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ISSUE No. 1692 || 7 - 13 December 2017

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No Xmas cheer for job seekers

UNEMPLOYMENT figures in Malaga continue to grow for the fourth consecutive month.

The province currently has more than 158,330 job seekers, the second-most in Spain after the Balearic Islands. The number of unemployed people rose by 3 per cent in November with a further 4,566 out of work.

This increase, which is the largest in November since 2012, is being blamed on seasonal jobs made redundant after the summer season.

Baby killer jailed

A MOTHER has been jailed for five years after killing her baby in Malaga City.

The accused, who was 17 when she committed the crime, will serve a further three years' probation after leaving prison.

She was found guilty of hitting the child on the head and chest after giving birth in a public bathroom. The woman says she was unaware she was pregnant and fell after giving birth.

The girl was arrested after paramedics found the infant in a car.

Avocado theft fear

AVOCADO farmers across Axarquia are employing private security firms as prices rocket.

The fruit is currently selling above €2.50 per kilo on the wholesale market, sparking a raft of robberies.

And producers are now chipping in to pay for armed guards to patrol their properties after thousands of kilos were stolen.



Photo credit Google Maps

80-METRE DROP: The Nerja motorway bridge.

Life saver

Officer foils suicide bid

By Matt Ford

A police officer from Nerja has been hailed after preventing a suicide attempt.

It comes after the dramatic incident unfolded on the A-7 motorway bridge over the Chillar River, where a Guardia Civil patrol spotted a man standing on the outside of the crash barrier, dangerously close to the edge.

After parking on the hard shoulder, the two officers started a conversation with the 41-year-old, who was threatening to leap into the void.

Eventually, one of the pair was able to approach the panicked individual and chatted with him for over half an hour in an attempt to calm him down.

He said that he had serious money problems brought on by his gambling addiction, and that he intended to commit suicide by jumping off the 80-metre high bridge.

After moving within a metre of the man, the officer managed to grab and wrestle him to the ground.

The officer, who wishes to remain anonymous, said in the wake of the incident: "It

was extremely tense, really unpleasant, because he made his intentions very clear, and it was a miracle that he didn't drag me over the edge when I grabbed his arm."

A second traffic unit helped direct traffic throughout the rescue, and the man was taken

to a nearby medical centre for treatment after suffering a panic attack.

The incident is likely to spark renewed calls for improved security measures on Axarquia's motorway bridges following a spate of suicides in 2017.

Mayor denies collusion

NERJA'S mayor has sworn to a judge she knew nothing about the town's illegal landfill.

The investigation into the Rio de la Miel dump continues as Mayor Rosa Arrabal told a court in Torrox she had no knowledge of the site until August 31 2016, 16 days before it was shut down.

Nerja's councillor for the Environment, Jorge Bravo, also denied receiving any complaints about the dump.

The site, which is located in the National Park of Tejeda, Almirajara and Alhama, to the east of Nerja, was previously a municipal quarry but was used as a dumping ground for 16 years.

In October it was announced 34 people have been summoned to a Torrox court to be questioned after potentially toxic materials were found at the site.

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NEWS EXTRA**Safety first
at Xmas**

VELEZ-MALAGA Council is gearing up to increase security at this year's festive processions. The town hall has released guidance for residents and visitors to keep safe at the Reyes Magos.

Old clothes

TWENTY-TWO clothing recycling points have been installed in Rincon de la Victoria. Last year 31,300kg was collected through the containers provided by the Social Organisation of Humanitarian Action (OSAH).

Gold star

A NERJA policeman has been awarded the highest decoration by the Junta de Andalucía. Bernado Cortes was given the medal by the president of the Junta for saving a person's life in 2010.

Rajoy tells May: Brexit talks will begin soon

THE prime ministers of Britain and Spain have met in Downing Street for Brexit talks.

Theresa May and Mariano Rajoy discussed the next phase of negotiations during a lunch meeting on Tuesday, which also covered citizens' rights, Gibraltar and the Catalan referendum. Rajoy told May that he was "absolutely convinced" the next phase of Brexit talks would begin shortly, despite Monday's deadlock over the Irish border.

Writing in the *Guardian* ahead of the meeting, Rajoy said the two countries' histories were "inextricably intertwined, and will continue to be so."

He added: "Britain can count on Spain's loyal and sincere friendship."

May said: "I want to reiterate my support for Prime Minister Rajoy on Cataluña. It is important that the rule of law is upheld and that the Spanish constitution is respected."

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| SITTING COMFORTABLY: The two leaders in Downing Street.

during the Catalan referendum, Rajoy wrote that Brexit would not break the countries' 'friendship'. Though he emphasised the importance of trade between the two countries, he later tweeted that 'the main priority for Spain is and will continue to be the preservation of the rights and inter-

ests of citizens.'

His article did not mention Gibraltar, which has been a source of some tension between the two nations.

There were a number of demonstrations in Britain protesting against the Spanish government's conduct during the Catalan referendum.

€2.9

million was spent by Madrid's council on Christmas lights this year, €350,000 more than last year.

**Holiday
traffic
bedlam**

DRIVERS have been warned to take care as millions hit Spain's roads during this week's pair of national holidays.

Spain's traffic directorate DGT are preparing for an estimated 6.7 million vehicles to hit the roads over the five-day weekend and have warned drivers to exercise caution.

The most intense traffic is expected on the Costa Blanca, Costa del Sol and in central Spain.

Extra speed cameras and more patrols carrying out drug and alcohol tests on drivers will be deployed as well as a halt to all road works over the period.

Six thousand Guardia Civil officers will be operating on the roads over the holidays as well as 800 other emergency service members.

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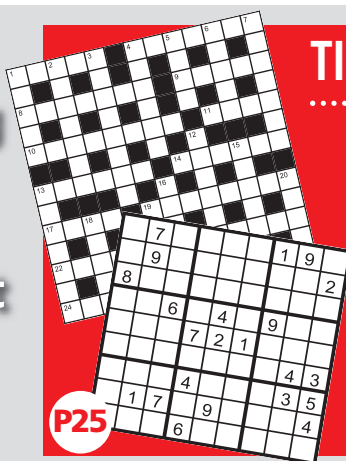
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**CELEB FOCUS**

Who is doing what and who with, often in front of the cameras!

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WEEKLY LEISURE INCLUDING PUZZLES, STARS AND MADDOCK'S VIEW ON LIFE

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All the latest news and advice on pets and petcare

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SPAIN, UK EUROPE & GLOBAL SPORT SCENE

**P47**

Shoppers to take a stroll

VELEZ-MALAGA Council has revealed plans to pedestrianise the town centre. Mayor Antonio Moreno Ferrer presented the project alongside municipal architect Bernado Pozuelo. Plans for the new town centre include excluding cars to stimulate the economy, create employment and promote commerce.

€35,000 scam

A 90-YEAR-OLD woman has fallen prey to a fake worker scam in Malaga City. Police are now trying to find a 'young man, between 25 and 30 years old, with short curly hair and a Spanish accent,' after he stole cash and jewellery while pretending to be an Endesa worker.

Car death

A WOMAN has died after being run over on Torrox Costa. The 70-year-old German national was hit on the N-340 coast road in the centre of the town. Despite the presence of health workers, members of the Guardia Civil and firefighters, the woman died of her injuries.

Train victims

FOUR people injured in a train crash are to sue. A firm of lawyers are now hoping other victims will join the suit after several of the 37 people harmed when a train derailed between Malaga and Sevilla are taking action against Train Infrastructure Administration (Adif).

Bomb threat

A MAN has been convicted after shouting about bombs in a Malaga court. The accused, who must now pay a fine of €240, after he visited a court to request information. Unhappy with the reply he received, he shouted about a bomb

SPANISH FACTS OF LIFE...40

Despite having the world's fourth most widely-spoken language as its native tongue, Spain is home to a mind-boggling array of communication systems, from the Gomeran Whistle to Chinese, writes Harrison Jones.

Real twisters for the tongue

SPAIN is a mixing pot of major languages, especially as European, Arabic and Asian residents settle in their own communities.

The country's history is littered with discarded sub-languages and the politics of retaining dialects that are spoken by so few people.

Today, virtually all native Spaniards speak Castilian, the language foreigners somewhat simplistically refer to as 'Spanish.'

Under General Franco's fascist dictatorship, regional variations were marginalised and even banned in public, reinforcing Castilian dominance.

Yet variations remain and are still so numerous that it becomes a challenge to even list them all.

The most famous is Catalan, which has seen a resurgence in interest since the controversial referendum on Catalan independence. Also referred to as 'Valencian' or 'Balearic,' it is spoken by around 17 per cent of the population.

Aranese, or 'Occitan,' is also co-official in Cataluña and can be heard in the north west of the region.

Basque, or 'Euskara,' is thought to

be the only non-Romance language in Spain, which classifies it as an official language alongside Galician, Catalan and Castilian.

There are complications with other minority languages, like Aragonese, Asturian and Leonese. These are all recognised - but unofficial - variations of Castilian, and thought to be seriously endangered.



CHEER OF UNITY: Nearly all Spaniards speak Castilian.

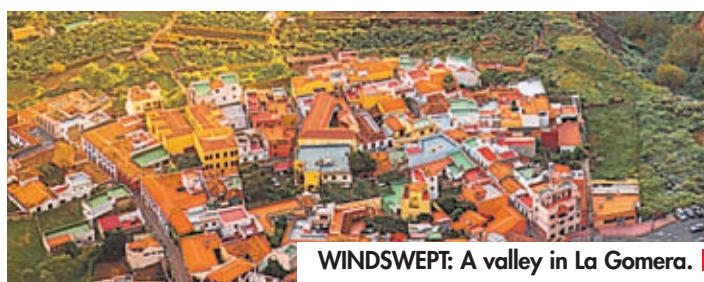
Go whistle

ONE of the quirkier languages is known as the Gomeran Whistle and practised by inhabitants of La Gomera in the Canary Islands.

As the name suggests, it is perhaps more song than language, but Unesco recognised the communication as the 'only whistled language in the world that is fully developed and practised by a large community.' As many as 22,000 people 'speak' it and schools teach how distinct whistles replace each Spanish consonant or vowel when communicating across wind-swept valleys.

The confusion does not stop there, though, as numerous dialects remain.

Andalucian and Canarian are common, though sub-vari-



WINDSWEEP: A valley in La Gomera. |

eties add to the difficulty of classification.

Amongst others, Fala, Cantabrian, Extremaduran, Eonavian and Ribagorça, Mirandese, Benasquese, Asturian and Leonese are believed to still be in use in continually shrinking numbers.

Aside from Basque, native Spanish tongues are all thought to be Indo-European in provenance.

There are even sign language dialects. The closely related Catalan and Valencian sign languages are remarkably different to the traditional Spanish version.

Minority sign language dialects are also still in use in the Canary Islands, Basque Country, Galicia and eastern Andalusia, but are much closer to the national version, which boasts an estimated 100,000 users.

before threatening an official.

€4.6m tax bill

TORROX has been ordered to pay millions of euros to a tax collector

fired by the council in 1989. Antonio Barragan, who is now 77, was initially awarded €1.2 million but has appealed the decision, increasing the amount to €4,590,068.

129

The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1691 of the Euro Weekly News Axarquía - Costa Tropical edition, including 40 local stories.

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Let it snow!

Spain shivers as artic air rolls in



WINTER WONDERLAND: A scene from the Pyrenees.

THE first flakes of winter have fallen across large swathes of Spain.

It comes after the mercury plunged below zero in the wake of an arctic cold snap gripping the country.

Amateur snappers flocked to social media to share photos of the wintry scenes, with

some stunning results.

The bitter conditions follow a mild autumn and one of the driest Novembers on record.

But the freezing weather is set to last, as a fresh cold front sweeps northern Spain over the weekend, with the icy blast to send temperatures plummeting for a second time.



GIBRALTAR: Flights to be trialled.

EWN online

this week

147,445 Page views

Top 5 stories

- 6,688** views Charter flights from UK airports to Gibraltar trialled next July
- 4,305** views 24-hour national taxi strike in Spain tomorrow
- 3,794** views easyJet flight from Spain to UK diverts due to 'disruptive' woman
- 3,762** views Weather warnings issued as parts of southern Spain go below zero
- 3,623** views Serious flooding in Andalucia forces train cancellations and school closures

27 November – 4 December

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FOR COMMENTS FROM EWN ONLINE TURN TO LETTERS PAGE

Poll of the week

Do you attend religious events over the Christmas period?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:
 With Black Friday out of the way, have you already finished your Christmas shopping?

Yes 20% No 80%

CORRECTIONS

At the EWN, we pride ourselves that reports are accurate and fair. If we do slip up, we promise to set the record straight in a clear, no-nonsense manner. To ask for an inaccuracy to be corrected. Email: editorial@euroweeklynnews.com


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Man dies trying to reach Spain

AN immigrant has drowned in the sea near Maro.

The man reportedly threw himself off the small boat holding 35 people as it approached the shore. The surviving passengers, including six women and a child, are being treated for hypothermia after being rescued by maritime services.

The incident occurred at around 5.30pm after the boat approached Spain having left Bouyafar in Morocco. An airplane was dispatched to rescue those on board after one man drowned near the three-and-a-half-metre boat.

The Guardia Civil tweeted: "Patera (small boat) missing since yesterday with 35 people (six women and one child) has reached land in Maro (Malaga). One of the adult males threw himself into the water before reaching the shore and has drowned. The rest are being treated for hypothermia."

Inheritance tax lowered

RINCON DE LA VICTORIA is lowering capital gains tax on inherited properties.

The council will foot up to 95 per cent of the tax bill for those inheriting property in the area after several political parties grouped together to approve the decision.

The governing coalition team, formed of the Partido Popular (PP) and Partido Andalucista (PA) joined forces with the Ciudadanos party to create the rebate. Several other councils including Nerja already have a similar scheme in place.

The town's mayor, Francisco Salado described the reform as "important," adding it was "doing justice for those families

that, through the death of a loved one, receive inherited property, and it is the council that should compensate this tax."

For properties valued at up to €50,000 85 per cent of capital gains tax will be subsidised by the council. The rebate reduces to 80 per cent for properties valued at between €50,000 and €70,000, to 75 per cent for those priced €75,000 to €120,000, and 50 per cent off the tax on homes priced over €120,000.

Property buyers will not have to be registered before the transfer is made. It is expected the rebates will cost Rincon de la Victoria Council around €400,000 a year.

SMART meters are helping to lower water bills by detecting leaks.

The devices, which warn of possible leaks and monitor consumption in real time, have found almost 600 leaks in Malaga since being installed in April.

Customer service operators monitor the 41,663 meters, telephoning customers if they detect a problem. Raul Jimenez, councillor for Envi-

Water bills reduced

ronmental Sustainability, explained the service helps customers, saying, "since we spent a lot of money getting this data, it is normal that we use it for the benefit of all residents." He added the meters

check yearly household expenditure and average consumption, giving clients more control over their bills.

The council explained most of the leaks identified were small and would have been hard to find if not for the meters. Water supplier, Emasa said most clients fixed their leaks within 10 days of being told about them. Once repaired, an updated invoice is sent out.

OUR VIEW

Spain is losing Big Mac battle

THE crowning of San Sebastian as the world's top food city is another feather in the cap for Spanish gastronomy.

But as the country's culinary heritage continues to attract international acclaim, Spain must be careful to retain its traditional mealtime values.

An upswing in demand for Iberian ham from China has seen demand outstrip supply, while the famed Mediterranean diet increasingly appears more medical advice than lifestyle choice.

And as the price of ham, olive oil and other delicacies rockets, working class Spanish families are increasingly turning to the same packaged, cost-effective fare that has sparked an obesity crisis across the globe.

A recent report by two international think tanks concluded that the country is moving away from the Mediterranean diet, as the relentless rise of convenience and fast food sparks a profound cultural shift.

The World Health Organisation says that Spain is one of the top European countries for obese children, while the proportion of overweight adults has increased from below 8 per cent in 1987 to 16 per cent today.

The Mediterranean diet should include large amounts of fruit, vegetables, pulses, whole grains and olive oil, but importantly, none of this comes in a box.

Foodie's delight - page 13

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Thank-Hugh very much

HE'S best-known for playing razor-clawed superhero Wolverine in the X-Men film franchise.

But there were no knives being sharpened after Australian actor Hugh Jackman jetted to Spain to promote his latest film.

The star received a rapturous reception at the premiere of The Greatest Showman, due to be released in Spanish cinemas on Friday, December 29.

Speaking at the event the heartthrob confessed he would not be turning to directing now his stint as Wolverine has ended. He explained: "I would be a terrible director, the actors would hate me."

Jackman's latest film sees him play Phineas Taylor Barnum, the creator of the Barnum and Bailey American travelling circus. Starring alongside Zac Efron and Michelle Williams, the musical boasts a soundtrack by Justin Paul and Benj Pasek who won Oscars for their work on La La Land.



Photo credit Twitter

EX-MAN: Hugh Jackman in Madrid.

What an Eiffel!

SHE'S the hotel heiress who shot to fame after her sex-tape leaked.

But Paris Hilton has proven there's more to her than meets the eye after revealing that her business empire is worth €2.5 billion in a radio interview.

The blonde beauty recently announced she is to open an Ibiza hotel. The entrepreneur is calling the venture, Paris's Boutique Hotel, and she explained the venture would be "very futuristic and very Ibiza."

WELL-HEELED: Paris Hilton.



Photo credit Paris Hilton/Instagram



BESOTTED: Alejandra Silva and Richard Gere.

She's a real pretty woman

ACTING legend Richard Gere has been spotted showing off his gorgeous Spanish girlfriend at an awards ceremony in Madrid.

The 68-year-old Officer and a Gentleman star certainly looked distinguished as he stepped out with Alejandra Silva, 34, at the Harper's Bazaar Awards.

The silver fox wore a navy coat over a white shirt as he snuggled up to the blonde businesswoman. Silva, whose father was for-

merly the vice-president of Real Madrid, is originally from Galicia and has made a successful career in PR.

Most recently starring in Norman: The Moderate Rise and Tragic Fall of a New York Fixer, Gere has been enjoying something of a comeback in recent years with a string of films.

Originally from Philadelphia, America, Gere was previously married to supermodel Cindy Crawford, and is devoted to Buddhism.

Seeing double

A SPANISH politician who has been compared to Prince Harry's future wife Meghan Markle has become an internet star.

But mother-of-two Begoña Villacis, 40, was able to see the funny side as she tweeted: 'Between Buckingham Palace and Cibeles... I'm sorry but I'm sticking with Madrid.'

Her comments came after the leader of centre-right party Ciudadanos in Madrid received streams of messages via social media.

Chastain in Spain

SHE'S been nominated for two Oscars and earlier this year tied the knot with Italian fashion boss Gian Luca Passi de Preposulo.

Actress Jessica Chastain, 40, continued to live the high life appearing at a Madrid photo call to promote her latest flick Molly's Game, flaunting her ample curves in a stunning knitted dress.



Photo credit Ciudadanos Madrid

TAKE TWO: Begoña Villacis.

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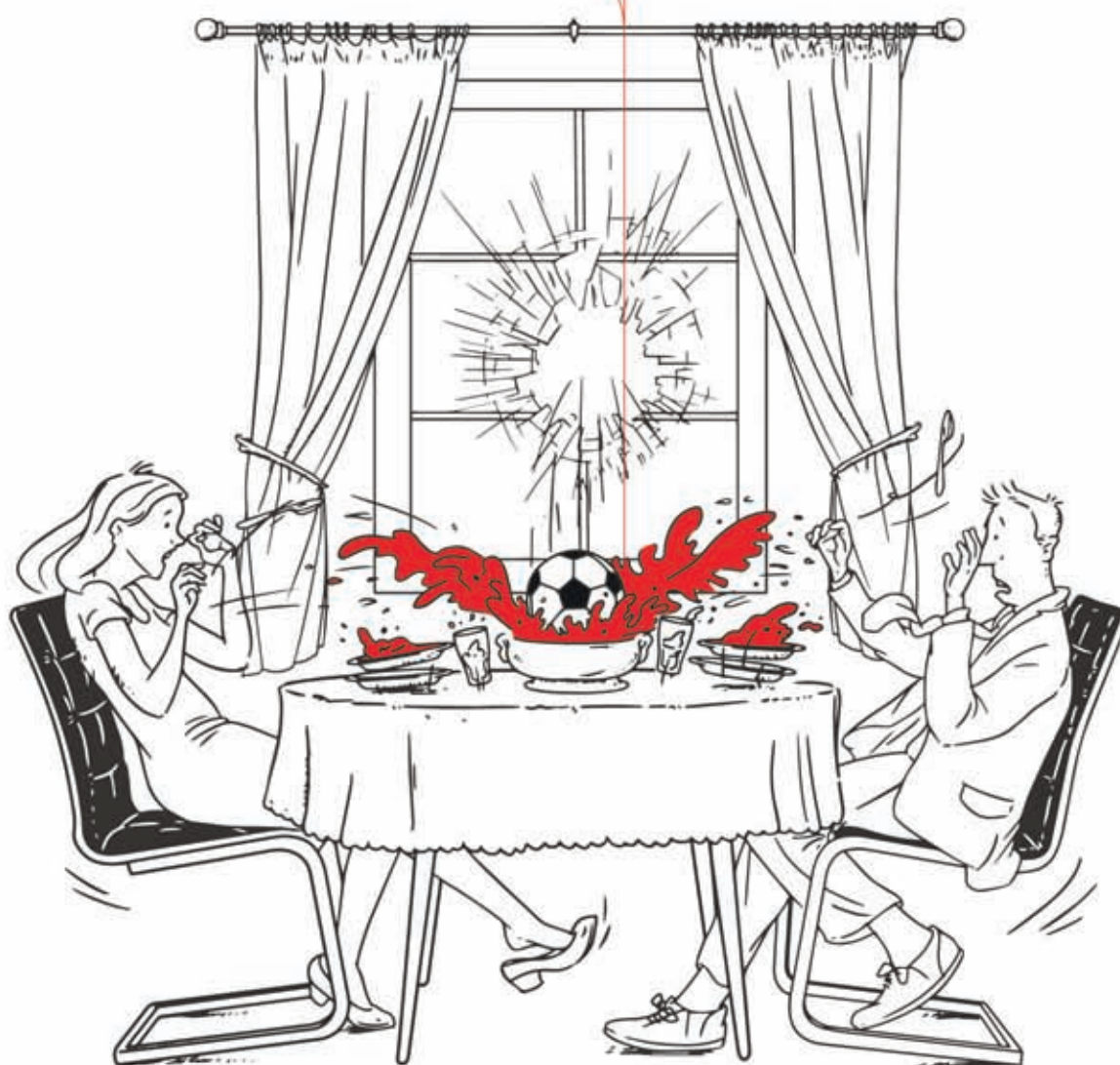
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A loving farewell

By Karl Smallman
and Matt Ford

BRAVE brain cancer fighter, Leo the Lion may have gone, but he will never be forgotten.

Hundreds of friends, family and supporters of the inspirational four-year-old gathered on Palomares beach in Almeria to pay tribute in a moving ceremony which saw 250 helium-filled balloons - many carrying hand-written messages - released into the sky.

The *Euro Weekly News* team performed a simultaneous release of balloons outside their head office on the Costa del Sol, as did campaign support groups and individuals in other parts of Spain, the UK and beyond.

An invitation-only funeral and cremation saw family and close friends pay their own respects on Tuesday, after many sent flowers or paid a visit to Leo as he lay in the chapel of rest over the weekend.

A hearse carried him around Palomares prior to the service, allowing



EMOTIONAL: Family, friends and supporters gather on Palomares beach.

people to pay their respects and friends to wave goodbye.

In the UK, thousands of Manchester City supporters honoured Leo with a minute's applause during their home Premier League match against West Ham last Sunday.

Days short of his fifth birthday,

which would have been yesterday (Wednesday) the courageous four-year-old passed away peacefully in his mother Karen's arms last Friday as dad Jorge and sister Sofia stood by.

His last words were, to Sofia, a very clear "I love you."

On September 2, 2015 Leo was diag-

nosed with a rare form of brain cancer.

Since then he underwent surgery at Alder Hey Children's Hospital in the UK and, thanks to a fund launched late last year, which the *Euro Weekly News* supported, travelled to Oklahoma in the United States for cutting-edge proton beam therapy.



SOLIDARITY: The EWN team release balloons.

But sadly, it was all in vain.

Karen recently told the *Euro Weekly News*: "I want people to remember Leo for the happy little boy that he once was, that cheeky little boy, the one who smiled no matter what..."

"I want to thank everyone for their continuous support during this journey to give Leo the best chance for a life."

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Credit: Ayuntamiento de Almuñecar

THE LIGHTS: Were turned on to the sounds of a choir.

Christmas comes early

ALMUÑECAR'S Christmas lights have been turned on in an event featuring a performance by a children's choir.

The Arcos de Torrecuevas choir had a starring role as they sang while the lights were turned on in Plaza de la Constitución.

The event, which was chaired by the councillor for Fiestas and Youth, Maria del Mar Medina, and attended by councillors Rafael Caballero, Jose Manuel Fernandez and Francisco Alba, saw the children carrying small candles.

Under the musical direction of Pedro Her-

nandez, nearly 50 children raised their candles, lighting the front of the town hall to applause. After their performance, the children walked off the stage and surrounded a six-metre high Christmas tree with their candles before its lights were turned on.

Attendees were given chocolate and donuts while the Evizumba group performed for on-lookers and children played on a bouncy castle. Many locals and visitors took to social media after the event, sharing their photos of the town's Christmas lights.

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Urgent change of locks

If the insured cannot enter their property due to a damaged lock due to attempted break-in or the loss or theft of keys, or any other reason preventing the opening of the door, Línea Directa will not only pay for an emergency locksmith but also any labour costs. However, the cost of replacing the lock or mechanism is not covered under the policy.

TV and video

Should your TV or video appliance be accidentally damaged or stolen, Línea Directa will provide another appliance of similar characteristics for a maximum of 15 days at no extra cost.

Hotel, restaurant and laundry service

If you are forced to leave your home be-

cause it has become uninhabitable due to an accident, Línea Directa will transfer you and any occupants insured under the policy, to a minimum three star hotel for a maximum of five days.

During the forced abandonment, restaurant expenses up to a limit of €50. If the homeowners washing machine breaks down, any laundry expenses incurred are covered up to a maximum of two days and a daily limit of €30.

Home surveillance expenses

If your home is at risk from easy outside entry due to robbery, fire, flood or explosion, then Línea Directa will send security staff at its own cost until the event is remedied, for a maximum of 24 hours.

Moving and storage expenses

In the event of forced abandonment of your home, policyholders may request a house moving service up to a limit of €2,000. Línea Directa will search for removal services to help the insured move home and store furniture if required.

We hope the information provided in this article is of interest.

*If you would like to contact Línea Directa please call 902 123 309
More information about Línea Directa online at www.lineadirecta.com*



No child without a toy

ALMUÑECAR Council has launched its campaign to ensure every child in the town receives a present this Christmas.

The initiative, which last year helped 206 children, will see vouchers handed out to children alongside a raffle for a €2,200 cheque.

The campaign has been running for two decades with the aim of helping vulnerable local children and promoting trade. The vouchers and cheque given out this year can

only be spent in local shops, at a maximum of €50 per shop.

Councillor for Commerce, Rafael Caballero Jimenez, explained the project encouraged, "customers of participating establishments by giving them a raffle ticket along with their receipt," as well as promoting, "support for the commercial sector and the long-standing municipal campaign to ensure no child runs out of toys at Christmas."

Parish priest, Vicente Guerrero, said last year, "thanks to

everyone's support we were able to help 206 children, who we gave gift vouchers valuing an average of €30, which could be exchanged in local stores." He added the vouchers could also be used for shoes and school materials.

Juan Fierro, a representative of the Association of Merchants from the Sexitano Abierto Shopping Centre, said although it was not easy for businesses to join in the raffle draw, most would continue to participate in the campaign.



STAFF FEARS: Malaga Airport.

Airport jobs under threat

POLITICIANS have come out in support of Malaga Airport's workers after threats to conditions.

The employees of the airport's bars and restaurants have received support from all Malaga's political parties after the current operator, Aena put out a €100 million tender to find new operators for the catering facilities.

The workers fear the eight-year contract does not provide any assurances over their rights. Miguel Angel Salazar, chairman of the works council, confirmed: "the Aena specifications do not guarantee that all conditions will be

met," if the tender is awarded to several different companies.

The news comes after the airport's firemen have asked to become municipal employees.

The group has asked Spain's central government to be given the 'status of public employees.' Their spokesman, Eduardo Zorilla, has claimed: "the security of the people who use our airports will be guaranteed by greater security, stronger rights and a faster and more effective service." Zorilla added the group deserved to be recognised for the "essential work they do to save lives."

Good news for learners

FIVE driving examiners are back at work after a six-month strike.

The examiners will now be on duty every day after being forced to perform minimum services by the Directorate General de Trafico (DGT).

The group will carry out an average of 55 exams every day.

Jose Luis Conde, spokesman for Malaga's driving examiners, explained the group had been on strike every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for six months fol-

lowing a dispute over pay. He claimed that despite some examiners now returning to work, there were still issues 'to solve.' Opposition politicians have now said they will back the group's claim to an extra €250 a month.

British councillor tells EU: stop holding expats hostage

A BRITISH councillor representing Rojales, Alicante, has told a meeting of the European Parliament that senior politicians are holding expatriates 'hostage' to achieve their own objectives.

Speaking in Brussels, Derek Monks expressed concerns that people who moved to Spain to take advan-

tage of freedom of movement and labour now risked being exploited.

"I expressed the concerns of all of us who took advantage of moving," the councillor told *Euro Weekly News* in a letter.

"Senior politicians negotiating terms of the break-

away are using us as pawns to arrive at their ultimate goals," he continues.

"I expressed anger at this and pleaded for an end to this holding us as hostages to achieve other objectives."

Letters - page 24

ACCORDING to a major study commissioned by a British catering service Spain is top of the list of the world's top 100 cities for food. San Sebastian, in the north of the country, led the rest of the world in the survey for Caterwings.

And it's not just based on the number of Michelin stars.

Ratings from 20,000 food journalists and restaurant critics were taken into account to evaluate the quality of the local food scene in hundreds of cities worldwide.

They also considered the number of restaurants per 10,000 citizens, the percentage of fast food outlets to restaurants, plus vegetarian and vegan options.

The study also looked at affordability, calculating how

Foodie's delight! Spain is home to 'world's best city'



SAN SEBASTIAN: 'World's best city for food' and (inset) the quality of local cuisine.

many hours a person on minimum wage would have to work in order to afford a two-person dinner in a restaurant and the

percentage of fast food chains as compared to restaurants.

San Sebastian stands above the competition thanks to its af-

fordable offer for tourists.

Tokyo, the city with the most Michelin stars, comes second in the top 100, scoring particularly low on vegetarian and vegan options, while New York is third.

Spain had another two entries in the top 10, with Barcelona in fourth and Madrid in seventh.

London squeezed into the top 10 at ninth place.

Other notable appearances in the top 100 were: Glasgow (61), Manchester (64), Edinburgh (77), and Brighton (93).

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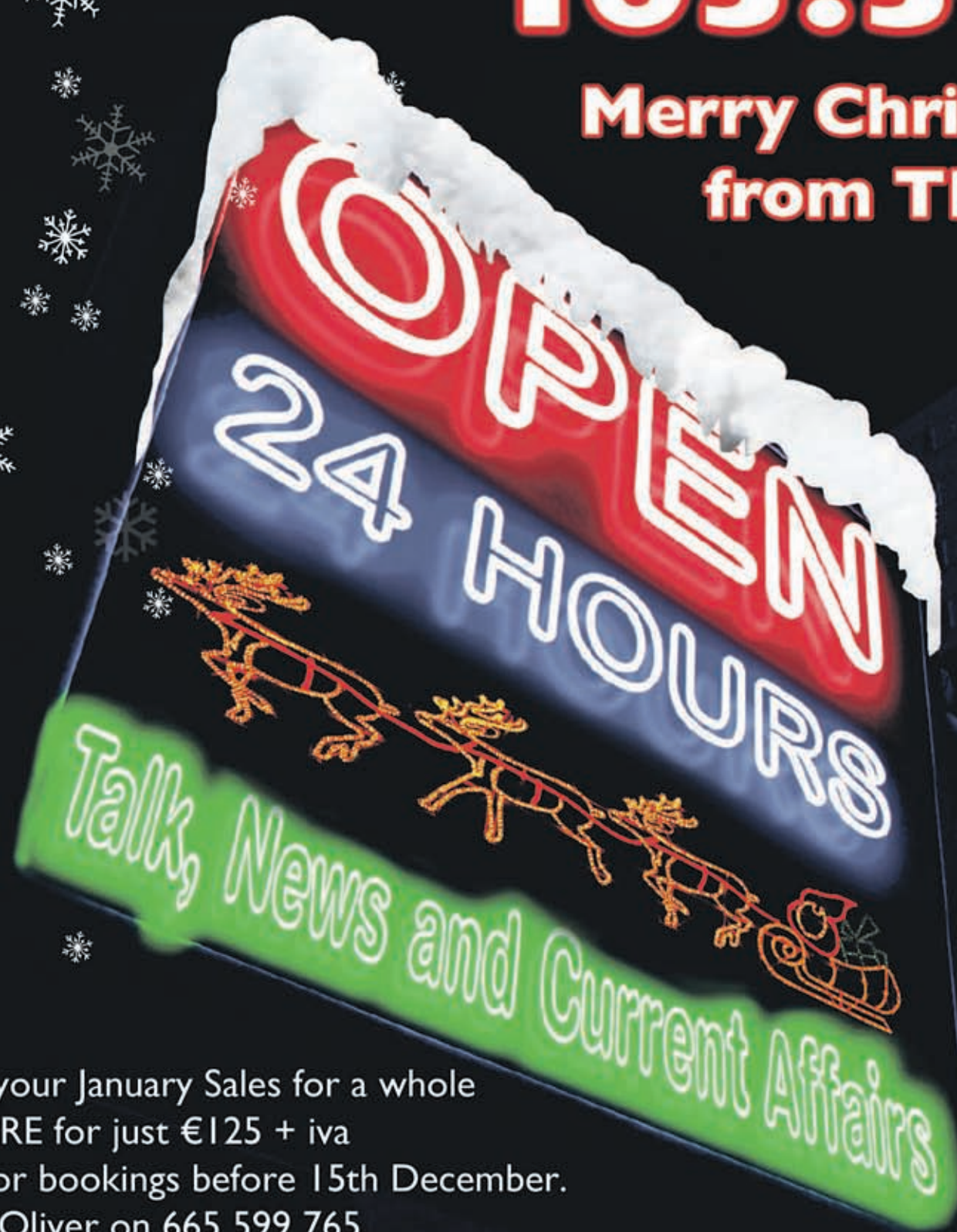
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OPEC members agree to cut output

AT a meeting of the members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and selected non-members it was agreed to continue to reduce production.

This group which includes Russia wants to see oil prices rise and are extending the curbs until the end of 2018 in order to combat the competition from shale oil which helped to stifle the market.

Since the first reduction, prices have risen by 30 per cent.

Spain's ruling party to raise court charges

FOR the first time ever in Spain, a political party is to be brought to trial following the destruction of records concerning €48 million in Swiss bank accounts.

It is alleged that the Partido Popular ruling party led by Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy held a secret fund containing the money in Switzerland and that former treasurer Luis Barcenas with the help of others destroyed evidence of this on laptop computers.

Barcenas together with a former IT specialist and a party lawyer are being put on trial for harming

By John Smith

the computers and concealing damaging evidence before investigators were able to undertake their work.

Prime Minister Rajoy has already appeared before a court to give information on his knowledge of financial impropriety within the PP but at that time made it clear that he had no idea of what, if anything, was going on.

The former treasurer is also involved in what is known as the Gurtel affair which revolves

around a private fund allegedly made up from secret donations which were then dispersed to various party members and supporters.

Luis Barcenas has so far denied wrongdoing and suggests that the Swiss funds were innocently held on behalf of a number of investors.

The decision to actually try a political party will certainly raise a number of technicalities including who should represent the party in court and how any verdict will affect individuals if the party is found guilty.

Equal pay demand aids women

COMPANIES who employ more than 250 workers will be required to correct any inequality in pay between men and women.

This is to be Spanish government policy as it wants to ensure that men and women receive equal pay if they have the same responsibility and functions within the company.

According to Spanish media, there is often as much as a 30 per cent disparity in salaries paid to women and companies will also be required to include unions in any review they undertake.

Quote of the Week

In the fourth quarter, without doubt, Cataluña saw a strong deceleration ... October has not been a good month, but we see a certain normalisation in November," Economy minister Luis de Guindos on Spain's accounts.



Photo Credit: Roman Voloslyin Shutterstock

Producing wooden goods.

Manufacturing boom in Spain

A GLOBAL organisation has announced that the Spanish manufacturing sector is growing more quickly than even before the economic crisis.

The spur to this has been increased production thanks to the winning of new business despite the Catalan crisis and is a 129-month high.

Although these figures are very impressive, the report by IHS Markit shows that six members of the Eurozone have actually achieved better results but the news for the Spanish economy is encouraging.

The current state of the Spanish economy is so buoyant that Economy minister Luis de Guindos is now content that the end of year forecasts for GDP will be met.

"November's surveys produced a clean sheet of improved PMI readings for all countries, resulting in the best performance for Eurozone manufacturing since the height of the dot-com boom over 17 years ago," noted Chris Williamson, Chief Business Economist at HIS Markit in the report.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Sludge test

SPAIN is testing new ways of treating wastewater and sludge as part of a European Union funded project. The aim is to reduce the risk of pollutants damaging the environment and recovering energy and fertilisers from the sludge.

Pension news

NEW legislation to be introduced next year will make it easier for Spanish pension funds to invest in a wider range of products. This will remove current obstacles which prohibit investment in risk capital, hedge funds and real estate.

US changes

MAJOR insurance company MAPFRE will be restructuring its international divisions and is pulling out of five US States. Whilst it will continue to offer insurance across much of America, it has decided to sell its New York business through an investment bank.

New VP for European Bank

A SPANISH minister has announced that he believes that the position of vice-president of the European Central Bank will be filled by a Spaniard. Luis de Guindos also confirmed

that he was not standing for the position of president of Eurogroup which consists of finance ministers from the 19 countries which form the Eurozone.

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LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES DECEMBER 4

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,380.00	21.00	1.55	19,250.16
Associated British Foods	2,895.00	-53.00	-1.80	23,342.51
Admiral Group	1,919.50	-3.50	-0.18	5,503.03
Ashtead Group	2,185.00	286.00	15.06	9,490.28
Antofagasta	929.00	19.50	2.14	8,983.62
Aviva	509.75	-1.25	-0.24	20,467.53
AstraZeneca	4,830.00	53.00	1.11	60,750.35
BAE Systems	565.00	13.00	2.36	17,576.76
Babcock International Group	735.50	38.50	5.52	3,515.16
Bardays	191.50	-2.00	-1.03	33,032.14
British American Tobacco	4,700.00	-84.50	-1.77	108,460.20
Barratt Developments	602.50	-3.50	-0.58	6,117.24
Berkeley Group Holdings	3,534.50	-284.50	-7.45	5,147.14
British Land Co	630.00	0.50	0.08	6,301.10
BHP Billiton	1,355.00	10.00	0.74	28,386.25
Bunzl	2,115.00	-34.04	-1.61	7,107.91
BP	493.00	1.00	0.20	97,217.50
Burberry Group	1,727.00	11.00	0.64	7,311.75
BT Group	257.40	-3.40	-1.30	25,893.33
Coca-Cola HBC	2,429.00	60.00	2.53	8,633.83
Carnival	4,855.00	89.00	1.87	10,030.13
Centrica	144.00	-0.60	-0.41	8,077.91
Compass Group	1,535.50	36.50	2.43	23,715.10
Croda International	4,249.50	13.50	0.32	5,618.36
CRH	2,702.00	2.47	0.10	21,621.31
ConvaTec Group	214.90	20.90	10.77	3,756.34
DCC	7,260.00	105.00	1.47	6,351.10
Diageo	2,569.50	1.00	0.04	64,036.46
Direct Line Insurance Group	395.00	29.20	7.98	5,010.50
Experian	1,555.00	28.00	1.83	14,187.34
easyJet	1,415.00	9.00	0.64	5,594.68
Ferguson	5,392.50	62.50	1.17	13,303.49
Fresnillo	1,408.50	100.50	7.68	9,454.35
G4S	275.00	18.40	7.17	3,982.17
GKN	310.50	0.40	0.13	5,320.75
Glencore	339.65	0.05	0.01	48,769.38
GlaxoSmithKline	1,310.50	31.00	2.42	62,934.53
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,592.00	-1.27	-0.08	7,584.36
Hammerson	521.00	1.50	0.29	4,110.89
HSBC Holdings	732.10	-1.90	-0.26	147,240.09
International Consoliddt Airs Gr	613.50	0.50	0.08	12,568.10
InterContinental Hotels Grp	4,355.00	6.00	0.14	8,197.13
3i Group	910.00	25.50	2.88	8,743.62
Imperial Brands	3,067.00	2.50	0.08	29,271.43
Informa	696.75	-50.25	-6.73	6,171.80
Intertek Group	4,977.00	-40.08	-0.77	8,388.27
ITV	158.75	-1.15	-0.72	6,432.60
Johnson Matthey	3,025.00	-6.00	-0.20	5,853.42
Kingfisher	332.50	-1.50	-0.45	7,223.94
Land Securities Group	929.50	-4.50	-0.48	6,906.49

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Legal & General Group	256.50	-10.70	-4.00	15,929.22
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	65.75	1.00	1.54	47,520.05
London Stock Exchange Grp	3,803.50	24.50	0.65	13,057.54
Micro Focus International	2,381.00	-108.00	-4.34	10,765.59
Mediclinic International	690.50	125.00	22.10	4,126.72
Merlin Entertainments	357.90	6.00	1.71	3,601.13
Marks & Spencer Group	306.00	-3.40	-1.10	5,079.75
Mondi	1,796.00	30.00	1.70	8,584.59
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	216.50	0.20	0.09	5,081.36
National Grid	885.00	-2.52	-0.29	29,790.22
NMC Health	2,978.00	0.29	0.01	5,808.70
Next	4,452.50	20.50	0.46	6,522.39
Old Mutual Group	199.75	4.85	2.49	9,697.31
Paddy Power Betfair	8,400.00	75.00	0.90	7,060.91
Prudential	1,842.50	-16.50	-0.89	48,136.41
Persimmon	2,480.00	-60.00	-2.36	7,811.41
Pearson	705.00	-3.00	-0.42	5,702.42
Reckitt Benckiser Group	6,450.00	72.00	1.13	45,820.41
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	276.50	-0.10	-0.04	33,051.67
Royal Dutch Shell	2,382.50	18.50	0.78	107,248.19
Royal Dutch Shell	2,427.50	39.00	1.63	89,723.14
RELX	1,747.50	33.50	1.95	18,392.35
Rio Tinto	3,520.00	18.50	0.53	47,477.11
Rolls-Royce Group	863.00	6.00	0.70	15,649.66
Randgold Resources	6,450.00	-325.00	-4.80	6,375.82
RSA Insurance Group	632.50	24.00	3.94	6,200.38
Rentokil Initial	325.00	6.90	2.17	5,839.96
Sainsbury (J)	232.50	0.20	0.09	5,080.06
Schroders	3,442.00	-8.00	-0.23	7,804.55
Sage Group (The)	746.00	-28.50	-3.68	8,360.66
Segro	484.00	-6.92	-1.26	5,480.99
Shire	3,670.00	8.50	0.23	33,288.00
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,250.00	-104.00	-4.42	5,555.22
Sky	1,064.00	127.50	13.61	16,085.70
Standard Life Aberdeen	424.50	2.40	0.57	12,787.83
Smiths Group	1,490.00	30.00	2.05	5,854.27
Scottish Mortgage Invstmnt	442.00	-8.60	-1.91	6,312.34
Smith & Nephew	1,315.00	5.00	0.38	11,422.90
SSE	1,330.00	-39.00	-2.85	13,913.47
Standard Chartered	733.05	-5.35	-0.72	24,290.13
St James's Place	1,167.00	-47.00	-3.87	6,393.75
Severn Trent	2,171.50	72.50	3.45	4,943.81
Tesco	195.20	1.15	0.59	15,919.93
TUI AG	1,357.00	8.54	0.63	7,939.69
Taylor Wimpey	196.65	2.25	1.16	6,364.01
Unilever	4,213.50	49.50	1.19	51,474.78
United Utilities Group	817.50	11.00	1.36	5,588.08
Vodafone Group	226.00	1.70	0.76	59,816.01
Worldpay Group	420.40	3.24	0.77	8,472.00
WPP Group	1,290.00	-17.00	-1.30	16,511.60
Whitbread	3,580.00	12.00	0.34	6,551.99

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3M	241,150	-0.82%	-1,990	143.809,58
AMERICAN EXPRESS	97,8600	+0.15%	0,1500	84.568,87
APPLE	171,050	-0.47%	-0,800	875.605,57
BOEING CO	271,380	-1.96%	-5,420	161.908,02
CATERPILLAR	141,520	+0.26%	0,370	83.855,89
CHEVRON	119,51	+0.44%	0,52	226.785,25
CISCO SYSTEMS	37,600	+0.80%	0,300	187.302,02
COCA-COLA	45,97	+0.44%	0,20	195.095,96
DOWDUPONT	71,01	-1.32%	-0,95	166.256,31
EXXON MOBIL	83,46	+0.20%	0,17	352.950,94
GENERAL ELECTRIC	17,8800	-2.24%	-0,4100	155.552,06
GOLDMAN SACHS	248,95	+0.53%	1,31	92.923,58
HOME DEPOT	180,4200	+0.33%	0,6000	210.171,40
IBM	154,76	+0.51%	0,79	143.127,35
INTEL CORP	44,6800	-0.36%	-0,1600	208.776,57
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	104,7900	+0.26%	0,2700	360.712,67
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	139,9800	+0.47%	0,6500	376.032,21
MC DONALD'S CORP	172,8700	+0.52%	0,9000	137.729,75
MERCK AND CO. NEW	55,87	+1.09%	0,60	151.846,49
MICROSOFT	84,260	+0.11%	0,090	646.372,32
NIKE	59,88	-0.89%	-0,54	78.175,43
PFIZER	36,3500	+0.25%	0,0900	216.582,30
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	90,360	+0.41%	0,370	228.592,61
TRAVELERS CIES	136,21	+0.47%	0,64	37.296,54
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	120,12	-1.10%	-1,33	95.932,20
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	226,78	-0.61%	-1,39	219.343,57
VERIZON COMMS	51,25	+0.71%	0,36	208.346,83
VISA	110,73	-1.65%	-1,86	200.689,02
WAL-MART STORES	97,3500	+0.12%	0,1200	290.863,82
WALT DISNEY CO	105,2500	+0.41%	0,4300	159.186,91

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CLOSING PRICES DECEMBER 4

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
American Woodmark Corporation	\$ 127.70	28.10 ▲ 28.21%
Aeglea BioTherapeutics, Inc.	\$ 4.73	0.73 ▲ 18.25%
Stitch Fix, Inc.	\$ 23.60	3.56 ▲ 17.76%
Foundation Medicine, Inc.	\$ 62.60	9.40 ▲ 17.67%
Versartis, Inc.	\$ 2.25	0.30 ▲ 15.38%
Ambarella, Inc.	\$ 62.03	7.76 ▲ 14.30%
Titan Machinery Inc.	\$ 21.57	2.57 ▲ 13.53%
Xunlei Limited	\$ 15.43	1.78 ▲ 13.04%
Geospace Technologies Corporation	\$ 16.39	1.75 ▲ 11.95%
Nutanix, Inc.	\$ 36.06	3.26 ▲ 9.94%
Synlogic, Inc.	\$ 11.20	0.99 ▲ 9.70%
Most Declined		
Overstock.com, Inc.	\$ 42.30	4.80 ▼ 10.19%
China TechFaith Wireless Comm Tech Lim	\$ 2.60	0.27 ▼ 9.41%
Zumiez Inc.	\$ 19.95	1.85 ▼ 8.49%
PetIQ, Inc.	\$ 20.34	1.84 ▼ 8.30%
American Software, Inc.	\$ 11.98	0.93 ▼ 7.20%
U.S. Auto Parts Network, Inc.	\$ 2.19	0.17 ▼ 7.20%
QuinStreet, Inc.	\$ 9.95	0.74 ▼ 6.92%
Aratana Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 5.45	0.40 ▼ 6.84%
Ichor Holdings	\$ 26.47	1.94 ▼ 6.83%
Axsome Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 5.275	0.375 ▼ 6.64%
Red Robin Gourmet Burgers, Inc.	\$ 48.95	3.45 ▼ 6.58%

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-€0.0037

£0.9255

-£0.0023

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EUR Currency B

Multi Asset Conservative B GBP

Multi Asset Conservative B EUR

Multi Asset Balanced B GBP

Multi Asset Balanced B EUR

Multi Asset Growth B GBP

Multi Asset Growth B EUR

DEALING PRICE

Price Movement

£0.9792.....

-£0.0004

£0.9518.....

-£0.0010

£1.1585.....

-£0.0038

£1.0775.....

-£0.0038

£1.3235.....

-£0.0064

£1.2193.....

-£0.0061

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WINTER HEATING WILL BECOME PRICIER

Electricity cost goes up

A DEDICATED Spanish ecological group has highlighted the fact that some four and half million Spanish residents will face the arrival of winter in situations of energy poverty.

Weather reports suggest that Spain is in for an exceptionally cold snap, prices of electricity have recently risen by 2 per cent and as so much is generated by relatively inefficient coal and gas turbines, then prices will continue to rise.

As far as pensioner expatriates are concerned, the winter fuel allowance that their compatriots in the UK and indeed other parts of Europe receive is not granted here in Spain, as the British government introduced a temperature eligibility criteria which removed Spain from the accepted countries, saving the British government €11 million per annum.

The last payment was made in 2014 and in announcing the decision to cancel the payments, the then Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith who was heavily pro-Brexit told a British newspaper:

"It's absurd and offensive that taxpayers are funding these payments for people who have retired to the Mediterranean and enjoy warm weather. The European Union has frustrated our attempts to address this issue in the past, but with our new temperature-based eligibility criteria we're able to satisfy EU rules as well as prevent this obscene waste of taxpayers' money."

According to *ECOtias.com*, the online ecological group, customers of the electricity companies in Spain have to pay the highest charges in Europe and although in theory, it is possible for those who live in poverty to claim assistance to pay their bills it is incredibly difficult.

The group claims however that even the government accepts that the requirements to obtain the assistance are complicated and less than 50 per cent of those entitled are likely to actually apply and receive the financial assistance available.



Keeping warm at a cost.

To make things just that little bit worse, the financial support offered by the government doesn't even come from national funds but from regional and municipal funds with no additional support from Madrid.

Whilst other countries continue to look for new sources of cheaper, safer energy, Spain does not even encourage the creation of solar power by individual households any longer, following complaints from the large energy companies that their profits could be hit.

Unemployment a problem

as the service sector is still erratic

THE employment situation in Spain continues to suffer a roller coaster effect, especially in major tourist areas where unemployment continues to rise.

The overall national rate of unemployment increased by just 0.21 per cent with 7,225 more unemployed than in October, but the number was much higher in the Balearics and Malaga Province.

Although the overall trend of unemployment is falling in Andalusia, Malaga saw the number increase for the fourth month in succession and there are now 158,330 unemployed, an increase of 3 per cent over the previous month and the largest increase for five years.

Temporary contracts will increase during the months of December and January as shops and service industries expand their work force to take into account Christmas, New Year and Three Kings activities, but then the figures of unemployed are likely to



More customers, more jobs.

increase again as the temporary contracts expire.

There are still 3.47 million people registered as unemployed in Spain and with the fall in those contributing to the social services, the annual Christmas bonuses for pensioners will have to be found from somewhere.

As the number of unemployed increased in the service sector, the good news was that an increasingly larger number of workers are being

recruited in the building sector which suggests that the rise in house and commercial property construction is continuing at a pace.

Whilst the government is generally very positive about the future state of the economy, there is no doubt that the Cataluña crisis has not been helpful, although Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has pledged that the country's economic growth could reach 3 per cent next year, if Cataluña returns to 'normalcy' after the election to be held on Thursday December 21.

Whilst it appears that the situation concerning Catalan independence is becoming resolved, as those who pressed for the declaration are now modifying their demands, the fact that so many companies moved out of the region to 'safer' provinces does mean that the employment situation there has become less certain and there will be some temporary 'hiccups' in the figures until the New Year.

Middle East remains a target

SPAIN continues its wooing of major countries in the Middle East as it hosts the first Iran-Spain Joint Economic Commission in Madrid.

Iranian Deputy Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade Mojtaba Khosrotaj is to co-chair a meeting where he will discuss endorsement of agreements on economic cooperation.

Signing the Iran-Spain Economic Cooperation Roadmap and several memoranda of understanding is also on the Iranian delegation's agenda.

Despite the dislike that America continues to display against the Iranian regime, Spain was quick to forge diplomatic and economic links with Iran once the international trade restrictions were lifted last year.

As Saudi Arabia is one of Spain's larger trading partners and is in direct opposition to Iran, the Spanish government will have to be careful about how close to Iran it is perceived to be.

Video game sales increase

THE Spanish love video games, having spent €67 million on games and consoles this Black Friday.

This information compiled by GfK Global and released by the Spanish Association of Video Games (AEVI) goes on to confirm that this shows an increase in sales of 22 per cent over the 2016 figures for the same period.

The increase saw larger numbers of games and consoles sold, so the amount spent was not solely due to an increase in unit price.

Whilst manufacturers and developers continue to bring new games and upgrade consoles, so the market for their product seems certain to remain strong.

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The Nissan Leaf Electric Car.

Car sales are strong

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NOVEMBER was a particularly good month for the registration of new passenger vehicles in Spain with a total of 104,200 sold, 12 per cent more than last November.

Part of this success was due to some major offers by various dealers to coincide with Black Friday, but the total for the 11 months of 2017 is still up by 8 per cent over the previous year at 1.13 million cars.

In the problematic area of Cataluña, sales to rental companies were down considerably but purchases by companies and private

drivers were well up and almost matched the national increase.

Most successful manufacturer so far this year has been Renault followed by SEAT and Volkswagen.

Spain is also beginning to see a definite increase in promotion of electric cars with larger public car parks installing charging points although due to the fact that few cars can travel further than 300 kilometres with a new charge, hybrid vehicles are likely to set the trend for the immediate future.

Huge refinery contract shared with Spanish group

THE latest major contract to be awarded to a Spanish construction company is worth €1.135 billion from the Bahrain Petroleum Company (BAPCO).

Working in conjunction with French company Technip and Korean Samsung, the Spanish company Técnicas Reunidas is taking one third of the overall contract worth €3.53 billion.

The site of the oil refinery is in Sitra on the east coast of Bahrain and represents a major refurbishment of the entire factory with Técnicas Reunidas being responsible for renewing the crude oil unit, the vacuum unit, the hydrocracker (which releases different gases from oil), various plants and auxiliary services.

In addition, the company will be involved in the joint purchase of equipment

and construction of the entire project.

The refinery currently produces up to 360,000 barrels of oil each day and part of the reason for the upgrading of the plant is to improve both efficiency and to make the entire operation more environmentally friendly.

This is an area where Spanish know how has achieved a great deal of success and the Middle East market has been exceptionally important to Técnicas Reunidas which has undertaken 25 major projects in the area, earning some €20 billion in the past 10 years.

The announcement of the news of this new business award helped the company's share price which has been performing poorly of late to increase by 1.5 per cent.

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Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow...!

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT

OTHERS THINK IT



THE main, glaringly obvious reason that China and Russia consistently refuse to condemn, or completely sanction North Korea, is because that between them they have enough weaponry clout to finally dominate the western world. As allies, they are powerful enough to back up their ideals with a military might that could utterly annihilate both the USA and any other European democracy that chose to resist.

The overwhelming force of these three countries would be more than capable of finally achieving what they have all been seeking for generations, a Communist domination of the planet. The fact that Communism, both Chinese and Russian, has become more 'Westernised' and capitalistic over the last 20 years or so, has nothing to do with it. These countries are still run by undemocratic dictators, who still use their citizens as pawns in their common, relentless ambitions to take over the world.

The problem is of course that neither America, or the UK for that matter, will ever bow to these despots, however threatening they become. For this reason, and with the leader of our most powerful ally a bit flaky to say the

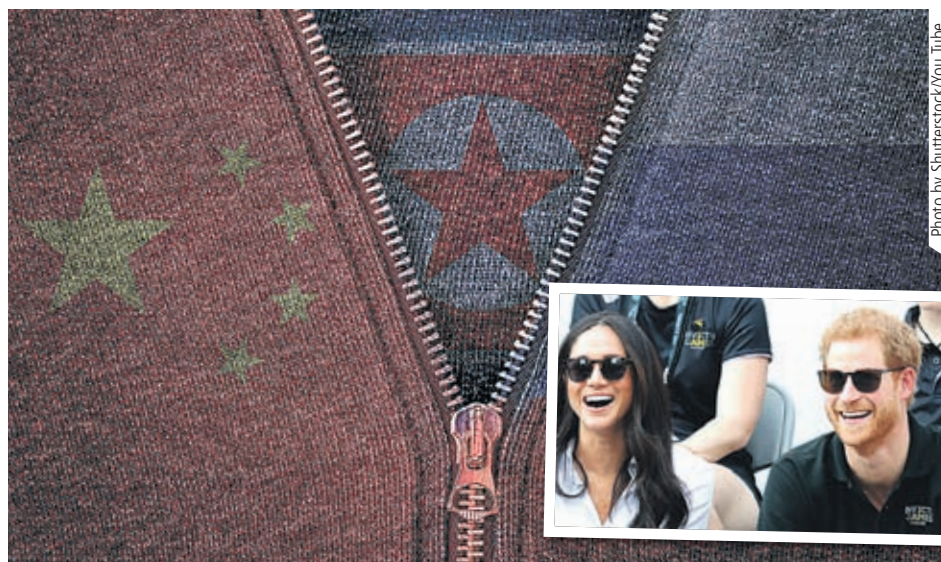


Photo by Shutterstock/You Tube

COLLUSION AND MANIPULATION? China, North Korea and Russia and (inset) Meghan and Harry.

least, I believe we are even nearer to a nuclear holocaust than we were during the Cuban crisis. And there ain't a darned thing we can do about it. Eat, drink and be merry folks, for tomorrow...!

I don't know about you, but I think Ms Meghan has our Harry completely by the short and curlies. Putty and manos come to mind.

Far from immediately jumping up and down with joy, as Harry suggested, I think 'Mum' would have been a little more cautious in her approach to this extremely assured and capable young lady, before succumbing herself to her undoubtedly charming persona. Unlike her lad, who is, at this point in time not quite sure if he's on his a..se or his elbow. Time will tell my

friends, time will tell.

As much as I welcome constructive criticism of my columnistic endeavours, I still abhor the vitriolic spitting, that seems to consume the small number of sad sacks of the ilk that descended on my recent, completely innocuous EU gaffe like a flock of indignant, jowl jiggling vultures. What I do fail to completely understand is why, if my comments cause such stress and mental suffering, they still continue to peruse them?

This great paper is full of extremely competent and highly respected writers, so why don't they simply pass me by? Believe me, both myself and my thousands of wonderful like-minded readers, wouldn't miss them one iota, and frankly don't need them either. Bye!

Writing this in the sunshine of the extremely welcoming and still highly lovable Malta. What a pleasure to be back among this wonderful race of genuine and friendly people after so many years. Still consider this is where the ol' boy could finally end his planetary innings.

Have a good week. Be kind to someone. And whatever ya do. Always keep the faith.

Love Leapy.

columnists@euroweeklynnews.com

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Leapy Lee's opinions are his own and are not necessarily representative of those of the publishers, advertisers or sponsors.

Advertising feature

Stuck for ideas for Christmas gifts this year?

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See advert on page 5

Seen a good movie lately?

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



WHAT'S happened to the film industry? Well first it's now the 'movie' industry. I come at this from a slightly different angle this week as I was in the 'movie business' for over 20 years. I could watch maybe 100 plus films a month.

Now, I'm talking about when video first started in 1979, when films never went on TV for seven years after they left the cinema and remember there were only three TV stations then. There was no Sky, no cable, just old fashioned terrestrial TV. I now have unlimited access to as many movies as I want and, to be honest, most of them are absolute garbage. I don't want a lot from a movie. I want to be entertained. I don't like horror movies except maybe something like the first Alien and the Exorcist, which many of you wouldn't know, was banned in the UK on video for 25 years.

But I digress. I want my movies to have a beginning, middle and an end. I'm totally fed up with watching stuff now that starts brilliantly, keeps you interested for 90 min-

utes then just ends, leaving you not having a clue what happens. No Country for Old Men - glued to it, and then it ends, not a clue. Why? Doubt was another one. The list is endless just like these films. But I can't be alone in wanting to know what happens at the end of a film. Sometimes there is an end but it's almost like all the budget has been spent making the first and middle parts and there's only \$50 left for the ending!

Then there's the super hyped films - the Emperor's New Clothes award for last year's was La La Land. What a load of tosh. I couldn't even be bothered to watch the end. Then, of course, is the studio's biggest cop out. The reason you don't see so many great movies any more like The Sting, Butch Cassidy etc is because they want to play safe and make sequels and now even prequels.

Most do not work. They are crap. Yes there are a few exceptions but mostly they are a waste of time. Never ever, ever watch a remake of a movie you loved when you were younger or of a TV series you liked.

I'd love to know what good movies you have seen lately or what movies have disappointed you. I can recommend a couple - Book of Henry and Florence Foster Jenkins.

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Email me: mikesenker@gmail.com

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Pets deserve security too!

WE answer some common driving questions, kindly provided by members of the Guardia Civil based in Torrevieja, Costa Blanca, who set up the N332 website and Facebook page to help break down barriers.



PETS: Must be secured while travelling by car.

ACCORDING to the latest statistics released by insurance company experts, one out of four drivers have been distracted by their pet whilst driving.

The report also reveals that men are most often affected, those between the ages of 18 and 24, suffer most from these distractions.

Moreover, the research also shows that up to 32 per cent of those who travel with a pet in the vehicle do so without restraining the animal, leaving it loose inside the cabin, a situation which is not only extremely dangerous, it is also illegal, on account of the risk to both the animal and the other vehicle occupants.

Geographically, it is the Andalucians who do it more frequently, 74 per cent of the time. They are followed by Basques and Madrileños, with 73 per cent. On the opposite side we find the pet owners of Galicia and Castilla y Leon, who only take them with them 51 per cent of the time. The Catalans claim to do so on 55 per cent of their trips.

Animals, like humans and any object carried in the vehicle, must be secured. In a frontal collision where two vehicles are travelling at just 30 kilometres per hour, the combined collision speed therefore being the equivalent of about a 60 kilometre per hour collision, a dog weighing 10 kilos would increase its mass and weigh up to as much as 300 kilos at the point of impact.

We must also realise that generally speaking, insurance companies do not consider animals as vehicle occupants, according to Carlo Brüggeman, cofounder of Acierito.Com, and would therefore unlikely be covered by the vehicle's policy, although there are specific policies to cover the expenses of the veterinarian and even include compensation for accident or death.

Overall, the advice is simple. To keep everybody safe, including your pet, and to comply with the law, the animal must be secure at all times. If carried in a cage or carrying case, then that too must also be secure.

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

Must an item be on the Agenda?

Q. You recently answered a query regarding Agenda items being voted at the AGM. Thank you for your answer but it is not clear to me whether only items on the official Agenda, which is sent to the members before the meeting, can be voted at the AGM. During our AGM we have had items that did not appear originally on the Agenda added during the AGM and then voted on under 'any other matters.' Is this legal? It seems unfair that absentee owners only get to know of some proposals or changes after they have already been voted on and appear in the Minutes.

A. You are quite right. Only those items listed in the official Agenda and sent out to the members ahead of time can legally be voted into action at the AGM.

David Searl

You and the Law in Spain

Any member can impugn the results of the meeting

P O (email)
within 30 days of being informed. This means going to court if the President chooses to resist. However, if no one protests, the results of the voting will stand.

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A nice tip for the summer

SIR

I am used to the tipping DNA of daily life in the US where I once lived.

However, as an expat who has now lived in Spain for the last four years, I was interested to learn last week that a friend's daughter who worked in a local beach bar this summer received a set €175 a week cash payment throughout the season from the bar owner to cover for tips received.

The four other staff working at the bar - now all paid off for the winter - also received the same amount, a very fair tips system in my book, and a useful euro boost to each agreed monthly wage.

Often I know tips are all put in one pot (rather than staff keeping individual tips received) and then equally shared out, but sadly some bar owners keep all tips left arguing that monies received can help 'cover for breakages,' a policy that seems very unfair in my view.

N Stretton, Fuengirola

A voice for the people

I RECENTLY had the pleasure of being one of the four guest speakers at the European Parliament Committee of the Regions in Brussels after being nominated by Valencia's Regional Government. The main issue was citizens' rights, and I expressed the concerns of all of us who took advantage of moving to Spain.

Senior politicians negotiating terms of the breakaway, are using us as pawns to arrive at their ultimate goals. I expressed anger at this and pleaded for an end to this holding us as hostages to achieve other objectives. I also asked for consideration to be given to offer



Fernanda Correia-Seifick/Twitter

Mr Monks addresses the European Parliament.

dual nationality for those interested or some form of European citizenship to ensure no future change of governments could seek to amend the agreements and to preserve our rights. On another issue, it has been stressed that the padron is to be used to determine who will be covered under agreements reached eventually in Brussels, and expatriates should check

if they are on the list as a priority.

This in fact also applies to all countries, not just the British. The more we have on the padron, the more funds Central Government allocates to each town hall. It is in all our interests.

Derek Monks Councillor Public participation, Integration and Coordination of Urbanisations, Rojales

Dear Nora

WHEN I started to read your column in last week's issue I was intrigued about the squabble between Gordon Ramsay and Michel Roux. That is actually not my concern, which is that most of the time people are referring to a chef regarding a Michelin star. Many experts have continuously explained and clarified the Michelin star is NOT connected to a chef, but always to the restaurant, the food, the service etc.

Dr Ir Johannes Hagelen, Malaga

Mapped out

IN your papers *EWN* and *RTN* you often show missing knowledge of Nordic Geography.

Scandinavia is: Denmark, Norway, Sweden. Finland is not in Scandinavia but a member of the Nordic Countries which are: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the autonomous islands: Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland.

Bjorn Beining, address withheld

HAVE YOUR SAY

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

Readers who have missed correspondence can see all letters - which can be edited before publication - posted on: www.euroweeklynnews.com.

Flight from Spain to UK diverts due to 'disruptive' woman

IT'S good that the airline took action and I do hope the person is charged and has a heavy fine to pay for causing the plane to land in France. Maybe if more people were fined the cost of the fuel, airport costs and delay times for staff and passengers they would behave in a more responsible way. *Dawn Sanchez Young*

They're a pain in the backside. I've been on those disruptive flights and had delays more than I like to mention. They should fine them and disqualify their passport. *Margaret Downes*

Workman killed in ice cream factory accident

I've worked all over Spain. H&S is hit and miss depending what company you work for. I was a service engineer in power generation, this industry has always been strict.

But the rest say no more. *Colin Carter*

There are full EU regulations to cover all of this. Exactly the same as the UK. It is how they are implemented that are the issue. *Alan Whitehead*

You are right Alan. Of course there are H&S rules here. In some cases stricter than the UK. However, they're only as

Comments from EWN online

good as the folks overseeing them. *Darren Briddon*

Leo the Lion: The roar has faded

Fly high Leo, rest in love and laughter. We will remember your beautiful smile and bravery forever. Love to your beautiful family at this time. xxx *Liz Bagshaw*

My thoughts are with his family, this little Angel has flown bless him. xx *Sallyann Wiseman*

What a brave little warrior, Leo, up with the angels -- sleep well. *Pauline Pearson*

Mother-of-three dies after

pit bull dog attack

I have lost count of the number of these types of dogs without muzzles running off the lead in children's play areas. Some heavy fines please! *Justice Christopher*

Gosh I couldn't agree more Christopher, I've seen many of these dogs in public spaces without muzzles and it frightens the hell out of me when I have a young child and two terriers with me. *Vanessa Campbell*

It's not the dogs, it's ALWAYS the owners!! *Julieann Sanchez Lewis*

That's not true Julieann. Any qualified experienced dog expert will tell you that NO dog is 100 per cent predictable in its behaviour no matter what the owners do. It's an animal and these breeds are unfortunately more dangerous than other breeds and that's why certain types of owners want them. But if people really think it is ALWAYS the owners' fault then the owners should be prosecuted and jailed when the dog attacks. Then people might think twice about getting a breed that is lethal when it attacks and just get a regular dog. That would solve the problem. *Lisa Centellas*

Be warned

WHILE strolling with my husband on Sunday at the marina in Cabopino, I was approached by two women thrusting carnations down my cleavage. While trying to extract the flowers I was robbed from my handbag so quickly that even my husband did not realise what was happening, and they disappeared when I gave chase. Please warn the public not to stop for anyone! Incidents like this are multiplying and it is not just the tourists that are being snared. What can be done?

Anne Geddes, Costa del Sol

No nativity

DOES anyone at the *Euro Weekly News* have any information about the Nativity Display on exhibition at the Palau in Altea? Last Xmas, we couldn't find any information whatsoever about it, and finally walked up in the pouring rain, only to find that it wasn't being displayed!

Patricia James, Albir

Editor's note: We contacted the Palau who explained that they no longer have a Belen as for staffing reasons the installation opens only for functions.

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MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



' I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK - BUT SHE MISSES THE THRILL OF ACTUALLY SEEING THE LOVE AND HAPPINESS ON THE FACES OF HARRY AND MEGHAN! '

Trivia from around the world

- 70 per cent of all of the world's spices come from India.
- France became the first country to ban supermarkets from throwing away or destroying unsold food in February last year.
- Indian airline Go Air only hires female flight attendants because they weigh less, which saves them €422,115 a year on fuel.
- The Czech Republic is the country that drinks the most beer in the world according to Japanese beverage company Kirin. The average person drank a whopping 161.4 litres of beer a year.
- The longest town name in Europe is Llanfair-pwll gwyngyll-gogery-chwyrndrobwillan-tysilio-gogoch, which is located in Wales.



TOWN NAME: The longest in Europe.

- Jupiter spins faster than any other planet at over 47,000 km per hour. If Earth spun this fast, a day would last less than an hour.
- The average American will eat 6,000 slices of pizza during the course of their

lifetime according to a poll conducted by the restaurant chain CiCi's Pizza.

DID YOU KNOW?

In Bulgaria shaking your head from side to side means yes, and shaking it up and down means no.

Women's wit

We do not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already: we have the power to imagine better.

J K Rowling

Famous quote

Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans.

John Lennon

World of English

The following sentence contains seven different spellings of the sound "ee": 'He believed Caesar could see people seizing the seas.'

YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

AQUARIUS
(January 21 - February 19)

Don't chance your plans being disrupted by ill health. Get any problems sorted out now even if you think they are 'nothing'. When you are feeling good it is easy to take that for granted. Fresh foods and air mean more at the moment than making an extra few pounds.

PISCES
(February 20 - March 20)

Your mind is positively buzzing with ideas. There has been so much progress in your personal life during the past year that it is hard to believe. However, you are capable of being very dynamic and single-minded. This is why, now, you may be patting yourself on the back. Keep colleagues on your side by taking a particular interest in them.

ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)

There are moments of boundless energy which really urge you to 'get up and go'. Make use of this at work, where most progress is to be made this week. Be you a politician, pensioner or anyone in between, the opportunities are there to be had. Slow progress on the love front should not see you fretting. At the moment, your priorities are paramount.

TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)

Bring more zip to your life by putting the spotlight on your health. Getting out and about lifts the spirits, while perking up the diet with new foods brightens the system. As energy levels come up this week, be aware of what is happening around you.

GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)

The chance to travel seems exciting but can be made even more so by including a few people who are on your wavelength. So busy have you been on the more mundane aspects of life that the 'big picture' may have faded into the background.

CANCER
(June 22 - July 23)

An authority figure may also be seen as a possible romantic attachment. Your talents and charm serve you well when approaching this person. Opportunities need approaching with eyes wide open, however, because they could be time-consuming and disruptive.

LEO
(July 24 - August 23)

Keeping up the activity level physically is really in your best interests this week. It is a pivotal point where your resolutions in this area could fail. With life very busy, it is still important to retain your priorities. A promise broken may still be restarted without trauma, just determination is needed.

VIRGO
(August 24 - September 23)

Does someone in the family need your attention? Don't begrudge time spent with them, even if you are busy. Consider what you would want others to do if you were in the same position.

LIBRA
(September 24 - October 23)

With your enthusiasm socially at a peak, now is the time to get involved with anything that takes your fancy. A project involving music or painting will give you the chance to make new friends. Children and young people fill your time for a lot of this week and certainly give you a reason to smile.

SCORPIO
(October 24 - November 22)

This week will see more progress on a health issue. Maybe you have recently given up something or taken to the gym. Recent weeks may have conspired to upset your best efforts. It is never too late to make a fresh start, though, especially right now. Someone who gives your confidence a boost also leads you to believe that anything is possible.

SAGITTARIUS
(November 23 - December 21)

Avoid like the plague people who would dampen your spirit. It may not be deliberate but, if you are near repressed or depressed people, it may rub off. Find positive, active people to be near. If you have not started a form of exercise, then now is as good a time as any. Make it group activity if you want more social contacts.

CAPRICORN
(December 22 - January 20)

Romance will find you this week if only you are in the right frame of mind. You may be inclined to refuse festive social gatherings that hold no prospects for you, but don't close the door on anything. The right kind of companions are sometimes found in the strangest places.

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY	IRISH LOTTO	EURO MILLIONS		LA PRIMITIVA		EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Saturday December 02	Saturday December 02	Tuesday November 28	Friday December 01	Thursday November 30	Saturday December 02	Sunday December 03
<div> <div>4</div> <div>9</div> <div>13</div> <div>32</div> <div>46</div> <div>50</div> </div>	<div> <div>10</div> <div>11</div> <div>18</div> <div>27</div> <div>28</div> <div>42</div> </div>	<div> <div>1</div> <div>6</div> <div>12</div> <div>18</div> <div>42</div> </div>	<div> <div>5</div> <div>24</div> <div>29</div> <div>35</div> <div>46</div> </div>	<div> <div>5</div> <div>6</div> <div>9</div> <div>20</div> <div>29</div> <div>30</div> </div>	<div> <div>3</div> <div>11</div> <div>16</div> <div>19</div> <div>22</div> <div>47</div> </div>	<div> <div>1</div> <div>11</div> <div>18</div> <div>40</div> <div>50</div> </div>
BONUS BALL	BONUS BALL	LUCKY STARS	LUCKY STARS	REINTEGRO	REINTEGRO	REINTEGRO
52	38	2 7	11 12	8 4	38 6	6
		EL MILLON: TGX83224		JOKER: 3 311 430	JOKER: 4 642 369	

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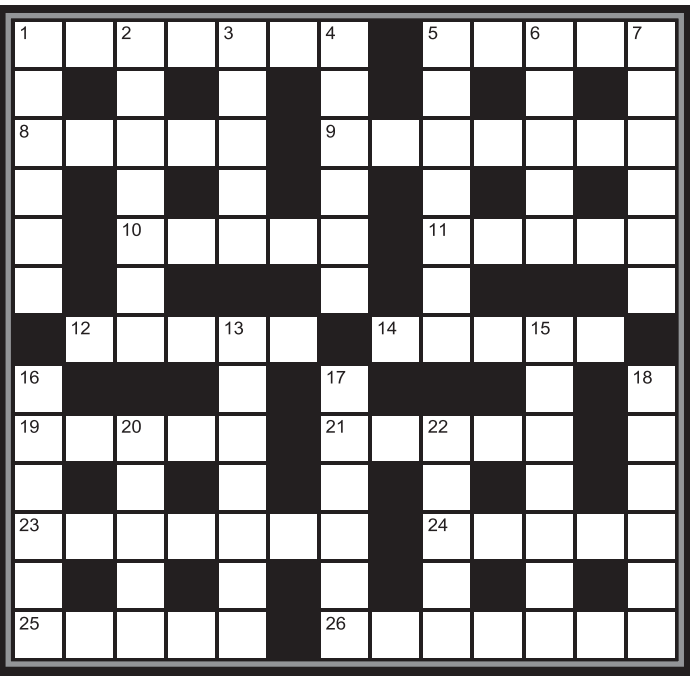
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TIME

Cryptic

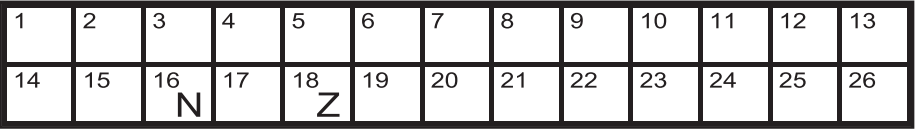
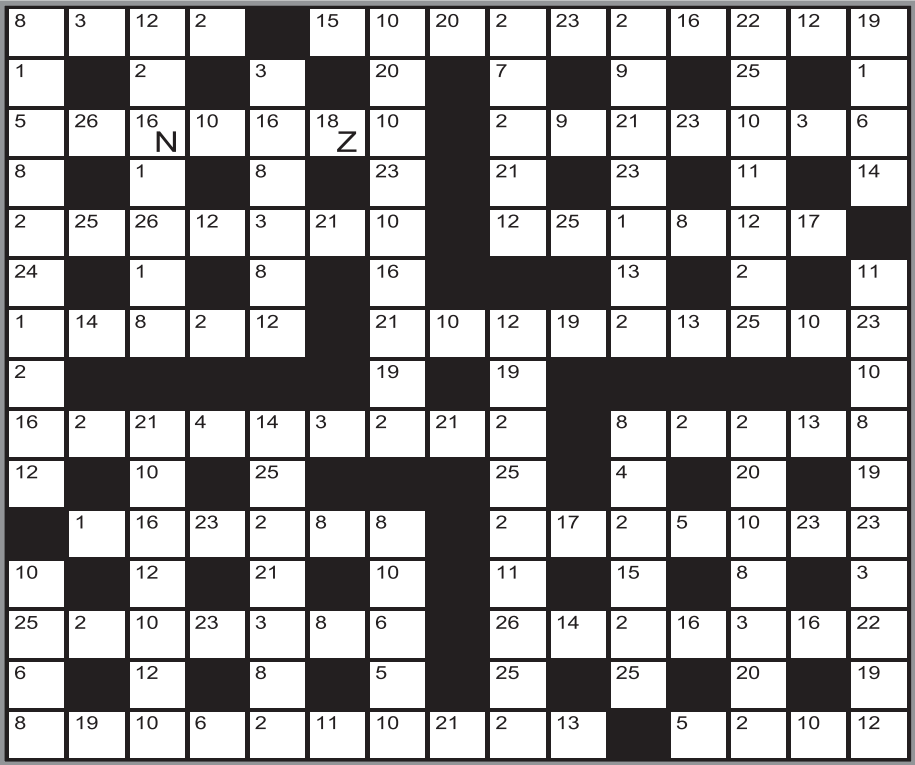
- Across**
- 1 Chop up trees to get a badge (7)
 - 5 Releases from custody with some cricket gear (5)
 - 8 Flower seen in a dell up in the Lake District (5)
 - 9 Disturb a US soldier by the gallery (7)
 - 10 Psyche revealed by Macbeth, ostensibly (5)
 - 11 Side with gal in trouble (5)
 - 12 Push soldiers (5)
 - 14 Drink from fractured pipes (5)
 - 19 Introduction of Fairtrade butter extract (5)
 - 21 Support for fifty on the boundary (5)
 - 23 Hospital doctors bury bridge partners (7)
 - 24 Die surrounded by gold? Goodbye (5)
 - 25 Nervous of fickle teens (5)
 - 26 African country seen rebuilt by girl (7)

- Down**
- 1 Really enjoy dressing (6)
 - 2 Rebel Euro MP's leader (7)
 - 3 A number going to church for fish (5)
 - 4 Pass by the Spanish part of church (6)
 - 5 Army unit rebuilt a bridge (7)
 - 6 Irish terrorists meet queen - one from Baghdad, perhaps (5)



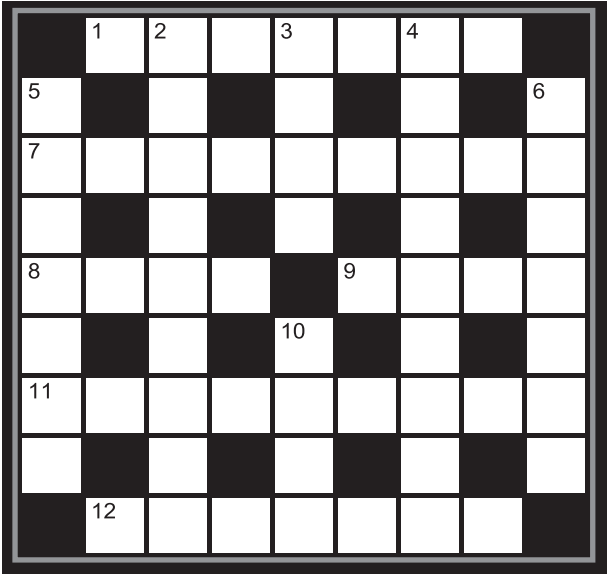
- 7 Reveals aftertaste in several beer mugs (6)
- 13 Small bed by lake for inner circle (7)
- 15 In search of Neptune, sounds like (7)
- 16 A heap of snow lost at sea (6)
- 17 A follower endures explosions (6)
- 18 A ceremony in a Spiritualist's meeting (6)
- 20 Stick to prohibition outside (5)
- 22 Exhaust water supply after day (5)

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 16 represents N and 18 represents Z, so fill in N every time the figure 16 appears and Z every time the figure 18 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

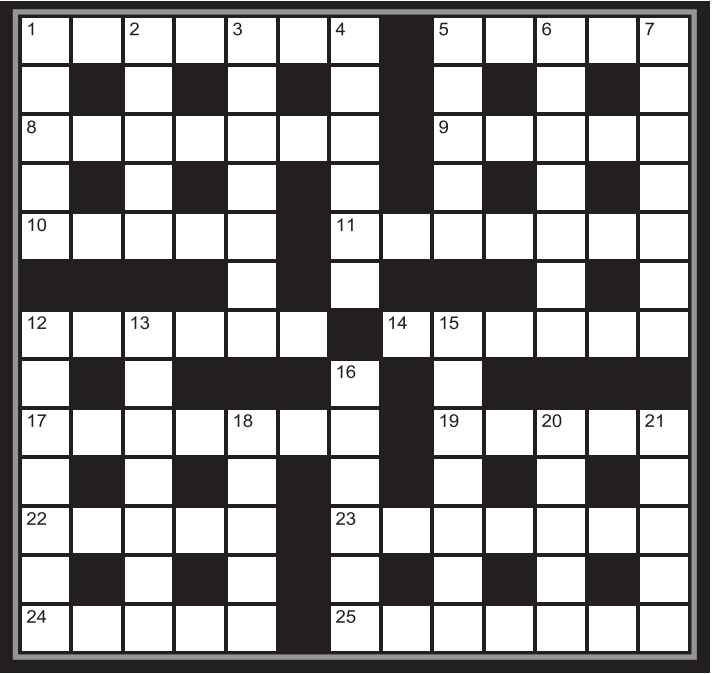
Quick



- Across**
- 1 Get or find again (7)
 - 7 Large company of musicians (9)
 - 8 Expense (4)
 - 9 One (4)
 - 11 Crude (9)
 - 12 Answers (7)
- Down**
- 2 Beyond normal limits (9)
 - 3 Do what one is told (4)
 - 4 Widespread (9)
 - 5 Abstract idea (7)
 - 6 Associate (7)
 - 10 Written account of money owed (4)

English - Spanish

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



- Across**
- 1 Bracelet (7)
 - 5 Principio (comienzo) (5)
 - 8 Langosta (de mar) (7)
 - 9 Sobrina (5)
 - 10 Cuchara (para comer) (5)
 - 11 Islandia (7)
 - 12 Anchovy (salted, tinned) (6)
 - 14 Codicioso (6)
 - 17 Aisle (aeroplane, theatre) (7)
 - 19 Oveja (5)
 - 22 Listo (dispuesto) (5)
 - 23 Más temprano (7)
 - 24 Carreteras (5)
 - 25 Chubascos (7)
 - 5 Desde entonces (5)
 - 6 Promedio (7)
 - 7 Martes (7)
 - 12 To suck in (air or dust) (7)
 - 13 Waterfall (7)
 - 15 Rosary (7)
 - 16 Votantes (6)
 - 18 Laws (5)
 - 20 Exilio (5)
 - 21 Pears (5)
- Down**
- 1 Píldoras (5)
 - 2 Book (5)
 - 3 Government-licensed tobacconist's (7)
 - 4 Tener miedo (6)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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*Charges may occasionally be applied by a third party bank when transferring the

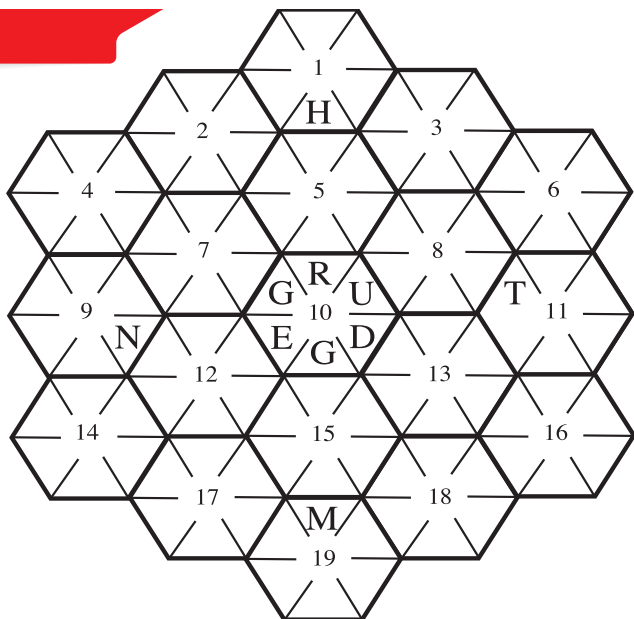
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Hexagram

ELAPSE
EMERGE
FREEST
GARISH
GRATER
GRUDGE (10)
INHERE
METHYL
PETITE
PRAISE
RAISED
RETIRE
SCYTHE
SERENE
SLEIGH
SNAPPY
TEeing
TRUANT
YEARLY



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

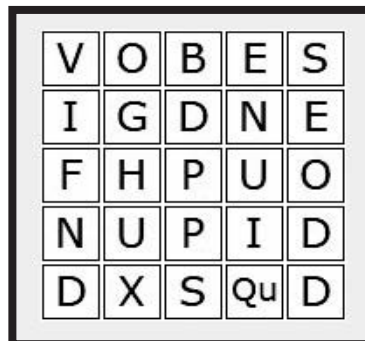
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1 Hector 2 Raster 3 Retort 4 Stanch
5 Horror 6 Tether 7 Ardent 8 Echoes
9 Scanty 10 Doctor 11 Thirst 12 Stereo
13 Terror 14 Speedy 15 Meteor
16 Ferric 17 Spotty 18 Morose
19 Teeth.

Boggled

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

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



TARGET:

- Average: 19
- Good: 26
- Very good: 38
- Excellent: 49

SCORING:

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

anon anoint auric pour pouch pouched
purine puce ouch ahead worn none nonet
noir uric urine hour houri hoed head heed
echo ecru aahed orient rhea rich rice riced
rift rite curio curie chop chou churn cede
croup crone crib cine cite noun niche nice
iron iced front frit fichu fiche fino fine need
enrich enriched entice enticed tiro tich tine
tenon tenor biont birch birched bite

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:

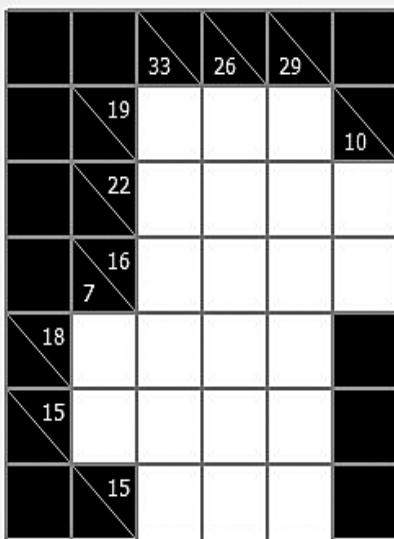
- Average: 6
- Good: 9
- Very good: 13
- Excellent: 16

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

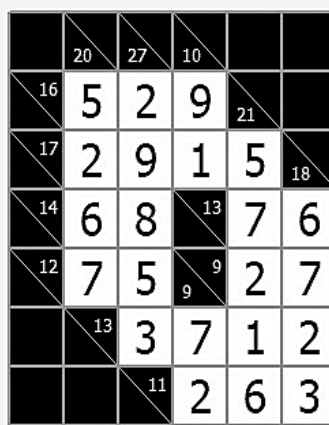
chip chop cope copy corp crop epic hope hype hypo peri pert
pier pith pity poet pore port prey pyre ripe rope rosy tope topi
trip type typo chirp coper crept crypt epoch hoper hyper optic
perch picot piety pitch pithy porch price pricy repot rosey
thorp thrip toper topic tripe trope typic chirpy cipher copier
copter cypher photic pitchy poetic poetry pother pricey pyrite
recopy trophy tropic pitcher trophic HYPOCRITE

Kakuro

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



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK

Across:

2 Harass, 5 Beta, 6 Retina,
7 Arms, 11 Less, 13 Uganda,
14 Drab, 15 Desire.

Down:

1/8 Bear hug, 2 Harsh,
3 Arid, 4 Stalls, 7 Absurd,
9 Glade, 10 Pass, 12 Sham.

CODE BREAKER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Z	V	R	E	S	M	W	P	Y	H	F	N	G
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	C	T	U	J	Q	X	O	B	K	D	I	L

CRYPTIC

Across:

1 Bodily, 4 Boosts, 9 Aloof, 10 Airdrie,
11 Sweeping, 12 Dill, 14 Disney, 16 Tokens,
19 Tone, 20 Valencia, 23 Cottage, 24 Annul,
25 Sermon, 26 Deters.

Down:

1 Braised, 2 Drone, 3 Life peer, 5 Oars,
6 Surmise, 7 Steel, 8 Faint, 13 Moderate,
15 Senator, 17 Stables, 18 Latex, 19 Tacks,
21 Canoe, 22 Dado.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

1 Cuchitril, 8 Bone, 9 Calabacin, 10 Bottle,
13 Maleta, 15 Algas, 16 Deber, 17 Hair,
18 Glove, 21 Sorteo, 22 Espejo,
25 Divertido, 26 Ayer, 27 Announcer.

Down:

2 Usado, 3 Heart, 4 Travel, 5 Idioma,
6 Housewife, 7 Germany, 11 Taburetes,
12 Large, 14 Ashes, 16 Dustpan,
19 Loción, 20 Veneno, 23 Piton, 24 Judge.

App of the week

MIGHTY TV

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TIME OUT

BOOKS



Some lines
shouldn't
be crossed

REACHER takes a stroll through a small Wisconsin town and sees a class ring in a pawn shop window.

A tough year to graduate: Iraq, then Afghanistan. The ring is tiny, for a woman, and it has her initials engraved on the inside. Reacher wonders what unlucky circumstance made her give up something she earned over four hard years. He decides to find out. And find the woman. And return her ring. Why not?

So begins a harrowing journey that takes Reacher through the upper Midwest, from a lowlife bar on the sad side of a small town to a dirt-blown crossroads in the middle of nowhere, encountering bikers, cops, crooks, muscle, and a missing persons PI who wears a suit and a tie in the Wyoming wilderness.

The deeper Reacher digs, and the more he learns, the more dangerous the terrain becomes. Turns out the ring was just a small link in a far darker chain.

books@euroweeklynnews.com

Axarquía

weather



Malaga Today: Max 14, Min 3-Sh Fri - 16 4 - S Sat - 16 6 - S Sun - 15 6 - Cl Mon - 16 6 - S Tues - 16 6 - S Wed - 16 7 - Cl	Almeria Today: Max 13, Min 6-Sh Fri - 16 6 - S Sat - 15 6 - S Sun - 15 6 - S Mon - 15 8 - S Tues - 15 9 - S Wed - 16 9 - S	Ribao Today: Max 9, Min 6-Sh Fri - 8 5 - Sh Sat - 8 3 - Sh Sun - 9 1 - Cl Mon - 10 2 - Cl Tues - 11 2 - Cl Wed - 10 4 - S	Madrid Today: Max 10, Min -1-S Fri - 10 -2 - Cl Sat - 10 -4 - Cl Sun - 10 -4 - S Mon - 10 -3 - S Tues - 11 -3 - S Wed - 10 -2 - S
Alicante Today: Max 15, Min 6-Cl Fri - 16 5 - S Sat - 15 4 - S Sun - 14 5 - S Mon - 15 7 - S Tues - 16 7 - Cl Wed - 16 7 - Cl	Benidorm Today: Max 15, Min 6-Cl Fri - 17 6 - S Sat - 15 4 - S Sun - 14 5 - S Mon - 14 8 - S Tues - 15 8 - Cl Wed - 16 9 - Cl	Mallorca Today: Max 13, Min 5-Cl Fri - 13 4 - Sh Sat - 12 3 - Cl Sun - 13 3 - Cl Mon - 14 5 - S Tues - 15 5 - Cl Wed - 15 6 - Cl	Barcelona Today: Max 12, Min 3-S Fri - 11 2 - Cl Sat - 11 2 - S Sun - 11 1 - S Mon - 11 2 - S Tues - 13 3 - S Wed - 13 3 - S

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

Euro Weekly News strives for accuracy, but cannot be held responsible for any errors in published forecasts

BIRTHDAYS

- December 7, Nicholas Hoult, Actor, 28
Young British actor who first found fame in the movie About a Boy in which he appeared alongside Hugh Grant. Now best known for appearances in the X-Men and Mad Max.
- December 8, Louis de Bernières, Author, 63
Popular British author whose fourth novel Captain Correlli's Mandolin became an international best seller and was made into a successful film.
- December 9, Dame Judi Dench, Actress, 83
Now in her 60th year as a professional actress, she is considered one of the best living British theatre and film stars and recently played M in the James Bond movies.
- December 10, Sir Kenneth Branagh, Actor, 57
Another well respected British actor and producer who is particularly associated with the adaptation of Shakespeare plays for both the theatre and film screen.
- December 11, Phil Spencer, Journalist and Presenter, 48
Now part of a 'double act' with Kirstie Allsopp in Location, Location, Location he qualified as a surveyor and then became a professional home finder before landing his TV job.
- December 13, Santi Cazorla, Footballer, 33
After playing for a number of Spanish clubs, the midfielder was transferred to Arsenal but is only just returning to training after 11 months recovering from injury.



Santi Cazorla.

Sierra Nevada SNOW REPORT

Last week's snow has stayed on Sierra Nevada's slopes, with most of them now having enough to ski on. Lows of -5 expected on Thursday nighttime, however daytime temperatures for the week will stay above freezing. Clear skies have been forecast for most of the week except Saturday and Monday, when snow is expected.



- 1520 - Martin Luther publicly burns papal edict which demands that he recant his views
- 1542 - Mary Queen of Scots is born
- 1577 - Sir Francis Drake sets off to circumnavigate the world.
- 1620 - Pilgrims land at Plymouth Rock to settle in America
- 1774 - First attack in New Hampshire signals start of the American Revolution
- 1799 - France becomes the first country to adopt the metric system
- 1901 - Guglielmo Marconi sends the first transatlantic radio signal from Britain to Cornwall
- 1909 - Inventor Leo Baekeland patents the first thermos-setting plastic, Bakelite
- 1913 - Two years after it was stolen from the Louvre Museum the Mona Lisa was recovered in Florence
- 1915 - The one millionth Ford motor car is built
- 1936 - Edward VIII formally signs document of Abdication
- 1941 - Japanese aircraft bomb Pearl Harbour in Hawaii bringing America into the Second World War
- 1946 - UNICEF the UN Children's Fund established
- 1949 Chinese Nationalists under Chiang Kai-shek move their capital to the island of Taiwan
- 1964 - Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Martin Luther King
- 1964 Singer Sam Cooke was shot and killed by the manager of a Los Angeles motel
- 1988 - Yasar Arafat declares the State of Palestine and recognises the existence of the State of Israel
- 1990 - Lech Walesa elected President of Poland

This week in history

Sudoku

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

Word Ladder

PULL

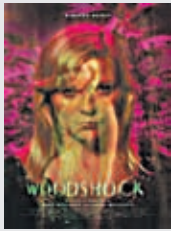
Move from the start word (PULL) to the end word (ROOT) in the same number of steps as there are rungs on the Word Ladder. You must only change one letter at a time.

ROOT

- JO
- ROOT
- FOOT
- FOOL
- POOL
- TOLL
- POLL
- Solution

DVD

Woodshock



AFTER suffering a profound loss, a haunted young woman named Theresa (Kirsten Dunst) comes to the conclusion that the best way to cope with the anxiety she feels would be to ingest a powerful cannabinoid drug in order to escape her reality.

From there, her life is filled with moments of suspended and altered consciousness as she continues to take drugs. She finds herself floating through the woods that she used to play in as a child, as she experiences isolation, paranoia, and grief in her dream-world state.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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

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THURSDAY - 7 DECEMBER

BBC one		BBC TWO		BBC FOUR		CHANNEL 4		CHANNEL 5	
7:00am	Breakfast	7:00am	An Island Parish: Falklands	8:00pm	Beyond 100 Days	7:20am	3rd Rock from the Sun	8:05am	Paw Patrol
10:15am	Island Medics					8:20am	Peppa Pig	8:20am	Peppa Pig
11:00am	Homes Under the Hammer	7:30am	Island Medics	8:30pm	Christmas University	8:35am	Everybody Loves Raymond	8:25am	Milkshake!
12:00pm	Claimed and Shamed	8:15am	The Hairy Bikers		Challenge 2015	10:00am	Frasier	8:30am	Peppa Pig
12:45pm	The Sheriffs are Coming	9:00am	MasterChef: The Professionals	9:00pm	The Secrets of Quantum Physics	10:35am	Frasier	8:50am	Floogals
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt	10:00am	Victoria Derbyshire	10:00pm	Inside Chernobyl's Mega Tomb	11:05am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	9:05am	Digby Dragon
2:00pm	BBC News at One	12:00pm	BBC Newsroom Live	11:00pm	Inside Porton Down: Britain's Secret	12:00pm	Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast	9:20am	Noddy: Toyland Detective
2:30pm	BBC London News	1:00pm	The Daily Politics		Weapons Research Facility	1:00pm	Channel 4 News	9:35am	Shimmer and Shine
2:45pm	Doctors	2:00pm	Snooker		When Rock Arrived in North Korea: Liberation Day	1:05pm	Kirstie's Handmade Christmas	9:55am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
3:15pm	Armchair Detectives	3:45pm	Rugby Union	12:00am		1:25pm	12 Wishes of Christmas	10:05am	Mofy
4:00pm	Escape to the Country	6:00pm	Snooker			3:10pm	Countdown	10:15am	The Wright Stuff
4:45pm	The Hairy Bikers	7:00pm	Celebrity Eggheads	1:00am	Empire of the Seas: How the Navy Forged the Modern World	4:00pm	Lost and Found	12:45pm	The Christmas Spirit
5:30pm	Money for Nothing	7:30pm	Strictly - It Takes Two	2:00am	Pappano's Classical Voices	5:00pm	A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun Four in a Bed	2:25pm	5 News Lunchtime
6:15pm	Pointless	8:00pm	Snooker	3:00am	Inside Chernobyl's Mega Tomb	6:00pm	Come Dine with Me	2:30pm	Neighbours
7:00pm	BBC News at Six	9:00pm	MasterChef: The Professionals	4:00am	Gaga for Dada: The Original Art Rebels	6:30pm	The Simpsons	3:00pm	The Flight Before Christmas
7:30pm	BBC London News	10:00pm	Blitz	5:00am	This is BBC Four	7:00pm	Hollyoaks	4:40pm	A Star Crossed Christmas
8:00pm	The One Show	11:00pm	Live at the Apollo		<i>BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.</i>	7:30pm	Channel 4 News	6:30pm	5 News at 5
8:30pm	EastEnders	11:30pm	Newsnight			8:00pm	The Political Slot	7:00pm	Neighbours
9:00pm	Holly City	12:15am	Snooker			8:55pm	Great Canal Journeys	7:30pm	5 News Tonight
10:00pm	Love, Lies and Records	1:05am	Exodus: Our Journey Continues			9:00pm	Catching a Killer 999: What's Your Emergency?	8:00pm	UK's Strongest Man 2017
11:00pm	BBC News at Ten	3:05am	This Farming Life			10:00pm	Born to be Free	9:00pm	Traffic Cops at Christmas
11:30pm	BBC London News	5:05am	This is BBC Two			11:25pm		10:00pm	Brick Mansions
11:45pm	Question Time		<i>Highlights of programmes on BBC Two.</i>			12:25am		11:00pm	5 News
									
9:30am	Lorraine	7:45am	Dinner Date	7:00am	Coronation Street	7:00am	The Chase	7:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
10:25am	The Jeremy Kyle Show	8:35am	Emmerdale	7:25am	Coronation Street	7:50am	The Chase	7:30am	Good Morning Sports Fans
11:30am	This Morning	9:00am	Coronation Street	7:55am	Heartbeat	8:35am	Cash Cowboys	8:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
1:30pm	Loose Women	9:30am	Coronation Street	8:00am	Wild at Heart	9:35am	Pawn Stars	8:30am	Good Morning Sports Fans
2:30pm	ITV Lunchtime News	10:00am	The Ellen DeGeneres Show	9:00am	Judge Judy	10:00am	Pawn Stars	9:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
2:55pm	ITV News London	10:50am	Dinner Date	10:00am	Judge Judy	10:30am	Ironsides	9:30am	Good Morning Sports Fans
3:00pm	Judge Rinder	11:50am	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!	10:25am	Judge Judy	11:35am	Quincy, M.E.	10:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
4:00pm	Dickinson's Real Deal	12:50pm	Planet's Got Talent	10:55am	Judge Judy	12:40pm	The Sweeney	10:50am	Good Morning Sports Fans
5:00pm	Tipping Point	1:20pm	Emmerdale	11:20am	A Touch of Frost	1:40pm	The Avengers	11:50am	Good Morning Sports Fans
6:00pm	The Chase	1:50pm	Coronation Street	1:30pm	Wild at Heart	2:50pm	Ironsides	12:50pm	Good Morning Sports Fans
7:00pm	ITV News London	2:20pm	Coronation Street	2:35pm	Heartbeat	3:50pm	Quincy, M.E.	1:45pm	Good Morning Sports Fans
7:30pm	ITV Evening News	2:50pm	The Ellen DeGeneres Show	3:40pm	Coronation Street	4:55pm	The Sweeney	2:50pm	Good Morning Sports Fans
8:00pm	Emmerdale	3:45pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show	4:15pm	Coronation Street	5:55pm	The Avengers	3:55pm	Good Morning Sports Fans
8:30pm	Tonight	7:00pm	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!	4:50pm	A Touch of Frost	7:00pm	Cash Cowboys	4:55pm	Good Morning Sports Fans
9:00pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	You've Been Framed!	5:00pm	Heartbeat	8:00pm	Pawn Stars	6:00pm	Good Morning Sports Fans
9:30pm	Paul O'Grady: For The Love of Dogs	9:00pm	Two and a Half Men	5:30pm	Murder, She Wrote	8:30pm	Pawn Stars	7:00pm	Good Morning Sports Fans
10:00pm	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!	10:00pm	Two and a Half Men	6:50pm	Murder, She Wrote	9:00pm	Steve McQueen: Motorcycle Movie Star	7:30pm	Good Morning Sports Fans
11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	10:30pm	Family Guy	7:55pm	Doc Martin	10:00pm	Moonraker	8:00pm	Good Morning Sports Fans
11:35pm	ITV News London	10:30pm	Family Guy	9:00pm	Foyle's War	11:00pm	FYI Daily	8:30pm	Good Morning Sports Fans
11:45pm	The Late Debate			10:00pm	Blue Murder	11:05pm	Moonraker	9:00pm	Good Morning Sports Fans
12:15am	UEFA Europa League Highlights			10:30pm	Blue Murder	12:35am	16 Blocks	9:30am	Good Morning Sports Fans
1:25am	Jackpot247			11:00pm	Judge Judy	1:35am	FYI Daily	10:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
				11:30pm	The Emmy nominated reality courtroom series, presided over by outspoken family court judge, Judge.	1:40am	16 Blocks	10:50am	Good Morning Sports Fans
				12:00am	Judge Judy	2:40am	The Professionals	11:50am	Good Morning Sports Fans
				12:30am	ITV3 Nightscreen	3:30am	The Protectors	12:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
				1:00am	Teleshopping	4:00am	Teleshopping	1:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
				1:30am				2:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
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TECH FOR THE TIMID

SMOKING has addicted us ever since Walt Raleigh discovered that sticking a leaf in your mouth and setting fire to it could do more than just burn your lips.

But society's greatest addiction is barely getting started: our smartphones.

The internet is knee-deep in surveys as we know. One of the latest says 87 per cent of owners go to sleep and wake up with their smartphones. Younger users touch, swipe or tap their phones 2,617 times a day.

Those of us closer to our sell-by dates may be slightly less hooked, but not necessarily. The biggest growth in smartphone use is now among the so-called 'silver surfers.'

The figures for average teen messaging are truly breathtaking, not to mention thumb-destroying: 67 texts tapped out daily, with a staggering 1,831 a day coming in.

I feel quite inadequate. Some 900 million texts sent every day according to the latest figures, and the best I can usually manage is 'On way put kettle,' or my standby to my other half during hypermarket 'mazeophobia': 'Where hell r u?'



SMARTPHONES: Time to retrain the brain?

Smartphones are the new cigarettes

After a decade of growing smartphone addiction, Terence Kennedy now shares a recognised medical syndrome: FOMO, the fear of missing out

Never before has one device combined every element of modern mass media: telephony, texting, music, video, the internet, social media, video games and that most vital and most accessed material of all: cat

videos. Barely 10 years since the first iPhone changed the world forever, we are well and truly hooked.

With almost as many mobile phones in the world as people, and two billion smartphones engaged in

a frenetic tapping routine even Fred Astaire couldn't match, is it time to wave a red flag?

Smartphone use makes us crash our cars, walk into lampposts, send inappropriate messages to the wrong people and heaven help us all, seriously wind-up Kim Jong-un. One American city has even conceded defeat and is embedding its 'Walk' and 'Don't Walk' street-corner commands into the kerb, because it's too much trouble for ambulatory texters to actually look up when crossing.

Unlike man-flu which my partner steadfastly refuses to credit as a 'real' disease, smartphone addiction is now a recognised condition, though you do have to wonder whether treating it with therapy widely available online isn't a bit like prescribing diet pills to an anorexic.

If you recognise yourself even remotely in some of the above, perhaps it's time to just put down your phone, get out there, and smell the roses. At least until someone invents a smartphone which can also produce odours, like the short-lived 1960 'Smell-o-Vision' experimental movie.

Perhaps my dear old granddad's motto takes on a new life in this pixel-addicted era: 'Everything in moderation' except moderation.

Turn off the tap

THERE are some simple steps if you're tapping too much:

Set rules for your phone use; why not give it a break from nine in the evening to seven the next morning?

Don't use your phone while driving. Though under my wife's household rules, texting over dinner will have far more serious consequences.

Schedule break times from your smartphone or social media.

Download an application if you're really in trouble: among them, BreakFree and Mental let you temper your online usage, while ColdTurkey and SelfControl let you block the really addictive sites.

And when you really know you have a problem? If you identify with this recent headline from the *Daily Telegraph*:

'One in 10 of us check our smartphones during sex.' Seriously?

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SUNDAY - 10 DECEMBER

BBC one **BBC Two** **BBC FOUR** CHANNEL 4. CHANNEL 5

7:00am	Breakfast	7:05am	Coast	8:00pm	Only Connect	7:20am	3rd Rock from the Sun	9:15am	Paw Patrol
8:35am	Match of the Day	8:05am	Gardeners' World		<i>Victoria Coren Mitchell hosts the series where knowledge will only take you so far.</i>			9:30am	Nella the Princess Knight
10:00am	The Andrew Marr Show	8:35am	Monty Don's Secret History of the British Garden			7:45am	3rd Rock from the Sun	9:50am	Noddy: Toyland Detective
11:00am	Fern Britton Meets...	9:35am	Countryfile			8:10am	Everybody Loves Raymond	10:00am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
12:00pm	Sunday Politics	10:30am	Saturday Kitchen Best Bites	8:30pm	University Challenge	8:35am	Everybody Loves Raymond	10:10am	Shimmer and Shine
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt	12:00pm	Food and Drink	9:00pm	Young, Gifted and Classical:	9:00am	Everybody Loves Raymond	10:30am	Digby Dragon
2:00pm	BBC News	12:30pm	My Life on a Plate		The Making of a Maestro	9:30am	Frasier	10:45am	Peppa Pig
2:15pm	Escape to the Country	1:15pm	MOTD2 Extra			10:00am	Frasier	10:55am	Peppa Pig
2:50pm	Mary Berry's Country House Secrets	2:00pm	Snooker	10:00pm	Leonora Carrington	10:30am	Sunday Brunch	11:05am	Football on 5
		6:15pm	Ski Sunday		The Sky at Night	1:30pm	Paul Hollywood	12:30pm	The Secret Life of Mrs Claus
		7:15pm	Flog It!	11:00pm	Tim Peake	2:00pm	Evolution	2:10pm	Journey Back to Christmas
3:50pm	Lifeline		<i>Flog It! comes from Wolverhampton Art Gallery. The gallery has a wonderful collection of paintings.</i>	11:30pm	Special: How to be an Astronaut	4:00pm	The Sorcerer's Apprentice	3:55pm	Trolls Holiday Special
4:00pm	Songs of Praise	8:00pm	Snooker	12:30am	Secret Knowledge	6:45pm	The Snowman and the Snowdog	4:25pm	5 News
4:35pm	Toy Story	12:00am	Employable Me	1:00am	Britain's Lost Waterlands:	7:10pm	Channel 4 News	4:30pm	Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End
5:50pm	Blue Planet II	2:05am	Athletics		Escape to Swallows and Amazons	7:30pm	Britain's Wildest Weather 2017	5:30pm	5 News
6:50pm	BBC News	3:40am	Headhunters			9:00pm	Coastal Railways with Julie Walters	5:35pm	Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End
7:05pm	BBC London News	4:40am	Question Time						
7:15pm	Countryfile	5:40am	Holby City	2:00am	Country	10:00pm	The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel	7:45pm	Need for Speed
8:15pm	Strictly Come Dancing		This is BBC Two	3:00am	Peaky Blinders	12:30am	Unbroken	10:00pm	Chappie
9:00pm	Blue Planet II		<i>Highlights of programmes on BBC Two.</i>		<i>Period crime drama set in 1919 Birmingham.</i>	2:55am	Departure	11:00pm	5 News
10:00pm	Attenborough and the Giant Elephant					4:45am	Gillette World Sport	11:05pm	Chappie
11:00pm	BBC News			4:00am	Peaky Blinders			12:20am	Resident Evil: Afterlife
11:20pm	BBC London News			4:55am	This is BBC Four				
11:30pm	Match of the Day 2								
12:35am	The Women's Football Show								

sky sports
main event

sky sports
main event

10:25am	ITV News	7:35am	Emmerdale	7:00am	On the Buses	7:00am	The Avengers	7:30am	Cricknet
10:30am	Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury		Omnibus	7:25am	The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes	7:55am	The Avengers	10:00am	The Sunday Supplement
	The Martin	10:10am	Coronation Street		Heartbeat	8:45am	The Sweeney		Goals on Sunday
10:55am	Lewis Money Show	1:00pm	Omnibus	9:30am	Heartbeat	9:45am	The Big Fish Off	11:30am	Best PI Goals
		1:30pm	Mr. Bean	10:35am	Murder, She Wrote	10:45am	Fishing		Best PI Goals
11:25am	Save Money: Good Food	2:00pm	Merry Christmas Mr Bean	11:35am	Murder, She Wrote	11:50am	Impossible	1:00pm	Live Nissan Super Sunday Pre-Match
12:00pm	Tipping Point		You've Been Framed!	12:40pm	Columbo Goes to the Guillotine	12:15pm	Pawn Stars	1:30pm	Live Nissan Super Sunday
1:00pm	Junior	2:25pm	You've Been Framed!	1:45pm	Ben-Hur	12:40pm	Pawn Stars	2:00pm	Live Nissan Super Sunday
3:05pm	ITV News	3:00pm	Take Me Out	4:45pm	FYI Daily	1:10pm	Pawn Stars		La Liga Greatest Games
3:15pm	You've Been Framed!	4:05pm	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!	4:50pm	Ben-Hur	1:35pm	The Last Sunset	3:15pm	Football
3:45pm	Midsomer Murders			8:00pm	The History of Mr Polly	3:15pm	The Last Sunset	5:15pm	Live NFL: Sunday Game
5:40pm	The Chase	5:35pm	Yogi Bear	10:00pm	Endeavour	4:20pm	Paranoia	8:30pm	<i>A match from week 14 of the 2017 NFL season.</i>
6:35pm	How to Spend it Well at Christmas with Phillip Schofield	6:35pm	FYI Daily	12:00am	Lewis	5:20pm	FYI Daily	10:45pm	NFL Gameday Week
		6:40pm	Yogi Bear	2:00am	The Knock	5:25pm	Paranoia		Live NFL: Baltimore @ Pittsburgh
		7:10pm	Mr Bean's Holiday	3:05am	The Knock	7:25pm	FYI Daily		
7:35pm	ITV News London	8:10pm	FYI Daily	4:00am	The History of Mr Polly	7:30pm	The Man with the Golden Gun		
7:45pm	ITV News	8:15pm	Mr Bean's Holiday	5:40am	On the Buses		A View to a Kill		
8:00pm	Ninja Warrior UK	9:00pm	The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift		<i>Sitcom about a chirpy bus driver and his conductor pal.</i>	9:00pm	FYI Daily		
9:00pm	The Chase					10:05pm	A View to a Kill	1:50am	
	Celebrity Special	10:00pm	FYI Daily			10:10pm	Species		
10:00pm	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!	10:05pm	The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift			11:40pm	FYI Daily		
						12:40am	Species		
11:35pm	ITV News	11:05pm	Family Guy			12:45am	Universal	2:20am	
11:50pm	Diamond Geezers and Gold Dealers	11:35pm	I'm a Celebrity... Extra Camp			1:50am	Soldier: Day of Reckoning		
						2:50am	FYI Daily		
12:50am	The Detectives	12:35am	Family Guy						
		1:05am	American Dad!						



TV Couch Critic

THOUGH unsure how many readers are also regular viewers of morning television, friends staying recently are avid *Good Morning Britain* (ITV 1, weekdays 06.00-08.30) watchers, so for a few days the show became background to breakfast preparation.

It is presented by the lovely Susanna Reid, the delightful Charlotte Hawkins, the accomplished Ben Shephard and someone called Piers Morgan.

Good Morning Britain (GMB) is much lighter viewing than the BBC early morning offering, though flicking between the two, some offerings are remarkably similar.

What is not similar is the Piers Morgan effect.

I thought Piers had decamped to the US (thankfully not to España) but it seems he has since returned and is now a regular on the ITV morning show.

While I understand that controversy and over-the-top opinions can generate viewers, Piers takes this to a new and uncomfortable level.

Some recent viewing gems include his guide to a good marriage: pick up your other halves' socks; he thinks HE

Buenos-dias Piers a turn-off unlike must-view box sets



RANT: Piers Morgan not a morning delight!

set up Prince Harry and Meghan Merkle plus his rant about how good the GMB show is compared to its BBC rival.

EASY TO WATCH: Victoria Derbyshire.

On occasions his co-hosts are literally lost for words and it is easy to see why. Keeping to the daytime TV theme

for a moment, having accidentally caught the *Victoria Derbyshire Show* (BBC2, weekdays 09.00 and BBC News Channel) I am now a fan.

Victoria and an excellent team of reporters tackle sensitive and sometimes hard-hitting original stories, audience debate and breaking news, all in an easy-to-watch BBC2 style; truly an antidote to Piers, if you need one.

I am thrilled that the BBC is planning a *Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special* (BBC1, Christmas Day, time TBC).

Hosts Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman will oversee six couples performing a routine which tells the story of What Christmas Means to Me

(them). Jeremy Vine is half of one dancing pair; I have no words.

If seeking some stop/start viewing whilst decorating the Christmas

tree, Box Sets have to be the way to go.

These are essentially entire series you can watch via a catch-up service. One of the best on offer is *Game Face* (E4, via All4) and sees the much underrated Roisin Conaty navigating through a clumsy and hectic life, punctuated with hilarious driving lessons with instructor Damien Molony.

The BBC is now fully in the Box Set space and is showcasing some wonderful BBC3 programmes most of us would otherwise miss.

Junior Doctors, *Blood, Sweat and Tears* doesn't always sit well with the mince pies, but is a frank documentary series following what seven newly-qualified doctors get up to as they continue their training; one is going to really annoy you!

The BBC are also offering three complete series of *Josh*; there is a lot to get through if watched back-to-back, but even with a break the show tends to grow on viewers; it's a comedy about friends who go way back starring Josh Widdicombe, Elis James, Beattie Edmondson and Jack Dee.

Jennifer Saunders puts in all too-brief appearances for only three episodes as Beattie's mother, a true gem in the making!

Critique - J S, Mojacar, Almeria

Flying by the seat of their pants while we shop till we drop

Nora Johnson
Breaking Views

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

BRITISH AIRWAYS really created a storm with its latest wheeze: First on pays highest fare, last on gets cheapest deal (but may lose hand luggage to the hold). But, really, what else would you expect from an industry that refers to 'pax' as 'self-loading baggage'?

But the airports themselves are just as bad, aren't they? Passenger activity there boils down to three things: departing, arriving and waiting with 'pax' a captive audience, with disposable income, usually lots of time, and literally nowhere else to go.

So it shouldn't surprise us that airports are carefully designed to make us spend, spend, spend our hard-earned cash.

Well, they might think all



BRITISH AIRWAYS' new 'pay least, board last' policy has caused uproar among travellers. (inset) Passengers queuing to board a British Airways flight.

those wretched duty-free shops we're forced to walk through after security are inclined to make us spend! However, after the usually long and frankly irritating experience of passing through them, the first thing I want to do is find somewhere quiet to sit down and recover.

And another thing while I'm at it: most of us 'browsing' are only doing it to while away time. We're not shopping. We're either bored, or simply unable to find

somewhere to sit from a deliberate policy of limiting seats in overcrowded airports - Stansted particularly guilty in this respect!

Oh, and I've missed out: the security checks that one time lasted as long as the flight; the flight delays and inadequate compensation; the sense that every official involved in the process is trying to catch us out and send us to the back of ever-growing queues; the bag-drop queues; the poor signage; the car

parking rip-off charges; the interminable wait for the lack-of-courtesy bus; the dire, overpriced terminal food; the daft consumerism of terminal shopping. Not to mention fear of flying itself!

Speaking of flights, if a British explorer recently rescued from the depths of the jungle of Papua New Guinea while trying to find a remote tribe should invite 'volunteers' to help him on a future trip, how about 'volunteering' a few of our MPs to join him? Names on a postcard please...

Nora Johnson's psychological crime thrillers 'The Girl in the Red Dress,' 'No Way Back,' 'Landscape of Lies,' 'Retribution,' 'Soul Stealer,' 'The De Clerambault Code' (www.nora-johnson.net) available from Amazon in paperback/eBook (€0.99; £0.99) and iBookstore. All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity.

columnists@euroweeklynnews.com

THURSDAY THOUGHTS

By Graham Braben, Albox

I'm all for progress

PERSONALLY, I'm all for progress. After all, without it we'd all still be driving Ford Capris and singing along to any combination of various members of the Osmonds that you can think of. But on the other hand, there are times when it can leave you open-mouthed, whilst you wonder quite what is happening.

I've always enjoyed the Olympics, one of my first Olympic memories was Mary Rand winning the long jump gold medal at Tokyo 1964. I used to get up uncommonly early to watch it live on the BBC and found it so exciting largely because I should have been tucked up in bed at the time!

If a report is to be believed then the Olympics of the future will be somewhat different. There are three sports - well I think they're sports - that have been given the go ahead for recognition. Dodge ball. Arm-wrestling. And, the pick of the pops as the late Alan Freeman would have said, pole dancing!

But progress keeps on coming. Driverless buses are one example. No longer do you have to put up with the driver telling you they don't have the right change, or driving past your stop on the pretext they didn't see you or didn't hear the bell. One was even tested in Las Vegas last month... it crashed!

As with most things, progress has its advantages and disadvantages but, personally, I embrace it wholeheartedly. Only yesterday I was playing Subbuteo while I was listening to records on my Dansette record player. No, I've always been on the cutting edge - just that mine needs sharpening a bit!

columnists@euroweeklynnews.com

Readers interested in submitting articles for this guest column should send articles of around 250 words on topics felt to be of interest to the cosmopolitan EWN readership to editorial@euroweeklynnews.com.

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MONDAY - 11 DECEMBER

BBCone	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
4:00pm Escape to the Country The Hairy Bikers Home for Christmas 5:30pm Money for Nothing Pointless 6:15pm BBC News at Six 7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm EastEnders 9:30pm Would I Lie to You? 10:00pm The Real Marigold on Tour	3:05pm Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip Sister Rita to the Rescue 4:20pm 32 Brinkburn Street 5:05pm The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway 6:05pm The Blue Planet 7:00pm Celebrity Eggheads 7:30pm Strictly - It Takes Two 8:00pm Celebrity Antiques Road Trip 9:00pm Nigella's Christmas Table 10:00pm Employable Me 11:30pm Newsnight	9:00pm Mexico: Earth's Festival of Life The Art That Made Mexico: Paradise, Power and Prayers 11:00pm Handmade in Mexico 11:30pm Britain's Lost Masterpieces 12:30am Secret Knowledge 1:00am Everyday Miracles: The Genius of Sofas, Stockings and Scanners 2:00am Peaky Blinders 3:00am Peaky Blinders 4:00am Peaky Blinders 5:00am This is BBC Four	1:25pm The Dog Who Saved Christmas Countdown 3:10pm Lost and Found 4:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun 5:00pm Kirstie's Handmade Christmas 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News Includes sport and weather. 9:00pm Paul Hollywood 9:30pm Supershoppers 10:00pm 999: What's Your Emergency? 11:00pm First Dates	9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom Moly 10:05am The Wright Stuff 10:15am 5 News Lunchtime 12:45pm The Christmas Gift 2:30pm Rooftop Christmas Tree 4:15pm A Rose at Christmas 6:00pm 5 News at 5 6:35pm The Yorkshire Vet: Winter on the Moors 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm Weather Terror 9:00pm Police Interceptors 10:00pm Concorde: Triumph and Tragedy
itv	itv2	itv3	itv4	sky sports main event
7:00pm ITV News London 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street 9:00pm The Martin Lewis Money Show 9:30pm Coronation Street 10:00pm Hatton Garden 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:30pm ITV News London	3:40pm The Jeremy Kyle Show 5:55pm The Jeremy Kyle Show 6:55pm I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here! 8:30pm You've Been Framed! 9:00pm Two and a Half Men 10:00pm Family Guy 10:30pm Ghosted 11:00pm American Dad! 11:30pm American Dad! 12:00am Family Guy	10:55am Judge Judy 11:20am A Touch of Frost 1:35pm The Royal Heartbeat 2:35pm Coronation Street 4:10pm Coronation Street 4:45pm A Touch of Frost Heartbeat 7:50pm Murder, She Wrote 8:50pm Mamma Mia! 9:50pm FYI Daily 9:55pm Mamma Mia! 11:00pm The Widower 12:05am A Touch of Frost Wycliffe 2:05am Wycliffe 3:05am ITV3 Nightscreen	4:00pm Quincy, M.E. 5:00pm The Sweeney 6:00pm The Avengers 7:05pm Cash Cowboys 8:05pm Pawn Stars 8:35pm Pawn Stars 9:00pm River Monsters 10:00pm The Spy Who Loved Me 11:05pm FYI Daily 11:10pm The Spy Who Loved Me 12:40am Gangs of New York 1:40am FYI Daily 1:45am Gangs of New York	7:00am Total Goals 9:30am Total Goals 10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 11:00am Premier League Daily 12:00pm SKY Sports Daily 1:00pm SKY Sports News 7:00pm SKY Sports News 8:00pm SKY Sports Tonight 8:30pm Football 11:00pm The Debate - Live Cricket 2:15am Live NFL: Monday Game 5:45am My Icon

TUESDAY - 12 DECEMBER

BBCone	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
5:30pm Money for Nothing Pointless 6:15pm BBC News at Six 7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 8:30pm EastEnders 9:00pm Holby City 10:00pm The A Word 11:00pm BBC News at Ten 11:30pm BBC London News 11:45pm Sports Personality of the Year 2017 - The Contenders 12:45am Life and Death Row	3:00pm Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip Sister Rita to the Rescue 4:15pm 32 Brinkburn Street 5:00pm The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway 6:05pm The Blue Planet 7:00pm Celebrity Eggheads 7:30pm Strictly - It Takes Two 8:00pm Celebrity Antiques Road Trip 9:00pm MasterChef: The Professionals 10:00pm Rick Stein's Road to Mexico 11:00pm Motherland	8:30pm Christmas University Challenge 2016 A festive edition of the quiz, featuring distinguished university alumni. 9:00pm Armada: 12 Days to Save England 10:00pm Invasion! With Sam Willis 11:00pm The Mary Rose: A Timewatch Guide The Greatest Knight: William the Marshal Everyday Miracles: The Genius of Sofas, Scanners	1:25pm The Dog Who Saved Christmas Vacation 3:10pm Countdown 4:00pm Lost and Found 5:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun 6:00pm Kirstie's Handmade Christmas 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm Food Unwrapped Does Christmas 10:00pm The World's Most Expensive Presents 11:00pm Finding Me a Family	12:45pm 5 News Lunchtime 12:50pm Window Wonderland 2:30pm Merry Ex-Mas The Mistletoe Promise 5 News at 5 6:00pm The Yorkshire Vet at the Great Yorkshire Show 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm Steve Backshall's Hedgehog Rescue 9:00pm Jo Brand's Cats and Kittens 10:00pm Ben Fogle: Return to the Wild 11:00pm Britain's Favourite Christmas Hits 2:00am Super Casino
itv	itv2	itv3	itv4	sky sports main event
3:00pm Judge Rinder 4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal 5:00pm Tipping Point 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm ITV News London 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Save Money: Good Food 9:00pm How to Spend it Well at Christmas with Phillip Schofield 10:00pm Hatton Garden	3:40pm The Jeremy Kyle Show 4:50pm The Jeremy Kyle Show 5:55pm The Jeremy Kyle Show 6:55pm Take Me Out 8:00pm You've Been Framed! 8:30pm You've Been Framed! 9:00pm Two and a Half Men 9:30pm Two and a Half Men 10:00pm Through the Keyhole	1:35pm The Royal Heartbeat 2:40pm Coronation Street 4:15pm Coronation Street Heartbeat 7:55pm Murder, She Wrote 9:00pm Agatha Christie's Marple 11:00pm The Widower 12:00am Appropriate Adult 1:30am Lucan 2:50am Judge Judy 3:10am ITV3 Nightscreen Text-based information service. 3:30am Teleshopping	2:45pm Ironside Quincy, M.E. 3:50pm The Sweeney 4:55pm The Professionals 6:00pm Cash Cowboys 8:00pm Pawn Stars 8:30pm The Chase: Celebrity Special 10:00pm Moonraker 11:00pm FYI Daily 11:50pm Moonraker 12:40am Universal Soldier: Regeneration 1:55am FYI Daily 2:00am Universal Soldier: Regeneration	7:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 11:00am Premier League Daily 12:00pm SKY Sports Daily 1:00pm SKY Sports News 7:00pm SKY Sports News 8:00pm SKY Sports Tonight 9:00pm SKY Sports Tonight 10:00pm SKY Sports Tonight 11:00pm SKY Sports News at Ten 11:30pm Info not available. 12:30am Cricket

WEDNESDAY - 13 DECEMBER

BBCone	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
12:00pm Street Auction 12:45pm Fake Britain 1:15pm Bargain Hunt 2:00pm BBC News at One 2:30pm BBC London News 2:45pm Doctors 3:15pm Armchair Detectives 4:00pm Escape to the Country 4:45pm The Hairy Bikers Home for Christmas 5:30pm Money for Nothing Pointless 6:15pm BBC News at Six 7:30pm BBC London News 8:00pm The One Show 9:00pm Mary Berry's Country House Secrets 10:00pm The Apprentice 11:00pm BBC News at Ten 11:30pm BBC London News	9:30am Anglesey 10:00am Victoria Derbyshire 12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live 12:30pm The Daily Politics Lifeline 2:00pm Coast 2:10pm Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip Sister Rita to the Rescue 4:20pm 32 Brinkburn Street 5:05pm The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway 6:05pm The Blue Planet 7:00pm Celebrity Eggheads 7:30pm Strictly - It Takes Two 8:00pm Celebrity Antiques Road Trip 9:00pm MasterChef: The Professionals 10:00pm Peaky Blinders 11:00pm The Apprentice: You're Fired! 11:30pm Newsnight	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days Christmas 8:30pm University Challenge 2016 A festive edition of the quiz, featuring distinguished university alumni. 9:00pm 70 Million Animal Mummies: Egypt's Dark Secret 10:00pm Digging for Britain 11:00pm Detectorists 11:30pm The League of Gentlemen 12:00am Spike Milligan: Love, Light and Peace 1:30am Goya Exposed with Jake Chapman 2:00am Peaky Blinders 3:00am Peaky Blinders 4:00am Peaky Blinders 5:00am This is BBC Four	11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA 12:00pm Jamie's Christmas with Bells On Channel 4 News 1:00pm Kirstie's Handmade Christmas 1:20pm Kirstie's Handmade Christmas 1:25pm The Dog Who Saved the Holidays Countdown 3:10pm Lost and Found 4:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun 5:00pm Kirstie's Handmade Christmas 7:00pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm The Secret Life of the Zoo 10:00pm The Channel 11:00pm Vanished by the Lake	9:05am Digby Dragon 9:20am Noddy: Toyland Detective 9:35am Shimmer and Shine 9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom Moly 10:05am The Wright Stuff 10:15am 5 News Lunchtime 12:50pm Access 1:00pm Guest Who's Coming to Christmas Season's Greetings 2:30pm Murder, She Baked: A Christmas Pudding Mystery 5 News at 5 6:00pm The Yorkshire Vet 5 News Tonight 7:30pm Police Interceptors 8:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors 9:00pm Harrogate: A Yorkshire Christmas
itv	itv2	itv3	itv4	sky sports main event
7:00am Good Morning Britain 9:30am Lorraine 10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show 11:30am This Morning 1:30pm Loose Women 2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News 2:55pm ITV News London 3:00pm Judge Rinder 4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal 5:00pm Tipping Point 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm ITV News London 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 8:30pm Coronation Street Gino's Italian 9:30pm Coastal Escape 9:30pm Coronation Street Hatton Garden 10:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather 11:00pm ITV News London 11:30pm Exposure 12:45am Parking Wars 1:35am Jackpot247	10:50am Dinner Date 11:50am Britain's Got Talent 12:50pm Planet's Got Talent 1:20pm Emmerdale 1:50pm You've Been Framed! 2:50pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show 3:40pm The Jeremy Kyle Show 4:50pm The Jeremy Kyle Show 5:55pm The Jeremy Kyle Show 6:55pm Take Me Out 8:00pm You've Been Framed! 8:30pm You've Been Framed! 9:00pm Two and a Half Men 9:30pm Two and a Half Men 10:00pm The Hangover Part II 11:00pm FYI Daily	7:00am Judge Judy 7:20am Coronation Street 7:45am Coronation Street 8:15am Heartbeat 9:15am The Royal Heartbeat 10:20am Judge Judy 10:45am Judge Judy 11:10am Judge Judy 1:40pm The Royal Heartbeat 2:40pm Coronation Street 4:15pm Coronation Street Heartbeat 7:55pm Murder, She Wrote 9:00pm Foyle's War 11:00pm The Widower 12:05am Appropriate Adult 1:35am Lucan 2:50am Judge Judy The Emmy nominated reality courtroom series, presided over by outspoken family court judge. 3:10am ITV3 Nightscreen Text-based information service.	7:00am The Chase 7:50am The Chase 8:40am Cash Cowboys 9:30am Pawn Stars 10:30am Ironside 11:35am Quincy, M.E. 12:40pm The Sweeney 1:45pm The Professionals 2:50pm Ironside 3:55pm Quincy, M.E. 5:00pm The Sweeney 6:00pm The Professionals 7:00pm The Darts Show 8:35pm Pawn Stars 9:00pm Devon and Cornwall Cops 9:30pm Devon and Cornwall Cops 10:00pm For Your Eyes Only 11:00pm FYI Daily 11:05pm For Your Eyes Only 12:45am Renegades FYI Daily 1:50am Renegades 2:55am Ax Men 3:45am ITV4 Nightscreen 4:00am Teleshopping	7:00am Cricket SKY Sports 3:00pm SKY Sports News 4:00pm SKY Sports News 5:00pm Ram Slam T20 Challenge Sf Football 8:30pm Live Fight Night: Katie Taylor 10:45pm SKY Sports News 2:00am SKY Sports News A comprehensive review of all the night's football news, plus a look ahead to the morning headlines. 3:00am SKY Sports News 4:00am SKY Sports News 5:00am SKY Sports News

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Ask The

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Migraines and what to do



SPECIALIST: Doctor Luis Perez Belmonte.

IS it normal to suffer a migraine?

Migraines are a frequent cause of headaches but not all headaches are migraines. They can be intense and causing pulsating pain to one or both sides of the head. If you have these symptoms and they persist you should be evaluated by a specialist, who will carry out tests including a blood test and an MRI.

What is the difference between a normal headache and a migraine?

Migraines tend to affect specific areas of the head and can be associated with neuralgic symptoms including visual alterations, numbness or tingling sensation in the face or hands and even, although this is rare, temporary paralysis of the face or other parts of the body. They usually last between 24 and 72 hours and wear off gradually. Patients usually identify their symptoms

quite quickly and as time goes by can learn to prevent or reduce attacks by taking certain measures.

How can I control these attacks?

When they happen I have to stop what I'm doing and if I'm driving it could be dangerous. Attacks can be hard to control but usually if caught early they can be kept in check. Stressful situations should be avoided and those prone to migraines should get plenty of sleep at night and avoid anything they suspect sparks their attacks.

What causes them?

The causes are unknown, but genetics, hormonal changes and certain medicines are believed to be involved. Some patients also relate their attacks to certain foods or drinks including alcohol, smoked foods, chocolate, citrus fruit or caffeine.

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

Keeping dementia at bay

WE are often advised to use regular exercise, supplements and a healthy diet to ward off dementia.

But researchers have found the answer could be even simpler, with people in a happy relationship 30 per cent less likely to suffer from the disease.

The results, which take into account 15 studies from the around the world, show married people cut their risk by almost a third, while widowed people increased their chance of developing dementia by 20 per cent.

“

Having someone to talk to keeps the brain active.

The British-led report, which used data from more than 800,000 people worldwide, suggested the interaction and care marriages provide was responsible for the results. Researchers say they believe having someone to talk to keeps the brain active, while loved-ones are more likely to take medication, eat well and visit a doctor if reminded by their partner.

Being in a loving relationship also makes people more likely to eat healthily and to go to the doctor if they are sick. A team at University College London believe that conversely the stress of bereavement can impair the cognitive performance of



HAPPY RELATIONSHIP:
Could be key.

widowers.

The researcher's explained, "our findings... are the strongest evidence yet that married people are less likely to develop dementia." They added, "dementia prevention in unmarried people should focus on education and physical health and should consider the possible effect of social engagement as a modifiable risk factor."

Marriage has previously been shown to increase the chance of surviving a heart attack, and lower the risk of high cholesterol, high blood pressure and type two diabetes.

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Cassandra Nash
A weekly look

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

PSOE secretary general Pedro Sanchez resigned his parliamentary seat in October 2016 rather than facilitate Mariano Rajoy's investiture as Spain's president.

Yet almost exactly a year later he backed Rajoy's decision to apply Article 155 of the Spanish constitution suspending Cataluña's autonomy after the October 1 referendum and the subsequent unilateral declaration of independence. Sanchez did so because Rajoy led him to understand there would be amendments to the Constitution regarding the regional system.

Now that Cataluña has returned to something resembling normality as it prepares for the December 21 regional elections, Rajoy is backing off.

"Reforming the Constitution cannot become a prize for those who have tried to liquidate it," the president has said.

But Rajoy himself, then in opposition, liquidated Cataluña's 2006 Statute of Autonomy approved in a regional referendum and by the national parliament. He and the Partido Popu-

Promises to keep



MARIANO RAJOY: Backing off.

lar challenged the Statute and their appeal was upheld by the Constitutional Tribunal, which emasculated it in 2010 and paved the way for the UDI fiasco.

No use crying over spilt milk but Rajoy could now try to mop up at least part of it with the promised Constitutional reform.

Priorities

THE uncharitable claim that Catalan secession gathered momentum in 2011

and 2012 at a time when the economic crisis was at its height, or its depth.

This was when the 'Madrid robs us' slogan was born but who didn't feel robbed when the boom busted and spending cuts inflicted deep wounds?

But what about the regional government's 10 per cent reduction on Health spending in 2011 and another 4.8 per cent in 2012, not to mention the 18 per cent cut for Cataluña's universities? And all this at a time when the Generalitat splashed €18.5 million

on 25 Catalan embassies around the world.

Change of tune

CARLES PUIGDEMONT boasted not long ago that if there was one voting list for the December 21 elections that Rajoy feared, it was his.

You've got it wrong, Charlie boy. If there is one list that Rajoy wants, it's the ex-regional president's PDeCAT.

This is a classic example of whistling in the dark, especially after ERC - the party that Rajoy really fears - declined to join forces with PDeCAT to repeat the Junts pel Si coalition while other independence parties are also giving Puigdemont the brush-off.

Meanwhile he swans around Bruges, disconcerting his own party which not long ago rejected unilateral independence.

Undeterred, Puigdemont told a Belgian daily that he has not renounced UDI and did a Farage by suggesting that Cataluña should vote on remaining in the EU which he described as a "club of decadent countries."

Oh yes, he's had a haircut too: amazing what a spell in sunny Belgium and an adoring court of exiles can do to a politician.

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

Advertising feature

It's a caring business sitting in a house!

REMEMBER the first 'Home Alone' movie with Macaulay Culkin left in his parent's house while they're away? Teenage children and worrying images of gouged French-polished tables and stained carpets are one thing, but how to manage if no one sits at home?

How can you care for your property when you're on holiday? With both urban and rural crime on the rise, an empty house over the holidays is never a good idea. Fortunately, today we have options that are inexpensive and more secure. Heard of 'house-sitting'?

House-sitting..?

House-sitting is a way for homeowners to find checked people to care for their property and pets, without 'care' costing the earth. In fact, if you join the right online network the house-sitters are free! For them it's a holiday. House-sitting suits retired professionals who make up a large number of house-sitters, as they look for affordable travel after a lifetime of work, home and pet responsibilities.

How to find out more

Enabled by the internet 'house-sitting networks' are like social networks but with added security and review systems allowing you to meet

checked sitters online. They help you find sitters to look after your home, prepare specific instructions and they follow those requests - it's part of your 'house-sitting agreement.' Check the reputation of the network online (eg Trustpilot).

Pets cared for at home

The most popular use for house-sitters is actually as pet-sitters, it cuts out the cost of kennelling. Moreover, pets remain in their home with their routines. Vets say this reduces animal stress especially when they sense their owners are leaving.

It makes for happy pets, and a happy home.



RETIREES: Make up a large number of house-sitters.

Do you need a house or pet-sitter? Get in touch. House-sitting can be a win-win for both parties, free house and pet-sitting and the experienced and checked sitters get free accommodation! Register as either house-sitter or homeowner now with a 20 per cent off introductory offer using coupon code PERFECT20.

To find a house or pet-sitter go to www.HousesitMatch.com

Tales of the Orient

THE Arts Society Nerja, presents 'The Honourable East India Company: Chinese Export and Chinoiserie,' a lecture by Vivienne Lawes.

This lecture will explore the way in which the East India Company developed its methods of trade and facilitated the increasingly sophisticated and profound exchange of ideas between east and west.

The currency and balance of trade will be explained and methods of production will be illustrated with Chinese export pieces including painted silks and furniture.

The talk will be held at the Cultural Centre, Calle Granada, Nerja next Tuesday at 6.00pm and tickets cost €10 for visitors.

For more information visit: www.theartsocietynerja.com or ring Helen Sijlsing on 952 533 373.

Dinner winner

A TOTAL of 300 cyclists will participate in the Velez-Málaga's 24th Clasica del Pavo.

Councillor for Sports, Maria Jose Roberto, and the president of the town's cycling club, David Pastor explained they will depart from Plaza de Las Carmelitas at 9.45am and finish at the Plaza de Almirajara in Competa on Sunday December 17.

Councillor Roberto explained: "This is an attractive competition that is becoming a tradition in which participants will tour parts of our town, as well as the roads of the Axarquía region."

She added: "we encourage all cyclists to register for this competitive event as soon as possible, since there is a limit of 300 participants."

She also said: "we congratulate the Velez-Málaga Club Ciclista once again for the great work they do in organ-



Credit: Ayuntamiento de Vélez Málaga.

THE EVENT: Covers 56 kilometres.

ising this."

David Pastor added the tour will go through Velez - Malaga, Benamocarra, Iznate, Cajiz, Valle-Niza, Almayate, Torre del Mar, Caleta, Algarrobo, Sayalonga and Competa, followed by a day of celebration and paella at the last location.

The man and woman fin-

ishing first will both be awarded a turkey.

Entrance costs €10 for federated participants and €20 for non-federated participants.

Those signing up on the day will pay €25.

For more information, visit:

www.velezmalaga.es

Christmas countdown

FRIGILIANA Council has announced its festive events, starting with a choir concert tomorrow (Friday).

The event at the San Antonio de Padua church will see the choirs process in a parade ending at Plaza de las 3 Culturas where the town's Christmas lights will be turned on at 7pm. The celebration will even feature fake snowfall.

On Sunday, an artisanal market will take place in the same square, offering samples of handcrafted products between 11am and 8pm.

On Friday December 15, the Multi-Use Centre will see performances by Gema and Jotxan's Zumba group, while this Sunday the traditional Christmas Choir Encounter will take place. The event will begin at 8pm at the San Antonio de Padua church, bringing together choirs from all over the province

to perform Christmas carols.

On Friday December 22 the church will host a Pastoral concert with traditional tambourines from 7.30pm. While on Saturday December 30, children will be given the opportunity to hand deliver their Christmas letters to the Magi as the Royal Mailman will be in the Plaza de las 3 Culturas alongside a bouncy castle and other children's activities.

New Year's Eve will see the square hosting a large tent with performances by Los Canallas, Midnight Mechanics and DJ, Antonio Hierro from 11pm while traditional grapes will be consumed at midnight.

Spain's Christmas Day will see the Magi parade the town of Frigiliana on horseback on Friday January 5, as well as activities from 11pm in Plaza de las 3 Culturas on Saturday January 6.

WHAT better way to celebrate Christmas and New Year than to pop open a bottle of cava with friends?

A sparkling wine with Denominacion de Origen (DO) status from Cataluña, cava can be produced throughout Spain, though about 95 per cent is from Penedes (near Barcelona) with Codorniu and Freixenet the major and best known among about 200 manufacturers.

Cava in Catalan means 'cellar' with the name officially adopted in 1970 to distinguish it from French Champagne, though only wines produced in the champenoise traditional method may be labelled cava.

The primary grape is Macabeu with faint floral aromatics and slightly bitter finish; Xarel·lo has stronger floral and fruity aromas while Paralleda has high acidity and citrus flavours, creating a balanced fruity sparkling drink closer to Champagne than Prosecco.

Produced in varying lev-



CAVA: Highly versatile when paired with food.

Spanish sparkle

els of sweetness, the driest cava is brut nature, progressing through brut, brut reserve, seco, semiseco to

dulce which is the sweetest. Dating back as early as 1851, cava can be white (blanc) or rose (rosat), which is produced by adding small quantities of red wines: Cabernet Sauvignon, Garnacha or Monastrell.

Though some regard cava as an aperitif or a drink served for a toast, in fact it is highly versatile when

food pairing as it can be light and refreshing all the way up to full-bodied.

Its acidity and effervescence will compliment a whole range of foods including poultry, cured and smoked meats, fish and seafood in addition to light desserts and spicy Asian dishes.

Cava prices range from a few euros per bottle to €30 for a Gran Reserva, though in all cases I do not believe you will be disappointed.

Happy tasting.

BACCHUS CELLAR

by Lorenzo Barbareschi



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By Matthew Elliott

ALMOST half of all the luxury real estate sold in Spain is within the thriving Madrid market. The Spanish capital accounts for 45 per cent of all luxury housing transactions.

Both domestic and international investors favour the city for properties ranging in value from €800,000 to €1.5 million.

The figures were released by Barnes Spain, which also revealed that a substantial proportion of international investors in Madrid are from Latin America, Asia and the Middle East.

Barnes also said that Madrid is distinguished by the quality of its renovations. Location is everything in the capital so, rather than build luxury homes in undesirable areas, people prefer to remodel older homes in prime neighbourhoods.

In 2017 alone Madrid residents have spent more than €2 billion combined on home renovations. Many do so with the specific intention of selling their property while the market is hot.

Meanwhile thousands of owners are taking advantage of high prices to rent out their homes.



LUXURY: Madrid market favoured by elite.

The average rent has shot up €17 per square metre this year.

There is a major contrast with Barcelona, which has seen the

prices of luxury homes plummet by 20 per cent since the Catalan crisis began.

Both wealthy foreign nationals,

and multi-national corporations are reluctant to buy homes or offices while the uncertainty lingers.

Sale stats revealed

SEVEN in 10 Spanish buyers think properties are too expensive at present. A new study from Fotocasa revealed that buyers have spent an average of 8 per cent more on purchasing a property this year than in 2016.

The average expenditure now stands at €173,000. In the current climate bargaining is vital and the majority of buyers have some success. Six out of 10 buyers managed to negotiate the price down, by an average of €14,000, roughly 10 per cent of the average

asking price.

The study also shows that people are buying homes faster. Eight out of 10 buyers managed to close the deal in less than one year. Just over 60 per cent did so in less than six months.

For sellers the process is naturally longer, but just over half still managed within half a year.

Three quarters of buyers purchased a home to use as their main residence. Around 13 per cent bought property as a second home and 11 per cent as an investment, typically to be rented out.

THE world's most expensive house has gone on the market in the South of France.

The 14-bedroom chateau, Villa Les Cedres, has broken records by going on sale for over €300 million, and the owner hopes its unique history will attract buyers.

The 187-year-old house, which previously belonged to a king, is currently owned by Italian drinks company Davide Campari-Milano Spa.

The property had been used to grow the oranges used to flavour Grand Marnier when it was owned by the Lapostolle-Marnier family. Davide Campari-Milano acquired the house last year when it took over Grand Marnier's parent company.

Featuring 35 acres of landscaped gardens on the Cote D'Azur, the house was built in 1830 and bought by the mayor of Villefranche-sur-Mer in 1850. In 1904, his descendants sold the chateau to King Leopold II of Belgium who began planting more than 14,000

€315m to spare? Costliest home on planet for sale



VILLA LES CEDRES: Is breaking records.

species of plant, including the orange trees eventually used to flavour Grand Marnier.

Fifteen years after the king's death, Villa Les Cedres was bought by the liqueur's makers, who cultivated King Leopold's crops

for their drink. Now featuring bronze statues, a man-made pond and a belle epoque style throughout, its owners have listed the property with estate agent Savills.

Campari believe the property is worth around 20 per

cent of its 2016 gross sales, although Bloomberg News says this figure may not be achieved. Any owner is likely to be in good company as composer Andrew Lloyd Webber has a neighbouring property, as does Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen.

Travel

Discovering Sierra Espuña

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

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

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

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

The stunning area caters for all types of visitors, with hotels and campsites nearby offering activities that include rock climbing, water rafting, quad bike hire or just somewhere to relax and unwind.

Luna landscape.



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

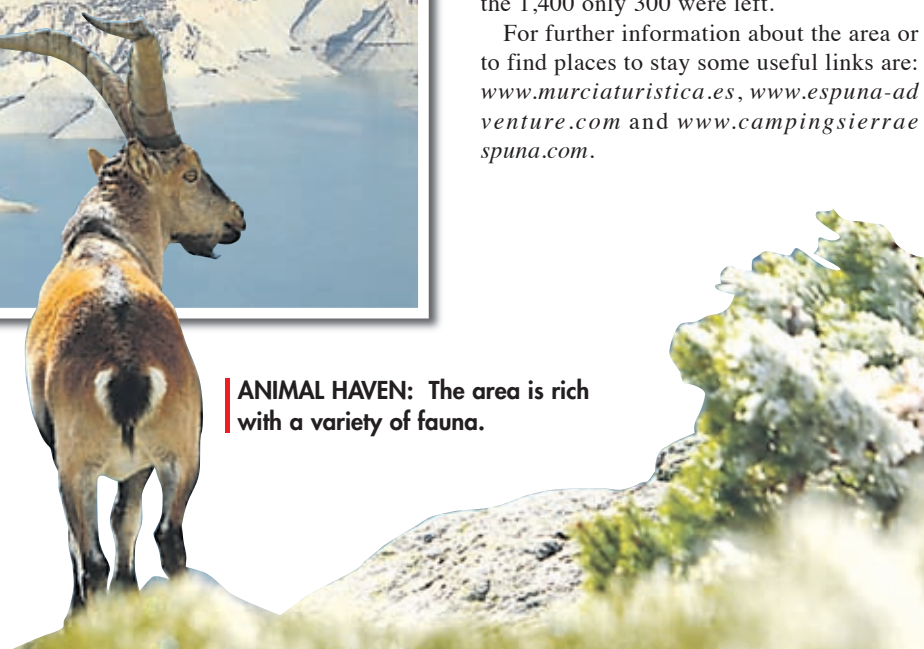
The many pine trees were famously planted, in almost a regimented fashion, by the Spanish engineer Ricardo Codorníu with the aim of helping the landscape which suffered from landslides and ero-

sion in the latter part of the 19th and early 20th century.

The fauna in the area is rich and varied, it's not hard to find squirrels, mouflons (wild sheep), wild boars or golden eagles, although in 2015 the authorities had to organise a cull of the wild, goat looking, sheep whose population had expanded. Of the 1,400 only 300 were left.

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

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



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Winter cold has arrived, time to make your warm fireside sanctuary

GRAEME TYRRELL

IF you are fortunate enough to have a well constructed fireplace or wood burning heater, it is a wonderful asset for keeping warm during the short days and long nights of winter.

Gardeners have an advantage for having a supply of wood to burn from their own garden while improving the health of their garden. It is the right time to prune deciduous trees and shrubs in winter and this can be a great source of kindling and logs for your fire.

The Mediterranean trees that provide the best firewood are olives, almond, carob and to a lesser extent pine. They are readily available from the regular pruning on farmland and larger gardens but if you have some of these trees in your garden you will have ready access to your own supply.

An enclosed fireplace that prevents sparks from flying out makes the range of wood that can be burned extended. Wood such as pine and cypress can spit out sparks profusely, but burn well with plenty of heat if well managed.

Many other trees and shrubs can also be used



Photo by Zulashi Shutterstock

REGULAR PRUNING: Cut wood to size for use in the fireplace.

such as citrus, mulberry, holm oak, hackberry, grape vine branches and they will give various amounts of heat and lengths of time to burn according to the characteristics of the wood.

It is a long term process to prepare firewood as living wood pruned off the trees is better left a year to dry out before burning to reduce their

moisture level. Dead wood pruned off the trees can be used straight away.

It is easiest to cut logs to size when still green as the saw will have less difficulty to cut through them as the moisture acts as a lubricant for the saw. The opposite is true for splitting wood as the drying process makes sawn logs shrink and

crack naturally making split larger logs much easier.

I find it easiest to prune with creating firewood in mind so I cut the branches to fireplace size as I prune. This makes it easier to transport the prepared logs and branches straight to the wood shed ready made.

Even with all the trees I have, I still need to buy wood to keep the fireplace burning 24/7 during the coldest months but I appreciate that the cost of firewood is usually justified when you understand the time it takes for trees to grow and the work to prepare, store and transport it for the wonder of a living fire to keep warm.

The ash from a fireplace can also be a benefit for the garden as a natural soil improvement. It should not be used in excess as it is very alkaline and is best used in combination with plenty of compost and manures that are more acidic to keep the soil ph balance neutral when adding the ash.

It is great for improving the soil texture which makes it easier to dig and provides loads of carbon which is important for storing nutrition from the other organic fertiliser added to the garden.

By Sally Underwood

DO YOU dream of a perfect Christmas tree?

You know, the kind you see in shop windows, complete with tasteful colour palettes, perfectly spaced baubles and discreet lighting?

If the perfect tree has so far eluded you, you are in luck because *House and Garden* has shared its advice

Decorate like a pro



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for decorating your tree like an editor.

Deputy decoration editor Ruth Sleightholme says there are five steps to creating a fairy tale Christmas tree, beginning with choosing the right fairy lights. She explains, "a Christmas tree can appear as a bit of a dark hulk without them. Always choose 'warm white' lights rather than colder tones, these are so much cosier and less brash."

Next, she advises using two sets which you can connect to each other to save the hassle of working with two sets, as well as pushing lights deep into the tree's branches, hiding any cables and creating a subtle twinkling effect.

Sleightholme says adding foliage such as pale Eucalyptus or Ruscus will add visual depth as well as variety. She advises, "simply stuff the boughs of foliage into the



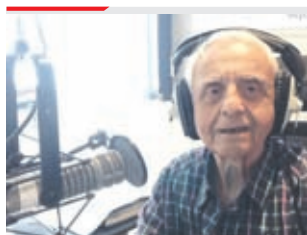
FAIRY TALE: A beautiful Christmas tree.

tree, making it appear fuller and more generous." On top of this, the editor recommends using simple decorations, choosing two or three designs. Ruth says your tree

will have the most impact if "these elements contrast," such as using red and gold.

Lastly, she suggests keeping the size of your decorations to scale with your tree,

adding "you never need as many as you think for an impactful look." If you have a tiny tree, she says, "miniature decorations would look adorable."



David THE Dogman

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Puppy love



PUGTASTIC: It is important to socialise your puppy from the get-go.

I HOPE you have not purchased a puppy from the internet or pet shops, if so expect your puppy to have health problems. If you have answered a newspaper advertisement I hope you saw the mother.

If you have a puppy I do hope that your vet has recommended a good puppy class for you to attend if not then in my opinion you have the wrong vet.

Your new member of the family is cuddly, pretty and being spoilt! Your puppy is making toilet mistakes and possibly started to chew up anything in site!

The main problem is that if the

truth be known you really do not know anything about your new member of the family. It is well

recorded that one of the most attentive times is when you buy your puppy. You will listen and remember

what was told to you by the 'breeder' who often knows very little about health, feeding, behaviour or train-

ing. Most if not all have no qualifications and the end result is that you are doing most things wrong.

Your next outing will be your first visit to the vet for inoculations and an examination. You will most probably buy a collar and lead, believe me it will be the wrong type, and toys, please do not buy a harness.

Your vet should be familiar with local training schools and should recommend you to a puppy class which is vital for both you and the puppy's future. A vet that does not recommend a puppy class (many run their own puppy classes) is really out of date therefore you should seek another vet.

So what is a puppy class?

Many people do not think it important to go to a puppy class, however in my opinion it is vital to attend and is good for your morale as you realise you are not alone in your suffering. There is so much you need to know and a good class will first calm you down as well as your puppy. You will now realise that your puppy is perfectly normal and you will be given so much information about correct feeding, handling, advice on the correct collar and leash as so many of you do get it wrong.

Planning holidays for 2018? Plan your pet care now!

TIME flies past so very quickly and the New Year is almost upon us. If you are booking cheap plane tickets now for the New Year, don't forget to register with HouseSitMatch as homeowners and get your pet-sitting requirements published in an advert soonest.

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House-sitting..?

Go online to find *HouseSitMatch.com* and make your house-sitting arrangements with ease. House-sitting is a way for homeowners to find checked people.

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RELAXED: A dog walking on a sandy beach.

house-sitters are free! Yes free! For them it's a holiday. House-sitting suits retired professionals who make up a large number of house-sitters, as they look for affordable travel after a lifetime of work, home and pet responsibilities.

Pets cared for at home.

The most popular use for house-sitters is actually as pet-sitters, it cuts out the cost of kennelling. Pets remain in their home with their routines. Vets say this reduces animal stress especially when they sense their owners are leaving. It makes for happy pets and a happy home.

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SANTA PAWS: Make sure you keep your pets safe this Christmas.

Have a happy howliday

THE most wonderful time of the year has finally arrived, but make sure you keep your pets safe so they have a wonderful holiday too.

Although decorations make your house look festive, make sure that they're kept out of reach of animals or the new Santa figurine might just become your dog's new chew toy.

It's also important to keep a watchful eye on fairy lights and power cords. Always tape or fasten the cords

down so animals won't get tangled up in them or be tempted to chew on them.

An electrical wire makes a tempting plaything for any animal, but if you get a new puppy or kitten for Christmas, you should be extra careful.

Make sure your Christmas tree is weighed down so it doesn't get knocked over. Vets also suggest leaving the tinsel off your tree, as it can cause problems if it's eaten.

Certain Christmas foods

can also cause problems for your pet's digestion.

While most owners know to keep animals away from chocolate, they should also keep baking mix for cakes or cookies out of reach which can sometimes require surgery if too much is eaten.

Some of the best festive flowers can also be toxic to animals, so avoid fresh lilies, holly, and mistletoe and opt for plastic alternatives.

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Clarkson Quote of the Week



Telling people at a dinner party you drive a Nissan Almera is like telling them you have Ebola and are about to sneeze."

Some might say...



Fastest Jag in town

THERE is a new fastest four-door production car on the planet. The Jaguar XE SV Project 8 supersaloon sped around Germany's Nurburgring Nordschleife track in a record time of seven minutes and 21.23 seconds.

The track is regularly used as a speed test for supercars. But the road legal Jaguar XE SV Project 8 would beat famous rivals, including the Ferrari Enzo and Porsche Carrera GT.

With a 600hp engine, the engineers behind Project 8 claim it has a top speed of 200mph and can reach 60mph from a dead start in just 3.3 seconds.

Jaguar call it "the most track-focused road legal Jaguar in history." The British firm are keeping production limited to just 300 vehicles. Prices begin at just under £150,000 (€170,000).

Mini's electric marvel LA's British invasion

By Matthew Elliott

MINI brought its new Electric Concept to the Los Angeles Auto Show this week. It was the US debut for the British brand's latest creation.

Alongside the Electric Concept, Mini also wooed the American audience with 10 different models. Its Ice Blue Edition is designed exclusively for the American market and was paraded alongside the Mini Hardtop 4 and new Mini Convertible.

But Mini's venture into the emerging electric market was the most anticipated moment of the show. The Electric Concept is



Photo by Mini

I NIFTY: Electric Mini will redefine small car market.

powered by a lithium-ion battery, emits zero emissions and is more mobile than the original, while maintaining the distinctive Mini look.

Large scale production of the Mini Electric is slated for early 2019, exactly 60 years after the classic Mini invaded British streets.

It will be released alongside hybrid plug-in model, the Mini Cooper S E Countryman ALL4. The hybrid Countryman can reach a top speed of 78mph on the electric motor alone. It switches into combustion mode when high performance is needed. Speeds of up to

189mph are possible.

Another British brand has raised eyebrows at the LA Convention Centre. Land Rover has released what has been described as the most luxurious Range Rover in history. The SV Autobiography is an SUV with a luxury interior including power-close door, a hot stone massage option, bountiful leg space, 4G wifi, wine bottle holders, and a fridge.

There is a plug-in hybrid version and a 4.4 litre SDV8 turbo-charged diesel option. Prices start at around £170,000 (€193,000). The SV Autobiography comes with its own signature watch for an extra €5,000.

Rocket Man's revenge

A BENTLEY once owned by Sir Elton John is up for auction. The S1 Continental Sport Saloon is being offered up to wealthy collectors at the Bonhams Bond Street sale.

Rocket Man bought the car in 1976, when it was almost 20 years old. He spent a small fortune renovating the car he described as 'the most beautiful ever designed.' The 1957 Saloon was soon equipped with air con, power steering and a state-of-the-art stereo system. In the early 2000s he sold it to businessman Sir Alan Sugar at a Christie's sale. Sugar paid more than €200,000 for the car. Later he famously remarked: "Elton John stitched me up with this Bentley. I bought it at auction, on the phone. Bid against myself I reckon."

Sugar made a loss on the car when he sold it six years later. But in 2017 it is expected to fetch between €450,000 and €550,000 as the classic car market enjoys a lucrative revival.



Photo by Twitter

I TINY DANCER: Sir Elton with his luxury wheels.



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'We are better organised under Lopetegui' - De Gea

SPORTSCENE **SPAIN**

with Andrew Atkinson

DAVID DE GEA believes that Spain's hopes in the 2018 World Cup in Russia have been improved under Julen Lopetegui having replaced Vicente Del Bosque.

Group B sees 2010 winners Spain and current European champions Portugal, captained by Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo, meet in a mouth-watering fixture.

Spain's Group B opponents are Portugal, Morocco and Iran and De Gea, who replaced Iker Casillas as Spain's number one goalkeeper, said: "We are better organised under Lopetegui."

Lopetegui dropped captain Casillas, who has a team-record 167 matches for Spain, for the start of 2018 World Cup qualifying games.

Casillas, who made his international debut in 2000, wore the No. 1 jersey when Spain won three major titles; the 2010 World Cup; and the 2008 and 2012 European Championships.

Defending World Cup Champions

Spain flopped in the 2014 World Cup in Brazil with Casillas, having a nightmare tournament.

Del Bosque's faith in players who won the World Cup in 2010 backfired, namely Xavi, Alonso, Pique, Torres and Casillas.

De l Bosque knew the consequences of his future as national manager - underlined with a shock 5-1 defeat against the Netherlands - despite say-

ing they were not falling apart.

Spain unceremoniously made an exit from the 2014 World Cup, following a 2-0 defeat against Chile, the end of an era, after winning the World Cup and two straight European Championships.

Spain's key players include Real Madrid star midfielder Isco who has impressed during qualifying, with six goals in Spain's past seven matches. Isco has seven goals in 23 appearances.

Spain have a plethora of Premier League players in Juan Mata (Manchester United), Nacho Monreal (Arsenal), Alvaro Morata (Chelsea), De Gea (Manchester United), Cesar Azpilicueta (Chelsea), Ander Herrera (Manchester United), Pedro (Chelsea) and David Silva (Man-

chester City).

Lopetegui, appointed in July 2016, who is unbeaten in 13 matches, won the European Championships with Spain's U21s and U19s.

"We go into games with more intensity and are more organised," De Gea said of coach Lopetegui, who replaced Del Bosque as national team coach.

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez remains keen to lure de Gea, 26, to the Bernabeu after the 2018 World Cup, following a proposed move collapsed in 2015.

De Gea, settled at Old Trafford, joined Manchester United from Atletico Madrid in 2011, and earns £200,000 a week, having signed a new deal.

If De Gea - whose current contract with United ends in 2019 - departs, Red's boss Jose Mourinho has been linked with a move for Barcelona's Marc Andre Ter-Stegen.

Ter-Stegen, who has a €160 million release clause in his contract, took the jersey of Claudio Bravo at the Nou Camp, following his departure to Manchester City in 2016.

The opening game of the World Cup features hosts Russia against Saudi Arabia in Group A on June 14.

**SPAIN'S
NUMBER ONE:
David de Gea.**



World Cup 2018 draw

Group A: Russia, Uruguay, Egypt, Saudi Arabia

Group B: Portugal, Spain, Iran, Morocco

Group C: France, Peru, Denmark, Australia

Group D: Argentina, Croatia, Iceland, Nigeria

Group E: Brazil, Switzerland, Costa Rica, Serbia

Group F: Germany, Mexico, Sweden, Korea Republic

Group G: Belgium, England, Tunisia, Panama

Group H: Poland, Colombia, Senegal, Japan



UK **SPORTSCENE**

with Andrew Atkinson

Premier League

SPAIN and Manchester United midfielder Ander Herrera is keeping focused on winning trophies ahead of the 2018 World Cup.

"We are optimistic of fighting for every title this season," said Herrera, ahead of United's derby clash against Manchester City on Sunday.

City are leading the Premier League title race but now that United have a fully fit squad available Herrera warned: "It's great to have players back."

Paul Pogba, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Marcos Rojo and Marouane Fellaini have returned to the fold after injury and Herrera said: "With them in the squad we are stronger."

Meanwhile Spain midfielder and World Cup winner Juan Mata has praised United teammate Marcus Rashford: "Marcus is something special - a great mentality - and great qualities," said Mata.

Liverpool host Everton at Anfield on Sunday with Toffees new boss Sam Allardyce chewing over his hopes after signing an 18-month contract at Goodison Park.

"I've taken over the reins to bring stability - I want to do much more - it's my job to get among the European places, the FA Cup final or League Cup final," said Allardyce.

Premier League fixtures: (Saturday) West Ham v Chelsea; Spurs v Stoke; Burnley v Watford; Newcastle v Chelsea; Swansea v WBA; Crystal Palace v Bournemouth; Huddersfield v Brighton.

Sunday: Manchester United v Manchester City; Southampton v Arsenal; Liverpool v Everton.

We go to the World Cup to try and win - Rashford and Mourinho say England have a chance

2018 World Cup

with Andrew Atkinson

ENGLAND'S 2018 World Cup hopes are alive and kicking with Manchester United ace Marcus Rashford ready to head for Russia for the Finals next summer.

"We are doing our best to go there with a real plan and intensity to try and win the tournament," said Rashford.

England have been drawn with Belgium, Tunisia and Panama in World Cup Group G with their opening game against Tunisia in Volgograd on June 18.

England meet Panama, playing in their first ever World Cup, in Novgorod on June 24, and play their final group match against top seeds Belgium in Kaliningrad on June 28.

Rashford, who has been in the England fold under three

managers in Gareth Southgate, Sam Allardyce and Roy Hodgson, said: "The players are gelling in a whole different way."

Southgate was appointed as England manager in November 2016, and Rashford, axed from England's squad by new Everton boss Allardyce, said: "The set-up, aim and vision of where we want to go is much better."

England appear to have a great chance of reaching the last 16 in the 2018 World Cup and Rashford, 20, said: "We have to build our own plan once we get to the World Cup, to try and win it."

England qualified for the World Cup without losing a game in qualifying and Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho believes they go to Russia with hope.

"England must have a chance. There's a great generation of players at different ages and with different qualities,"

said Mourinho.

"They have good experience at club level, playing in the Premier League and in the Champions League. England have great potential," said Mourinho.

With the busy December schedule - United were in action against CSKA Moscow in the Champions League on Tuesday - and Rashford said: "It's great to have all the games. We take one game at a time."

United, who last won the Premier League title under Sir Alex Ferguson in 2013, finished sixth last season; winning the League Cup and Europa League under Mourinho.

United host arch rivals and Premier League leaders Manchester City on Sunday; Bournemouth on December 13; travel to West Brom on December 17 and play Bristol City in the League Cup quarter final on December 20.

"By the time it gets to Christmas, it calms down a bit. You

start to see pathways - to certain tournaments - and trophies," said Rashford.

Rashford, who joined United's Academy aged seven, said: "You don't start to think about England until you start playing in the England youth team. That's when you start to dream about moments like this."

Rashford has been encouraged by England 1966 World Cup winning star and United legend Sir Bobby Charlton, 80, selected for four World Cups, who won 106 caps.

"Someone who has won it before - that's the biggest inspiration we can have as players," said Rashford.

Despite avoiding 2018 World Cup joint-favourites Brazil and Germany in the Group draw England boss Southgate was cautious.

"We've been good at writing teams off - and getting beat - we're going to make sure we're prepared," said Southgate.



VALENCIA suffered their first defeat of the season as they were beaten 1-0 by 10-man Getafe on Saturday. The result leaves Los Ches five points adrift of league leaders Barcelona and just a point ahead of third placed Atletico Madrid.

Axarquía's best guide to local sport

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Shamble Team Game

THIRTEEN teams of four pretty well matched players enjoyed this Shamble team game.

The enjoyable part of a Shamble format is that each person gets the benefit of the best drive, so they typically start out with a nice advantage.

The format is intended to be entertaining for all golfers, whether high or low handicappers.

Being a team game there was a harvest of twos, so many in fact that 10 teams had a two on various holes.

After the event, it was decided by an overwhelming majority that the whole amount of €50 should go towards the 'No Christmas Card' charity fund given the time of year.

Results:

1st Team

Tony Downey, Terry Conway, Tony McClenaghan, Angela Foreman: Net Score 125.1

2nd Team

Alan Lloyd Edwards, Rafik Tagher, Cliff Elliott, Brit Wiese: (C.B.) Net Score 125.1

Anoreta

Texas Scramble

All the scores were in the 60s, except the winners, they were exceptionally goof, including eight birdies and not a single bogey.

Results:

1st Team

Lyn McAllister, Dan McAllister, John Millward and Brian Hollinrake: Net 58.35

2nd Team

Bridget Lloyd-Edwards, Alan Lloyd-Edwards, Pete Thompson and Brian Wiggins: Net 62.91

Baviera

Pairs Betterball

There were 40 players and some very evenly matched teams. The average score was 37 points. with the winners scoring a 44.

With the generous donations of more shirts from Baviera Golf, there were seven prize-winners in total.

Results:

1st Team

John Blanco and Graham Stevens: 44pts

2nd Team

Mike Frayne and Tony McClenaghan: 43pts

Bowls Club hosts UK teams

THE Almijara Bowls Club have, once again, taken the opportunity to entertain a club from the UK.

Fred Flaunt from Essex organised a competition against the Almijara Bowls Club; he plays Short Mat Bowls throughout the south east of England.

Fred managed to organise a trip for 18 players from various clubs from his area.

Six teams of three from the Friends of Essex played against six teams of three from the Almijara Bowls Club.

Two sessions were played on the Tuesday and a further session on the Thursday. The score was a little on the side of the home team, 24 games were played and 22 were won, one lost and one drawn.

On completion of the matches, both clubs retired to the La Raqueta Restaurant for afternoon tea and the presentation of the trophy, which was kindly donated by Fred. Fred then presented it to David Trippas, president of the Almijara Bowls Club.

Fred expressed his thanks for a very enjoyable week and said that he intended to return to try to win the trophy back.

The Almijara Bowls Club will be encouraging competitions of this nature in the future as these kinds of events are not only good for the bowling club, but also for the town of Nerja.

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