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Photo credit: Policia Local de Palma



SPOILER: The car was more than three times over the speed limit.

By Harrison Jones

Police radar has shown a car racing through Palma at 216km/h, breaking the record for the highest speed detected in the Mallorcan capital.

The Mitsubishi Lancer was caught on camera at around 1am on Monday morning on a stretch of road to Soller - between the prison roundabout and Son Castello polygon - where the speed limit is 60km/h.

According to Spanish media,

Speed demon

Car caught 156 km/h over speed limit

the 27-year-old driver contacted police to ask for a photograph of his antics, after he had admitted driving his father's car.

The red sports car, complete with spoiler, alloy wheels and a seemingly enlarged exhaust

pipe, is clearly visible in a police photograph.

National Police had earlier charged him with a road safety offence, after locating the car in the San Oliva neighbourhood at around 2.50am.

It is allegedly not the first time the man has come into contact with police regarding his driving.

He was caught speeding in September and October last year, according to reports.

Victim speaks out

A RAPE and robbery victim told her harrowing testimony to a Palma court. The middle-aged woman was raped twice at knife-point in her own home after being tied, gagged and sedated. She was woken by a fire raging in the apartment, and when fire-fighters and medics arrived she had almost died from smoke inhalation.

See us on page 26



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NEWS EXTRA

Hey big spenders

FOREIGN tourists spend more than €14 billion on the Balearic Islands from January to October, an increase of 12.1 per cent on the same period last year.

Senior tipsy

A DRUNK septuagenarian crashed into a Local Police car in Palma while desperately trying to escape the scene of another accident he caused at Palma's Plaza de España.

New rules

BOOZY teenagers are the target of strict new alcohol regulations proposed to take effect in every municipality on Mallorca, with fines of up to €1,500 to be imposed on underage drinkers who consume alcohol in public.

Bull battle in court - law suspended

KEY parts of the new Balearic bullfighting law have been suspended by Spain's Constitutional Court. The move follows an appeal by the Spanish government against elements of the new anti-bullfighting decree.

By accepting the appeal the court automatically suspended the contentious provisions while their compatibility with the constitution is determined. The final judgement on their legality must be made within five months.

The government of Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy argues that the Balearic executive breached Madrid's competence to protect the 'intangible heritage' of bullfighting.

The law, imposed this summer, doesn't ban bullfighting outright, but imposes severe restrictions on its practice on the islands.

Some of those restrictions have now been suspended. Among them are bans on using foreign currency at bullfights, the use of horses during the fight, and the limit of only three fights per show, with each lasting less than 10 minutes.

Other suspended regulations

include minimum weights and ages of the bulls used, and the requirement for a vet to check their health after a fight.

Key elements of the legislation, including the actual killing

of the bull, haven't been suspended. The Constitutional Court is expected to rule on the legality of the other provisions before the return of Spain's bullfighting season.



BULLISH: Madrid battling Balearics over ban.

Web of corruption

FORMER president of Mallorca's island council, Maria Antonia Munar, was found guilty of money laundering.

She was fined a total of €68,500 and barred from holding office for six years.

The former Mallorcan Union (UM) leader admitted to laundering money in the ongoing Son Oms case.

The political party collapsed after top officials were convicted of using their influence to make illegal profits from non-developable land near the airport.

The sentence was a far cry from the six year prison term and €4 million fine urged by anti-corruption prosecutors.

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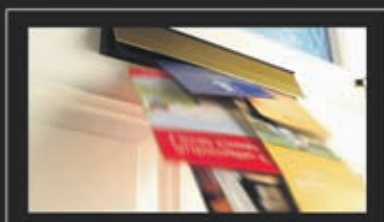
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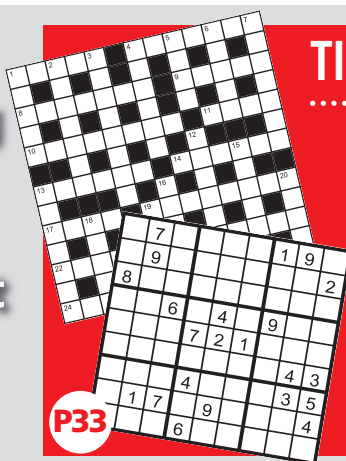
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P6**TIME OUT**

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

**P54**

Baptism of fire

FIFTEEN police officers were dispatched to break up fighting at a baptism gone badly wrong in Palma. Glasses and chairs flew as relatives battled it out the Porto Pi shopping centre on Sunday. Despite multiple injuries no one pressed any charges as the family reconciled.

Kiss camera

FANS at Real Mallorca's Son Moix stadium will beware a new American-style kiss camera that will broadcast canoodling couples captured on tape live to the entire stadium on a big screen. It is the first of its kind in Europe and the brainchild of American owner Robert Sarver.

Sign gimmick

A BILLBOARD announcing a new shopping centre confused Arta residents and even stirred talk of a protest. The sign read 'Opening soon - your new shopping centre, everything you need without leaving Arta.' It was actually an advertising campaign from the town hall encouraging local Christmas shopping.

Bloody history

FOURTEEN victims from the Civil War-era mass grave in Porreres have been identified. The victims, who include two former mayors of Esporles and Costitx, were shot dead between 1936 and 1939. Twelve more victims will soon be identified through DNA samples.

Driving danger

ALMOST half of the 56 people killed so far on Balearic roads this year were cyclists or motorcyclists. Forty eight of the victims were male, four were not wearing seatbelts, and nine were pedestrians. Nearly half of all fatal accidents were linked to drug or alcohol

abuse.

Body found

A DEAD man was pulled from the sea near Sa Calobra on Sunday.

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.

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Let it snow!

Spain shivers as arctic 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.

Charter flights from UK airports to Gibraltar trialled next July

By John Smith Monday, 27 November 2017 19:12

THE demise of Monarch airline meant that Gibraltar lost a number of flights to regional airports but this is in part to be resolved.



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.

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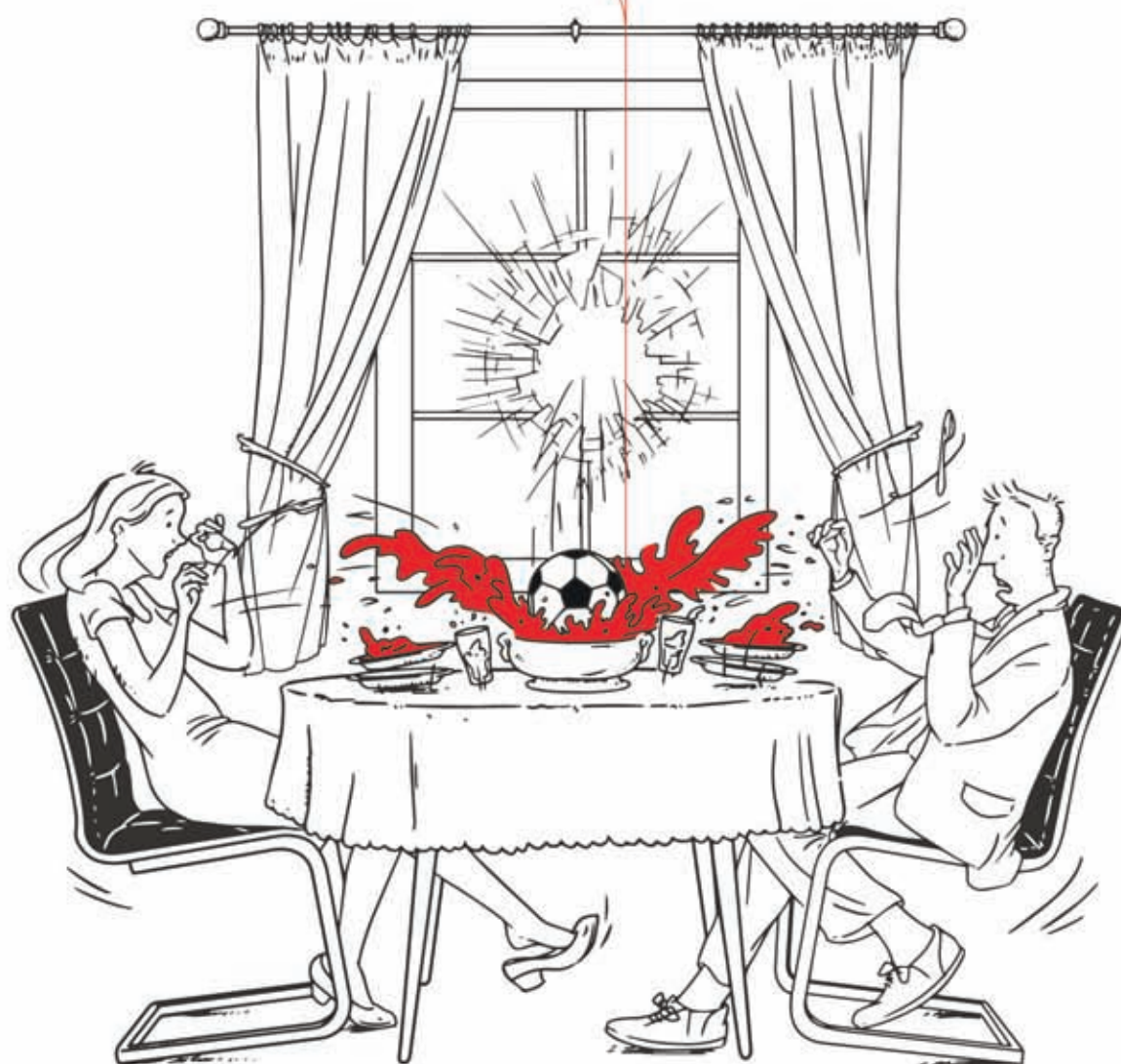
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Thank-Hugh very much

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



Photo credit You Tube

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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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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Photo by Guardia Civil

GREEN HOUSE: Montuiri plantation seized by Guardia.

Drug lab smashed

POLICE raided a Montuiri property and seized 221 fully-grown marihuana plants. The sophisticated indoor opera-

tion made use of halogen lamps, dehumidifiers, and industrial air conditioners to grow the product.

Guardia Civil officers were tipped off by technicians from electricity company Endesa. They had detected an unusual amount of electricity being consumed at the seemingly normal house.

After acquiring evidence through a surveillance operation, police secured a search order from the local court.

In addition to seizing the drugs and equipment they made one arrest. The local man is charged with growing and preparing drugs for sale and electricity fraud.

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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 14

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NEWS EXTRA

Home win for ladies

A TEENAGE prodigy from Mallorca starred as Spain's womens' team beat Austria 4-0 at Son Moix stadium in a European Championship qualifier. Virginia Torrecilla, aged 19, scored to keep her team undefeated.

Chips out

AFTER years of parental pressure, all public school and university cafeterias on the Balearics will have to serve organic food to students. Public hospitals will follow the same policy.

Text trouble

A LANDLORD received a disturbing WhatsApp message from a tenant claiming her husband had attacked her for not preparing dinner. Police found her with multiple injuries.

Brit biker

A BRITISH motorcyclist was charged with reckless driving after allegedly speeding through the Passeig des Born then nipping through several red lights to escape a Local Police patrol.

Early birds

FLIGHTS between London Gatwick and Menorca from easyJet will take off from February 6 next year, much earlier than expected due to high demand.

Super moon

A SNAP of Sunday night's supermoon from the Costitx Observatory was acclaimed for capturing the lunar surface in incredible detail and has been sent to astronomers for further investigation.

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Fearing the worst Families' rental struggle

LANDLORDS are taking advantage of the end of tenancy contracts to drastically increase rents, claims a resident rights group. La Defensa say that hundreds of families are being forced to leave their homes as rents skyrocket by up to 40 per cent.

Most rental contracts last for three years. Palma, Calvia and Alcudia have seen a boom in the market, in part due to the emergence of tourist rental as a lucrative alternative for landlords.

La Defensa president Bernat Ferrer says two to three families come to his group for help every week. In the past it was a rare occurrence.

One real example he cites is of a tenant paying €700 per month being asked to fork out



TURMOIL: Palma residents face rent challenge.

€1,100 for their new contract. "One question is of justice and another of legality," said Ferrer. "These practices are legal, even if they are unfair."

He says tenants have just a few weeks to decide whether to sign the contract or move out, creating havoc for the

family unit.

Raising the rents so dramatically might backfire on landlords, he suggested, when tenants sign the contract and declare themselves unable to pay months down the line.

In the past two years alone rents in Palma have risen by an average of 30 per cent. It is one of the few cities in Spain where rents are higher than before the financial crisis.

1,105 people have died in road traffic accidents in Spain this year, 27 more than at the same point last year according to the traffic directorate.



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Easy on the shopping

A VIRTUAL moratorium on new shopping centres will be imposed in Palma and Marratxi. Mallorca's island council wants to push retailers out to Inca and Manacor to ease congestion and spread commercial wealth.

New rules on the establishment of shopping centres will be on the books within two weeks. They will almost ban the construction of new centres in the greater Palma area for two years.

Only 2,500 square metres of shopping space will be up for grabs.

Almost all of Mallorca's major retail outlets are concentrated in the capital

and Marratxi.

Meanwhile in Inca and Manacor the island council will permit 30,000 square metres of potential shopping space over the next two years.

The move is part of broader plans to even out Mallorca's business, traffic and wealth, while reducing the smog afflicting Palma's ring roads.

Shopping limitations have also been placed on Santa Ponsa and Alcudia, which are granted 5,000 square metres of space, and Pollensa, Felanitx, Andratx, and Soller, which have 2,500 each.



FOOD BANK: Items apart from food include babies' nappies and wipes.

English speaking Freemasonry charity collection for the Mallorca Food Bank

IN 2016 lodge Pythagoras number 70 raised money on behalf of the Mallorca food bank, Banco Alimento. This year their aim was to involve Ramon Lull English-speaking lodge and to double the amount raised in 2016.

Through generous donations they raised €1,400 and on December 2 with brethren from both lodges began the task of buying essential items for the homeless and needy in Mallorca.

Operation Kilo, being a part of Banco Alimento charity organisation. Items apart from food in-

clude babies' nappies and wipes.

The food bank is a non-profit foundation based on volunteering, its object is to recover food surpluses from the area, and to channel it towards needy people.

Their motto is 'WE NEED WHAT YOU HAVE LEFT OVER.'

The food bank do not directly deliver food to the end user, but donate them to recognised health care centres, which because of their direct relationship with people in need ensures that the food reaches its correct destination.

In the case of Spain, all the food banks are integrated into the Spanish Federation of Food Banks FESBAL.

The European banks collected 328,700 tons of food worth €720 million and they distributed to 4.7 million people through 25,900 charities and social services.

Worldwide there are currently around 500 food banks. In 1987 the first Food Bank of Spain was established in Barcelona.

At present, 53 food banks operate in this country.

3.4 million people are currently unemployed in Spain according to government statistics, with 7,255 losing their jobs in November alone.

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THOUSANDS of people have signed a petition demanding justice for a dog allegedly murdered in Felanitx. After an extensive search by the owners, the dog was recently found dead in a local skip.

There are suspicions that it had been hung or strangled before being dumped. The uproar led to a campaign to find the killer being launched on *Change.org*.

Dog death fury

At the time of writing, more than 4,000 people had signed with a target of 5,000. The request for a full police investigation will be sent to the mayors of both Felanitx and Palma.

Started by Caty Castello the petition calls for a prison sentence for whoever is found

guilty of the alleged crime.

Felanitx mayor Joan Xameña has released a statement in relation to the case. He said he was aware that the animal had gotten lost and was later found dead, but wouldn't confirm allegations that it was murdered.

NEWS EXTRA

Teen gangs' street brawl

GANG warfare in Magaluf has seen police step up security after groups of 40 teenagers from rival factions met to fight each other with baseball bats and other weapons.

Sex pest

A TEENAGE girl escaped from a man who encouraged her to get in his car then drove to an empty Manacor estate and demanded she undress. A suspect, aged 28, is in custody.

Aqua heart

THE Palma Aquarium donated a cheque for €8,183 to the Mallorca Without Hunger foundation, which distributes food to vulnerable and needy families on the island.

Super shop

A REVAMPED Mercadona opened in Palma's General Riera after a €2 million facelift flooded it with natural light and installed LED lights and thermal heating to make it energy efficient.

No shame

FOUR men pretending to be gas inspectors stole jewellery worth €600,000 and around €45,000 in cash from the home of an 81-year-old woman in Palma.

Fire hazard

A SECOND fire broke out in another Manacor industrial estate destroying one warehouse. It followed a week after a devastating blaze took five days to fully extinguish.

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Are things now looking up?

Commentary by Moneycorp

GOOD news for the pound?

As soon as the *Telegraph* reported a possible agreement on the €50bn 'divorce' bill for Brexit, things started to look up for the pound which strengthened across the board. The size of the settlement has been a major obstacle in progressing the negotiations and precluded talks moving on to an area that has been causing considerable anxiety in the markets, namely the trade talks.

All eyes will now be on the next round of Brexit talks mid-December to find out whether this touted figure will be accepted by the EU and whether they deem sufficient progress has been made on the other crucial area of EU citizens' rights and the Irish border to take the talks to the next level and start discussing trade.

Euro hits choppy waters

The gains made by the pound this week were in some part against the euro. Figures this week show that the economy

across the Eurozone as a whole is improving, but inflation is still causing a few headaches.

There was an unexpected drop in unemployment to 8.8% in October, which is the lowest in nine years but on the other hand, inflation went up to just 1.5%, narrowly missing the 1.6% prediction, and underlying price pressures failed to pick up against at all. If we look at the bigger picture, however, the euro has made gains this year against the pound, the US dollar and the yen.

Time for tax cuts?

The proposed tax bill hit a roadblock in the US Senate after Republicans failed to agree on the fundamentals of the plan, which promises major cuts. Opponents of the plan are concerned that the proposed measures will increase the deficit and seek a delay in putting the bill through to get a clearer picture, or adding in an automatic reversal if certain economic con-

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ditions are not met. The dollar's immediate fate seems closely tied to that of the bill. A rate hike from the US Federal Bank in December appears to be priced in and the tax bill is seen as an indicator as to whether the Fed will take a tightening approach next year.

Lows for the Loonie

The Canadian dollar mounted a much-needed recovery late this week after slipping to a four-week low against its American cousin. Investors are waiting for the outcome of the upcoming OPEC meeting, which could have a significant impact as

the Loonie is sensitive to commodity prices. While there is no clear outcome from those talks, crude oil prices are struggling to set a short-term direction. They are likely to rally, however, now that OPEC has decided to extend the output cut deal to the end of 2018.

Good stats for the Aussies

The Ashes victory this week isn't the only reason for the Australians to be celebrating; the November PMI and Hedonic Home Value Index brought more good news this week.

Elsewhere, however, the currency found itself on a sticky wicket as the pound staged a small recovery and the US dollar strengthened on the back of the expected tax cuts.

Kiwi fails to find its footing

A disappointing business confidence policy outlook has caused the New Zealand dollar to suffer against all of its G10 counterparts. Some hope is provided by firm economic numbers and as the political risk of the new PM and coalition government starts to fade, there may be hope of better days ahead.

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FULLER MOON: The phenomenon over Segovia last week.



STAR PERFORMER: A meteor shower could be visible next week.

Shoot for the stars

STARGAZERS will be treated to one of the most impressive meteor showers of the year next week.

The Geminids are set to peak on next Wednesday night and the morning of Thursday December 14.

Viewers' experiences will vary depending on atmospheric conditions, but southern Spain should see the spectacle comparatively clearly because it has less light pollution than many other areas.

Depending on weather condi-

tions, space enthusiasts will be able to view up to 120 meteors per hour, according to *space.com*.

As the name suggests, the shooting stars - which are visible worldwide for a number of days - appear to come from the Gemini constellation.

The shower is thought to be nearly 200 years old and is one of the most famous in the astrological calendar.

It has been getting stronger since because of Jupiter's gravi-

ty pulling the shower closer to earth. Experts advise that binoculars are not necessary but suggest staying away from artificial light and allowing 20-30 minutes for the human eye to adjust to the dark.

There is thought to be no danger of any meteors reaching the Earth's surface.

Meanwhile, last week a 'supermoon' was visible over parts of Spain. Two more are expected next year, in January in February.

Foodie's delight!

Spain is home to 'world's best city'

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



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

how 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 affordable offer for tourists.

Tokyo, the city with the most Michelin stars, comes second in the top 100, scor-

ing 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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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

Rajoy tells May: Brexit talks will begin soon

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 "in-

extricably 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."

Thanking the UK for backing the Spanish government 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 interests 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.

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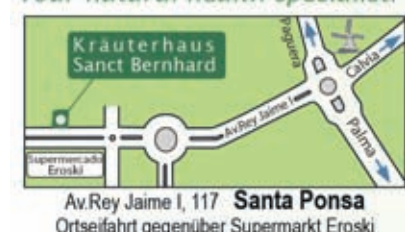
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Moving and storage expenses

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.*

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DENMARK

Eco house

THE world's first biological house built from farming waste, such as grass, seaweed and straw has opened to the public in Middelfart, Denmark, and has helped pave the way for environmentally-friendly buildings.

Suspects seized

TWO suspects have been arrested in connection with a gang-linked shooting incident in Copenhagen, during which a 22-year-old man was killed and a 19-year-old was injured.

Bad teachers

FOREIGN academics working in Denmark have been fined thousands of euros for giving external lectures and moderat-

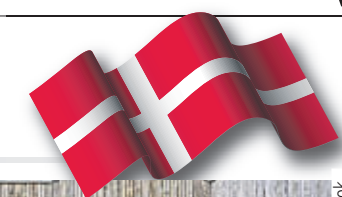


GREEN LIVING: This modern house in Middelfart, Denmark was built entirely from farming waste.

ing exams at other universities, as it allegedly violated the terms of their work permits.

Pipe plugged

DENMARK has passed a law



GERMANY

Nazi nan

AN 89-year-old German woman, who was a member of the Nazi party during the Second World War, has been sentenced to 14 months in prison for denying the Holocaust happened.

Rocker out

BROADCASTERS in Germany have decided not to air ex-Pink Floyd mu-

sician Roger Waters' concerts next year due to his support for the Palestinian-led Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement (BDS), which has led him to be labelled 'anti-Semitic.'

Club crashed

POLICE held a 29-year-old drunk man who deliberately ploughed his car into a crowd outside a nightclub in the seaside town of Cuxhaven fol-

lowing a dispute, and have ruled out terrorist motives for the attack.

Show tanked

A 49-YEAR- OLD man is on trial for importing two armoured tanks to Germany for a fashion show in Berlin without disarming them first, violating the nation's law on combat weapons.



FRANCE

Silver tongue

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron has revealed his plans to make French the world's most spoken language - it is currently the fifth most widely spoken - saying "the attractiveness of French does not just belong to France."

Victim speaks

A CANADIAN tourist who was allegedly raped by three French policemen at the Paris headquarters decided to drop her anonymity to give her account of the night to a French TV station from her home in Ontario.

Flying taxis

PARIS has revived plans to bring 'flying' water taxis to the River Seine, which will be tested in 2018 at speeds of 30 kilometres per hour.

Great grub

FRENCH chef Guy Savoy's restaurant in la Monnaie, Paris has been named the 'best in the world' for the second consecutive year on the annual La Liste ranking.



BELGIUM

Tragedy strikes

A RENOWNED dancer from Scotland died after being hit by a tram while crossing a road in Brussels, where she was representing her country at a performing arts conference.

Beer bother

UNSEASONABLY warm temperatures allegedly brought beer production to a halt in October in Belgium, where temperatures were around five degrees higher than the ideal, with producers blaming climate change for the problem.

High voltage

SALES of electric cars reportedly increased by 147 per cent between 2015 and 2016 in Belgium, but they still only represent 1.6 per cent of the population's cars, making it fourth in Europe.

Prince pinched

A BELGIAN prince claimed the government was violating his human rights when they moved to cut his annual allowance of €308,000 after he made an unauthorised appearance in naval uniform at a Chinese state celebration.



NETHERLANDS

Cop flop

THE NETHERLANDS will face a shortage of police officers in the near future, according to national media sources, because 14,000 will be retiring in the next seven years but only 1,000 are being recruited each year.

Brain burden

A NEW study by public health agency RIVM revealed as many as one person in four people in the Netherlands is affected by a brain condition such as depression or dementia.

Fast track

AMSTERDAM'S Schiphol airport is trialling a theme-park-style fast lane to help reduce security queues in busy periods, but is currently only open to passengers travelling within the Schengen area.

Railway child

POLICE have tracked down a young woman believed to have abandoned a young boy, who is currently being looked after by a foster family, in the city's main railway station.



NORWAY

Oh deer!

MORE than 100 reindeer have been killed by freight trains in Norway over the past week during their winter migration and the state-owned rail operator announced it would build a fence to stop the slaughter.

Shocking reveal

POLICE in Lapland have uncovered more than 150 instances of rape and sexual assault in a small town of 2,000 people after 82 victims were identified aged between four and 75.

Plane project

AIRPORT operator Avinor has said it wants Norway to become the first country using electric-powered airplanes for commercial flights, saying it could become a reality by 2030.

PM pursued

FORMER Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland revealed she was sexually harassed by a man 10 years her senior when she worked as a doctor in the 1960s.



SWEDEN

Drug shootout

A 28-YEAR-OLD man was arrested in Malmo on suspicion of murder and attempted murder after a 20-year-old was killed and a 22-year-old suffered serious injuries during a suspected drug-related shooting in Malmo.

Power abuse

A SWEDISH man has been charged with committing 'online' rape after threatening 27 victims from Canada, Scotland and the US with posting pornography photos of them or killing their relatives unless they per-

formed online sex acts.

Horse around

AN elderly man in Sweden has been fined for sexually assaulting a horse after he was filmed in the act by a security camera in the stable.

False alarm

THE founder of Ikea, Ingvar Kamprad, was accidentally declared dead by a Swedish radio station that sent out an automated tweet saying the billionaire business man had passed away.



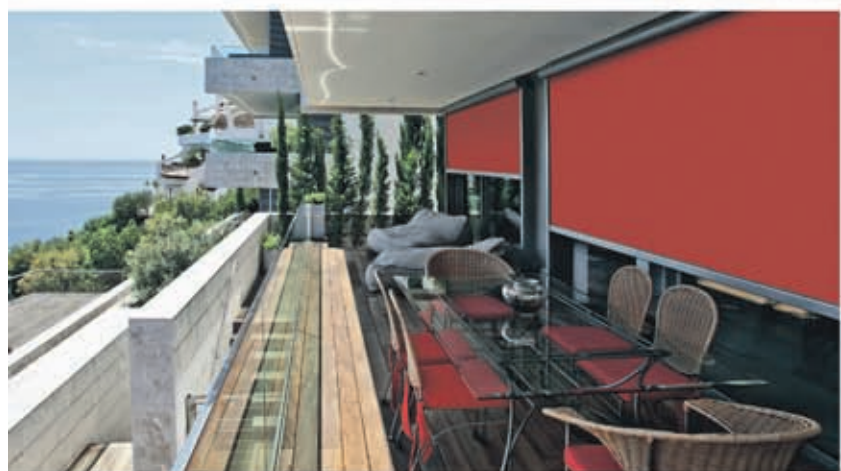


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OPEC members agree to cut output

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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COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE%	CHANGE	VOLUME(M)
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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NASDAQ

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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EUR Fixed Income B

Sterling Fixed Income B

DEALING PRICE

Price Movement

€0.9356

-€0.0037

£0.9255

-£0.0023

Accumulating Funds

GBP Currency B

EUR Currency B

Multi Asset Conservative B GBP

Multi Asset Conservative B EUR

Multi Asset Balanced B GBP

Multi Asset Balanced B EUR

Multi Asset Growth B GBP

Multi Asset Growth B EUR

DEALING PRICE

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

£1.4784.....

-£0.0086

£1.3690.....

-£0.0082

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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...!

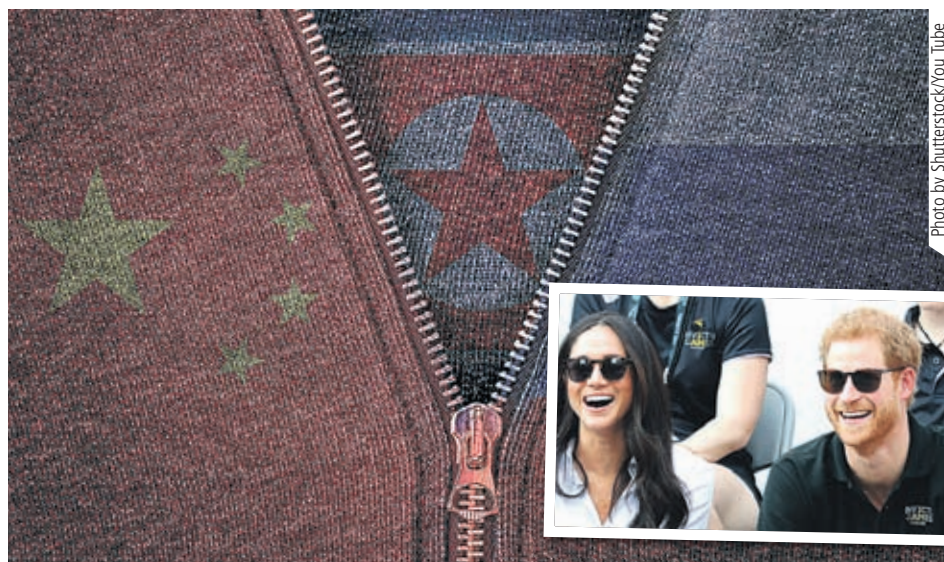
LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
OTHERS THINK IT



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



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.

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Leapylee2002@gmail.com

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

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.

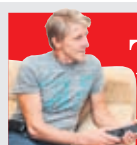
And when you really know you have a problem? If you identify with this recent headline from the Daily Telegraph:

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

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky sports main event
07 DECEMBER	<div>5:30pm Money for Nothing</div> <div>6:15pm Pointless</div> <div>7:00pm BBC News at Six</div> <div>7:30pm BBC London News</div> <div>8:00pm The One Show</div> <div>8:30pm EastEnders</div> <div>9:00pm Holby City</div> <div>10:00pm Love, Lies and Records</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News at Ten</div> <div>11:30pm BBC London News</div>	<div>12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live</div> <div>1:00pm The Daily Politics</div> <div>2:00pm Snooker</div> <div>3:45pm Rugby Union</div> <div>6:00pm Snooker</div> <div>7:00pm Celebrity Eggheads</div> <div>7:30pm Strictly - It Takes Two</div> <div>8:00pm Snooker</div> <div>9:00pm MasterChef: The Professionals</div> <div>10:00pm Blitz</div> <div>11:00pm Live at the Apollo</div>	<div>5:00pm Tipping Point</div> <div>6:00pm The Chase</div> <div>7:00pm ITV News London</div> <div>7:30pm ITV Evening News</div> <div>8:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>8:30pm Tonight</div> <div>9:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>9:30pm Paul O'Grady: For The Love of Dogs</div> <div>10:00pm I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!</div>	<div>6:00pm Four in a Bed</div> <div>6:30pm Come Dine with Me</div> <div>7:00pm The Simpsons</div> <div>7:30pm Hollyoaks</div> <div>8:00pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>8:55pm The Political Slot</div> <div>9:00pm Great Canal Journeys</div> <div>10:00pm Catching a Killer</div> <div>11:25pm 999: What's Your Emergency?</div> <div>12:25am Born to be Free</div>	<div>3:00pm The Flight Before Christmas</div> <div>4:40pm A Star Crossed Christmas</div> <div>6:30pm 5 News at 5</div> <div>7:00pm Neighbours</div> <div>7:30pm 5 News Tonight</div> <div>8:00pm UK's Strongest Man 2017</div> <div>9:00pm Traffic Cops at Christmas</div> <div>10:00pm Brick Mansions</div> <div>11:00pm 5 News</div> <div>11:05pm Brick Mansions</div>	<div>9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans</div> <div>9:30am Live European Tour Golf</div> <div>11:30am Live Ladies European Tour Golf</div> <div>1:30pm Live European Tour Golf</div> <div>3:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>7:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>8:00pm Live Pool: Mosconi Cup Day</div> <div>11:00pm The Debate - Live</div>
FRIDAY	<div>5:30pm Money for Nothing</div> <div>6:15pm Pointless</div> <div>7:00pm BBC News at Six</div> <div>7:30pm BBC London News</div> <div>8:00pm The One Show</div> <div>8:30pm Sounds Like Friday Night</div> <div>9:00pm EastEnders</div> <div>9:30pm Still Open All Hours</div> <div>10:00pm Have I Got News for You</div> <div>10:30pm Mrs Brown's Boys</div> <div>Christmas Special 2015</div>	<div>12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live</div> <div>1:00pm The Daily Politics</div> <div>2:00pm Snooker</div> <div>6:15pm Put Your Money</div> <div>7:00pm Where Your Mouth Is</div> <div>8:00pm Strictly - It Takes Two</div> <div>8:00pm Snooker</div> <div>9:00pm Mastermind</div> <div>9:30pm Only Connect</div> <div>10:00pm The Year in Music 2017</div> <div>11:00pm QI</div>	<div>3:00pm Judge Rinder</div> <div>4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal</div> <div>5:00pm Tipping Point</div> <div>6:00pm The Chase</div> <div>7:00pm ITV News London</div> <div>7:30pm ITV Evening News</div> <div>8:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>8:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>9:00pm Judge Rinder's Crown Court</div> <div>9:30pm Coronation Street</div>	<div>3:10pm Countdown</div> <div>4:00pm Lost and Found</div> <div>5:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun</div> <div>6:00pm Four in a Bed</div> <div>6:30pm Come Dine with Me</div> <div>7:00pm The Simpsons</div> <div>7:30pm Hollyoaks</div> <div>8:00pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>9:00pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast</div>	<div>3:00pm A Christmas Promise</div> <div>4:45pm Christmas Under Wraps</div> <div>6:30pm 5 News at 5</div> <div>7:00pm Neighbours</div> <div>7:30pm 5 News Tonight</div> <div>8:00pm The Gadget Show</div> <div>9:00pm Brunel</div> <div>10:00pm Eight Days That Made Rome</div> <div>11:00pm Eight Days That Made Rome</div>	<div>9:30am Live European Tour Golf</div> <div>11:30am Live Ladies European Tour Golf</div> <div>1:30pm Live European Tour Golf</div> <div>3:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>4:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>5:00pm Ram Slam T20 Challenge</div> <div>8:30pm Football</div> <div>11:00pm The Debate: Derby Day Special</div>
SATURDAY	<div>5:30pm Final Score</div> <div>6:10pm Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme</div> <div>6:40pm BBC News</div> <div>6:50pm BBC London News</div> <div>7:00pm Pointless</div> <div>7:45pm Strictly Come Dancing</div> <div>9:20pm Michael McIntyre's Big Show</div> <div>10:20pm Casualty</div> <div>11:10pm BBC News</div>	<div>1:30pm Tom Kerridge's Best Ever Dishes</div> <div>2:00pm Demolition</div> <div>3:00pm Operation Snow Tiger</div> <div>4:00pm Escape to the Continent</div> <div>5:00pm Mastermind</div> <div>5:30pm Snooker</div> <div>6:30pm John Noakes: TV Hero</div> <div>7:10pm BP Confidential</div> <div>8:00pm Snooker</div> <div>11:00pm QI XL</div>	<div>4:00pm Endeavour</div> <div>6:00pm The Chase</div> <div>7:00pm Paul O'Grady: For The Love of Dogs</div> <div>7:25pm ITV News London</div> <div>7:35pm ITV News</div> <div>7:50pm You've Been Framed!</div> <div>8:15pm Ninja Warrior UK</div> <div>9:20pm I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!</div> <div>10:50pm Through the Keyhole</div>	<div>1:55pm Come Dine with Me</div> <div>4:00pm Come Dine with Me</div> <div>4:30pm A Place in the Sun</div> <div>5:30pm Best Laid Plans</div> <div>6:30pm Grand Designs</div> <div>7:30pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>8:00pm Guy Martin's WWI Tank</div> <div>10:00pm X-Men: Days of Future Past</div> <div>12:35am The Drop</div>	<div>5:20pm 5 News</div> <div>5:25pm Nativity 3: Dude, Where's My Donkey?!</div> <div>6:35pm The Family Man</div> <div>7:35pm 5 News</div> <div>7:40pm The Family Man</div> <div>8:55pm 5 News Weekend</div> <div>9:00pm Santa Makes You Laugh Out Loud</div> <div>10:00pm Football on 5</div> <div>10:55pm Football on 5</div>	<div>12:00pm Football</div> <div>4:15pm Rugby Union</div> <div>6:15pm Football</div> <div>8:30pm Gary Neville's Soccerbox: Giggs</div> <div>9:00pm Best PI Goals</div> <div>Classic action from the Premier League.</div> <div>9:30pm Best PI Goals</div> <div>10:00pm Soccer Pm</div> <div>11:30pm Cricket</div>
SUNDAY	<div>4:00pm Songs of Praise</div> <div>4:35pm Toy Story</div> <div>5:50pm Blue Planet II</div> <div>6:50pm BBC News</div> <div>7:05pm BBC London News</div> <div>7:15pm Countryfile</div> <div>8:15pm Strictly Come Dancing</div> <div>9:00pm Blue Planet II</div> <div>10:00pm Attenborough and the Giant Elephant</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News</div>	<div>9:35am Countryfile</div> <div>10:30am Saturday Kitchen</div> <div>Best Bites</div> <div>12:00pm Food and Drink</div> <div>12:30pm My Life on a Plate</div> <div>1:15pm MOTD2 Extra</div> <div>2:00pm Snooker</div> <div>6:15pm Ski Sunday</div> <div>7:15pm Flog It!</div> <div>8:00pm Snooker</div> <div>12:00am Employable Me</div>	<div>5:40pm The Chase</div> <div>6:35pm How to Spend it Well at Christmas with Phillip Schofield</div> <div>7:35pm ITV News London</div> <div>7:45pm ITV News</div> <div>8:00pm Ninja Warrior UK</div> <div>9:00pm The Chase Celebrity Special</div> <div>10:00pm I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!</div>	<div>4:00pm The Sorcerer's Apprentice</div> <div>6:10pm The Snowman</div> <div>6:45pm The Snowman and the Snowdog</div> <div>7:10pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>7:30pm Britain's Wildest Weather 2017</div> <div>9:00pm Coastal Railways with Julie Walters</div> <div>10:00pm The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel</div>	<div>3:55pm Trolls Holiday Special</div> <div>4:25pm 5 News</div> <div>4:30pm Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End</div> <div>5:30pm 5 News</div> <div>5:35pm Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End</div> <div>7:45pm Need for Speed</div> <div>10:00pm Chappie</div> <div>11:00pm 5 News</div> <div>11:05pm Chappie</div>	<div>3:15pm Live Nissan Super Sunday</div> <div>5:15pm Live Nissan Super Sunday</div> <div>8:30pm La Liga Greatest Games</div> <div>8:40pm Football</div> <div>10:45pm Live NFL: Sunday Game</div> <div>A match from week 14 of the 2017 NFL season.</div> <div>1:50am NFL Gameday Week</div> <div>2:20am Live NFL: Baltimore @ Pittsburgh</div>
MONDAY	<div>5:30pm Money for Nothing</div> <div>6:15pm Pointless</div> <div>7:00pm BBC News at Six</div> <div>7:30pm BBC London News</div> <div>8:00pm The One Show</div> <div>8:30pm Panorama</div> <div>9:00pm EastEnders</div> <div>9:30pm Would I Lie to You?</div> <div>10:00pm The Real Marigold on Tour</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News at Ten</div>	<div>4:20pm 32 Brinkburn Street</div> <div>5:05pm The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway</div> <div>6:05pm The Blue Planet</div> <div>7:00pm Celebrity Eggheads</div> <div>7:30pm Strictly - It Takes Two</div> <div>8:00pm Celebrity Antiques</div> <div>Road Trip</div> <div>9:00pm Nigella's Christmas Table</div> <div>10:00pm Employable Me</div> <div>11:00pm Insert Name Here</div>	<div>6:00pm The Chase</div> <div>7:00pm ITV News London</div> <div>7:30pm ITV Evening News</div> <div>8:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>8:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>9:00pm The Martin Lewis Money Show</div> <div>9:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>10:00pm Hatton Garden</div> <div>11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather</div>	<div>6:00pm Kirstie's Handmade Christmas</div> <div>7:00pm The Simpsons</div> <div>7:30pm Hollyoaks</div> <div>8:00pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>Includes sport and weather.</div> <div>9:00pm Paul Hollywood Supersoppers</div> <div>9:30pm 999: What's Your Emergency?</div> <div>10:00pm</div>	<div>12:55pm The Christmas Gift</div> <div>2:30pm Rooftop Christmas Tree</div> <div>4:15pm A Rose at Christmas</div> <div>5:30pm 5 News at 5</div> <div>6:35pm The Yorkshire Vet: Winter on the Moors</div> <div>7:30pm 5 News Tonight</div> <div>8:00pm Weather Terror</div> <div>9:00pm Police Interceptors</div> <div>10:00pm Concorde: Triumph and Tragedy</div>	<div>7:00am Total Goals</div> <div>9:30am Total Goals</div> <div>10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans</div> <div>11:00am Premier League Daily</div> <div>12:00pm Sky Sports Daily</div> <div>1:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>7:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>8:00pm Sky Sports Tonight</div> <div>8:30pm Football</div> <div>11:00pm The Debate - Live</div>
TUESDAY	<div>3:15pm Armchair Detectives</div> <div>4:00pm Escape to the Country</div> <div>4:45pm The Hairy Bikers</div> <div>Home for Christmas</div> <div>5:30pm Money for Nothing</div> <div>6:15pm Pointless</div> <div>7:00pm BBC News at Six</div> <div>7:30pm BBC London News</div> <div>8:00pm The One Show</div> <div>8:30pm EastEnders</div> <div>9:00pm Holby City</div>	<div>5:00pm The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway</div> <div>6:05pm The Blue Planet</div> <div>7:00pm Celebrity Eggheads</div> <div>7:30pm Strictly - It Takes Two</div> <div>8:00pm Celebrity Antiques</div> <div>Road Trip</div> <div>9:00pm MasterChef: The Professionals</div> <div>10:00pm Rick Stein's Road to Mexico</div>	<div>6:00pm The Chase</div> <div>7:00pm ITV News London</div> <div>7:30pm ITV Evening News</div> <div>8:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>8:30pm Save Money: Good Food</div> <div>9:00pm How to Spend it Well at Christmas with Phillip Schofield</div> <div>10:00pm Hatton Garden</div> <div>11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather</div>	<div>3:10pm Countdown</div> <div>4:00pm Lost and Found</div> <div>5:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun</div> <div>6:00pm Kirstie's Handmade Christmas</div> <div>7:00pm The Simpsons</div> <div>7:30pm Hollyoaks</div> <div>8:00pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>9:00pm Food Unwrapped</div> <div>Does Christmas</div>	<div>6:00pm 5 News at 5</div> <div>6:35pm The Yorkshire Vet at the Great Yorkshire Show</div> <div>7:30pm 5 News Tonight</div> <div>8:00pm Steve Backshall's Hedgehog Rescue</div> <div>9:00pm Jo Brand's Cats and Kittens</div> <div>10:00pm Ben Fogle: Return to the Wild</div>	<div>9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans</div> <div>10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans</div> <div>11:00am Premier League Daily</div> <div>12:00pm Sky Sports Daily</div> <div>1:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>7:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>8:00pm Sky Sports Tonight</div> <div>10:00pm Sky Sports Tonight</div> <div>11:00pm Sky Sports News at Ten</div>
WEDNESDAY	<div>4:45pm The Hairy Bikers</div> <div>Home for Christmas</div> <div>5:30pm Money for Nothing</div> <div>6:15pm Pointless</div> <div>7:00pm BBC News at Six</div> <div>7:30pm BBC London News</div> <div>8:00pm The One Show</div> <div>9:00pm Mary Berry's Country House Secrets</div> <div>10:00pm The Apprentice</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News at Ten</div> <div>11:30pm BBC London News</div>	<div>5:05pm The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway</div> <div>6:05pm The Blue Planet</div> <div>7:00pm Celebrity Eggheads</div> <div>7:30pm Strictly - It Takes Two</div> <div>8:00pm Celebrity Antiques</div> <div>Road Trip</div> <div>9:00pm MasterChef: The Professionals</div> <div>10:00pm Peaky Blinders</div> <div>11:00pm The Apprentice: You're Fired!</div>	<div>5:00pm Tipping Point</div> <div>6:00pm The Chase</div> <div>7:00pm ITV News London</div> <div>7:30pm ITV Evening News</div> <div>8:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>8:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>9:00pm Gino's Italian Coastal Escape</div> <div>9:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>10:00pm Hatton Garden</div> <div>11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather</div>	<div>3:10pm Countdown</div> <div>4:00pm Lost and Found</div> <div>5:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun</div> <div>6:00pm Kirstie's Handmade Christmas</div> <div>7:00pm The Simpsons</div> <div>7:30pm Hollyoaks</div> <div>8:00pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>9:00pm The Secret Life of the Zoo</div> <div>10:00pm The Channel</div> <div>11:00pm Vanished by the Lake</div>	<div>2:30pm Season's Greetings</div> <div>4:15pm Murder, She Baked: A Christmas Pudding Mystery</div> <div>5:30pm 5 News at 5</div> <div>6:35pm The Yorkshire Vet</div> <div>7:30pm 5 News Tonight</div> <div>8:00pm Police Interceptors</div> <div>9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors</div> <div>10:00pm Harrogate: A Yorkshire Christmas</div>	<div>7:00am Cricket</div> <div>3:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>4:00pm SKY Sports News</div> <div>5:00pm Ram Slam T20 Challenge Sf</div> <div>8:30pm Football</div> <div>10:45pm Live Fight Night: Katie Taylor</div> <div>1:00am SKY Sports News</div> <div>2:00am SKY Sports News</div> <div>3:00am SKY Sports News</div> <div>4:00am SKY Sports News</div>



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.

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

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YOUR PAPER - YOUR VOICE - YOUR OPINION

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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.

Advertising feature

Mark & Lesley Pritchard - Costa Blanca

"JUST a few lines to say how extremely grateful both Lesley and I am for all your help and those of your staff at Golden Leaves. As you are aware we now have a number of policies with you and your advice and those of your staff in helping select these have been second to none. At no stages were we under any pressure to purchase any of your products, everything was explained in detail and all of our circumstances were taken into consideration. The staff have been polite, courteous and very professional, nothing was too much of a problem. Once again many thanks and rest assured that I would have no hesitation in recommending Golden Leaves to family, friends and anyone else who require such services." - Mark and Lesley Pritchard

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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.

columnists@euroweeklynnews.com

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.

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



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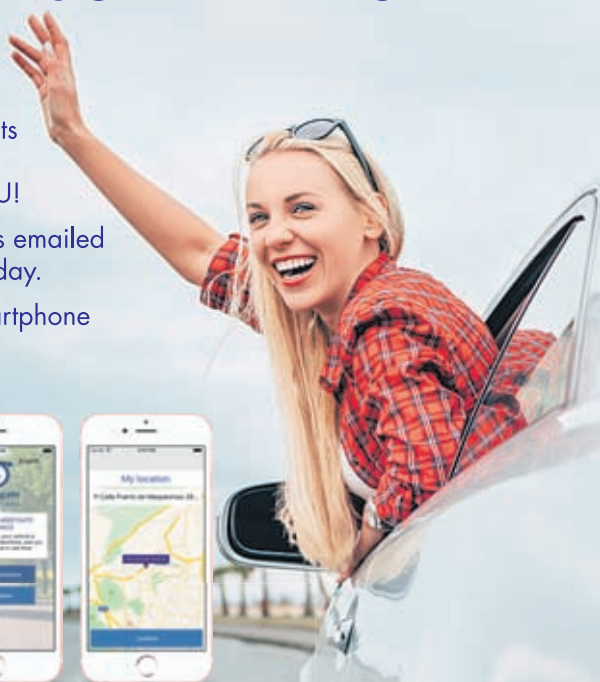
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MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



'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>4 9</div> <div>13 32</div> <div>46 50</div>	<div>10 11</div> <div>18 27</div> <div>28 42</div>	<div>1 6</div> <div>12 18</div> <div>42</div>	<div>5 24</div> <div>29 35</div> <div>46</div>	<div>5 6</div> <div>9 20</div> <div>29 30</div>	<div>3 11</div> <div>16 19</div> <div>22 47</div>	<div>1 11</div> <div>18 40</div> <div>50</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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TIME

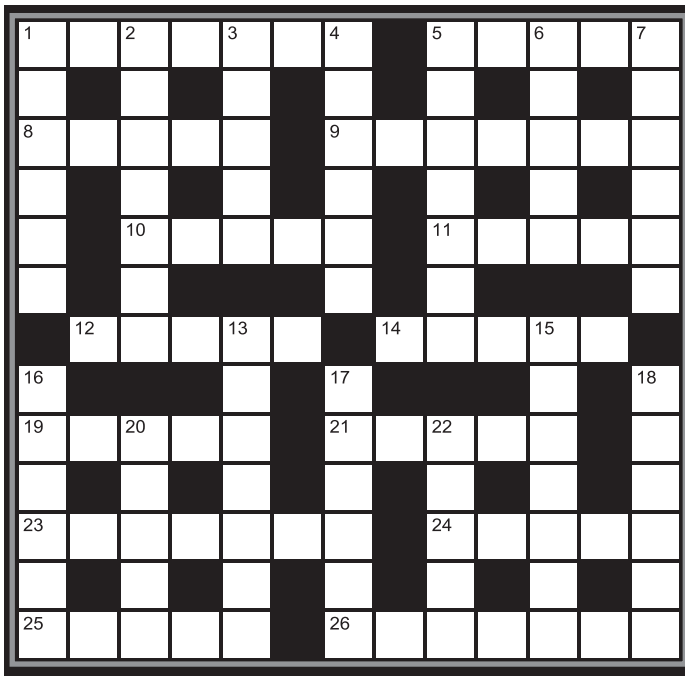
Cryptic

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

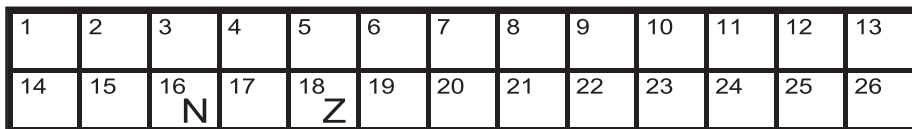
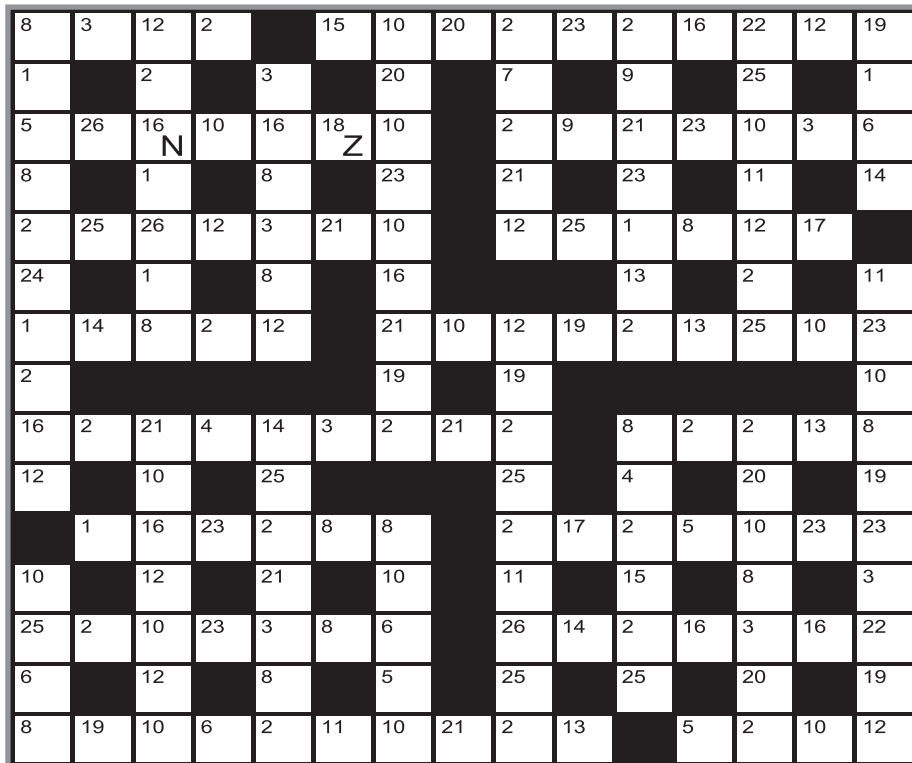
- 1 Really enjoy dressing (6)
2 Rebel Euro MP's leader (7)
3 A number going to church for fish (5)
4 Pass by the Spanish part of church (6)
5 Army unit rebuilt a bridge (7)
6 Irish terrorists meet queen - one from Baghdad, perhaps (5)



- 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)

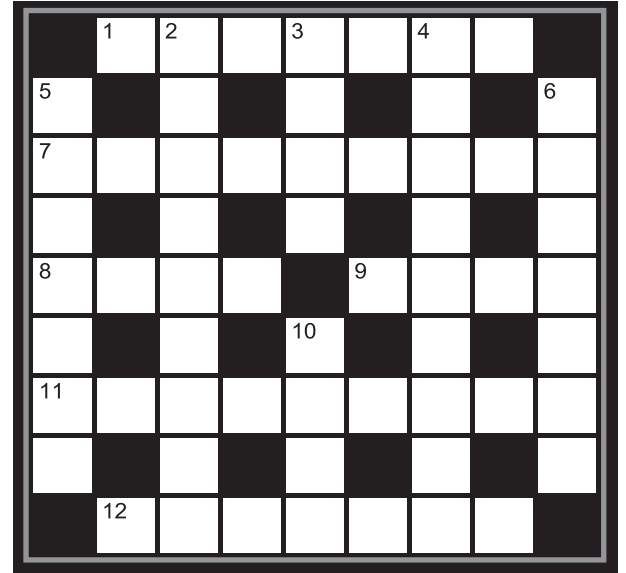
- 17 A follower endures explosions (6)
18 A ceremony in a Spiritualist's meeting (6)
20 Stick to prohibition outside (5)
22 Exhaust water supply after day (5)

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

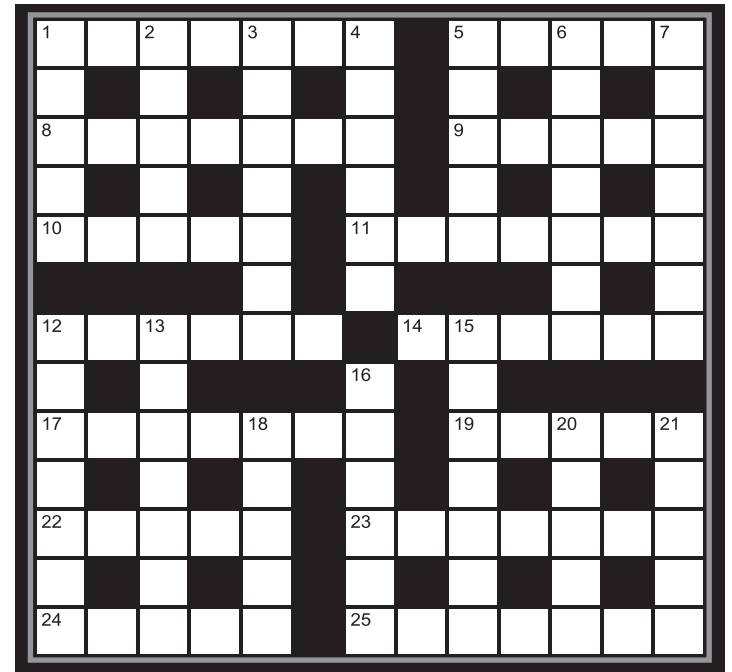
- 1 Get or find again (7)
7 Large company of musicians (9)
8 Expense (4)
9 One (4)
11 Crude (9)
12 Answers (7)

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)

Down

- 1 Píldoras (5)
2 Book (5)
3 Government-licensed tobacconist's (7)
4 Tener miedo (6)

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)

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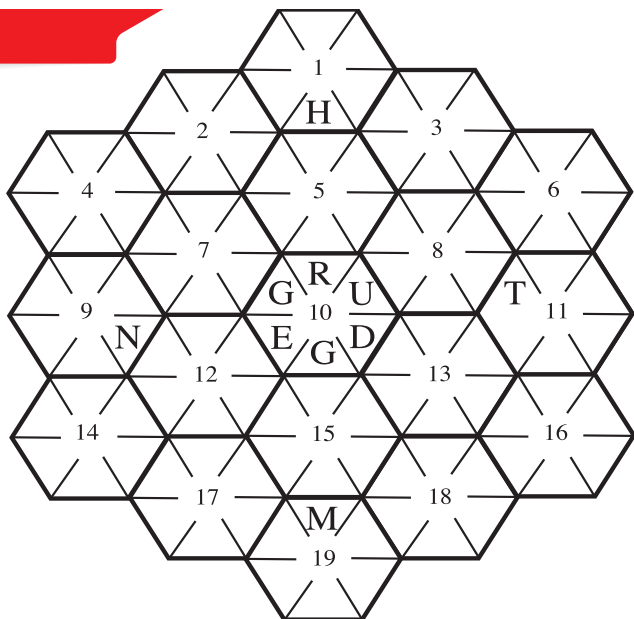
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Hexagram

ELAPSE
EMERGE
FREEST
GARISH
GRATER
GRUDGE (10)
INHERE
METHYL
PETITE
PRAISE
RAISED
RETIRE
SCYTHE
SERENE
SLEIGH
SNAPPY
TEERING
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.

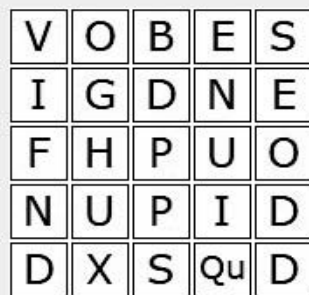
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

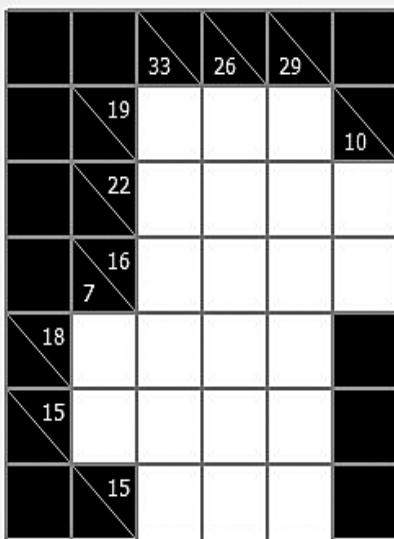
- Average: 6
- Good: 9
- Very good: 13
- Excellent: 16

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

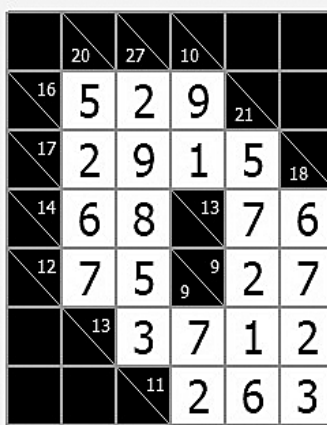
chip chop cope copy corp crop epic hope hype hypo peri pert
pier pith pity poet pore port prey pyre ripe rope ropy tope topi
trip type typo chirp coper crept crypt epoch hoper hyper optic
perch picot piety pitch pithy porch price pricy repot ropey
thorp thrip toper topic tripe trope typic chirpy cipher 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 Hairly,
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

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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?

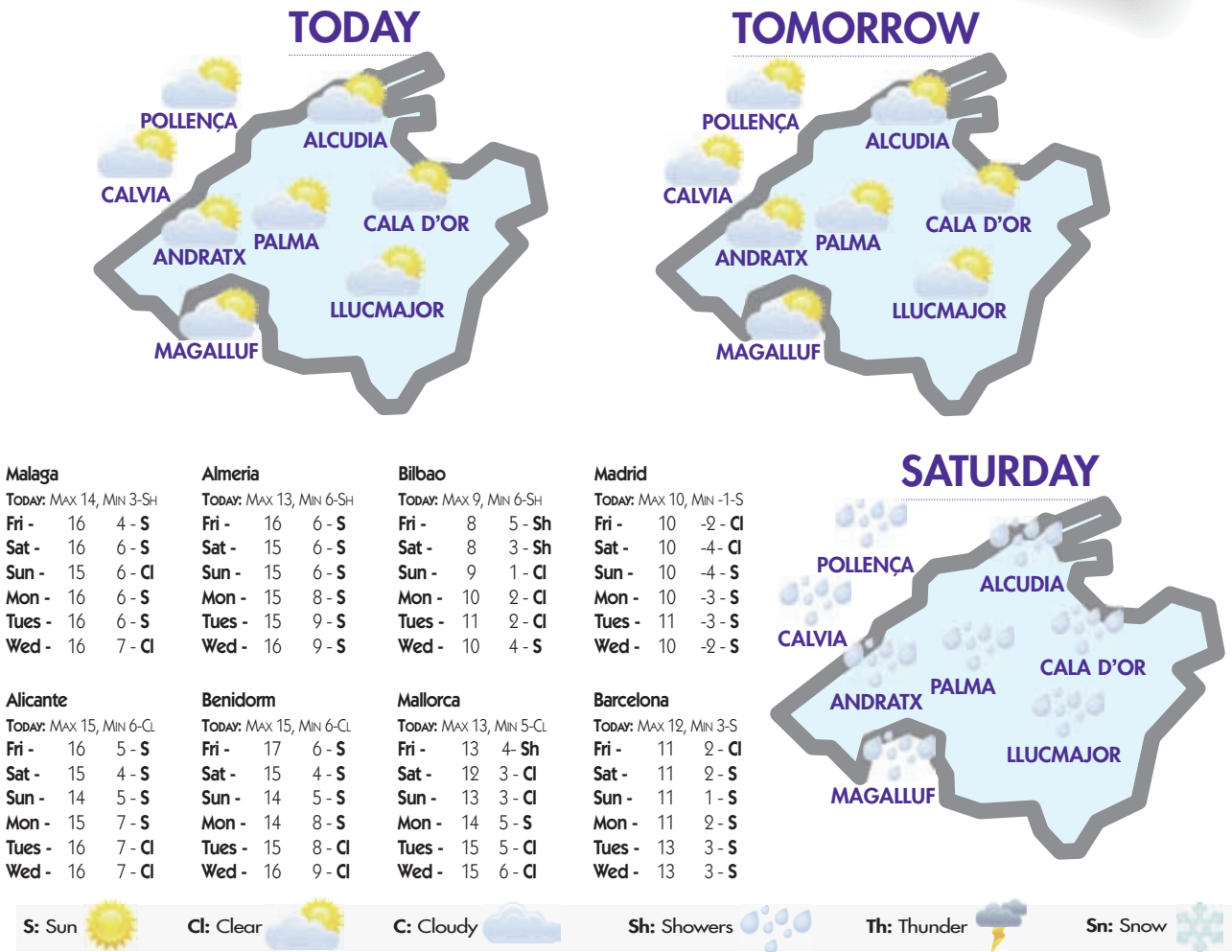
So begins a harrowing journey that takes Reacher through the upper Midwest, from a lowlife bar on the sad side of a small town to a dirt-blown crossroads in the middle of nowhere, encountering bikers, cops, crooks, muscle, and a missing persons PI who wears a suit and a tie in the Wyoming wilderness.

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@euroweeklynews.com

Mallorca

weather



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 Corelli's Mandolin became an international best seller and was made into a successful film.



Santi Cazorla.

• 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.

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

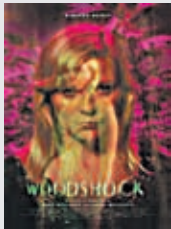
Move from the start word (PULL) to the end word (ROOT) in the same number of steps as there are rungs on the Word Ladder. You must only change one letter at a time.

ROOT

JO
ROOT
FOOT
FOOL
POOL
TOLL
POLL
PULL
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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Cassandra Nash
A weekly look

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

Promises to keep

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-



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

Inaction Man

IN November 2002 the Prestige oil tanker foundered after its hull began to leak 40 kilometres off Galicia.

The Prestige's captain Apostolos Mangouras wanted to put into port to contain the damage but Spain's Minister of the Interior ordered him to take the ship out to sea.

As a result the tanker broke up, releasing 80 per cent of its 77,000-cubic metre cargo, poisoning marine life and polluting 2,000 kilometres of Spanish and French beaches.

The Minister in question was Mariano Rajoy who is often pilloried for his lethargic 'wait and see' stance, but didn't do too well as Action Man, either.

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.

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Breaking Views

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

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.



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

Well, they might think all 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, over-priced 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@euroweeklynews.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@euroweeklynews.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@euroweeklynews.com.

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 climb-

Luna landscape.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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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@helicopterossanitarios.com



HAPPY RELATIONSHIP: Could be key.

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.

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 re-

minded 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 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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Artichoke for a healthy digestion of fats

THE artichoke (*cynara scolymus*) is a thistle-like plant with big round flowers that can reach a height of two metres. Most of us know the artichoke as a delicious vegetable of which only the heart and the fleshy parts of the petals are eaten.

It originated in the Mediterranean area, where it has been known for hundreds of years as a natural aid in the digestion of fatty substances and also as a remedy against flatulence and bloatedness.

However, it is not the edible parts of the artichoke that are used as a natural remedy, it is the leaves and roots. These contain a bitter substance (*cynarin*) that has a stimulating effect on the digestive system and the metabolism, improving the function of the pancreas, gall bladder and liver.

A well functioning fat digestion and a healthy metabolism is essential for well-being and health. More than 30 per cent of people suffer from digestive problems like bloating, flatulence, nausea, cramp-like pain and embarrassing stomach rumblings. Often this can be attributed to a poor digestion of fats.

Artichoke extract improves the bile function. Scientific studies show that shortly after the ingestion of artichoke extract, a significant rise of bile acid production occurs. The increased quantity of bile acid in the digestive system improves the fat digestion and the above mentioned ailments.

Artichoke extract can also particularly aid a weight control diet by improving the digestion of fatty nutrients.

Artichoke extract also has a positive effect on elevated cholesterol levels. New scientific studies show that artichoke extract has an inhibiting effect on the cholesterol biosynthesis, reduces blood cholesterol levels and hinders the LDL-cholesterol oxidation.

“A natural aid in the digestion of fatty substances and also as a remedy against flatulence.”

Artichoke extract stimulates the production of gastric juices and reduces feelings of nausea, sickness and bloatedness. Tests with concentrated artichoke extract have shown surprisingly good results in the detoxication of the liver as well as in the lowering of cholesterol and lipid levels.

Because of its wide range of effects on digestion and cholesterol levels, the artichoke protects the body against strain or damage such as often results from poor eating habits.

It is presently believed that the artichoke is an excellent and well tolerated natural aid for relieving excess strain in the digestive process. It is recommended that artichoke extract be taken as a food supplement over a prolonged period or even on a permanent basis.



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It's good to talk?

WE'RE often told 'two heads are better than one' when solving a problem. But does talking worries out actually help?

Actually no, according to one expert. Robin Bailey, a senior lecturer in psychological therapies at the University of Central Lancaster, has told one publication talking about our concerns too much can make us more depressed or anxious.

He says obsessively discussing one issue over and over again without a solution can cause panic and feelings of negativity, whereas conversations resulting in a plan can be positive.

Experts call the phenomenon 'co-rumination,' where a group of people encourage each other to discuss problems to excess and focus on negativity, as well as focusing on hypothetical problems. Mr Bailey says the problem is most likely to affect women.

He told one publication the concept is a "double-edged



DISCUSSION: Can lead to stress.

sword," noting that co-rumination in children aged seven to 15 is shown to produce "high-quality" friendships but also anxiety and depression amongst girls, but not boys. Another study showed sharing problems with co-workers increased the risk of burn out and stress, however.

Mr Bailey emphasised it could still be positive to talk an issue over, though, but that it is important to steer the conversation towards finding a solution which is then acted on. He added the benefits of co-rumination were only

found in face-to-face conversations, including phone calls and texting, but not when using social media.

The expert claims sharing problems on sites like Facebook or Twitter only results in the negative consequences of the phenomenon, not the positive.

So the next time you call a friend to discuss something on your mind, according to Mr Bailey, you can help strengthen your friendship and feel better about your worries by focusing on solutions.

Gods of Prado Legend comes alive

MALLORCA has been chosen as the starting point for a travelling art exhibition around Spain. More than 50 exhibits and works of art from Madrid's Prado Museum will spend several months on the island.

The exhibition is entitled 'Art and Myth: The Gods of Prado' and can be found at the CaixaForum in Palma's old Grand Hotel. It focuses on the myths and legends of the Mediterranean dating back to antiquity.

Some of the works were last shown publicly in the 1920's. They include paintings, busts and sculptures from artists as famous as Rubens, Ribera and van Eyck.

Though grounded in ancient myth and legend, the exhibit has been given a modern twist. Spanish choreographer, Toni Mira has produced a dance video with shadowy figures lending an other-



Photo credit: CaixaForum/Twitter

BEAUTY: La Caixa directors unveil new mythological exhibit.

worldly feel to the exhibit.

It is split into five sections - passion, punishment, transformation, heroes, and war - which encompass many of the myths of the ancient

world. Greek gods and the Trojan war feature prominently.

Throughout the duration of the exhibit there will be special family days and guided tours. From January 22 there will be five weeks of films, each Monday, exploring the exhibit's themes.

Festive Fair Trade

FIFTEEN Fair Trade Christmas activities will be held across Mallorca by the end of the month.

Organised by the Comerc Just (Balearic Fair Trade network) they include live music, story-telling, cooking with Fair Trade products, and a chocolate fair.

Spokeswoman, Joana Galmes said the idea "is to invite people to reflect on consumer excess and the lives behind the products that they buy, often from impoverished and exploited third world workers."

There will also be Christmas decoration classes and wine tasting using Fair Trade products. More information can be found through the Comerc Just website.

Also embracing the Christmas spirit is the Bierkonig on the Playa de Palma. The infamous hedonist hub has transformed itself into a daytime family-friendly Christmas market.

Throughout December children can be entertained with clowns, face-painting and cartoons. Entry is free.

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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

BACCHUS CELLAR

by Lorenzo Barbareschi



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.

Music to the ears

CLASSIC is back on Mallorca's music scene as the festive season gets well underway. Tonight both orchestra and jazz lovers are being treated with two major performances in Palma.

At the Auditorium, the Balearic Symphony Orchestra returns to woo the audience with four separate classical pieces, including a concertino for harp and orchestra with M Castelnovo-Tedesco.

Considered one of the finest regional orchestras in Spain, the Balearic band kick off the proceedings at 8pm this evening.

Tickets are priced between €22 and €32 depending on seats and can be purchased from the Auditorium box office.

Meanwhile, over at the Teatre Principal, legendary jazz pianist, Agusti Fernandez will be bringing his experimental brand of flamenco-infused jazz back to a hometown audience. The Mallorca-born musician, who enjoys international fame, is performing with his Sai Tio project. The triple threat is made up by drummer, Ivo Sans and

dancer, Sonia Sanchez.

Sai Trio are playing as part of the ongoing Alternatilla Jazz Festival until Sunday at different locations across Mallorca. Tonight's gig starts at 8pm. Tickets are priced between €5 and €29.



Photo credit Facebook

SAI TRIO: Homecoming gig for jazz group tonight.

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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,



LUXURY: Madrid market favoured by elite.



VILLA LES CEDRES: Is breaking records.

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

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

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

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 prop-

erty 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.

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. The aver-

age 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.

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Ref: 3104, Algaida, 160,000€

Plot with building permission, mains electricity and mains water possible. Nice views.



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."

Find the right tools for the trade

WHEN gardening ensure you have the right tools for the trade. If new to the garden world, you don't need to rush off and buy a range of costly equipment, but you do need to be aware of what you need to do what.

Gardening gloves and knee pads. Gloves are essential for the novice or beginner gardener as there is nothing more discouraging than painful blisters or cuts from sharp thorns when you're trying to start a garden. Knee pads will also make you a little more comfortable when kneeling on the hard ground.

Rakes. There are a few different kinds of rakes to consider for any garden. A leaf rake has thin, flexible tines for gathering leaves without damaging or pulling up plants. A bow or garden rake has shorter, stiffer tines which are ideal for raking heavier materials. This rake can be used for removing rocks or other debris from your garden area and for smoothing out the soil before planting.

Shovels and hoes. A hoe is a great tool for digging up weeds and breaking up the surface of the soil. A garden hoe is ideal for removing tough grasses and



TOOLED UP: Invest in the essentials.

a broad hoe is good for moving soil, weeding and digging trenches. A round-nosed shovel is good for heavy digging and mixing and is best for preparing holes for planting. You may

also want to consider a spade shovel, which has a pointed blade, for breaking through the soil more easily.

Pruners. Bypass pruners are the most common kind and are scissor-like

and great for cutting small live branches, harvesting vegetables, and cutting flowers. Bypass loppers are similar to hand-held ones but have longer handles.



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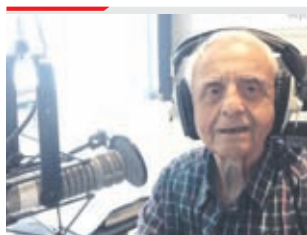
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Puppy love



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.

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



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

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.

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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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.

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London Boat Show approaching

THERE is now just over a month before the London Boat Show opens its doors to visitors from all over the world.

Running from Wednesday January 10 until Sunday January 14 at Excel One on the Royal Victoria Dock, the organisers say that this will be the busiest show ever with more than 20 per cent new exhibitors and a number of UK and World debuts.

In keeping with most major exhibitions of this type, it isn't just aimed at the boating fanatic but will have plenty of elements to entertain the entire family especially as it incorporates the Boating and Watersports Holiday Show and Bespoke London.

The all new Beach Club offers the ultimate urban beach experience. Come and chill out on the sand with family or take a free beach class and learn the basics of sailing, stand up paddle boarding and kayaking.

Supervised by the experts of Rockley Watersports, the Beach Club is the ideal place to get the hang of a whole



Photo Credit: onEdition

FLASHBACK: A scene from the busy 2017 London Boat Show.

new world of watersports. It offers a Mediterranean feel, featuring live DJs, a beach bar and café experience.

Naturally whilst many enjoy this

facility there will be a large number of boats of all types available to visit and find out more about with some special show offers which could save

prospective purchasers a great deal of money.

The most expensive daily ticket is £20 (€22.26) with discounts for a

number of groups and free entry for children under 15.

For more information visit www.londonboatshow.com.

Improving water quality

THE Alcudiamar renovation works are being undertaken with a commitment to the environment guiding each of the actions to be carried out in the marina and tourist port facilities.

Cleanliness of the water is of major importance with a system that recirculates the water in the marina basin after installed skimmers remove any solid waste.

There is also the ability to increase the speed of recirculation of the waters in the dock to deal with accidental or unexpected spills together with a network which significantly increases oxidation of the water.

There is to be a solid waste collection system which will be active prior to the discharge of rainwater from the municipal network and an area in which to deposit floating sand



Photo Credit: www.alcudiamar.es

Projected view of the new facility.

and solids will be built.

Quality control of the water discharged from the municipal pluvial network will recognise and send an alarm signal in case of a faecal spill thanks to the installation of a buoy to measure quality of the water.

All port lighting will use LED lights to guarantee low energy consumption and a long

service life, which will result in lower maintenance costs.

For those rooms in the surrounding area that require air conditioning, high-efficiency heat recovery buildings will be installed inside the buildings, which will allow a large part of the extraction air energy to be used.

In addition, those buildings that require the use of sanitary hot water will have a solar collection system to minimise the consumption of support energy.

The port will also be provided with charging points for electric vehicles and to control the energy consumed in the port, in addition to the electricity meters by the moorings, network analysers will be provided, housed in low voltage switchboards.



Photo Credit: Evo Yachts

Two Walk Arouns taking to the water.

New Evo motor yacht ready for the market

THE brand new Evo Walk Around motor yacht is now on the market and ready for sale to potential owners.

Designed by Studio Tecnico Rivellini, interiors and exteriors by Valerio Rivellini and built by Blu Emme Yachts, the brand new Walk Around springs from the same design concept that has always set Evo Yachts apart from the rest.

Clean lines and a minimalist design, accompanied by a series of unique solutions on the market to ensure that this motor yacht can be enjoyed to its full potential, based as always on the form, function, design and construction philosophy.

The standout feature of this second 13-metre motor yacht is the fact that you can move easily between the stern beach area

and the bow by walking around the helm station.

This characteristic, which gives the yacht its name and is borrowed from the world of fishing boats, is masterfully integrated in the elegant and contemporary style that is a distinctive feature of the Evo Yachts collection.

With four berths the yacht can be used for mini-cruises in the utmost comfort whilst all operations on board are aided by latest generation home automation solutions that allow all the yacht's navigation parameters and basic functions to be managed from an iPad.

The carefully engineered solutions ensure that all operations are extremely intuitive and user-friendly meaning that even the least experienced sailor can easily control the yacht even when docking.

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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.

ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

Peugeot 5008 GT Line

MULTI-PURPOSE vehicles are declining in popularity as larger SUV models begin to dominate and a new contender has just been launched which will certainly shake up the SUV sector.

The new Peugeot 5008 is a seven-seater with a lot of visual cachet, a spacious interior and styling cues from its already popular 3008 stablemate. Priced from €27,385 (£24,495), the new 5008 is radically different from its predecessor and is certain to attract a raft of younger family buyers who like charismatic street image yet with day to day practicality.

The 5008 sets a new benchmark for quality cabin materials and standard of fit and finish for the brand and inside and out, this new model has a wow factor.

The engine range mirrors

that of the smaller 3008, which uses the same platform, and embraces petrol and diesel units with varying power outputs, with manual and auto gearboxes available.

There are four trim levels and a 30cm (12 inch) display screen is standard on all models, as is a touch-screen info system, climate control and parking sensors.

On the road, the 5008 drives smoothly and is very composed on the corners, with minimal body roll. The car has a smaller than usual steering wheel which looks and feels a little odd

but you quickly get used to it. Driving position is great, with good forward visibility, and very supportive seating and well-balanced suspension combine to make the 5008 very comfortable.

My test model was a top-spec GT Line model with a 2.0 litre 148 hp diesel engine and six-speed manual transmission. The 0-100 kph time of 9.6 seconds is nippy for this class of vehicle, and top speed is 207 kph (129 mph). Fuel economy is very good at 21.7 kpl (61.4 mpg).

The GT Line model, priced at €34,931 (£31,245), has a lot of extra kit including keyless entry and push-button start, adaptive cruise control, leather seats, diamond-cut alloys, panoramic glass roof and multi-point massage facility on driver's seat.

With seats folded, load capacity is a massive 2,150 litres.

The new 5008 takes on established rivals such as the Renault Grand Scenic and newcomers such as the Skoda Kodiaq, and is certainly going to give those - and other rivals - a hard time in the sector's sales battle.



Peugeot 5008
GT Line.

Model tested was UK-specification and equipment levels and prices may vary in other markets.



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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.

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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.

Mallorca's best guide to local sport

7 - 13 December 2017

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SPORT

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Another home win for Babarians XV Calvià



ALL SMILES: CTEIB rugby players in London with some of their opposition.

Division Honour B

BABARIANS XV had a tough match against Tecnidex RC in which the visitors scored the

first points shortly after the start.

Babarians XV managed to even the score and then draw ahead before half time, with two tries of their own.

The second half saw both teams score another try but the home team stayed ahead to finish with a win by 28 points to 17.

Baleares Senior League.

In the game between RC Ponent and Corsaris RC the home team won by 37 points to 27.

Ibiza RC played their first game of the season in Son Roca against Shamrock RC with a close win of 10 points to 12.

CTEIB London Tour

Forty young members of the CTEIB U16 and U18 teams spent the weekend in England in preparation for the Spanish National Championships. They had an entertaining and unforgettable time, playing five matches against Fullarians RFC and Harrow RC, coming away

with four victories and one draw. They were complimented on their high standard of rugby and on-pitch behaviour. CTEIB will return the hospitality when the Londoners come to Mallorca for the Beach Rugby tournament in May.

Rugby Day in Shamrock.

Another successful Rugby Day was hosted by Shamrock RC in Son Roca with a great turnout of young players and supporters.

England go 2-0 down in Ashes

ENGLAND have lost the second Ashes Test by 120 runs to fall 2-0 behind Australia in the five match series.

The visitors had a small hope of levelling the series coming into the final day of the test, beginning on 176-4 and pursuing 354.

However, that optimism was short lived, as Josh Hazelwood bowled night-watchman with the second ball of the day and then captain Joe Root for just 67 in the third over.

England's loss was all but confirmed as Moeen Ali fell just six overs later and although Johnny Barstow provided some short lived resistance, scoring 36, the test was wrapped up by the ruthless Mitchell Starc, who finished with figures 5-88.

ished with figures 5-88.

Joe Root's men were eventually bowled out for 233 as they lost six wickets in the first session of the day and now find themselves in a daunting position heading into the third test.

Australia will now regain the famous urn if they win the third Test at the Waca in Perth, which begins on December 14, a ground where England have not won since 1978.

England only need a draw to win the series, but have never come from 2-0 down to draw or win a series against Australia and must also overcome a run of seven consecutive Test defeats down under to have any chance of retaining the Ashes.

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