

ISSUE NO. 1653 9 - 15 March 2017 COSTA DE ALMERÍA » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION WWW.EUROWEEKLYNEWS.COM

Thunderbirds are go Illegal animal trade targeted in police raids

By Matthew Elliott

Seprona agents across Almeria played a central role in capturing 59 crooks who smuggled exotic animals into Spain. The sheer scale of the crimes exposed in Operation Thunderbird has shocked animal lovers across the country.

The nationwide operation targeted a sophisticated species trafficking syndicate. Agents from Seprona, the animal protection wing of the Guardia Civil, rescued more than 800 animals from the clutches of smugglers. For two weeks in January they raided ports and industrial estates across the country. The full story has only now been released to the press.

In Almeria Province agents raided 30 shops after tracking 25 websites dedicated to animal trafficking. They searched 290 crates and packages at the port and saved scores of animals, some of them highly endangered.

Among those rescued in Almeria were iguanas, Chinese water dragons, a chameleon from Arabia, several macaws and a red-tailed grev parrot. There were also a dozen black African turtles on sale for €500 each and three pieces of elephant ivory found in an Almeria antiques shop.

Throughout Spain Seprona agents found wild cats, lynxes and a lion, 35 monkeys, 48 vultures, hawks and eagles.



some 200 exotic birds, hundreds of reptiles, including snakes and crocodiles, and even marine species including sharks, sea horses and a walrus

They also seized two kilos of sturgeon caviar, musical instruments made of elephant

tusks, shark teeth, and cheetah and zebra skins.

Interpol believes that Spain is at particular risk for involvement in the world's booming black market in exotic animals. Its proximity to Africa and connections with

south and central America make it a prime hub for traffickers.

Animal trafficking is the fourth most lucrative illegal industry in the world according to the United Nations, worth anywhere from €100-200 billion a year and growing all the time.

All at sea

FIVE people had to be rescued by helicopter when their catamaran sprung a leak off the coast of Garrucha on Friday (March 3). After lifting them to safety, the helicopter took the group to Almeria airport, where paramedics tended to one of them who had an injured ear. ≫See page 8

Helping Leo

MOJACAR Council has joined the campaign to help Leo the Lion and his family. The campaign to raise funds to help Leo's parents cover the cost of his treatment in the US, one which is very close to the heart of the

EWN, was also joined two years ago by the teachers at his sister's school in Palomares who have approached local authorities all over the Levante area.

»See page 10

Chocks away

THE general plans for Almeria airport for the next eight years include construction of a new auxiliary terminal to keep up with demand. The new terminal, the plans reveal, will be for non-commercial, private aviation flights and light aircraft and helicopter routes, as long as the current level of demand continues. »See page 12

Council griping

RATES are going up in Sierro this year and, according to the opposition, it's all due to bad management on the part of the council. The council, PSOE claimed, has been wasting money on work that wasn't necessary including €80,000 on renovating two squares which didn't need it and €48,000 on replacing cement pillars at the theatre with metal ones. »See page 57



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



ANIMAL TRAFFICKING: A range of animals were seized.

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LOCAL NEWS Close to home

FIRST prize on the weekend's National Lottery draw stayed close to home, the State Lottery and Betting Agency has reported. The draw, which was held in Huercal-Overa, resulted in first prize, with €60,000 prize money for each ticket, going to tickets numbered 79,961, most of which were sold in Almeria City.

Safe not sorry

MORE than 500 schoolchildren from 10 schools across the province have taken part in a regional government accident prevention campaign in February.

A campaign bus, on board which youngsters are taught how to avoid accidents, visited schools in Almeria City, Vera, Cabo de Gata, Tijola, Adra and El Ejido.

Mayor declares

MOJACAR Mayor Rosa Maria Cano appeared in a Vera court, which is investigating accusations regarding the electoral census, to give a statement. The investigations are related to certain individuals who allegedly registered on the padron (residents' register and electoral census) in Mojacar shortly before the lists of voters were drawn up as reported by the PSOE socialist party.

Clock is ticking to 'Win a Car' in Euro Weekly News survey

SPAIN'S biggest and best English-language newspaper is offering readers an opportunity to win a brand new car worth more than €10,000.

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And that isn't all. Abbeygate will insure you for 12 months which means added peace of mind. And to really top off your winning day there's a celebratory lunch or dinner for two people at La Sala Banus too.

So what do you have to do to be in with a chance of winning this glittering prize bundle?

Well it's easy... just complete our reader survey. It is in every one of our six newspaper editions, and will not take you long to complete - we estimate around eight minutes! Or you can send us your answers via the online version which is attracting most of our entrants because it's simple, quick and easy.

We'll be using the information gathered to improve how we do things on Spain's award-winning English-language newspaper. So why not give it a go?

You only have until March 23 to be in with a chance of winning this great prize. If your name is the first out of the hat of all completed surveys, whether they are received by mail, delivered to our offices, sent by email or completed online, then the car is yours, it's as simple as that.

And you could soon be arriving at our *Euro* Weekly News head office to pick up your brand new car.



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Suspected scammer stopped

A MAN wanted in Almeria and various other Spanish provinces for fraud has been arrested in Madrid by the National Police.

The suspect is believed to have made thousands of euros by convincing victims that he could give them work in Canada and demanding $\notin 2,000$ in cash to deal with paperwork and visas.

Victims were carefully selected to ensure that they did not know each other and the suspect played his role very convincingly, they told the police, even providing Canadian documents which appeared legitimate.

Some victims went as far as resigning from their jobs and preparing to travel to Toronto.

The police force reported that while it is impossible to determine the exact number of people affected by the scam, there have been at least 20 victims in Valencia, 13 in Tarragona and 10 in Malaga.

Housing boost

THE regional government's Public Works and Development department will be spending €346,000 on improving the state of public housing in Almeria's Levante area.

About €248,000 will be spent in Cuevas del Almanzora and Huercal-Overa, department head Joaquin Jimenez explained at a meeting with the mayors of the 12 municipalities in the Levante.

"Altogether in the county we had about 700 properties in the public housing scheme, around 30 per cent of which have now been purchased by their tenants. Huercal-Overa and Vera are the towns with the most demand for public housing," Jimenez said.

Chemical world

ALMERIA ranks third on the list of Spanish provinces where the most

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE...5

A beach in northern Spain has kicked sand in the eyes of all would-be Costa competitors by being placed in a ranking of the World's Best Beaches. Southern Spain and the Balearic Islands boast miles and miles of fabulous beaches, some jam-packed with tourists from all over Europe every summer, others offering relaxing peace and quiet year-round. But it is La Concha Beach in San Sebastian that tops all others in Spain, bagging sixth place in TripAdvisor's just-announced list of the World's Best 25 Beaches for 2017.

How cool!

THE only beach in Spain to make the Top 25, visitors to La Concha are able to paddle out to the small island of Santa Clara with its own beach bar and lighthouse, but it comes with a weather warning since San Sebastian does not enjoy near-year-round sunshine, as many southern Spain beaches do.

The global ranking was once again topped by Baia Do Sancho beach, on the stunning volcanic archipelago of Fernando de Noronha, Brazil.

With crystalline water, white sands and a breathtaking backdrop of high cliffs and tropical forest, it is a truly idyllic spot.



SIXTH PLACE: Beach in north wins global rating.

Grace Bay in the Turks and Caicos Islands, near the Bahamas, claimed second spot, while Eagle Beach on the tiny Caribbean island of Arruba was placed third.



SES ILLETES: Features transparent waters and a pristine seagrass meadow.

LA CONCHA also topped the ranking in TripAdvisor's Best 10 European Beaches of the Year, with two other Spanish beaches also listed.

Playa de Ses Illetes on Formentera, off Ibiza, grabbed sixth place. The

drugs are confiscated according to a

The Ministry of the Interior's re-

port on 2016 revealed that about 44

tonnes of drugs, mostly hashish and marihuana, were seized by the vari-

ous police and customs authorities

This, the report stated, was 12

per cent of the total confiscated

across the country and the province

was beaten only by Cadiz (40 per

cent of the total) and Malaga (16

government report.

in the province.

per cent).

beach, part of the Ses Salines natural area of special interest, features transparent waters and a pristine seagrass meadow, making it popular with divers. It is also clothing-optional, leading to a hedonistic ambience.

Time to apply

MARCH is the month to apply for places at state-funded schools in Andalucia.

This year the Education Department has announced there are 8,475 places available at the 318 schools in Almeria Province for three-yearolds who will be entering the education system for the first time in September.

Altogether there are expected to be 125,388 pupils studying at infant, primary and secondary schools in the province during the 2017-2018 school year, the regional authority reported.

In 10th is the six-kilometre Playa de

Muro in northern Mallorca. A long-

standing favourite, it has three sections,

with tourist facilities closest to Alcudia,

and much of the remainder backed by

unspoilt sand dunes and pine forest.

Captains jailed

TWO Algerian men have been jailed for four years for captaining a dinghy intercepted off the coasts of Almeria in June last year with 14 migrants on board, including one minor.

The two men admitted that they had charged the passengers $\in 600$ each for the journey over the Mediterranean and were found guilty of crimes against foreigners.



Ambassador congratulates EWN

THE British Ambassador to Spain, Simon Manley, who is currently on tour of northern Spain and Costa Blanca on official duties, kindly managed to find the time to comment on the exciting news that *Euro Weekly News* had been voted Best Free Publication in the recent AEEPP awards.

"I was delighted to see that Euro Weekly News won the

'Best Free Publication' award at the AEEPP awards: it's an impressive achievement for an English-language newspaper to beat off the Spanish language competition and a tribute, I think, to the important role that the English-language press in general plays across Spain. My congratulations to Michel, Steven and the team at *EWN*," observed Ambassador Manley.

Postscript to ponder



Number of bars in Spain, corresponding to one per 175 inhabitants, the highest density throughout Europe and more than in the entire United States.

Checking change

SO many bi-metal coins are in circulation and being passed in place of $\in 1$ and $\in 2$ coins that National Police are now urging people to check they are being handed euro coins as change. People who try to pass off foreign coins are committing an offence.

Cashing in on €500 notes

A TRADING scam which saw more than \notin 50 million laundered with profits of \notin 1.5 million has seen Guardia Civil and National Police in Madrid arrest 26 people.

The scam involved alleged responsible gold dealers making significant payments - always using \notin 500 notes specifically sought from banks - for scrap gold.

However, rather than using them to purchase gold, they supplied the high value notes to drug cartels in exchange for smaller denominations, charging an extra 3 per cent for their service.



DECLARED a site of historic and artistic importance, Osuna is a feast of history, culture and gastronomy for the discerning visitor.

The town with a population of just under 20,000 and about a one-hour drive from Sevilla, can trace its history back 3,000 years when it was inhabited by the Tartessos who lived in parts of what is now modern-day Portugal and Spain.

In the days of Marc Antony it was a town for legionary veterans who were given status as Roman Citizens although it became part of the Moorish invasion before being 'freed' in 1239 by Fernando III of Castile.

Many of the town's buildings date back to Renaissance times with visiting classical scholars and historians consequently finding visits fascinating and educational.

Surrounded by forests and olive plantations, the area also boasts a lagoon with flamingos and herons along with abundant flora and fauna. Additionally some mountainous areas offer incredible vistas, though visitors must allow for cold winters and hot summers.

Dancing off into the sunset

A PARTY of 120 diners of Romanian origin, celebrating a baptism, paid a Castilla y Leon restaurant a €900 deposit saying they would settle the balance at the end of the meal. But just before the dessert, they formed a conga line and shot out, leaving a €2,000 bill unpaid.

"It happened in the space of a minute," said restaurant owner Antonio Rodriguez. "It was something they had planned."

It later emerged the same people have a history of not paying their bills, and have been dubbed the 'kings of simpa,' which is a diminutive of the Spanish 'Sin pagar' [without paying]. They are thought to be responsible for legging it from another restaurant in the area after a wedding banquet earlier this year.

Drag despair

A CONTESTANT in a Las Palmas drag queen competition won after dressing as the Virgin Mary, and then returned depicting the crucifixion. The Bishop of the Canary Islands, Francisco Cases, has since described the performance as "frivolous blasphemy" which made him even sadder than when the Spanair plane crashed in 2008.

No to wall

THE national construction company Grupo ACS will not bid for any contract involving US President Trump's proposed wall on the Mexican border, company head Florentino Pérez has revealed, contradicting a suggestion by its German subsidiary Hochtief.

"We have not even considered it and, moreover, it is not our speciality," said the businessman and Real Madrid head honcho.

His words came a day after Marcelino Fernandez Verdes, head of Hochtief and widely considered to be Perez' successor-in-waiting, suggested that the firm is looking to win more business in the US.

"At the moment the plans of Donald Trump's government are unknown, but we are open to all types of contract," he said.

Animal alert

A STUFFED lion, crocodiles and a number of rare and exotic birds were seized in an operation coordinated by Interpol across 42 countries. Guardia Civil officers helped carry out some of the near 6,000 inspections with almost 60 people believed to be smuggling or selling protected species of flora and fauna.

Birthdays

• Prince Edward, Earl of Essex, March 10, 53

The youngest of Queen Elizabeth II's four children who is ninth in the line of succession. He has taken over the Duke's role from his father in the Duke of



Edinburgh's Award scheme. In June 1999 he married Sophie Rhys-Jones and they have a son, James, and a daughter Louise.

• John Barrowman, Actor/Presenter, March 11, 50

Born in Scotland he has had a successful theatre career in the West End and Broadway starring in productions such as Miss Saigon and The Phantom of the Opera. He has also featured in a range of TV shows in the UK and USA including Doctor Who, Torchwood, Titans and Central Park West.

• Liza Minnelli, Actress, March 12, 71 The American actress has a career which has spanned six decades. She has appeared on Broadway and in various films including Arthur and Cabaret which won her an Academy Award for Best Actress. She is the daughter of Judy Garland and made her screen debut when she was just three in the final scene of In the Good Old Summertime which her mother starred in.

• Adam Clayton, Musician, March 13, 57 Bass guitarist with Irish rock band U2. Although bom in England he moved to Dublin when he was five and it was at school he met fellow band members Bono and Larry Mullen Jr. The self-taught guitarist had no formal bass training when he first joined the band.

• Michael Caine, Actor, March 14, 84

English actor whose career has spanned 50 years and earned him two Best Supporting Actor Academy Awards for his roles in Hannah and Her Sister and The Cider House Rules. The British film icon has appeared in more than 115 films including Zulu, The Italian Job and Alfie. In 2000 he received a knighthood for his services to cinema.







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OUR VIEW Another success

IT was very exciting for Michel and Steven Euesden to receive an invitation to attend the 2017 Spanish Periodical Association (AEEPP) Awards in Madrid and as they travelled to the venue, they wondered what award they might receive.

They were absolutely delighted therefore to discover that a jury made up of executives of different large Spanish companies had voted Euro Weekly News as the Best Free Newspaper in Spain.

If this was a competition between English newspapers, it would have been very nice but our newspaper beat some very impressive Spanish rivals and it just goes to show how embedded in the Spanish business culture the EWN Media Group has become.

Now with the acquisition of the RTN brand, the imminent publication of a new paper in Portugal and ongoing negotiations to take over other titles. it is clear that the EWN family is here to stay, regardless of the trials and tribulations of Brexit.

Readers, advertisers and business leaders have been very free with their congratulations and it is a very exciting time to be involved in the media industry as we kick off our expansion plans and show our commitment to a future in Spain, serving the English-speaking community.

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Another demand in hotel saga

By Eleanor Hawkins

AZATA SL, the developer behind the illegal El Algarrobico hotel, is demanding money back from Carboneras Council for municipal land it bought next to the hotel to build houses on.

The company purchased two plots of municipally-owned land in 2003 for €1,680,000 with plans to build housing after the hotel was completed.

However, the High Court decision that construction at the site within Cabo de Gata-Nijar Natural Park was not permitted and that ownership of the land would revert to the Junta de Andalucia regional government threw a spanner in the works for the developer.

Now, Azata has decided that as it cannot carry out its plans the council would be gaining unfairly unless it gives back the cash. The developer is also demanding extra amounts for legal costs, interest and damages suffered in its request.



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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. So what are you waiting for?

Grab your pen or log on to our website and say what you like, want to read about, and how you would like the Euro Weekly News to improve.



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metres was the height

reached by some of the

waves.

cal miles out to sea and the

five crew members were

preparing to abandon ship in

precarious conditions with

After lifting them to safety,

the helicopter took the group

them who had an injured ear.

waves of up to four metres.

A flying rescue

By Eleanor Hawkins

FIVE people had to be rescued by helicopter when their catamaran sprung a leak off the coast of Garrucha on Friday (March 3).

The group on board Jesseas II, registered in the Virgin Isles, radioed for help at 6.15pm when the catamaran started to sink and the alert was picked up by the Maritime Rescue service. which sent Helimer 219 helicopter out to find them.

The craft was eight nauti-









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Keep it clean or face the fine

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ALMERIA City's new cleanliness by-law is due to come into effect midmonth, meaning many unsuspecting people could face fines for various offences

The first major change is to putting out the rubbish, which will from now on only be permitted between 8-10pm in the winter and 9-11pm in the summer. Glass, on the other hand, will have to be taken to the recycling bins between 9am and 9pm.

Those caught taking out their waste outside these times could face €120 fines under the new regulations. There is, however,

an exception for businesses, which will be allowed to put their rubbish in the bins at closing time.

Yet this is far from the only thing detailed in the new rules. More than 70 actions are banned under the by-law, including dropping cigarette ends, sunflower seed shells or chewing gum on the public street, spitting or urinating, allowing air conditioning unit condensers to drip onto the street or putting up posters.

Feeding animals is restricted to specific areas and dog mess must also be picked up immediately to avoid fines.

Banker on trial

A FORMER bank employee accused of stealing thousands of euros from 21 elderly clients is on trial this week and faces five and a half years in jail for his alleged crimes.

The defendant, whose trial began at a Provincial Court on Tuesday, is believed to have altered amounts on documents, forged signatures and carried out illicit operations after working for the same bank for 17 years, gaining the trust of long-term, elderly customers.

The Public Prosecutor's office believes he obtained a total of €174.187 from victims' accounts between 2004 and 2010, when he was caught. Therefore, in the initial request, the prosecution has demanded two years in jail for a continued crime of faking documents, three and a half years in jail for misappropriation and a fine of €6 per day for nine months. He may also have to pay the bank, which has returned stolen amounts to its customers, €93,187 in damages.



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Sort out the parks

VERA parents have appealed to the authorities to do something about the children's playgrounds in the village, which they say are in a sorry state. Since a large playground was built on the outskirts of the village, the smaller ones in the centre have been left to fall into disrepair. To solve the problem, it was suggested the council repairs all the playgrounds and provides older youths with a skate park or similar facility.



All for Leo

By Eleanor Hawkins

MOJACAR Council has joined the campaign to help Leo the Lion and his family.

Local mayor Rosa Maria Cano and Tourism councillor Emmanuel Agüero announced that the council has once again placed the municipal Edificio de Usos Multiples at the disposal of a group raising funds for the cause.

The building was recently used for a concert to collect money for the family and tomorrow, Friday 10, at 9pm a theatre group from Vera, led by Antonio Gallardo, will be putting on Miguel Miura's Tres Sombreros de Copa.

The campaign to raise funds to help Leo's parents cover the cost of his treatment in the US, one which is very close to the heart of the *EWN*, was also joined two years ago by the teachers at his sister's school in Palomares who have approached local authorities all



ALL FOR LEO: Mojacar Council has joined the campaign.

Mayor Cano has publicly praised the support for the family. over the Levante area. Mayor Cano and Councillor Agüero have publicly praised the support for the family which has been apparent all over Mojacar and elsewhere from individuals, groups and businesses.

NEWS EXTRA Out of work

UNEMPLOYMENT rose very slightly in Almeria in February, with 383 more people registered as out of work than at the end of January, bringing the total in the province to 63,047.

Naval visit

FOUR minesweeper ships, the Segura, Sella, Tambre and Tajo, currently carrying out exercises in Murcia region and Gulf of Vera waters, were docked in Almeria City port and open for visits on Sunday and Monday, the Ministry of Defence reported.

In trouble

TRADE union SiPcte has reported Cuevas del Almanzora Correos post office for the second time for allegedly breaching the Work Risk Prevention Law.

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Angry farmers cause jams

PROTESTING farmers in cars, small lorries and tractors brought traffic heading into Almeria City to a standstill on Friday morning (March 3), causing queues of up to two kilometres.

About 600 vehicles travelled to the provincial capital from Campohermoso in Nijar and El Ejido to express their disgust over what they consider to be an unfair situation.

The major distribution chains pay them between one third and one 10th of the amount their produce sells for in the shops, the farmers complain. Producers and consumers, said protestors, are the weak link in the chain whereas distributors hold all control on prices.



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ALMERIA AIRPORT: A new auxiliary terminal is to be constructed.

Keeping up with demand

By Eleanor Hawkins

THE general plans for Almeria airport for the next eight years include construction of a new auxiliary terminal to keep up with demand.

The new terminal, the plans reveal, will be for non-commercial, private aviation flights and light aircraft and helicopter routes, as long as the current level of demand continues.

The plans also include remodelling the areas where planes are parked and improving drainage on the runways. Inside the existing terminal, the authorities intend to extend the areas which house security and passport control for arrivals and enlarge the area set aside for coach parking.

This work, the Ministry of Public Works and Development hopes, will allow the facility to cope with the extra traffic expected at the airport in the coming years.

Claims are coming

TOWN halls across Almeria Province, and the rest of Spain, may have to do some serious belt-tightening as thousands of people are starting to claim back taxes they shouldn't have been charged.

The claims come after a court sentence in northern Spain which found in favour of a property seller and against a council regarding an abusive tax on added value to urban land. While the Plusvalia tax, in theory, led to town halls pocketing a percentage of gains when selling property, many ended up forking out even when they sold for less than they bought for.

Claims can be made by anyone who has paid the tax in the last four years and Tinsa surveyors estimate that 10,000 people in Almeria are in for some money back.

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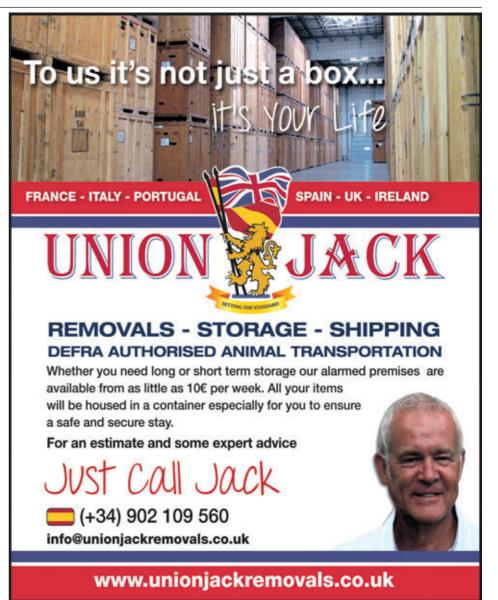
Selling the wares

By Eleanor Hawkins

REPRESENTATIVES are currently at the ITB travel fair in Berlin selling the Costa de Almeria destination's wares to the German market.

From March 9 to 12, provincial tourism department staff along with representatives from hotels and other tourism-related businesses in Almeria are on the 500m2 Andalucia stand within the huge Messe Centre.

One of the most important in the world, the ITB fair's 26 pavilions saw almost 10,000 exhibitors from 189 countries display their attractions and services to 180,000 visitors in last year's edition and almost €7 billion worth of commercial transactions were made. Provincial deputy head Javier Aureliano Garcia explained that Almeria was travelling to the fair this year with the firm intention to boost business and bring more German tourists to the province. In 2016, he said, almost 50 flights from Düsseldorf and Munich landed in Almeria and this year the tourism department hopes there will be even more.





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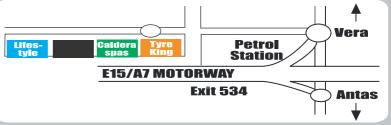
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Exterior awnings and interior blinds

Learning to prepare for emergencies

By Eleanor Hawkins

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GARRUCHA'S educational community is learning to cope with emergencies at training sessions organised by the local council

The town's Civil Protection volunteers are giving classes at Ex Mari Orta, Hispanidad and Mediterraneo schools to ensure teachers and pupils know what to do in an emergency situation. Classes include everything

from first aid and defibrillator use for adults and older teens to knowing how to call 112 for help for the youngest children.

The council's Culture, Youth, Health and Civil Protection Department provided training materials including a practice defibrillator, CPR dummies and first aid kits for the course. Department head Angel Capel said: "we're trying to make sure they all learn useful emergency skills and to not overload them

emergency action plan." The final stage of the courses

by trying to do too much. We

have one of the best Civil Pro-

tection teams in the province

and they had also been respon-

sible for creating the municipal

part in all phases of dealing with a difficult situation from making the call to 112 to evacuating a building and classifying and providing first aid to those injured.





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It's time something was done about it

By Eleanor Hawkins

THE opposition is calling for employment workshops in Almeria City to help some of the thousands of jobless residents improve their employability and clean up the districts at the same time.

same time. Socialist councillor Adriana Valverde stated "the mayor should get off the throne he gazes over his city from and do something to help cover the real needs of the people that live in Almeria."

Valverde pointed out that according to official figures for January there are almost 20,800 unemployed people living in the provincial capital city, half of them have been jobless for many years and a quarter of these have no qualifications or dropped out of school.

"They are people who live in neighbourhoods with a great need for social transformation but the council hasn't lifted a finger for them during the long years of the crisis," the opposition councillor said.

The mayor, Valverde said, still has until April 30 to do something about the situation by applying for regional funds for employment workshops. These would allow local unemployed people, many of whom are women, to obtain new skills and their work would also help improve the neighbourhoods they live in, the councillor insisted.

ADRIANA VALVERDE: Is calling for help to be given to jobless residents.

Brrr, what a difference!

IN just three hours the province went from springtime weather back to wintery conditions on Friday March 3 as an Atlantic cold front passed over Almeria.

Civil Protection had put the province on orange alert for strong winds and they were right as speeds of up to 100 kmph were registered in Cabo de Gata. Wind speeds also reached 90 kmph near Almeria airport, 87 in Albox, 82 in Purchena and 79 in Cuevas del Almanzora.

Meanwhile temperatures plummeted in inland areas, especially those at higher altitudes. In Abrucena, for example, they fell from 20 degrees at 3pm to just five degrees three hours later and in Almeria City there was a nine degree drop in five hours.



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EWN EXCLUSIVE Best possible deal all important - envoy British ambassador gives Brexit insight in exclusive EWN interview

THE pressures of being British Ambassador to Spain during the ongoing Brexit complexities are intense. But Simon Manley showed cool professionalism openly answering concerns of British expats put to him by Caroline Tyszka in this exclusive *EWN* interview at the Melia Villaitana hotel complex in Benidorm.

Brexit does not mean Britain is leaving Europe, merely that it is coming out of the European Union and becoming a sovereign independent United Kingdom "tolerant at home and confident abroad."

Spelling this out, Ambassador Manley was also keen to ease other concerns of the tens of thousands of British expatriates who call southern Spain home in the countdown to the triggering of Article 50 to Brexit.

EPSO



SIMON MANLEY: With EWN Media Group Operations Consultant Nicki Burgess.

My priority is to ensure that in the negotiations we secure the best possible deal for British people living in Spain."

Spain does not recognise dual nationality. What do you recommend to Britons considering applying for a Spanish passport?

"It is a matter for the individual. As British Ambassador for Spain I am not going to be recommending people take another nationality. My priority is to ensure that in the negotiations we secure the best possible deal for British people living in Spain - and anywhere else in the EU - and that we secure that deal as soon as possible. I know through all the contacts we have had, and talking to

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British people across Spain, of the uncertainty they feel. I know people are very worried about reductions in their British pensions because of the fluctuating currency, and they are concerned about continuing healthcare. We are expressing these concerns to the Spanish government."

How often do you receive updates from the UK government regarding the Brexit process and negotiations?

"All the time, from both the Foreign Office and the new Brexit department. We are in close contact with all our European colleagues as well as understanding the position of the Spanish government, plus Spanish media and Spanish businesses. We spend a lot of time talking to Spanish investors in the UK and British investors in Spain, having a very fluid interchange with all parties."

The most important thing is to prepare for the negotiations."

There appears a positive message from Spanish regional governments, with the Valencian authorities seeking to assure the British that they will still be welcome and valued. Is this the message you are getting?

"That's right. My own contact with regional presidents all over Spain is that they are very keen to see the British here and continue to attract new business and tourism. It matters to them. The main problem is rumours and speculation via the British media which then get picked up by their Spanish counterparts, making what is fact and what is fiction blurred. I recommend people keep an eye - as a 'one-stopshop' for accurate information on the British government's website and Facebook page.

• Have you been told to prepare for a worst-case scenario in the event of a hard Brexit?

"The most important thing is to prepare for the negotiations. We want to make sure they are a success, in that we come out with a sovereign independent United Kingdom which is tolerant at home, confident abroad, and engages in free trading across the world. This will give prosperity to the British people whilst having a close, constructive relationship with the European union, because we voted to leave the EU not Europe, and we will all continue to face the same threats, whether through terrorism or Russian aggression, and we need to work together to face those threats."

Do you think the House of Lords' decision has complicated things for the public and their understanding of what this means for Brexit, and with Tony Blair speaking out, did this detract from the inevitable?

"It's really important that we realise we have a democratic parliamentary process going on, we are the world's greatest democracy, I am confident we will bring that process to a successful conclusion this month, and that Theresa May will be writing to her EU colleagues shortly. I recognise some of these developments make people wonder what is happening, which makes me come back to the British government website for updates, ensuring the things people read are the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

■ If you were a retired expat in Spain, how would you be planning for the potential changes?

"Firstly I would make sure that I was on the padron to ensure continued access to healthcare and also registering that I was legitimately here. I would also be thinking ahead and planning my finances for the future. "It is important to remember that whilst we are leaving the EU we all face many similar challenges; combating terrorists, ageing populations and active labour markets, issues that we share and work closely together with, and will continue to do so."



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BREXIT PAGE By Matt Ford

EUROPEAN politicians are up in arms over a House of Lords report that suggests the UK could exit the EU without paying a €60 billion 'divorce settlement.'

That is the potential sum which the UK would have to pay to meet existing commitments according to the European Commission (EC) and 27 EU member states.

However, an analysis by the House of Lords EU financial affairs subcommittee published on Saturday concluded that the UK would be in a strong legal position should it opt to abstain from the payment.

Gianni Pittella, who is leader of the socialists in the European parliament and likely to play a key role in Brexit negotiations immediately accused Theresa May of incompetence and bullying.

"Theresa May is a bull in a China shop," he said. "She likes playing the role of the hardliner, but she's just coming across as fully inadequate to live up to this incredibly delicate historical phase.

"Against this background, it is extremely important that the UK is called upon to honour all financial obligations falling due, up to and including the date of its withdrawal."

As far as the EC is concerned, the UK should

GIANNI PITTELLA: In the European Parliament. make payments to the EU in 2019 and 2020, although they may continue until 2023.

"Without an agreement on this and other crucial issues, talks on future relationships between the EU and UK cannot start," continued Pittella. "Madame May is fully aware of this, but she's still fooling herself that the EU can be impressed by her bullying attitude. "The reality will soon wake her up. Negotiations between the European Union and UK should be concluded in good faith and a spirit of mutual respect to ensure the orderly exit of the UK from the EU."

9 - 15 March 2017 / Costa de Almería EWN 23

Northern Ireland election and Brexit

THE result of the election in Northern Ireland which saw the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) just retain a majority of one seat over rivals Sinn Féin could lead to a major Brexit problem if the two main parties are unable to agree a workable power sharing procedure.

Under the current arrangements, there has to be an agreed position between the 'protestant' DUP which wants to remain part of the UK and the 'catholic' Sinn Féin which wants to see union with the Irish Republic in order for government to remain at Stormont in Belfast.

The parties have three weeks to come to form a government or there will be another election, but the Sinn Féin leaders object to the re-appointment of Arlene Foster as First Minister which is why they caused this election because of an investigation into what is referred to as the Renewable

Heat Incentive scandal.

Should the next election see Sinn Féin obtain the majority of seats, then it would almost certainly demand immediate union with Eire, the DUP would refuse to form a government in the minority and the logical outcome is that the power to rule would then return to Westminster.





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A colourful run

By Eleanor Hawkins

MORE than 3,000 youngsters gathered at Almeria City fairground on Sunday for the first edition of Holi Run Almeria, a non-competitive race in which participants are showered with multi-coloured dust.

Even the city mayor, Ramon Fernandez-Pacheco, who gave the countdown from the stage, ended up covered in colour as the race got off to a start, the council later reported.

The race, the 34th to be held in Spain, covered a five-

kilometre route where the main goal was to have fun and keep getting covered in colour at each of five check points, Noemi Latorre from A38 organisers said.

"This is a different type of race with a secret recipe, where joy, music

a n d sport combine and the

HOLI RUN: Races are becoming popular all over Spain.

coloured dust is the magic ingredient." Latorre said.

APSA monthly raffle winners

THE Animal Protection Society Albox (APSA) recently held their monthly raffle prize draw with the winning tickets drawn by Sue Buckley, an APSA shop volunteer.

Trish Potter was the lucky winner of the Almeria Ten Pin Bowling prize of a two-course Sunday lunch for two people or fish, chips and dessert for two on any week day. Jackie Roberts won a $\in 10$

Colin The Card voucher, Jim Forrest won a €15 TC's Bar voucher and the €15 Pricebusters voucher was won by Brian and Jenny Price.

APSA is grateful to Almeria Ten Pin Bowling, Colin The Card, TC's Bar, and Pricebusters for donations for the monthly prizes and to everyone who purchased raffle tickets. A total of \in 84 was raised which will help the animals at APSA.

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Social pariah

PATRIARCH KIRILL, the head of Russia's Orthodox Church, has described social media such as Facebook as a disease. He lamented as a tragedy the trend of youngsters going to extraordinary lengths to win online approval from their virtual friends. Vanity is at the heart of the problem he said.

Debacle on ice

TWO bandy teams face punishment after intentionally scoring 20 own goals between them in the hope of losing to meet a weaker team in the play-offs. The game ended with an 11-9 victory for Baikal Energiya over Vodnik in the Russian Super League of bandy, similar to ice hockey.

Replica Reichstag

A REPLICA Reichstag has been built at a military theme park on the outskirts of Moscow. Children from the Russian Youth Army will be able to ransack the model Reichstag to recreate the Soviet storming of the Nazi building during the fall of Berlin in 1945.

Muslim Manchester

A RUSSIAN television programme raised eyebrows all the way to England when it chastised the Manchester skyline for being 'nothing but mosques.' The remark was made on NTVnews programme 'Weekly Roundup' and has since been ridiculed by Mancunians online.

Back in the USSR

• CONVICT Vasily Babina is thought to be the world's last Soviet citizen. He was thrown in jail for murder before the USSR collapsed in 1991 and released in February 2017 with only his old Soviet passport. Officials want to deport him to Kazakhstan, where he was born.

Total abstinence

STRICT believers have embarked on a seven-week period of abstinence. Up to three million orthodox Russians are giving up meat, booze, sex, swearing and smoking to celebrate Lent. Around 2 per cent of the population follow the tough religious regime.



ROBOT ASSISTANT: To cheer up commuters.

Privet Metrosha

■ COMMUTERS on the Moscow Metro will have a friendly new robot assistant to cheer them up and help with directions. Metrosha has LED eyes and a polite tone but it's unclear how he alone can put a smile on the estimated 10 million faces venturing underground each day.

FINANCE
business & legal9 - 15 March 2017STAT OF WEEK2.6 billion

is the estimated number of people who will use smart phones by the end of 2017 according to statistics portal Statista.

A EURO WEEKLY NEWS 6 PAGE SPECIAL SECTION // WWW.EWNBUSINESS.COM

Reds plunge into the red

By John Smith

NOT just red jerseys but also red faces at Liverpool Football Club as their finances fall into the red with a pre-tax loss to May 2016, after making a £60 million (€70 million) profit the previous year.

Revenue was up, but after earning £124 million (€145 million) from the sale of Luis Suarez and Raheem Sterling to Barcelona and Manchester City respectively to boost the 2015 figures, Liverpool spent a huge amount of £19.8 million (\in 23 million)

is the reported pre-tax loss made by Liverpool Football Club for the year to May 2016.

money in the following year on a number of not so successful players.

When you spend £82 million (€96 million) and receive £13 million (€15 million) back on players, it is clear that unless your new purchases are particularly successful taking you into the European Championships and winning silverware, the only way financially is down.

Add to this, the compensation paid to Brendan Rodgers following the can-

cellation of his contract and it can be seen that whilst the club are not in a terrible financial position, they are not that successful and all of this emerges at a time when the team are going through a very bad losing streak.

More so than ever, most Premier League teams are owned by foreign investors who are looking for a significant financial return and there are very few clubs left with British owners who are prepared to support them just because of their love of the game.

Massive fraud in Ciudad Real

A FICTITIOUS company, set up in Tomellosso, Ciudad Real was investigated by the combined forces of the Guardia Civil, the Labour Inspection and Social Security of Ciudad Real and the National Police resulting in the arrest of 19 people.

The investigation started, when the local authorities determined that with 25 supposed workers that the company had incurred a €214,000 debt in respect of unpaid social security contributions.

It then transpired that the supposed workers had been claiming unemployment benefit to the value of €130,000 with the result that 12 Spaniards, six Romanians and one Ecuadorian have been arrested.

Making life easier

Quote of the Week

This is the first time I've been willing to admit that I need leadership help and I intend to get it," part of an apology by Travis Kalanick CEO of Uber the ridesharing company after swearing at one of his drivers.

Sir Philip Green may keep his knighthood



SIR PHILIP GREEN: At London Fashion Week.

By John Smith

AFTER much criticism and threats concerning the possible stripping of his knighthood, Sir Philip Green has agreed to make a payment of £363 million (€426 million) to the BHS pension fund as a full settlement of his financial obligations.

Having agreed this deal, all claims by the regulator have now been withdrawn bringing the mat-

ter of payment to an end as far as Sir Philip is concerned although they will continue to pursue Dominic Chappell who purchased the firm from him.

Chairman of the House of Commons Business Select committee Iain Wright told the Daily Mirror that making this payment "doesn't wipe the stains from his reputation clean" adding "It's like rewarding an arsonist who put his own fire out."

» BUSINESS EXTRA **Petrol price**

AS 95 Octane petrol breaks the €1.30 barrier in the Costa del Sol and appears to be continuing to rise, new selfservice companies are expanding, offering fuel that is around 10c per litre cheaper. In Gibraltar however the current price is €1.03.

Google TV

GOOGLE has announced that it will launch a TV subscription service in the USA. YouTube TV where at least 40 channels will be available. Costing \$35 (€33) per month the advantage is that as many as six people can share the subscription.

Bankia staff

FOLLOWING the resignations of three serving directors named in an investigation into the Bankia share flotation, the Bank of Spain has announced that all three have now been replaced by officers who have been promoted from within.

Cheesegrater sold to Chinese

THE Leadenhall Building, in London which is affectionately known as the 'Cheesegrater' is to be sold to a Chinese investment company CC Land for a reported £1.15 billion (€1.29 billion).

This 225-metre skyscraper on 46 floors

was only completed in 2014 and reputedly receives some of the highest rents in the city.

Chinese investors are quick to purchase good properties and in this case, the sale should give a swift profit to the current owners



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LONDON - FTSE 100

H 6				
ICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% Снс.	NET VOL	COMPANY
1,253.00	-19.50	-1.53	18,369.40	Land Securities
2,597.50	1.50	0.06	20,726.03	Legal & General
1,812.50	-0.50	-0.03	5,175.21	Lloyds Banking
1,715.00	-6.00	-0.35	8,741.44	London Stock Ex
814.25	-5.75	-0.70	8,256.55	Micro Focus Inte
509.25	0.25	0.05	20,593.96	Mediclinic Interr
4,758.50	-22.00	-0.46	59,170.74	Merlin Entertain
644.25	0.75	0.12	20,281.30	Marks & Spence
916.25	-5.25	-0.57	4,734.91	Mondi
		-1.43		Morrison (Wm)
5.077.50				National Grid
				Next
				Old Mutual Gro
				Provident Finance
				Paddy Power Be
				Prudential
				Persimmon
				Pearson
				Reckitt Benckise
				Royal Bank of So
				Royal Dutch She
				Royal Dutch She
				RELX
				Rio Tinto
				Royal Mail
				Rolls-Royce Gro
				Randgold Resou
297.85	0.05	0.02	3,572.55	RSA Insurance G
7,022.50	12.50	0.18	6,089.44	Sainsbury (J)
2,248.75	-15.25	-0.67	57,393.62	Schroders
345.90	-0.10	-0.03	4,808.38	Sage Group (The
1,603.50	-10.50	-0.65	15,271.05	Shire
976.50	20.00	2.09	3,805.25	Smurfit Kappa G
1,396.50	-16.50	-1.17	10,854.44	Sky
376.20	1.30	0.35	6,359.16	Standard Life
334.48	-3.77	-1.11	48,618.24	Smiths Group
1,676.25	-11.75	-0.70	81,831.72	Smith & Nephev
		-1.03	5,212.17	SSE
		0.19		Standard Charte
				St James's Place
				Severn Trent
				Tesco
				TULAG
				Taylor Wimpey
				Unilever
				United Utilities (
				Vodafone Group
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203.10	0.00	0.00	851170	Morldnay Crour
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St James's Place 1,088.50 8.50 0.79 5,675.93 Severn Trent 2,363.00 8.00 0.34 5,489.67 Tesco 187.95 -0.15 -0.08 15,544.44 TULAG 1,131.00 -3.00 -0.26 6,721.59			-2.00	-0.13	
Severn Trent 2,363.00 8.00 0.34 5,489.67 Tesco 187.95 -0.15 -0.08 15,544.44 TULAG 1,131.00 -3.00 -0.26 6,721.59	Standard Chartered	745.40	-0.30	-0.04	24,583.99
Severn Trent 2,363.00 8.00 0.34 5,489.67 Tesco 187.95 -0.15 -0.08 15,544.44 TULAG 1,131.00 -3.00 -0.26 6,721.59	St James's Place	1,088.50			5,675.93
Tesco 187.95 -0.15 -0.08 15,544.44 TULAG 1,131.00 -3.00 -0.26 6,721.59	Severn Trent		8.00	0.34	5,489.67
	Tesco		-0.15		
	TUI AG	1,131.00	-3.00	-0.26	6,721.59
Taylor Wimpey 184.05 1.05 0.57 6,074.45	Taylor Wimpey	184.05	1.05	0.57	6,074.45
Unilever 3,858.00 -1.50 -0.04 49,599.29	Unilever	3,858.00	-1.50	-0.04	49,599.29
United Utilities Group 982.75 1.25 0.13 6,638.18	United Utilities Group	982.75	1.25	0.13	
Vodafone Group 201.45 -0.75 -0.37 53,916.62	Vodafone Group	201.45	-0.75	-0.37	53,916.62
Wolseley 4,964.50 -28.50 -0.57 12,873.48	Wolseley	4,964.50	-28.50	-0.57	12,873.48
Worldpay Group 272.90 0.40 0.15 5,470.00	Worldpay Group	272.90	0.40	0.15	5,470.00
WPP Group 1,713.00 -46.00 -2.62 24,605.21	WPP Group	1,713.00	-46.00	-2.62	24,605.21
Whithread 3 761 00 -10 00 -0 27 7 075 66	Whitbread	3,761.00	-10.00	-0.27	7,075.66

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APPLE	139,780	+0,59%	0,820	732M
BOEING CO	182,180	-0,44%	-0,810	111M
CATERPILLAR	95,120	+0,81%	0,760	55M
CHEVRON	113,55	+0,17%	0,19	214M
CISCO SYSTEMS	34,290	-0,29%	-0,100	171M
COCA-COLA	42,48	+0,02%	0,01	182M
DU PONT(EI) DE NMR	79,6000	-0,16%	-0,1300	68M
EXXON MOBIL	82,46	-1,01%	-0,84	342M
GENERAL ELECTRIC	30,1200	-0,23%	-0,0700	262M
GOLDMAN SACHS	252,89	+0,73%	1,83	101M
Home depot	147,8100	-0,09%	-0,1400	179M
IBM	180,05	-0,27%	-0,48	170M
INTEL CORP	35,9000	-0,03%	-0,0100	169M
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	92,8000	+0,72%	0,6600	332M
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	123,7900	+0,13%	0,1600	335M
MC DONALD'S CORP	127,9000	-0,26%	-0,3300	104M
MERCK AND CO. NEW	66,58	+0,76%	0,50	182M
MICROSOFT	64,250	+0,37%	0,240	496M
NIKE	56,70	-1,90%	-1,10	75M
PFIZER	34,5200	+0,03%	0,0100	205M
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	90,500	-0,45%	-0,410	230M
TRAVELERS CIES	124,13	-0,31%	-0,39	34M
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	112,34	-0,31%	-0,35	90M
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	168,20	+0,53%	0,89	159M
VERIZON COMMS	50,09	+0,22%	0,11	203M
VISA	88,79	+0,29%	0,26	165M
WAL-MART STORES	70,0300	-1,03%	-0,7300	215M
WALT DISNEY CO	111,2400	+0,59%	0,6500	175M

0.40 0.15 5,470.00 5.00 -2.62 24,605.21 0.00 -0.27 7,075.66 Company Price Change Net / %

Most Advanced		
Alphatec Holdings, Inc.	\$ 4.58	0.68 🛦 17.44%
Affimed N.V.	\$ 2.50	0.35 🛦 16.28%
SAExploration Holdings, Inc.	\$ 5.31	0.67 🛦 14.44%
SunOpta, Inc.	\$ 6.90	0.80 🛦 13.11%
Echelon Corporation	\$ 5.65	0.5841 🛦 11.53%
Adaptimmune Therapeutics plc	\$ 4.61	0.44 🛦 10.55%
The Habit Restaurants, Inc.	\$ 15.25	1.45 🔺 10.51%
Kura Oncology, Inc.	\$ 10	0.95 🛦 10.50%
Sundance Energy Australia Limited	\$ 10.75	1.0035 🛦 10.30%
Foundation Medicine, Inc.	\$ 28.30	2.25 🛦 8.64%
XBiotech Inc.	\$ 14.97	1.18 🛦 8.56%
Most Declined		
Nutanix, Inc.	\$ 23	8.12 ▼ 26.09%
Immersion Corporation	\$ 8.58	2.11 ▼ 19.74%
SCYNEXIS, Inc.	\$ 2.70	0.57 ▼ 17.43%
Karyopharm Therapeutics Inc.	\$ 11.63	2.21 ▼ 15.97%
VisionChina Media, Inc.	\$ 2.29	0.43 ▼ 15.81%
Impax Laboratories, Inc.	\$ 8	1.35 ▼ 14.44%
MannKind Corporation	\$ 2.125	0.3115 ▼ 12.78%
Fred's, Inc.	\$ 16.30	2.02 ▼ 11.03%
Everspin Technologies, Inc.	\$ 9.01	1.02 ▼ 10.17%
Oncobiologics, Inc.	\$ 2.90	0.30 ▼ 9.38%
Intellia Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 13.84	1.40 ▼ 9.19%

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£0.0038

Price

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	£0.9850£0.0001						
€0.9644€0.0002							
rvative B GBP £1.1476£0.0056							
ervative B EUR	€1.0797	€0.0047					
ed B GBP £1.2865£0.0086							
ced B EUR €1.2002 €0.0074							
h B GBP £1.4157£0.0134							
h B EUR	€1.3282	€0.0120					
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Agent Provocateur in 'pre-pack' deal

By John Smith

NEVER one to shy away from controversy, Mike Ashley, owner of Sports Direct and a number of other businesses is said to be in the process of purchasing luxury lingerie brand Agent Provocateur much to the disgust of one of its original founders.

Joe Corré, the son of Dame Vivienne Westwood and the late Malcolm McLaren of Sex Pistols fame, cofounded Agent Provocateur in 1994 with his former wife Serena Rees and the brand currently employs some 600 people and has 11 shops in the UK.

In 2007, the couple split and at that time sold their business to private investment company 3i for a reported £60 million (€69.5 million) and Corré went on to become involved in other fashion and cosmetic operations from 2009, but he is clearly unhappy with the decision to allow Mike Ashley to become involved in his former company.

Known for his ability to obtain publicity, in late 2016 with the co-operation of his mother, the designer and entrepreneur arranged to burn an archive of punk memorabilia said to be worth $\pounds 6$ million ($\pounds 6.95$ million)



AGENT PROVOCATEUR: The luxury lingerie brand.

on a barge in the River Thames.

Now he has described the sale of his former 'baby' as "a disgrace to British business" and "preposterous" and has intimated that he will take further action after previously taking legal action against 3i and Ashley.

What he seems to object to is the fact that the sale is being made via a contentious financial vehicle known as a 'pre-pack administration' whereby 3i - originally founded in 1945 by the Bank of England and various banks under a different name in order to stimulate the British economy - has allowed the sale of the company.

This type of sale means that many creditors including HM Revenue and

Lego NASA Women Faceboc

Customs will remain unpaid whilst a major creditor, thought to be Barclays Bank may take the majority of the revenue and Corré believes that other 'safer' purchasers have been sidelined.

3i may well lose most of their investment but will no longer have to support the struggling brand and they argue that the decision has been made by AlixPartners, the administrators of Agent Provocateur not themselves.

The purchase is actually being made by Four Holdings, the parent company of Four Marketing, which is 25 per cent owned by Sports Direct which gives rise to the accusation that Mike Ashley who is the director of 218 companies is behind the purchase.

Whilst it would seem a strange 'bed fellow' to market besides the sporting clothes and utilitarian underwear sold in the Sports Direct shops, the owner, Mr Ashley has recently taken an interest in designer clothing brands such as French Connection.

He certainly appears to want to expand and move upmarket although there is some fear that he might just take the name and existing stock and dump everything else.

Lego NASA female pioneers

By John Smith

AFTER introducing such legendary fictional characters as Darth Vader, Harry Potter and Batman and to coincide with International Women's Day on March 8, Danish company Lego has announced that it will produce a set of NASA female pioneers.

Once designed and manufactured, the collection is not expected to reach the markets until late in 2017 or early 2018.

As the company moves from strength to strength, it invited followers to put forward suggestions for new characters or images to add to the range and the concept of the NASA pioneers which was presented by science writer Maia Weinstock won the competition with more than 10,000 votes.

Much has been made of the previously unsung work of Afro-American mathematicians in the 1960s at NASA since it was brought into the spotlight by Oscar nominated movie Hidden Figures and one of the scientists featured in the film, Katherine Johnson will be one of the five Lego figures.



FEMALE PIONEERS: The models which have been submitted for consideration.

The other four women being similarly 'honoured' are computer scientist Margaret Hamilton, astronauts Sally Ride and Mae Jemison and astronomer Nancy Grace Roman, all of whom are considered to have played pivotal roles in the development of the Space Agency.

The decision to proceed with the launch of these characters was announced in a video message on a Lego blog and a company spokesperson explained that they were delighted that this concept had received so many votes.

Other candidates had ranged from The Addams Family to Japanese monster Voltron and the Large Hadron Collider and new proposals are accepted every six months with one of the latest being the Wizard of Oz.

The set will need to be designed and manufactured as part of a larger Lego NASA collection so is not expected to reach the markets until late in 2017 or early 2018.

Spain consulted over Opel sale

AS representatives of the PSA Group, makers of Citroen and Peugeot cars tour Europe to discuss their takeover of the Opel Group from US giant General Motors, they visited Spain to explain their plans to the Economy Minister De Guinos.

Partly state-owned by the French government with a large Chinese investment PSA visited the UK as there are still several thousand workers employed by Vauxhall, part of the Opel Group in Britain and are now wooing other European governments.

Car manufacture in Spain is a very useful part of the economy and Opel and PSA own three factories here employing some 13,000 staff throughout the country so the Spanish government is anxious to ensure continuity if the sale goes through.

To some extent however, there is a Catch 22 situation as although it is not easy to tool up to transfer manufacture from one factory to another, in the long term, there could be considerable savings by merging plants.

The minister however appeared fairly comfortable with the discussions that took place and believes that if the takeover does occur, then Spain will play an important part in future developments of the new company.

US firm raided by tax authorities

By John Smith

CATERPILLAR INC, an American company and the largest manufacturer of industrial machinery and trucks in the world has had three of its premises in the US raided by the authorities apparently investigating alleged tax evasion.

This follows an investigation into its Swiss subsidiary CSARL by the American authorities who accused the company of diverting funds to the semi-tax

haven and supposedly saving \$2.4 billion (€2.28 billion) in tax which should have been paid going back to 2000.

An earlier senate paper suggested that having negotiated a special tax rate of 6 per cent with the Swiss government, Caterpillar regularly reported large amounts of profits earned through CSARL even though it had transferred no staff or ongoing business to the Swiss company.

There is something of a dilemma for President Trump as on one hand he pledged to make sure that American companies paid

proper tax within the USA yet on the other hand he wants to support American business and encourage a growth in employment and sales within the US.

> It was just a week before the raids that the chairman of Caterpillar visited the White House to meet Donald Trump and these sudden raids suggest that there has been little co-ordination be-

tween departments.

Even though the Dow Jones (index of shares on Wall Street) rose to record levels. breaking 21,000 for the first time ever,

789

Caterpillar shares saw an immediate fall of 4.3 per cent upon release of the news of the

CATERPILLAR: Largest manufacturer of trucks.

raids.

789

Losing mental capacity whilst living abroad



MANY UK expatriates living in Spain own properties in the UK and have pensions and investments in the UK. They rely on their UK assets to maintain their lifestyles (and those of their families) in Spain. If they can no longer manage their affairs in the UK due to a loss of mental capacity, it can cause many difficulties.

You can choose a person or people, who you trust, to act for you when you are no longer able.

The best way to avoid the legal and practical difficulties that can occur with the loss of mental capacity is to plan for it in advance by drawing up a document called a 'Lasting Power of Attorney' ('LPA').



An LPA must be made while you have full mental capacity.

What is an LPA?

An LPA is a legal document that enables you to appoint one or more attor-

neys to act for you when you are no longer able to act for yourself. Your attorney can be a professional, such as a solicitor or a family member or friend.

There are two types of LPA: 'Health and Welfare' or 'Property and Financial Affairs'

An LPA must be made while you have full mental capacity. It is therefore important to make one while you are in good health.

Why should you get an LPA?

You can choose a person or people, who you trust, to act for you when you are no longer able.

If you lose your mental capacity and do not have an LPA, then your family (or the authorities) will have no choice but to make an application to the Court of Protection to appoint a 'deputy' to look after your affairs, which can be time consuming and costly.

Will my LPA be recognised in Spain? Unfortunately there is no international type of LPA which is guaranteed to work in both the UK and Spain.

The advice we give to our clients at Stone King, is that if you have assets in both Spain and the UK, your only safe option is to appoint attorneys in both jurisdictions.

Not as many

unemployed

UNEMPLOYMENT contin-

ued to drop significantly in

Spain during the last quarter of

2016 to its lowest level of 18.6

per cent and represented the

lowest number of unemployed

since 2009, although the fourth

quarter of every year sees large

numbers of seasonal jobs creat-

ed which then disappear in the

February figures however

showed a positive result with

9,355 fewer people registered

as unemployed taking the total for Spain to 3.75 million al-

though it does appear the num-

ber who are eligible for em-

ployment has dropped as well. According to the Ministry of

Employment there are now

17,748,000 people actual regis-

tered with social security as be-

ing employed and this does not

take into account those receiv-

Overall, things are continu-

ing to look positive although

interestingly, there were 2,859

more foreign workers regis-

ing cash in hand.

tered as unemployed.

following month.



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Just who gives them the right?

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT OTHERS THINK IT

IF you even bothered to watch it, I've no doubt you thoroughly enjoyed the cock up at the Oscars ceremony last week. As usual the 'stars,' who often find it impossible to connect two words without a script, were utterly tongue-tied at the mix up, producing more waffles than Dick's fast food Diner.

True to form, in their usual predictable arrogance, a number of them subsequently decided to use the opportunity to spout their knowledge of world affairs.

Why is it, that purely because they have attained success in their particular field, they automatically assume they have now earned the right to deliver their political views to all and sundry? As entertainers, theirs is primarily a profession that should help its fans to escape, not indulge in the trials and tribulations of our real, often depressing exsistence. Why don't

Advertising feature



OSCAR WINNERS: Mahershala Ali, Emma Stone, Viola Davis and Casey Affleck.

they stick to what they are grossly overpaid for?

We also need to remember that most of the 'stars' of the acting industry are uneducated drop outs. High school failures, who decided that egotistic greatness was more important than educational gratification. Hardly the qualifications that give them the right to advise us on world issues. If I want to listen to politicians I'll tune in to 'Politics Today' or 'PMQ.' Give us a break. They are of course often encouraged to regale us with rubbish. Why don't they stick to what they are grossly overpaid for?

I actually recall that when I achieved my 'overnight stardom,' (twinkle twinkle!), I was suddenly inundated by a whole host of media outlets for my views on just about everything; from politics to puritism. All I had actually achieved to suddenly become an authority on all these Earthly affairs, was to warble a threeminute, albeit quite catchy, tune on a bit of vinyl! Hardly a qualification to become a bottomless pit of invaluable knowledge!

Oh, and by the way, I am increasingly of the view that Trump could become one of the truly great Presidents of American history. Wot ya mean,'practice what you preach?' I'm a colomnist now, innit!

Keep the faith Love Leapy leapylee2002@gmail.com

Fighting the winter blues with Neater Heater

WITH winter still upon us, many people will be deciding how best to keep their homes warm. The choices seem endless, confusing, and contradictory.

There is no simple answer, or single best solution. Tony and Richard at Neater Heater have, however, got one solution that deserves serious consideration.

There are many reasons to choose electricity as your heating option. It is clean, requires no effort to maintain, and has a comparatively small installation cost.

In fact Tony and Richard claim to be able to install a five-to- seven heater system for the same price that many people pay just to have a gas bottle casita built.

But once you have decided on electricity then you have even more choices to contend with. The Neater Heater team sympathise with you, because that is exactly where they were seven years ago.

After discarding the unhealthy gas estufas, and deciding to 'Heat Elec-



tric' they tried various options - as customers - and realised one thing.

There were no affordable good electric heaters on the market. Electric heaters tended to fall into one of the following categories. • Very expensive (€400-€800) but make a virtue of being economical

• Cheap to buy (but horrendously expensive to run) oil-filled heaters, NEATER HEATER DISTRIBUTORS: ALMERIA

ANTAS: Lifestyle Enclosures. Tel. 950 459 060

Heaters also available for purchase at our online shop with free home delivery WWW.NEATERHEATER.ES OR Tel. 634 312 171

• Economical to run (but inefficient) panel heaters.

With a great stroke of luck, it was while actively looking for a heater for his son's room that Tony came across, and installed, some Norwegian BEHA convector heaters. That decision was life changing.

Discovering just how good these heaters were, Tony saw a business opportunity and approached his friend Richard Winter and between them they started Neater Heater.

As Richard explains; "The beauty about Neater Heaters is that they are simple but are built to the highest quality. It also helps that they look good. They use modern, state of the art technology, such as extruded aluminium for the element, and a highly sensitive thermostat.

"This produces an affordable nononsense heater that works efficiently and economically to keep your home warm through those long cold winter nights.

"Our website will let you know all about our products, and the FAQ section (Frequently Asked Questions) will hopefully clear up some questions you may have.

"It has an online shop, and also tells you the location of the outlet, or agent, nearest to you, including the details for our newest Spanish distributor in the Costa del Sol: The Bed Warehouse, Calahonda."

Euro Weekly News bags national prize

The EWN Media Group is delighted to announce that the *Euro Weekly News* was named Best Free Publication at the 2017 Spanish Periodical Publication Association (AEEPP) Awards on Tuesday February 28.

EWN publishers Michel and Steven Euesden were on hand to collect the award at the glittering gala event, which took place in the Auditorium of the famous Royal Post Office building in Madrid.

The AEEPP event is now in its 11th year, and it is considered to be among the most prestigious press awards in Spain.

According to the official press release, the winner of the Best Free Publication award demonstrates "the most impressive knowledge of the publishing world alongside the greatest imagination, sense of originality, innovation and risk-taking."

The jury featured Francisco Hortigüela, communications and marketing director for Samsung Spain, Matilde Pelegri, president of Senda Group, and Elia Mendez, director general of the Spanish Mobile Marketing Association, among others.

The AEEPP comprises around 100 publishing firms which together produce more than 900 titles covering both online and printed media, with an estimated annual readership of almost 130 million.





| PRESTIGIOUS EVENT: Michel and Steven (centre) collecting the award.

After collecting the award, a thrilled Michel said: "What an incredible achievement to be recognised by a major Spanish Press association as the best free newspaper in Spain.

"This has come after 21 long hard years for the brilliant EWN family past and present who never fail to deliver.

"We were so proud to stand on the podium and collect the award for these dedicated professionals.

"We also want to thank all of our loyal clients and dedicated readers who have supported our six publications of the Euro Weekly News over the years.

"This prize has come at the most exciting time in our journey as we have just purchased the RTN newspaper in Costa Blanca North and South.

"We are also launching EWN Algarve and are just about to complete a purchase on another title.

"Therefore it leaves me nothing more to say but a very humbled thank you to all the fantastic people we are privileged to work alongside on a daily basis - you made the award possible and for that we are eternally grateful.

"So all it leaves me to say is Viva España y gracias!"

Steven added: "Wonderful to receive this recognition of all the hard work that the EWN team put into the paper week in week out. We know how hard we all work, nice to see that a Spanish press association also recognises it.

"We are so proud of everyone."

The Full list of winners was as follows:

Category A – Editorial

Best Professional Publication: Sobremesa magazine.

Best Free Publication: Euro Weekly News

Best General Publications Editor: Fernando Yarza Lopez-Madrazo for his transformation of the former Heraldo publishing group into the Henneo group, which includes the Spanish national newspaper '20 Minutos.'

Best printed publication: Amante magazine. **Best Digital Publication:** Director TIC, part of TAI Editorial.

New Publication of the Year: The Evooleium Olive Oil Guide by Edimarket Editores SL.

Internationalisation Award: Editorial MIC.

Professional Growth Award: Senda Media Group and Nexo Media Group.

Innovation Awards: JP Media, Movewoman and Las Mujeres nos Movemos digital apps, Habla Humano de Elocuent podcast, Principia magazine.

Honorary Award: Miguel de Haro, creator of IPMark magazine and nationally renowned editor.

Category B – Advertising

Campaign of the Year: 'Inclusion' by ONCE.

Advert of the Year: 'Victoria50' by Procter & Gamble.

Best Media Agency: GroupM.

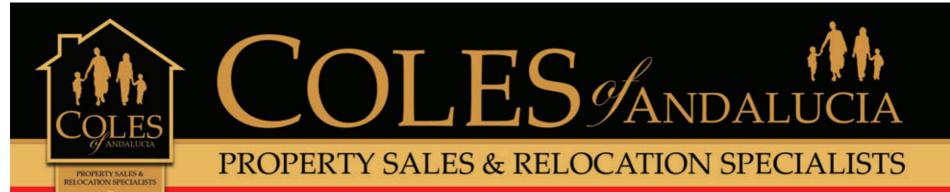
Outstanding Communications Professional: Juan Ramon Plana, Director of the Spanish Advertising Association.

Category C – Special Awards

Outstanding Public Institution: National Archaeology Museum, Madrid.

Solidarity Award: The Aladina Foundation, for their work with young cancer sufferers.





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See the Spanish Property Choice Family on Sun, Sea and Selling Houses Channel 4 - 13th March





Keep an eye out for our new Ob-Doc TV show made by Ricochet TV (Warner Bros) Starting on the13th March on Channel 4 (UK) at 4pm daily for 20 x 1 hour episodes. Following our 2 families doing what we do best.

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Mojácar Playa. Opposite the Parque Comercial Tel. 950 615 388 or 653 722 290 A year ago house sales were at a ten year high before a huge Brexit-shaped curveball raised the stakes for potential buyers. In spite of this turmoil, it is business as usual for two British families who have set up shop in Spain selling property to Brits seeking fun in the sun.

Channel 4 take a look at the goings on in docu-soap property series, Sun, Sea & Selling Houses, which will follow them as they sail their business through unpredictable waters, and also track their personal trials and tribulations away from the office.

The first family, The Garners (Spanish Property Choice) are from Cannock near Birmingham and are making waves on the Spanish property scene in Mojacar, Almeria. The Brummy family moved to Spain twelve years ago and have developed their own property empire on the coast. Mum Sharon and Dad Steve are the bosses but the business is a family-led affair with daughter Emma, son Shaun and son-in-law Matt all pitching in.

The shows second family are the Rodriguez, a family of Liverpudlians. Dad, Manuel, is originally from Spain. In 2001 he moved the whole family over to Benijofar where they started a property business from scratch. Manuel and Linda are the owners but their daughter Sophie and her husband Damon work with them as well as their daughter Charlotte.

Day to day the family's offices are a flurry of activity as Brit clients seek the best properties on their books but can they convince them to make the life changing decision to buy? And what is life after Brexit going to look like for them?

The twenty episode series will air on 13th March 2017 on Channel 4 daytime at 4pm.



"We can all relate to wanting to give up Blighty to go live in sunny Spain. This series will follow the Brits who are chasing that dream and the people helping them make it a reality who are living the dream themselves.

Our two families are very much at the heart of their communities and this will enable us to see what life in the sun is really like." - Rob Butterfield, Executive **Producer for Ricochet**

Exclusive Ref:B948 V/D/Este 129,995€

This apartment is beautifully furnished to a very high standard and offers a modern style living with an open plan light, bright and airy feel. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, underground parking, lift, c/h & communal pool. EPC F 125 - 30



This is a simply fantastic property located on the small, quiet, yet well-kept community of Los Alamos. 2 beds, 3 baths, air con, central heating, roof solarium, communal swimming pool, 15 minutes to the beach, 5 minutes to all amenities. EPC G 238 - 59



Ref:B1005 S/Cabrera 149,950€

This 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom detached villa is located in the picturesque Cabrera mountain and offers a unique style of living with one of the best views of the entire area. The complex has a beautiful communal swimming pool.



Ref:B992 Mojacar 160,000€

This is a fantastic townhouse located on a pretty, small community within walking distance of the bars, restaurants, shops and glorious, golden beaches of Mojácar Playa, 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. EPC F 119 - 29

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Who is that rapping on my door?



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

IT is totally dark outside. Pitch black. To augment the occasion a frantic wind is shaking the doors and windows. As it gushes around the house interior lights show the close outside bamboo cane bending horizontal and quivering for relief. A sinister message is being sent. The forces of nature want to alert you once again it is they that are always in control. When ever they want to be.

I sigh, take a deep breath and search for the TV remote to artificially change the circumstance and bring a new ambiance to my situation.

Nothing on the telly tonight. I mentally prepare myself for an invigorating night full of strange noises and long pauses between crashes, chairs and benches being blown about the pool terrace. Then brief moments of silence before the rau-



CAFÉ SOCIETY: If you want to find out the real facts, get down to the bar and ask.

cous starts again. Nature is in control thwarting my contrived efforts. The bushes are howling for relief as are the palm leaves. The shrubbery wants to be left alone. That quiet, alone, that only the Mediterranean countries assure. A time honoured

and respected alone. A tranquility of the ages. But, it is not happening tonight. The Gods are angry, snorting and puffing their discontent. As man, we are ordained to sit back and endure. Let it pass. Sit up and take notice. It will pass. Maybe, let up soon.

Reveries can go nowhere in these vicious gusts of uncontrolled wind. Every heavy windy push is a tomorrow problem. Either in the pool or over the wall and into oblivion, down the side of the hill.

It is only me, being me, disgrun-

tled and bored - that gives the moment any relevance. Then I hear it, a pounding on the front door. Has the weather learned to knock rhythmically? Certainly no-one of human extraction would step out on such a stormy night. Who could it be? At this time? About what? Life is already as nonsensical as it could get.

Well, I'll be. It's Spanish friends. Having envisioned my plight of being alone they have arrived with a good red and tapas. (If there had been a God or house doctor overseeing me, this would have been exactly what was needed).

Once again I repeat my usual mantra, if you are not learning to converse in Spanish you are deliberately refusing to learn and share the best this country has to offer. You would be similar to refusing to allow electricity into your life.

Spain is a café society. If you really want to find out the facts behind the radio, TV or newspaper reports, get down to the bar and ask. Your new friends there will queue up to tell you. Life doesn't get much better than that.

Advertising feature

Edwards European Moving

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Cancer boy Leo the Lion ready to start proton beam therapy in the USA

MARCH is Brain Tumour Awareness Month and, appropriately, four-year-old Leo Bermejo from Almeria is about to embark on what could be lifesaving treatment in the States.

Doctors at the Oklahoma clinic have now completed their assessments with Leo and consultations with cancer experts on each side of the Atlantic

They have recommended 31 proton sessions, which will be given Monday to Friday, so once it begins it will involve approximately six weeks of treatment.

The consensus is that Leo needs full brain and spine proton therapy with a boost to the tumour bed. As mum Karen says, "The treatment needs to be aggressive to kill this beast."

Leo will be given a lower dose to the healthy brain and he will not be any worse than he is now. Karen added: "The doses that we have dis-

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Spanish account • Bank: Banco Sabadell

Account Name: Leo James Bermejo

cussed are the same doses that another child has had who had the closest condition I could find to Leo. "I have been in contact with the

Leo's treatment needs to be aggressive."

mother of this child who also had weakness in one side and loss of speech but he is progressing and now goes to a normal school.

"This child is amazingly now three years in remission!'

Meanwhile fundraising events for Leo's campaign fund continue apace both in Spain and the UK.

Members of a gym in Stockport have raised an amazing £19,000 for Leo.

To give your support to the ongoing Leo the Lion fundraising campaign here is how you can donate:

Account Number: ES69 0081 0597 0900 0602 1116 • Swift: BSAB ESBB



UK account • Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland ш Account Name: Alda Keefe

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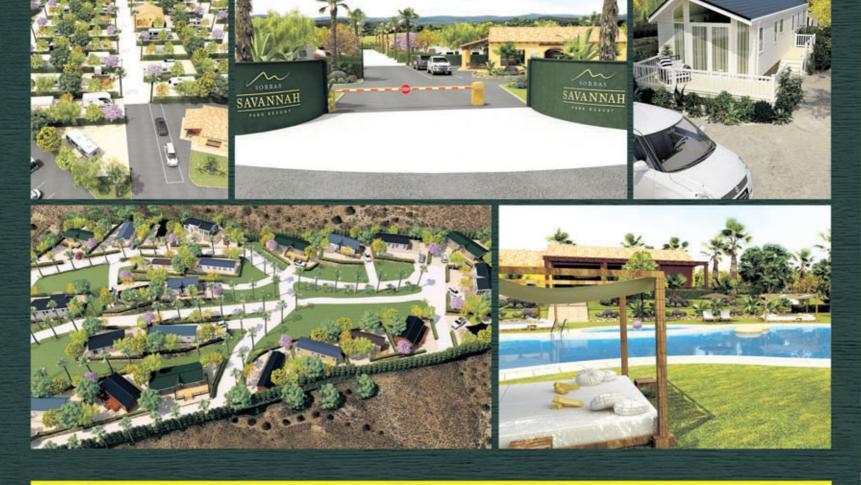


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THURSDAY	BBBONE	BEGTWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky SPORTS 1
09 MARCH	7:30pmBBC London News8:00pmThe One Show8:30pmEastEnders9:00pmWould I Lie to You?9:30pmEastEnders10:00pmBritain on the Fiddle11:00pmBBC News at Ten11:30pmBBC London News11:45pmQuestion Time12:45amThis Week	7:30pmThe Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food8:00pmAntiques Road Trip9:00pmThe Great Pottery Throw Down10:00pmBrexit: Britain's Biggest Deal11:00pmMatch of the Day Newsnight12:15amTop Gear Top Gear	7:30pm 8:00pmITV Evening News Emmerdale8:30pmBuy Today, Pay Tomorrow? Tonight9:00pmEmmerdale9:30pmHarry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule10:00pmPrime Suspect 1973 The Nightly Show11:30pmITV News ITV News London	7:00pmThe Simpsons7:30pmHollyoaks8:00pmChannel 4 News8:55pmThe Political Slot9:00pmCrufts 201710:00pmA Very British Hotel11:00pmExtremely British Muslims : Boys to Men12:05amRich Dog, Poor Dog	7:00pmHome and Away7:30pm5 News Tonight8:00pmNightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords9:00pmThe Nightmare Neighbour Next Door10:00pmThe Great British Benefits Handout11:00pmCelebrity Sex Pod 100% Hotter!1:00amSuper Casino	6:00pm Premier League 100 Club 6:30pm Premier League Legends Premier League 7:30pm Barclays Premier League World Event 8:00pm Live Super League 11:30pm Premier League Match Pack Liga Show 12:30am Barclays Premier League World Liga Show
FRIDAY 10 MARCH	7:30pmBBC London News8:00pmThe One Show8:30pmSix Nations Rugby Union11:00pmBBC News at Ten11:25pmBBC London News11:35pmPirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl1:50amThe Real Marigold Hotel	7:00pmEggheads The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food8:00pmAntiques Road Trip9:00pmGardeners' World9:30pmOnly Connect10:00pmThe Secrets of Your Food11:00pmQl11:30pmNewsnight12:05amRobot Wars	7:00pmITV News London7:30pmITV Evening News8:00pmEmmerdale8:30pmCoronation Street9:00pmSchofield's South African Adventure9:30pmCoronation Street10:00pmLethal Weapon11:00pmThe Nightly Show11:30pmITV News12:00amITV News London	4:00pmFifteen to One5:00pmCrufts 20176:00pmCouples Come Dine with Me7:00pmThe Simpsons7:30pmHollyoaks8:00pmChannel 4 News8:30pmCrufts 201710:00pmGogglebox11:00pmThe Last Leg12:05am8 Out of 10 Cats	7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm The Gadget Show 9:00pm Naughty Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud 10:00pm The Graham Norton Story Story 11:30pm When Celebs Sing Po Badly Super Casino	6:30pm Premier League Match Pack 7:00pm The Fantasy Football Club 8:00pm Football 11:15pm Barclays Premier League Preview 11:45pm The Fantasy Football Club 12:45am Football Gold
SATURDAY 11 MARCH	7:45pmLet's Sing and Dance for Comic Relief9:00pmWho Dares Wins9:40pmCasualty10:30pmMrs. Brown's Boys11:00pmBBC News11:20pmMatch of the Day12:05amMatch of the Day: FA Cup Highlights12:35amThis Country1:05amLine of Duty	6:10pmFlog It! Natural World7:00pmNatural World8:00pmNatural World9:00pmGrand Tours of the Scottish Islands9:30pmDad's Army10:00pmGeri's 1990s: My Drive to Freedom11:00pmLive at the Apollo L.A. Confidential Taboo	7:45pmITV News and Weather8:00pmAnt and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway9:30pmThe Voice UK10:45pmITV News and Weather11:00pmLethal Weapon12:00amSchofield's South African Adventures	2:00pm Come Dine with Me 4:35pm A Place in the Sun 5:35pm Location, Location, Location 6:35pm Channel 4 News 7:05pm Dogs Behaving Badly 8:00pm Crufts 2017 10:00pm Toker Tailor Soldier Spy	7:00pmCan't Pay? We'll Take it Away!8:00pmNCIS: Los Angeles9:00pmNCIS9:55pm5 News10:00pmFootball on 5 The Championship.10:50pmFootball on 5 Live Boxing on 5 11:15pm11:15pmLive Boxing on 5 Super Casino4:10amInside Windsor Castle	11:00am Soccer A.M. 12:30pm Football 4:00pm Gillette Soccer Saturday Saturday 7:00pm Live International Rugby 9:00pm EFL Goals 9:30pm Nissan Game of the Day 11:30pm Nissan Match Choice 12:30am Football
SUNDAY 12 March	6:55pmWeather7:00pmThe Big Painting Challenge8:00pmCountyfile9:00pmCall the Midwife10:00pmSS-GB11:00pmBBC News11:20pmRegional News11:25pmWeather11:30pmMatch of the Day 212:30amAmerican High School	7:00pmSix Nations Rugby Special8:00pmRobot Wars9:00pmTop Gear10:00pmDown the Mighty River with Steve Backshall11:00pmFace of an Angel Women's Six Nations Highlights1:10amTaboo	7:00pm 7:15pmITV News and Weather Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule7:45pm 8:45pm5 Gold Rings The Voice UK10:00pmThe Good Karma Hospital11:00pm 11:20pmITV News and Weather The Nightly Show Peston on Sunday Rugby	4:25pm George Clarke's Amazing Spaces 5:25pm Location, Location, Location 6:30pm Channel 4 News 7:00pm Crufts 2017 9:30pm Homeland 10:30pm War Child 11:30pm Gogglebox 1:40am Departure	7:05pm Inside Windsor Castle Inside Windsor 8:00pm Inside Windsor Castle Castle 9:00pm The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door 9:55pm 5 News 10:00pm Three Days to Kill 12:00am Super Casino	12:30pm Football 3:30pm Info Not Available 4:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday 7:30pm Football 8:00pm EFL Goals 8:30pm Football 11:00pm Football 11:30pm Goals on Sunday 1:30am Football
MONDAY 13 MARCH	6:15pmPointless7:00pmBBC News7:30pmRegional News8:00pmThe One Show8:30pmMatch of the Day Live11:00pmBBC News11:30pmRegional News11:40pmWeather11:45pmHave I Got a Bit More Old News for You	6:15pm 7:00pmBargain Hunt Eggheads The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food7:30pmComfort Food8:00pm 9:00pmTop Gear University Challenge Mary Berry Everyday 10:00pm 11:00pm11:00pm 11:30pmKewsnight	7:30pmITV Evening News8:00pmEmmerdale8:30pmCoronation Street9:00pmThe Kyle Files9:30pmCoronation Street10:00pmBroadchurch11:00pmThe Nightly Show11:30pmITV News at Ten and Weather12:15amThe Chase1:15amThe Nightly Show	7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 8:55pm The Political Slot 9:00pm Dispatches 9:30pm Food Unwrapped 10:00pm 24 Hours in A and E 11:00pm How'd You Get So Rich? Tattoo Fixers 12:50am Gap Year	7:00pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm World Rally Championship 2017 9:00pm Naughty Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 10:00pm Inside King's Cross: The Railway 11:00pm Getting Away with Murder 12:05am Sabotage	7:00pm Football Gold 7:10pm Football 8:10pm Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17 8:40pm Football 10:45pm Premier League Review 2016/17 11:45pm Soccer AM: The Best Bits 2016/17 12:15am Premier League Legends
TUESDAY 14 March	7:30pmRegional News8:00pmThe One Show8:30pmEastEnders9:00pmHolby City10:00pmThe Replacement11:00pmBBC News11:30pmRegional News11:40pmWeather11:45pmImagine1:00amThe Big Painting Challenge	 8:00pm The Best of British Takeaways 9:00pm Back to the Land with Kate Humble 10:00pm 1066: A Year to Conquer England 11:00pm Inside No 9 11:30pm Newsnight 12:10am Weather 12:15am The Secrets of Your Food 	7:30pm 8:00pmITV Evening News Emmerdale Britain's Busiest Motorway9:00pm 10:00pmThe Secret Chef Play to the Whistle The Nightly Show11:30pm 11:30pmITV News at Ten and Weather Prime Suspect 1973 The Nightly Show	7:30pm 8:00pmHollyoaks Channel 4 News8:55pmThe Political Slot9:00pmThe Secret Life of the Zoo10:00pmMutiny11:00pmCatastrophe11:35pmThis is Us12:35amGogglebox1:30amRamsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	 8:00pm Inside King's Cross: The Railway 9:00pm Inside Buckingham Palace 10:00pm Secrets of the National Trust 11:00pm Cleopatra's Dangerous Liaisons 1:05am Secrets of the Egyptian Pyramids 2:00am Super Casino 	8:00pmScottish Football Round Up8:15pmFootball Gold8:30pmGillette Soccer Special 2016/1711:00pmLa Liga World11:30pmScottish Football Round Up11:45pmFootball Gold12:00amPremier League Review
WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH	6:15pmPointless7:00pmBBC News7:25pmRegional News8:00pmThe One Show9:00pmThe Sheriffs are Coming10:00pmThe Real Marigold Hotel11:00pmBBC News11:30pmRegional News11:40pmWeather11:45pmPeter Kay's Car Share12:15amA Question of Sport	7:00pmEggheads The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food8:00pmAntiques Road Trip9:00pmThe House That £100k Built10:00pmIncredible Medicine: Dr Weston's Casebook11:00pmMock the Week Newsnight12:10amWeather	9:00pmLittle Big Shots10:00pmBenidorm11:00pmThe Nightly Show11:30pmTV News at Ten and Weather12:15amUEFA Champions League Highlights1:40amJackpot2474:00amNightscreen	7:00pmThe Simpsons7:30pmHollyoaks8:00pmChannel 4 News8:55pmThe Political Slot9:00pmHidden Restaurants with Michel Roux Jr10:00pmThe Royal House of Windsor11:00pmThe Man on the Moor12:00am24 Hours in A and E Mutiny	7:00pmHome and Away7:30pm5 News8:00pmAncient Mysteries9:00pmGPs: Behind Closed Doors10:00pmNightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords11:00pmCan't Pay? We'll Take it Away!12:05amThe Nightmare Neighbour Next Door	4:00pm Spanish Football Gold 4:15pm Spanish Football Gold 4:30pm Football Gold 4:45pm Football Gold 5:00pm Premier League Review 6:00pm ATP Masters 1000- Indian Wells 7:00pm Live ATP Masters 1000-Indian Wells

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The pros and cons of Leapy

HI Leapy

Just got back to the UK after a couple of months in Denia. Always pleased to find a copy of *Euro Weekly*, with your lively column.

But Blair is too easy a target. The broader point is that lawyers ('proven lawyers' according to my Private Eye) are trained to take either side in any case - hence Blair could just as well have been a Tory. And the even broader point is that about 25 per cent of MPs making our laws are... lawyers.

Keep up the good work. *Rodrigo, UK*

HI Leapy

Your article in *EWN* today is ridiculous on a number of levels - but is actually dangerous in that it basically says everything I don't like or believe has to be 'fake news.' Controlling the media is where all dictators start eg 1930s Germany.

I don't know which media outlets you read from here but in the UK, the far right media is the dominant voice. So much so that the *Express* and *Mail* have been censured recently for their vitriolic hate speech, particularly regarding the EU and immigrants. As an immigrant yourself and presumably a happy EU resident of Spain - do you not see the total hypocrisy of your article?

In addition, your comment that 'immigrants rioting on the streets of Brussels, France, Sweden and Germany' - really? - you have just yourself at the very least embellished or at worst made up 'fake news.' If you like Trump and his twisted view of the world so much, maybe you should be an immigrant there... good luck with that!

For a more realistic view of life here in Spain, you should read your fellow columnist Nicole King this week.

Neil, UK resident and regular visitor to Costa Mijas

Malaga airport

I READ with interest Matthew Elliott's article in issue 1652 re the absurd arrangements now imposed by AENA on motorists dropping off or collecting passengers. AENA say it is to encourage people to use other drop off points, where would that be? In front of the San Miguel brewery!

People could get the train from Plaza Mayor I suppose but the reality is not everyone knows about this.

Let's put this into reality, a driver with an adult and two young children, prams etc needs to pull up in front of departures otherwise it becomes more time consuming and impractical.

I had to drop off family for a long distance flight the other day, we put the car in the express parking and in no time at all it cost us \in 5.70. That is an abuse and yet again another cost put on the traveller. Aren't we supposed to be encouraging people to come here?

Robert, Costa del Sol.

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

Chalk and cheese

NO-ONE can accuse the EWN of bias judging by the opposite opinions written by Messrs Senker and Lea. Total contrasting views on Trump's decision to ban

certain media from his White House press conferences. It's obvious which piece is correct

and which is indicative of a man who is infatuated by a billionaire who has conned so many gullible yanks and most of the British government including good old Boris (sorry can't call him anything else).

Mike wins this argument hands down. You can't just court publicity when it suits Mr Trump. Hitler started with the press, radio stations and the public burning of books. Not for a minute do I think Trump is that ex-



MEDIA BAN: Free speech is everything in my book.

treme, but free speech is everything in my book.

The paranoid Prez keeps droning on regarding lies, lies and more lies, yet he points to Sweden and the goings on there which the Swedish government immediately asked him to clarify, what goings on?? Where did Mr Trump's bombshell scoop originate? Fox News, allegedly. Classic.

Mike's bet regarding the timescale of his White House occupancy? Wouldn't touch it with a barge pole.

Philip, San Fulgencio

HAVE YOUR SAY

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.euroweeklynews.com

COMMENTS from EWN Online

»Heseltine and Brexit

SAYA SENDIRI was correct in saying that many UK nationals living in the EU did not have the right to vote in the referendum (was this democratic I ask). The May government seem to have totally forgotten us expats who are really living in limbo at this moment with respect to how we are to live and work.

I have to admit, I like the idea, but it seems just an idea, that UK citizens in the EU could be offered a form of EU passport but this seems a distant solution to the problem. I think it is time for UK expats to form an association to protect what rights we will have left by the time Brexit has happened.

With regards to the UK, why does this nation screw everything up for everybody in every way possible.

Ken in Austria

THIS idiot should shut up and leave May to do what she has to do. Britain will be far better off out of the 'Union,' and it's likely many other countries will follow. The European Union has turned out to be a disaster for all concerned. Hell, they even tell us what shape our bananas have to be.

Roy Peters

»EU citizen rights

THANK you John for bringing this news to the attention of the *EWN* readership so quickly. As always, you have written the article with great care and attention to detail, trying to sift through the claims and counter claims and get to the truth. Not an easy task these days.

I've been following the developments myself. I watched Amber Rudd with great concern on Robert Peston's programme on Sunday morning. If the apparent intentions of the UK government turn out to be true then we could be in deep trouble in a matter of weeks. Just imagine the reaction of EU governments like Spain's if their citizens are banned so soon from settling in the UK or restricted in terms of health care and welfare. While this may only apply to newcomers, at least initially, it could be regarded as provocation leading to disproportionate retaliation.

Tit for tat might not even begin to describe the possible outcome.

Brian Eagleson

»Malaga airport

ABSURD... If they organised sufficient short stay, drop off / pick up parking spaces at the design stage when building their fancy extensions - they'd not be bleating about overcrowding. They never seem to get it right from the start...

Dave

»Gay lights

A DISGUSTING waste of money! Surely the money paid out for this outrage could have been spent on something more useful. Whoever came up with this idea should be sacked. I am sick and tired of seeing these q....s forcing their way into everyone's lives. It's disgraceful.

Roy Peters

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sticks and giving the paid-up party

members - aptly named 'militants'

in Spanish - what they, but not necessarily PSOE voters want.

"Don't let's renounce Utopia. So-

cialism made the impossible possible," he urged at a recent meeting,

following the words of the nostalgia

Pablo Iglesias (no, not that one)

made Spanish socialism possible.

So did the people who lost their lives to it in the Thirties and still

believed in it during the Franco

Utopia is a posh word for cloudcuckoo-land or a fool's paradise,

both of them much-travelled by Pe-

songsheet.

years.

dro Sanchez.

Cassandra Nash

A weekly look - and not entirely impartial reaction to the Spanish political scene

JUNTS PEL SI isn't a political party but a cross-party alliance that backs Catalan independence. They took less than 40 per cent of the vote in the 2015 regional elections and needed the CUP anti-system party for an overall parliamentary majority.

Although the pro-independence faction won't take 'maybe' for an answer, the same four parties are studying ways of preventing the Tribunal Constitucional, Spain's highest court, from suspending their Disconnection Law before it can be passed.

They're thinking now of rushing it through the regional parliament with just one reading in one day.

The Junts pel Si politicians are clearly obsessed with the referendum and independence which well over half of Catalans do not want. Not unlike Brexit but the other way round.

Hair's breadth

PABLO IGLESIAS has succeeded

Only disconnect He is already campaigning out in the



in shunting Iñigo Errejon in a siding so he can go ahead with his own plans for Podemos without being challenged or questioned.

His latest partner Irene Montero is now beside Iglesias on the Front Bench, but spare a thought for his former girlfriend Tania Sanchez who perches up in the parliament chamber's gods.

Errejon meanwhile sits directly

behind Iglesias and Montero where he has a good view of Iglesias' ponytail which is longer and more lustrous than his girlfriend's. No Samson and Delilah situation there, then.

Get real

PEDRO SANCHEZ, former PSOE secretary general who led the party

to its worst-ever election results, is confident of making a comeback.

A cushy billet

FRANCISCO CORREA, responsible for the Gurtel corruption and kickbacks scandal, allegedly receives preferential treatment now that he is behind bars. The system is not impartial, complained the unions that represent warders and prison employees. They ain't seen nothing yet: just wait until Iñaki Urdangarin turns up.

Help support research into rare diseases

By John Smith

AS common diseases are brought under control around the world, so, the preponderance of the growing number of rare diseases becomes more obvious, but the 8,000 rare diseases that are said to exist cannot expect to raise huge amounts of funds for research.

Queen Leticia has helped to boost the campaign promoted under the heading 'Research is our hope' by meeting with sufferers, carers and researchers as it is estimated that nearly three million people in Spain are affected by some form of rare disease.

More than 300 patient groups belong to FEDER (The Spanish Association for Rare Diseases) and that group wants to stress the importance of research and believes that funds for such research should have priority in the national budget as more research into rare diseases will allow improvements in areas such as access to diagnosis, treatments and prevention.

'DEBRA, the Butterfly Children Charity' is actively participating in the campaign by sharing and promoting it on their social media networks and through their nine charity shops across Spain. In addition the Marbella Council has accepted an invitation to join the campaign meaning that they will replicate the claims in the local government meeting therefore officially acknowledging the demand for research into rare diseases in Spain.

The skin of butterfly children can be so sensitive that the body must be wrapped in gauze to protect it from the mildest friction. Even the brush of a bed sheet can cause a burn-like blister. Blistering also occurs internally (in the mouth, oesophagus, intestine, airways, urinary tracts and even the inside of the eyelids) leading to further suffering and serious health problems.

Butterfly skin also becomes a disability because people suffering from this condition require intensive daily care from their relatives.

They also tend to lose the use of their hands and feet due to the extent of the blistering and the retraction of the skin in these areas. Life expectancy is unfortunately short; hence the majority of its members are children.

To find out more and how you can help,visit http://www.pieldemari posa.es.



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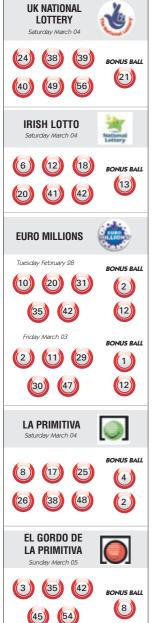
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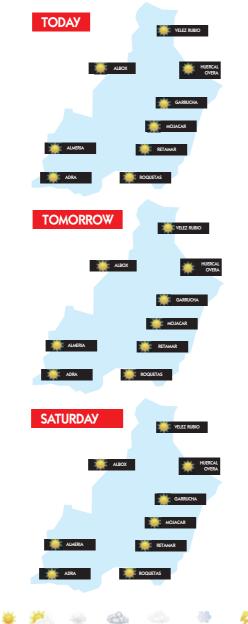
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Costa de Almería



F: Fog C: Cloudy Sh: Showers Sn: Snow Th: Thunder

S: Sun CI: Clear

weather

Alicante			Bilbao		
TODAY: MAX	23, Mi	v 14 - S	TODAY: MAX	23, Mit	19-S
Fri - 26	16	S	Fri - 27	12	S
Sat - 28	13	S	Sat - 16	8	С
Sun - 22	12	S	Sun - 16	8	Sh
Mon - 19	11	С	Mon - 14	6	Sh
Tues - 18	10	С	Tues - 15	6	Sh
Wed - 19	10	S	Wed - 15	6	Sh

Almeria			Madrid		
TODAY: MA	x 24, Mir	ı 15 - S	TODAY: MAX	24, M	in 6 - S
Fri - 26	15	S	Fri - 25	8	S
Sat - 26	16	S	Sat - 22	6	S
Sun - 25	14	S	Sun - 20	5	S
Mon - 22	12	S	Mon - 18	4	с
Tues - 20	12	S	Tues - 18	4	с
Wed - 21	12	S	Wed - 18	4	S

Barcelona			Malaga		
TODAY: MAX	18, Mit	√ 10 - S	TODAY: MAX	22, Mi	v 13 - S
Fri - 20	11	S	Fri - 24	14	S
Sat - 20	10	S	Sat - 27	14	S
Sun - 17	9	с	Sun - 23	12	S
Mon - 17	9	S	Mon - 21	11	С
Tues - 16	8	с	Tues - 20	10	Sh
Wed - 15	8	Sh	Wed - 20	10	S

Benidorm			Mallorca		
TODAY: MAX	23, Mit	√ 15 - S	TODAY: MAX	22, MI	n 9 - S
Fri - 26	16	S	Fri - 23	10	S
Sat - 26	13	S	Sat - 23	9	S
Sun - 20	11	S	Sun - 18	8	S
Mon - 18	10	Sh	Mon - 19	7	С
Tues - 17	10	S	Tues - 18	7	С
Wed - 18	10	S	Wed - 16	7	Sh

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

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 T) and there must be AT LEAST ONE NINE LETTER WORD. Plurals, vulgarities or proper nouns are not allowed.



TARGET: • Average: 11 • Good: 15 • Very good: 21 • Excellent: 27

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

amen emit game glam item lame lime limn mage magi mail main male malt mane mate meal mean meat mega melt mien mile milt mine mint mite name tame team time ament amine anime gamin gimel gleam image leman limen mange matin meant metal enigma gamine gimlet inmate lament laming legman lingam magnet malign mangel mangle mantel mantle mating menial mental meting milage mingle naming taming ailment aliment lineman malting meaning melanin melting mintage teaming ligament mantling metaling ALIGNMENT LAMENTING





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9 - 15 March 2017 / Costa de Almería EWN 47

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Crossword

page

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

Quick

Cryptic

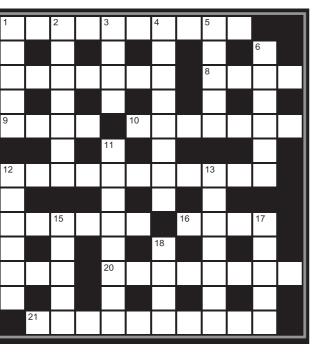
Across

- 1 Let men test brew for payment (10)
- 7 Hearing it's contagious (8) 8 Busy worker has royal brew (4)
- 9 Draws neckwear (4)
- 10 Left European peninsula for a West African country (7)
- 12 Solid cable peters out (11)
- 14 Barrier is old and broken (7)
- 16 Reserve small lake (4) 19 A politician to the right of
- Conservative Party (4)
- 20 Artisans replaced Russian royals (8)
- 21 Nurses taking in ocean birds in pain (10)

Down

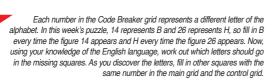
- 1 One receptacle in the middle of the street is insufficient (5) 2 They admit they are often
- punched (7) 3 Hide in Royal Air Force base (4) 4 Get a trim design for a surrealist
- (8) 5 Jack and the French aristocrat (5)
- 6 Judge finds detectives taken in by flower (6) 11 Found out that Ted and Ed etc were involved (8) 12 Build a range for old US president (6)

19

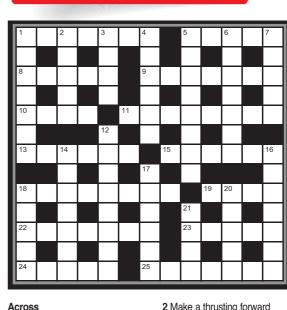


13 Newly-wed swallows order of salt (7) 15 The contents of stamp letters is enough (5) 17 Fresh pleas for springs (5) 18 Just fine! (4)

Code Breaker



17	18	25	23	9	22	16	6	20		19	13	20	7	6
5		6		20		18		6		6		26 	-	21
3	13	17	2	7	13	15		25	18	20	8	18	20	6
25		15		26		5		16		9		14 E	3	7
13	7	6	8	2	7		3	6	20	7	26	13	25	8
1		7		16		13		11		2		20		
2	25	8	9		2	25	6	12	2	8	13	14	15	6
18				16		8		9		5				4
3	5	1	8	6	20	2	9	18	1		21	18	3	23
		8		7		10		1		14		24		6
1	23	13	7	2	9	18	1		12	13	15	18	6	16
22		3		1		13		14		25		15		2
6	15	2	8	2	1	8		6	4	8	20	6	3	6
6		25		12		6		13		6		15		25
23	6	13	7	6		16	6	8	6	20	20	6	25	8
				-		_								
1	2	3	4	4	5	6	7	8	9	10)	11	12	13
¹⁴ В	15	16	ŕ	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	3	24	25	²⁶ H



Across 1 Large flatfish (7)

- 5 Tubers (5)
- 8 Australian wild dog (5) 9 Stop holding on to (7)
- 10 See 3 Down
- 11 Holiday (8)
- 13 Not open or public (6)
- 15 Health-care centre (6)
- 18 Buttoned sweater (8) 19 Two items of the same kind (4)
- 22 Small, egg-shaped wind instrument (7)
- 23 Exhibition of cowboy skills (5) 24 From that time (5)
- 25 City's outskirts (7)

Down 1 Grotesque (7)

1 Bitter (in taste) (6)

10 Faro (automóvil) (9)

15 Buttonhole (of garment) (4)

13 Nail (metal) (5)

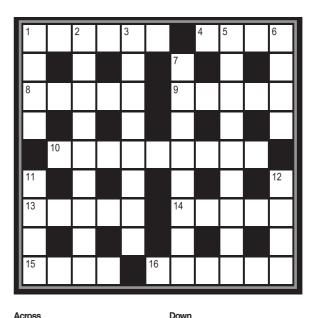
14 Nickname (5)

16 Sawdust (6)

4 Tricotar (4) 8 Spider (5) 9 Switzerland (5)

English - Spanish

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



Down 1 To love (4) 2 Housewife (3,2,4) 3 Nieto (8) 5 Vecino (9) 6 Equipo (deporte) (4) 7 Presupuesto (para obra, encargo, etc) 11 Eight (4) 12 Población (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC

Across:

1 Artists, 5 Asses, 8 Prose, 9 Related, 10 Amen, 11 Dominoes, 13 Sorrel, 15 Chance, 18 Cast-iron, 19 Gang, 22 Realist, 23 Crown, 24 Elton, 25 Redress.

Down:

1 Appears, 2 Trove, 3 Stet, 4 Sermon, 5 All right, 6 Set down, 7 Sides, 12 Decision, 14 Restart, 16 Engines, 17 Boater, 18 Carve, 20 Alone, 21 Acid.

QUICK

Across:

1 Humerus, 5 Cross, 8 Realm, 9 Initial, 10 Lasting, 11 Stole, 12 Amuse, 14 Plush, 19 Slack, 21 Blooper, 23 Erudite, 24 Awake, 25 Siege, 26 Tedious.

1 Hurdle, 2 Moans, 3 Remains, 4 Stingy, 5 Chips, 6 Ominous, 7 Silver, 13 Measure, 15 Leopard, 16 Assess, 17 Absent, 18 Greets, 20 Knife, 22 Piano,

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

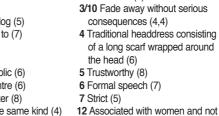
1 Ansia, 4 Arcos, 7/5 Egg cup, 8 Avispón, 9 Iron, 10 East, 14 Abogado, 16 Oro, 17 Shape, 18 Traje.

Down:

1 Americans, 2 Siglo, 3 Abad, 4 Apio, 6 Sunstroke, 11 Ahora, 12 Cafe, 13 Foot, 15 Oca.

CODE BREAKER

γ^{13}	26 N
12 W	²⁵ R
11 	²⁴ F
$^{10}_{M}$	23 X
9 T	$^{22}_{A}$
Ъ	21 O
ر ا	K^{20}
е 6	19 U
5 L	0 ¹⁸
4 G	¹⁷ H
3	16
² Z	15 S
⁻ 0	B^{14}



movement (5)

with men (8)

17 Pester (6)

16 Anxious to learn (7)

18 Meet at a point (5) 20 Viper (5)

21 Marine crustacean (4)







Oh how I am smiling this week



IT'S Sunday morning and I've just come back from a nice walk down the paseo with Mrs S and our dog whose name happens to be What What. I know it's a nutty name but he was a rescue dog and that was his name when we got him and as he was chipped and registered we kept it.

Anyway, on my walk I noticed the grua were just about to tow away a big Audi on Belgian number plates because it was parked in a disabled parking bay. So, to be honest, I've had a pretty good morning as nothing makes me happier than to see those selfish bar stewards that park in disabled bays get their comeuppance. I can just picture his face that was so smug when he parked there, not giving a toss about the fact it was a disabled bay and he was only going to be 'a minute.' Now he's standing there staring at this place where he thought he left his car, then pacing up and down because his pea size brain is now trying to remember if it was here he parked or not. Then he will realise it was and he has been towed away ... oh how I am smiling as I type this.

I've read this week that Malaga airport is

doing away with their free drop off point at departures. This, along with having to pay for parking at hospitals, is a diabolical liberty. For as many years as I can remember I have never seen a real problem at the airport. It's pretty free flowing most of the year.

Obviously late July and August it's crazy busy but even then I've never had a problem dropping off or even picking up. I'm not sure how it's going to work yet but I can't see the Spanish just accepting this, up to now free service, becoming a pay to drop off. One of the big problems is going to be that you get 15 minutes free then one second over and you have to pay.

I think this is going to cause more problems than they bargained for. I am not sure how it is going to work for disabled people that can't park and get bags and wheelchairs out in 15 minutes. Will there be wardens walking up and down or will it be a CCTV operation? If it is there are going to be murders with the rental car companies because if someone drops off someone and doesn't pay, the hire company will get charged.

They in turn will then have to charge their customer's credit card and, of course, there will be a service charge for that. Hertz charge 50 quid! I will keep you informed as I'm off to the airport on Wednesday after my 2.30pm afternoon appearance on the Selina McKenzie show on Talk Radio Europe.

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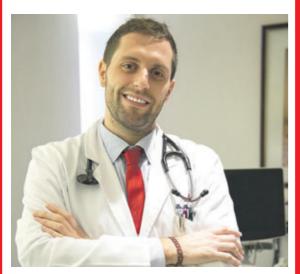
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Ask The

Doctor HELICOPTEROS

Dealing with high levels of cholesterol



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

CHOLESTEROL is a word just about everybody has heard of but many people are unaware of what it really is, so this week we've asked the doctor to explain a little.

- What exactly does it mean to have high cholesterol?

If after a blood test you are told that you have high cholesterol, this means that the total cholesterol levels, and in particular the LDL (or socalled 'bad' cholesterol) levels in your blood are higher than they should be.

Although the maximum amount considered normal will vary depending on other medical conditions a patient may have, generally anything over 200 is considered to be high.

However, this is not an exact figure as it depends more on how much of the cholesterol is of the socalled 'bad' variety

- What are the main causes?

The main cause of high cholesterol is genetic. If you have family members with high cholesterol levels you

are likely to inherit this condition. An unhealthy diet, rich in fat, and a lack of regular daily physical exercise are other things which can bring cholesterol levels up. - Is it dangerous?

Yes, it is, as it can be a cardiovascular risk factor and can increase your chances of suffering heart attacks or strokes.

- What can be done to bring it down?

The first thing is to follow a balanced, low-fat diet and get regular physical exercise. If this fails to get the problem under control then medication, known as statins, will be necessary.

- Will I have to be on a diet the rest of my life to keep it down?

Yes. You will always have to stick to a balanced diet, especially as you get older as cholesterol levels tend to increase with age.

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

Simple tricks to avoid snacking

STILL struggling to fight those naughty little food cravings? Try these tips from a leading neuroscientist.

Pre-meal snack

Try eating a healthy snack 20-30 minutes before you go food shopping or pop out for lunch. You will be able to show much more control when selecting your food and ultimately make healthier choices as you won't have that intense feeling of hunger.

What we see is what we eat

Try changing your crockery and buy plates and bowls with smaller surfaces to help enforce portion control.

Predict the labels

Test how close your perceptions are to reality by guessing the fat, sugar or carbohydrate content in different foods and then retrain your brain by checking the

Choose the right pillow for you

A BAD night's sleep can impact on your physical and psychological well-being, with a good rest essential to health.

The pillows you use are often overlooked but can be essential to helping you get a good night's sleep.

The General Council of physiotherapist's schools of Spain (CGCFE) emphasises that the choice of the pillow should be adapted to the morphology of each individual in order to achieve better sleep and avoid potential injury as you sleep.

President of CGCFE, Miguel Villafaina, recognises that most often people spend more time choosing their mattress but the pillow is just as important: "The right pillow can help improve posture of the head, spine and shoulders and help prevent iniurv."

label. Over time, your perceptions will be much closer to reality.

Remove temptation

If you cannot move away from food entirely, you can use your imagination to distract yourself by pretending it is made out of an inedible, perhaps even disgusting substance.

Do exercise

Exercising can produce the same feel good chemicals that we receive when we eat comfort food so try exercising for just 15 minutes a day to get that same boost without reaching for the chocolate.

Stop eating sooner

It can take up to 30 minutes after eating for our body to finish processing the food and leave us feeling full, so don't carry on eating until you have that instant full feeling as you will have over eaten.



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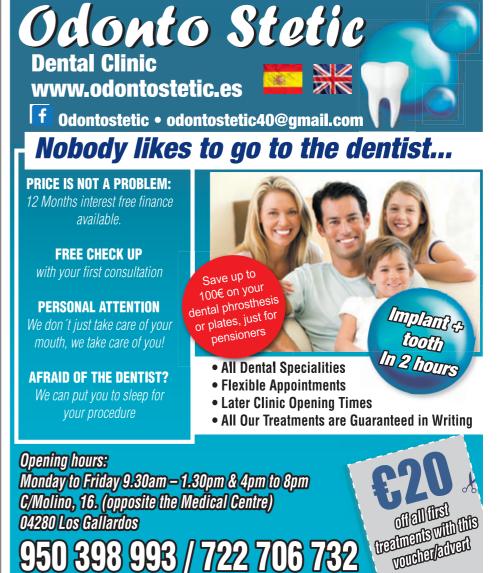
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9 - 15 March 2017 TO READ MORE



With a different view

By Eleanor Hawkins

THE management of Almeria's Alcazaba has organised an evening photographic visit to the monument for April 1 for 50 adults.

The idea behind the event, explained director Arturo del Pino, is to provide access to the fortress to active social media users who will later post their pictures on Twitter and Instagram.

Those interested in attending are invited to email an application to alcaz abaalmeria.ccul@juntadeandalucia.es, stating their name and surname, age, phone number, address, nationality and user or profile name on Twitter or Instagram.

The usual areas of the monument will be open to the 50 photographers from 7.30-9.45pm on the night, and 10 reserves will also be named in case any of

the chosen few fail to turn up, the organisers explained.

Conditions are that participants later post at least one of their photos on social media, tagging @AlcazabaAlmeria and using the hashtag #QuedadaAlcaza ba. While the photographers will retain the copyright for their images, the monument management will have the right to share them on social media with credit to the author.

Walk and win

ALMERIA Provincial Council's Rutas y Senderos (Paths and Tracks) programme is not only a great way to get some exercise and discover more of the province, members can also win prizes!

Altogether this year there are 81 proposals for hikes included in the programme, which was created some time ago by the provincial council to promote healthy exercise. It has gained increased popularity over the last three years and in 2016, 5,500 people took part in organised hikes.

This year, those under 18 who have their parents' permission will not have to pay a

membership fee and the organisers have also launched a smartphone application, Senderos de Almeria, which includes details of about 60 hikes in the province.

A new challenge has also been added, the GR-140 route which runs along 176 kilometres from Sierra Nevada Natural Park to Cabo de Gata-Nijar. The route can be done individually in 10 stages and those who walk the whole way will receive special recognition.

Members have special 'passports' and win prizes as they accumulate kilometres to encourage them to walk even further. Most hikes cost €5.

Now party for longer

ALMERIA City Council has approved a proposed measure to extend the annual fair as of this summer. In keeping with tradition, the fair will go back to starting on the Friday to allow people to party all weekend. While all political groups agreed to the proposal, the opposition was quick to point out that the PP council was merely correcting its own mistake in shortening the fair in the first place.



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WOMEN'S MEET: To include talks, food and music.

Celebrating all women

HUERCAL-OVERA has prepared various events and activities this week to honour International Women's Day.

Mayor Domingo Fernandez and Equality councillor Belen Martinez explained that one of the main new activities this year is a musical, Mi Tiempo, Mi Historia, Mi Vida (my time, my story, my life) which 130 local women of all ages are taking part in.

With performances on Thursday March 9 and Friday March 10, the show aims to give insight into the lives of women of all ages and is organised by Alarte Creative Group.

Another new addition to the schedule is a women's meet at Adolfo Suarez public park on Sunday March 12, which will include talks, a physical activity work-shop, food and music.

Hotel La Resistance

SHOESTRING PRODUC-TIONS brings you Hotel La Resistance, a farcical comedy created and written by local resident James Dale-Grey.

Jim is acting as both producer and director of the play which will be performed in a theatre/supper environment at the bar/restaurant Mont Martre located on Mojacar Playa from Thursday March 30 until Sunday April 2 at 7.30pm.

Jim is nearly 82 and full of energy and enthusiasm. He retired to Mojacar with his wife Annabelle, now of 56 years standing, almost 14 years ago. They were drawn there by an advertisement in a Sunday supplement that they happened to be reading on a cold, wet British November day and have never looked back.

Jim comes from a family of drapers but decided that it was not for him and so branched out into printing, eventually owning his own company and employing more than 20 people. A self-made man, originally from Yorkshire, Jim encompasses everything that is the quintessential English man from a bygone era.

Jim's interest in the theatre was ignited when his then 11year-old son came home to announce that he wanted to be an actor. Jim and Annabelle did all they could to support him and with obvious success as their son, now aged 52, is a Professor of Music and Drama and lives and works in Singapore. Annabelle also took part in many productions in the UK, even appearing with her own mother.

Sitting in the Mont

Marte bar one evening chatting to French husband and wife team, Mehdi and Michele, who have run the restaurant for some three years, a germ of an idea was planted, suggested by the colourful characters that frequent the bar. Mehdi has a wonderful sense of humour and encouraged Jim in his endeavours. And so Jim set about writing his Hotel La Resistance play. It pays

homage to the highly successful 'Allo 'Allo series at a time when the leading light Gordon Kaye r e c e n t l y

passed away

His aim is to spread happiness and laughter and if the rehearsals are anything to go by he is certainly succeeding. He hopes that the audience will join in the fun. Any profit from the event will be donated to PAWS-PATAS charity.

Ticket price will include food and refreshment and are available from PC Playa in Mojacar, Connextions in Turre and the Mont Marte Restaurant. For further information please email chrissie 3@hotmail.co.uk.

JAME DALE-GREY: Producer and director.

Line-up gets even longer

FIVE new names have been added to the line-up for this year's Dreambeach Villaricos music festival, the organisers have announced.

The already star-studded list of performers for this fifth edition of the festival has been extended to include Brennan Heart, Hot Since 82, Delta Heavy, Rezz and Sur-geon & Lady Starlight (live). The Dutch, British and Canadian DJs and artists are likely to be joined by even more names this month as the organisers have said there are more names to be announced.

Running from August 10-15, the festival is expected to attract thousands of music fans to the beachside location in Villaricos.

For more information see *www.dreambeach.es*.



Bar & Restaurant



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CROSS-COUNTRY: Almost 1,000 walkers and runners gathered for the ninth edition of the race.

Over the hills they go

By Eleanor Hawkins

ALMOST 1,000 walkers and runners gathered at the weekend for the ninth edition of the Trail Cabo de Gata-Nijar cross-country race.

Organised by Nijar Council and Club Aqueatacamos, the race was Andalucia's first to be held every year within a Natural Park and gathers more fans every year.

The walkers were the first to set out on the 29 kilometre route from Rodalquilar to San Jose at 8.30am and were followed later in the day by the runners. Winners in the men's category were Zouhari El Janati, with a time of one hour, 55 minutes and 24 seconds, followed by Rodrigo



NATURAL PARK: The race gathers more fans every year.

Borrego and Daniel Moreno, while the first woman across the post was Mariola Verdejo in two hours, 28 minutes and 23 seconds, followed by Marta Lozano and Dori Garcia.

As was the case last year, there was also a mini-race for children, the four-kilometre long Trail Kids, which set off from Pozo de los Frailes and ended in San Jose.

Sports councillor Sergio Vicence said: "the Trail has become a provincial event and an unavoidable date on the sports calendar, especially for people who want to experience racing in a Natural Park. This year the Trail was a success, with full participation."





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CARNIVAL GROUP: All dressed up as fruit and veg.

Party time in Nijar

A LARGE group of Nijar's senior residents attended a carnival party last week at the town's Seniors' Active Participation Centre, accompanied by Social Welfare councillor Victoria Calatrava.

The event started at 2pm with a meal, followed by an afternoon of dancing to the music of Estella del Sur group. At 5.30pm there was a surprise appearance of Nunca Estamos Todas carnival group, all dressed up as fruit and veg. The group performed two comedy numbers, one related to healthy diets and disappearing fruit crops in Almeria.

Sell-by dates - a necessity or a con?

GOOD FOOD, GOOD WINE AND GOOD FRIENDS WITH GARRY WAITE

OR YEARS now, discussion has raged as to the amount of food wastage incurred domestically, as well as in our industry, although not so much as the former. The millions of tons representing 12bn pounds per year wasted have a lot to do with sell by/use by/best before dates. I notice the UK milk marketing board has challenged the government's date policy saying that no one need a use by date as it's pretty obvious when you can no longer use/drink milk!!

This is not new, in 2011 the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) said that sell by and display until dates would be replaced with 'use by' and 'best before' dates.

Dates that I do think are useful are packaging and display until/best before dates. For instance if in a supermarket a packet of fish states it was 'packed' say on 6/4 and the 'display until date' says the 8/4 that makes sense. The buyer can then decide if they are going to consume it before say the weekend (in this case 11/4) or whether to freeze it down for later use - or give it to the cat!!

One good thing about sell by dates is that shops tend to put those items that are 'out-of-date' as 'bargain buys.' I know people who will not purchase anything past its 'sell by /consume before' dates. But astute shoppers can save quite a lot of money.

In my, not so, humble opinion the information that would be more help-

ful to the buyer, the supplier and would save tons of wastage are the following: **FISH:** Caught/farmed date -

packed on date - display until date MEAT : Slaughter date - packed on

date - consume preferably by date DAIRY/VEGETABLES ETC. Best before date



MILK: That's my style of labelling!

There is a huge difference between the labelling used - and used intelligently could benefit all parties. You pays your money.....!

With frozen/jarred and tinned products that technically will not go passed their best if kept in their original state the date of packaging is the only guide that the buyer needs. We have all heard stories about canned food from the war days still being opened to be found in edible condition. I opened a tin of water chestnuts the other day that I have had in my cupboard for more than 10 years. The only reason I knew how old it was, was because of the 'sell by date'. Totally unnecessary, they were perfect!!

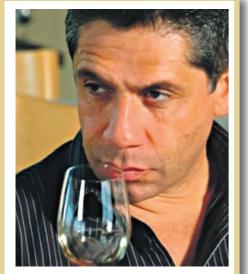
Most people know that a good quality piece of meat needs to hang for a couple of weeks minimum before eating. Many years ago I met a meat buyNo matter where I serve my guests they seem to like my kitchen best. (in my Nan's kitchen growing up)

er for Marks and Spencer. He had to get up at three in the morning to get to the meat market as he had to buy the finest quality of meat available. Nothing strange about that, but he had also to make sure it was bright red, as, if it showed any brown/greenish tinges and dark yellow fat (the signs of good aging) their customers would not buy it!

That meat should carry a label, **BEST IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS!!**



CHEESE: The other extreme?



PANCHO CAMPO: Doing what he does best.

MY FRIEND AND WINE AFICIONADO Pancho Campo is holding one of his amazing Spanish Wine Experience courses at the American College on the road to Istan, Marbella.

This two-day course is full of educational instruction but also, in Pancho's inimitable style, fun and friendship. Meet other likeminded enthusiasts as you work your way through a cata (tasting) of 20 wines and a visit to a winery in Ronda.

Pancho takes the snobbery out of wines and despite being Spain's first Master of Wine ensures that you learn and appreciate wine in laymen terms. You will even receive a diploma for attending - great to impress your friends!!!

The courses are on March 20 and 27 and May 22 and 29.

If you would like to find out more about this very inexpensive fun and informative event you can contact Patricia on *market ing@acmarbella.es*. Mention me and who knows you might get a special offer. MANY READERS ARE SURE to remember one of the UK's most respected journalists and TV anchor man Bob Friend who from the first broadcast of Sky News in 1989 became the 'Face of Sky News.'

I was going through some old photos the other day and came across a few pictures of us having dinner in Marbella and reflected that he died of a brain tumour more than eight years ago at the young age of 70. He was a great practical joker with a wicked sense of humour.

He told me many stories of his more than 50 years in journalism, many self mocking. Once he had to report the death of a relevantly unknown African figure with an unpronounceable name and despite practising the delivery many times before going on air he just couldn't get the name right, so with his friend and fellow presenter, Lisa Azziz at his side (also with a sense of humour) he began to report on the sudden death of an 'important figure in Africa whose name has not been released until his family have been informed.' Classic!!!

One day he was reporting on the fact that hedgehogs were fast disappearing from Britain's countryside. The reason apparently being that the 'Travellers' were eating them. So he invited viewers to send in the recipes for hedgehog!! Later that morning he phoned me and asked if I had heard the broadcast? 'Why don't you send me a recipe?' he asked. So. I did. Hedgehog, despite being a verminous creature, is quite edible and has a flavour of chicken. The way

MY FRIEND: Bob Friend, MBE.

they are cooked is by encasing them in clay and baking them in a form of underground fire (earth oven). When cooked one breaks the clay and the spines fall away leaving a cooked 'chicken'! I thought this was too tame for Bob so I sent him a mildly humorous version of hedgehog chasseur! Informing those preparing this dish to avoid those animals that had been run over by a car as they would not be suitable, skin the animal and keep the skin to use as scrubbing brushes etc. And then went into the recipe for the dish. I was running La Reserva de Marbella, Las Chapas, at the time and as the breakfast programme went out (repeating the item every hour for three hours) it had Lisa (once again) giggling at such a ridiculous article but Bob continued seriously.....

"the recipe for hedgehog has been sent in by Garry Waite, owner of Restaurante La Reserva de Marbella in Marbella.....

"For three days after the broadcast I was getting reservations for hedgehog dinner, a call and interview with BBC Radio Four Food Programme and a call from the *Telegraph* and *Sunday Times* magazine, as well as our own trade magazine the Caterer. The power of advertising?

I had forgotten how many laughs we had and what an amazingly generous man he was, both professionally and personally. Why do the best go first?

> TRAVELLER'S FRIEND: The hedgehog.

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.

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.

Victoria series 2 has cast Dame Diana Rigg as a bad-ass Duchess

Richard Shanley Dishing the Dirt



ITV period drama Victoria already boasts a pretty impressive cast, but has just upped it even more by adding Dame Diana Rigg for series two. She'll be a regular cast member and will play the Duchess of Buccleuch, the young Queen Victoria's new Mistress of the Robes, who is renowned for speaking her mind.

The BAFTA-winning actress currently plays Olenna Tyrell in Game of Thrones, another character who's not exactly shy with her opinions, so she should do fine in the new role. So what else do we know about the upcoming second series?

Well, it will pick up six weeks after the first ended and will see Queen Victoria face the new challenge of motherhood as well as the responsibilities of her 'job.' Series two will comprise eight episodes again, as well as an



DUCHESS OF BUCCLEUCH: Dame Diana Rigg will join the cast of Victoria.

epic two-hour Christmas special. Victoria returns to ITV in the UK later this year.

You have to go as far back as 1997 for the last time the United Kingdom won the Eurovision Song Contest. That's 20 years ago. Graham Norton, however, doesn't think our luck will change this year. The Eurovision commentator said that "anything can happen" on the night, but played down the UK representative Lucie Jones' chances, after suffering years and years of disappointment in the competition.

"I'm just not sure it will happen for us this year. I mean, I could be wrong as Germany have won, Austria have won. So I suppose people who never win, win," he said (via the *Daily Star*). "On the night, anything can happen. I'm just not sure it will for us, though." Lucie was voted by viewers as the UK's next big musical hope at this year's contest, and heads to Ukraine on May 13.

If you would like me to answer any questions you may have on satellite TV or to expand on anything I have written about please call me on 678 332 815 or email *richard@eu ropa-digital.com*. I look forward to your comments and questions.

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Council accused of wasting cash

By Eleanor Hawkins

RATES are going up in Sierro this year and, according to the opposition, it's all due to bad management on the part of the council.

While the opposition is always quick to blame the party in power for just about everything, this time the socialist PSOE group in the village has stated that the higher rates are a direct result of a €24,000 debt the PP



council has reported in the 2017 budgets.

The council, PSOE claimed, has been wasting money on work that wasn't necessary including $\in 80,000$ on renovating two squares which didn't need it and $\notin 48,000$ on replacing cement pillars at the theatre with metal ones.

OFFENDING OBJECTS: Council is accused of wasting money on pillars.

Joining forces against violence

OLULA DEL RIO was one of 25 Andalucian towns and villages to join the VioGen anti-gender violence system last week.

Mayor Antonio Martinez Pascual attended an act at the government headquarters in Andalucia, where the 25 mayors signed the agreement which will give their Local Police forces access to the system.

VioGen allows 290 Local Police forces in Spain to share information and resources regarding gender violence and provide women and their children with effective ways out of violent situations, general State Security secretary Jose Antonio Nieto explained.



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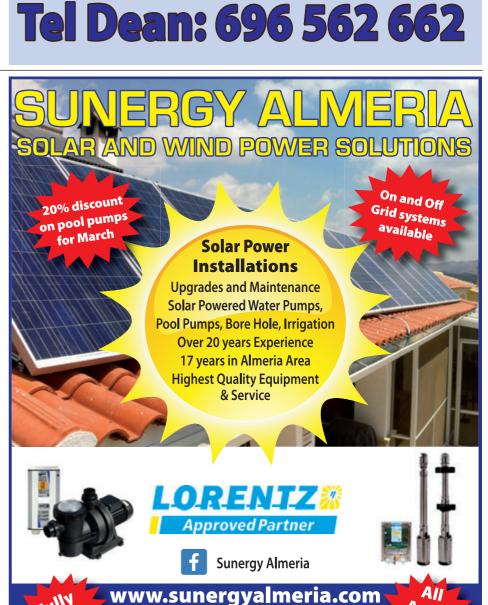
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Bigger and better

ONCE up and running, the new health centre in Arboleas will be 15 times the size of the current one and bring lots of new services to the area.

Regional Equality, Health and Social Policies delegate Jose Maria Martin has been on a visit to the village to see how work is progressing and gave some details on the new, $\in 1.3$ million medical facility.

Covering a total floor space of 1,507m2 (as opposed to 100m2 available at the current centre), the centre will include 14 consultation rooms, 12 for GPs, two for nurses and two

for paediatricians, plus a minor intervention area and a health education hall with changing rooms and storage areas.

Martin said: "the work is nearing completion so we hope to be able to start equipping the centre this year. The Junta de Andalucia regional government is also working to build new health centres in Antas and Olula del Rio and extend the ones in Garrucha and Macael. Over recent years we have spent more than €10.5 million on building or extending 12 health centres in Almeria Province."

New KA+

Subsidised transport system proposed

THE opposition has lodged a proposal for Albox Council to create a subsidised transport system for locals who have to regularly attend medical appointments.

The lack of public transport systems, Partido Popular spokesman Juan Pedro Perez Quiles said, leaves many people stuck for ways to get to the health centre or hospitals.

"There are many people who have to go to hospital in Huercal-Overa or Almeria each day and, especially for the elderly and dependant, means relatives or friends have to drive them. Getting to hospital often becomes a real problem for many locals," Perez explained.

A subsidised taxi service to medical facilities would make life much easier for many Albox residents, the spokesman stressed and could easily be managed by the social services department to determine who really needs it and to arrange the transport.

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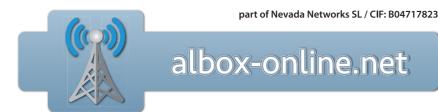
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THERE is mixed opinion in Bacares over who should have to pay a fine for using the wrong sort of fuel in official and municipal vehicles.

The row began when Mayor Jose Segura admitted at the February council plenary session that the Guardia Civil had issued the council a fine for using Diesel B (a sort of fuel with reduced taxes only permitted on certain types of engine) illegally in an official car.

The mayor claimed that he had no idea that it was illegal to use that type of fuel and laid the blame on the municipal worker he ordered to fill the tank with Diesel B. The fine, the mayor said, would be paid by the council.

This, however, has been strongly opposed by the Partido Popular opposition spokesman, Ricardo Pascual, who considered that the worker was merely following the mayor's orders and said the mayor should be held responsible for having broken the law just like everyone else whether or not he was aware that he was doing so.

Hash stash sniffed out

GUARDIA CIVIL officers arrested a 43-year-old man from Alicante after finding 1.2 kilos of hashish hidden in his car.

A patrol noted that the driver of a high end car was braking sharply and acting strangely and decided to pull him over, the police force reported.

A sniffer dog marked the area around the glove compartment and steering wheel and officers discovered that the key to open the compartment also unlocked a hidden panel by the speedometer. Inside there were 12.5 pastilles of hashish, the policemen reported.



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mortgage market



ONE of the under-appreciated reasons the Spanish property market is in such robust health is the complete overhauling of the mortgage sector in recent years. After all with millions out of work during the crisis, and controversy after controversy, something had to change.

By getting average citizens back on the property ladder, mortgages play a huge role in any economy. In the last five years in Spain four in five homes bought by residents had the help of mortgage financing.

Mortgage lending in Spain is among the cheapest in Europe. Residential mortgages see an average rate of interest at 1.26 per cent, just over half the European average of 2.49 per cent. In Germany and the Netherlands people pay three times the rate of their Spanish counterparts.

Spain can offer such tremendous credit conditions thanks to the legal guarantees that came into force after the crisis, showing that the country has truly learnt its lesson. Today there is a double guarantee, both personal and commercial, that enables banks and other emerging lenders to offer extremely cheap rates to their clients.

The solution appears to have been placing the business of mortgages into the private sector, allowing new and energised competition to the battered banks, while enhancing government regulation.

Mortgages in Spain are now vastly more secure propositions than in the past, or in the US for example. The industry is at an exciting juncture, confident and creative enough to move forward and embrace the future.



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New Spain, new |Is new better than second-hand?

MORE than half of the Brits buying new home have found huge problems with infrastructure and construction. The UK government is struggling to meet housing demand by building a million new homes but they are clearly of shoddy quality.

A survey from YouGov revealed that 51 per cent of new occupants endured problems ranging from unfinished fittings to severe electrical faults. The poll also found that a plurality of people believed that second-hand homes were better than new builds and would rather not take the risk of living in a new property.

One developer has already had to fork out almost €10 million in compensa-



NEW HOMES: Found to have problems with infrastructure and construction

tion for faults. Meanwhile housing charities have denounced the

government's building plans as skewed towards favouring developers earning a

profit, rather than struggling families getting a proper roof over their head.

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End to controversial tax

MORE than half a million home owners across Spain could be in for a cash windfall as an avalanche of regional judgements finally reached the Constitutional Court. At the end of February national judges put an end to the surplus value tax controversy, raising hopes among the estimated 550,000 sellers who lost out to the unconstitutional levy.

The surplus value tax is a financial obligation imposed on anyone selling their property in Spain to pay tax on the

'increased' value of the land. The bizarrely complex calculation means thousands of people have had to fork out thousands of euros even when they take a heavy hit on a sale.

Momentum began when an Andalucian court ruled that it was unfair to charge a Costa del Sol seller €5,000 in increased value tax when he sold a property he bought for €230,000 for just €70,000.

The latest decision from the Constitu-

tional Court helps bring the wildly varying situations across the Spanish regions under some kind of national control.

It also means that courts across the land can expect a tidal wave of surplus value tax cases concerning the 550,000 properties that have been unfairly charged. With taxes paid ranging from €1-10,000, the total payout is likely to be in the billions.

The decision also removes a valuable source of income for Spain's hundreds of

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Palm trees are ideal for a Mediterranean garden

By Graeme Tyrrell

A PALM tree has always been a must for the ideal landscape design in the Mediterranean garden. Palm lined strands, boulevards and well-placed palms around water features signal the relaxing atmosphere of enjoying hot days sitting by the pool or bathing in the sun.

HOMES R

Over the last 10-15 years, the palm tree has been in serious decline due to a ravenous red beetle or weevil (Rhynchophorus ferrugineus) that has decimated thousands of Canary Island palms in Spain and has also affected other palm species.

The outbreak of the weevil is not yet under control in most areas of Spain or other Mediterranean and Middle Eastern countries where palms are prevalent. Fortunately the Canary Islands have been successful in eradicating the weevil through strict monitoring, sanitation and treatment of their thousands of palm trees.

Early detection is obtained with a specific pheromone trap for the weevil and just one adult caught indicates action is required to protect the palms in the vicinity. An adult female weevil can lay around 200 eggs. New treatments to com-



PALM TREE: Is decimated by the red weevil.

bat the weevil are being developed to assist in the battle to save the palms, including chemical and biological agents.

The weevil is originally from Asia where it is a major pest of coconut palms. It appears that Canary Island palms are its favourite in Spain but it can also affect other palms such as the Sago, Date, Washington, Sugar, Betel nut and Toddy palms.

If you have a palm tree that is healthy, it is best to have it checked by a person trained in palm care. If you have a sick or dead palm then have it completely removed. Once a palm shows signs of drooping leaves

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and stunted growth it is usually too late to save it. It will be necessary to have it disposed of in accordance with regional authorities guidelines.

The insect is extremely thorough in its infestation of the palm with eggs in cracks and crevices, larvae tunnelling through the palm and pupae in the roots in the ground so it is extremely difficult to eliminate all stages of growth completely.

In order to eradicate the weevil all palms should be checked and treated appropriately as was done in the Canary Islands. Eradication will require good community cooperation if it is to succeed. How many palms

eg. 8500€

8m x 4m

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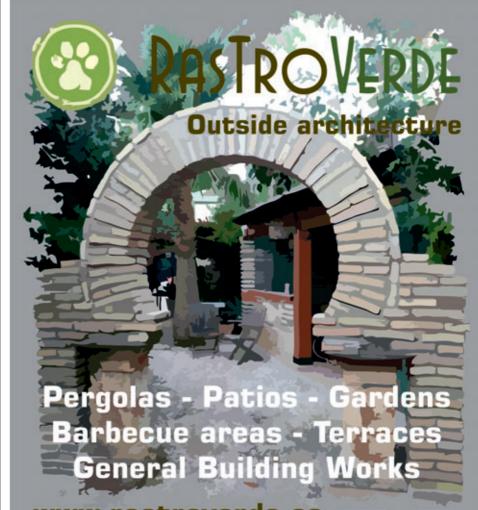
will remain in Spain before the weevil is stopped depends on the cooperation of everyone involved in landscapes containing palms and the preventative measures to protect the remaining healthy palms by responsible authorities and owners.



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PETS PAGE www.euroweeklynews.com

ALEX: Indulges his

love of dogs and

travel by housesitting.

Dating for dogs

FINDING a partner for your dog isn't always easy, especially if you're looking for a purebred or pedigreed suitor. This difficulty has led Eva Perez, a 25-year-old economist from Vigo in northern Spain, to develop an idea for a dating app for pets.

"I came up with the idea that there could be a sort of Tinder for pets," explained Perez, who developed her idea at an innovation and start-up workshop and is now seeking financing to

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carry out the technical side of the project.

The NetPet app, once up and running, will allow dog and cat

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owners to create a profile for their pets with a photo and description which other users will be able to examine. Once a user marks a profile they like, if the other side also likes theirs, a private chat will be made available and the two will be able to continue their relationship from there, Perez explained.

Basic membership will be free and at a later date premium options will be added such as pet food discounts and free consultations with collaborating shops and vet, a vaccination and events calendar.

Alex loves spaniels

UNABLE to have dogs at home because of family allergies, Alex has always volunteered to walk the neighbours' dogs and as he got older to housesit for them.

He has grown particularly fond of a couple of spaniels for whom he housesits each summer. Meet Holly and Daisy, a very friendly pair of Cocker Spaniels.

Now Alex is older he likes to travel when he housesits. His years of experience of dogsitting as a student comes in handy now he wants to see a little of the world.

Over the last two years he has also built a profile on HouseSitMatch and has started to collect homeowner references on his profile to tell future homeowners

about how he is respected as a housesitter. Alex is looking to travel across Europe on holiday, exchanging his services as a pet and housesitter. Do you need a house or petsitter? Get in touch. Housesitting can be a winwin for both parties, free house and petsitting. Register now with a 20 per cent off introductory offer using coupon code PERFECT20. www.HousesitMatch.com.

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For further information, photos and to arrange a viewing please contact Chris on: chrislloyd9@hotmail.com or her mobile: 00447956 671139

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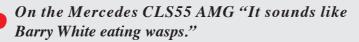
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Clarkson Quote of the Week



Used cars to beat Brexit blues

By Matthew Elliott

BEATING the Brexit blues, Britain's second-hand car industry skyrocketed in 2016 with more than eight million sales. Now figures allow us to find out which brands and models were the most popular.

Fifth spot was taken by the evergreen Volkswagen Golf which found 262,623 new driveways to occupy. That was handily outdone by the Vauxhall Astra in fourth which changed hands 298,540 times.

Third was the popular cheap and safe option, the Vauxhall Corsa, which was shifted

FIFSTA.

Rules the UK.

352,899 times. Ford dominated the top of the table, taking the first two places. The Focus was second placed with 374,590 sales, while Numero Uno was the Fiesta, just above at 381, 519.

Positions six to 10 were made up by the BMW 3 Series; Renault Clio; Volkswagen Polo; Mini and Peugot 206.



Motoring shorts Texting epidemic

MOTORING

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DRIVING while using a phone will soon become as unforgivable as drink driving according to the UK government. Tough new laws punishing phone offenders came into place on March 1.

New drivers, who have passed their test within two years, could have their licence revoked if caught using a phone just once. Six penalty points and a £200 fine will be imposed on anyone caught. Experienced drivers caught twice face disqualification and a £1,000 fine.

The use of mobile phones on British roads has been described as an epidemic. There were 22 deaths and 99 serious injuries as a direct consequence of phone use in 2016. Research has shown that drivers who text take twice as long to react as those who have drunk moderately.



MOTORING www.euroweeklynews.com

ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher ssan Navara double cab

ONCE, pick-up trucks were just pick-up trucks, rugged workhorses normally seen on building sites. But when double-cab versions began to be produced, the humble pick-up developed an exciting new life as a dual-purpose family vehicle.

These days pick-ups are produced by several manufacturers but few can match Nissan for pick-up experience: the company has been making them for more than 80 vears

Nissan's latest Navara underlines just how far the double cab pick-up has come: it has a stylish exterior, a luxury interior, high-spec standard equipment and the driving refinement of a family car.

It's not surprising really as most are bought by small businesses who also use them as family transport and thus require all the comfort and technology now common in most cars. Indeed, Nissan estimates 95 per cent of all Navara models will be double cab.

Navara prices start at €28,781 (£24,560) but the luxury versions cost more - my flagship Tekna all-wheel-drive with auto transmission cost €38.403 (£32,770). Standard kit includes 18-inch alloy wheels, roof rails, parking sensors, leather seats, four powered windows, airconditioning, hill-start assist, auto lights and wipers, limited slip differential, cruise control with speed limiter, radio/ CD/USB/AUX and Bluetooth, sat-nav and HD touchscreen.

Tekna models also come with 360-degree camera monitoring, meaning you can see all around the vehicle when manouevering

That all sounds like the spec of a premium model, and the similarity doesn't end there because on the tarmac, despite its large overall footprint, the Navara has much of the refinement and road man-

1 De

of ners а crossover

model. And in the cabin, the Tekna's leather seats and classy dashboard styling that makes you think you in in something quite superior.

With four doors, access to the rear seats is easy and there is plenty of head and legroom. The front seats are very comfortable and you get a commanding driving position. Underway the 2.3 litre diesel engine is remarkably smooth and quiet, and gives a nippy 0-100 kph time of 10.8 seconds. Top speed is 180 kph (112 mph) and the combined fuel figure is 14.5 kpl (41 mpg).

Ride quality is exceptionally good for this type of vehicle, thanks largely to independent multi-link rear suspension instead of traditional leaf-springs. The steering is well-weighted and responsive and the cornering composure very good, though obviously not quite up to car standards.

The open load bay (payload is 1,059 kg) is lined with a durable plastic and there is an optional hard top which offers greater security and works from the remote central locking system.

Wifi-enabled cars finally arrive

UNLIMITED wifi is coming soon to new cars. Fast and strong 4G internet is being built in to new vehicles produced by American behemoth General Motors. From March 3 drivers eyeing new rides at the other side of the pond have the tempting offer of in-vehicle 4G wifi for just \$20 (€19) per month.

Chevrolet, a General Motors brand, conducted research last year which found that its drivers and passengers used more than four million gigabytes of data in their cars. That amounts to almost 20 million hours of video.

Other General Motors brands include Buick and Cadillac, but the Americans are only jumping on a very busy bandwagon as firms across the world try to capture a new consumer imagination. Just as bars and cafes now need a wifi hotspot to compete on the modern high street, car manufacturers too

are catching up with demand. In-built wifi with affordable monthly contracts is still a unique selling point, with just a few million enabled

cars roaming American

roads In Europe the first forays into wifi-enabled cars are likely to come from a Ford-Vodafone partnership. A deal has already been announced to bring 4G hotspots into new Ford cars. The exact timetable and price expectations remain sketchy but up to 10 devices will be able to be connected at any one time.

That suggests the modern car will soon become a humdrum of online activity. How drivers will feel about transporting half a dozen netizens plugged into the iPhones, iPads, and iMacs, remains to he seen

Particularly frustrating when they face a hefty fine and penalty points for even making a call.

Economy: 14.4 kpl (41 mpg) • Emissions: 183g/km BEAUTIFUL, practical and nippy.

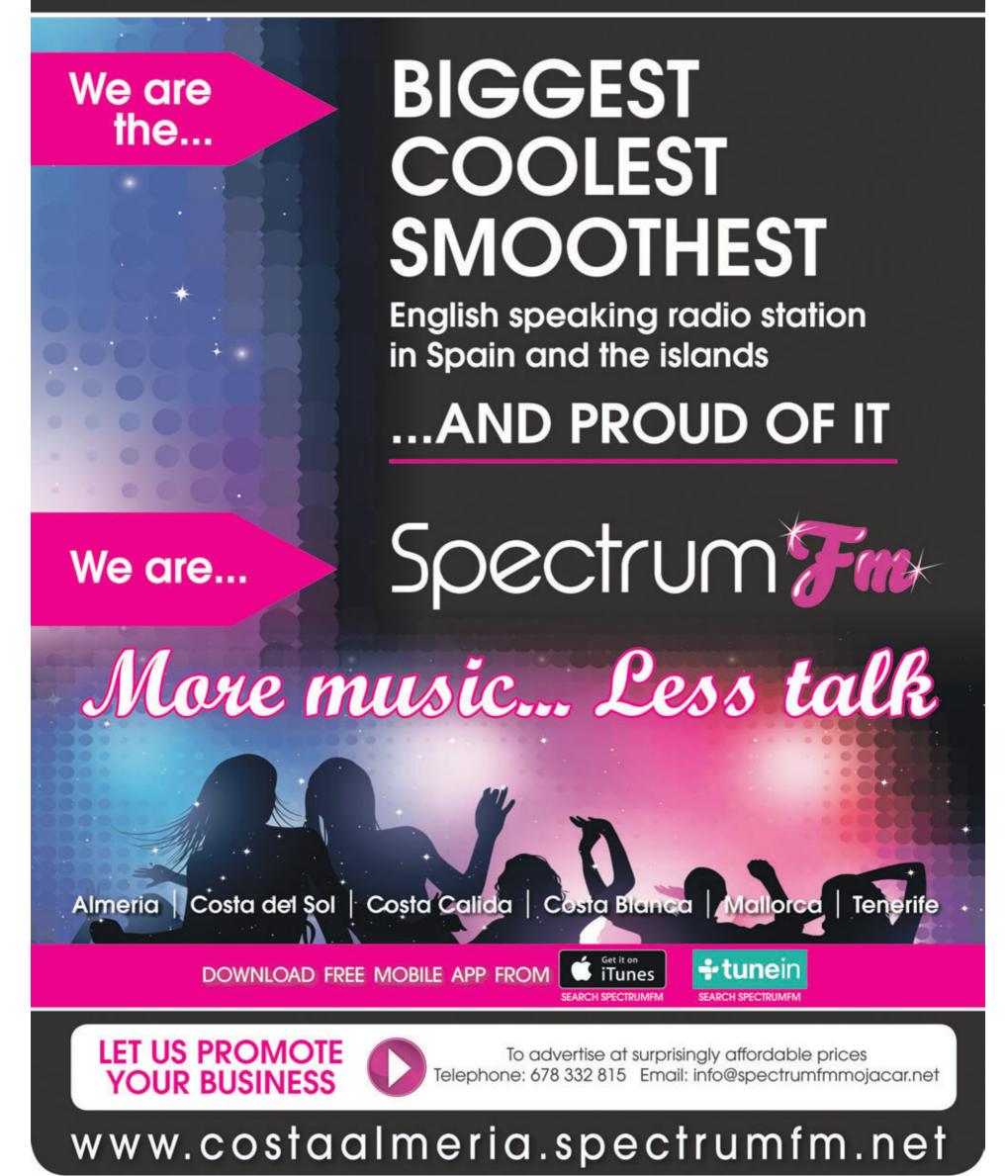
Stats panel: Model: Nissan Navara Tekna Double Cab Engine: 2.3 litre diesel • Transmission: 7-speed automatic Performance: 0-100 kph 10.8 seconds, top speed 180 kph (112 mph)

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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

WE'LL start with football, and there are four intriguing FA Cup quarter-finals coming up: 12-time winners Arsenal face minnows Lincoln City, leaders of the Vanarama National League, and Middlesbrough play Manchester City (five final victories to their credit) on Saturday; Spurs (eight triumphs) meet Millwall in the London derby on Sunday and Chelsea (seven wins) take on Manchester United (12 wins) on Monday.

Forty-eight hours ago (not as stated in last Thursday's *EWN*) we had the second legs of the

last

TONY BELLEW:

Stopped David Haye

in the 11th round.

16 Champions League ties between Arsenal (trailing 5-1) and Bayern Munich and Napoli (1-3 down) versus Real Madrid, followed last night by Barcelona (trailing 4-0) against Paris St Germain. This evening, Manchester United visit Rostov in Russia, and in Spain, Celta Vigo play Kransnador in the Europa League.

Tomorrow night, Brighton (second) play Derby County in the Championship, followed on Saturday by Brentford v Huddersfield Town (third), Leeds United v QPR and leaders Newcastle v Fulham.

There are also three Premiership games Saturday: on Bournemouth, on the back of an excellent 1-1 draw with 10 men at Manchester United, play West Ham; Everton meet WBA and Swansea visit Hull City in a six-point basement battle. Liverpool (recent 3-1 winners over Arsenal) play Burnley on Sunday.

In FL1, it's Fleetwood Town (second) against Bolton Wanderers and Gillingham versus Scunthorpe United while Doncaster Rovers (top) meet Cheltenham Town and

LAURA MUIR: Won gold at the European Indoor Championships. Plymouth Argyle (second) travel to Mansfield in FL2.

The big game north of the border features runaway SPL leaders Celtic against arch-rivals Rangers at Parkhead. Both of the Glasgow clubs reached the Scottish Cup semi-finals last weekend - Rangers hammered hapless Hamilton 6-0, Celtic beat St Mirren 4-1; Hibs defeated Ayr 3-1 and Aberdeen edged past Partick Thistle 1-0.

Moving onto Rugby – and the first of this weekend's Six Nations matches kicks off tomorrow when Wales play Ireland in Cardiff. Twenty-four hours later Italy meet France in Rome and unbeaten England take on Scotland in the Calcutta Cup encounter at Twickenham.

Switching to cricket... and England (with a century by captain Eoin Morgan) beat the West Indies by 45 runs in the first of three ODIs last Friday and followed up with a four wicket win (Joe Root 90 n.o.) in the second on Sunday.

BRITISH

The third takes place in Barbados today.

ROUND-UP:

• Last weekend Andy Murray beat Spain's Fernando Verdasco to win his first Dubai tennis Championship and Sam Querrey surprisingly defeated Rafael Nadal in the Mexico Open. Murray (number one) is now 2,000 points ahead of Novak Djokovic in the world rankings. Indian Wells is currently hosting the 2017 ATP/WTA tennis tournament.

• Tony Bellow (the reigning WBC cruiserweight champion) stopped an injured David Haye in the 11th round of a terrific, feisty heavyweight en-

counter

London's O2 Arena.

• GB's Laura Muir (1500m) and Richard Kilty (60m) won gold medals at the European Indoor Championships in Belgrade.

• The All-England badminton championships are currently taking place in Birmingham.

• England's women footballers beat world champions USA 1-0 with an Ellen White goal in a four-country tournament in America.

• Lionel Messi netted his 501st and 502nd goals in his 600th club appearance as Barcelona went top of La Liga with a 5-0 win over Celta Vigo. Real Madrid (second) won 4-1 at Eibar.

• Congratulations to Leicester who, since the sacking of manager Claudio Ranieri, have won two home PL games in a row under caretaker-boss Craig Shakespeare, both by 3-1, over Liverpool and Hull City.

• Some sad news... the former Scottish international left-back Tommy Gemmill – one of Celtic's 1967 'Lisbon Lions' when they became the first British team to win the European Cup – has died at the age of 73.

• And for horse racing enthusiasts, the Cheltenham Festival starts next Tuesday (March 14).

> ANDY MURRAY: Won his first Dubai tennis Championship.

DID YOU KNOW

THE names of 13 players who appeared for Madagascar against Tunisia in a FIFA World Cup qualifier in 2001 began with 'RA'... Raharison (goal); defenders Radafison (sub Ralahanjalhary), Rakotonbrade, Radonamaha and Ratsimihalona; midfielders Randriamarozaka, Randrianaivo, Randrianoelison, Razafindrakoto and Rasoanaivo and striker Railison (sub Randriananteneinal). Costa de Almería

TO READ MORE

Lionel Messi netted his 501st and 502nd goals in his 600th club appearance as Barcelona went top of La Liga with a 5-0 win over Celta Vigo.



Costa de Almería's best guide to local sport

19th Hole Golf Society at Lorca

ON Thursday March 2 the 19th Hole Golf Society travelled to Lorca to play a four ball Texas Scramble, a format very popular with the members.

With nine teams of almost perfectly combined balanced handicaps (thanks to the patience and skill of Mike Esposito, the competitions secretary) a close result was expected. But as always, in golf and elections, it is almost impossible to predict the outcome.

Team Mike and Karyn Esposito, Zeta Denyer and Paco Ocaña Grajal slaughtered the opposition taking just 52.2 strokes and scoring nine birdies with no bogeys on what was a demanding course. Good to see Alan Brigden collecting a Nearest the Pin back playing after a short break.

Result:

1st Mike and Karyn Esposit, Zeta Denyer and Paco Ocaña Grayal, nett 52.2. 2nd Ted Vietch, Geoff Smith, Christine Edwards and Brian Lowden, nett 58.8. 3rd Nigel Greenwood, Pete Dow, John Ball and Mike Palmer, nett 59.6.

Nearest the Pins: 4th Brian Lowden, 8th Alan Brigden, 12th Mike Palmer and 14th (in two) John Kennedy.

The 19th Hole Golf Society arranges weekly games around the area playing Aguilon every other week. For more information call 634 315 813 or email gs19thhole@hotmail.co.uk.

Basil Withers' Open Mixed Pairs event

ON March 4 and 5, Cabrera Lawn Bowls Club hosted the Basil Withers' Open Mixed Pairs competition.

All four clubs in the area were represented with 24 teams, slightly down on last year, but all teams that entered thoroughly enjoyed the weekend with maybe the exception of the weather conditions on the Saturday afternoon which made the bowling very testing.

The competition was played on a round robin basis with four groups of six teams. Each team played five matches over the weekend and the winners of each group played in the semi-finals with the winners of those matches playing in the final and the losers playing in a 3rd/4th place play-off.

Each match was over seven ends and played against a timer.

The winners of each group were Tony and Joan Wells from Cabrera LBC, Paul and Judy Abel also from Cabrera LBC, Reg Birmingham and Christine Parkinson from Almeria BC and Austin Crilly from Cabrera LBC with Sandra Brown from Almeria BC.



OVERALL WINNERS: Reg and Christine (centre) with runners-up Tony and Joan.

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The winners of the two semi-finals were Tony and Joan from Cabrera and Reg and Christine from ABC. The final was won by Reg and Christine, many congratulations. Third place went to Austin and Sandra who

done. Many thanks to all the organisers and spectators who made this event the great success it was.

beat Paul and Judy in the play-offs. Well



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