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MALLORCA » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION

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Taxi protest

Drivers bring Palma to standstill

By Simon Firth

Up to 1,000 taxi drivers brought the centre of Palma to a standstill for five hours in protest at government plans to bring in more competition.

With some 400 in their vehicles and the rest on foot, the drivers loudly took to the streets on Wednesday blowing whistles and letting off firecrackers.

The target of their anger is government minister Marc Pons.

He is behind plans to establish regular bus links between the island's airport and several of the busiest tourist areas in Mallorca.

The routes have traditional-

ly been the preserve of the taxi drivers who ferry the thousands of holidaymakers and visitors to the island from the airport.

Mr Pons wants to bring in more competition and introduce a reliable bus service with the help of several transport companies on the island.

But taxi drivers remain resolutely opposed, saying the plan threatens to damage their livelihoods particularly during the busiest periods of the year.

For the drivers, the president of their association, Antonio Cervilla, said: "This is an important battle, but it is only the beginning of a long war."

They claim the island's main



TAXI DRIVERS: Took to the streets of Palma.

transport hub is in Palma and that taking passengers and holidaymakers direct to their accommodation would mean drivers missing out on the chance to make a living from seasonal traffic on these routes.

Cervilla said they were fighting for what they considered was fair and said the government's "lack of willingness to negotiate" meant the action would inevitably be escalated.

But the government continues to maintain its measures are not intended to harm the island's taxi workers.

Spokesman Jaume Mateu said the aim was to improve public transport by bringing in a system that already exists in other tourist destinations similar to Mallorca.

The drivers plan to strike during Holy Week unless their demands are met.

Win a Car!

YOU CAN STILL BE THE WINNER OF A CAR! SEE PAGES 2, 8 - 9

See us on page 24

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LOCAL NEWS

Centre swamped

THE municipal animal protection centre in Son Reus was last year forced to sacrifice six healthy dogs due to a lack of space. The centre currently houses more than 3,000 cats and dogs, and managers were forced to take the difficult decision to euthanise the animals, all of which displayed problematic behaviour.

Cabbie in court

A PALMA taxi driver is on trial for sexually abusing a young passenger who did not have enough money to pay the fare between Magaluf and the capital city. He allegedly grabbed the woman as she tried to get out of the vehicle, but let her go when he spotted a police patrol car nearby.

Metal muggers

THREE young men have been sentenced to one year and nine months in prison for stealing scrap metal from an aluminium merchant. The sentence was reduced from three years after the trio confessed to their crime, which also included verbally and physically abusing an employee of the firm.

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.

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

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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.

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



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WIN A CAR: Why not give it a go?



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BREAKING NEWS:

POPULAR Costa Blanca expat newspaper the *Round Town News (RTN)* will not be on the streets this Friday as it takes a week's breather in preparation for an exciting development with the *Euro Weekly News (EWN)*.

Managing director Geoff Gartland's 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. Not unlike the *EWN*.

But now the *RTN* is expanding and will be breaking into new areas throughout Spain mirroring the ever expanding footprint of the *EWN*.

The *EWN* has now racked up many years of loyal readership and the *RTN* is not far behind, with both newspapers regarded as highly trusted names in Spain.

There are many parallels between the *EWN* and *RTN*, which can only help the continued growth of these two well-established publications.

Stay tuned, as all will be revealed in next week's editions of your favourite local newspapers.



GEOFF GARTLAND: The founder of the Round Town News.

Clearing of road and tunnel has begun

CONSTRUCTION on the road and tunnel linking Estellence and Andratx has finally begun, with the delay caused by the need for materials to be delivered from Italy. Approximately 25 tons of rock fell more than 100 metres during a storm on January 26, damaging the tunnel's structure and leaving large rocks and debris across the road. The strip of the MA-10 highway has been closed since the storm, leaving residents with a longer commute. Reportedly locals and tourists had been moving the two-metre high barriers to get around, including hundreds of cyclists.

Caught on the hop

THE Guardia Civil rescued a total of seven injured or otherwise stranded hikers from the Serra de Tramuntana mountains between February 11-14. The first two became disorientated in a steep area near Pas de Can Boqueta in Deia, while a third suffered a knee injury in Torrent de Pareis. A day later two German couples became lost, with police lamenting the poor physical state of some of the ramblers, plus the general lack of planning displayed by all.

Family feud

A 35-YEAR-OLD man has been detained in El Molinar after he stabbed his own mother several times. The victim,

70, was transferred to the Son Espases University Hospital with severe injuries, while the assailant has been imprisoned without bail with a psychiatric evaluation pending. Neighbours recounted how the woman staggered into the street with blood pouring from her head and chest while her son stared at her impassively.

Jobs for the boys

THE National Police and Labour Inspectorate have teamed up to bring down an organised crime ring which agreed construction and renovation contracts in hotels, residential buildings and schools, but failed to pay its workers the minimum wage.

Five businessmen and two managers of a leading recruitment firm in Mallorca are among 12 people arrested, and

the group is suspected of defrauding more than €2 million.

Bright sparks

THE Balearic Port Authority is to renovate the electricity network in Port de Pollensa marina over the next four months at a projected cost of €1.1 million.

Jobs will include replacing the outdoor public lighting, installation of new tubing for subterranean wiring and the replacement of aging conductors, plus a number of energy saving measures.

Wind does for spuds

HIGH rain and floods followed by strong winds have ruined the early potato crop in Sa Pobla. The crop was due for exportation next month. The flooding due to heavy rain caused much of the early crop's demise, with winds of up to 87 kilometres per hour burning off anything that survived the recent floods.

Legal action planned over goat cull

AFTER locals discovered 100 wild goats were quietly culled last December in Calvia, they were shocked and outraged, both with the lack of transparency and thoughtlessness for animal rights. The news was only made public when discussed at a recent local council meeting.

Pacma, an animals-rights political party, has an-

nounced it plans to take legal action. Pacma and their president, Silvia Barquero, have been successful in preventing the cull of 2,700 goats in the Guadarrama mountains on the mainland. Many different animal activist groups have expressed criticism and frustration with the government and town hall for not seeking options and opinions.

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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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NEWS EXTRA

Dead birds

PALMA police and city council are investigating the deaths of over 250 starlings around the Murada de Palma. The birds have been taken to a veterinarian to establish the cause of death.

Body found

A DEAD man aged between 40 and 50 has been discovered floating with empty luggage tied to his body by the GEAS Guardia Civil in front of Marivent Palace. Police are investigating his identity and cause of death.

War exhibit

THE Arsenal of War exhibition continues to showcase historical documents relating to Napoleon's French War. It is open on weekdays in the Lluís Alcmany Library in Palma until April 4 and is free of charge.

Toni Nadal set to return to Mallorca

SPANISH tennis coach Toni Nadal, uncle and coach to Rafa, has announced this is his last season coaching his nephew.

After the current season ends he will be returning to the Rafa Nadal Academy in Manacor.

Toni Nadal currently holds the position of head of academy, and plans to spend his time training young talent on his home island.

Nadal also insists the relationship with his famous nephew remains strong, and the decision is best for both parties.



TONI NADAL: Will return to train Mallorca's young talent.

Fraudulant leader

LEADER of the Mallorcan Senegalese Association, Madiop Diagne, was arrested last week, following a month-long investigation by the National Police's illegal immigration and false documentation unit (UCRIF).

Diagne has been charged with falsifying documents and engaging in criminal activities. He pleaded guilty to fraud, but is unable to pay his €5,000 bail and remains in prison in Palma.

So far around 50 people have been arrested in connection with a network of fraudulent work contracts. Investigations began when a

noticeable increase in work and residence permits were renewed from Senegalese citizens.

Police also noticed many street vendors in Playa de Palma had working permits when asked, but for other work such as gardening. Investigations led to the association, known as Asema, and subsequently Diagne.

The UCRIF believe Diagne, along with four other leaders of Asema, have received up to €90,000 via their fraudulent organisation.

Police investigations continue and now include a Social Security investigation.



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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."

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NEWS EXTRA

President of Parliament

BALTASAR PICORNELL has been elected as President of Parliament of the Balearic Islands. Picornell received 34 out of 59 cast votes against Nùria Riera.

Archaeological campaign

THE Muro City Council has launched its third archaeological campaign with a goal of better knowing and preserving the Son Serra deposit. It is free for all to join every day until February 24.

Improvements at Son Espases

SON ESPASES, the company operating the non-clinical area of Son Espases Hospital, has accumulated €3.4 million in penalties over the last seven years. Last year Son Espases was fined €257,000, the lowest amount yet, supporting their claim that operations are improving and progressing.



SUBSPECIES DETECTED: Showing the bacteria has been on the island longer than thought.

Killer olive bug spreading

By Gillian Keller

A DEADLY bacteria, *Xylella fastidiosa*, is spreading through-out olive and fruit trees across Mallorca.

The Minister of Environment and Agriculture, Vicenç Vidal, met with the mayors of Mallorca to discuss containment and possible solutions.

The mayors, along with the Federation of Local Government Bodies of the Balearic Islands, FELIB, asked for tools to identify trees that are infected, and for more information to

give to locals asking for help.

The eradication protocol recommended by the European Union inspectors, who are coming to examine progress in June, is to destroy infected trees by removing and incinerating the entire tree and all those susceptible within 100 metres.

The first cases of the olive ebola traced back to three trees in a Porto Cristo nursery, originally from Tarragona. These first three cases cost the government over €41,500 in compensation after following protocol

to destroy all susceptible trees.

After testings, three subspecies have been detected in Mallorca and on the other Balearic Islands. One of the subspecies is the most aggressive form of the bacteria, which wiped out over one million olive trees in several Italian provinces. The discovery of the subspecies and the range of spread across Mallorca has shown that the bacteria has been on the island longer than first thought.

The recent meetings between Vidal, FELIB, and local mayors have been based on finding solutions that do not include the mass destruction of healthy plants. Over a hundred fruit and olive trees have already been incinerated.

Vidal has support from all parties in a €250,000 contract with Tragsa, an innovative solutions company, to contain the bacteria. Tragsa plans to support regional plant health department technicians in collecting samples, cutting down infected trees, and incinerating to ensure the bacteria does not spread. Vidal argues that taking the time to analyse and adapt measures is necessary because the bacteria adapts differently in each environment.

Native to the Americas, the killer bacteria was first recorded in Europe in 2013.

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Courts rule in favour of airport worker

A JUDGE in the Social Court of Palma has ruled in favour of Ana Saidi Rodríguez, an employee of Acciona, and her fundamental right to religious freedom. Saidi was raised in the Muslim religion, but it was only a year ago she became more awakened to her religion, and felt a greater need to wear a hijab, or tradition veil. Rodríguez, who works as a handling agent at the Palma airport, informed her employer Acciona of her decision to wear a hijab; she was soon after informed a ban had been placed on headscarves, the order coming from Madrid, claiming they did not comply with standards of uniformity.



The company must pay unpaid wages and compensation for damages, amounting to over €12,000.

After feeling persecuted, and being punished seven times over the situation, which led to suspended days without work and pay, Rodríguez decided to take action and sue Acciona. This week, the courts sided with Rodríguez, believing that Acciona violated the fundamental right to religious freedom. The company must pay unpaid wages and compensation for damages, amounting to over €12,000.

NEWS EXTRA

Child saved

NATIONAL POLICE responded quickly to an emergency call in Palma reporting an unconscious child, under two-years-old. The child was taken to the hospital and stabilised.

Kiosk issues

PALMA'S federation of residents associations is fighting for less kiosks with more restrictions. The federation's aim is for more control and space, better health and safety standards and swifter mobility.

Floods aid

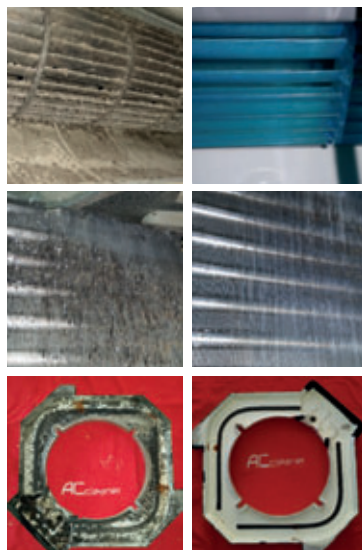
OVER €8 million of compensation claims have been filed from 32 municipalities in Mallorca for weather related damages occurring in December and January; this figure does not include Mallorca's largest city, Palma.



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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.

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- Regularly
- Monthly
- On occasions
- Very rarely

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- Local News
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- Leapy Lee
- Other columnists
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.....

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What would you like to CHANGE about the EWN?

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.....

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.....

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- Internet

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- Desktop computer
- Laptop
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- All day

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Q & A

Gender

- Female
- Male

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- 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

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

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Is your telephone

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

Is your mobile

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- Android
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WELCOME to the 2017 Euro Weekly News Reader Survey. We are continuously examining ways to further improve Spain's leading English-language newspaper and we want you, the reader, to take part.

Fill in this simple survey which will help us make decisions about the content and structure of the EWN in the future.

It does not matter whether you are a regular or casual reader, nor do you have to agree with our firm belief that we are the best. All of your opinions will help us to improve what we offer both readers and advertisers in the future across all six editions of the newspaper widely distributed each week from Valencia to Costa del Sol, as well as Mallorca and inland.

What's more, if you fully complete the survey in today's issue, which will be republished until March 23, 2017, or answer it online and send it back to us no later than March 30, 2017, then you stand the chance of winning this brand new car in our prize draw.

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Brexit negotiations could destabilise EU



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



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

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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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, overexploitation and mismanagement having taken their toll.



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Franco victims may receive aide and recognition

TEN years after the law of historical memory was enacted, the government has returned to review the law which aids victims of the Spanish Civil War and Franco's reign.

The main objective of the Republican Left of Catalonia (ERC) in reopening the debate is to address shortcomings in recognising victims, as there are more than the current law acknowledges. One controversial proposal of the law is the recognition, both moral and legal, to all who engaged in the

fight against Franco. This would give the right of €135,000 in compensation for all related deaths until 1978.

The ERC also proposes the government open the mass graves and begin a DNA bank, urging the need for a much larger budget. Much of the argument for change is to recognise the crimes against humanity, make public and permanent statements acknowledging responsibility, and to pay respect to those who suffered, both financially and in memorials.

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Surfin' USA



BARACK OBAMA: Enjoyed kite surfing in the Caribbean.

By Matthew Elliott

A YOUNG Spanish man has been revealed as Barack Obama's kite surfing instructor. The former president was snapped enjoying his retirement on one of Richard Branson's private islands in the Caribbean.

Elias Llacer, a 26-year-old

from Valencia, recently landed the dream job on Necker Island, bought by the British billionaire in 1983.

Llacer had lived in London for a few years, learning English and working. But, like many Spaniards, he soon grew sick and tired of the woeful weather and flew home. He took up kite surfing in Cadiz

and, hearing that Branson was an avid fan, wrote the Virgin boss a cheeky letter.

Branson was taken with the young man's passion and invited him out to the Caribbean for a trial. Just months later here he was, tutoring one of the most famous men on the planet, and former leader of the free world.

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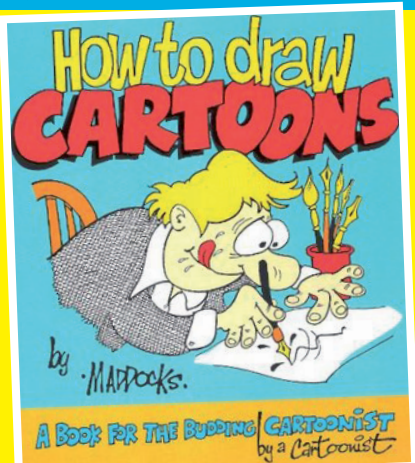
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Euro is irreversible

Commentary by Moneycorp

EUR weekly currency update

When the European Central Bank president attended the European Parliament's economic affairs committee Mario Draghi's observations were in line with what could have been expected. The ECB is not, as alleged by the White House, massaging the euro lower to satisfy Germany. The euro is not about to break up: it is 'irreversible.' Yet the scandal surrounding French presidential candidate François Fillon could leave the way open for the Front National's Marine Le Pen to take over the Élysée Palace and one of her campaign pledges is to take France out of the single currency.

Another existential risk is the resurfacing of the long-running three-way squabble about Greece's bailout. There is so far no sign of compromise between Athens, the country's EU creditors and the IMF. These political risks overshadowed the euro, leading to a below-average performance. It lost one US cent on the week and dropped a cent against sterling.

USD weekly currency update

The dollar improved its position among the major currencies, beating sterling into second place by a fifth of a cent and taking a cent off the euro. Its upward progress against the euro was fairly steady as the single currency was rattled

by political turmoil surrounding the French presidential election and the resurfacing of the Greek debt crisis.

The dollar's movement against sterling was more erratic. A sharp and unexplained sell-off of the pound was followed in short order by an equally sharp rebound after MPC member Kristin Forbes said the economy "could soon suggest an increase in the Bank Rate."

For its part the dollar headed into the weekend on a high note after a couple of 'googlies' from the president. With one he capitulated to Beijing, telling President Xi that he does, after all, recognise the "one China" policy. In the other he promised a "phenomenal" announcement about tax in the next couple of weeks.

CAD weekly currency update

With the exception of the US employment report last Friday there was a general shortage of significant economic data to affect the major currencies. In Canada's case the ecostats showed a fall in building permits, a slight narrowing of the trade surplus and a slower pace of growth in the private sector. None of them had much effect on the value of the Loonie but it did react to swings in the price of oil, first weakening then staging comeback. Overall the Canadian dollar lost two thirds of a US cent and went down by

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more than a cent against sterling. It was unchanged against the euro.

Investors' minds were mostly elsewhere, for there were plenty of distractions from the White House, the eurozone and Britain: Political spats in Paris and Athens troubled the euro and sterling was helped by talk of higher interest rates.

AUD weekly currency update

Sterling and the Australian dollar shared second place for the week behind the US dollar. The Greenback's margin of victory was narrow - just a dozen ticks. Across the board, currency placings were decided more by politics and hyperbole than by hard economic data. The only



top-tier ecostat from the major economies was last Friday's US employment report. Australia's contributions were a tiny increase in new home sales, an even tinier decline in retail sales and a slight improvement in construction sector activity.

Domestically, the greatest help came from the Reserve Bank of Australia when it kept its Cash Rate benchmark unchanged at 1.5% for a seventh month. The tone of the accompanying statement was more optimistic than expected. Externally, talk of higher UK interest rates helped the pound and the US president helped the Greenback. Investors were pleased when he softened his attitude to China.

NZD weekly currency update

Amid a general shortage of hard economic data from the major economies New Zealand's statisticians did not, for once, appear to be shirking when the only statistic they could come up with was a -7.2% monthly fall in building permits. Currency directions, including that of the Kiwi, were shaped instead by politics and central banks. The Reserve Bank of New Zealand had two bites at the cherry, the first with its survey of inflation expectations and the second when it announced the Official Cash Rate would remain at 1.75% for a fourth month.

Inflation expectations were up from 1.7% to 1.9% and so positive for the currency. The net effect was negative for the NZ dollar.

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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



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.

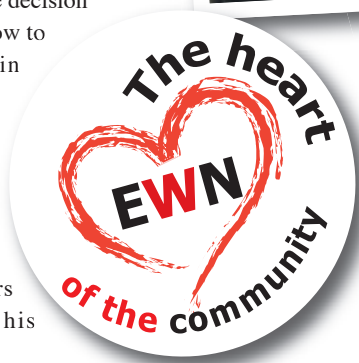
In Oklahoma Leo will undergo proton therapy treatment. It offers the chance to bombard the post-operative tumour sites with a fine proton beam.

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 Pro-Cure 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.



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.

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UK account
Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland
Account Name: Alda Keefe
Account Number: 17485819
Sort Code: 16-24-06

DONATE

NEWS FROM OUR FIVE OTHER REGIONS

Climber survives fall

■ COSTA BLANCA NORTH**CALPE ROCK:** Man slipped, falling about 40 metres before coming to a halt.*Caroline Tyszka*

A 67-YEAR-OLD man has survived a fall from the Peñón de Ifach in Calpe.

The incident, which occurred on Friday February 10 at 9.35am, happened when the man was approximately 100 metres from the top of the rock and slipped, falling about 40 metres before coming to a halt.

Emergency services received a 112 call and rushed to the scene. This included firefighters, a rescue helicopter and the ambulance service.

When firemen reached the climber he was aware of his surroundings but was unable to move.

The 67-year-old was transferred to a local medical facility for a thorough examination of his injuries.

■ COSTA DEL SOL

Cancer alert

THE Danish Cancer Society has launched a campaign asking the Spanish for their help in combating skin cancer by raising awareness among tourists who travel to the sun-soaked Mediterranean.

Suicide attempt

A BRITISH man was rescued by Marbella police officers who found him locked in his bathroom trying to cut his wrists. The mother of the 50-year-old, believed to suffer from severe mental health problems, called the police to their shared Elviria home.

Justice delivered

ANOTHER Costa del Sol homeowner has won a crucial legal battle against the banks. The local resident won back his deposit from the bank plus interest after a property developer went bankrupt before the home was finished.

Tragic death

A TAXI driver was tragically killed in Torreblanca when he was run over by a car with apparently malfunctioning brakes. Two other people were seriously injured and police are now investigating the precise cause of the incident.

Surfin' USA

A YOUNG Spanish man has been revealed as Barack Obama's kite surfing instructor. The former president was snapped enjoying his retirement on one of Richard Branson's private islands in the Caribbean.

Raising funds

A CHARITY race will take place in Benalmadena on March 5 to raise funds for Proyecto Hombre, a drug-rehabilitation centre. Last year's event saw more than 750 people participate and raise a terrific €13,000.

■ COSTA BLANCA SOUTH

Teacher petition

TEACHERS have gathered 4,000 signatures calling to keep their jobs as concerns arise over the future of concertada, or semi-private schools in the province.

Health check

THE Hospital Quirónsalud Torre Vieja has signed a collaboration agreement with Patrimo Group to provide a conventional check-up free of charge to each client who purchases a home located in the region of La Vega Baja.

Raptor rescue

MEMBERS of Friends of Sierra Escalona environmental association rescued a buzzard that was injured in a finca of Lo Hita, Torre Vieja, near the border with San Miguel de Salinas.

Animal rights

ORIHUELA animal lovers breathed a sigh of relief recently, when the PP Town Hall reversed a decision to award the contract for the Animal Protection Centre in San Bartolome to a waste disposal company from Murcia.

Time passage

HERE'S a date for your diary... 57 years from now. This will be when Elche's time capsule is opened, on August 10, 2074.

■ AXARQUÍA

Beaches accessible

BEACHES in Torre del Mar and Caleta de Velez will be adapted to help those with disabilities. Improvements will include ramps, railings, new signage and paths to the shore.

Station converted

VELEZ-MALAGA'S disused train station will be converted into a new bus station which will include a cafeteria, toilets and waiting area following an investment of €222,205.99.

Police protest

AROUND 50 police officers have protested at Velez-Malaga's Town Hall gates. The officers are demanding technical improvements as well as improvements to their leadership.

Breast cancer

RINCON DE LA VICTORIA Council's Department of Social Policies and Equality have teamed up with the Association of Women to provide assistance to women, who have survived, or still have, breast cancer.

Nerja clinic

NERJA is set to gain a new health centre following a U-turn by the Junta de Andalucía over the project as it now believes that Nerja needs to increase its health care capacity.

■ COSTA BLANCA NORTH

Pipe down

BENIDORM'S Aiguera watercourse was rechannelled to prevent water pipes installed there from collapsing due to erosion. The town hall's Domestic Water Supply fund met the €90,000 cost.

Under observation

A 17-YEAR-OLD from Villena who stabbed five fellow-pupils is in a secure unit for young people. Psychiatric tests will determine whether he was responsible for his actions.

Who's who?

THE Dutch Association in Pinos distributed 500 car stickers that will identify local urbanisation residents following a wave of recent break-ins at homes and bars.

Stressed officials

BENIDORM Council workers are to be tested to see if they suffer from work stress as part of the Workplace Valuation (VPT). Employees will fill in a questionnaire which will be evaluated. The tests have cost €1,000.

President resigns

THE President of the Denia AECC Pablo Segarra has resigned his position following 'discrepancies, disappointment and loss of confidence' with the provincial board President Pablo Enrique Valens.

■ COSTA DE ALMERÍA

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 people of Almeria are more worried about corruption and politicians than they are about their health according to the winter 2017 General Public Opinion Survey (Egopa) for Andalucía.

Pet owner

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 after his pet died.

Towed away

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

Mirror, mirror

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.

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NORWAY

Budget best

NORWEGIAN:
Flew 2.1 million
passengers.

BUDGET airline Norwegian had more passengers in January than its rival SAS for the first time, flying 2.1 million passengers compared to 1.9 million for SAS. This is a 20 per cent increase for Norwegian compared to January 2016.

Visa concern

FORMER Norwegian Prime Minister, Kjell Magne Bondevik was stopped and questioned by US border control agents at Washington Dulles Airport before being granted permission to enter America. It seems having an Iranian visa in his diplomatic

passport posed difficulties.

Digital threat

NORWAY'S military has warned of increased digital threats from Russia believing Russia has infiltrated social networks to influence public opinion and spread false information.

Asylum attack

TWO men have been arrested by police investigating an explosion at an asylum centre in Bergen. The explosion caused structural damage to the building, but no one was injured.



FRANCE

Made for sharing

PARIS has unveiled its slogan for its 2024 Olympic bid will be in English and not French. It is hoped the slogan 'Made for Sharing' will appeal to an international audience.

Uber case

A FRENCH businessman is suing Uber taxi firm after a problem with their app meant that his wife received notifications on her phone about his trips revealing his extra-marital encounters which led to their divorce.

Hotel smugglers

FIVE hotel managers in Calais have been arrested suspected of being involved in smuggling Albanian migrants into Britain.

Clooney award

THE French film academy is to give George Clooney an honorary award in the country's Cesar awards, the French equivalent of the Oscars. The academy said Clooney "embodies Hollywood glamour."



GERMANY

No evidence

GERMAN intelligence agencies say they have found no evidence of a Russian 'disinformation campaign' against Angela Merkel's government, following a year long investigation.

Pool abuse

POLICE have arrested two asylum seekers on suspicion of sexually

assaulting young girls aged between 12 and 14 at a swimming pool in Germany.

More active

GERMANY'S President has said the country is ready to assert itself more internationally and assume a more active political and military role following Brexit in the UK

and the election of Donald Trump in the USA.

Family abuse

A WOMAN has been sentenced to four years in prison for forcing her 16-year-old daughter into prostitution. Her partner was also jailed for abusing the woman's two daughters.



BELGIUM

Negative rates

BELGIUM has borrowed €1.79 billion on a short-term basis at negative rates of an average 0.676 per cent. It means that Belgium will repay slightly less than it has borrowed.

100 a day

THE Secretary of State for Equal Opportunities, Elke Sleurs, launched the campaign #100parjour (#100perday) aimed at increasing awareness of sexual violence. It is estimated there are around 100 rapes a day in the country.

Costly driving

BELGIUM is one of the most expensive European countries for owning a car, costing an average €547 for a middle range petrol car a month including costs and petrol.

Good living

BELGIUM saw the GDP per capita rise in 2015 to levels exceeded before the economic crisis. Life expectancy is increasing and living conditions are reported to be "fairly good."



SWEDEN

Not PC

A SWEDISH police officer caused controversy following his non-politically correct comments on Facebook about the majority of weekly cases he deals with involving foreign people.

Volvo sales

SWEDISH car maker Volvo, reported a record 90 per cent increase in net profits in 2016, with more than 534,000 cars being sold last year.

Shipwreck research

FURTHER research is expected to be carried out on a shipwreck found in southern Sweden which marine archaeologists believe could be a historic warship of around 45m in length.

Arson attacks

AROUND 100 fires at housing centres for asylum seekers were started deliberately in Sweden last year. Police said 112 blazes occurred at asylum accommodation centres in 2016 and believe 92 were arson attacks.



HOLLAND

Teacher blame

A PROFESSOR who has researched dyslexia since 2007 has said she believes many children are diagnosed unnecessarily with the condition and others suffer as a result of poor teaching in the Netherlands.

Park plans

CRITICS have slammed plans to open up the Oostvaardersplassen nature reserve to tourism on a larger scale as the plans could involve the culling of wild ponies and deer.

Safety rules

OVER half of the 400 chemical firms and companies handling hazardous substances in the Netherlands, have broken safety rules in the last two years according to inspection reports.

Inflation rise

THE Dutch inflation rate rose from 1 per cent to 1.7 per cent in January, bringing it to its highest level since the end of 2013. Higher petrol and diesel prices were the main force behind the increase.



DENMARK

Organic Danes

DANES are the biggest buyers of organic food according to a new report. Organic products account for 8.4 per cent of the total food market, a percentage that is higher than in any of the other 178 countries surveyed.

Facebook jobs

FACEBOOK is to build a new data centre in Odense, Denmark's third largest city. It will create a few thousand jobs in the construction stage and at least 150 permanent jobs at the centre.

Musician dies

RENOWNED Danish jazz violinist Svend Asmussen, has died at the age of 100. He enjoyed a professional music career that spanned eight decades.

Terror concern

THE Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET) warns that the increase of fake news online could encourage and even spur some individuals to carry out violent attacks or terrorism activities.



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: Kalinet 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 Airlines	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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DOW JONES

CLOSING PRICES FEBRUARY 13

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE	%CHANGE	VOLUME
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%

Kleinwort Benson Elite PCC Ltd

Distributing Funds

EUR Fixed Income B
Sterling Fixed Income B

DEALING PRICE

€0.9629 €0.0056
 €0.9430 €0.0085

Price Movement

Accumulating Funds

GBP Currency B
EUR Currency B
Multi Asset Conservative B GBP
Multi Asset Conservative B EUR
Multi Asset Balanced B GBP
Multi Asset Balanced B EUR
Multi Asset Growth B GBP
Multi Asset Growth B EUR

DEALING PRICE

€0.9853 -€0.0001
 €0.9650 -€0.0001
 £1.1360 £0.0069
 €1.0696 €0.0054
 £1.2622 £0.0117
 €1.1787 €0.0099
 £1.3761 £0.0154
 €1.2920 €0.0135

Price Movement

Remaining Elite Fund prices available on request

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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 reopen 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.

Keep the faith.

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2016 taxes must be declared and paid before the end of 2017.

Spanish tax law requires that non-resident owners of property in Spain have to pay Spanish income tax even if they have no Spanish earnings for example, rental income or bank interest.

If you wish to receive an information sheet regarding non-resident tax email to **info@gcmca.es**, alternatively, you can telephone the office and we will discuss your requirements with you.

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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	6:00pm	Come Dine with Me	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	9:00pm	Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun	7:30pm	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	10:00pm	The Great British Benefits Handout	8:00pm	Live Premier League Darts
	8:00pm	The One Show	10:00pm	Russia's Hooligan Army	11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	11:00pm	When Kids Kill: Schoolboy Slayer	11:00pm	La Liga Show
	8:30pm	EastEnders	11:00pm	Live at the Apollo	11:30pm	ITV News London	9:00pm	The Supervet	12:00am	The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door	11:30pm	Barclays Premier League World
	9:30pm	June Brown at 90	11:30pm	Newsnight	11:40pm	UEFA Europa League Highlights	10:00pm	Escape to the Wild	1:00am	Ramsay's Hotel Hell	12:00am	Premier League Legends
	10:00pm	Death in Paradise	12:15am	Andrew Marr: My Brain and Me	1:35am	Jackpot247	11:00pm	Parenting for Idiots	2:00am			
	11:00pm	BBC News at Ten					11:30pm	24 Hours in A and E				
	11:30pm	BBC London News					11:40pm	The Last Leg				
	11:45pm	Question Time					12:05am	Alan Carr Live: Spexy Beast				
12:45am	Up in the Air					12:10am						
FRIDAY 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	Neighbours	6:00pm	Barclays Premier League World
	8:00pm	The One Show	8:00pm	Big Dreams Small Spaces	9:30pm	Coronation Street	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	7:00pm	Home and Away	6:30pm	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	5 News Tonight	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	8:30pm	Rugby League
	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	11:30pm	The Fantasy Football Club
	10:00pm	Not Going Out	11:00pm	QI	11:40pm	Fishing Impossible	11:00pm	The Last Leg	10:00pm	Cruising with Jane McDonald	12:30am	Barclays Premier League World
	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											
SATURDAY 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	3:00pm	Super League Gold
	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!	3:15pm	Super League Gold
	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	3:30pm	Great Sporting Moments
	8:55pm	Casualty	7:00pm	Flog It!Z	6:10pm	Despicable Me	7:30pm	Channel 4 News	8:00pm	The Restoration Man	3:45pm	Rugby Union
	9:45pm	Let it Shine - The Results	8:00pm	The Lake District: A Wild Year	8:00pm	Ninja Warrior UK	8:00pm	The Voice UK	9:00pm	Great Canal Journeys	6:00pm	Rugby Union
	10:15pm	Taboo	9:00pm	Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands	9:00pm	The Voice UK	8:00pm	The Restoration Man	9:10pm	Secrets of the Great Train Robbery	8:15pm	Great Sporting Moments
	11:15pm	BBC News	9:30pm	Dad's Army	10:20pm	Through the Keyhole	10:00pm	Taken 2	10:00pm	Football on 5	8:30pm	Live World Club Series
	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	Super League Gold
	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		11:45pm	Super League Gold
	12:40am	This Country			1:50am	Jackpot247					12:00am	Super League Gold
SUNDAY 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	10:00am	The Sunday Supplement
	8:00pm	Countryfile	3:00pm	Funny Lady	9:00pm	Celebrity Special	3:05pm	The Simpsons	8:25pm	5 News in Film	11:30am	Goals on Sunday
	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	1:30pm	Football
	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	4:00pm	Football
	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?	6:30pm	Live World Pool Masters
	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	10:30pm	Goals on Sunday
	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	Football's Greatest
	11:30pm	Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights	11:00pm	Being Ap			12:40am	Lawless			12:00am	Premier League 100 Club
	12:10am	American High School	12:40am	Defiance			2:40am	The Last Leg				
MONDAY 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	6:30pm	Premier League Legends
	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	7:00pm	One2eleven
	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	7:30pm	Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17
	11:30pm	Regional News	9:30pm	An Island Parish	10:00pm	Coronation Street	10:00pm	The Trouble with Dad	9:00pm	Winter Road Rescue	8:00pm	Football Gold
	11:40pm	Weather	10:00pm	SAS: Rogue Warriors	11:00pm	The Halcyon	11:00pm	Jon Richardson: How to Survive the End of the World	10:00pm	The Railways That Built Britain, with Chris Tarrant	8:30pm	Football
	11:45pm	Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You	11:00pm	Cradle to Grave	11:40pm	Through the Keyhole	12:05am	8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown	11:00pm	50 Greatest Magic Tricks	11:15pm	Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17
	12:30am	The Graham Norton Show	11:30pm	Newsnight	12:40am	The Chase	1:10am	Parenting for Idiots	1:45am	Criminals Caught on Camera	11:45pm	Scottish Football Round Up
			12:15am	Hospital	1:35am	Jackpot247					12:00am	Football Gold
TUESDAY 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	Scottish Football Round Up
	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	8:15pm	Football Gold
	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	8:30pm	Live ATP Tennis 500 - Rio
	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	3:00am	Football Gold
	10:00pm	DIY SOS The Big Build	11:30pm	Weather	11:40pm	Celebrity Special n/R	8:00pm	Best Place to Live in the UK	10:00pm	Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh	3:15am	Football Gold
	11:00pm	BBC News	12:15am	Special Forces - Ultimate Hell Week	12:40am	Carry on Henry	9:00pm	24 Hours in A and E	11:00pm	Celebrity Carry on Barging	3:30am	Premier League Legends
	11:30pm	Regional News					10:00pm	Staying Healthy: A Doctor's Guide	12:05am	I'm 20 But Look 60: Extraordinary People	4:00am	One2eleven
	11:40pm	Weather					11:00pm	This is Us2: The Big Day			4:15am	One2eleven
	11:45pm	Imagine...										
	12:45am	Who Do You Think You Are?										
WEDNESDAY 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	6:00pm	Football's Greatest Teams
	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	7:00pm	Premier League Legends
	7:30pm	Regional News	9:00pm	The House That £100k Built	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	7:00pm	The Simpsons	6:30pm	Neighbours	7:00pm	Barclays Premier League World
	8:00pm	The One Show	10:00pm	Dr Weston's Casebook	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	7:00pm	Home and Away	8:00pm	Live ATP Tennis 500 - Rio
	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	8:30pm	Premier League Legends
	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	3:00am	Premier League Legends
	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	3:30am	Barclays Premier League World
	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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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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Kakuro

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

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.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

	12	19	36	8	11
28	2	9	7	5	6
23	7	2	6	3	5
14	3	8	5	11	11
		17	9	3	5
17	5	3	1	2	6
14	1	7	8	6	2

MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE

Petermaddocksart.com

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

Women's wit

"You don't need to retire as an actor, there are all those parts you can play lying in bed, or in a wheelchair."



Dame Judi Dench

Famous quote

"All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy."

Spike Milligan, Comedian/writer

World of English

"Indivisibility has only one vowel which occurs five times."

YOUR STARS FOR 7 DAYS

PISCES ♋ (February 20 - March 20)

Time is precious this week because you are in demand. A chance lost in the past presents itself again but won't be too easy. Holding back just a little makes you more desirable. A want to travel could be cramped by financial considerations. If making extra money is too difficult, consider sharing something of value with someone else.

ARIES ♈ (March 21 - April 20)

After a relaxed weekend, it might prove difficult to take up the reins of work again. However, midweek sees you trotting along happily and minding your own business when someone stops you in your tracks. When a challenge is issued, your natural stubbornness comes to the fore.

TAURUS ♉ (April 21 - May 21)

With a mind as sharp as a needle, you spin

AQUARIUS ♒ (January 21 - February 19)

You realise this week how liberating it is to share your thoughts and feelings with someone close. It is not always easy to do this, until you realise everyone has them. Some

through the week, weaving your own charming spell. A bit of extra confidence works wonders for your mood. Something that you read sets you thinking about doing some writing or creating something artistic, perhaps even a musical.

GEMINI ♊ (May 22 - June 21)

Although energy is not high, there is the need to have some kind of challenge. With the brain active, it is an ideal time to plot and plan your next moves. Maybe something that has been delayed might now be advanced. You find it hard to choose between opportunities. The road

hopes and dreams are more attainable than others, of course, and someone has to find out which are which. Avoid being too critical of someone young and inexperienced.

ahead is open. Keeping things simple is best.

CANCER ♋ (June 22 - July 23)

The imagination stirs and the heart races at a suggestion this week. Your strong intuition tells you it is the right thing to do. You are a constant friend, but such an adventure may mean an absence from someone close.

LEO ♌ (July 24 - August 23)

Reading the small print or being sure what is offered in a personal encounter is most important this week. Leave nothing to chance or you could be out of pocket. When discussing the future with someone close, you are expected to take the lead.

VIRGO ♍ (August 24 - September 23)

Being over-generous with cash midweek could see you making a poor move. Perhaps someone needs to be more hardworking or perhaps less of a spendthrift. Propping up a bad habit would be doing them no favours. There are doubts in your mind about a family holiday.

LIBRA ♎ (September 24 - October 23)

A suggestion made by you recently did

not seem to be taken seriously. This week, however, negotiations could be opened. Circumstances change and it may seem someone gave up too early. Bide your time and even hold your tongue when someone in a strong position spouts rubbish.

SCORPIO ♏ (October 24 - November 22)

Confidence in a close relationship should be maintained. Possibly someone who envies your position would like to see discord. A matter of spiritual or religious faith is questioned, but the answer comes more clearly and sharply than you would have thought. In discussions with yourself (sometimes the best kind) answers come easily.

SAGITTARIUS ♐ (November 23 - December 21)

An emotional cut-off from the past is not as bad as anticipated. Indeed, it confirms in your mind who you are and what your place in the world is. Inherited traits knit easily with your present life and bring contentment. All that you want to change at the moment are certain things round you that have been outgrown.

CAPRICORN ♑ (December 22 - January 20)

An investment made recently is built upon and brings peace of mind. Finances do need consideration but more in the long than the short-term. Much is happening in the background that does not require your attention but, all the same, be aware. Life may be like a game of chess, but this week if you turn your back an opponent may cheat.

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY	IRISH LOTTO	EURO MILLIONS		LA PRIMITIVA	EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Saturday February 11	Saturday February 11	Tuesday February 7	Friday February 10	Saturday February 11	Sunday February 12
15 18 23 42 43 52	2 16 19 26 28 29	4 10 31 38 44	7 21 26 35 43	4 22 36 40 43 47	17 22 29 32 48
BONUS BALL 28	BONUS BALL 37	LUCKY STARS 8 10	LUCKY STARS 2 9	REINTEGRO 5 4	REINTEGRO 4

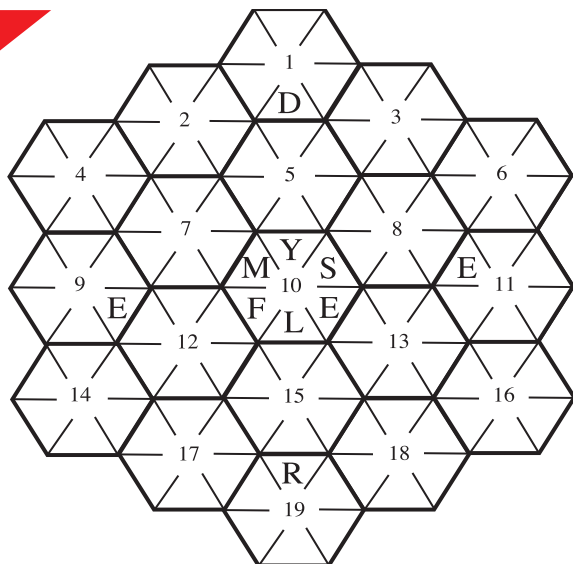
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Hexagram

- | | |
|--------|-------------|
| ADVENT | LEADEN |
| ANNEAL | MYSELF (10) |
| BEATER | NETTLE |
| BEYOND | NINETY |
| DEAFEN | SELLER |
| DECODE | SERVER |
| ELDEST | SURVEY |
| HEARTY | TELLER |
| HOYDEN | YEOMAN |
| INSERT | |



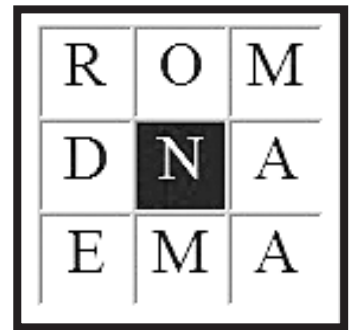
The purpose of the Hexagram puzzle is to place the 19 six-letter words into the 19 cells. The letters at the edges of interlocking cells **MUST BE THE SAME**. The letters in the words must be written **CLOCKWISE**. The word in cell 10 (**MYSELF**) and one letter in four other cells are given as clues.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

- 1 Teeter 2 Delete 3 Toilet 4 Truant
5 Letter 6 Liquor 7 Slater 8 Intern
9 Tyrant 10 Senate 11 Cannot
12 Leaden 13 Retain 14 Filter
15 Attire 16 Travel 17 Burden
18 Gaiety 19 Raisin.

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 rept 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

This week in history

- 1732 – The first US president, George Washington, was born in Virginia.
- 1952 – At the age of 19 Elizabeth Taylor got married for the second time to actor Michael Wilding, aged 39.
- 1959 - Fidel Castro became Cuba's youngest ever prime minister at the age of 32.
- 1965 – Malcolm X, prominent black nationalist leader, was assassinated whilst delivering a speech in New York.
- 1968 – A high court ruled thalidomide children be awarded damages from The Distillers Company Ltd, the company who produced the drug that led to limb deformities.
- 1969 – Lulu and Maurice Gibb from the Bee Gees married in a church in Buckinghamshire.
- 1972 – Electricity was switched off for many homes and businesses for up to nine hours a day as a result of the miners' strike.
- 1976 – Muhammad Ali knocked out Jan Pierre Coopman in the fifth round to win his 50th fight.
- 1981 – UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher withdrew the Conservative government's plans to close 23 mining pits.
- 1986 – Mir, the world's largest space station, was launched by the Soviets.
- 1991 – US President George Bush demanded the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait threatening land war if they did not comply.
- 1996 – IRA bomber Edward O'Brien accidentally detonated a bomb he was transporting on a London bus killing himself and injuring eight others.
- 1997 – Scottish scientists revealed the world's first successfully cloned mammal, Dolly the sheep, had been born.
- 2001 – A ban was implemented on British milk, meat and livestock exports by the European Commission after an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease.
- 2005 – Hunting became illegal in England and Wales after a fox hunting ban came into force.

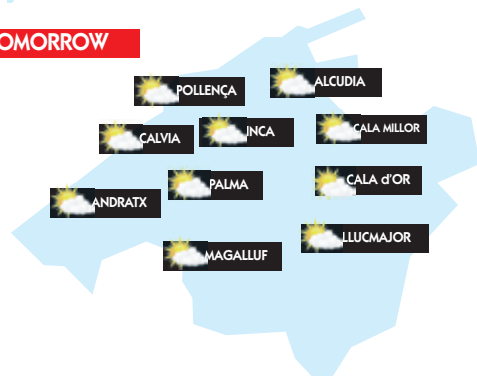
Mallorca

weather

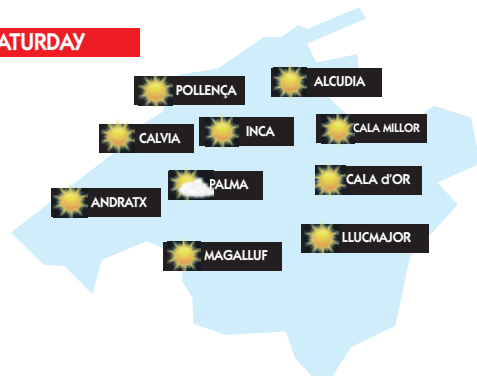
TODAY



TOMORROW



SATURDAY



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

NEW ON DVD

Mr Right



Directed by: Paco Cabezas
Starring: Anna Kendrick, Sam Rockwell, Tim Roth.

Having painfully split with her latest beau, highly-strung Martha meets and falls for Francis who seems like the 'perfect' man for her. However Francis' life is even more chaotic than hers. He's a professional hitman but with a twist... he kills the people who have ordered the hits. After being hired by a shady client, who is on the run from a dubious FBI agent, things get a bit hot for Francis. Martha's relationship with Francis is put to the test and she is forced to make an important decision, stand by her man or call it a day.

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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

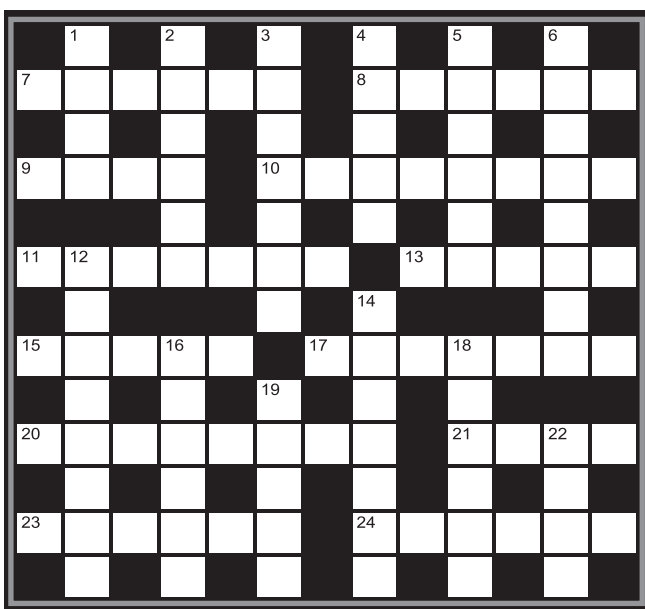
Cryptic

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)

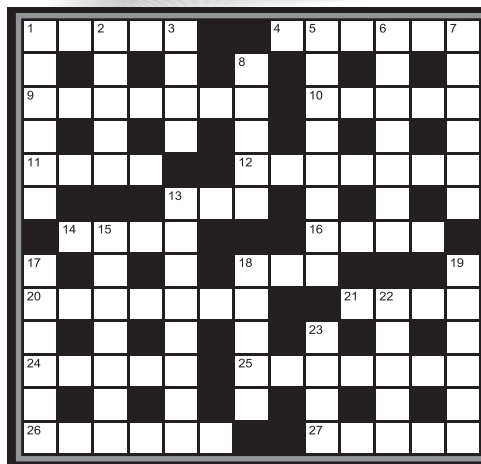
Down

- 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

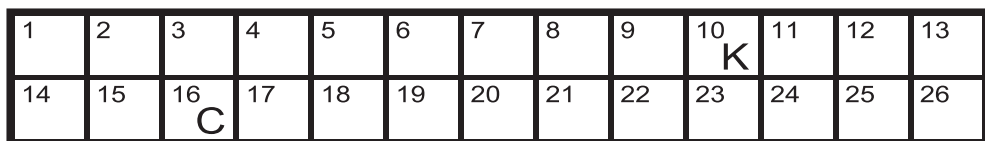
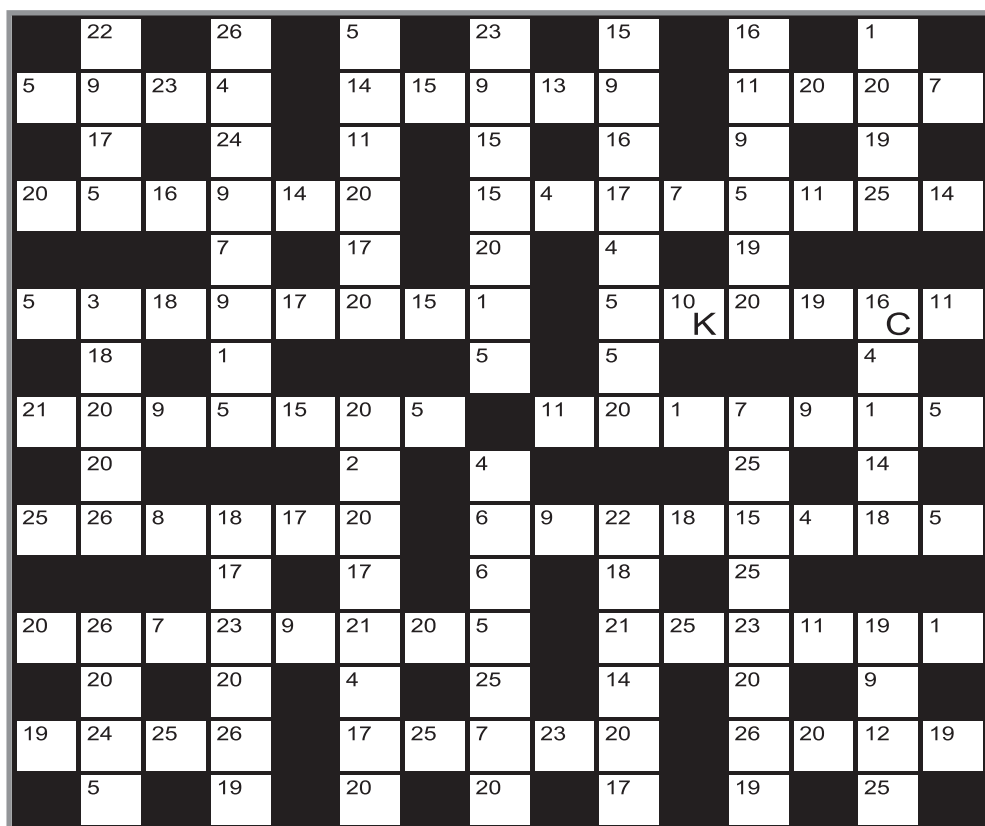
- 1 Small songbird (5)
- 4 Suffering from irrational fears (6)
- 9 Farm vehicle (7)
- 10 Hospital worker (5)
- 11 Summit (4)
- 12 Building (7)
- 13 See 18
- 14 Seize suddenly (4)
- 16 Unit of area (4)
- 18/13 Defraud (3,3)
- 20 Small flute (7)
- 21 Accumulate money for future use (4)
- 24 Gradually wear 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)

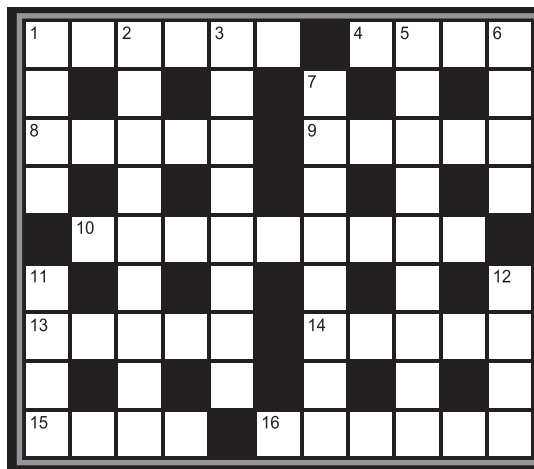
Code Breaker

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)

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Spouse, 4 Lasts, 8 Crude, 9 Enraged, 10 Elector, 11 Wage, 12 Sac, 14 Stye, 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 Smite, 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 Sorteio, 16 Stir.

Down:

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

CODE BREAKER



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BOOKS

Pachinko



By Min Jin Lee

AN epic account of a Korean family that follows them through eight decades and four generations. The story begins in 1911 in a small fishing village when a young couple marry and bring daughter Sunja into the world.

Years later Sunja brings shame to the family when she unfortunately becomes pregnant to a married organised crime gang member who deserts her. Christian minister Isak comes to her rescue by offering to marry her and for them to start a new life in Japan.

She faces a difficult journey and desperate times in a new country where she does not speak the language and has no friends or home. An absorbing tale of family dynamics that will have you totally engrossed.

books@euroweeklynews.com

TOP 10

Most expensive hotel suites

THE stunning and luxurious five-star Gran Hotel Miramar which recently opened in Malaga has inspired the top 10 this week. The height of elegance and comfort, it is a luxury that most of us can't afford. However we can but dream so sit back, relax and read on. Warning, it is likely to lead to you heading for the nearest lottery outlet in the hope of a lucky win... dream on!

1 • The Grand Penthouse, The Mark Hotel, New York

This exuberant 12,000 sq ft five-bedroom suite spans two floors of the hotel and costs a whopping \$75,000 (€70,200) a night! The height of luxury it has five bedrooms which all have plush Italian bedding and HD TVs. There are six bathrooms and a dining room that can accommodate 24 people. A private rooftop terrace provides stunning views across Manhattan including Central Park.

2 • Ty Warner Penthouse, Four Seasons Hotel, New York

Located on the 52nd floor of the hotel it enjoys panoramic views over Manhattan. Costing \$69,000 (€64,500) per night it is luxuriously decorated, has a 700 sq ft library and a Bosendorfer Baby Grand Piano. Guests also have on offer a 24-hour personal butler, a Rolls-Royce chauffeur and a personal trainer.

3 • Royal Penthouse Suite, Hotel President Wilson, Geneva

Taking up the entire top floor of the hotel its panoramic terrace offers breathtaking views of Lake Geneva at a cost of \$65,550 (€61,400) per night. The 12 luxury bedrooms boast marble bathrooms and offer bath products by Hermes. It



THE GRAND PENTHOUSE: Is the height of luxury.

also has a fitness gym, billiards table, Bang & Olufsen home cinema, Steinway grand piano and a private lift.

4 • Delana Hilltop Estate, Laucala Island Resort, Fiji

Opulent and green this luxury 'resort within a resort' is surrounded by lush tropical rainforest and has spectacular sea views. To stay at the \$62,000 (€58,000) a night resort guests must seek approval from owner Dietrich Mateschitz (co-founder of Red Bull). Facilities include a private cook, chauffeur and private nanny.

5 • Penthouse Suite, Grand Hyatt Cannes Hotel, Martinez

Prestigious accommodation in a classic Art Deco hotel that offers four king-size bedrooms, two living rooms and two dining rooms. Located on the seventh floor it has a private 290sqm terrace

with a Jacuzzi and offers fantastic views over the Bay of Cannes. A stay here would set you back a handsome \$41,300 (€38,600) a night.

6 • Shangri-La Suite, Shangri-La Bosphorus, Istanbul

Exclusively located on the sixth floor it offers two bedrooms with separate dining and living rooms and occupies almost half of the top floor. Both bedrooms and the living room each with a private terrace offer striking views of the Bosphorus Strait. A stay here will set you back \$38,700 (€36,200) per night.

7 • Royal Suite, Hotel Plaza Athenee, Paris

Lavishly decorated with French Regency furniture, antiques, silk and damask you can expect to pay the princely sum of \$30,000 (€28,000) a night. It has four bedrooms, four bathrooms, a sitting room, dining room, kitchen and balconies

that afford guests with wonderful views of the Eiffel Tower. A complimentary bottle of Krug Champagne is also provided.

8 • Presidential Suite, Mandarin Oriental, Shanghai

Guests can expect to fork out \$30,000 (€28,000) for a stay in this sophisticated and contemporary suite. It has a spacious master bedroom, its own private wine cellar, a fully equipped kitchen, wine bar, private meeting room and dining room. The 50sqm bathroom has a large bathtub, its own steam room and luxurious silk kimonos and two private roof gardens offer astounding views of the city.

9 • Presidential Suite, Hotel Cala di Volpe, Porto Cervo

A grand suite that sprawls over multiple levels with three bedrooms, three bathrooms, two living rooms and a private rooftop terrace with swimming pool. It boasts king-size beds in each bedroom, a bathtub and Jacuzzi in each bathroom as well as a fitness area and a steam room. It costs \$26,000 (€24,300) to stay there for a night.

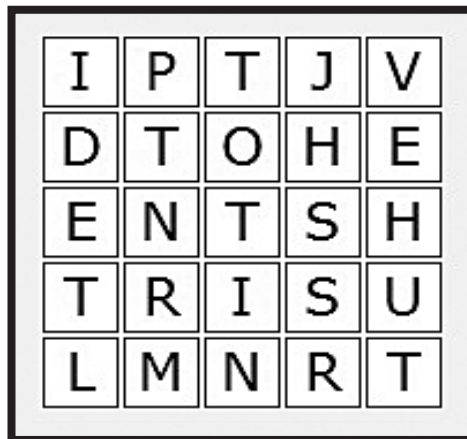
10 • The Apartment, The Connaught Hotel, London

Exclusive penthouse filled with specially commissioned art and furniture, antiques and limited-edition books it costs \$24,600 (€23,000) per night. It has two bedrooms and two bathrooms and a large wrap round balcony which affords views over Mayfair. A personal chauffeur will transport you directly from the airport, a welcome bottle of Krug Champagne will await you and a personal butler will be on hand to cater to your every need.

Boggled

How many English words can you find in the Boggled grid, according to the following rules?

- The letters must be adjoining in a 'chain'. They can be adjacent horizontally, vertically or diagonally.
- Words must contain at least four letters and may include singular and plural or other derived forms.
- No letter may be used more than once within a single word, unless it appears twice.
- No vulgarities or proper nouns are permitted.



TARGET:

- Average: 15
- Good: 20
- Very good: 29
- Excellent: 38

SCORING:

- 4 letters: 1 point
- 5 letters: 2 points
- 6 letters: 3 points
- 7 letters: 5 points
- 8 or more letters: 11 points

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

hooves hoes have hose hosed hies ivies ivied evil evict evicted eves ices iced vies coil cote civil cite cited cede cedec edked bused busk busked beeves bees devil device device desk deco deceive deceives deceit ekes fees feed

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.

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

Word Ladder

THIN

GOAT

Move from the start word (THIN) to the end word (GOAT) in the same number of steps as there are rungs on the Word Ladder. You must only change one letter at a time.

GOAT
COAT
CHAT
THAT
THAN
THIN
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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



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

Advertising feature

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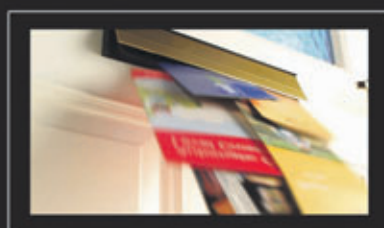
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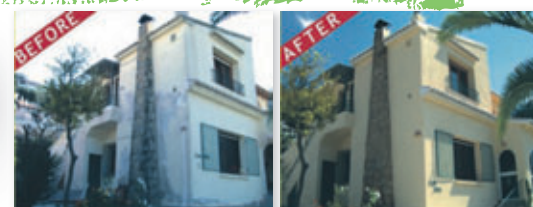
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Brexit: how much of a generation gap will there be in the future?

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.euroweeklynews.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-



HS2 will eat money.

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.

BA announces new routes

A BA Embraer 190.



BRITISH AIRWAYS has announced plans to start flying from Birmingham and Bristol airports again with four new summer-only routes.

BA last flew from the airports in 2007, when the regional airline business was sold to Flybe.

Starting in May, the airline will begin direct flights to the popular Spanish destinations of Malaga, Ibiza and Palma.

Basic each way fares from Birmingham to Ibiza start from €52 and to Florence, Malaga and Palma from €58.

The new return flights

from both airports will operate once a week at weekends. They will operate on 98-seat Embraer 190 jet aircraft.

“Customers can once again enjoy competitively priced flights to the sun.”

Luke Hayhoe, British Airways' general manager commercial and customer, said: "We are very excited to be returning to Birmingham with four popular routes. Customers can once again enjoy competitively priced

flights to the sun direct from their doorstep with British Airways to those destinations they tell us they want to fly to. We look forward to a busy summer at Birmingham."

Robert Sinclair, chief executive officer, Bristol Airport, added: "These additional flights to Palma, Florence, Ibiza and Malaga offer passengers in the South West and Wales region a further choice of scheduled flights for the summer season. We look forward to working with British Airways on the new routes and further enhancing the services available from Bristol."

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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 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.

“ Women and girls are less active than men and children.

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.

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.



GRAPES: Were found to boost memory.

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 Do-

mestic 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 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. It has also been linked to an increased risk of stillbirths.

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Ask The

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Doctor



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

Ask the Optician: Why is an eye test an important health screening?

Andrés Román Romero, Store Director, Specsavers Opticas Santa Ponsa

■ What can an eye test spot?

A surprising amount can be revealed from an eye test, from the early stages of conditions which can permanently damage the vision such as glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration, to spotting warning signs of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, risk of a stroke and symptoms associated with brain tumours.

New research has been released from University College London's Institute of Ophthalmology which has shown that changes in the retina may reveal the presence of Parkinson's Disease and allow early diagnosis before patients start to suffer from the tremors. Early diagnosis gives more treatment options, so an eye test will become an important tool in fighting this debilitating disease as well as many others.

■ How can ophthalmologists see these health conditions?

To be in with the best chance of spotting the signs of health conditions you need to have a thorough eye test which in-

cludes a range of tests and the latest technology. A great tool for health checks is Digital Retinal Photography which uses a camera to take a picture of the back of the eye - the only part of the human body where the microcirculation of blood can be observed directly. The state-of-the-art technology helps to identify changes that might be associated with certain eye conditions and health complaints. The ability to save images creates a lasting record for ongoing monitoring. If necessary, the optician can refer patients directly for further medical examination to their hospital or general practitioner.

■ Where can I get digital retinal photography included in my eye test?

This technology is expensive so its use is not widespread, however Specsavers Opticas believe it is important, so have Digital Retinal cameras in all their stores and include the technology as standard as part of an eye test, with no additional charge.

To find your nearest store and book your free eye test visit www.specsavers.es.

Specsavers Opticas is currently offering free eye tests. Specsavers Opticas is located in Santa Ponsa, Avda Rei Jaume 1, 117, Locales 14 and 15, Santa Ponsa, 07180, Mallorca. Call 871 964 331 or visit www.specsavers.es to make an appointment.

Watch weight to aid diabetes prevention

PUTTING on just half a stone in weight over 10 years could increase your risk of developing type two diabetes by more than half.

Researchers at Cambridge University found that gradual weight gain over a period of time increased the risk by 52 per cent. They believe that if everyone

aged between 30 and 60 maintained their weight, one in five cases of type two diabetes could be prevented. This includes the dreaded 'middle life spread' with medical professionals urging people to continue exercising and eating healthy later in life to maintain a healthy weight.

Diabetes is a growing problem in the UK with around 3.5 million Britons having the illness. Type two diabetes cases have been particularly increasing. Unlike type one which is where the immune system attacks insulin-producing cells, type two is linked to lifestyle and is often caused by being overweight.



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TO READ MORE

BachCycle dedicates five concerts to Bach

THE BachCycle concerts began at the Palma Auditorium on February 14, the first of five concerts dedicated to Johann Sebastian Bach; Ibiza and Menorca each host a concert as well. The BachCycle traces Bach's journey between cities through his works, progressing at each stage; the first concert beginning with the Easter Oratorio and the Ascension Oratorio.

The concerts are directed by Joan Company, who is the founder and director of The Balearic University Choir; the university choir joins the BACHrroc Ensemble along with soloists, to create a special dedication to Bach and the Baroque style.



POWERMAN MALLORCA: One of the most recognised duathlons internationally.

Second year in a row for Powerman Mallorca

THE 2017 World Series Powerman Mallorca Duathlon will again be held in the northern town of Can Picafort on February 25. The Powerman is one of the most recognised duathlons internationally. A slightly simpler version of a triathlon, the classic consists of a 10km run, followed by a 60km bicycle ride, and finishes with another 10km run.

“Contestants' scores count towards the Copa de España.”

This year a Powerman Sprint event has been organised made up of a 5km run, a 30km bicycle ride fol-

lowed by another 5km run.

There will also be a Powerkids event, with four different age groups, and water and fruit at the finish line.

For the second consecutive year, Powerman Mallorca has been chosen by FETRIB, the Triathlon Federation of the Balearic Islands, as the 2017 Long Distance Duathlon Champi-

onships of the Balearic Islands.

This year will be the first that contestants' scores count towards the Copa de España (the Cup of Spain) races.

The deadline for enrolling is February 22; Powerkids is free but prior registration is a requirement. More information can be found at www.powermanspain.com.

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Colours of Carnival coming to Palma

THE annual carnival celebrations are just around the corner, with Palma celebrating Sa Rua, also known as Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, pancake day, and more. The holiday is the last day of feasting before the Lenten season of fasting in traditional Christian churches although Mallorca celebrates it the weekend before.

Palma is one of many towns and villages that celebrate the holiday with parades and processions.

Sa Rua, the main celebration and parade, will be covering the streets of Palma on February 26 beginning at 5pm.

The child-friendly ver-



COLOURFUL festivities will fill Palma, February 26.

sion called Sa Rueta begins at 10.30 the same morning. Last year more than 2,600

people paraded through the streets of Palma.

It is known to be the

most colourful day in the city's calendar with bright colours, joyous music and local street food around every corner.

“There are competitions and prizes for many different categories.

The festival takes pride in highlighting creativity and innovation, exhibited in extravagant floats, dance troupes and more.

There are also competitions and prizes for many different categories, such as most original parade float and best costume.

Ara Malikian in Palma for 3 nights

WORLD renowned musician and violinist, Ara Malikian, kicks off his Incredible History of Violin tour at the Trui Theater in Palma, playing for three nights. February 16, 17 and 19 are the nights to catch Malikian on stage, playing music inspired by a journey of music across generations and geography.

The Beirut born musician is known for not only his masterful technique and talent, but also for his ability to spread culture and understanding. The Incredible History of Violin has promised to incorporate decades of cultural learning, from the Spanish flamenco to Argentina's tango, to Arabian and Jewish influences. Malikian has recorded over 40 albums, created an orchestra, and has participated in the creating and production of multiple shows; the Incredible History of Violin tour is highly anticipated.



MALIKIAN: Highly anticipated.

Short film contest returns in Port Adriano

PORT ADRIANO is proudly hosting their second Short Film Contest, promoting the port and its facilities along with any level of film directors, creators, and editors. The films must be five minutes or less in length, and at least half of the video has to be shot in Port Adriano, either outside or in one of the many locations, including restaurants, businesses and shops.

With €11,000 in prize money, the film contest is one of the larger in Spain.

There are many aspects of criteria evaluated, including:

“originality and creativity, script, interpretation and technique. It will also value those videos that offer a novel vision to tell the stories and will take into account the relationship between global quality and technical resources,” according to the official website.

The contest is free to enter, but registration and recording permission are necessary; submissions are due April 23. Entries not in Spanish or Catalan must be subtitled. The finalists' short films will be screened May 6 at Palma's Cineciutat.



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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!

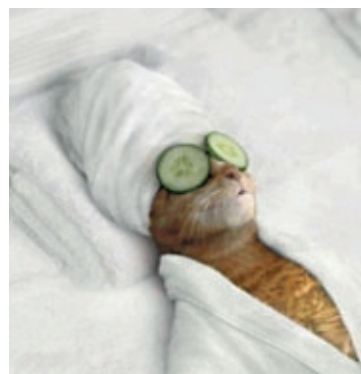
I ate many years ago in a Michelin restaurant just outside of Cherbourg and got food poisoning. We should have known we were on to a bad 'un when we went in. The restaurant was decorated in dark blue, but the sign outside said restaurant 'Maison Rouge'!!

• **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.

Atlantic attention on Spain

By Matthew Elliott

SPANISH property is firmly back in the global limelight. The prestigious *New York Times* has recently published a piece singing the praises of the emerging marketplace, especially highlighting Barcelona.

The piece notes how the return of influential international investors to Spain in 2014 has helped the market improve dramatically since the crisis era. Prices, of course, rose quite sharply in 2015 and the trend has continued at a steady pace until today.

The author notes the particular increase in foreign investors, non-Spanish people moving to the country in search of property opportunities and a higher quality of life. In this respect Spain is considered extremely good value for money in comparison with the UK and even Germany.

In fact the only real difficulty in desirable locations, such as prime neighbourhoods in major cities, is supply.

More foreigners than ever before are looking for quality purchases, but the construction industry needs time to catch up.



SPANISH PROPERTY: Is firmly back in the global limelight.

The *New York Times* piece also notes the growing number of non-EU investors applying for the Golden Visa programme.

This allows them to gain Spanish residency rights if they invest at least €500,000 in Spanish property.

Chinese buyers are making up the bulk of Golden Visa applicants but there are also sizeable contingents of Turks, Moroccans, Russians and Arabs.

All of which, the publicity of the article included, bodes extremely well for the Spanish property market in the near future.

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 has pledged to protect local residents from higher rents.

Last year the American company was fined €600,000 for violating tourist rental rules by allowing non-registered properties to be advertised online. The fine was later revoked by a Spanish court in a major embarrassment for the city council.

Brothers at arms

A PAIR of British billionaire brothers are in hot water as they face paying extensive damages in relation to their property empire. The Candy brothers, who built the luxury One Hyde Park apartment complex in London, are being sued for over €150 million.

An old friend and business partner claims that the brothers pressurised him into paying back a significant loan and pulling out of a lucrative property project at Grosvenor Gardens in central London.

It is alleged that Nick Candy, who is married to former Neighbours star and pop

singer Holly Vallance, threatened to sell Mark Holyoake's debt to 'some Russians' and 'take a wrecking ball to his life.' He is also alleged to have told Holyoake to 'think of his pregnant wife' when he considered withdrawing from the project, worth an estimated €100 million.

The Candy brothers, Christian and Nick, are two of Britain's best-known and wealthiest property developers. Apartments in their One Hyde Park scheme cost upwards of €20 million and are typically occupied by Arab sheikhs and Russian oligarchs.



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Ref 3030, Randa, 290,000€

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Ref 2194, Vallgornera, 180,000€

Apartment with views to the sea. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge, kitchen, laundry room, large balcony, parking place, community pool. Living area 80m².



Ref 2997, Lluçmajor, 175,000€

Charming little chalet with 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bathroom, garage. Electricity with solar panels. House 73m², plus 25m² garage, plus 25m² covered terrace plus 30 m² storerooms.



Various building plots with building permission in Vallgornera. Frontline from 600,000€ and third line from 95,000€, around Lluçmajor and Algaida from 110,000€.





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This beautiful villa is situated in Costa de la Calma. The 200sqm property was built on a 1,558sqm big plot and is divided as follows: 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, bright living and dining room with artificial fireplace and open kitchen with cooking island, several terraces and 2 garages. The villa has been furnished to an exceptional standard right down to every last detail, with it's own private enclosed sub-tropical gardens also boasting an exotic swimming pool. Central heating, air conditioning h/c, parquet flooring. The property has a quiet and tranquil setting but being conveniently located within a few minutes walk of the beach, golf course, bars, clubs and restaurants. This is a sought after villa for families and golfers or anyone who is looking for that luxury living.



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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.

Sweeter smelling smokers' homes

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.



COOKING AREA: Should be clean, bright and clutter-free.

Feng shui kitchen

APPLYING Feng Shui to kitchen organisation and decoration can achieve a calm, tranquil area in which to cook and eat.

Small, cold and cluttered rooms can be cleared and made more inviting for cooks and diners alike with a few adjustments.

Cooking area:

The kitchen should be as clean, bright and clutter-free as possible.

Avoid placing work areas opposite doors as working with your back to the door does not inspire tranquillity. If it can't be helped, place a mirror above the worktop so you can see the door as you work.

Opt for white, shiny tiles and cupboard doors to make the most of natural light and open the win-

dow to air the room and avoid fumes and smoke accumulating.

Choose even-surfaced cupboard doors and large tiles to keep cracks which can accumulate dirt and bacteria to a minimum, and always go for stone worktops rather than formica for a clean feel.

Eating area:

The area where you eat should be warm and inviting. Make the table the centre of attention by placing a fruit bowl with appetising looking produce inside in the middle. Use warm tones such as orange, which also stimulates the appetite, rather than cold greys or blacks. Choose chairs with high backs for comfort and relaxation and add colourful cushions.



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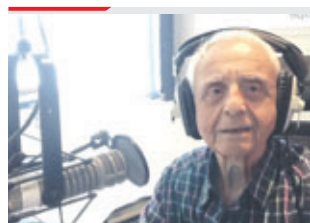
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THE idea of Agility was born in 1977 when Crufts Dog Show needed something to fill up spare time in the main arena. The main factors to be kept in mind were that it should be fun, without being dangerous

and should amuse spectators so they built the equipment.

So the base was laid for the agility history story of Agility – King of Dog Sports. Today, Agility enjoys enormous popularity in Britain, with well-attended competitions every weekend during the show season.

The larger events draw thousands of competitors and attract huge, appreciative audiences - many competitions are televised. This enthusiasm for Agility has spread to virtually all of Europe, as well as Australia and New Zealand, followed by the USA in 1986, making Agility a truly international dog sport.



PUPPY FUN: Loving the healthy, playful exercises.

Training Methods

Praise, toys and food are used to motivate the dogs from puppy stages through the advanced levels of training. Dogs are always encouraged to perform obstacles and never forced.

Puppies and Agility

Agility puppy training can start with dogs as young as three to five months! Granted, it doesn't really and there's a lot of playing and silliness - but really, at any level of training, isn't that what agility should be for our dogs?

FUN! Puppy agility NEVER physically stresses little puppy bones; so our young dogs don't do any real jumping. They step over small obstacles that are only a couple of inches off the ground. We do a lot of target work to teach them to work away at a young age. Target work also helps our puppies to have excellent contact control! Puppies LOVE running through the tunnel and we do basic commands that help them to go DOWN on the table QUICKLY!

Puppies are so eager to learn and so happy to please. They really pick things up quickly but the key to a successful training session is to keep the lessons SHORT and POSITIVE (kind of like their instructor!).

We also employ lots of rewards, from special food treats to toys and games (and lots of hugs). Once a puppy figures out an obstacle, they've GOT IT! And agility training works WONDERS for improving confidence in a shy puppy.

The other huge benefit is the socialisation these puppies are getting with each other; in fact, I think they look forward to the play sessions the most!

Sharing is caring!

Scrut is a character who is loved by all

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 pet-sitter 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.

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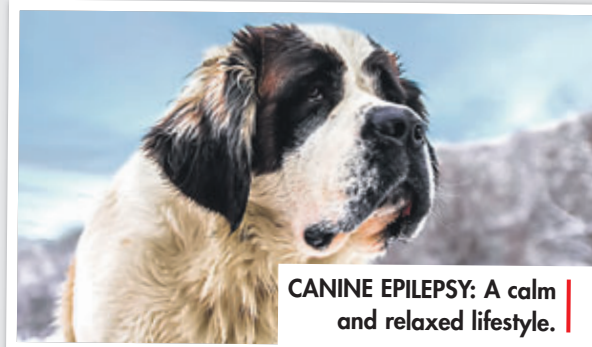
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Epileptic attacks

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. If a dog with epilepsy seems more ner-



CANINE EPILEPSY: A calm and relaxed lifestyle.

vous or restless than usual and walks round in circles it could be a sign of an imminent attack.

Knowing how to react during an attack will help you remain calm and help your dog. First, lay it down on a soft surface (cushions or a mat). 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. Wait for it to end, then let the dog rest in a quiet place as they are usually tired and confused after an attack. Talk to your vet about the possibility of administering muscle relaxants.

Epilepsy is a chronic illness which requires lifelong treatment. Keeping dogs with epilepsy calm and relaxed and avoiding stressful situations is the best way to prevent attacks.

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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.

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

Bugbears behind the drivers' wheel

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 frus-

tration.

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 improperly, 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.

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Voice control is set to take over

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 Zero-Touch technology for as little as €60. Drivers will be able to command music playlists and have Alexa read out text messages or emails while driving.

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

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One metre boats visit Puerto Portals

FOLLOWING a very successful first race in Puerto Portals waters in January, a Liga Clase 1M competition was held on February 12 with Nacho González from Madrid being declared the winner.

Although residents and tourists are used to the sight of speedboats and majestic yachts sailing through the waters of Mallorca, the Liga Clase 1M consists of one metre long remote-controlled boats 'skipped' by experienced sailors.

This new competition has sparked a great deal of interest and the Balearic Championship will be held in the Calvia port on February 25 and 26, followed by a three-day league competition in March.

Located in the middle of the bay of Palma, Puerto Portals hosts various social and sporting events and is open 365 days a year. It has 639 moorings measuring from eight to 60 metres in length and a commercial area with a wide range of restaurants, bars, boutiques, nautical companies and shops.

Having celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2016, the port continues to offer a special experience with high quality services coupled with sensitivity towards the environment and sustainability.

Successful Pro-Rigging Trophy

By John Smith

IN what was a record entry of 302 sailors, the Pro-Rigging Trophy organised by the Real Club Nautico de Palma (RCNP) over February 11 and 12 proved to be a really exciting fight against the other sailors and the wind.

With gusts reaching 22 knots and coming from the south east, the demanding regatta tested all of those taking part and the winds were high enough to even surprise many of the experienced mariners.

The Optimist class had to be divided into two groups due to the large number of participants and Jordi Lladó, of the RCNP, was awarded the victory in the absolute category (Sub 16) after being involved in an intense battle with Nacho Baltasar, representative of Club Nàutic de Sa Ràpita with just a single point dividing them.

The best woman, Marina Garau, of the San Antonio de la Playa Maritime Club came third and was awarded the bronze medal.

Macià Alemany and Toni Bauzá of the Port d'Andratx sailing club (CVA) faced no real trouble in the 420 and won the first four races, out of five and had a 10 point lead over Melssion Rosselló and Xesc Mulet (RCNP), who won silver.



Photo by RCNP

BATTLING the winds in Palma.

Catherine Havenga (RCNP) won two of the five races and was second in two others as she fought against Carlos Plomer who stole victory in the strongest winds of the championship.

Mario Plomer (CVA) and Ramiro Foguet (RCNP) fought each other in one of the most exciting encounters in the Laser Radial class, with both knowing that the win could be decided on the smallest of tactical decisions and in the end, gold went to Mario Plomer, followed by the sailor from the RCNP and most successful

woman Aina Bauza was placed third.

Finally in the Snipe, Pablo Balaguer and Fonso Comas pipped RCNP rivals Teo Matheu and Luis Fernández at the post whilst Hugo Ramón and Natalia Díaz were awarded the bronze medal.

The host club was delighted by the number of participants and thanked all who had been involved especially the sponsor, but also made special mention of the 11 sailors from the Club Marítimo de Mahon who had journeyed over to take part in the regatta.

Sea without Barriers

THE mayor of Benalmadena in Malaga Province has announced that the third 'Sea without Barriers Regatta' which sees yachts sailing to Melilla is set to take place between April 28 and May 1.

This regatta which is for cruiser class sail boats attracted more than 20 participants in 2016 all of whom competed in a race from Benalmadena crossing the Alboran Sea to Melilla where participants were welcomed and received trophies.

Organised jointly by the councils of Benalmadena and Melilla this is one of just two races which will count towards the Altura-Zona Sur Spanish Championship and shows the developing links between the town and the autonomous city as well as recognition by the Royal Spanish Sailing Federation.

Another new superyacht

ONE of the latest superyachts, the 74-metre CLOUD 9 which was designed by Zuccon International Project for boat builders CRN has been launched at their shipyard in Ancona, Italy and should be delivered to the owner in April of this year following sea trials.

This luxurious yacht with five decks offers a huge amount of space for both passengers and crew. The design by the architects of Zuccon give the vessel a sleek and streamlined look which has been adapted for their next project, an even larger 79-metre superyacht which is already under construction at CRN.

CLOUD 9 can welcome on board up to 16 guests, in six VIP cabins plus the owner's apartment as well as 22 crew members in 13 cabins, together with berths for four 'civilian staff' in a further two cabins.

“ The superyacht has a gym, helicopter landing pad, swimming pool and deck jacuzzi.

As would be expected, there are elegant external areas, with a private deck forward of the master cabin and the large beach club with extended platform at sea level.

The vessel has been commissioned by a long-time superyacht owner and the interior is designed to offer the maximum comfort for passengers whilst maintain-



Photo by CRN Zuccon

CLOUD 9: Launched at the shipyard in Ancona, Italy.

ing a close contact with the surrounding environment.

She is built with a steel hull and aluminium superstructure including special stabilisers which increase on board comfort at anchor, but also on rough waters and is equipped with twin engines which will deliver a top

speed of 16.5 knots and a cruising speed of 14 knots.

As would be expected, CLOUD 9 has a gym, helicopter landing pad, air conditioning, swimming pool, tender garage, barbecue, underwater lights, deck jacuzzi and wifi connection.

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 Almeria



they've contested.

Sunday's two 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 Championship 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 Hartle-



LINCOLN AND SUTTON: Both face premier ship teams.

pool.

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 points to 10 in Rome; France edged out Scotland 22-16 in Paris and England, with a late Elliot Daly try, and encouraged by 'Man of the Match' Joe Launchbury defeated Wales by 21-16 in Cardiff. England, under coach Eddie Jones, have now won 16 internationals in succession. The next three Six Nations matches take place on February 25/26.

After last weekend's round of PL matches, Chelsea's lead at the top has been cut slightly while the bottom three – with games running out – 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, with two games in hand, have a point advantage over Barcelona who beat Copa del Rey final opponents Alaves 6-0 last Saturday. Real play Espanyol on Saturday followed by Barcelona v Leganes on Sunday.

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.

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?

Preview of the 2017 Moto GP Season

by Tony Matthews

There will be 18 races at 18 different venues in 15 countries with Spain staging four of the events.

Here are the details of the dates/venues:

- * 26 March Qatar (Losall)
- * 9 April Argentina (de Rio Honda)
- * 25 April America (Elroy, Texas)
- * 7 May Spain (Jerez)
- * 21 May France (Le Mans)
- * 4 June Italy (Mugello)
- * 11 June Spain (Cataluña/Barcelona)
- * 25 June Netherlands (Assen)
- * 2 July Germany (Sachsenring)
- * 6 August Czech Republic (Brno)
- * 13 August Austria (Spielberg)
- * 27 August Great Britain (Silverstone)
- * 10 September San Marino (Rimini)
- * 24 September Spain (Aragon)
- * 15 October Japan (Montegi)
- * 22 October Australia (Phillip Island)
- * 29 October Malaysia (Sepang)
- * 12 November Spain (Valencia)

NB: Qatar and Malaysia will be night-time races.

The 23 riders and their teams are:

- * Aprilia Sam Lowes, Aleix Espargaro
- * Avintia Hector Barbera, Loris Baz
- * Ducati Andrea Dovizioso, Jorge Lorenzo
- * LCR Honda Cal Crutchlow
- * Marc VDS Jack Miller, Tito Rabat
- * Monster Yamaha Johann Zarco, Jonas Folger
- * Movistar Yamaha Maverick Viñales, Valentino Rossi
- * Octo Pramac Yak. Danilo Petrucci, Scott Redding
- * Pull & Bear Aspar Karel Abraham, Alvaro Bautista
- * Red Bull KTM Bradley Smith, Pol Espargaro
- * Repsol Honda Marc Marquez, Dani Pedrosa
- * Suzuki Ecstar Andrea Iannone, Alex Rins

BRITAIN'S Coventry-born rider Cal Crutchlow (141 points) finished seventh overall and by taking the chequered flag at the Czech Republic GP in wet conditions, he became the first Englishman to stand proudly on the podium as a MotoGP race winner since Barry Sheene triumphed in Sweden back in 1981.

Italy's supremo and seven-time world champion, the evergreen Valentino (the doctor) Rossi, now aged 38, will be competing in his 17th season of MotoGP. He has so far participated in 288 races, winning 88 and having 185 podium finishes.

Reigning world champion Marc Marquez was born in Cervera, Catalonia 24 years ago and participated in the first of his 72 MotoGP races as recently as 2013. He has so far registered 29 wins and has had 51 podium finishes.

Preview of the F1 Season 2017

FORMULA 1 motor racing will have a very different look to it when it emerges from its winter hibernation in Australia at the end of March. For the first time since 1994, the reigning world champion Nico Rosberg, will not be defending his crown.

There are 20 Grand Prix races in 2017:

- 26 March Melbourne, Australia
- 9 April Shanghai, China
- 16 April Bahrain
- 30 April Sochi, Russia
- 14 May Barcelona, Spain
- 28 May Monte Carlo, Monaco
- 11 June Montreal, Canada
- 25 June Baku, Azerbaijan
- 9 July Spielberg, Austria
- 16 July Silverstone, England
- 30 July Budapest, Hungary
- 27 August Spa, Belgium
- 3 September Monza, Italy
- 17 September Singapore
- 1 October Sepang, Malaysia
- 8 October Suzuka, Japan
- 22 October Austin, Texas, USA
- 29 October Mexico City, Mexico
- 12 November Sao Paulo, Brazil
- 26 November Abu Dhabi, UAE

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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

Mallorca's best guide to local sport

The El Toro RC girls continue to impress

ON Saturday the girls' team from El Toro RC, under the captainship of Irene Selva Ramos, continued their run of winning matches, this time in the Balears Girls Sevens League.

The second leg of this tournament took place in Son Caliu although unfortunately only one team, Corsaris RC, turned up to compete against the home team. The final score was 35 points to five.

The Balears U18 and U16 teams travelled to Madrid to play the remaining matches in their championships. The U16 were up first against Castilla León who proved to be too experienced and strong for the visitors from the islands. The same happened to the U18 team, also



SEVENS LEAGUE: The El Toro and Corsaris girls.

against Castilla León.

Coming up next week the Senior League El Toro RC travel across the island to play against Club Rugby Escolar in Capdepera with kick off at 4pm. RC Ponent is at home in Principes de España to Union RC. Bahía RC receive TRUC Menorca and Shamrock RC travel to

play Ibiza RC, both weather permitting.

The girls' teams continue their Sevens tournament in Shamrock. For the youngsters there is day four of the Flag Rugby tournament. The younger contact rugby teams have a chance to regroup and train for their next Rugby Day.



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26 November	Abu Dhabi, UAE

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