release programme to keep stray numbers under control. "Malaga, where the system works perfectly, spends

four times the amount," the opposition councillor said.

"The PP council should really thank the volunteers for the work they do and the money of their own they spend to control cat colonies in Almeria, which have benefits for the community as the felines keep rodent and insect numbers down," Plaza claimed.




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Brexit negotiations could destabilise EU



NOT A FAN: John-Claude Juncker with Theresa May.



BREXIT PAGE

By John Smith

NOT known to be a great fan of Britain, the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker has warned in a radio interview that the British are clever enough to make different promises to different countries over Brexit.

Rather than admit that individual member states within the European Union will do all that they can to secure a deal that suits them

best, he has decided to accuse Britain of trying to manipulate those members by saying different things to different states.

He seems to have overlooked the number of cities who are vying to take over as headquarters of the European Medical Agency which is currently based in London and which will have to remove itself once Brexit is completed.

Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Spain and Sweden have all declared that they wish to be considered as the new home of that agency and the European Banking Agency will also be looking for a new home in two years time.

Mr Juncker appears to think that Britain's future negotiations are likely to destabilise the European Union as members agree different deals, even though he insists that no deals should be done until after Britain has left.

He has also indicated however that he does intend to stand for re-election as president in 2019.

Brexit voting is still on course in the Commons

HAVING successfully sailed through the House of Commons with majority approval of the White Paper on triggering Article 50 to allow Britain to leave the European Union, Prime Minister Theresa May must be pleased with the ease of the vote.

With only Kenneth Clarke deviating from the Tory benches by voting against as he indicated at a very early stage, it was the Labour front bench which saw yet more unrest with five members of the Shadow Cabinet resigning as they would not bow down to a three line whip instructing them to vote in favour.

The resignations gave rise to yet another round of 'Corbyn stepping down' rumours

which have been hurriedly denied and even the absence of staunch supporter Diane Abbott with a sudden migraine on the first round of voting caused a flurry of speculation, although she did turn up and follow the party line at the second vote.

Reports suggest however that when Brexit Secretary David Davies went to kiss her after congratulating her on the vote, she was horrified and expressed this with an expletive. He has since apologised to her for his initial lighthearted action.

Despite the government's statement it wanted to see the situation of expats in the UK and abroad resolved early, one amendment which covered this position was

voted down which has caused some upset with British nationals living within the EU. All attempts at adding clauses were easily beaten but things may not be so tranquil when the Bill reaches the House of Lords where the government does not have a majority.

Whilst it is likely to pass in due course, any amendments agreed by the House would have to be referred back to the Commons on March 7 and these amendments could 'ping pong' backwards and forwards for some time.

Despite all this, it is still expected that the government will be able to trigger Article 50 by the planned date.

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More in than out

By Eleanor Hawkins

ALTHOUGH the province has a very active agricultural export sector, local farmers are clearly not too keen on boats as Almería Port imported more fruit and veg than it exported last year.

A new report from the state port authority, Puertos del Estado, revealed that in 2016 the city port received 13,950 tonnes of produce, mainly from Morocco, but sent out just 13,327 tonnes, most of which were headed for Algeria.

Although in the past grapes and oranges were exported from Almería by sea, since the greenhouse boom of the 1970s farmers have appeared to place more trust in lorries and roads to transport their ware.

Spring cleaning for Age Support



UNWANTED ITEMS: Bob and Paddy drop off items to volunteer Janet.



IF you are having a tidy and spring clean while the weather is bad, you might like to take your unwanted items to the Age Support shop in Arboleas.

Bob and Paddy Carthew did just this and are pictured with shop volunteer, Janet Lewis.

The shop, which has good quality ladies and gents winter jackets at the moment, is located in Placeta Padre Arias and is open Monday to Saturday from

10am to 1.30pm.

Margaret, shop manageress, is looking for volunteers to provide cover for shop staff. Call in to speak with her and the other volunteers.

The Age Support shop will soon be launching a Facebook page to sell specialist and larger items such as furniture which have been donated to the shop.

All donations of clothes and bric-a-brac are welcomed as

they are sold in aid of the charity which provides support to the elderly in the Almanzora area.

All help provided is free of charge to clients. The money raised helps Age Support to run the Information Centre in Avenida Lepanto in Albox where you can hire equipment or get advice for free.

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Reindeer thieves caught

TWO men have been arrested by the Guardia Civil for allegedly stealing Christmas decorations.

Investigations began on January 4 when the police force received reports of the theft of four large reindeer decorations from Gador and two large goose decorations from Benahadux within hours of each other.

Eventually investigators tracked down one of the reindeer figures at a second hand shop in Almería City and a 42-year-old man from the city was arrested.

A week later another man, aged 31 and from Viator, was also arrested and handed over decorations still in his possession, which the owner recognised immediately.

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Funds from those who cared

THE fundraisers who joined in the fight to reach Leo's financial target came from all walks of life.

Some gave only a few pounds or euros, hurriedly pulled out of a pocket at the last moment, while others managed events at which hundreds and hundreds were raised.

In Stockport, Greater Manchester, young girls at St Thomas Primary School held a cake sale in aid of Leo. They managed to raise a fantastic £792!

Susan Gutierrez said their Table Top Sale in Vera "was a complete and utter success. I'd like to give a big thanks especially to those who donated their money and time, to those who came and spent their euros and those who got generally involved with the event in one way or another. It just shows what a small community can do when there's a little boy's life at stake."

Among the biggest donors was a squash competition on the Isle of Man, from where Karen hails, which brought in £7,000.

In Karen's own words the family were humbled by the generosity of another little boy who had heard about Leo's plight.

"We just stopped somewhere for lunch now that Leo has been discharged. A mum and her little boy came up to us asking if this was Leo. Nathan, the little boy, wanted to give Leo all of his pocket money and gave him his £5. So, so lovely and generous. Such good people around xxx."



SUSAN GUTIERREZ: Table top sale was a success.



CAKE SALE: Raised a fantastic £792.



FACE PAINTING: Raised vital funds.



Leo the gets rea Oklah

By Simon Firth

LEO THE LION has had his surgery on Merseyside and the doctors are pleased. They have done their part, taking out the two tumours which were growing inside the four-year-old's brain and would have killed him. And after just two days in recovery he was being discharged. For his family especially, and his hundreds of well-wishers and supporters, it was the news everyone had been waiting for. It means the first hurdle has been crossed. Leo must now recover his strength and continue to get better ready for his date with a plane that will take him stateside.

That date is set for February 23 when Leo and mum Karen will fly to Oklahoma.

Before that, Leo was being reunited with his older sister, Sofia, who had to stay in Spain while he was undergoing his treatment at Alder Hey.

When the family arrived in the UK, they left their home with fundraising still going at break neck speed.

Hundreds of events, large and small, contributed to a rising total that was climbing faster and faster towards the magic €175,000. Eventually an anonymous donor stepped in to help, instantly taking the financial strain off the family and leaving them to concentrate on Leo.

Everyone has their theories about who it could be and certainly a lot of famously charitable names were bandied about. But the truth is we don't know. Maybe it's better that way, but Leo's fight against such massive odds, and his smiling face no matter what the cost, had moved thousands of people to donate towards his cause.

In a touching post on social media, Leo's mum Karen said: "Dad, I promise I will continue to do everything in my power to make sure Leo wins this battle. Cancer already took your life so quickly on Christmas Eve. We all miss you so much and our family has lost our rock... I haven't even had time to mourn you yet."

The first hurdle has been crossed for Leo.

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Leo ready for Oklahoma



A children's hospital in a park

THERE are probably two children's hospitals which attract most attention in the UK. One, of course, is Great Ormond Street, probably because of its location in London, but the other is Alder Hey on Merseyside. Founded during the First World War, it is a centre of excellence for the treatment of children with cancer.

It is also Europe's first children's hospital built in a park. Construction of the new hospital, which has been going on since 2013, is still underway in some areas. Its managers insist that parts of the building were 'designed through the eyes of a child.'

“Designed through the eyes of a child.”

One of the hallmarks of the design has been the construction of rooms with single beds with sufficient space for parents to sleep there if required. The aim, say its designers, is to give every child who comes for treatment, a space where they can play and relax. Besides its emphasis on new technology, the hospital is designed to be one of the most environmentally friendly units of its type in the world.



The nurses with Leo.



ALDER HEY: A centre of excellence for cancer treatment.

She went on to say, "But I know you will be protecting and looking after him as he takes the next step on this horrendous journey to beat this deadly disease. Leo is going to do this for you. xxx"

When they arrived on Merseyside and a stay at the renowned Alder Hey Children's Hospital, it was clear Leo would need a new round of tests.

An MRI scan gave the surgeons their best view of their twin foes and crucially whether Leo's medical condition had deteriorated.

The extraordinary MRI technology revealed Leo's operation could go ahead but it also showed something new and deeper down that cannot be removed. The most likely option is that it's a new developing tumour, but this time it cannot be cut out.

Instead, Leo must recover his strength so the US-based experts can join in the battle to help him.

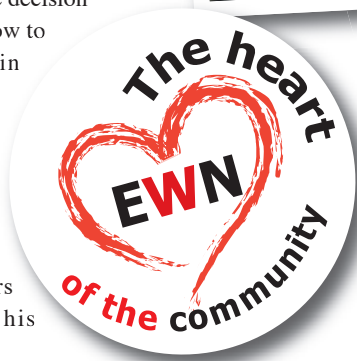
In Oklahoma Leo will undergo proton therapy treatment. It offers the chance to bombard the post-operative tumour sites with a fine proton beam.

This will limit as much as possible, any damage to the surrounding tissue in Leo's young brain.

With proton beam therapy he could recover a lot of the faculties he has lost. That would not be possible with conventional radiation.

When the treatment gets underway, under the guidance of Dr Andrew Chang at ProCure in Oklahoma City, the decision will then be made about how to treat the newest mass in Leo's brain.

His family and the rest of us have no alternative but to hope and pray that it responds to the treatment. Leo would then be free, at last, of the tumours that grow as a result of his very rare childhood cancer.



om/leothelion3


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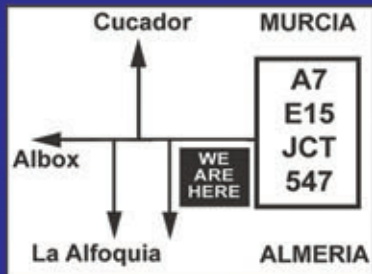


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Arnie's back

■ ACTION hero Arnold Schwarzenegger plays a famous Russian killer in his new film. 'Aftermath' sees the Terminator star play Vitaly Kaloyev, who hunted down and murdered the air traffic controller he blamed for the death of his wife and children in the Uberlingen air crash in 2002.

Murky business

■ A KEY opposition leader has been given a five year suspended sentence for embezzlement. Alexei Navalny will also be forbidden from running in the 2018 presidential election. Navalny was convicted of embezzling money from a state timber company in 2013 and previously failed in a campaign to become Moscow mayor.



Toy kingpins

■ RUSSIA's biggest toy store was valued at almost €400 million when it hit the Russian Stock Exchange. Detskiy Mir (Children's World) has over 400 shops in different cities across Russia and Kazakhstan. Last year's profits were over one billion roubles (€16 million).

Poisoned chalice

■ DOCTORS revealed that a prominent Kremlin critic was poisoned. Vladimir Kara-Murza has been in a coma for weeks after mysteriously falling ill. The 35-year-old lives in America but visited Russia to show a documentary about opposition leader Boris Nemtsov who was executed outside the Kremlin in 2015.

personally approved a new law that effectively decriminalises domestic violence. The controversial law removed mandatory prison sentences for violence towards spouses or children. The only caveat is that bones aren't broken and the abuse isn't frequent.

ited islands. If his offer is accepted he will build an 'alternative Russia' on the islands based on the deposed Romanov monarchy.

Island empire

■ A RUSSIAN millionaire is planning to set up a new Romanov empire on a remote Pacific island chain. Anton Bakov is in talks with the Kiribati government to buy three uninhab-

Night reading

■ THE Leo Tolstoy express train which runs from Moscow to Helsinki now has a public library for passengers. Both Russian and Finnish works will be translated from each language as part of a cultural exchange project. The overnight train runs almost every day and takes 13 hours to complete the 1,073km journey.

Domestic discord

■ PRESIDENT Putin has

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Mojácar Playa



2 bed, 2 bath, ground floor apartment of 83m² & underground parking, store-room + lift access. Sea views. Furnished. In walking distance of the beach. **A1292 179,000€**

Huerta de las Parras



4 bed, 5 bath, modern villa of 250m² on a plot of 8,379m². Various terraces, solarium, private garage & pool. Oil under-floor heating. **DV1403 499,950€**

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2 bed, 2 bath linked villa of 76m² on a plot of 151m². Sea views from the upper terrace. Would benefit from some modernisation. Excellent location. **SDV1405 195,000€**

Turre



4 bed, 2.5 bath, detached villa on a fully walled plot of 10,000m². Large heated pool, detached garage & many extra features. Superb terraces & tree lined driveway. **DV1198 395,000€**

Mojácar Playa



2 bed, 2 bath, apartment of 63m² + terrace of 30m² & underground parking. Sea views. Community pool. In walking distance of the beach & all amenities. **A1294 139,000€**

Cortijo Grande



1 bed, 2 bath, villa + 2 bed, 1 bath, annex of 120m² on a plot of 1,600m². Beautiful golf & mountain views. Private pool, terraces & gardens. **DV1399 250,000€**

Mojácar Playa



3 bed, 2 bath detached villa of 125m² on an easily maintained plot of 386m². All on one level with a garage & store-room. Walking distance to beach & amenities. **DV1400 299,950€**

Cuevas del Almanzora



Townhouse with 8 rooms ready for renovation spread over 2 levels plus 2 bathrooms, kitchen & living room. Integral garage + 1 further room. Central location. **LV731 75,000€**

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2 bed, 2 bath, townhouse of 81m² in a beautiful urbanisation about 400m from the sea. A/C & parking. Sea & mountain views. Community pool. **LV727 135,000€**

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3 bed, 2 bath, linked villa of 97m² + 145m² garden. Solarium, parking & community pool. Excellent location for the beach & amenities. **LV728 240,000€**

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3 bed, 2 bath, semi-detached townhouse of 81m² + terraces & gardens. Community pool, gardens & tennis. Furnished. Sought after location. **LV722 165,000€**

Vera



2 bed, 1 bath, 1st floor apartment of 87m². In walking distance of Vera town centre. Terrace & roof terrace. No furnishings or white goods included. **A1291 46,995€**

Mojácar Playa



2 bed, 2 bath, stylish apartment of 82m² at street level. Walking distance to some of the best beaches. Communal pool & gardens. Underground parking & storeroom. **A1293 149,000€**

Mojácar Playa



2 bed, 2 bath, luxury ground floor apartment of 83m² + huge terrace. A/C. Underground parking, store-room + lift access. Community pools & gardens. 2nd line urbanisation. **A1262 169,950€**

Vera Playa



2 bed, 2 bath top floor apartment of 60m² in a very desirable urbanisation. A/C & furnished. Community pool. In easy walking distance of all amenities. **A1272 84,500€**

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3 for 2



Cohabitants' pension benefits

By John Smith

OFTEN criticised for causing unnecessary bureaucracy and impinging on the British parliament's right to govern the country, the European convention on human rights could help a large number of people who are in long-term partnerships.

Denise Brewer from Northern Ireland had lived with her partner Lenny McMullan for 10 years and they were engaged to be married, but he died suddenly just a few

6 million
is the estimated number of unmarried but cohabiting people in the United Kingdom.

days after they had announced their plans.

Prior to his death he had worked for Translink, a company responsible for public transport in Northern Ireland for 15 years and as he

had not specifically named Ms Brewster as a cohabiting partner in the pension scheme of which he was a member, she was denied the right to receive any pension following his death.

Relying on a clause within the convention on human rights, her lawyers argued that it was discrimination and that she should have been paid the pension as if she had been named and the five Supreme Court judges agreed with this argument.

As much of UK law is based on precedence shaped by court opinion, this effectively means that those who cohabit should receive the same treatment as those who are married as far as pension rights are concerned.

Professional advice

IN order to try to persuade more people to obtain professional advice on their pension savings, the British government has decided that any saver can take up to £1,500 (€1,750) from their pension pots tax free to pay for professional advice.

The Pension Advice Allowance will be available from April of this year and those who take advantage of it, regardless of their age may use £500 (€585) on three separate occasions to pay for independent professional advice and those in the highest tax bracket will save £600 (€700) if they use the whole allowance.

Quote of the Week

"An all-out trade war with China would be damaging to Disney's business and to business in general." Disney's CEO Bob Iger on President Donald Trump's financial plans.



Spinal Tap reform



Photo Credit: Kalnet flickr

VOLUME CONTROLS: Turn it up to 11.

By John Smith

SPINAL TAP and director Rob Reiner got together to sue media firm Vivendi for \$400 million (€375 million) in respect of unpaid royalties and damages.

For several years, the creators of the 'mockumentary' received decent royalty payments, but when Vivendi took over the rights to the movie in 1989, the revenue stream just dried up and between 1989 and 2006, total reported income from soundtrack music

sales was just \$98 (€92).

Harry Shearer first decided to sue Vivendi on his own but now his co-creators have decided to join in the action which will make their case much stronger.

"Such anti-competitive practices need to be exposed. I am hoping this lawsuit goes to 11," director Reiner is quoted as saying, alluding to the famous scene in the movie where the band have amplifiers with volume controls that go up to 11 so that they are louder than any other band.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Renault Nissan

ONE in nine cars sold around the world (9,961,347 in 2016) were produced by an alliance between the car makers Renault of France and Nissan of Japan according to a press release issued by the alliance.

Rand coins

THOSE in the eurozone are being warned to keep an eye open when receiving change as the South African 5 Rand coin is bi-metal and looks very similar to the €2 coin but is worth just 35 euro cents.

Economic forecast

ANALYSTS working for BBVA Bank are now forecasting that economic growth in Spain will be greater than originally expected with GDP rising by 2.7 per cent whilst unemployment could fall to 17.5 per cent by the end of this year.

Greek economy still a worry

ALTHOUGH there has been little negative news concerning the state of the Greek economy over the past few months, a review from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) suggests it is far more vulnerable than initially assumed and that debt will

be much greater than forecast.

Shares on the Athens Stock Exchange fell accordingly and Ted Malloch who may become American Ambassador to the European Union again predicted the possible fall of the eurozone.

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LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES FEBRUARY 13

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,352.50	0.00	0.00	18,166.07
Associated British Foods	2,525.00	25.00	1.00	19,712.69
Admiral Group	1,901.00	3.00	0.16	5,340.14
Ashtead Group	1,698.50	54.50	3.32	8,102.43
Antofagasta	917.75	51.75	5.98	8,157.96
Aviva	497.50	-2.50	-0.50	20,309.63
AstraZeneca	4,626.50	0.00	0.00	57,886.48
BAE Systems	612.00	0.00	0.00	19,058.38
Babcock International Group	910.25	29.25	3.32	4,449.25
Barclays	228.65	0.00	0.00	38,944.23
British American Tobacco	4,983.00	-25.00	-0.50	93,610.22
Barratt Developments	525.50	17.00	3.34	5,110.30
British Land Co	627.00	19.00	3.13	6,260.95
BHP Billiton	1,451.75	81.75	5.97	28,259.52
Bunzl	2,239.50	72.50	3.35	7,225.65
BP	448.53	-11.07	-2.41	89,350.04
Burberry Group	1,633.00	1.00	0.06	7,133.97
BT Group	306.25	0.00	0.00	30,706.20
Coca-Cola HBC	1,766.50	-59.50	-3.26	6,610.16
Carnival	4,195.00	-141.00	-3.25	9,270.29
Centrica	240.20	6.20	2.65	12,767.04
Compass Group	1,493.00	48.00	3.32	23,694.89
Capita Group (The)	527.50	1.50	0.29	3,422.43
Croda International	3,299.50	-94.50	-2.78	4,446.67
CRH	2,762.50	2.50	0.09	22,816.48
Convatec Group Ord 10p Wi	240.00	-0.30	-0.12	4,761.59
Dixons Carphone	309.45	0.25	0.08	3,587.54
DCC	6,755.00	-35.00	-0.52	6,013.98
Diageo	2,209.50	-45.00	-2.00	56,776.89
Direct Line Insurance Group	361.55	-6.45	-1.75	4,994.00
Experian	1,538.00	-27.00	-1.73	14,752.27
easyJet	962.00	14.50	1.53	3,773.48
Fresnillo	1,458.00	-97.00	-6.24	11,267.10
GKN	350.55	9.65	2.83	5,860.24
Glencore	320.75	0.00	0.00	44,940.38
GlaxoSmithKline	1,583.25	-7.75	-0.49	77,436.91
Hikma Pharmaceuticals	1,938.50	1.50	0.08	4,691.43
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,377.50	11.50	0.84	6,417.53
Hammerson	565.50	0.50	0.09	4,501.34
HSBC Holdings	686.90	0.00	0.00	136,940.33
International Consolidated	487.40	0.40	0.08	10,373.33
InterContinental Hotels Grp	3,799.00	2.00	0.05	7,454.31
3i Group	715.00	0.50	0.07	7,008.98
Imperial Brands	3,770.00	0.00	0.00	36,378.28
Informa	666.00	-3.50	-0.52	5,529.07
Intu Properties	265.00	-6.20	-2.29	3,697.91
Intertek Group	3,649.50	117.50	3.33	5,650.15
ITV	215.95	6.95	3.33	8,437.26
Johnson Matthey	3,260.00	90.00	2.84	6,173.72
Kingfisher	350.35	21.85	6.65	7,346.91

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Land Securities Group	1,046.00	-2.00	-0.19	8,271.18
Legal & General Group	247.00	4.00	1.65	14,398.70
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	63.96	-1.68	-2.56	47,206.59
London Stock Exchange Grp	2,976.50	-94.50	-3.08	10,803.45
Micro Focus International	2,254.00	-6.00	-0.27	5,200.26
Mediclinic International	833.25	-2.25	-0.27	6,085.95
Merlin Entertainments	486.40	0.00	0.00	4,931.75
Marks & Spencer Group	341.80	0.00	0.00	5,559.82
Mondi	1,778.00	-24.00	-1.33	8,705.98
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	247.60	0.10	0.04	5,768.77
National Grid	950.45	-7.95	-0.83	35,938.36
Next	3,979.50	13.50	0.34	5,777.85
Old Mutual Group	211.35	0.15	0.07	10,229.62
Provident Financial	2,779.00	0.00	0.00	4,097.75
Paddy Power Betfair	8,707.50	7.50	0.09	7,295.08
Prudential	1,671.25	50.75	3.13	41,311.56
Persimmon	2,032.00	56.00	2.83	6,133.59
Pearson	638.25	-17.25	-2.63	5,429.05
Reckitt Benckiser Group	7,025.00	0.00	0.00	50,678.94
Royal Bank of Scotland Grp	230.00	1.10	0.48	27,559.85
Royal Dutch Shell	2,166.50	0.00	0.00	94,889.26
Royal Dutch Shell	2,267.50	0.00	0.00	83,955.09
RELX	1,515.00	46.00	3.13	15,867.15
Rio Tinto	3,650.50	78.00	2.18	46,499.58
Royal Mail	418.00	4.40	1.06	4,120.00
Rolls-Royce Group	770.00	37.50	5.12	13,202.70
Randgold Resources	7,500.00	50.00	0.67	6,956.40
RSA Insurance Group	593.00	-3.00	-0.50	6,081.97
Sainsbury (J)	260.65	-3.95	-1.49	5,832.37
Schroders	3,043.50	2.50	0.08	6,843.96
Sage Group (The)	638.25	-8.75	-1.35	6,881.19
Shire	4,572.00	-23.00	-0.50	41,358.51
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,116.50	1.50	0.07	5,022.56
Sky	1,005.00	5.00	0.50	17,190.17
Standard Life	363.90	-6.50	-1.75	7,231.38
Smiths Group	1,583.50	43.50	2.82	6,070.03
Smith & Nephew	1,189.50	3.50	0.30	10,495.02
SSE	1,545.00	8.00	0.52	15,626.46
Standard Chartered	817.45	22.25	2.80	26,173.66
St James's Place	1,084.00	1.00	0.09	5,707.58
Severn Trent	2,381.00	77.00	3.34	5,449.60
Tesco	191.58	-6.42	-3.24	16,177.99
TUI AG	1,196.50	38.50	3.32	6,839.00
Taylor Wimpey	171.05	-2.95	-1.70	5,685.19
Unilever	3,352.00	41.50	1.25	42,739.20
United Utilities Group	980.00	30.00	3.16	6,464.30
Vodafone Group	197.70	0.00	0.00	52,998.27
Wolseley	5,007.00	-3.00	-0.06	12,557.33
Worldpay Group	273.05	1.05	0.39	5,480.00
WPP Group	1,814.00	-61.00	-3.25	23,811.08
Whitbread	4,130.00	130.00	3.25	7,291.85

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3M	179,000	+0.46%	0.820	106M
AMERICAN EXPRESS	78,480	+0.38%	0.300	70M
APPLE	132,120	-0.23%	-0.300	693M
BOEING CO	166,230	+1.19%	1.950	102M
CATERPILLAR	96,310	+2.50%	2.350	56M
CHEVRON	113,05	+0.70%	0.79	213M
CISCO SYSTEMS	31,510	+0.03%	0.010	158M
COCA-COLA	40,58	-1.62%	-0.67	175M
DU PONT(EI) DE NMR	77,2100	+1.10%	0.8400	66M
EXXON MOBIL	82,52	+0.83%	0.68	341M
GENERAL ELECTRIC	29,7200	+0.44%	0.1300	262M
GOLDMAN SACHS	242,72	+0.48%	1.17	96M
HOME DEPOT	139,8500	+0.82%	1.1400	170M
IBM	178,68	+0.83%	1.47	169M
INTEL CORP	35,3400	-0.34%	-0.1200	167M
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	87,0000	-0.23%	-0.2000	311M
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	115,2400	+1.02%	1.1600	313M
MC DONALD'S CORP	125,8200	+1.08%	1.3400	103M
MERCK AND CO. NEW	64,15	-0.37%	-0.24	176M
MICROSOFT	64,000	-0.09%	-0.060	494M
NIKE	56,22	+1.65%	0.91	74M
PFIZER	32,3500	-0.09%	-0.0300	196M
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	87,970	-0.79%	-0.700	225M
TRAVELERS CIES	119,73	+0.80%	0.95	33M
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	111,05	+0.87%	0.96	91M
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	160,75	+0.19%	0.31	152M
VERIZON COMMS	48,98	+0.35%	0.17	199M
VISA	85,90	+0.37%	0.32	159M
WAL-MART STORES	68,0200	-1.53%	-1.0600	208M
WALT DISNEY CO	109,2600	-0.21%	-0.2300	172M

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES FEBRUARY 13

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Sierra Wireless, Inc.	\$ 24.45	5.80 ▲ 31.10%
Sears Holdings Corporation	\$ 2.0935	0.4935 ▲ 30.84%
Infinera Corporation	\$ 11.96	2.56 ▲ 27.23%
Sears Holdings Corporation	\$ 6.96	1.42 ▲ 25.63%
Immunomedics, Inc.	\$ 5.23	0.93 ▲ 21.63%
Control4 Corporation	\$ 13.93	2.36 ▲ 20.40%
Activision Blizzard, Inc	\$ 47.23	7.50 ▲ 18.88%
Ocular Therapeutix, Inc.	\$ 8.45	1.27 ▲ 17.69%
Talend S.A.	\$ 26.90	3.81 ▲ 16.50%
Magal Security Systems Ltd.	\$ 7.41	0.96 ▲ 14.88%
Ra Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 22.15	2.84 ▲ 14.71%
Most Declined		
Ubiquiti Networks, Inc.	\$ 53.425	10.705 ▼ 16.69%
Organovo Holdings, Inc.	\$ 3.19	0.58 ▼ 15.38%
Eagle Bulk Shipping Inc.	\$ 5.50	0.96 ▼ 14.86%
Apptio, Inc.	\$ 14.54	2.50 ▼ 14.67%
TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 4.15	0.70 ▼ 14.43%
Concordia International Corp.	\$ 2.45	0.39 ▼ 13.73%
Noodles & Company	\$ 3.90	0.55 ▼ 12.36%
Cardtronics plc	\$ 45.49	5.40 ▼ 10.61%
Liberty Global plc	\$ 35.25	4.1628 ▼ 10.56%
Mimecast Limited	\$ 20.74	2.32 ▼ 10.06%
Cara Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 14.85	1.48 ▼ 9.06%

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Multi Asset Conservative B EUR

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Passengers up, but profits down

By John Smith

BUDGET airline Ryanair has announced that the last three months trading saw an increase in passengers, thanks in part to a fall in airfares and a reduction in profits to €95 million.

Despite the fact that it is often accused of predatory pricing, charging for everything (including a fictitious claim that it would make people pay to use the toilet) it revealed that the average single fare paid by passengers was just €33 which is why its planes flew at 95 per cent capacity.

It did admit however that prices had fallen quicker than planned but it had to take action to protect its passenger loads following Brexit, the fall in sterling and the fact that charter competitors were moving out of North Africa and targeting Portugal and Spain.

Whilst it is cautious about future income, it still expects



Photo Credit: Ryanair

RYANAIR: Still expects to record a profit of between €1.3 and €1.35 billion.

to record a profit of between €1.3 and €1.35 billion when its financial year comes to an end in March 2017.

In a press statement, Ryanair CEO, the sometimes outspoken Michael O'Leary said "As previously guided, our fares this winter have

fallen sharply as Ryanair continues to grow traffic and load factors strongly in many European markets. These falling yields were exacerbated by the sharp decline in Sterling following the Brexit vote."

"Ryanair responded to this

weaker environment by continuing to improve our 'Always Getting Better' (AGB) customer experience, cutting costs, and stimulating demand through lower fares which has seen load factors jump to record levels."

It is however reviewing its

free second carry-on bag allowance because 'abuse' is contributing to flight delays as a number of passengers take on board grossly oversized bags.

"The airline is a victim of its own niceness," director Neil Sorahan commented.

Containers the new commercial fashion

By John Smith

AS it becomes more expensive to obtain quality retail or office space for start-up businesses in particular, it is becoming more and more attractive for London 'hipsters' to move into container cities.

Entrepreneurs are obtaining plots of land, purchasing numbers of containers which range in price from £1,000 (€1,150) to £2,500 (€2,900) depending on condition, renovating them, obtaining planning permission and adding mains utilities.

“Although more expensive than a permanent market, the containers are secure and protect from adverse weather.

Thus in a very short period of time and at relatively low cost a brand new specialist food quarter, light industrial estate or office complex can be opened and will quickly attract tenants willing to pay up to £20,000 (€23,000) per annum which is cheaper than almost any high street shop in a major city.

Admittedly the containers are more expensive than a permanent market stall, but they are secure and protected from adverse weather and in most cases have shared dining areas so size is not a problem.



Photo Credit: Akos Kokai flickr

NEW CONCEPT: A container shopping mall.

In the UK, London has the largest number of these parks but the concept is expanding with similar sites in University cities such as Bristol opening up and although storage is probably the most difficult problem to deal with, these companies which tend to attract young and relatively affluent clients create a new and trendy area to visit.

For those selling products or food, the most im-

portant thing is footfall and owners and tenants work together to present music and artistic events in order to attract more people to their premises.

The concept has taken off in the USA and parts of Europe but is particularly strong in Christchurch New Zealand following the devastating 2011 earthquake and harks back to the pre-fabs following the Second World War.

HBOS fraud will lead to compensation

WHEN complaints were made to the board of HBOS (Halifax Bank of Scotland) and Lloyds Banking Group after it took over HBOS about fraudulent activities by certain employees which ruined customers' lives, the complaints were rejected.

Now however, as six people including two senior former HBOS employees have been jailed for the scam which the banks denied, Lloyds Bank has finally admitted some liability and is to offer compensation.

It is estimated at least £28 million (€33 million) was made in loans which were never repaid and the HBOS officials involved received a percentage of not only these loans, but the overall value of all money fraudulently extracted from the bank and the companies involved.

Now the Lloyds Banking Group has confirmed it will appoint an independent consultant to review compensation for those who it believes were affected.

A family affair

MELANIA TRUMP, the new First Lady has decided to re-open a legal case against the *Daily Mail*, saying it cost her a 'once-in-a-lifetime opportunity' to profit from her brand because of the position she finds herself in.

She is now demanding compensation of \$150 million (€140 million) from the paper which accused her of being an 'escort' and then retracted the statement.

Her husband Donald has not yet joined in on this complaint but has tweeted expressing his dissatisfaction at clothing outlet Nordstrom for dropping his daughter Ivanka's fashion line commenting "Ivanka has been treated so unfairly."

This is the fifth company to drop her line saying that there was insufficient demand, but opponents of the President have suggested that he is abusing his position by commenting.

La Sala Group has major growth plans



Wayne and Federico at La Sala Banus.

By John Smith

IN our last edition (1649) we reported the arrival of Federico González, new Chief Executive Officer at La Sala Group which operates some of the most iconic venues on the Costa del Sol and England.

Having been in the post for just two weeks, he agreed to give an exclusive interview to *Euro Weekly News* to explain his background and the ethos of this business which has grown from a 'start up' to a medium size, established business that is going to continue to grow.

He and Wayne Elliot, group commercial director epitomise the business which was founded by a group of friends in 2008 when they opened Buddha Beach and although in the background, Federico has been associated with the group since that time.

Having spent 10 years working in corporate business in the UK and much of the rest of his life setting up businesses in Spain, he brings a very important new perspective to La Sala in this new role as he combines knowledge of both the Spanish and the British ways of life and working.

The various properties in the La Sala Group mainly attract British customers and operate in Spain and despite the success of the organisation which has expanded to include six



“La Sala Banus offers quality food, service and entertainment.”

different properties in Gibraltar, Spain and the UK it became clear to the shareholders that they needed a Spanish voice on the board.

Federico is excited with this new role and explained that with 300 staff and new projects about to be launched including a new beach club in Marbella by Easter, he wants to ensure that the customers enjoy a great experience at every one of their properties and that staff feel part of a family and do their all to please the customers.

Both of them believe that the only way is up and they are proud of the way that they have introduced La Sala Gibraltar into the Sunborn Yacht Hotel experience and are always open to discussions with companies that would like to see a La Sala presence at their properties.

They have received ap-

proaches from other countries, inviting them to become involved in co-operative ventures but at the moment they want to concentrate on expanding their base businesses, although London is definitely calling.

Considering that La Sala Banus didn't open until 2010, it is amazing how quickly the name has become synonymous with quality of food, service and entertainment and with 120,000 names on their data base they have really become one the best-known spots on the Costa del Sol.

All of this has come at a price and the group invests huge amounts of money in marketing, but that is only the tip of the iceberg as their recent refurbishment of La Sala Banus cost €300,000.

Whilst 2016 was a great year for La Sala, they expect 2017 to be even better, but they don't take anything for granted and recognise that growth will come from investment coupled with their ability to offer a first class product at all price ranges.

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Are the do-gooders out there listening?

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
OTHERS THINK IT



BEFORE the Trump immigrant ban was lifted, the media regaled us with harrowing airport pictures of families and individuals, devastated and often reduced to tears by the effect the new law was having on both them and their families. What they couldn't show of course, was the scowling confusion on the faces of any potential terrorists whose plans had been thwarted by the bill! Well, it's all now academic, and once again just about anybody is pouring through porous borders.

The sad truth is, that I fear it will take another attack of the magnitude of 9/11 to make the tree-hugging, luvvie brigade come to their senses and stop risking all our lives with their naïve, utterly misplaced sentiments toward the fanatical followers of a religious cult, that has no other purpose than to instill its primitive doctrine across the whole planet.

Are any of the do-gooders listening out there? Fanatical Islamists don't want to integrate. They are not like the Jews, who have embraced and enhanced the societies that gave them succour. They want to destroy the cultures and customs of the democratic West



Copyright Paper Cat

MISPLACED SENTIMENTS: The 9/11 memorial site in New York.

and replace it with their own barbarous teachings. They believe in stoning women to death. Beheading non-believers, marrying children to old men, destroying priceless artefacts, severing limbs and adorning the whole of the feminine gender in shrouds.

They have grabbed the welcoming hand of the West and bitten it off. The extremists of this belief have completely ruined any good faith that could have been enjoyed by the genuine souls among them who sought a better life. It is this majority who must stand up

and be counted. It is the genuine pacifists of Islam who must weed out and destroy the cancer that is eating away at any chance of a peaceful existence. But don't hold yer breath.

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PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

Ref:A772 V/Rubio 875,495€



A unique contemporary finca built to the finest of standards, set on 35 acres with olive trees and almond trees at the foot of the Maimon and Muela Mountains in Los Velez, Almeria situated only 6 minutes away from the centre of Velez Rubio and 10 minutes from Velez Blanco. The property boasts 360 degree views of mountains, typical Andalusian white washed village and two castles. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms located on 2 floors, fully fitted kitchen with a wide range of wall and base units. The lounge in this property is inspirational and a wonderful space to spend quality time with friends and family. EPC C89-24

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Exclusive

Ref:B884 Vera 65,000€



This 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom first floor apartment is located on the sought after golf resort of Valle Del Este. This golfing community has lovely swimming pools and well maintained garden areas. Now priced to sell! EPC E 114 - 28

Exclusive

Ref:B603 Vera 75,000€



This is a spacious well appointed apartment for sale in Vera Playa, located on a well maintained complex which has a communal swimming pool and garden areas. The property has 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. EPC E 100 - 25

Exclusive

Ref:B871 Mojácar 84,995€



This fantastic 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom apartment is situated on the beautiful Marina De La Torre golf complex. A shared staircase leads to the private elevated terrace which boasts beautiful sea and golf views. Reduced in price! EPC F 223 -56

Exclusive

Ref:A733 P/Lumbreras 299,000€



This 3 bedroom house is close to the village of Estacion which has many shops, bars and restaurants along with a large supermarket. It has a private swimming pool, air conditioning and a garage. The property has fully landscaped gardens. EPC G 238 - 59

Exclusive

Ref:B1028 Villaricos 99,950€



This is a great, modern apartment located in the lovely, quiet fishing village of Villaricos, meaning that you are within a very short walk from local bars, restaurants and shops. This property has 3 beds & underground parking. EPC G 139 - 34

Exclusive

Ref:B836 Vera 99,995€



This ground floor 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom apartment is beautifully presented and situated on a very well maintained community. The complex consists of 2 swimming pools, communal gardens, underground parking. EPC G 178 - F 42

Exclusive

Ref:B957 Mojácar 109,995€



This modern apartment is located on a small community of only 16 apartments which is situated on a quiet cul-de-sac with a communal swimming pool. This is a ground floor apartment with lovely sea and mountain views. 2 beds. EPC G 252 - 65

Exclusive

Ref:B304 Vera 155,000€



A must see villa for any discerning purchaser looking for a superb holiday or relocation home here in this wonderful part of Spain. Nestled on the edge of a small Spanish hamlet it has 3 beds, 2 baths and private pool. EPC E 101 - 25

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Want to be young again?

Guest

Columnist

Today: Bernie Waspe



I CAN remember quite clearly my dad often saying, "I wish I knew then what I know now." I dare say all of us can relate to that sentiment. However, I would hate to be 18 again.

Oh, of course I'd like the bodily suppleness of youth, with any knocks or bumps I get from day to day living clearing up and leaving me pain-free within a few hours, but the pressures of being young nowadays must be horrendous.

As a young man in the 1970s I mistakenly thought I looked good in my 'Royal Navy Great Coat' going to college. I was also prepared, as a six foot-two inch chap, to bang my head on low ceilings because it was fashionable to wear those uncomfortable five-inch platform shoes!

My one piece of retrospective 'street cred' I maintain is I always thought that Clive Dunn's 'Grandad'



VICTOR: Would laugh at the life of a modern teenager.

was naff! Mind you, I thought T Rex, The Osmonds and The Glitter Band were good so I suppose my musical taste was a tad suspect. My old man

insisted that the vibes I tuned into were not a patch on the likes of Porter, Berlin and Novello.

I now realise he wasn't as daft as I

first thought! If he were alive now goodness knows what he would make of the chanting to drums that purports to be music today. Now I know I had

fewer things with which to conform compared to today's young generation.

I have lots of sympathy for today's teenagers who not only have to contend with what to wear, but due to the advancement (if it can be called that) of social media, every individual is under scrutiny in nearly everything they do.

Today's obsession with 'celebrities' is something else I cannot fathom. Anyone who cares as to whether someone from an entertainment or sports background can cook, dance, ski or have a bug crawl over them ought to get out more and see their idols in their original professions.

The cynic in me thinks the TV companies are far happier producing all this instead of dramas as they are cheaper, can run for weeks rather than 'one-offs' and offer the prospect of additional income from phone calls.

Ah well. Rant over. I reckon I may be a clone of either Basil or Victor. Two much maligned individuals who only wanted people to be nice and do their best.

Now where did I put the Valium!

Advertising feature

A real wow property for €139,950

A BEAUTIFULLY presented, immaculately maintained, two bed, two bath villa with a huge Florida-style enclosure covering the swimming pool area with a tear-shaped pool on a generous & private 609m² walled and fenced garden. It has country views and is within walking distance to a shop, two bar/restaurants, a doctor's, chemist and school in Urcal village with a lovely community of Spanish and expats. It is 10 minutes' drive to Huerca-Overa town and 35 minutes' drive to the coast.

The property has to be seen to be appreciated and is situated on the edge of a village in a small quiet development of seven similar villas with no passing traffic. Nearly all the furniture is included in the sale.

Villa Vides consists of a large living room/dining room with fireplace and double doors that lead to the huge fly-free, pool area and garden, fully-fitted kitchen with breakfast bar, two double bedrooms, (one with an ensuite shower room and fitted wardrobes) and a family shower room.



VILLA VIDES: Has to be seen to be appreciated.

The villa has H&C air con, double glazed windows with fly-free screens, pull-down window blinds and attractive window grills making this an ideal 'lock up and leave' holi-

day or main residence.

Outside is a beautifully kept private, walled and gated garden of 609m² with country views and outside the fly-free area it is mostly laid

to gravel for low maintenance with a variety of Mediterranean plants and citrus trees. There is large wooden shed, covered seating area, small lockable block shed and off road

parking for three or four cars.

Mains electricity, water, satellite TV, phone and internet are connected.

As well as being able to walk to amenities, the A7 motorway is four minutes' drive away and the major town of Huerca-Overa with its twice weekly market, award-winning hospital, numerous shops, restaurants and sporting and leisure facilities and historical buildings is less than 10 minutes' drive away. The beaches at San Juan de Los Terreros and Mojacar are 35 minutes away.

Voss Homes is a British family-run business with an office in Huerca-Overa. We concentrate on selling properties around Huerca-Overa, Zurgena, La Alfoquia and Taberno. We look forward to helping you find your ideal property in Spain.

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- 3 mins drive to amenities
- Zurgena area

VH1050 €139,950 CEE TBC

NEW



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- 364m2 low maint garden
- Hamlet location
- 10 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

VH1047 €154,950 CEE F59 73

NEW



- Large 3 bed, 2 bath Villa
- 140m2 underbuild / garage
- Village location
- 12 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

VH1061 €165,000 CEE C14 77

NEW



- 3/4 bed, 2 bath Non Estate Villa
- 635m2 landscaped garden
- 3 mins drive to amenities
- 10 mins drive to Huercal-Overa

Something to be happy about!!

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



I HAVE to go round supermarkets and department stores in a wheelchair so obviously I notice certain things like why do people turn their trolleys sideways across the whole aisle every time they want to look at something?

It's a pain for me and actually a pain for everyone really so don't do it! Also, the big department stores put things promoting special offers or the stuff they bought too much of in the middle of all their aisles and don't leave enough room for me to get past. It's really annoying. The thing is, if I ever say anything I get a blank look and the customary shrug of the shoulders which always winds me up even more.

It also amazes me the amount of shops and stores that I can't go into at all because they just don't have any wheelchair access. I was in Chelmsford in the UK and stopped to look in the window of a branch of Next and saw a shirt I fancied but there were steps up to door. I asked if they had a ramp and they said no.

They also informed me that the menswear department was on the first floor and they did not have a lift. I didn't even think that was allowed these days but obviously I was mistak-

en. It's just as bad here in Spain with a lot of the smaller stores being inaccessible. In this day and age it should be mandatory that every store, big or small, must have disabled access.

I had to phone my insurance company the other day. Now, I have unlimited calls and unlimited messages included in my tariff but I wanted to check that the free phone numbers offered are not free if dialled on your mobile phone. This is strange as all my calls are free except the free phone ones which I have to pay for. So now I know. How weird is that?

Anyway, remember I wrote about using up all my data allowance on my phone? They charged me two euros for extra data and another three euros for a deal they offered me. They said they would refund the two euros but I didn't get it. So, whilst I was on the phone the operator asked if there was anything else she could help me with. Bad move!

'Well as you are asking there are these two euros you owe me.' It's not about the money, it's the principle. Work it out. They have millions of punters and they nick a couple of euros all the time. They are copping millions for doing absolutely nothing. Well, an hour later and lots of to-ing and fro-ing with different departments and me telling them that I wasn't happy; I finished up getting 10 per cent discount on my bill for the next three months. So I finished up very happy. And that means I have nothing more to be grumpy about today!

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Aging can seriously affect driving skills

AS part of the series, we answer some common driving questions and keep you updated on the latest driving and road news kindly provided by members of the Guardia Civil based in Torrevieja, Costa Blanca, who set up the N332 website and Facebook page to help break down barriers.



DRIVE SAFELY: Medical check-ups and eye tests can ensure you keep your licence.

AS we all get older, our body gets older and all too often without us realising that gradual changes have been made including reduced vision, limited mobility, tremors and muscle spasms. All of these are natural age-related signs the body is slowing down, but they can affect the way you drive and have fatal consequences when mixed with road accidents.

In the event of being involved in an accident, the Guardia Civil traffic department has the authority to withdraw your licence at the roadside if they feel your health and status is a contributing factor in the accident. As a result, you may need to have medical proof to resolve the issue

and regain your licence.

In 2015, in the Ourense area of Spain, some 45 drivers had their licences withdrawn that year on suspicion of being unfit to drive on medical grounds. Most of those drivers have given up driving altogether, whilst others have taken to obtaining a certificate to prove they are able to drive by carrying out a fitness course and test. Three of those drivers failed.

During your medical check ups with the doctor or optician, it is vital that you mention that you are a driver so they can monitor your ability and the consequences of any treatments and conditions to ensure you remain fit to drive.

For more news and articles visit www.n332.es or search N332 on Facebook.

What does 'second call' mean?

Q. At the last AGM of our Community, it was announced that this AGM was held on the "second call". This term appeared in the notice for the meeting as well. So, we waited a few minutes and the President

announced the meeting would now start on the second call. I think it has something to do with how many people attend the meeting.

G M (Costa del Sol)

A. Assuming only a few staunch members of your Community attended the AGM in person, and a few others gave their proxy vote to some of the people who attended, this is the usual pattern for Community meetings. If there are 40 members, maybe only

David Searl
You and the Law in Spain



10 of them present. This means you can never get a majority vote of the total members and their participatory shares.

The law says that, in a meeting held on the 'second call,' a majority vote of those members and shares present at the meeting, either in person or by proxy, will suffice to make Community decisions that are legally valid. Absent members have 30 days to protest.

Send your questions for David Searl through lawyers Ubeda-Retana & Associates in Fuengirola at Ask@lawtaxspain.com, or call 952 667 090.

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Ref: ARB3VT21



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Arboleas €149,950

Ref: TUR4VG01



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GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



THURSDAY		BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky SPORTS 1			
16 FEBRUARY	6:15pm	Pointless	7:30pm	Great American Railroad Journeys	9:00pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords	7:00pm	Premier League Legends
	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	8:00pm	The Hairy Bikers' Chicken and Egg	9:30pm	Coronation Street	7:00pm	The Simpsons	7:00pm	Premier League Legends
	7:30pm	BBC London News	9:00pm	The Great Pottery Throw Down	10:00pm	Mafia Women with Trevor McDonald	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	9:00pm	Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun
	8:00pm	The One Show	10:00pm	Russia's Hooligan Army	11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	10:00pm	The Great British Benefits Handout
	8:30pm	EastEnders	11:00pm	Live at the Apollo	11:30pm	ITV News London	9:00pm	The Supervet	11:00pm	When Kids Kill: Schoolboy Slayer
	9:30pm	June Brown at 90	11:30pm	Newsnight	11:40pm	UEFA Europa League Highlights	10:00pm	Escape to the Wild	11:00pm	The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door
	10:00pm	Death in Paradise	12:15am	Andrew Marr: My Brain and Me	1:35am	Jackpot247	11:00pm	Parenting for Idiots	12:05am	Super Casino
	11:00pm	BBC News at Ten					12:00am	24 Hours in A and E	1:00am	Ramsay's Hotel Hell
	11:30pm	BBC London News					1:00am	The Great British Skinny Dip		
	11:45pm	Question Time					2:00am			
12:45am	Up in the Air									
17 FEBRUARY	7:30pm	BBC London News	7:30pm	Great American Railroad Journeys	9:00pm	Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury	7:00pm	The Simpsons	6:30pm	Barclays Premier League World
	8:00pm	The One Show	8:00pm	Big Dreams Small Spaces	9:30pm	Coronation Street	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	7:00pm	Premier League Legends
	8:30pm	A Question of Sport	9:00pm	Mastermind	10:00pm	Piers Morgan's Life Stories	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	7:30pm	The Fantasy Football Club
	9:00pm	EastEnders	9:30pm	Only Connect	11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:00pm	Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast	8:00pm	Happy Campers: Caravanning
	9:30pm	Room 101	10:00pm	The Lake District: A Wild Year	11:30pm	ITV News London	10:00pm	8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown	9:00pm	Celebrity Carry on Barging
	10:00pm	Not Going Out	11:00pm	QI	11:40pm	Fishing Impossible	11:00pm	The Last Leg	10:00pm	Cruising with Jane McDonald
	10:30pm	Tracey Ullman's Show	12:05am	Further Back in Time for Dinner	12:10am	The Wine Show	11:00pm	First Dates	11:00pm	Bankrupt and Broke: When Celebs Go Bust
	11:00pm	BBC News at Ten					12:05am	Alan Carr Live: Spexy Beast	12:30am	Lip Sync Battle UK
	11:25pm	BBC London News					1:10am			
	11:35pm	The Graham Norton Show								
12:25am	Uncle									
18 FEBRUARY	6:30pm	Who Dares Wins	5:15pm	University Challenge	4:10pm	Dance Dance Dance	4:30pm	A Place in the Sun	5:35pm	Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords
	7:10pm	Pointless	5:45pm	Only Connect	5:45pm	Local News and Weather	5:30pm	Location, Location, Location	6:30pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
	7:55pm	Let it Shine	6:15pm	Nature's Weirdest Events	5:55pm	ITV News and Weather	6:35pm	Grand Designs	7:30pm	FIA Formula E Live: Buenos Aires
	8:55pm	Casualty	7:00pm	Flog It!Z	6:10pm	Despicable Me	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	9:10pm	Secrets of the Great Train Robbery
	9:45pm	Let it Shine - The Results	8:00pm	The Lake District: A Wild Year	8:00pm	Ninja Warrior UK	8:00pm	The Restoration Man	10:00pm	Football on 5
	10:15pm	Taboo	9:00pm	Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands	9:00pm	The Voice UK	9:00pm	Great Canal Journeys	11:30pm	NCIS: Los Angeles
	11:15pm	BBC News	9:30pm	Dad's Army	10:20pm	Through the Keyhole	10:00pm	Taken 2		
	11:28pm	Weather	10:00pm	Testament of Youth	11:20pm	ITV News and Weather	11:50pm	The Bourne Legacy	11:30pm	NCIS: Los Angeles
	11:30pm	Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights	12:05am	Safe Haven	11:35pm	Knocked Up	2:20am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	12:25am	
	12:40am	This Country			1:50am	Jackpot247				
19 FEBRUARY	7:00pm	The Big Painting Challenge	2:30pm	Talking Pictures	8:00pm	Take Me Out	2:35pm	The Simpsons	7:25pm	National Lampoon's European Vacation
	8:00pm	Countryside	3:00pm	Funny Lady	9:00pm	Celebrity Special	3:05pm	The Simpsons	8:25pm	5 News in Film
	9:00pm	Call the Midwife	5:15pm	Birds of Paradise	10:00pm	Lion Country: Night and Day	3:35pm	The Addams Family Values	8:30pm	National Lampoon's European Vacation
	10:00pm	Ss-GB	6:15pm	Ski Sunday	11:00pm	The Good Karma Hospital	5:30pm	Channel 4 News	9:10pm	That's So 1985
	11:00pm	BBC News	7:00pm	Oz: The Great and Powerful	11:00pm	ITV News and Weather	6:00pm	The Karate Kid	10:00pm	The Freddie Mercury Story: Who Wants to Live Forever?
	11:20pm	Regional News	9:00pm	Dragons' Den	11:20pm	Peston on Sunday	8:30pm	The Jump	12:05am	20 Moments That Rocked the 80s
	11:25pm	Weather	10:00pm	Special Forces - Ultimate Hell Week	12:15am	Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights	10:00pm	X-Men: Days of Future Past		
	11:30pm	Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights	11:00pm	Being Ap			12:40am	Lawless		
	12:10am	American High School	12:40am	Defiance			2:40am	The Last Leg		
20 FEBRUARY	8:00pm	The One Show	7:30pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys	8:00pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	7:00pm	Home and Away
	8:30pm	Match of the Day Live	8:00pm	Hairy Bikers Chicken and Egg	8:30pm	Coronation Street	9:00pm	Dispatches	7:30pm	5 News Tonight
	11:00pm	BBC News	9:00pm	University Challenge	9:00pm	The Martin Lewis Money Show	9:30pm	Food Unwrapped	8:00pm	The Cars That Made Britain Great
	11:30pm	Regional News	9:30pm	An Island Parish	9:30pm	Coronation Street	10:00pm	The Trouble with Dad	9:00pm	Winter Road Rescue
	11:40pm	Weather	10:00pm	SAS: Rogue Warriors	10:00pm	The Halcyon	11:00pm	Jon Richardson: How to Survive the End of the World	10:00pm	The Railways That Built Britain, with Chris Tarrant
	11:45pm	Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You	11:00pm	Cradle to Grave	11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	11:00pm	8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown	11:00pm	50 Greatest Magic Tricks
	12:30am	The Graham Norton Show	11:30pm	Newsnight	11:40pm	Through the Keyhole	12:05am	Parenting for Idiots	1:45am	Criminals Caught on Camera
			12:10am	Weather	1:35am	The Chase	1:10am			
			12:15am	Hospital		Jackpot247				
21 FEBRUARY	7:30pm	Regional News	8:00pm	Hairy Bikers Chicken and Egg	8:30pm	Britain's Busiest Motorway	6:00pm	Come Dine with Me	7:00pm	Home and Away
	8:00pm	The One Show	9:00pm	Further Back in Time for Dinner	9:00pm	Tales From the Coast with Robson Green	7:00pm	The Simpsons	7:30pm	5 News Tonight
	8:30pm	EastEnders	10:00pm	The Drug Trial: Emergency at the Hospital	10:00pm	Secret Life of Dogs	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	8:00pm	Winter Road Rescue
	9:00pm	Holby City	11:00pm	Inside No.9	11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	9:00pm	Inside Windsor Castle
	10:00pm	DIY SOS The Big Build	11:30pm	Newsnight	11:40pm	Take Me Out	8:00pm	Best Place to Live in the UK	10:00pm	Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh
	11:00pm	BBC News	12:10am	Weather	12:40am	Celebrity Special n/R	10:00pm	24 Hours in A and E	11:00pm	Celebrity Carry on Barging
	11:30pm	Regional News	12:15am	Special Forces - Ultimate Hell Week			11:00pm	Staying Healthy: A Doctor's Guide	12:05am	I'm 20 But Look 60: Extraordinary People
	11:40pm	Weather					12:00am	This is Us2: The Big Day		
	11:45pm	Imagine...								
	12:45am	Who Do You Think You Are?								
22 FEBRUARY	6:15pm	Pointless	7:30pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys	5:00pm	Tipping Point	5:00pm	A Place in the Sun	4:15pm	A Killer Among Us
	7:00pm	BBC News	8:00pm	Hairy Bikers Chicken and Egg	6:00pm	The Chase	6:00pm	Come Dine with Me	6:00pm	5 News at 5
	7:30pm	Regional News	9:00pm	The House That £100k Built	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	7:00pm	The Simpsons	6:30pm	Neighbours
	8:00pm	The One Show	10:00pm	Dr Weston's Casebook	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	7:00pm	Home and Away
	9:00pm	Who Do You Think You Are?	11:00pm	Mock the Week	8:00pm	Coronation Street	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	7:30pm	5 News Tonight
	10:00pm	The Real Marigold Hotel	11:30pm	Newsnight	8:30pm	The Brit Awards 2017	9:00pm	Location, Location, Location	8:00pm	A New Life in Oz
	11:00pm	BBC News	12:10am	Weather	11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	10:00pm	Has Political Correctness Gone Mad?	9:00pm	GPs: Behind Closed Doors
	11:30pm	Regional News	12:15am	Dragons' Den	11:45pm	UEFA Champions League Highlights	11:00pm	Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny Ep3	10:00pm	Climbing the Property Ladder
	11:40pm	Weather			12:55am	Sports Life Stories			11:00pm	Extraordinary People
	11:45pm	Peter Kay's Car Share							12:05am	Seven Pounds
12:15am	Film 2017									



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LETTERS

YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

Letters for Your Say should be emailed to yoursay@euoweeklynews.com or make your comments straight on our website: www.euoweeklynews.com

Try to find the lighter side to life

I DON'T usually write to papers but I'd just like to say how much I enjoyed the amusing articles by Nora Johnson (especially on Blair and weight problems) in recent copies of the paper.

The first thing I turn to - followed by the local news pages that regularly provide useful information. Great to read topical, controversial subjects handled with humour.

These days, there's nothing wrong in trying to find the lighter side to life. Much needed I might add in these trying times. Keep up the good work!

M D, Fuengirola

Little Leo

READING about the battles of little Leo Bermejo with such a devastating cancer makes you put a lot into perspective. This youngster is fighting for his life and the fact is, we can all help. I was so pleased for the family when I read they had hit their target. He deserves the chance of a life after such a rocky start.

I only hope he can regain his speech. It sounds like Oklahoma know what they're doing. I, for one, will be praying the day that brave little boy gets his treatment. To think I might have done just the tiniest bit to help him is frankly a lovely feeling!!

Ann, Benidorm

Lost jacket

A FEW weeks ago I went walking in the mountains around Nerja. I got back to the car after a wonderful 15 mile hike only to find that my jacket had fallen out of my rucksack. This was a disaster for me as I suffer from a medical condition where my body is not able to regulate temperature properly.

The following weekend I went back and covered the whole 15 miles again. I found it caught in a prickly bush! I was overjoyed. Unfortunately, two

» Photographs for possible publication should be sent by email with a full caption to: photonews@euoweeklynews.com



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RELIABLE ENERGY: Coal, oil and gas produce electricity regardless of weather conditions.

Hydrocarbon fuels

“ WE are told that man's use of hydrocarbon fuels will cause climate catastrophes, with more droughts, heatwaves, bush fires, floods, blizzards, snow storms, typhoons, etc.

Why then would governments compound these claimed risks by pushing weather-dependent energy like wind, solar, hydro or tidal power?

During heatwaves on sultry summer afternoons, wind power fails when our cold rooms, fridges and air-conditioners need it most. Overheating turbines start bushfires. On cold still winter nights, wind and solar will produce zero power when all the trains, heaters, TV sets and coffee machines are sucking energy.

In a gale, turbines switch off to avoid damage; in still air they sit idle; in a snow storm they consume power to prevent icing up; and in a tsunami, offshore wind turbines and tidal generators are destroyed.

Solar panels shut down every night; their output varies even when the sun shines; they are blotted out by snow, clouds or dust; and are smashed by hail stones.

So if the alarmists are right, and if we are faced with wild weather for any reason, we can't trust weather-dependent energy. Stick to reliable hydrocarbons coal, oil and gas, and for dire emergencies diesel. They will produce electricity, weather-or-not.

V Forbes, Australia

weeks later I had the same jacket under my arm as I attempted to leave Ikea in Malaga. Nearing the exit, I realised the jacket was no longer under my arm.

Has anyone found it? It is black and 100 per cent cotton, no internal lining, with four pockets on the front and another four inside. The chest pockets close with poppers and one is sideways, the other opens at the top. I can't remember the brand but it did have a small brown stain on the left cuff. It is small, for a 36in/38in chest.

So if you see a skinny chap in the Malaga area suddenly sporting a slightly scruffy black

jacket with four external pockets that they were not wearing before, it could be mine! If anyone has it or can get it back, I would be eternally grateful if it could be returned to Ikea. It will restore my faith in human nature. Thank you so much.

A Silvie, Torre del Mar

Delicious fruits

REGARDING Graeme Tyrrell's article in the EWN Feb 9 edition, in 2008 my girlfriend soaked a nispero stone

and grew it on blotting paper. It sprouted and we put it in a pot.

In 2011, I planted it in the garden. I now have a three metre high tree and last year I had 150 delicious fruits.

Roger Page, Mojacar

WHEN YOU WRITE

All letters, whether by email or post, should carry the writer's postal address, NIE and contact number though only the name and town will be published.

Letters may also be edited. Readers who have missed earlier correspondence can see all letters posted on:

www.euoweeklynews.com

COMMENTS from the Euro Weekly News website

» Leo the lion hits target

MY heart bursts with love towards this anonymous donor. Even though we can't thank you in person I hope you feel the love and gratitude of us all from our hearts to yours.

Debbie Dorman

» Hunting dogs protests

PROTESTS on hunting rabbits with greyhounds and this from people who applaud the ritual murder of bulls with spears and swords?

When the bull is driven into the arena its grisly end is certain and there is no escape.

Harry Paine

» EU citizens

"WE send the EU £350m. Let's fund our NHS instead." Remember that slogan on the Vote Leave bus? Well Boris Johnson, Liam Fox, Iain Duncan Smith, Michael Gove and all the others who campaigned vociferously on that slogan have just voted AGAINST an amendment to do that too - to give the money to the NHS.

They ALL went on the telly to talk about £350 million going to the NHS if we just fell in behind them and voted Leave. How do their voters feel, now they have dropped that key Brexit pledge at the first opportunity?

Brian Eagleson

Reply from Mike in ESP:

I REALLY do despair with many of the people who wanted the UK to remain in the EU. Do we really have to go over what was said before the referendum for some people? Because if we do it will take a lot of words to go over the rubbish and what the remain side put forward... and on the £350m for NHS, if this is what the remainers have to continually bring up as something the NHS was going to get from people who were not the government... is it any wonder those who supported remain appear so confused!

» Pensions anger

THE concern re pensions expressed by the Anglican clergymen should include the fact that it is possible that UK State pensions in Europe will not only suffer as they are now from the decline in the value of the GB pound, but also these pensions may become frozen never to increase annually with inflation.

In particular the UK pensions are frozen in Australia and Canada where hundreds of thousands of UK expats are denied annual increases.

Many expats who have retired to these countries are forced to return to the UK leaving their younger families alone back in Canada, etc.

It is so un-British and so unfair but it's government policy which they stick to in order to save a few 'quid'!!

James Tilley

Brexit: how much of a generation gap will there be in the future?

Nora Johnson
Breaking Views



Nora is the author of popular psychological suspense and crime thrillers and a freelance journalist. To comment on any of the issues raised in her column, go to www.euroweeklynnews.com/3.0.15/nora-johnson

THE Institute for Fiscal Studies, a leading think tank, warns of future tax rises and spending cuts to eliminate Britain's huge budget deficit. And the bottom line? Older people will still be better off than they were pre-crash (2008/9), young people won't. In other words, the younger generation will be left footing the bill - that will inevitably lead to intergenerational conflict.

It's been said before, but hell, I'll say it again. Reduce foreign aid (hare-brained schemes like St Helena airport that's too windy for commercial planes to land; millions frittered away on the Ethiopian Spice Girls (since axed), let alone other controversial projects like in Pakistan, where £1 billion's been doled out in cash in de-



prived regions despite repeated fraud warnings). Reform the NHS, and reduce health tourism. (Remember Priscilla, the Nigerian mum, whose quadruplets cost the NHS £500,000?) Cancel HS2. Reduce the size of the Civil Service by a third (too many tea breaks, inefficient workers, sickies).

Instead invest the whole lot in Britain's infra-

structure which would at least reduce the number of unemployed.

Of course, many will lay the blame at the door of Blair and his successors: if they weren't so generous with taxpayers' money - generous welfare benefits for the unemployed, the unwed, immigrants - plus ridiculously high contributions to the EU over the years, the UK might be

in better shape etc etc...

And, inevitably, Brexit will come in for a lot of stick, too. You can almost hear the whinging. On the one hand: "If the older generation, having enjoyed 40+ years of prosperity and freedom within the EEC/EC/EU, hadn't mainly voted to deny those same rights to succeeding generations and screwed them..."

And on the other: "The younger generation can't blame pensioners for leaving the EU. The youngsters should have got their ****s out of bed and gone to the polling stations if they'd wanted their voice heard..."

Is it me, or does the world seem infinitely more on edge now? Maybe it's Donald Trump winning the White House, or the Spanish veggie famine, or the rise of the robots... What's your view?

Nora Johnson's psychological/suspense crime thrillers 'No Way Back,' 'Landscape of Lies,' 'Retribution,' 'Soul Stealer,' 'The De Clerambault Code' (www.nora-johnson.com) available from Amazon and iBookstore. All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity.

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Kakuro

Fill all the empty squares using the numbers 1 to 9, so that the sum of each horizontal block equals the 'clue' on its left, and the sum of each vertical block equals the clue on its top. No number may be used in the same block more than once.

			28	10	33	
	11					15
19	21					
	12			15		
11				10		
			9			
23						
	15					

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

	12	19	36	8	11	
29	2	9	7	5	6	
23	7	2	6	3	5	
16	3	8	5		13	
6	10	9	3	5		
17	5	3	1	2	6	
24	1	7	8	6	2	

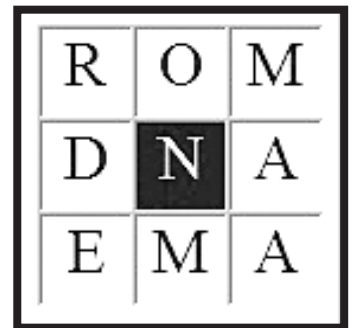
MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



'WE GIRLS HAVE SENT ALL OUR VALENTINE CARDS TO DAVID BECKHAM TO SHOW WE STILL LOVE HIM EVEN IF HE NEVER GETS A KNIGHTHOOD!'

Nonagram

How many English words of four letters or more can you make from the nine letters in our Nonagram puzzle? Each letter may be used only once (unless the letter appears twice). Each word MUST CONTAIN THE CENTRE LETTER (in this case N) and there must be AT LEAST ONE NINE LETTER WORD. Plurals, vulgarities or proper nouns are not allowed.



TARGET:

- Average: 10 • Good: 13
- Very good: 19 • Excellent: 25

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

afar area fare farm fear frat fret haar hare harm hart hear mare mart raft rata rate ream reft rhea tare tart tear term tram tref after attar earth frame harem hater heart mater tamer tater tetra therm treat father fatter hatter matter threat fermata AFTERMATH

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY

Saturday February 11

15	18	23	BONUS BALL
42	43	52	28

IRISH LOTTO

Saturday February 11

2	16	19	BONUS BALL
26	28	29	37

EURO MILLIONS

Tuesday February 7

4	10	31	BONUS BALL
38	44	10	

Friday February 10

7	21	26	BONUS BALL
35	43	9	

LA PRIMITIVA

Saturday February 11

4	22	36	BONUS BALL
40	43	47	4

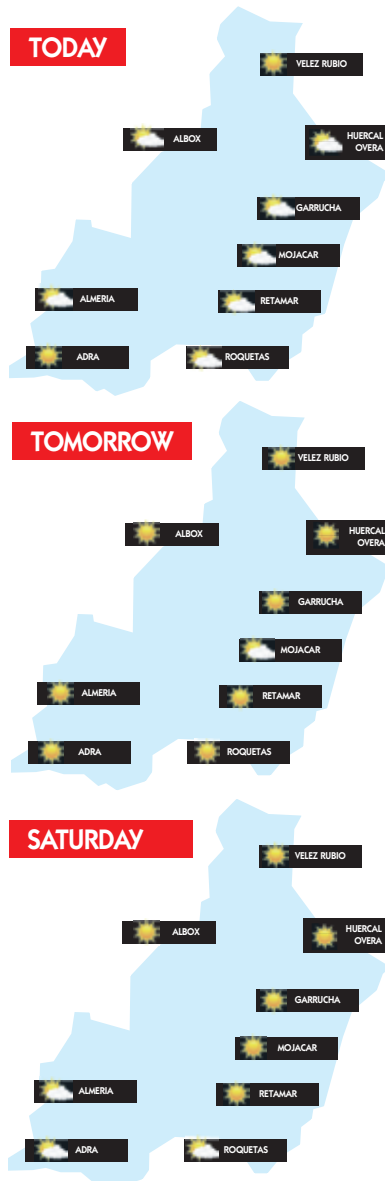
EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA

Sunday February 12

17	22	29	BONUS BALL
32	48	4	

Costa de Almería

weather



S: Sun C: Clear F: Fog C: Cloudy Sh: Showers Sn: Snow Th: Thunder

Alicante	Bilbao
TODAY: MAX 17, MIN 10 - C	TODAY: MAX 18, MIN 6 - C
Fri - 16 19 C	Fri - 19 6 C
Sat - 18 9 S	Sat - 16 8 C
Sun - 18 11 C	Sun - 14 8 Sh
Mon - 18 11 C	Mon - 14 4 C
Tues - 17 11 Cl	Tues - 16 5 S
Wed - 20 11 C	Wed - 17 7 S

Almeria	Madrid
TODAY: MAX 19, MIN 9 - C	TODAY: MAX 14, MIN 2 - Cl
Fri - 19 10 S	Fri - 15 2 Cl
Sat - 17 10 C	Sat - 16 4 Cl
Sun - 19 11 C	Sun - 15 4 C
Mon - 18 11 C	Mon - 15 2 C
Tues - 18 11 Cl	Tues - 16 3 S
Wed - 21 12 S	Wed - 18 4 S

Barcelona	Malaga
TODAY: MAX 14, MIN 7 - C	TODAY: MAX 18, MIN 8 - C
Fri - 15 7 C	Fri - 17 8 Cl
Sat - 16 8 Cl	Sat - 18 9 Cl
Sun - 14 7 Sh	Sun - 20 10 Sh
Mon - 16 7 Cl	Mon - 19 10 C
Tues - 16 8 S	Tues - 19 9 S
Wed - 17 8 S	Wed - 21 9 S

Benidorm	Mallorca
TODAY: MAX 18, MIN 11 - C	TODAY: MAX 18, MIN 7 - C
Fri - 18 8 C	Fri - 17 5 C
Sat - 18 10 Cl	Sat - 17 7 Cl
Sun - 18 12 Sh	Sun - 17 8 C
Mon - 17 11 Sh	Mon - 17 8 Cl
Tues - 17 11 Cl	Tues - 17 8 S
Wed - 18 11 Cl	Wed - 18 8 Cl

Euro Weekly News strives for accuracy, but cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of published forecasts

Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3X3 box contains the digits 1-9. There's no maths involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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Crossword

page

Enjoy filling in the following puzzles and check the answers in next week's edition

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

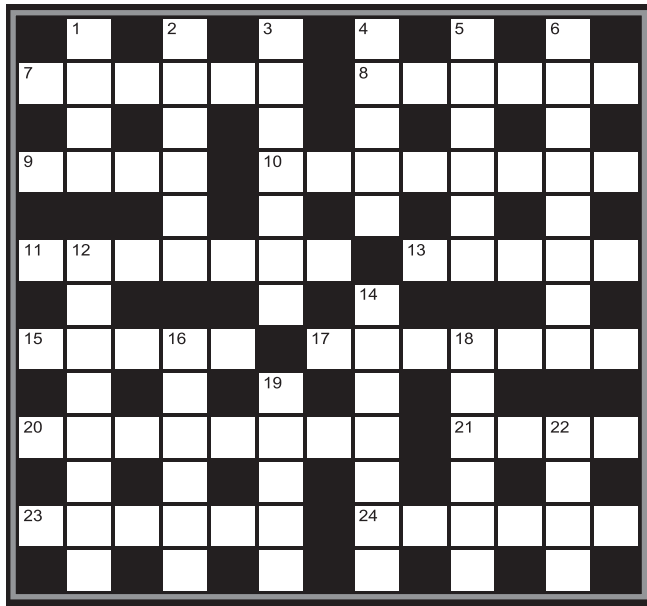
Cryptic

Across

- 7 Remember to 'phone again (6)
- 8 Regulate a race to a French quarter (6)
- 9 Done in the shape of a lump (4)
- 10 Only change one ten with bank (8)
- 11 Choose not to vote for a sailor with a stigma (7)
- 13 Lack of fighting sounds like a scrap (5)
- 15 Lively British hazard (5)
- 17 Winning or getting a hammering (7)
- 20 Buckingham Palace ratepayer takes in hack (8)
- 21 Rowan's first to exploit a cunning plan (4)
- 23 Take back Greene novel (6)
- 24 Beetle hiding in a Madagascar abbey (6)

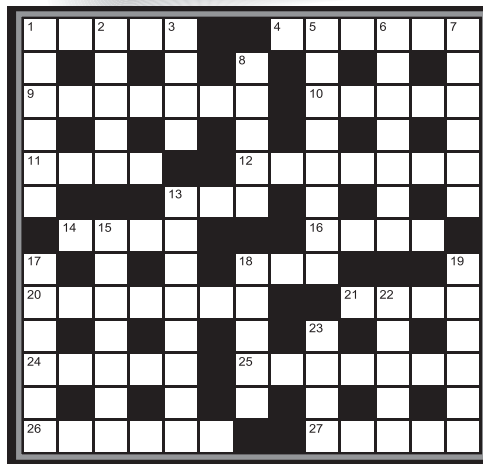
Down

- 1 Emperor is part of the more urbane Romans (4)
- 2 Moan about a morning in Lent (6)
- 3 Regalia ordered from African country (7)
- 4 Stick or stone of little value (5)
- 5 Withhold food from popstar vegetarian's diet (6)
- 6 Church gin a clan drunk (8)
- 12 They obstruct gunners in boats (8)
- 14 Misfortune for the other side (7)



- 16 Points to paradise in Scandinavia (6)
- 18 Prisoners of rising star, Zane Grey's jungle character (6)
- 19 Weary Judge's dead weird (5)
- 22 Revolutionary naps in vault (4)

Quick



Across

- 1 Small songbird (5)
- 4 Suffering from irrational fears (6)
- 9 Farm vehicle (7)
- 10 Hospital worker (5)
- 11 Summit (4)
- 12 Building (7)
- 13 See 18
- 14 Seize suddenly (4)
- 16 Unit of area (4)
- 18/13 Defraud (3,3)
- 20 Small flute (7)
- 21 Accumulate money for future use (4)
- 24 Gradually wear away (5)
- 25 Tread on and crush (7)
- 26 Delay one's departure (6)
- 27 Perhaps (5)

Down

- 1 Ceremonial act (6)
- 2 Courageous (5)
- 3 Brief written record (4)
- 5 Put at a disadvantage (8)
- 6 Structure that impedes free movement (7)
- 7 Intelligent (6)
- 8 Concise (5)
- 13 No longer in use (8)
- 15 Small, striped American carnivore (7)
- 17 Earnest or urgent request (6)
- 18 Established line of travel (5)
- 19 Go back (6)
- 22 Be pertinent or relevant (5)
- 23 Not agitated (4)

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Spouse, 4 Lasts, 8 Crude, 9 Enraged, 10 Elector, 11 Wage, 12 Sac, 14 Styx, 15 Aden, 18 Ada, 21 Task, 23 Leakage, 25 Chiding, 26 Apple, 27 Spell, 28 Divert.

Down:

- 1 Secret, 2 Opulent, 3 Sweetpea, 4 Lyre, 5 Sigma, 6 Sudden, 7 Bears, 13 Calamari, 16 Example, 17 Sticks, 19 Align, 20 Relent, 22 Smiter, 24 Dill.

QUICK

Across:

- 1 Climax, 4 Patrol, 9 Respect, 10 Lemon, 11 Annoying, 13 Bias, 14 Salsa, 17 Trash, 20 Tame, 21 Sensible, 25 Banjo, 26 Servant, 27 Arable, 28 Depend.

Down:

- 1 Corral, 2 Ibsen, 3 Aye-ayes, 5 Ally, 6 Remains, 7 Links, 8 Stun, 12 Got, 15 Ammonia, 16 Ass, 18 Reserve, 19 Tested, 20 Tibia, 22 Easy, 23 Brave, 24 Cool.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

- 1 Bota, 3 Chispa, 7 Wrap, 8 Sitios, 10 Telephone, 13 Saltar, 14 Wise, 15 Sorteo, 16 Stir.

Down:

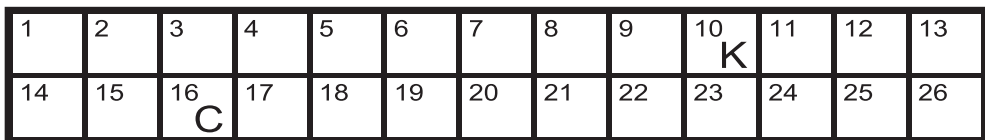
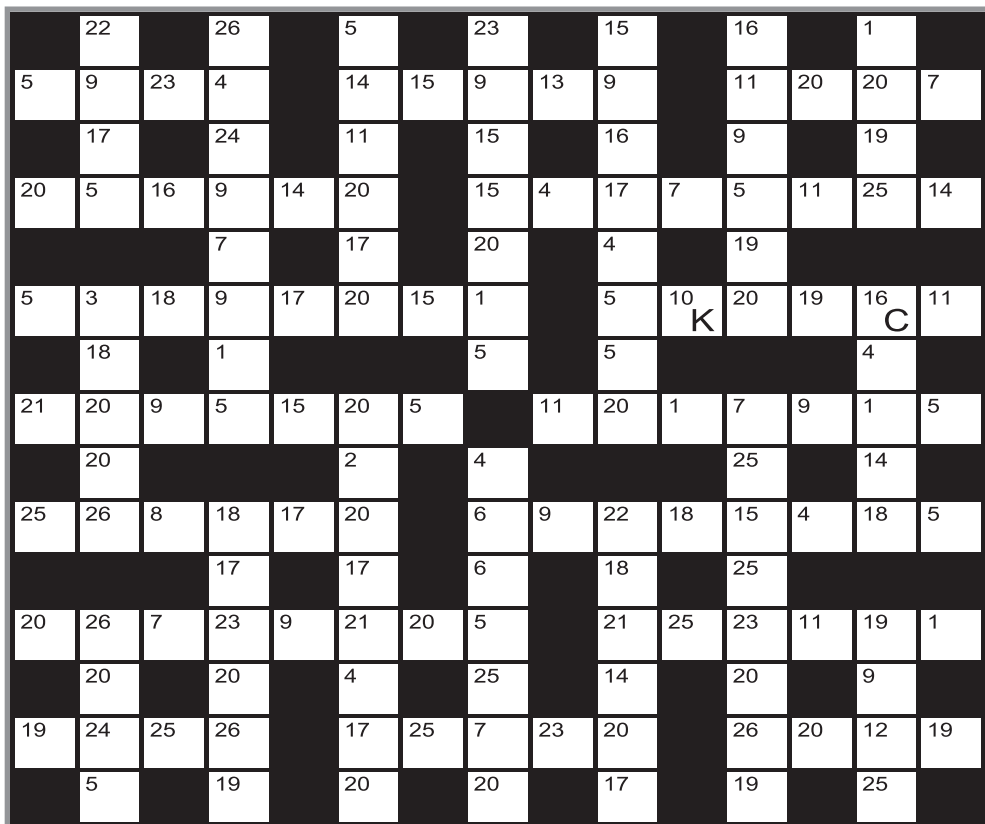
- 1 Bowl, 2 Traveller, 4 Height, 5 Scientist, 6 Also, 9 Female, 11 Esos, 12 Deer.

CODE BREAKER



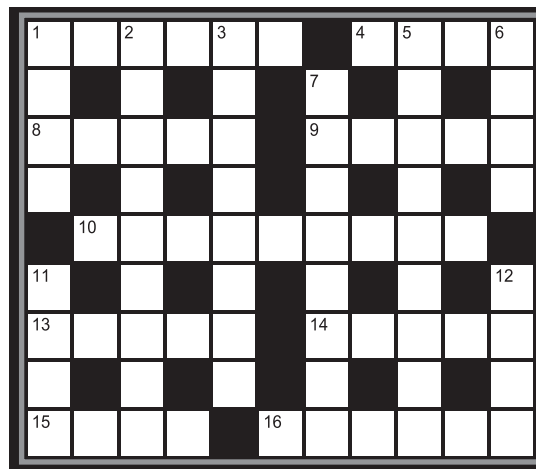
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 10 represents K and 16 represents C, so fill in K every time the figure 10 appears and C every time the figure 16 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



English - Spanish

The clues are mixed, some clues are in Spanish and some are in English.



Across

- 1 To arrive (6)
- 4 Huevos (4)
- 8 Claro (ejemplo, prueba, ventaja) (5)
- 9 Coffin (5)
- 10 To advise (9)
- 13 Milk (5)
- 14 Con frecuencia (5)
- 15 Rivers (4)
- 16 Tablecloth (6)

Down

- 1 Cerradura (4)
- 2 Exercise (9)
- 3 To learn (language, words, skill) (8)
- 5 Garantía (de producto) (9)
- 6 Silk (4)
- 7 Saucepan (8)
- 11 Flower (4)
- 12 Eleven (4)

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BE ACTIVE: Try walking, dancing or even doing the housework.

WHO warns us all to be more active

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that 23 per cent of the adult population and up to 81 per cent of children are not active enough. This leads to concern about developing diseases such as diabetes, cancer or stroke.

As a result, this United Nations body is working on a global action plan to reduce



Women and girls are less active than men and children.

this figure by at least 10 per cent by 2025.

The WHO reports that

women and girls are less active than men and children, while older adults are less active than younger people.

They want to see more people become more active, which does not necessarily mean taking up a sport, but any activity that gets the body moving, such as walking, dancing or even doing the housework.

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Claims male contraceptive jab works for two years

IS it time for men to step up in the fight against unwanted pregnancies? Previously, condoms or a vasectomy were the only option open for men, but now a new jab claims it has a 100 per cent success rate in preventing getting a woman pregnant.

The male contraceptive jab is claimed

to be more effective than the Pill as it blocks sperm from leaving the body and works for two years.

Scientists have previously invented a jab using hormones that disrupted the sperm production, but it was found to cause side effects such as depression and

muscle pain. This new injection is hormone free and during trials, was 100 per cent successful in monkeys. It is expected to be trialled in men as early as next year.

The jab works by injecting a gel into the tube which transports sperm from the testicles to the urethra, to block it.

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The lowdown on high blood pressure



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

THIS week the doctor has given us the lowdown on what having high blood pressure really means and what can be done about it.

- What are normal blood pressure levels and when can it be considered to be high?

This varies depending on many important factors. In general terms, blood pressure readings of under 130-140 / 70-80 mmHg can be considered normal, but a patient's age and other illnesses or medical conditions must be taken into account to evaluate each individual case.

- What does having high blood pressure mean exactly?

It refers to the pressure of the blood running through our arteries being higher than normal due to a series of factors.

- What tends to cause it?

Blood pressure levels are influenced by lots of different factors. As we age the walls of our arteries tend to become more rigid and this favours atheroma (damage and cholesterol build-up).

The main cardiovascular risk factors such as obesity, eating too much salt, lack of physical exercise, diabetes,

etc are also elements which generally encourage high blood pressure.

- How is it treated, with medication?

Medication is one of the pillars of treatment of high blood pressure. There are many different groups of drugs which help get blood pressure readings under control in different ways.

- Can I get it down with exercise?

Lifestyle and dietary measures are vital. A balanced diet which is low in salt, daily physical exercise, not smoking, losing weight and controlling other cardiovascular risk factors is very important for treating high blood pressure.

- What risks could I be facing if I ignore it?

Failing to get high blood pressure under control can have very serious effects and the heart, kidneys, brain, etc can all be affected, sometimes even leading to death. Therefore, all patients should be evaluated and treated by specialists in Internal Medicine.

*If you have any questions for Dr Perez Belmonte, please send them to:
jefemedico@helicopterosanitarios.com*

A grape a day keeps dementia away...

A HANDFUL of grapes twice a day could help boost memory and ward off the onset of Alzheimer's.

A study was carried out with people who were suffering from early cognitive decline over six months. One group was given whole grape powder, the equivalent of two portions, every day, with the other group given a placebo.

Their cognitive ability was measured at the beginning of the experiment and at the end and it was found that grapes did help to boost memory. PET scans were also used to assess changes in metabolism.

It is believed that the compounds found in grapes help to maintain levels of a chemical in the brain that is vital to maintaining its health. It is also thought they promote blood flow and when the flow is lacking it can lead to dementia.

However, before you rush off to the supermarket to stock up on grapes, it is worth noting that the research was funded by grape-growers and the California Table Grape Commission in the USA.

Calls for FGM to be included in new domestic violence law

WITH more than 17,000 girls in Spain at risk of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) the Spanish government is proposing including FGM in its gender violence legislation.

On World Day of Zero Tolerance Against Female Genital Mutilation, Secretary of State for Equality, Mario Garcés, addressed more than 5,000 professionals from all areas working to prevent it. Garcés said it was "a crucial moment" because it coincides with the State negotiation against gender violence, in which there are calls to have a section in the new Domestic Violence Law on FGM, in a bid to protect young girls who are at risk of being mutilated.

"It's a problem of justice, human rights and health," stressed Garcés, who recalled that, in Europe, more than half a million women and girls are at risk of being mutilated.

To mark the World Day of Zero Tolerance, several UN organisations are calling for greater actions against FGM saying that around 200 million women have undergone total or partial excision of their external genitalia.

Whilst more common in countries such as Burkina Faso, Kenya, Liberia and Egypt, it remains a widespread practice across Africa and the Middle East. Many carry it out as part of cultural traditions preparing girls to pass on to adulthood allowing to them to be eligible for marriage or to achieve a

higher social status.

There are no known health benefits and the procedure can lead to acute pain, severe bleeding, urinary and menstrual problems and infections.

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Spaniards in America 20,000 years ago!

Ric Polansky



Ric Polansky moved to Mojacar in 1969 as a pioneer developer. He reads extensively and has travelled in South America panning gold and looking for El Dorado.

MORE than a month ago someone asked me 'what was my favourite article that I've written?' Here it is - full force and easily unmemorable.

For years all American archaeologists theorised that America was populated via the Bering Strait, which couldn't have frozen over until 12,000-14,000 years ago. This was proven when some unique arrow heads were dug up in New Mexico (Clovis points). Therein a long lost dogma became carved in stone.

That postulate lasted more than 10 decades until further Clovis sites started emerging on the East coast and plains of the states with earlier excavation dates. WHAM-O, a 100-year-old postulate should have gone out the window - but didn't. None of the learned men would accept the results until further examination and research would prove their theory.



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UNIQUE FIND: Arrowheads from the USA, nearly 9,000 years old.

Recently a group of historians and archaeologists reluctantly admitted these new sites did date some 5,000 years beyond accepted knowledge.

Lately sporadic rumours of further unnatural sites have appeared as distant as Monte Verde, Chile and Ca-

hokia, Illinois. Some scientists, brave enough to consider other alternatives, risk ridicule and academic rebuke. One such man is Dr Dennis Stanford from the prestigious Smithsonian Institute's Paleo-Indian division, who has been searching for clo-

vis culture arrow points in Siberia, the accepted Bering Strait migration route. They had to be there, but weren't. Befuddled, he looked elsewhere. During his 30-year hunt discoveries by other archaeologists were revealed and likewise became enig-

matically troubling.

Stanford goes on to say "it's very clear to me that we are looking at multiple migrations through a very long time period - of many different peoples of many different ethnic origins, that came in at different times."

Well, further new discoveries have come to light from the Cactus Hill dig on the States' eastern seaboard. Stanford explained to a shocked audience in Santa Fe why he believes that Clovis people came from Europe - long before Columbus, and by boat. "They were from Iberia, not Siberia. The continent's first inhabitants may have crossed the Atlantic more than 18,000 years ago from Europe's Iberian Peninsula - the area that is now Spain, Portugal and southwestern France 'known as "Solutrean's' and they used the same elementary flints and tools of an exact nature recently unearthed in America.

Andrew Muir wrote in *Newsweek* "tools recently found beneath Clovis-era layers at a dig in Cactus Hill, Virginia - about where European itinerants could have first landed - also resemble Solutrean artefacts."

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Paws-Patas annual general meeting

THIS will be held at The Hostal Rural, Turre at 11.30am on Saturday February 25, with member registration starting 11am.

The meeting is in the main ballroom on the lower level of the building. A bar will be available serving hot and cold drinks. There is plenty of convenient parking. The Agenda will consist of approving the AGM Minutes for 2016 followed by matters arising, the President's/Secretary's report and questions, the treasurer's report and questions, and election of Officers to the Board.

If you are not a member and do not wish to become one, you may still like to attend in order to hear the latest news that PAWS-PATAS has planned in order to take this charity forward and continue to care and rehome cats and dogs in Spain, Holland, Belgium, Germany and the UK. No animal should be abused or abandoned.

Space cowboy returns to Almeria

By Eleanor Hawkins

JAMIROQUAI will be releasing a new record, Automaton, on March 31 and have returned to Almeria for the fourth time to film a videoclip which will accompany it.

Following seven years of silence, the British group has once again chosen the province as the setting for their video, as they did in 1996 for Cosmic Girl (filmed in Cabo de Gata) and in 2010 for White Knuckle Ride and Blue Skies (both filmed in Tabernas).

Although the filming was originally planned in Tabernas, a last minute decision moved the action to Cabo de Gata where lead singer Ja-

son 'Jay' Kay and Spanish Hollywood star Penelope Cruz's sister Monica were filmed with two luxury cars. The vehicles are part of Kay's private collection of some 70 cars and have been brought to Almeria especially for the video.

The filming, in which a specialist drone company from El Ejido and a Malaga casting and location company were involved, coincided with the announcement that the group will be performing at the Cruilla festival in Barcelona in July.

JAMIROQUAI: This will be the fourth video that the group has shot in Almeria.



SOCIAL EXTRA

Red, red wine

MORE than 50 people took part in the second wine-tasting workshop organised by Tijola Council and the local Guadalinfo centre, trying out wines from South Africa, Chile, Germany, Portugal, Italy and Malaga.

Great result

MACS Mojacar Area Cancer Support announced that the total amount raised at their Big Mac event at Hotel Puerto Marina was €6,093.54.

Women on tour

MOJACAR Council has organised a trip to Granada on March 4-5 to honour International Women's Day. Tickets cost €163 and include transport, accommodation, dinner and breakfast and entry to the cathedral and Alhambra.

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<p>Tues 21st Feb Man City v Monaco 8.45pm Wed 22nd Feb Sevilla v Leicester 8.45pm</p>	<p>Monday 20th Feb Newcastle v Aston Villa 9pm</p>

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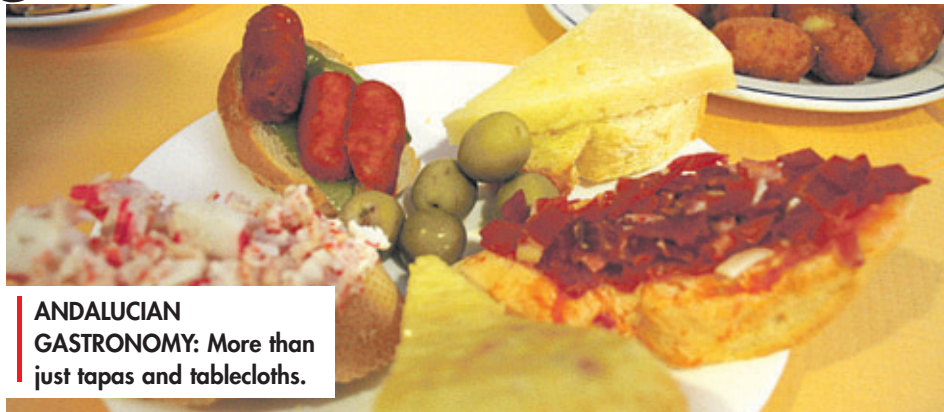
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It's more than just a food fair



ANDALUCIAN GASTRONOMY: More than just tapas and tablecloths.

THE first Gastro Andalusia gastronomy event will be running in Vera this weekend (February 17-19) at El Palmeral.

Regional Culture, Tourism and Sports delegate for Almería, Alfredo Valdivia, and Vera mayor Felix Lopez, presented the event and explained it will include 140 different stands covering all sorts of food and crafts, plus music and dance.

"Gastro Andalusia is coming to life to help enrich the Andalusian gastronomy map, but it

goes much further than just tapas and tablecloths because gastronomy also studies humans' relations with their environment," Lopez said.

El Palmeral, where the fair will be held, is an old date farm at the site of a prehistoric settlement and houses an archaeological information centre, making it a perfect cultural backdrop.

Along with food stands and tastings, crafts people will also be showing off their skills working with leather, wool and clay among other natural materials.

Family on an outing

THOSE who decided to visit the Oasys Mini Hollywood theme park in Tabernas last weekend were in for a surprise as they coincided with David Bisbal on a family trip.

Almería's favourite son and pop star Bisbal organised

a family outing to Mini Hollywood to celebrate his daughter Ella's seventh birthday.

Taking to social media, the singer posted a number of photos of himself posing with stunt teams and said: "It's been a great family day. I'd

wanted to come here for some time to see where so many Westerns have been filmed and can recommend it 100 per cent."

Bisbal and Ella were accompanied by his parents and by his girlfriend, Venezuelan model Rosanna Zanetti.

Celebrating the tomato

ALMERIA City will be tomato capital on Saturday (February 18) with celebrations on Plaza Vieja to honour the star of the province's agricultural sector.

Organised by agricultural companies in collaboration with *La Voz de Almería* newspaper and Cadena Ser radio, with support from City Hall, Almería Provincial Council and Cajamar, the event includes activities for all the family.

Children will be well catered for at the Red Cross marquee, where there will be fun and games from 10.30am onwards. First on the schedule is a dance class from 10.30-11.30am, followed by face painting from noon to 1.30pm and a drawing competition from 1-1.30pm. Winning pictures will receive prizes and will also be printed in *La Voz*. All the children who visit the marquee will be given a pin of Tomatal, the event mascot.

The older members of the family meanwhile will be able to make the most of healthy breakfasts consisting of bread with olive oil and tomato and a coffee for just €1, or from 1pm onwards a beer with a slice of bread and cold cuts plus gazpacho, again for €1. Proceeds will go to the Red Cross and ANDA disabled children's association.

Los Vinilos music group will be playing its popular versions of 1980s Spanish pop hits from noon to 2pm on the square and there will also be an exhibition of Seat and Ford vehicles.



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- ~ Vegetable Samosa & salad garnish ~

Main Courses

- ~ Chicken Biryani served with curry sauce inc. rice ~
- ~ Chicken Korma inc. rice ~
- ~ Chicken Jalfrezi inc. rice ~
- ~ Chicken Madras inc. rice ~
- ~ Prawn Pathia ~
- ~ Vegetarian Curry ~

Side Dishes

- ~ Potato & Cauliflower Bombay ~
- ~ Vegetable Samosa ~
- ~ Onion Bhaji ~
- ~ Kashmiri Naan ~



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CARNIVAL PRESENTATION: The programme is planned for people of all ages.

Come along to the carnival

CUEVAS DEL ALMANZORA is preparing for its carnival, one of the most popular in the area.

Local mayor Antonio Fernandez Liria and Festivities councillor Ana Maria Castro Garcia presented the carnival poster and programme and explained it will be running from February 25 to March 4 with multiple parades, mask competitions and carnival dances among other events.

“Cuevas carnival is one of the best round

here and the programme is planned with people of all ages in mind and everyone is invited to come and try it,” the mayor explained.

This year, for the first time, a competition was run to choose the design of the carnival poster, which was won by Jose Miguel Torrecillas Aguilera.

Castro announced that the council has applied for Cuevas carnival to be officially recognised as of particular interest for tourists.

A Venetian influence

THIS year’s carnival is to have a marked Venetian flavour as it has been inspired by the Italian city’s popular festivity, the council has announced.

Events kick off this weekend with the three semi-finals of the music group competition, in which 23 groups from all over Almeria Province, Granada and Murcia are taking part.

Tomorrow, Friday 17, before the first semi-final begins the Momo Goddess, Concepcion Perez Martin from La Traña, will be crowned, the organisers explained.

The inaugural speech will be given by Curro Verdegay, manager of Kuver Producciones and current manager of the Teatro Cervantes, at Puerta de Purchena on Friday 24.

That day in particular will be inspired by Venice, local mayor Ramon Fernandez-

Pacheco explained, with a variety of activities for all the family on El Paseo from 5.30pm onwards.



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REGULAR readers of this column will know that last week I introduced you to one of my clients who had opened a restaurant down here over a year ago and was going through a few problems. We established that one of his problems was the pairing of his chef with a menu that he had designed, leaving the chef with no option but to serve what he was asked to.

I explained to the client that this was probably stunting the growth of the business.

So last week we sat down with the chef and started to go through the menu to see where we could make savings on costs as well as getting the chef's input as to the type of food that he felt he excelled at.

The four-hour session was very illuminating not least for the client. For the first time he was beginning to see where the chef was coming from. While there is no problem in serving classic dishes - known nowadays as 'retro' - they are becoming exceptionally popular, but there is still room for lighter modern dishes in this health and body consciousness world.

We decided to mix the two styles. Starters such as 'Wild Mushrooms on Ciabatta with a Poached Egg and Crispy Pancetta, Tuna Tartare with Wasabi Crème Fraîche' now sit on the same menu as a 'Classic King

Prawn and Lobster Cocktail and Moules Marinière.' The client loved his classic Tourenedos Rossini, but the chef complained that if he was going to do it, it should be done with fresh foie gras and truffle, not pate and a button mushroom!! So the five star classic fillet steak dish holds pride of place as a Chef's Speciality along side the chef's own creation of 'Roast Tranche of Turbot with Fennel Croquettes, Spinach and Spring Onions with a Pernod Veloute.'

The menu was now starting to fall into place. The ability of the chef to embrace the owner's desire to keep some of his favourite dishes and the owner's ability to allow the chef to create dishes more in keeping with his personal style meant that dialogue and creativity were having a positive result.

With a new design of the menu itself, making it more readable and appealing, we were on our way to creating the changes that we all felt would point the restaurant in the direction that all parties were happy with.

Next we have to look at the presentation of the dishes and the costings to ensure profitability. After that, the restaurant itself will need freshening up, something we will have to do without spending too much money. But the menu and the décor must suit each other. Then we will be looking at the wine menu, staff and uniforms as well as training. It's never a quick fix, but a carefully planned redevelopment. After all we are not reinventing the wheel, just making sure that they are on tight and have sufficient air in the tyres to ensure a smooth ride!!

• **THE Michelin Guide** has just been released in France and has once again come under fire from those that believe that the stars awarded are not always commensurate with the food served and the prices charged. With a meal for two in three star establishments often costing between 450€ and 1,100€ food critics - as opposed to Michelin inspectors - often agree that there is little difference between three and two star restaurants apart from the price.

In 2014 one such critic Meg Zimbeck the highly acclaimed food blogger (Paris by Mouth) spent more than 7,000€ of her own money eating anonymously in all nine of the three star and all six of the two star restaurants in Paris!!

In one of her articles on the subject she writes "There is an obvious barrier in understanding these restaurants: the staggering, outrageous almost immoral price of a meal!" She continued, "No one, I mean really no one, who writes about food would pay for themselves in a three star restaurant and neither would their editors." So the writer put her money where her well-educated palate is and compiled her own reports at her expense.

Her conclusion, much like many of us, I suppose, is that you can eat as well if not better in some lesser establishments. She quotes eating at Alain Ducasse's famous three star La Plaza Athenée, which cost an eye watering 1,100€ for two as 'absolutely horrible.' When she returned for an invitation meal offered to all



Meg Zimbeck, pretty, powerful and knowledgeable.

“The Michelin guide directs people to some of the least exciting and overblown dining in the city.”

“Cooking well doesn't mean cooking fancy!”

food writers in Paris she stated that while it was a more extravagant affair with flowing Champagne - 'it was still horrible!!'

The Michelin guide "directs people to some of the least exciting and overblown dining in the city. A three star designation indicates extravagant prices, plush surroundings, and a surfeit of staff. It does not, unfortunately, always lead you to the best food in Paris." Overall, Zimbeck concluded that while there are some "truly enjoyable" meals to experience at the three star level, very few of the dishes were markedly better than what she had experienced at Paris restaurants that cost a fifth or a 10th of the price.

I had a friend who was a Michelin inspector and we often discussed the fact that it was harder to get a Michelin star in the UK than in France and similarly Spain. I have had the 'pleasure' of eating

at several one star restaurants, including some of those that we have on our door step. I have eaten at one two star restaurant, but never a three star. I may have to wait for our esteemed editor to send me off to investigate!!! I tend to agree that I have eaten better in lesser eateries that cooked with more heart and less hydrogen!

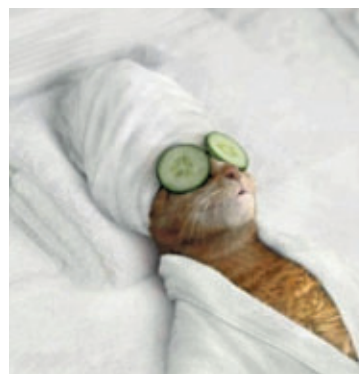
I ate many years ago in a Michelin restaurant just outside of Cherbourg and got food poisoning. We should have known we were on to a bad 'un when we went in. The restaurant was decorated in dark blue, but the sign outside said restaurant 'Maison Rouge'!!

• **AMONG SERVICES** being offered to cats (yes cats!) at Malaysia's Catzonia - the 'world's first' five-star hotel for cats are spas, grooming services and temperature controlled rooms!

Manned by feline-loving staff, the 35-bedroom cattery in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur promises to pamper pets while their owners are away. They even offer a 'dating service' for the female species!

These pampered pussies can stay in one of four room categories, including a VVIC (Very Very Important Cat) room - the hotel's most luxurious offering. The VVIC room can fit up to 10 adult cats (or one mother cat and her kittens) and comes with three 'king'-sized beds, a mini-playground, and a separate toilet. These special suites also come with CCTV, allowing anxious cat owners to monitor their pets 24 hours a day by using a phone app.

There are 'lesser' rooms, which can accommodate between three and seven cats, which come with either a 'queen,' 'double' or 'single' bed and up to three feeding and cleaning sessions per day. Some have shower facilities.



Taking a catnap while being pampered.

THE VVIC and VIC can also indulge in a range of grooming op-

tions including a 'medicated grooming' service, which uses a special shampoo that helps cure cats' skin and clear out the fleas.

The cost of a stay between three hours and a year at Catzonia is priced from £4.50 per night.

A catalogue of services is of course available and every whim will be catered for. Prices vary according to category of room. This could be the catalyst for many more feline hotels to come. I wonder if they will open one in Catalunya? (This column is not just thrown together dear reader)

• **ON THAT NOTE** I will bid you farewell until next week and should aspiring restaurateurs need some help or advice, please do not hesitate to contact me. A toast to Good Food, Good Wine and Good friends.



The right menu and the right décor go hand in hand.

Garry Waite is a well-known foodie and restaurateur as well as a Hospitality Management Consultant. If you are contemplating setting up an operation in Spain, or indeed having problems with an existing project contact him on garrywaite@euroweeklynews.com.

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Getting messier

Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

- and not entirely impartial reaction -
to the Spanish political scene

INDEPENDENCE-OBSSESSED Artur Mas was a noisy and ineffective president of Cataluña.

His party's majority shrank during a series of snap elections called to buttress the independence cause and the last in 2015, planned as a plebiscite, was a fiasco.

The CDC had to embrace the anti-system CUP party in order to govern and that came at a price, as Mas had to resign before the anti-everythings would cooperate.

Now the ex-president is on trial for breaking the law with a pseudo-referendum in 2014 which, ironically, did not produce the pro-independence majority Mas expected.

Current president Carles Puigdemont hinted that prosecuting Mas and others implicated in the 9-N fiasco will accelerate a unilateral declaration of independence.

Only an anti-Constitutional referendum can resolve a messy situation that can only get messier. It might be illegal but what else can prevent at least 50 per cent of Catalans from being railroaded into independence?

Bittersweet

FINANCE minister Cristobal Montoro once declared that he wasn't in

politics to make people happy. He'll make them even unhappier if he goes ahead with his rumoured plan to bump up tax on sugary drinks.

Not so much a Nanny State strategy as one that Montoro knows will rake in the euros as dotting

parents continue buying Coca Cola and Fanta for wheedling kids who are now the fattest in the EU.

Rocky road

JOAQUIN GIMENEZ has been a Supreme Court judge since 1998. Before that he presided the provincial High Courts of San Sebastian and Bilbao during the worst of the ETA years.

Gimenez is in favour of moving ETA prisoners to Basque region prisons, believing this would con-

tribute to their reinsertion into society. Asked how the judiciary could assist the winding-up of ETA, Gimenez answered that justice means pacification, substituting individual vengeance with appropriate retribution. "It's not here to put rocks on the road," he said.

ETA has not killed in five years, but Mariano Rajoy and his government have been unbending in their response to the former terrorist group. And rocks still scatter the road to total pacification with an occasional trace of vengeance, too.

Right turnoff

ALBERT RIVERA'S Ciudadanos party is the preferred associate of the governing Partido Popular, Mariano Rajoy said. With Cs losing voters and paid-up members, is endorsement from a right wing president what a determinedly centre party needs?

ARTUR MAS.



Photo by Wikimedia



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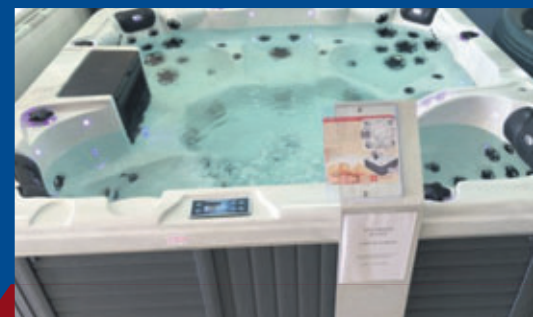
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NEWS EXTRA**Adopted son**

ALBOX has officially welcomed Macael-born businessman and head of Grupo Cosentino, Francisco Martínez-Cosentino Justo, as an Adopted Son of the town at a ceremony presided over by Mayor Francisco Torrecillas.

Old oil

CANTORIA Council has had used oil bins installed on the streets of the village for recycling. Councillor Pilar Gomez explained the bins will be emptied by Reciclajes La Estrella.

Permission granted

TRITURADOS MACAEL SL has been granted permission to investigate possible mining resources in Lijar. The company will be seeking materials such as marble in the area known as Olivarcos.

100 years, 100 trees

By Eleanor Hawkins

THE Albox Scouts group ended its 100th birthday celebrations with the unveiling of a monolith to mark the start of the new Senda Scout (Scout path) walking route in the Cerro Castillo area.

The path is lined with 100 trees, one for each year of the group's history, which will be cared for by current scouts. Each tree is accompanied by the name of a past Scouts' member and that of a current member who

will be in charge of caring for it and ensuring it grows.

Many former scouts and members of their families travelled to Albox from as far away as Madrid, Marbella or Cartagena to take part in the celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary of the launch of the 106 Del Saliente scout group in 1916.

These included relatives of Luis Rodriguez, founder of the group who was named an Hijo Predilecto (favourite son) of Albox in 1969.

Great achievement

GIRASOL karate club for youngsters is pleased to announce that six-year-old Ryan Johnson has attained his yellow belt.

Ryan has been with the club for 10 months and has come along in leaps and bounds. "We don't know where he gets his energy from. Congratulations Ryan," the club said. For more information about the club please contact Claire on alboxgirasol@hotmail.com.

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LANGUAGE EXCHANGE: Come along and join our friendly and informal group.

Linking through language exchange

THE latest semester of the English - Spanish language exchange, Coffee Spanglish is in full swing in Albox thanks to an initiative of the association Almanzora Group of Friends in collaboration with the area of international relations of the town hall.

Sarah Makin, one of the organisers, said: "A regular language exchange allows you to polish your knowledge of grammar, vocabulary and above all pronunciation speaking to a native speaker."

"And, of course, it is a forum for getting to know other cultures and to promote integration. We are very happy with the way in which these exchanges have progressed and we encourage you to join our friendly and informal group. And best of all it is totally free!"

The Coffee Spanglish exchange meets every Friday in Cafe Bar Oasis, C/Canonigo Bartolome Marin, 6 in Albox between 5pm and 7pm.

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Better safe than sorry

LEVANTE fire brigade has urged people to put out fires and heaters before going to bed after having to rescue a mother and two children from a fire at their home in Tijola.

Firefighters posted at Albox fire station were alerted at 2am on Thursday (February 9) and rushed to the scene along with Guardia Civil officers.

The fire is believed to have started when a cushion fell onto an electric heater next to the sofa while the family slept.

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HOMES SEARCHED: Officers confiscated firearms, bullets and marihuana plants.

Gun dealers arrested

By Eleanor Hawkins

SIX homes were searched, including one in Zurgena, and officers confiscated nine firearms, 1,300 bullets, 130 marihuana plants, 11 mobile phones, a frequency inhibitor, a luxury car, tools and €12,000 in cash.

The group members face charges of illegal weapon possession and dealing, a crime against public health, faking documents, making threats and blackmail.

The case has been placed in the hands of a Murcia court.

SEVEN men and one woman have been arrested in a joint Guardia Civil and National Police operation in Almeria, Alicante and Murcia for allegedly tampering with and selling illegal weapons.

The arrestees, all Spanish and aged between 20 and 50, are believed to have bought starter pistols from various gunsmiths in Murcia and converted them into real guns before selling them on to criminals.

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Kevin Lewis
where Insurance Matters

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ZURGENA Council has reached an agreement with Centro de Formacion Mabox to provide English lessons free of charge for local jobless people or at cheap prices for other residents.

Bike tests

THE mobile ITV (MOT) test unit for motorcycles will be at Tijola fair-ground on Thursday February 23 from 10.45am to 1.45pm. To book an appointment visit www.itvcita.com or call 959 999 999.

Burning bins

EIGHTEEN rubbish bins have been set alight in the Almazora area, mainly in Albox and Fines, since the start of the year.

The police are attempting to identify the culprits.



Photo Credit Wikimedia

ALMAZORA: Families have been able to purchase their homes at cheap rates.

Junta sells homes

By Eleanor Hawkins

A TOTAL of 255 families in the Almazora area have been able to buy their homes thanks to the Junta de Andalucía regional government.

The families, who were living in property owned by the Junta, were given excellent conditions to allow them to purchase the homes they had been renting at cheap rates.

Not only was a low price agreed upon, but the amounts the tenants had paid in rent were subtracted from the total, Public Works and Housing delegate for the Junta in Almería Joaquín Jiménez explained at a meeting with 27 mayors and council representatives.

The Junta owns another 258 homes in the area which it offers to those in need as part of its work towards guaranteeing adequate accommodation for all.

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Caroline Smith founded the business in 2010 with the aim of providing a much-needed service to the community and area for a focused and dedicated agency. Caroline lives with her family in Terreros and has vast experience in the Real Estate, Customer Service and Financial Services industry. Her aim for the business is to provide a service second to none, for vendors and purchasers alike, along with a whole host of additional services.

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Qualified experts the best

A SPANISH watchdog has warned that people who rent properties in the country are at risk from unregulated insurance.

Rental insurance is a system whereby landlords are protected from failed monthly payments, and tenants can avoid paying steep deposits or needing guarantees.

There are now plenty of rental insurance schemes on the market for both landlords and tenants. But the Spanish Observatory of Rental Insurance has said that some products out there won't stand up to scrutiny from insurers in court.

If you are a renter or a landlord they advise dealing with a competent and qualified real estate expert to ensure that any rental insurance does exactly what it says on the tin.

The tourism property battle is heating up

THE battle over tourist rentals continues in the Catalan capital, Barcelona. Shared accommodation platform Airbnb has announced that it will force users to comply with a new regulation on landlords.

Homeowners in the coastal city will now only be able to rent out one house or apartment at a time. The new rule greatly restricts previous freedoms enjoyed by landlords who could snap up multiple buildings and rent out dozens of rooms at extremely expensive rates.

The gesture is meant as something of an olive branch from Airbnb to the council, but city officials say it goes nowhere near far enough.

They want Airbnb to completely ban unregistered homes from the site. Barcelona is attempting to have all tourist-used properties pay the appropriate taxes to limit the city's tourist phenomenon.

This is the latest in a series of battles between Airbnb, which is present in thousands of cities across the world, and Barcelona's new administration, which

“ Airbnb has announced it will force users to comply with regulations.

has pledged to protect local residents from higher rents.

Last year the American company was fined €600,000 for violating tourist rental rules by allow-

ing non-registered properties to be advertised online.

The fine was later revoked by a Spanish court in a major embarrassment for the city council.

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Gardening tasks for February

THIS month gardeners' tasks are focused mainly on preparing everything for the spring which, although it may still seem a way off, is really just round the corner.

Houseplants:

How are your houseplants coping with heating? Some of them could be suffering a little and in need of an extra dose of water or humidity. This is a good time to prune them a bit, removing dry leaves and affected areas. Watch for yellowing, this is usually a sign either of a lack of water or of a lack of iron.

Outdoor plants, bushes and trees:

It's time to plan the shape of your garden for the spring and summer. Seedbeds for annual summer plants can be prepared now. Also, remember that your current plants may still need protecting from the cold.

Lawns:

Weather permitting (minimum temperatures must be over 10°C for this) you can start planting new lawns this month. First prepare the earth, turning over and removing all weeds before starting to plant. Distribute seeds evenly then rake into the



PRUNING: As soon as there is no frost, shape and prepare fruit trees.

earth. Water in the form of fine rainfall, avoid walking on the future lawn and make sure the ground drains well.

“

It's time to plan the shape of your garden for the spring and summer. Seedbeds can be prepared now.

Pruning:

Time is running out to get rose bushes and ornamental trees pruned. As soon as there is no longer any risk of frost, it's also time to shape and prepare fruit trees.

Vegetable garden:

This month is good for planting tomatoes, peppers, courgettes, aubergines, peas, watermelons, melons, leeks, parsley, spinach, onions, carrots, radishes, lettuces, celery and beetroots.





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TO remove the smell of tobacco and stale smoke from your home, all you need is a bowl of water and vinegar.

Either dampen a cloth in the mixture and flick it about to clean the air, or leave the bowl inside rooms you wish to de-stench. Once the vinegar has neutralised the smell of stale smoke, you can then use an air

freshener to add a nicer aroma. Coffee beans are also good at absorbing the smell of tobacco and have the added benefit of leaving their own pleasant smell in its place.

A simple trick to reduce the smell of tobacco is to put cat-litter in ashtrays. The litter will absorb the worst of the smell.

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OUR friend Scrut, the little terrier, lives between the UK and Spain. His owners sometimes take him back to Blighty, though usually when they are visiting friends in the UK they use housesitters to keep him at their new home in Malaga. As you can probably tell from this photo, Scrut is a little character.

What he lacks in height and weight, he more than

makes up for in personality and sheer tenacity. He was the smallest puppy in the rescue shelter when his owners Jan and Michael picked him out from the pack. They said they could just tell he'd be fun to play with, and his eyes simply beckoned, so they rescued him.

When they first came to HouseSitMatch to find a petsitter they were a little nervous and keen to find an experienced dog handler who wouldn't worry if Scrut was excessively playful or perhaps a little disobedient from time to time. He does try it on a bit apparently. We matched Scrut with retired builder Gavin, who likes a bit of personality in his dogs. They got

on famously over Christmas and New Year and might meet up again later in the year.

Do you need a house or petsitter? Get in touch. Housesitting can be a win-win for both parties, free house and petsitting, and the experienced and checked sitters get free accommodation! Register as either housesitter or homeowner now with a 20 per cent off introductory offer using

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Epileptic attacks

EPILEPSY is a problem suffered frequently by dogs under the age of five, which usually causes convulsions or epileptic attacks. Canine epilepsy has a genetic factor and there are breeds, including Beagles, St Bernards and German Shepherds which are more likely to suffer.

The first epileptic attack usually happens between the ages of six months and five years and comes completely unexpectedly in the form of convulsions, peddling movements of the legs, excessive salivation, uncontrolled urination and loss of conscience.

Although the attacks in themselves don't put a dog's life at risk, they are in danger of biting their tongues, falling or bumping into things and injuring themselves.

Knowing how to react during an attack will help you remain calm and help your dog. First, lay it down on a soft surface. Avoid high places like the sofa to avoid the risk of a fall. It's important not to try to pull your dog's tongue out as it could end up biting it. Attacks usually last two minutes at the most. When over, let the dog rest in a quiet place as they are usually tired and confused after an attack.

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Travel

Discovering Sierra Espuña

By Caroline Tyszka

SPAIN, probably better known for its long beaches packed with sunloungers and all-inclusive holidays, has much more to offer and you only have to travel inland a few kilometres to get a real feel for nature and tranquillity.

One such area is the municipality of Alhama de Murcia where you will find the Sierra Espuña Regional Park which is surrounded by small villages such as Gebas and El Berro, both situated alongside the hills that make the nature reserve.

Gebas, which has a population of around 20 full-time residents, is surrounded by gullies, canyons and ravines, giving it a spectacular look not dissimilar to a lunar landscape, it also has forested areas with formations of grasses and pine trees, a magnificent contrast offering stunning views.

El Berro, just a few kilometres away from Gebas is again a small village, although slightly larger than Gebas with approximately 100 residents. It has cafes, restaurants, and a bakery.

The stunning area caters for all types of visitors, with hotels and campsites nearby offering activities that include rock climb-

Luna landscape.



ing, water rafting, quad bike hire or just somewhere to relax and unwind.

The Sierra Espuña Natural Park was protected in 1992 and has also been classified as a Special Protection Area for Birds (SPA) as well as a Site of Community Importance (SCI).

The many pine trees were famously planted, in almost a regimented fashion, by the Spanish engineer Ricardo Codorníu

with the aim of helping the landscape which suffered from landslides and erosion in the latter part of the 19th and early 20th century.

The fauna in the area is rich and varied, it's not hard to find squirrels, mouflons (wild sheep), wild boars or golden eagles, although in 2015 the authorities had to organise a cull of the wild, goat looking, sheep whose population had expanded. Of the 1400 only 300 were left.

For further information about the area or to find places to stay some useful links are: www.murciaturistica.es, www.espuna-aventure.com and www.campingsierraespuna.com.

ANIMAL HAVEN: The area is rich with a variety of fauna.



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**Clarkson
Quote of the Week**“*The Ferrari 355 is like a quail's egg dipped in celery salt and served in Julia Robert's belly button.*”

Some might say...

**Motoring shorts****Parking vigilantes**

PEOPLE who get irate when they see illegally-parked cars can now make a tidy profit from their rage. A new app for smart phones will offer nosy neighbours £10 every time they send a photo of an illegally-parked car to the UK Car Park Management (CPM).

Anyone who sends in photos will remain anonymous. The CPM will use the licence number to identify the culprit, fine them £60 and then give the users a tenner for the tip-off.

Motorists caught by the trap will be none the wiser, assuming they had the bad luck of being seen by an official. The CPM believes the scheme is an effective way to protect land owners and other drivers against selfish road users.

However, the RAC thinks offering the public financial incentives to shop offenders could lead to even more distrust in the authorities.

May's allergy to leather

By *Matthew Elliott*

TOP GEAR and Grand Tour star James May is selling his classic Rolls-Royce after discovering that he's allergic to its leather seats. May admitted that his 1972 Corniche had made him itchy after a spin for years, forcing him to conclude his drive with a 'very thorough' shower.

The 54-year-old even claimed that he had to boil his clothes afterwards and has evidently decided that enough is enough. The Corniche will be auctioned off on March 19 by Bonhams at the Goodwood Member's Meeting.

Bidding for the model, which has a 6.75 litre V8 engine and can reach 120mph, is expected to begin at around £20,000 (€23,471). But in good nick, with fewer than 10,000 miles on the clock, and a famous owner, it could fetch closer to £50,000 (€58,677).

May has previously described the Corniche as 'supremely comfortable and quintessentially British.' He bought his in 2007 after decades of infatuation with the classic model. He drove it in a few Top Gear episodes and claims it sailed through 10 MOTs.



JAMES MAY:
Selling his classic
Rolls-Royce.

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ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

DS3 Prestige

DS is part of the giant Citroen group but is a stand-alone brand, the Citroen name not appearing on the cars at all. The smallest car in the chic and sporty DS range is the DS3, available as a three-door hatchback and in cabriolet form.

As a hatchback it is up against Mini, Audi A1 and other small cars in a sector where eye-catching styling is important.

DS3 also comes with a vast range of personalisation options which can give the cars a very individual look and ensure they stand out. Prices start at €16,910 euros (£14,395) with

petrol and diesel versions available. My test model was a Prestige Blue, with a 118 hp 1.6 litre diesel engine which provides sporty performance - 0-100 kph in 9.3 seconds - yet outstanding fuel economy, 27.7 kpl (78.5 mpg).

The DS3 is based on the Citroen C3 supermini, but with retuned suspension to give a more sporty driving feel. It has excellent handling characteristics, and is grippy and composed, though the overall ride quality is on the firm side.

There is good steering feedback with assured cornering and in town, the car feels very nimble.

DS3 is quite distinctive in the hatch sector, displaying lots of clues to its sporty nature - sleek shape, twin exhausts, big 17-inch alloy wheels, rear spoiler and quirky DS badges. Inside, the car is roomy in the front though rear accommodation is a little cramped. The boot is a decent size at 285 litres.

Equipment on the Prestige test model, priced at €23,253 (£19,795), includes gearshift indicator, tyre pressure monitor, cruise control and speed limiter, DAB Radio/CD/USB, front and rear parking sensors, sports seats and sat-nav with seven-inch touch screen.

The cabin is smartly designed and well laid out.

Keenly priced in its sector and with more exclusive styling than most rivals, the DS3 may be a relative newcomer but it has certainly made its mark.



DS3 PRESTIGE:
Quite distinctive in the hatch sector.

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Alexa behind the wheel

VOICE control systems have landed in Europe after the latest technological wave debuted in the US in 2015. Mainstream brands, including Ford, Volkswagen and Honda, have now integrated themselves with new software from Amazon.

The online shopping giant recently let loose 'Alexa,' its version of the personal voice assistant made popular by Apple's 'Siri.' Alexa has already been transforming the home lives of millions, who can instruct it to change the TV channel or order pizza.

Now Alexa is firmly behind the wheel. She, or it, can be installed using Logitech's ZeroTouch technology for as little as €60. Drivers will be able to command music playlists and have Alexa read out text messages or emails



NEW SOFTWARE: Only needs an internet connection through a smart phone.

while they man the wheel.

The technology only needs an internet connection through a smart phone and can be adapted to most cars, with no need to buy a 2017 model. The con-

sumer landscape will soon be packed with alternatives from Apple, Google and other emerging software giants as voice control looks set to become a common driving feature.

Bugbears behind the drivers' wheel

FAILING to use indicators is the biggest grievance when it comes to what drives other motorists crazy.

Arriving at a roundabout and failing to signal or moving out of your lane without indicating is guaranteed to annoy and infuriate the drivers around you.

And when it comes to using the biggest roads of all, motorways, then you're certain to raise the temperature of those trundling along in the same direction if you hog the middle lane and fail to move over.

These are just two of the findings from a survey by the RAC into what drives UK motorists barmy with frustration.

Tail-gaters get short shrift too: sticking like a limpet to the back of the car in front of you gets your goat, given that it's also very dangerous.

Using your horn improper-

ly, particularly when you're in a bad mood is another bane.

One of the most annoying habits is those of us who fail to acknowledge another driver's good manners. We've all felt like that. You let someone out of a tight spot and they don't say thank you.

Poor parkers come high on the list: those who take up two spaces and don't seem to care, especially in a packed street or busy retail outlet.

Simon Williams, from the RAC, said that while not indicating came top of their list, it was probably in the case of most motorists "due to misunderstanding or forgetfulness."

He added: "The confusion it can cause is no doubt responsible for, at worst, accidents and at best, needless wasted seconds of waiting only to find the driver wasn't really going where you thought they were."



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MEDAL WINNER: Tony Phillips.

Aguilon Members Club

WITH the weather improving the new greenkeeper has commenced a new maintenance programme, which should show positive results in future months. Following the high scoring of recent weeks the 'medal' round on Wednesday February 1 showed the course baring its teeth, with members struggling to compile a respectable round.

1st Tony Phillips 91-19 = 72 on a card play off,

2nd Dave Sharp 80-8 = 72

3rd Peter Death 81-8 = 73 on a card play off

Twos: Norman Ridgway 8th, Derek Manning 14th, Phil Miles and Dave Vickers 17th

At the Campbell Lamont Qualifier on Wednesday February 8 blustery winds swirled round the Sierra Aguilon making golf difficult for all but one of the players. The winner was in a class of his own winning by six shots.

1st Glyn Ombler 40 pts

2nd Rick Hull 34 pts on a card play off

3rd Sandra Siggers 34 pts

Twos: Phil Miles and Mark Newall 3rd, Rick Hull 8th, Andy Killen 12th, Peter Ayres, Roy Lewis, Sandra Siggers and Lynne Whibley 14th

For further information log on to the website at aguilonmembersclub.com.

Cabrera Club Championships

CABRERA LBC held its ladies and gent's singles Club Championships between the January 26 and February 5, two of the club's most prestigious competitions.

There was a lot of entries as you would expect but the standout round was the ladies semi-final between the three times ladies champion Judy Abel against Gill Young, what a match! The end result, after 33 ends, saw Judy win by one shot 21-20, brilliant bowling.

In the final Judy was to meet Sylvia Byrne who had been in the final of this competition before. Sadly due to very high winds on finals day the bowling did not match the event and Sylvia really struggled and only won two ends to lose 21-3.



CLUB CHAMPIONS: Judy and Denis.

The gent's final was held at the same time and was between brothers-in-law Denis Stoyles and, a new member to the club, John Wilson. Again the same very blustery conditions were not conducive to bowling but Denis, although starting off the poorer, regained his momentum and went on to win 21-14.

Sadly the weather spoiled what should have been a great finals day but not to distract from the finalists who all put up a great show under very trying conditions. Many congratulations go to Denis and Judy (who has now won this competition for the fourth time) and Denis who won for the first time but should have won it years ago. Commiserations to John and Sylvia who will live to fight another day.

Spanish national bowling squad

INDALO BOWLING CLUB recently hosted a friendly match between bowling clubs from the Malaga area and the Spanish National Squad.

The selected players from the Malaga region were from Miraflores, Benalmadena, Benavista, La Posada, Don Pablo and Lauro Bowls Clubs against the National Squad consisting of bowlers from Teide-Tenerife, Indalo, Quesada, Vistabelle, San Luis, Emerald Isle, El Cid, Benitachell, Javeo and Lauro.

The Malaga clubs took along some very enthusiastic supporters but the Spanish squad, with many new additions, were really up to avenging their defeat of last year

and play was very competitive and exciting. Eventually they won the test match convincingly from eight pairs, eight triples, eight rinks (fours) and eight singles matches, 25 games out of 32.

Everyone agreed that it had been a thoroughly enjoyable weekend with Indalo Bowling Club providing a very fitting venue for this prestigious event.

A gala dinner was held at the Tropical Oasis Hotel and Margaret Kain, representing the Malaga clubs, and Graham Cathcart, manager of the Spanish squad, thanked everyone involved for making it such a successful event.

For more information visit www.indalobowlingclub.org.

Lincoln City and Sutton United seek cup glory

Tony Matthews

International Sports

A former player and now the world's most prolific author of football books with almost 150 published since 1975, Tony is also the sports correspondent for Spectrum Radio and lives on La Pilica in the Sierra Cabrera Mountains overlooking Turre.

Costa de Almería



win) v Manchester City (10 finals, five wins) with ex-City star Harry Bunn, hoping to start for the Terriers... and Millwall, beaten in the 2004 final, v Leicester, who've lost all four finals they've contested.

Sunday's TV ties are Fulham against eight-time winners Tottenham who last won the Cup in 1991 and Blackburn Rovers v holders Manchester United. Between them Rovers have six final victories, United 12 (equal with Arsenal).

FA CUP FACTS:

- Each club in round five receives £247,500.

- Between them the 16 teams have won the trophy 56 times.

- The last 'derby' final was in 2002 when Arsenal beat Chelsea 2-0.

- The last 'Midland' final saw Wolves defeat Leicester 3-1 in 1949.

- The last non-top flight team to win the Cup was West Ham v Arsenal in 1980.

MORE FOOTBALL:

Coming up in the Champi-



LINCOLN AND SUTTON: Both face premiership teams.

onship we have Barnsley v Brighton (2nd), Huddersfield against Reading and leaders Newcastle v Aston Villa (Monday); FL1 pace-setters Sheffield United play Scunthorpe (2nd) and in FL2, it's Doncaster (top) v Luton while Plymouth (2nd) will make a 776-mile round trip to Hartlepool.

CRICKET:

Last week Indian Mohit Ahlawat scored exactly 300 off 72 balls in a T20 game for Maavi against Friends CC. His first 50 came off 12 balls and he went on to smash 39 sixes.

Also, India's captain Virat

Kohli has become the first player to score double centuries in four successive Test series – his latest 204 v Bangladesh.

Two Pakistanis, Sharjeel Khan and Khalid Latif, have been suspended as part of an anti-corruption investigation.

And after a record 59 Tests in charge, Alastair Cook has resigned as England captain. Joe Root is set to replace him.

ROUND-UP:

In Rugby Union Six Nations last weekend, Ireland, emphatically beat Italy by 63-10; France edged out Scotland 22-16 and England, with a late El-

liot Daly try, and encouraged by 'Man of the Match' Joe Launchbury defeated Wales by 21-16. England, under coach Eddie Jones, has now won 16 internationals in succession. The next matches take place on February 25/26.

After last weekend's PL matches, Chelsea's lead at the top has been cut slightly while the bottom three are Hull, Crystal Palace and Sunderland. Celtic reached the SC quarter-finals with a 6-0 win over Inverness CT. Also through are Aberdeen, Partick, Rangers and St Mirren, while holders Hibs drew with Hearts.

In La Liga, Real Madrid have a point advantage over Barcelona who beat Copa del Rey final opponents Alaves 6-0 last Saturday. Real play Espanyol on Saturday and on Sunday Barcelona v Leganes.

Russian drug-cheat Mariya Savinova must hand back the

800m Olympic gold medal she won in London in 2012.

Bristol's Tom Varndell is the new record try scorer in Premiership Rugby Union with 91. And recent results in the Aviva PL include Bath 32 Northampton 30, Bristol 8 Harlequins 42, Leicester 34 Gloucester 9 and Worcester 24 Saracens 18.

In golf, GB's Melissa Reid won Australia's Oates/Vic Open; Fabrizio Zanotti shot past Danny Willett to win Malaysia's Maybank Classic and Jordan Speith triumphed at Pebble Beach.

Barry Hawkins beat Ryan Day in Snooker's Grand Prix final and banked £100,000.

Fourteen GB boxers including Tony Bellew, Ricky Burns, Kell Brook, Anthony Crolla, Carl Frampton, Chris Eubank junior, James DeGale, Anthony Joshua, Amir Khan and Lee Selby can all be world champions this year.

QUIZ FOR LEO

My quiz, in aid of 4 year-old cancer victim Leo (the little Lion) will take place at bar Orcosa in Turre on Friday 24th February at 5pm.

DID YOU KNOW?

ONLY five teams have been relegated immediately after winning their domestic League championship... Juventus, Italy, 2006 (following a scandal); HFG Boldklub, Denmark, 2001; FC Nurnberg, Germany, 1969; Manchester City, Football League, 1938 and AC Milan, Italy, 1980. Might Leicester join them this year?



Guardiola spoke to Bournemouth's Harry Arter whose daughter was stillborn in 2015. "I spoke to Harry, soon to be a father, and wished him well after what happened last time."

TO READ MORE

Costa de Almería's best guide to local sport

Weather didn't stop them



WALKING FOOTBALL: The tournament was a great day for all concerned.

HOSTED by the Lubrin Leg-Ends, and very kindly sponsored by Olive Properties, another walking football tournament was held in Lubrin on Saturday.

Did the rain and cold weather interfere? Absolutely and emphatically not! It was a great day for all concerned.

Round one was played by Miraflores LG (MLG) against Lubrin Leg-ends. Having recently lost a friendly game to Lubrin, MLG were out for revenge but Neil Monksfield scored from a penalty and it proved to be the winning score. Undaunted and fighting altitude sickness MLG came out fighting against La

Alfoquia but could not stop Brian Le Boutillier and Paul Wood from scoring.

Round three saw Lubrin against La Alfoquia who held them to a 0-0 draw despite some exuberant play by both sides and many attacks on both goals. The fourth round saw MLG against Lubrin and despite having only just played Lubrin came out fighting but were unable to stop 'Big Steve' of MLG getting one in.

In the fifth round MLG took on La Alfoquia and despite some brilliant defence by MLG Andy Taylor scored a hat-trick for La Alfoquia although one was disallowed.

The sixth and final round saw some fantastic

football between La Alfoquia and Lubrin but in the end a penalty from Neil Monksfield put La Alfoquia in the lead and resulted in them lifting the magnificent trophy donated by Olive Properties.

During the day Smooth FM DJ Jack Savage provided some really good music and live commentary.

After the game the players all adjourned to the Lubrin theatre where a veritable banquet had been prepared by the Leg-Ends. Speeches were made and awards handed out. A raffle and auction were held and a great deal of money was raised for MACS.

19th Hole Golf Society

ON Thursday February 9, the 19th Hole Golf Society travelled to the Aguilon Golf Resort to play its monthly medal competition. At long last the 33 players enjoyed a day with no wind, or rain and a warming sun, perhaps spring is about to burst through the winter weather at last.

Surprisingly few low scores were recorded except Chrissie Dow's brilliant nett 65 to easily take the ladies medal and of course impress her son-in-law Andrew Dow, playing with the society for the first time. He now refers to his mother-in-law as 'The Lady Bandit.' In the men's medal Dave Denyer made a long-awaited return to form taking the men's medal with a nett 69, and a Nearest the Pin on the 17th.

Results:

Men's Medal: 1st Dave Denyer, nett 69 (28), 2nd Doug Birrell, nett 73 (15) on a card countback, 3rd Bob Tagg, nett 73 (19), 4th Pat ODwyer, nett 74 (25).

Two's: 12th Milke Esposito and Pat O'Dwyer and 14th Willie Ellis.

Nearest the Pins: 3rd Tommy Seed, 8th Geoff Smith, 12th Paco Grajal Ocaña, 14th Willie Ellis, 16th in two Paco Grajal Ocaña and 17th Dave Denyer.

The 19th Hole Golf Society arranges weekly games around the area playing Aguilon every other week. For more information call 634 315 813 or email gs19thhole@hotmail.co.uk.

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