



Police find millions of child sex images

THE National Police have uncovered 1.3 million paedophile images on a man's computer.

Officers discovered the horrific photographs after investigating a man in Velez-Málaga for sexual abuse of a child.

The accused, who is being investigated for sexual abuse of a minor, sexual provocation and child pornography, first came under scrutiny last April after a mother told police the man may have abused her daughter. The alleged perpetrator, who is said to be a relative of one of the girl's friends, has been remanded in prison since the accusation.

The 50-year-old Spanish man is said to have taken advantage of his friendly relationship with his victims to sexually abuse them, bribing them with gifts of snacks or threatening them to assault and photograph them as well as showing them pornography.

Police allege the man had a 'secret' room where he showed his victims the images and that he hid his crimes using special software to evade detection. Officers have since seized three computers, 12 CDs, 432 DVDs, nine USB sticks and three hard drives.

Last week it was revealed another man had been arrested at Málaga Airport for distributing child pornography. The 36-year-old Belgian man is accused of sending the material through WhatsApp after a woman claimed to receive photos from the man who she did not know.

Blood brothers

Inheritance battle sparks shooting

A man shot his brother before killing himself in an apparent dispute over an inheritance.

Police are still trying to establish the exact cause of the disagreement after the man's victim sustained a gunshot wound to his left arm in the incident in Benamocarra. Officers believe the alleged perpetrator then took his own life believing he had killed his brother.

Police say the incident began at around 7.30am when three gunshots were heard at a home which neighbours reported sounded like firecrackers. Police and ambulances arrived, finding a 68-year-old man with a gunshot wound to his head but still alive.

Health workers were unable to save his life, however, declaring him dead at the scene.

His 61-year-old brother had already been taken to hospital by relatives where he was treated for his wound.



Photo credit: Policía Axarquía.

FAMILY FEUD: Police corner off the area where the incident occurred.

Members of the Guardia Civil cordoned off the scene, collecting evidence and finding two shotguns which have been sent to a laboratory for further analysis.

Witnesses told one publication the wounded brother had been seen in the street shortly after the

incident, begging bystanders to take the gun from his shooter in case he harmed himself.

Residents are said to be in shock at the incident, saying the victim and alleged perpetrator come from a "good family, very loved and respected in the town."

The alleged shooter had run a bar in the centre of Benamocarra for several years and is said to have been well-known locally.

According to one publication the brothers came from a family which owned several houses and a lot of land.

Drought threat now 'severe'

THE Junta de Andalucía regional government has raised Axarquía's drought level to severe.

Despite the move the Junta still has no plans to impose water cuts on residents, according to Jose Fiscal, Minister for the Environment.

The minister confirmed the regional government will instead review public water consumption after drought levels worsened in Axarquía and some parts of Granada.

Last week it was announced Emasa will no longer supply water to the La Viñuela reservoir despite its continued water shortage.

The company, which has been sending drinking water to the dwindling reservoir for a month and a half, will instead now channel water to the Pinillo reservoir in Torremolinos.

Viñuela's water levels now sit at around 22 per cent with only 35 cubic hectometres remaining. Since early January, Emasa had been diverting around 100 litres of water a second to Viñuela in the hope of slowing the rate at which water levels decreased.

The same amount of water will now be sent to Pinillo after its own supplies fell due to lack of rainfall.

Farmers are currently forced to cut their irrigation by 60 per cent despite the lack of watering bans for residents. The Junta said farmers will now be offered just 10 hectometres of water for irrigating this year compared to 23 hectometres.

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NEWS EXTRA**Family-run business**

A MOTHER and two of her children have been arrested for selling drugs. The Malaga mother allegedly used her two children, aged 16 and 17, to help sell narcotics.

Car tragedy

A 48-YEAR-OLD Belgian man has died in a car accident in Velez-Malaga after his vehicle came off the road on the N-340, near the exit that leads to Cantarrijan beach. Police believe the man, who was a resident in the area, may have had a heart attack or fallen asleep at the wheel.

Body found

POLICE have found the body of an elderly man in a home in Malaga. The deceased's body is said to show no signs of violence but was in an advanced state of decomposition.



TARGETED: Caravans in Torrox. Inset: **SAFE AND SOUND:** The stolen goods retrieved.

Jail for caravan thief

A MAN has been jailed for burgling a caravan in Torrox.

Police are still trying to locate the owners of property salvaged from the crimes after a man was arrested and several of the stolen goods recovered.

Officers also arrested a second man after two burglaries took place in Competa and Torrox. The alleged thief, a French man, is said to have moved to Competa from La Palmilla in Malaga before burgling a caravan and a country house. Police say the man

kept the stolen goods hidden in his car, evading de-

tection by the authorities by moving location frequently and driving a car with a French registration.

A Senegalese man was also arrested as part of the police investigation - labelled Caravan 18 - for allegedly buying the stolen goods much lower than market value.

Following police investigations, officers arrested both men and recovered two laptops and other items from the burglaries. Police are still searching for the owners of several of the possessions.

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**Airport staff theft claim**

A CLEANER has been arrested for allegedly stealing a passenger's bracelets at Malaga Airport.

The woman is awaiting court after admitting to stealing two gold bracelets worth €2,400 while their owner went through an X-ray machine.

The passenger is said to have taken the designer bracelets off to pass through security, putting them in her bag and only noticing they were gone once she was on the plane. Returning to Malaga several days later she reported the crime to the airport's Guardia Civil officers.

Police reviewed CCTV footage from the day of the crime and found the victim had placed the items in her bag as she claimed and had not had any contact with anyone else until her flight. Investigating further they found a cleaner had been working on the X-ray machine at the time of the theft.

Images showed the woman put the bracelets in the pocket of her work uniform disregarding the security guards and members of the Guardia Civil next to her.

In February a cab driver was also arrested for stealing from passengers at Malaga Airport.

The 33-year-old man faces prosecution after it was alleged he stole identity documents and €2,000 in cash from travellers arriving at Malaga Airport. Police say the man took the possessions from the baggage trolley of travellers who had just arrived from Paris. Officers claim the accused took advantage of the group's lack of attention as they were loading bags into a taxi.

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516 weapons seized

MALAGA Police removed hundreds of weapons from the streets in 2017. Among the items seized were 64 guns, three air weapons, 347 knives and 86 other weapons. In total 431 were reported as carrying a weapon last year in Malaga.

No price rises

POLITICIANS from all sides have rejected proposals to raise water rates in Velez-Malaga. A council meeting saw several parties work together to ensure customers of Axaragua do not incur higher bills after the company ran into financial trouble.

No home

THE Junta de Andalucia regional government has halted plans to build a housing estate for the elderly in Arenas. The €90 million project has been put on hold after it found the complex of 240 apartments and 120 rooms would be built on rural land.

Black out

AN electrical fault in Rincon de la Victoria left houses without power for two hours. According to the council, the fault occurred after 'a manoeuvring element of an airplane broke due to a strong gust of wind.' Several businesses were also affected by the issue.

Gas fraud

A REPORT has claimed three councillors from the Partido Popular (PP) made 'irregular use of the municipal' petrol station. The report's author, Manuel Villena, said the case could constitute fraud. The PP criticised the claims saying the council had allowed 200 litres of fuel to be thrown away.

GHOST TOWN: Villagers are possessed by evil spirits that emerge from a mysterious crack in the ground each year.

THE BIG PICTURE Nº 3



Black as the devil

Photo by Twitter

ACCORDING to legend, they escape the underworld through a mysterious crack in the earth once per year.

And in the small village of Luzon, Castile-La Mancha, the demons roam the streets in one of Spain's most macabre celebrations.

Known as the Festival of Devils and Masks [La Fiesta de los Diablos y Mascaritas], revellers daub their faces with oil and soot before don-

ning horns and cow bells as they transform into servants of evil.

A set of huge, fearsome teeth carved from a potato completes the fiendish look of the diablos, innocent villagers possessed by evil spirits.

They wander the village, 'cursing' onlookers by smearing them with black marks.

The only people safe from their sinister touch are the mascaritas, white-masked figures clad in tradi-

tional women's clothing.

While the first records of the bizarre ritual date back to the 14th century, its genuine origin is unknown.

Outlawed during the reign of former dictator Francisco Franco, the event was rebooted in the 1980s.

Today, any type of costume - from cartoon characters to nuns to pirates - can be worn to avoid the demons' wicked touch.

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The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1703 of the Euro Weekly News Axarquía - Costa Tropical edition, including 30 local stories.

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Will to win

EWN scoops national award



'HONOURED': EWN publishers Michel and Steven Euesden (centre) accept their award.

THE *Euro Weekly News* has bagged a national press association award for the second year in a row.

It comes after Spain's leading English-language weekly newspaper picked up the Professional Trajectory Award at the 2018 Spanish Periodical Association (AEEPP) Awards.

According to the organisers, the award is won by a company 'for its successes and outstanding professional journey.'

The jury featured Jose Manuel Velasco, president of Global Alliance, the international confederation of PR and communication management associations, and Miguel Justribo, Corporate Communication Director of Telepizza Spain, among others.

Other winners included national daily newspaper *El Español*, Spanish news website *El Diario*, and American streaming giant *Netflix*.

The association said in a statement: "We want to recognise the *Euro Weekly* - the leading English newspaper - as an invaluable information resource for the foreign community living on our coasts."

The AEEPP Awards event is now in its 12th year and is considered to be among the most pres-

tigious press awards in Spain.

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

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

After collecting the award, a delighted Michel said: "The EWN Media Group is a family of people who work day and night throughout the year with dedication and passion.

"We are so honoured to have received this award from the AEEPP.

"As a team we work hard and believe in the future of all printed and digital publications.

"We would like to give thanks to our wonderful clients and readers.

"But in the main this award is for a team that has given everything over the last year, and we must also recognise their partners, as anyone in the world who works in print will understand.

"A massive congratulations to everyone."

POLL OF THE WEEK

Should Spain be allowed to co-manage Gibraltar Airport?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:
 Do you agree with the Balearics' decision to ban tourists from travelling to the islands in diesel or petrol cars?
Yes 54% **No 46%**

EWN online this week

133,252 Page views

TOP 5 stories



BENEFIT CHEAT: Great-gran Sally Folan.

- 6,075 views** UK Benefit cheating great-gran who secretly owned Spanish holiday home avoids jail
- 3,928 views** Thousands trapped as Canary Islands battered by heaviest storm in years
- 3,378 views** Police officer dies after pitched battle between football fans in Spain
- 3,119 views** Beach in Spain crowned as best in Europe and sixth best in world for 2018
- 3,053 views** Ryanair crew declare mid-air emergency on flight from Spanish island to UK

*For week 19 - 26 February

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OUR VIEW

Spain's never-ending corruption problem

THE news that Spain has risen in a global corruption ranking may not come as a surprise.

The country has been plagued by scandal in recent years, with members of the Royal Family, political parties, large corporations, and the police implicated.

Its Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index score has now dropped by eight points (out of 100) since 2012, with its latest tally of 57 worse than most other European nations.

According to official figures, almost 1,500 individuals faced corruption trials in Spain between July 2015 and the end of 2016, while the issue has long ranked as the second biggest cause for concern after unemployment among the population.

In 2013 a European Council report questioned the integrity and impartiality of Spain's chief anti-corruption prosecutor, who was appointed by the government, and issued a series of 11 recommendations to help Spain tackle the problem.

But three years later, it concluded that none had been 'implemented satisfactorily.'

Some blame religion, since Catholicism allows for confession and absolution of sins, while others claim that corruption is a habit born in dictatorial times, when cheating the state was akin to an act of resistance.

And unless political forces can come together and deal with the issue as a state policy transcending individual parties, it appears that systematic corruption is here to stay.

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All aboard

RENFE is increasing the number of trains between Malaga City and Madrid.

The train company plans to raise the number of high-speed AVE trains available from March 16.

One more train per day will be on service on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from the middle of the month. This brings the total of trips to 26 from Monday to Friday, 20 on Saturdays and 24 on Sundays.

During weekends, public holidays and high tourist seasons Renfe also plans to bring in further trains.

Meanwhile a court in Sevilla has now received the police report looking into the train derailment between Malaga and Sevilla last December in which 37 were injured.

The court also asked Renfe and the Train Infrastructure Administration (Adif) to hand over the black box straight after the accident took place.

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Purr-fect bikini bod

SHE'S the former Atomic Kitten singer who recently hit the headlines after changing her lifestyle.

Kerry Katona, 37, appeared keen to flaunt her beach body during a winter jaunt to Spain.

The Whole Again hitmaker slipped into a tiny fuchsia bikini as she showed off her toned physique while topping up her tan by the pool.

She again donned her favourite brown wig and posed for the waiting paparazzi before relaxing on a sun lounger and snapping some cheeky selfies.

The mum-of-five moved in with pal and Real Housewives of Cheshire stunner Ampika Pickston after splitting from third husband George Kay.

And she showed off her body transformation on Loose Women after revealing exercise changed her figure when she stopped taking drugs for bipolar disorder.

She said: "Exercise is a massive thing, more than anything and I've been off medication now for about eight months."

NAKED AMBITION: Emily Ratajkowski and (inset) her Vanity Fair Spain cover.

Photo credit Twitter



PINK AND PERKY: Kerry Katona.



Laying it bare

SHE'S the model who shot to fame after appearing semi-nude in Robin Thicke's controversial Blurred Lines video.

And Emily Ratajkowski, 26, again bared all as she appeared topless on the cover of Vanity Fair Spain before stripping naked in a series of sizzling snaps inside the glossy magazine.

And the Westminster-born stunner shared a sultry image from the shoot on social media after the eye-popping cover hit the shelves.

Pay slips don't lie

COLOMBIAN pop superstar Shakira has allegedly paid almost €20.5 million to Spanish tax authorities.

The Whenever, Wherever singer - who lives in Barcelona with footballer husband Gerard Pique - reportedly forked out after being warned she could be prosecuted for tax evasion.

But Spanish media have reported that she may appeal the sanction after paying more than €20 million in tax during 2011.

Is Love Island host dating CBB star?



Photo credit Twitter

FLACKING HELL: TV presenter Caroline.

SHE spends six weeks per year hosting ITV2's racy dating show Love Island in Spain.

But Caroline Flack, 38, showed she has been up to a little matchmaking of her own after stepping out with Celebrity Big Brother's Andrew Brady, 27.

The pair appeared totally enamoured as they were snapped enjoying an evening stroll in London, as they

walked arm in arm before Caroline brought her hand to rest on her toy boy's backside.

She is said to have enjoyed a 'string of dates' with the Cheshire-based project engineer after they met at a party.

They fuelled speculation over their blossoming relationship after sharing social media posts that appeared to be taken in the same room.

Classy ladies

THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF ATLANTA set tongues wagging after a set-to between Porsha Williams and Marlo Hampton in Barcelona.

Porsha stormed home from the Spanish trip early in the wake of the drama after Marlo accused her of having 'smelly breath.' The incident was aired during an episode entitled 'Barcelona Breakdown.'

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How bazaar

POLICE have brought down a gang burgling Chinese bazaars.

Three people now face trial for belonging to a criminal organisation, aggravated robbery and fraud after they allegedly robbed several shops in Axarquía. Two further people remain under investigation after the group allegedly forced their way into the shops, stealing tills.

The investigation, labelled Pekin-Uranus, began last October when police in Malaga and Motril established a series of crimes had been carried out by the same group. Officers claim the group hold criminal records for similar crimes and used false identities to rent cars which were used to commit the robberies.

The gang allegedly spent more than €2,600 on car rental in just over a month, paying third parties to hire the vehicles in their names before falsifying insurance claims to cover up any damage caused to the cars during the robberies.

A police operation saw officers from the Torrox-Algarrobo and Velez-Malaga work together to bring down the group.

Concrete plans

ALMUÑECAR Council is having to spend €30,000 replacing the town's bollards.

The project comes after a change in law means all bollards must be accessibility-friendly by the beginning of 2019 with most of the town's structures affected.

Other towns in Andalucía are also affected by the changes meaning bollards are in short supply and leading Almuñecar to roll off the substitutions in phases.

The first area to receive replacements will be the La Paloma neighbourhood, which will also receive works to its pavements and kerbs.

The Altillo and Coliseo areas will also benefit from new bollards before lastly the Puerta del Mar and its surrounding streets.



Credit: Ayuntamiento de Almuñecar

NEW BOLLARDS: Are already being installed.

The new bollards must be between 75 centimetres and 90 centimetres high to comply with the new regulations, whereas most of the town's are shorter, creating a trip hazard.

All replacement bollards must also be at least 10 centimetres in diameter and painted in a colour designed to stand out from their surroundings so they are more visible at night.

The new structures will also be banned from being positioned at the end of pedestrian crossings where they can become a hazard as pedestrians look out for traffic.

Medical failings

POLITICIANS have started a petition criticising the health care at the Almuñecar Medical Centre.

The Almuñecar Andalucian Party has collected around 1,500 signatures calling on the Junta de Andalucía to provide new services at the centre.

The group claims the council and Regional Health Service signed an agreement in 2004 providing for further facilities meaning patients no longer had to travel to Motril for some treatments.

Among the facilities promised were gastroenterology, cardiology, pulmonology, dermatology, urology, otorhinolaryngology and obstetrics care, they claim.

The group says these facilities were never put in place, blaming this on cuts made by the Junta for the lack of additional services and an ongoing shortage of doctors and nurses.

The platform claims these problems have led to delays in patients being given medical appointments, which they say then puts a strain on the centre's Accident and Emergency Department.

Many of the signatures collected on the petition were taken from patients visiting the health centre.

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Expert demands new hospital

A HEALTH expert has said Malaga City cannot cope without a new hospital.

Jose Luis Garcia de Arboleya has explained the future of a new hospital in the city looks likely following pro-

longed negotiations.

Mr de Arboleya, who served as Minister for Health at the Junta de Andalucía between 1992 and 2000, has told one publication some progress has been made, claiming, "We have

achieved a good degree of consensus."

He explained more than 300 people had come together to plan a '21st century hospital,' and the project "has been a satisfaction for all of us."

A group of experts compiled a 300-

page report considering the impact of building an 800-bed hospital on the land behind the Materno Infantil. Under the proposals the current Carlos Haya Hospital would become a 400 or 500-bed hospital for patients with

chronic conditions. In turn, the Hospital Civico would become a research and training hospital.

Sources are saying, "We are confident that what we have proposed will go forward."

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Police protest

AROUND 250 members of the Local Police have gathered in Malaga City to protest about work conditions.

Officers are demanding that their shift patterns are forecast at the start of each year, so they can plan their family and down

time around work.

The union has criticised municipalities for failing to negotiate, however, saying, "there is no real negotiation, they impose on us, they will not comply."

Manuel Troyano, head of the Independent Union of Andalu-

cian Police, explained, "Almost every day there are situations where they are expected, that same week, to change their work schedule."

He added, "Officers are being forced to change their shifts within two or three hours of starting work without taking into account personal and family obligations, whether we have children under our care or medical appointments."

Last year, around 3,000 Malaga police protested again to demand equal pay with their regional counterparts. They claim police in the Guardia Civil are paid €1,350 a month, while their equivalents in Catalonia are paid around €2,000 on average a month. In addition, offices are claiming they are subject to overcrowding and 'terrible' hygiene and food.

Officers claim the issue came to a head after police from all over Spain were drafted in to help out with the constitutional crisis in Cataluña, highlighting the disparity in pay between officers from different areas.

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NEWS EXTRA

Sleeping struggles

THE Andalucian Medical Union is complaining that junior doctors have nowhere to sleep when they are on call at the Carlos Haya Hospital and are being forced to stay on 'crowded' armchairs when they are resting.

€6m deficit

A GROUP is working to try to save public company Aguas y Saneamiento de la Axarquía which has a deficit of €6 million and supplies water to several areas in Axarquía.

No works

THE Junta De Andalucia has still not announced the works it is expecting to carry out to solve the drought problem in Malaga. This has led to complaints from irrigators.



Credit: Wikimedia

MALAGA AIRPORT: Will receive millions in investment.

€273m airport boost

MALAGA Airport is to receive millions of Euros in investment.

The funding will increase the popular hub's capacity from 24 million passengers a year to 25.9 million. Upgrade plans will also see a maximum of 180,000 flights come and go each year.

According to AENA, the company responsible for Malaga Airport, the move is designed to ensure it 'has sufficient capacity to meet traffic levels and retain high levels of quality.' The project will see 2.36 hectares of land surrounding the current airport limit used to expand facilities.

Further plans include adapting the building housing terminals two and three in both departures and arrivals to provide new parking spaces in front of the airport. Further security checks will also be installed at five of the new boarding gates to offer passengers flexibility. Another possibility would see a new boarding area built which would ease the flow of passengers. A non-Schengen arrivals area will also be created in the building housing terminals two and three.

Malaga airport's new terminal - which was opened in 2009 - will also see its interior adapted.

Budget chaos

POLITICAL upheaval has left Nerja's budget hanging in the balance.

Following disagreements with opposing politicians the town's council will now have to continue negotiating to push a budget through.

The governing tripartite coalition of PSOE, Izquierda Unida (IU) and EVA-Podemos has faced resistance from opposing parties Partido Popular (PP) and Ciudadanos over the €27.5 million document.

A similar situation last year saw Nerja's 2016 continue into 2017 after politicians failed to agree a new 2017 budget. Commenting on the council's 2018 draft budget, one councillor Lola Sanchez criticised the coalition for "demanding approval in a hurry in just five days without the analysis such an important document requires."

The furore follows plans by opposition politicians last year to hold a vote of no confidence to unseat Nerja's mayor, Rosa Arrabal.

Councillors from party Ciudadanos grouped with members of the PP to oust Mayor Rosa Arrabal from the PSOE party, following a scandal over an illegal landfill in Nerja. Despite protracted negotiations, however, the two parties failed to reach an agreement over the vote and Mayor Arrabal remains in her position.

For its part, the tripartite last year explained it was frustrated by "the attitude of the PP and Ciudadanos which constantly tries to hinder our work."

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

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Corruption storm

Politician accused of siphoning public money

A LOCAL politician has sparked outrage after being accused of using public money to pay for luxury meals, a €2,000 degree and other expenses.

Margarita El Cid, vice-president of the conservative Popular Party in Malaga City, allegedly misused funds from 2011-2014, when she served as party general secretary.

She is blamed for siphoning cash from her party bank accounts, some of which was used to pay for a Master's degree in Public Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Innovation from the Deusto private business school in Madrid.

An anonymous letter detailing the infractions was sent to current party general secretary Maria Dolores de Cospedal last October.

El Cid is also president of public water company Acosol.

The letter claims that she



Photo credit: Universidad de Deusto/PP Malaga

MISUSED MONEY: The Deusto business school, Madrid and (inset) Margarita El Cid.

made personal use of public money by using 'blank cheques' to pay for more than €6,000 worth of expensive meals on her days off plus another €7,000 of 'dubious expenses.'

She is also accused of failing to bank €29,000 intended for 'sociological services,' transferring €40,000 from the association to her Popular Party's provincial account, and signing off in-

voices worth almost €30,000 for non-approved public opinion surveys.

A party official said in response to the claims: "This party has no evidence to suggest the existence of any unjustified payments, all information related to economic management is available to municipal investigators and the association successfully passed a recent audit of its accounts."



Credit: Producciones Lastra

THE TANGO: Came To Nerja.

A night in Buenos Aires

NERJA'S Cultural Centre was transported into the outskirts of Argentina's capital last Friday.

The show Pasion Tango saw two of tango's best couples dancing to singing and poetry in a performance reminiscent of the Belle Epoque age of 1930's Buenos Aires.

Alberto and Cristina and Luis and Arlene performed to classic songs including

Volver, El dia que me quieras, and La Cumparanita, using their movements and expression to create passionate performances.

Piano performances by Chano Robles and singing and guitar by Martin El Turco saw the evening bring to life this Argentine dance which has enthralled audiences and dancers alike since its inception in the 1880's in Argentina and Uruguay.

NEWS EXTRA

Refusing to pay

TORROX'S Council has rejected calls to pay creditors almost a million Euros in unpaid invoices saying the amount it not owed and is instead an 'attempt to discredit the council.'

€2m saving

RINCON DE LA VICTORIA Council is refinancing three of its loans to save €2 million. The council's governing coalition has renegotiated the loans with banks Cajamar and Caixabank.

Craft cheese

A CRAFT CHEESE fair in Torre del Mar on Sunday March 11 is expected to gather around 40 exhibitors. The event will offer tastings of cheese, honey, raisins and oil.

New police station almost ready



Credit: Wikimedia

VELEZ-MALAGA: Will benefit from a new police station.

VELEZ-MALAGA'S new police station will be open by the end of the year.

The building, which will house the National Police, is expected to be completed within its original 20 month schedule if works "continue at this pace and there are no unforeseen events," according to Miguel Briones from the Junta de Andalu-

cia regional government.

According to Briones the new station will help "not only 80,000 residents, but it is also important for tourists and of course the rest of the region."

The new building, which is costing €2.7 million, will be located on a 6,700 square metre plot in the Cuesta del Visillo area. The station

will be built over three floors, providing office space, cells and parking.

The station's foundation stone was laid early last year in a ceremony attended by Minister for the Interior, Juan Ignacio Zoido. Mr Zoido confirmed the government is "firmly committed" to ensuring police have the resources they need.

Vote over promenade

RESIDENTS are being offered a chance to vote over the future of their seafront.

Locals of Torre de Benagalbon will take to the ballot boxes over controversial plans to build a concrete promenade which saw 6,000 people sign a petition rejecting the project.

Rincon de la Victoria Council has invested €42,350 in a design contest, campaign and voting system to receive further ideas for the 3.6 kilometre strip. Opponents to original plans for a concrete promenade claimed the town's rare dunes would be endangered.

Protestors said the one-kilometre strip, which is one of only four dunes on Malaga's coastline, was left vulnerable after the Junta de Andalucía voted against requiring Rincon de la Victoria's Council to protect the area.

After the council announced plans to install a promenade, a spokesman for the group opposing the project, Antonio Trillo, explained, "We want the council to listen to us, be receptive to our request, and understand the footpath of Torre de Benagalbon is okay as it is, we do not want more concrete in front of the beach."

He added, "it seems to be outrageous to us to get rid of one of only three coastal environments in which there are still dunes, with examples of native flora such as sea lilies."

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Zahara and Ronda success

RECENTLY a full bus of International friends of Lux Mundi, Torre del Mar, accompanied by Carolyn Bowen set off on an excursion to Zahara de la Sierra and Ronda.

Zahara de la Sierra is reputed to be one of the 10 most picturesque white villages in Spain and it certainly did not disappoint.

The first stop for many was in a bar in the Plaza Mayor for coffee, followed then by a visit to the church of Santa Maria de la Meza. Some of the more energetic climbed up to the castle which is built on a rocky peak at a height of 1,100 metres above the turquoise waters of the lake below where the view was fantastic.

After a couple of hours the group rejoined the bus for the journey to Ronda where there was time to have a leisurely lunch, to view the famous gorge from the 18th century bridge and to visit various museums, the bull ring, the Roman Baths and many other interesting sites.

Lux Mundi would like to thank all who supported this excursion, which en-



STUNNING: Zahara de la Sierra.

ables them to continue with their charitable work and hope to see you all at future events in the centre.

For more information contact: 952 543 334, e-mail: luxmundi@lux-mundi.org or visit: www.lux-mundi.org.

Simply Sevilla

AROUND 30 members of the Nerja History Group recently visited Sevilla.

They had a breakfast stop en route and then went straight to La Casa de Los Pilatos in the Barrio Santa Cruz. They then made the short journey across the River Guadalquivir to Triana to see the ceramics museum.

After checking into their hotel, they met for a cocktail on the roof terrace, and then walked to a nearby restaurant.

Their guide Marta collected them at the hotel after breakfast the next day, giving them a potted history of Sevilla. They walked towards the Cathedral, with Marta giving information about the buildings which they passed.

They then had a coffee break and continued to the Casa de Las Duenas, the private palace home of the late Duchess of Alba.

Following this they visited a convent where the nuns sell marmalades and jams. After making some purchases, they

walked with Marta back to the area near Las Setas once again, where they separated and had a tapas lunch. They met up in the evening, for a short walk to another restaurant for dinner. Some then went to a Flamenco Show. They then walked back to the hotel for a good night's sleep.

On the third morning, some went to the Museum of Bellas Artes to the Murillo Exhibition. The building itself is a former Monastery - one of the galleries is in the former church - which has a highly painted ceiling and dome.

Some of the group took themselves off to see other monuments, some a horse and carriage ride then, after lunch, they all met up to board the coach for the journey home.

The Nerja History Group is for anyone interested in Spanish history and meets each month between October and April for talks on history and trips. Please see: www.nerjahistorygroup.es.



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SWEDEN



On the hunt

HUNTERS in Sweden have officially been given permission to reduce the country's lynx population during a licensed hunt from March 1 to April 15 to protect the local reindeer.



HUNTED: Sweden's lynx population.

Starry fries

SWEDEN has just been granted its first ever Michelin three-star restaurant, after the honour was awarded to Stockholm's Frantzén during a gala in Copenhagen and the country now has 26 restaurants in the Michelin Guide.

Leaders meet

SWEDISH Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will meet Donald Trump in the

White House on March 6 to discuss how the two countries can work together on defence, external relations and security.

Foreign meddling

SWEDEN'S intelligence service

has warned that 'foreign powers' might attempt to interfere with their upcoming general election in an attempt to weaken the democratic system, as has reportedly happened in countries such as the USA.

GERMANY



Pay bumped

WORKERS for the world's largest car-maker Volkswagen in Germany announced they had secured a 4.3 per cent pay bump, as well as tripled contributions to their company pension fund.

Russian email story alleging cooperation between Russian trolls and the Social Democrat party's youth leader after a satire magazine revealed it duped the paper with false information.

the animals from passing the African swine fever virus on to farm pigs.

Locked up

A 53-YEAR-OLD German Catholic priest was sentenced to eight and a half years in prison, and years of therapy in a psychiatric institution beforehand, for more than 100 cases of sexual abuse.

Fake news

BILD, Germany's biggest newspaper, came under fire for publishing a fake

Boar bating

GERMANY has issued a decree allowing hunters to shoot wild boar to stop

FRANCE



Snowed in

A LANDSLIDE trapped 2,000 people in the Monts d'Olmes ski resort in the Pyrenees after it blocked the only access road to the town.

Rough census

AT least 3,000 homeless people are living on the streets of Paris according to data gathered by the city's first ever homeless census, which is believed to be a low estimate.

Tourist hotspot

VISITOR numbers in Paris have hit a record high according to tourism officials, with the city receiving 2.9 million more visitors last year than the year before, an increase of 9.5 per cent.

Bill bother

FRANCE has unveiled a controversial new immigration bill which has been criticised by rights groups for being too soft and branded repressive by NGOs.

BELGIUM



Protect privacy

A BELGIAN court has ordered Facebook to stop illegally collecting their user's data or they will face up to €100 million in fines, and has also been ordered to delete all the data it gathered on Belgian citizens.

Rapid rise

THE Belgian-raised Australian Senator Mathias Cormann, who spoke little English before he first visited the country, became Australia's acting prime minister for a few days while Malcolm Turnbull visited the US.

Gun scare

POLICE in Brussels locked down part of a suburb amid reports that someone had been murdered and there was a gunman still at large.

Car crazy

A NEW study revealed Brussels residents walk less than their European peers and only 6 per cent of their journeys are made on foot or by bicycle.

NETHERLANDS



Medal winners

THE Netherlands' women's speed skating team succeeded in taking home the silver at the South Korea Winter Olympics while the men's team took home the bronze.

Green gain

MOST of the large-scale solar power farms in the Netherlands are reportedly being built by non-Dutch companies because the substantial subsidies available for the projects attract foreign developers.

Narco state

DUTCH police have warned the Netherlands is on its way to becoming a narco-state, saying organised gangs have free rein and many victims do not report incidents.

Baby break

NEW dads in the Netherlands will get five days paid leave - up from two days - during the first four weeks of the baby's arrival from next year.

NORWAY



Safety first

THE Norwegian Public Roads Administration has allegedly ordered 800 reflective vests to give to rental car companies in order to protect tourists that stop to take photographs while driving.

Curler cheated

NORWEGIAN curler Magnus Nedregotten called on Winter Olympics organisers to find out if they could expedite the investigation into the Russian athlete, who beat him to bronze, that failed a drugs test so he could claim the medal.

New tip-off

POLICE in Hordaland County have announced they plan to reopen an investigation into the disappearance of 32-year-old Trine Frantzen who vanished in 2004 after receiving a new lead.

Off the hook

A MAN accused by police of being behind an arson attack against an asylum centre and sentenced to seven years in prison has been acquitted after his brother confessed his guilt.

DENMARK



Top nosh

TWO new restaurants in Denmark were handed their first Michelin stars: MeMu in Vejle and Jordnær in Gentofte meaning the country now has 30 stars awarded across 26 restaurants.

Call for action

DANISH Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen pleaded with Donald Trump on Twitter to "respond to the request of your youngsters who demand gun control" in the United States, following the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting.

New worlds

A DANISH PhD student from the Technical University of Denmark has reportedly discovered 95 new exoplanets - planets that orbit around other stars - with the help of the Kepler telescope.

Axe attacker

POLICE arrested a 29-year-old man at a strip club who was suspected of attacking a couple with an axe in Birkerød and then robbing a bank two days later.

Cheap flight island boom

IRISH budget airline Ryanair has announced a €162 million investment in Palma de Mallorca Airport.

The splurge will see the no frills carrier base two additional aircraft at its Balearic Islands hub during the peak holiday season, bringing its fleet to 10.

It will also launch six new routes to France, Germany and Luxembourg including Berlin Tegel, Düsseldorf, Luxembourg, Nuremberg, Strasbourg and Stuttgart. The move will see Ryanair fly a total of 53 routes from Mallorca this summer.

TV rights in streamland

By Matt Ford

SPANISH production firm Mediapro is set to auction off TV rights to European football in Spain.

The move comes after Mediapro last year teamed up with Qatar-based beIN Sports to win rights to the next three seasons of the UEFA Champions and Europa Leagues, narrowly beating rival Telefonica.

And the broadcaster is now looking to make a profit on its investment.

"We'll ask for offers to be sent to us at the beginning of March," said Mediapro President Jaume Roures. "Then at

the start of April, we'll see where the genuine interest is."

Digital giants Netflix and Amazon could enter the bidding, although there exist doubts over whether they have the technical capacity to stream live matches to millions of viewers.

The rights to the Spanish La Liga for 2019-2022 are also set to be sold over the next few months, and La Liga president Javier Tebas has admitted he is aiming to rake in €1.3 billion per year, a 30 per cent increase on the cur-

rent deal.

But industry experts say he is being optimistic after Sky recently paid just over €4 billion for the 2019-2022 English Premier League rights, 16 per cent less than the previous agreement.

A report from Credit Suisse said: "Mediapro seems to be trying to generate interest in the football rights from new over-the-top (OTT) players, but the lack of OTT interest in the recent UK Premier League... suggests global OTT players such as Amazon are less likely to bid for Spanish domestic football."

Bottom line cranked up

SPAIN'S Banco Sabadell has revealed plans to increase profits by almost 80 per cent over the next three years.

The country's fifth-biggest lender said it is aiming for a cost-to-income ratio of 47 per cent by 2020, down from over 50 per cent last year.

Sabadell bought British bank TSB from Lloyds in 2015 and will this year stop paying its former owner to operate its legacy banking platform after it launched its own version at the end of 2017.

Quote of the Week

"We are analysing a deduction in income tax that recognises the inherent costs of disability for taxpayers of a very advanced age." **Spain's Finance Minister Cristobal Montoro** after being quizzed on the recent countrywide protests over pensions.



Photo credit Alfonso Dastis/Twitter/Shutterstock

BREXIT BARGAIN: Gibraltar Airport and (inset) Alfonso Dastis with the UK's Secretary of State for Exiting the EU David Davies.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Fuel's gold for Spanish firm

MADRID-BASED energy behemoth Repsol has confirmed the €3.81 billion sale of its 20 per cent stake in Spanish utility Gas Natural to Rioja Bidco Shareholdings - a company controlled by international private equity firm CVC Capital Partners.

Top partners

SPAIN has reinforced its position as Morocco's top trading partner for the sixth consecutive year as turnover between the countries reached a staggering €57.8 billion in 2017, according to the European Commission's statistics branch Eurostat.

Juicy profits

FRENCH telecommunications giant Orange has revealed that Spain was its fastest growing market in 2017, with the company's 20 million Spanish customers generating €1.58 billion in pre-tax profit for a 17 per cent year-on-year rise.

Spain demands rock share deal

SPAIN has demanded joint control of Gibraltar Airport in the wake of Brexit.

Foreign Minister Alfonso Dastis spelled out the plans in an interview likely to infuriate the British and Gibraltarian governments.

Speaking to *The Financial Times*, the official said Spain is seeking a bilateral deal which will include the two countries "managing the airport together" while co-operating more closely on tax

fraud and tobacco smuggling.

He also admitted the Spanish government's ultimate aim is to obtain sovereignty over the rock.

"Sovereignty is something we aspire to, that we are not renouncing, but in these negotiations it is not the issue," he said, before claiming the government's main focus is on easing transport between Gibraltar and Spain, with ideas including a common border control and pre-registering frequent visitors.

€2.5 billion investor lift

SPANISH state-owned lender Bankia plans to fork out €2.5 billion of excess capital to shareholders between 2018 and 2020.

The firm's new strategic plan comes in the wake of its €22.4 billion bailout in 2012.

And it is now aiming for a €1.3 billion profit in 2020 as it moves away from mortgage lending towards consumer loans, proper-

ty development and corporate activities after the European Union eased several restrictions.

Meanwhile, British insurance firm Aviva has confirmed it is to offload its Spanish life insurance and pensions assets Cajamurcia Vida and Caja Granada Vida to Bankia for €202 million, retaining only a handful of small stakes.

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Outlook: Brexit, Italian election in focus

Ask the expert

Peter Loveday



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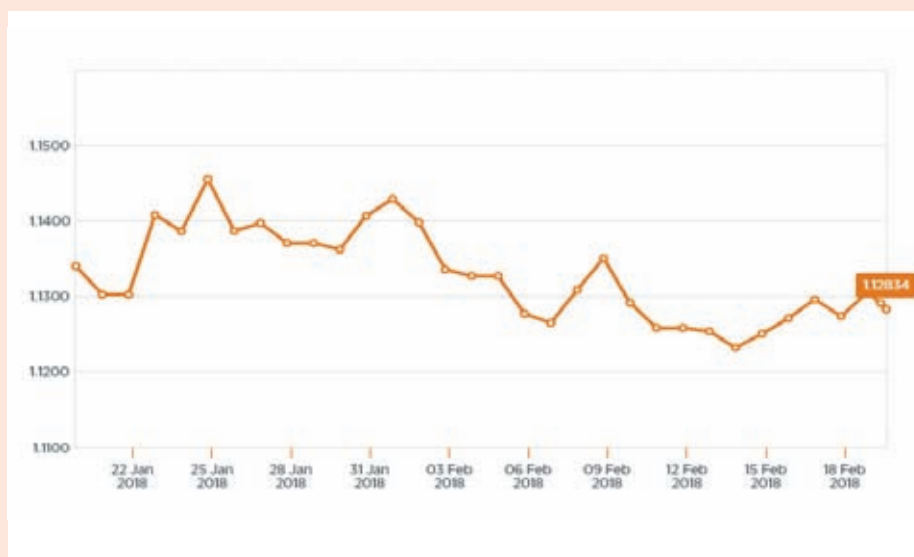
EUR/USD: Up from \$1.22 to \$1.24

Speculation that the European Central Bank (ECB) will remain dovish on the subject of monetary policy for the foreseeable future has countered the impact of a run of positive Eurozone data over the last few weeks.

That being said, the euro is still standing firm against rivals like the pound and US dollar.

Italy will be taking to the polls in March and most experts expect the election to result in a coalition government, with Silvio Berlusconi's conservative alliance projected to take the biggest share of votes.

The impact this would have on the euro largely depends on which parties Berlusconi allies himself with. If Berlusconi opts for Matteo Salvini, the euro would be pressured lower thanks to his opposition to the single currency



THE POUND: Has steadily strengthened in the hope that the UK will secure a soft Brexit.

and preference for returning to the lira.

Pound

GBP/EUR: Down from €1.14 to €1.12

GBP/USD: Up from \$1.38 to \$1.40

After getting off to a fairly positive start to the year, the pound failed to sustain its initial momentum and has reversed gains against a number of the majors. Demand for the pound eased

on concerns that government fissures will have a negative impact on Brexit negotiations.

Investors were also concerned as EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier intimated that the UK achieving a transitional deal after Brexit should not be taken for granted.

Brexit worries prevented the pound from deriving much benefit from the Bank of England

(BoE) indicating that rates could rise sooner than currently forecast at its first policy gathering of 2018.

Any Brexit related news is liable to be the driving force behind pound exchange rate movement over the next few weeks. UK data will also be of interest, as any reports which reduce the chances of the BoE increasing interest rates in 2018 will put the pound under pressure.

US Dollar

USD/GBP: Down from £0.72 to £0.71

USD/EUR: Down from €0.81 to €0.80

The Federal Reserve increased interest rates in December 2017, but the move had been so long expected that it failed to boost the US dollar. In fact, USD exchange rates actually softened as the Fed implied that interest rates would only be raised a further three times in 2018 rather than the four times hoped for.

The US dollar remained on soft form for much of January, although the currency has since recovered from its worst levels against the pound.

The Fed is forecast to increase borrowing costs at its March gathering, and if it indicates that a further three adjustments could be made over the rest of the year we could see the US dollar jump.

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Welcome to the future

AI DOMINATES MOBILE WORLD CONGRESS

MORE than 2,000 companies and 100,000 people have flocked to Barcelona for the annual Mobile World Congress.

The wireless industry's biggest trade show also offers ideal networking opportunities for executives, bankers and analysts to get together.

Major trends at this year's show include cybersecurity, ultrafast fifth generation mobile networks and blockchain technology.

But the stars of the show are the latest smartphones, artificial intelligence (AI) devices and autonomous drones.

Highlights so far have included the launch of Samsung's Galaxy S9 handset, featuring an improved camera and augmented reality functions designed to challenge Apple's iPhone X.

The South Korean giant also showcased an updated version of its digital assistant Bixby, demonstrating how it can live translate a piece of text.

Chinese tech firm Huawei unveiled its first 5G-capable chip, enabling its devices to access faster internet speeds, before using the AI of its flagship Mate 10 Pro phone to drive a Porsche sports car round an obstacle course.

The company is now comfortably the world's third biggest smartphone maker behind Samsung and Apple after bagging a 10.4 per cent market share in 2017.

Spanish company Telefonica - one of Europe's top three telecommunications firms - revealed its plans to move some focus from fibre, mobile and television to value-added services, big data and cognitive intelligence as it presented its AI-powered digital assistant Aura.

Set to be launched in Spain, the UK (where it will be called O2 Ask), Germany, Argentina, Chile and Brazil over the weekend, Aura is the result of a collaboration with Facebook, Google and Microsoft.

And it will shortly become one of the first digital assistants to be inte-



Photo credit: Mobile World Congress/Telefonica/Twitter

ROBO-PHONES:
An attendee snaps a selfie and (inset) Telefonica's Jose Maria Alvarez-Pallete introduces Aura.

grated with Google Assistant, benefiting around 120 million customers who use Android devices, and Cortana, Microsoft's digital assistant used by more than 600 million worldwide.

Telefonica chairman-CEO Jose Maria Alvarez-Pallete also revealed in a keynote speech some of Europe's biggest telecommunications players, including Telefonica, Deutsche Telekom, KPN and Orange, are working to develop a 'global data portability ecosystem' allowing customers to take usage data with them when they travel.

Elsewhere Nokia - whose phones are now licensed by Finnish company HMD Global - announced a revamped 4G version of the classic 8110 'banana phone,' while Sony unveiled its new Xperia X72.

The five-day event ends today (Thursday).

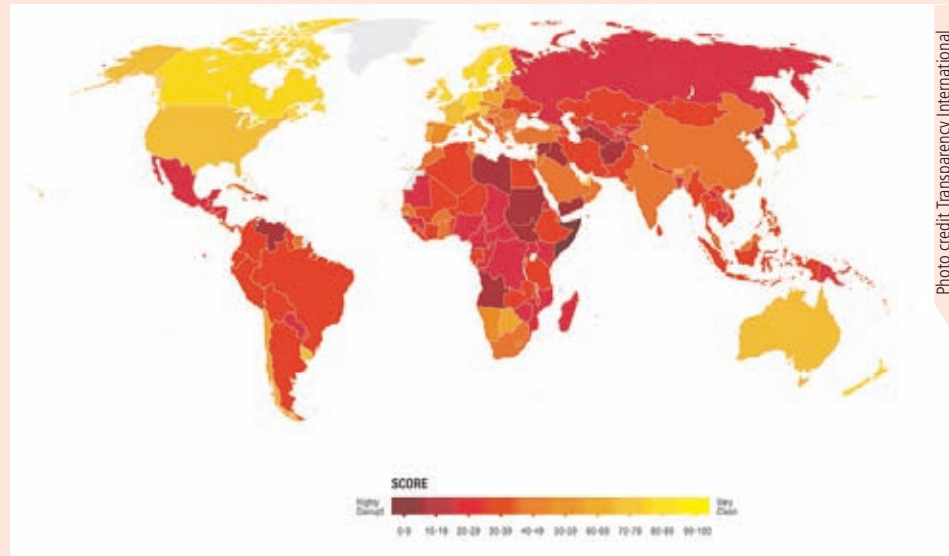
Outrage over sexist PR firm

SPANISH PR agency Impulsa Comunicacion has lost two major clients over a sexism row.

Coca Cola and glass repair company Carglass have dropped the Barcelona-based firm after a woman was turned down for an account executive position because 'the successful candidate will work with Carglass and Coca Cola... they need a man who can handle the pace of working with big companies.'

Rejected applicant Carla Focada tweeted an image of the email, captioning the image: 'It is incredible that companies that practice gender-based discrimination in the workplace still exist.'

And after the post went viral - prompting public slap downs from both named brands - the Impulsa website was mysteriously shut down.



ALARMING: More than two thirds of countries scored less than 50, meaning they have a 'high corruption burden' according to the report.

Corruption in Spain exposed

SPAIN has risen in a global corruption ranking.

It comes as Germany-based non-governmental organisation Transparency International released its 25th annual Corruption Perceptions Index, which lists 180 countries according to how they are perceived by the public sector.

Each is given a score of zero to 100, with 100 being the least corrupt. Spain scored 57 - one point less than in 2016 - to finish joint 42nd in the table alongside Cyprus, Dominica and the Czech Republic.

The least corrupt countries were

New Zealand and Denmark, which scored 89 and 88, respectively, with the UK finishing joint fifth with 82, the same score as Canada, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Germany.

Somalia, with a score of nine, South Sudan (12) and Syria (14) were the three most corrupt countries, with two thirds of nations scoring less than 50.

The 2017 index is based on 13 surveys covering factors including the enforcement of anti-corruption law, access to information, political conflicts of interest and expert assessments.

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Uranium mine scheme sparks pollution panic

A SPANISH plan to open a uranium mine near the Portuguese border has sparked outrage.

"Portugal will do everything it can to obtain the relevant information and, from there, ensure safety and zero impact on our side," said Joao Matos Fernandes, Portugal's environment minister.

Speaking to an environmental parliamentary commission, the official was quizzed how the government would ensure that pollution from the mine would be confined to Spain.

He replied that "we have performed all due diligence alongside Spain," but added that organisation of the scheme "has created a problem" after his requests for updates were ignored or answered "inadequately." And he has now demanded a meeting "because due protocol has not been fulfilled

satisfactorily by our counterpart."

Spain carried out an environmental impact analysis on the prospective site at Retornillo, around 40 kilometres from the border in rural Salamanca, Castilla y Leon, in 2013.

Since then the mine has been discussed repeatedly in diplomatic channels, with Spain adamant that the project has not yet been given the green light. But announcements posted on the website of Australia-based mining firm Berkeley Energia suggest that construction is due to begin later this year, leaving environmental campaigners and other critics furious.

The project is reportedly being financed by the sovereign wealth fund of the Sultanate of Oman, which has contributed more than €105 million.

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Honestly, give her a break!

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT
OTHERS THINK IT



JUST when you think you've heard it all, up pops another 'gem.'

This week's mind numbing whinge was a real humdinger. Pop singer Jesy Nelson was accused of 'cultural appropriation.'

My God. What had she done? Nicked a Massai make-up box? Pilfered a Pyramid? Wrong, it was much worse than that! Apparently, objections had been raised because the Little Mix member had - wait for it - chosen Dreadlocks for her new hairstyle!

Yep, for just a millisecond the world suddenly stopped spinning. You really couldn't make it up.

Unfortunately, although intelligent, clear-thinking human beings consider accusations of this calibre utterly laughable, many don't. In fact, through social media, this young lady was subsequently the recipient of a whole deluge of racial hatred and threats.

If ever there was a glaring example



JESY NELSON: New hairstyle causes backlash.

of reversed racism, this was most definitely it. Normally, one never gets to see the petty-minded pillocks who come up with these diatribes of non-

sense, but I actually switched to Sky News during the week and lo and behold one of them was sitting there.

"Ah," she spouted piously. "You

have to understand that dreadlocks are an important part of our African heritage. For a westerner to imitate our culture is extremely insulting to many of 'our people' and should not be allowed to happen!"

Er... What? Hold on a minute. If there's one problem that is often the bane of people of African descent it's their hair. The girls in particular, spend fortunes on wigs or having it straightened. Many have it dyed blonde. I don't hear any white Europeans screaming racism or 'cultural appropriation.' The whole sorry diatribe is ridiculous.

Beau Brummel invented the suit and tie. In that case just about the whole of the planet is 'offending' the British culture. It's all nonsense of course. Merely more stirring by the trouble-making minorities who infiltrate our societies like plagues of vindictive virus. If I had my way people like this would be arrested for stirring up racial hatred.

The thing that always baffles me is that if these people hate western society and culture so much, why on earth do they live in it? Can you imagine

living in an environment you despise and where you are utterly miserable? No wonder they never stop moaning and whinging.

Anyway, I have good news for them. According to the revered Oscar Wilde, far from being an insult, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. S'there.

Delighted to see the teacher who was accused of 'misgendering' a female pupil by referring to her as a girl, is suing the school on the grounds of discrimination and constructive dismissal.

The teacher, who is also a pastor, stated that the school had systematically and maliciously breached his human rights. Chances of winning? Don't hold yer breath.

Many Happy returns this week to my old mate Jess Conrad. Look out for him in his new ITV series starting any day now. Hang in there JC, not many of us left!

*Keep the faith,
Love Leapy*

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

Spare a few Bitcoins mister?

Terence Kennedy has watched the price of Bitcoin, convinced it can't go higher. Every day. For years.

TECH FOR THE TIMID



TAKE pity on poor James Howells from Newport in Wales. His local council still won't let him sift through the landfill site to find the hard-drive he dumped in 2013. It could be worth €66 million.

Or €33 million when you read this. Or nothing.

Cryptocurrencies are on a rollercoaster ride, and a novelty currency which bought part of a pizza a decade ago, could see you sunning in Monte Carlo today with hot and cold running margaritas. Or wiped out, as the 'bubble will burst' doomsayers predict.

James Howells' discarded hard-drive held the so-called 'blockchain' codes for 7,500 bitcoins he bought for just €140 in 2009. His computer was trashed in 2013, its codes forgotten.

He's not alone. An Australian threw away a hard-drive with 1,400 bitcoins on it in 2012. His loss today:

€12 million. And an American techie used 10,000 of the novel new exchange medium in 2010 to buy a pizza. Some pizza: €88 million today.

Holland's fabled tulip mania of the 1630s, where one bulb could be the cost of a house, has nothing on the madness that's happening right now with 1,400 cryptocurrencies out there and rising.

Even the silly ones attract obscene amounts. Dogecoin was dreamed up as a joke by a couple of techno-pranksters in 2013. It has no underpinning assets and no actual value, but investors sniffing from the same

and desperate to jump on the bandwagon to buy anything bearing the name 'coin,' have thrown nearly a billion euros at it so far.

Potcoin underpins legal and illegal cannabis purchases, Dentacoin is exactly what its name suggests (for dentists), Kanye West sued Coinye into oblivion, there's Titcoin (no, don't ask), and heaven help us all, Trump

coin will

help



to build the wall.

Yes I confess, for a split-nanosecond I was also swept along by the hype, the famous 'FOMO' (Fear Of Missing Out) as I wondered whether to invest my vast and ill-gotten gains in Bitcoin.

Two things quickly become apparent.

One: There are more dodgy bitcoin dealers out there than you could shake your savings-book at, and many will also be happy to sell you a bridge.

Two: Do you really want to be known a month, a year or a decade from now, as the loser whose life-savings will barely buy a pizza?

My favourite cryptocurrency of them all? The 'joke' one whose name makes absolutely no bones about what you're getting, yet is still worth double its 2016 cost: Ponzicoins.

BITCOIN: Chock-full of goodness?

Mine the gap

IF you really want to swing aboard the cryptocurrency train, many think Bitcoin has already left the station.

But there are more than a thousand others being 'mined' which might, just might, become 'the next big thing'.

Ethereum cost €1 in 2015. Today it's worth over €700. Maybe next week, double, or nothing. Or search the web for Ripple, Stellar, IOTA or even the cheapie Litecoin.

To buy coins you need a so-called 'wallet,' usually held by a cryptocurrency exchange like Coinbase, Kraken, Bittrex or Coinmama.

But beware: Japan's Mt Gox exchange famously lost 850,000 coins to hackers in 2014. Two months ago the Coincheck exchange lost a breathtaking €400 million.

Personally I'm sticking with normal gold coins - the ones filled with chocolate.

Another terrible killing

Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



LET'S start with good news. Last week I had a run in with Ryanair live chat. Basically they were not interested in my problem. Anyway the next day I found an email address and within two hours they had replied and refunded my money. So well done Ryanair for that - all you have to do now is teach your live chat people to act the same way.

There has been yet another terrible killing spree in an American school. Seventeen people were mowed down by a lunatic with an AR-15. Trump's answer to this? Make buying these killing machines harder than getting a drink if you are 18? Consider banning them completely?

No, his answer is to arm teachers. The man is a complete raving lunatic and so is anyone who thinks that is a good idea. They are teachers! The clue to what their duties are when they turn up for work is in the name - they TEACH! There was an armed guard at the school in Florida. He did not do anything for whatever reason. Why not arm all the kids over 18? It's all just nonsense and all Trump does, by fumbling through meetings, is show himself up as a bumbling fool who has zero empathy for these poor kids and fami-

lies involved. He talks about the FBI doing nothing and says if they spent less time investigating him they might have stopped the shooter.

All the NRA disciples are spewing out their BS and every time I see them on TV their argument is being destroyed, not by politicians, but by the kids that are being involved in these massacres.

That's the major difference with this terrible incident from the others. This time the young people involved are speaking out. I've seen them on TV and they are calm, eloquent and sincere.

They have no commercial interest - they are just talking from the heart and using their brains. They will not be deterred and it's disgusting to see and hear how some NRA nuts and politicians that are on their payroll are trying to discredit these youngsters.

These are the voters of the future. They can make change happen and, in my opinion, they will do it. Major companies in the USA are at last realising that offering their members NRA discounts is not in their best interests any more and they are stopping them. The NRA answer is to tell their members to boycott these companies.

It has been proven time and time again that countries with strict gun controls have less people killed with guns than countries that don't. I wonder why?

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LEGALLY SPEAKING

School bus checks complete

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.

OFFICERS from the Guardia Civil traffic department have been carrying out extra checks and surveillance on school buses.

During the five-day campaign, inspections on both the vehicles and the drivers were conducted.

These included checks of the authorisation and documents that these vehicles must have to perform in service, verifying that the technical conditions and safety elements of the vehicle satisfy the minimum standards required by the regulations.

Safety is the highest priority for this type of transport and the annual incident figures do reflect school transport as being amongst the safest ways for children to travel to school.

According to Gregorio Serrano, the director of the DGT, "the safe mobility of minors is one of the priorities of the DGT.

"Every day there are thousands of students who use the school bus to go to school and return home, so we have to keep checking that these trips are made safely."

He added: "With this type of campaign, we remind parents of the right to demand from schools or parent associations that school buses meet all the regulatory requirements to carry out this type of transport."

Inappropriate speed and distractions are the main causes of incidents in which this type of vehicle is involved, so speed controls will be carried out, as well as other factors such as not using a mobile phone or other devices whilst driving. Alcohol and other drug controls will also be increased.

Statistically, 90 per cent of incidents in-



SCHOOL BUSES: Must meet regulations.

volving school transport take place at the time of getting in or out of the vehicle.

In many cases these are caused by the child being distracted, or the fact that the school bus driver or the parents are not paying full attention.

To avoid this type of incident, it is recommended that parents respect bus stops, allow enough time for taking and collecting children, and do not wait on the opposite side of the road.

Due to the importance of seat belts in saving lives in the event of an incident, special attention will be paid to the use of these in school buses that have them installed. Although all new buses that enter service must be fitted with seat belts, older vehicles are still allowed to continue without seat belts until time allows for their replacement. Currently, only around 60 per cent of the school bus fleet have seat belts installed.

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

Can owner change the use?

Q. I live on a large and long-established urbanisation. In the centre of the urbanisation for more than 30 years stood the only bar, which has been closed for the past 18 months.

Now the property has been changed to a church. I would like to know if the

urbanisation management committee is obligated to notify members of the change of use, and whether the change of use must be formally approved by the town hall.

B B (Costa Blanca)

A. The owner of the property must apply to the town hall for permission to change its use. When the town hall grants this permission, it notifies the Community of Property Owners. The owner has the right to

David Searl
You and the Law
in Spain



change the use of his property to any activity which is permitted in that area, and which

does not constitute a bothersome activity. There is no requirement for the community administration to notify the members, but they can vote at the AGM to appeal against the town hall's authorisation of the change of use.

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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Nora Johnson

Breaking Views

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

Charities on life support... but charity begins at home!

THERE appears no let-up in allegations of misconduct by charity aid workers. UN believes more than 600 women and children suffered sexual abuse and exploitation by its peacekeepers. Oxfam workers in Haiti reportedly paid teenage prostitutes with rice, aid staff swapped wheat for sex in Africa, while those in charge knew what was going on 10 years ago.

Many charities do fantastic work, but disillusionment takes its toll. Very high executive pay, immoral behaviour, rather self-righteous finger wagging, chugging and other aggressive marketing ploys will inevitably bring lasting changes. Oxfam's far from an isolated case. The whole charity section needs root and branch reform.

Infuriated supporters of Oxfam are already withdrawing their contributions. But is this

missing the point? Abuse is rampant in all sectors, and all organisations (political parties, churches, schools, colleges, businesses) are inclined to nip in the bud reports of abuse in order to protect their reputations.

This encourages further abuse because perpetrators don't fear repercussions and victims doubt they'll be believed. What's needed is an independent body to scrutinise all claims of abuse, safeguards and sanctions across the whole of society.

So, let's support charities we trust - like Cudeca here on the Costa del Sol - and reduce the UK foreign aid budget so that it's in line with other countries.

The Department for International Development (DfiD) now has a statutory requirement to spend 0.7 per cent of



IN THE DOGHOUSE: Oxfam workers reportedly paid prostitutes with rice in Haiti.

Britain's gross national income on development aid annually. In 2016 this came to £13.3 billion! The appalling Oxfam

scandal simply demonstrates how impossible it is for staff at DfiD to manage this huge amount of taxpayers' money

and ensure it's properly spent.

British taxpayers are still sending financial aid to India, now one of the world's fastest

growing economies. They're still sending money to Nigeria, the world's sixth-largest oil producer, while we have such scandalous problems in need of funding at home...

Finally, many thanks to all of you who have purchased my crime thrillers (all profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity) following my piece here two weeks ago. And keep those donations going to Cudeca!

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.

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

Nick Horne *The Rich Pick*

Freelance correspondent, London, England



London house price cut of 60%

STATISTICS and their cousin averages are slippery customers.

On average when Bill Gates - of Microsoft fame and leader of the Gates Foundation - enters a restaurant everyone in the room on average is a billionaire. Similarly, on average house prices in London recovered by the fourth quarter of 2017 and prices rose on average by £4,000 (€4,526) between November and December.

On average London houses now cost £227,000 (€256,873) according to the Land Registry. Prices on average appear to be up by 5.2 per cent year on year. Of course statistics and averages can be useful illustrations but they can also hide and disguise some spectacular outliers in the range of prices that houses command. That we all place so much weight on statistics is a good reason to be very cautious of them as well.

Hidden in plain sight is one wealthy man's house. Consider Dr Gert-Rudolf Frick, heir to the Daimler automotive dynasty who placed the Park House Estate on the market in September 2013 for an eye-watering £105 million (€118.8 million).

Park House sits in more than half an acre of private walled gardens in central London. Half an acre of ground close by the museum district in South Kensington to the west of Bucking-



WHAT'S IT WORTH?: London is pricey, but Park House (inset) is set to sell with a 60 per cent discount on the original asking price, a mere €45.3 million.

ham Palace and described as 'a country house in the middle of London. From no window can you see a car passing by.'

Boasting six bedrooms, five bathrooms and seven reception rooms it was recorded as the 'finest house to come on to the market in the capital for 25 years.'

But despite adding a five-bedroom house and two one-bedroom flats on the site as part of the package the Park House Estate failed to sell.

Recently reports appeared that a buyer has eventually emerged though it took three and half years to do so and a headline grabbing price cut of slightly more than 60 per cent, too. Which is spectacular, though the selling price of £40 million (€45.3 million) as reported is weighty and considerable in any language. The Park House Estate is without doubt exceptional as is the price sought and realised for it.

A news story headlining a price cut of one individual property or indeed a price rise does not signify a trend nor does it reflect the mood of the market as a whole. It does speak volumes though of the value attached to a given property by a specific willing buyer and seller on any given day. If you really desire that ideal villa you will pay as much as you can sensibly afford for it, but no more than you believe it is worth and less if you can convince the seller.

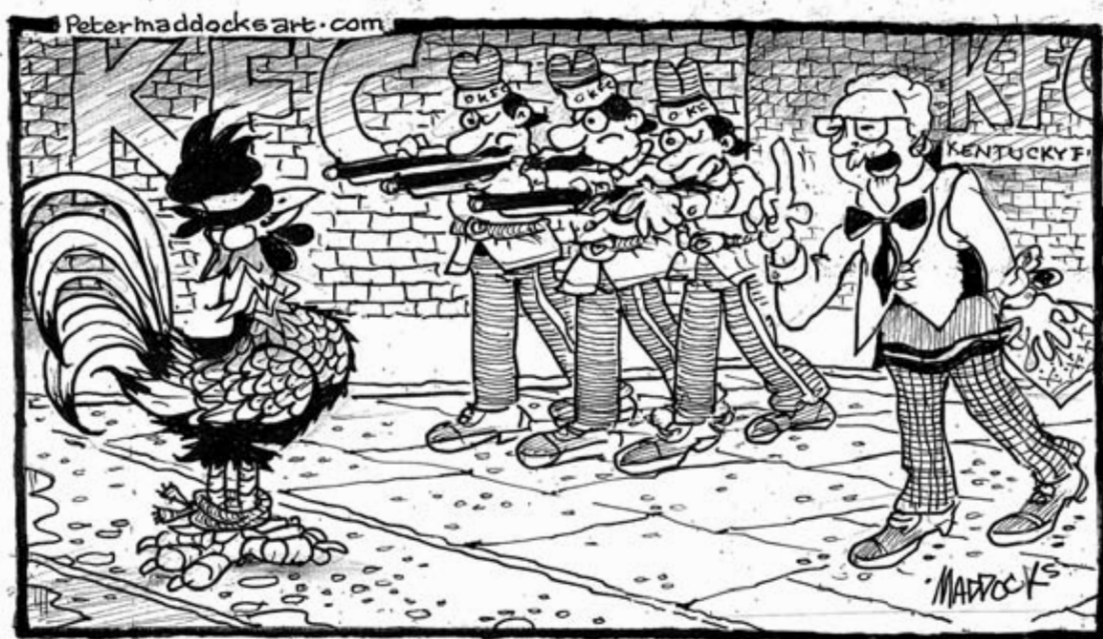
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MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



'FOR THE LAST TIME - WHERE DID YOU HIDE OUR CHICKENS?'

YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

AQUARIUS
(January 21 - February 19)

You are looking to having everything your own way, which may not be entirely out of the question. The only sticking point could be that you are not even willing to be sharp with someone who has been far from straight with you. Be prepared to trip over a loose end later if you do not tie it up now.

LEO
(July 24 - August 23)

What you truly want in life is now becoming clear to you. Not for you the fuzzy ideas of the past. Now, you realise that, if you do not give a strong lead, then others will lead you. To avoid going backwards now you must be determined and clear. Show others that you are firmly taking the lead in your future.

PISCES
(February 20 - March 20)

So far as your work or business life is concerned, those in authority may seek to see things done their way. Where they seem to pay lip service to your needs, that is all it is talk. Be clear that you want action and that you will not give in easily. Humour will not help.

VIRGO
(August 24 - September 23)

With your self-confidence on a high note, you are ready to sing the song of your future. There will be highs and lows but that is what makes life interesting and exciting. Do not now avoid changes for the sake of peace. What is exciting and balanced this week is where your future lies.

ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)

Putting yourself first is necessary at the moment. There is so much happening this week that you may be tempted to run yourself ragged trying to do it all yourself. It is possible to persuade others to give a hand and, although it may seem too much trouble at the time, you will reap the benefits in the longer term.

LIBRA
(September 24 - October 23)

Where you see things failing to go your way, it may seem that others are being unfair. It is unlikely to be that simple. Perhaps, by being too easy-going and friendly, you have given the impression of not being particularly caring. State your case and change the tune.

TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)

You should bear in mind that you are the best one to decide what you want, when you want it and how you will go about getting it. Others may offer you short cuts, but is that really going to deliver the goods? I think not.

SCORPIO
(October 24 - November 22)

Judgement may be impaired this week and it would be advisable to get second and even third opinions. In much the same way that you sometimes have an instinctive feel for things and situations, you now have this sensation about a certain person. An unbiased and imaginative opinion scatters your stress.

GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)

You know where you are going and who with, but there is this one unresolved thought in your mind. It is just a thought, isn't it? Or is it more? This is something only you can answer. Be prepared this week to take advice and ask questions.

SAGITTARIUS
(November 23 - December 21)

This week be prepared to be forthright when it comes to a certain difficult situation. This involves someone trying to get you to make a decision you are either not sure of or against. Your good humour is unlikely to deflect them but being openly insistent may.

CANCER
(June 22 - July 23)

You are still looking more to the past than to the future, but now it seems that circumstances are urging you to move ahead at more of a pace. Because the matter becomes urgent, it may seem to you that circumstances are overtaking you. The choice is still yours if you show speed and determination.

CAPRICORN
(December 22 - January 20)

Are you being pushed into a corner? There is no need to respond with aggression, but a smooth and fast move is required to avoid this. They say that forewarned is forearmed. You know more of the circumstances than I do, but there is someone you can call on as an ally, isn't there?

Trivia from around the world

- *** The longest tunnel in the world runs from Switzerland to Italy under the Alps. It is 57km long and took 17 years to build.
- *** There are at least 20 different ways to say 'Sorry' in Japanese.
- *** The United States pays Cuba \$4,085 in rent for the Guantanamo Bay prison camp, but they refuse to cash the cheques.
- *** A crack in the earth appeared in Ethiopia in 2005 and is expanding; leading scientists to claim a new ocean will form over it in around 10 million years.
- *** Saudi Arabia imports sand and camels from Australia. The sand in Saudi Arabia is reportedly not fit to build on.
- *** There is an ongoing lightning storm at Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela, with storms lasting around 10 hours a night for 140 to 160 nights a year.



SOUNDSCAPE: Researchers found music and moods were closely related.

DID YOU KNOW?

The type of music you listen to can change the way you perceive the world, according to research. A study found people listening to happy music thought they saw happy faces that were not there.

Women's wit

When we speak we are afraid our words will not be heard or welcomed. But when we are silent, we are still afraid. So it is better to speak."

Audre Lorde, writer



Famous quote

If you want a happy ending that depends, of course, on where you stop your story."

Orson Welles, actor

World of English

Cybersquatting - The act of registering well-known names as internet domains in order to sell them on.

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY	IRISH LOTTO	EURO MILLIONS		LA PRIMITIVA		EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Saturday February 24	Saturday February 24	Tuesday February 20	Friday February 23	Thursday February 22	Saturday February 24	Sunday February 25
(2) (11)	(1) (10)	(6) (14)	(10) (17)	(4) (8)	(4) (5)	(4) (17)
(35) (40)	(30) (31)	(19) (25)	(18) (28)	(11) (23)	(12) (27)	(25) (33)
(48) (55)	(42) (47)	(29)	(47)	(34) (35)	(43) (45)	(40)
BONUS BALL	BONUS BALL	LUCKY STARS	LUCKY STARS	REINTEGRO	REINTEGRO	REINTEGRO
(7)	(25)	(5) (11)	(3) (7)	(02) (2)	(40) (7)	(5)
		EL MILLON: XPN91473		JOKER: 6 822 466	JOKER: 3 544 370	

LOTTERY

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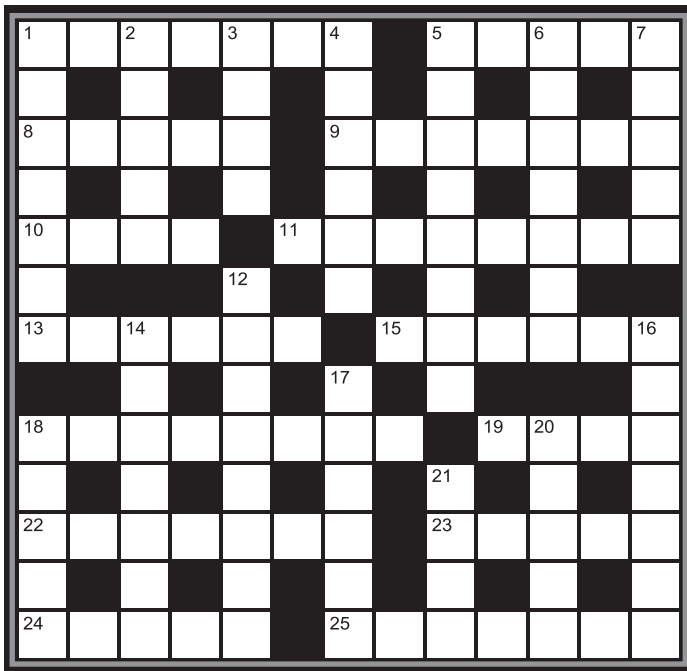


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Cryptic

Across

- 1 Socialist leader in fitting decline (7)
- 5 They secure money for the government, so we hear (5)
- 8 Former performance is precise (5)
- 9 Tramp on the dock, it's rougher (7)
- 10 A small pond, pure and simple (4)
- 11 Carte blanche for an unpaid employee (8)
- 13 Chair for a biker (6)
- 15 Pay back when a Peru company is reformed (6)
- 18 On the edge? Potentially alarming anyway (8)
- 19 Spot British group (4)
- 22 Castle Hotel is demolished for ski lodges (7)
- 23 Runner has nothing for the party (5)
- 24 A novice gets a large amount of grant (5)
- 25 Tureen I transported in train (7)



Down

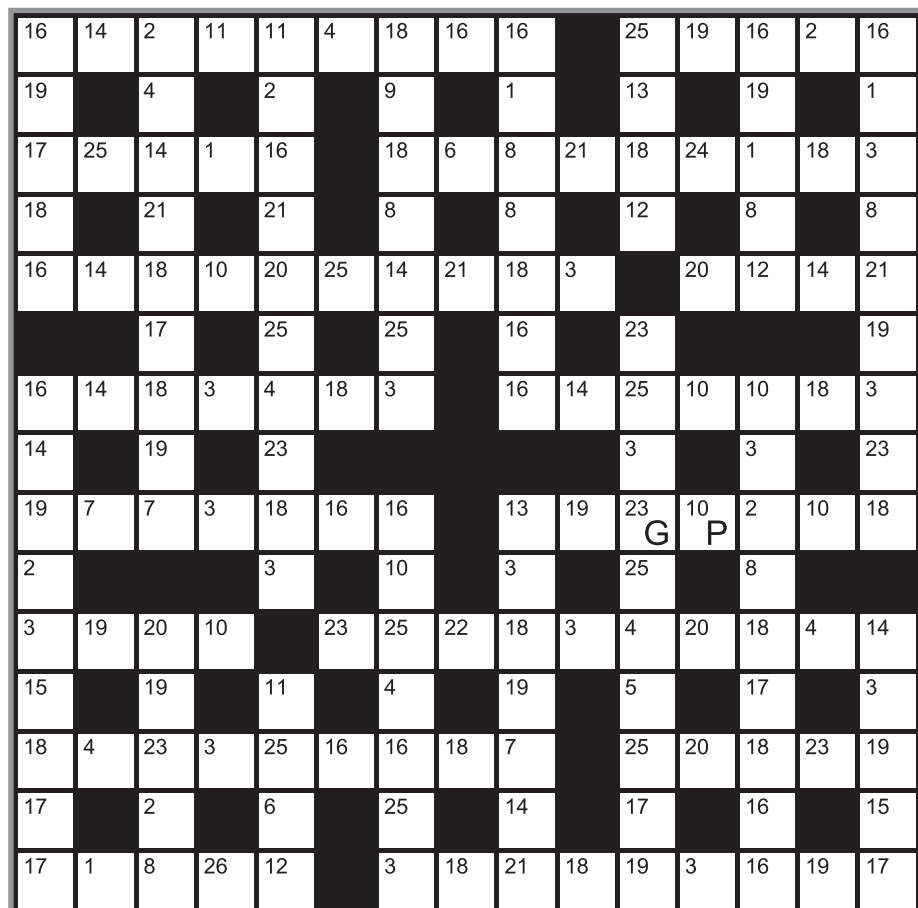
- 1 Doctor East, half American, is a wishful thinker (7)
- 2 A way to ventilate a rising flight (5)
- 3 Consumes ingredients from meat safe (4)
- 4 Knight's tunic is the result of bad art (6)
- 5 Meddled with chopped up damp

- 6 Silver discovered in elegant old US city (7)
- 7 A little bit of quiet colour (5)
- 12 Grounds for having a coin sent outside (8)
- 14 Liar cut-off limit (7)

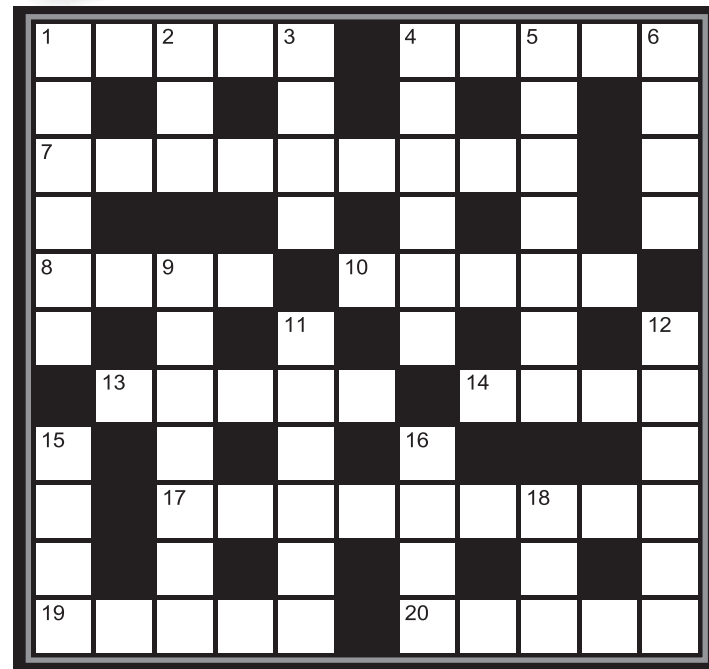
- 16 Help too difficult for a nuisance on the road (7)
- 17 Was confused in her cable (6)
- 18 Came about a century later to a city in Saudi Arabia (5)
- 20 Pick up king, then knight (5)
- 21 Help needed in a punt (4)

Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 10 represents P and 23 represents G, so fill in P every time the figure 10 appears and G every time the figure 23 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.



Quick



Across

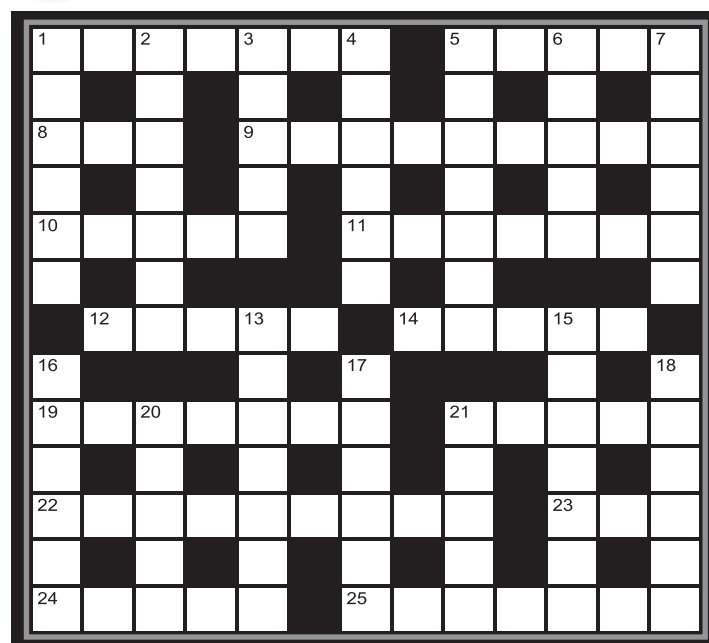
- 1 Card game (5)
- 4 Bad-tempered (5)
- 7 Spaceman (9)
- 8 Ill (4)
- 10 Commence (5)
- 13 Old-fashioned (5)
- 14 Interlocking plastic building blocks (4)
- 17 Schedule (9)
- 19 White heron (5)
- 20 Irreligious individual (5)

Down

- 1 Express approval of (6)
- 2/18 Knapsack (3,3)
- 3 Chess piece (4)
- 4 Place of worship that has its own altar (6)
- 5 Summary (7)
- 6 Free from danger (4)
- 9 Talk idly or rapidly (7)
- 11 Allow (6)
- 12 Rule (6)
- 15 Metal enclosure (4)
- 16 Come to a halt (4)
- 18 See 2

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Scorpion (7)
- 5 Rocas (minerales) (5)
- 8 Brazo (de persona) (3)
- 9 To cross (over)
- 10 Temprano (5)
- 11 Ostras (7)
- 12 Fly (insect) (5)
- 14 To lower (5)
- 19 Español (7)
- 21 Signature (5)
- 22 To pass (overtake) (9)
- 23 Murciélago (3)
- 24 Autumn (5)
- 25 To show (7)

Down

- 1 Abbots (6)
- 2 Wardrobe (for clothing) (7)
- 3 Preparado (5)
- 4 Estrecho (calle, pasillo) (6)
- 5 Magazine (journal) (7)
- 6 Swan (5)
- 7 Estrés (6)
- 13 Watch out! (7)
- 15 To approve of (7)
- 16 Tin (ore) (6)
- 17 Ritmo (6)
- 18 Shepherd (6)
- 20 Fir tree (5)
- 21 Tenedores (5)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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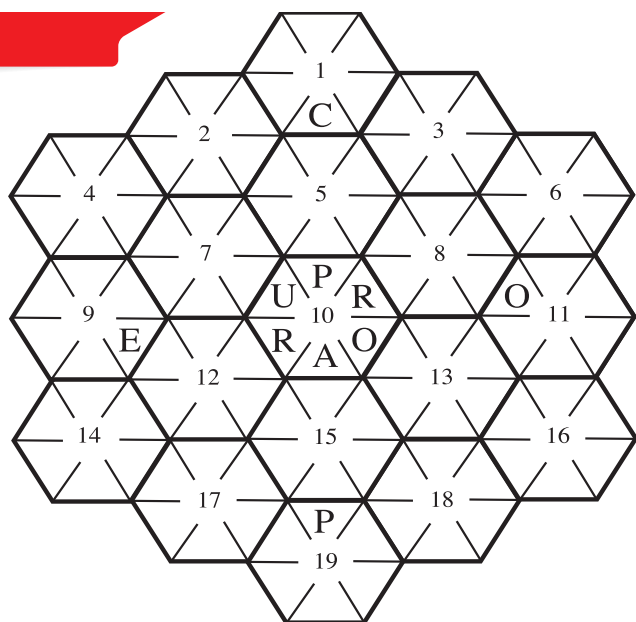
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Hexagram

- AMPERE
- ASSENT
- BICEPS
- COERCE
- DUGOUT
- OBLONG
- PETREL
- PLEASE
- PONCHO
- ROSTER
- SORREL
- SORROW
- TANDEM
- TEETER
- TELLER
- TINSEL
- UPROAR (10)
- WHEEZE
- ZOUNDS



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 (**UPROAR**) and one letter in four other cells are given as clues.

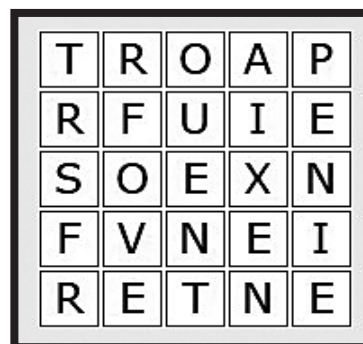
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

- 1 Stodgy 2 Sludge 3 Faulty 4 Scenic
- 5 Golden 6 Opaque 7 Census 8 Duplex
- 9 Vestal 10 Sextet 11 Closer 12 Utmost
- 13 Curate 14 Fiasco 15 Meadow
- 16 Detour 17 Cowboy 18 Droopy
- 19 Carboy.

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: 22
- Good: 30
- Very good: 44
- Excellent: 57

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

dead dean dear dado exam earl earlier nature damn dart dope dopier dram drat axed maxed made marl matt mature maturer hard harm hart harp harrier hope taxed tarp tarrier trade traded tram true truer trip tripod tripe triple trier turtle equip phat pram pique pile pier lire lieu ripe rile quip quilt quilt quire

Nonagram

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



TARGET:

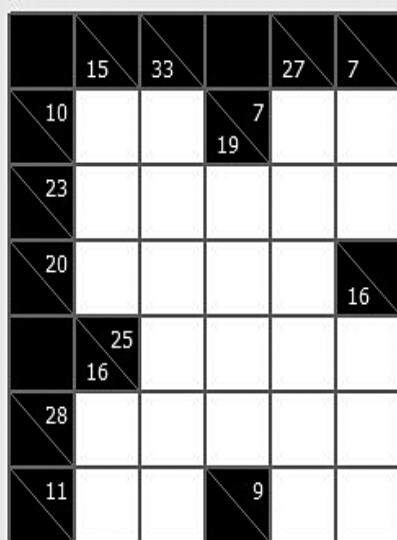
- Average: 11
- Good: 15
- Very good: 22
- Excellent: 28

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

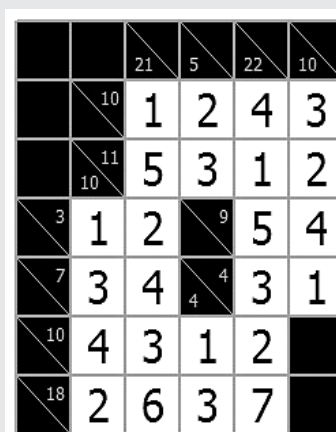
arvo aver ever over pave rave rive rove veep veer vert veto vote avert evert ovate overt paver pivot prove reave revet rivet trope vapor viper vireo vitae voter privet vetoer overate overeat private EVAPORITE OPERATIVE

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:** 1 Return, 4 Jail, 8 Nectarine, 9 Opal, 10 Depend, 13 Stalls, 15 Oslo, 18 Lollipops, 19 Wasp, 20 Aspire.
- Down:** 1 Raucous, 2 Tonga, 3 Rich, 5 Agile, 6/18 Lie low, 7 Camel, 11 Diocese, 12 Plain, 14 Atlas, 16 Sushi, 17 Boss.

CODE BREAKER

1	R	L	F	N	O	G	M	D	J	X	I	E	U
14	T	Q	K	H	C	P	Y	A	S	B	V	Z	W

CRYPTIC

- Across:** 1 Arrest, 4 Causes, 9 Airdrie, 10 Trade, 11 Turn, 12 Hairline, 14 Haven, 16 Agony, 20 Betrayal, 21 Ha-ha, 24 Drama, 25 Shatter, 26 Sateen, 27 Tennis.
- Down:** 1 Adapts, 2 Rarer, 3 Spry, 5 Alter ego, 6 Station, 7 Skewer, 8 Debar, 13 Delaware, 15 Attract, 17 Abides, 18 Waist, 19 Madras, 22 Acton, 23 Kale.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

- Across:** 1 Unlucky, 5 Sapos, 8 Seagull, 9 Loros, 10 Trece, 11 Obtener, 12 Bucket, 14 Gansos, 17 Reinado, 19 Arcos, 22 Enero, 23 Earring, 24 Oveja, 25 Singers.
- Down:** 1 Upset, 2 Llave, 3 Chupete, 4 Yellow, 5 Split, 6 Parents, 7 Sastres, 12 Barbero, 13 Chinese, 15 Alacrán, 16 Towels, 18 Ahora, 20 Crime, 21 Signs.

App of the week



Thunderly

An app for storm lovers everywhere which allows users to track weather events in real time on an animated globe. It includes a day and night cycle and lighting history.

QUIZ: MIND THE GAP

- All the answers contain the names of London Underground stations
- Because of the colour of the order's habit, what nickname is often given to members of the Roman Catholic order of preaching friars founded by St Dominic?
 - Founded in 1787 and based since 1814 at Lord's cricket ground in St John's Wood, which cricket club is generally known as the MCC?
 - From which London prison did two Provisional IRA members Pearse McAuley and his cellmate Nessan Quinlivan escape on July 7, 1991?
 - Melanie Blatt, Shaznay Lewis and Simone Rainford were the original members of which girl group formed in London in 1993?
 - What is the name of the friendly, marmalade loving bear from deepest, darkest Peru

- created by Michael Bond?
- What was the title of Gerry Rafferty's first British hit single, which reached number three in the UK charts in 1978?
 - Which famous British vehicle manufacturer has produced models called: Astra, Belmont, Chevette, Vectra and Zafira?
 - Which Grade I listed building is the official residence of the Lord Mayor of London?
 - Which song was the winning entry for Sweden in the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest?
 - Which word can precede: blood, bottle, clearing, piggy, river and sand?
- Not a lot of people know that... there is only one Tube station that does not have any letters of the word 'mackerel' in it: St John's Wood.*

Answers:

- BLACK FRIARS
- MARYLEBONE Cricket Club
- BRYXTON
- ALL SAINTS
- PADDINGTON
- BAKER STREET
- VAUXHALL
- MANSSION HOUSE
- WATERLOO (Abba)
- BANK

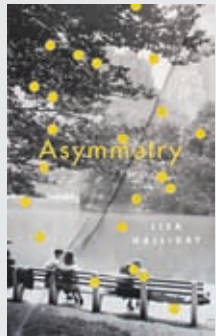
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BOOKS



Out of balance

ALICE, a young American editor, begins a relationship with the much older writer Ezra Blazer.

Years later the economist Amar is detained in Heathrow Airport while travelling to Kurdistan to see his brother.

Alice's story takes place in the early days of the Iraq war and is a coming of age tale that revolves around an unexpected romance in New York.

Amar tells his account of a weekend spent in an airport holding room in 2008.

These two characters are worlds apart, but both their stories intertwine through deep human drama. Told in three sections: Folly, Madness and Ezra Blazer's Desert Island Discs, Lisa Halliday's Asymmetry explores the imbalances of contemporary life.

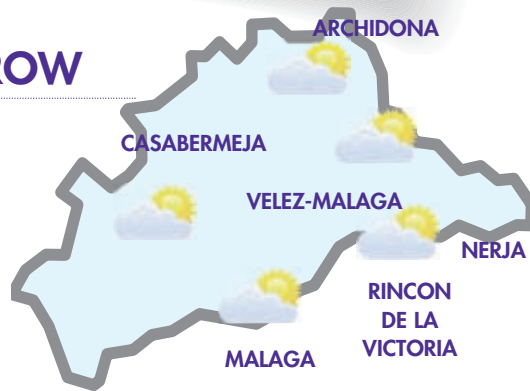
books@euroweeklynews.com

Axarquía

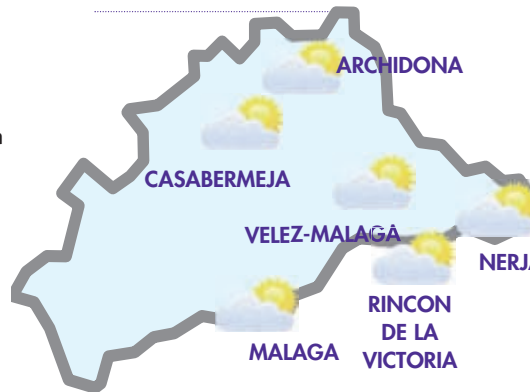
TODAY



TOMORROW



SATURDAY



Malaga Today: Max 13, Min 7 - Sh Fri - 14 8 - C Sat - 15 8 - C Sun - 15 10 - Cl Mon - 14 12 - Sh Tues - 18 12 - Sh Wed - 19 11 - Sh	Almeria Today: Max 14, Min 6 - S Fri - 15 9 - S Sat - 15 9 - S Sun - 15 9 - Cl Mon - 17 11 - Cl Tues - 17 11 - C Wed - 17 11 - Sh	Bilbao Today: Max 7, Min 2 - C Fri - 9 0 - C Sat - 13 3 - S Sun - 13 3 - S Mon - 11 4 - Cl Tues - 11 4 - C Wed - 8 5 - Sh	Madrid Today: Max 11, Min -5 S Fri - 11 4 - S Sat - 11 -3 - S Sun - 13 1 - S Mon - 13 3 - Sh Tues - 14 2 - Cl Wed - 13 2 - Cl
Alicante Today: Max 13, Min 7 - C Fri - 13 6 - S Sat - 15 6 - C Sun - 17 8 - S Mon - 14 10 - Sh Tues - 15 9 - Sh Wed - 18 9 - C	Benidorm Today: Max 14, Min 6 - S Fri - 13 6 - Cl Sat - 15 7 - Sh Sun - 15 8 - S Mon - 17 8 - Cl Tues - 18 8 - Sh Wed - 16 9 - Sh	Mallorca Today: Max 11, Min 4 - Sh Fri - 12 4 - Sh Sat - 14 5 - S Sun - 14 6 - Sh Mon - 13 6 - C Tues - 13 6 - C Wed - 13 7 - Sh	Barcelona Today: Max 10, Min 2 - S Fri - 11 3 - C Sat - 13 4 - S Sun - 13 4 - S Mon - 12 4 - Sh Tues - 12 3 - Sh Wed - 11 4 - Sh

S: Sun ☀ Cl: Clear ☁ C: Cloudy ☁ Sh: Showers ☁ Th: Thunder ⚡ Sn: Snow ❄

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

BIRTHDAYS

• **Ron Howard, Director; March 1, 64**

The Oscar-winning filmmaker behind A Beautiful Mind and Apollo 13 was originally known for playing Opie on The Andy Griffith Show and Richie Cunningham in Happy Days.

• **Chris Martin, Singer; March 2, 41**
Coldplay's front man was born in Whitestone, England and played his first gig with The Rocking Honkies which are rumoured to have been booted by the crowd. He has since found success with



Jessica Biel.

albums X&Y. A Rush of Blood to the Head and Viva la Vida with his current group.

• **Jessica Biel, Actor; March 3, 36**
The star of The Illusionist began modelling in adverts from the age of 12. She played Erin in the 2003 film The Texas Chainsaw Massacre.

• **Kenny Dalglish, Footballer; March 4, 67**
Dalglish scored 230 goals during his 21-year long career, playing for Celtic FC and Liverpool as well as the Scottish national team. He went on to manage Liverpool and

has won two FA cups while at the team, once as a player and the other as its coach.

• **Moira Kelly, Actor; March 6, 50**
The voice of Nala in Disney's 1994 film The Lion King has also played Kate Moseley in The Cutting Edge and Karen Roe in One Tree Hill.

• **Rachel Weisz, Actor; March 7, 48**
The Westminster-born film star founded the Talking Tongues theatre company while a student at Cambridge University before her movie career. She has had roles in The Mummy, The Constant Gardener, The Bourne Legacy and Constantine.

Sierra Nevada SNOW REPORT



Snow is expected to fall today (Thursday) through to next week as well as rain, with temperatures rising to highs of seven degrees. If you are travelling to Sierra Nevada this week, expect some slopes to be closed due to the weather.

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

HARE

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

FEET

Solution
HARE
HARD
HERD
HEED
FEED
FEET

DVD

A powerful comedy



THE USSR's ruthless ruler Josef Stalin (Adrian Mcloughlin) has just been found dead.

Soviet officials quickly arrive to decide the future of the country and rival factions soon emerge. On one side is secret police head Lavrentiy Beria (Simon Russell Beale) and leading Communist Party figure Georgy Malenkov (Jeffrey Tambor). On the other is Nikita Khrushchev (Steve Buscemi) and labour minister Lazar Kaganovich (Dermot Crowley).

The Death of Stalin takes a humorous look at the ensuing power struggle.

This week in history

509 BC - First triumph
The Roman Republic holds its first triumphal celebration after Publius Valerius Publicola defeats deposed King Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, beginning a tradition that would last throughout the empire's history.

1284 - Wales incorporated
The Principality of Wales is absorbed into the Kingdom of England under the Statute of Rhuddlan.

1519 - Cortez lands
Conquistador Hernan Cortez arrives in modern-day Mexico in search of the wealth of the Aztecs. He would go on to conquer the land for the Spanish crown.

1657 - Edo ablaze
The Great Fire of Meireki starts in Edo (Tokyo). It would go on to last for three days and kill more than 100,000 people.

1869 - Periodic table
Dmitri Mendeleev unveils the world's first periodic table to the Russian chemical society, which would become the standard graphic depiction of the elements.

1876 - Telephone patented
Alexander Graham Bell is granted a patent for the telephone. He had previously raced rival inventor Elisha Gray to be the first to submit proposals for the device.

1970 - Nuclear treaty signed

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons comes into force after being ratified by 43 countries. It requires countries never to acquire the weapons and to work towards nuclear disarmament and was extended indefinitely in 1995.

2003 - First ICC session
The International Criminal Court holds its inaugural session in The Hague in Holland with the power to prosecute people for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The lost mojo

Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

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

ACCORDING to the majority of pollsters, the PSOE socialists are currently in third place with Ciudadanos out in front and the PP limping behind.

The PSOE regained Pedro Sanchez as its leader and lost its mojo with only 39 per cent of its voters believing that the party has a clear project for the future. Forty-eight per cent believe that Ciudadanos and Albert Rivera have a more defined plan.

True to his usual form, Sanchez believes the best way to counteract the drift away from the PSOE is by entrenching himself still further as secretary general and giving more control to the party membership when selecting provincial, regional and national candidates.

Thanks to the aptly-named militants, Pedro Sanchez heads the PSOE instead of Eduardo Madina (2014) or Susana Diaz (2017). And it is thanks to those same militants - all 187,360 of them - that the PSOE and Pedro Sanchez have yet to do well in an election.

Who me?

ANNA GABRIEL, formerly represented CUP in the pre-Article 155 Catalan parliament.

She is now in Switzerland, where she scarpered before facing the Supreme Court on rebellion charges. With her hair loose and the aggressive fringe grown out, she looked astoundingly demure and maintained that she was more use at large than behind bars. Well they all say that don't they, Carles Puigdemont?

The right person

FOR anyone around at the time, February is inseparable from the attempted military coup of 1981.

Thirty-seven years later, less is made of the lethal threat to the still immature democracy at a time when a socialist politician saw nothing incongruous in declaring, "The Spanish will be democrats por cojones."

That he could say this not long after Franco's death was thanks to the young man that the old dictator appointed as his successor, Juan Carlos I who abdicated in 2014 in favour of his son Felipe VI.

He wisely exited at a time when his son-in-law was accused of fraud and no-one had yet

forgotten that he was caught out a couple of years earlier, shooting elephants in Botswana with his mistress.

Juan Carlos recently celebrated his 80th birthday and now resembles a flacid old Bourbon who would look more at home in a Goya lineup of 19th century monarchs than 21st century Spain.

It's easy to forget that he was a hero who reversed Franco's legacy, surrounded himself with able politicians instead of courtiers during the Transition and defused the 1981 coup.

Fortunately for Spain, Juan Carlos I was the right person in the right place at the right time.

PEDRO SANCHEZ:
Yet to do well in an election.



Special treatment

ALVARO PEREZ, nicknamed El Bigotes (Whiskers) and Gurtel's man in Valencia, recently declared before a parliamentary committee investigating the Partido Popular's alleged illegal funding.

For the uninitiated, Gurtel was a corrupt setup of 37 companies which via cash, kickbacks and munificent presents, snaffled government contracts and possibly swelled PP party funds.

El Bigotes singled out Ignacio Lopez del Hierro, husband of Defence Minister Dolores de Cospedal, and Angel Piñero Lopez, a close friend of Spain's president, Mariano Rajoy.

"They dished out the lolly according to the Barceñas papers," he maintained. "But not a word in the media.

"Call them," he suggested to the committee. "I don't know if they get special treatment, or what."

Perish the thought that Dolores' hubby and Mariano's chum should get special treatment. As if.

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

Advertising Feature

British Ski Center & Sierra Essence

English ski and snowboard tuition and tailor-made holiday arrangements

THE centre is based in Sierra Nevada at Intersport Rio Sport, Edificio Montebajo in the Plaza de Andalucía.

They offer a full English service to arrange all Sierra Nevada ski holiday requirements along with professional ski and snowboard instruction with a team of qualified native English instructors.

The Ski Center has over 25 years' experience in Sierra Nevada having built up close relations with hoteliers, managing agencies and other suppliers to be able to offer a highly personalised service to cater specifically to clients' actual needs.

In addition they have staff in the resort designated to attend to all clients' needs should they have any concerns or need any kind of orientation during their stay.

Any tuition booked in advance comes with an automatic discount on our local rates as well as a 10 per cent discount on equipment rental with the



HAVING FUN: On the piste.

collaborating equipment hire shop, Intersport Rio Sport.

The websites offer comprehensive information on the various services they offer including tuition rates, snow reports, accommodation listings etc.

Online booking enquiry forms are available as well as general email and telephone contact details with office hours running from 9am to 6pm daily throughout the winter ski season period.

Contact Details:

Secretary: 670 461 330 / 663 853 087 / 646 178 406

Resort Address: Edificio Montebajo, Local 14 bajo, 18196 Sierra Nevada

Email: info@britishskicenter.co.uk • Web: www.britishskicenter.co.uk / www.britishskicenter.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/britishskicenter

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THURSDAY - 1 MARCH

FRIDAY - 2 MARCH

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
7:00am Breakfast	7:00am Caught Red Handed	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days	7:45am 3rd Rock from the Sun	9:05am Floggals
10:15am Murder, Mystery and My Family	7:30am Get Away for Winter	8:30pm Top of the Pops	8:10am 3rd Rock from the Sun	9:20am Digby Dragon
11:00am Homes Under the Hammer	8:15am Wanted Down Under Revisited	8:35am Peter Powell and Gary Davies present the pop chart	8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond	9:35am Rusty Rivets
12:00pm Wanted Down Under Revisited	9:00am Earth's Natural Wonders	9:00am Victoria Derbyshire	9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond	9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
12:45pm Caught Red Handed	10:00am BBC Newsroom Live	10:00am The Brain: A Secret History	9:30am Frasier	10:05am Mofy
1:15pm Bargain Hunt	12:00pm The Daily Politics	10:00pm From Ice to Fire: The Incredible Science of Temperature	10:00am Frasier	10:15am The Wright Stuff
2:00pm BBC News at One	2:00pm Perfection	11:00pm Wild Weather with Richard Hammond	10:35am Frasier	12:15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
2:30pm BBC London News	2:45pm Plan it, Build it	12:00am Storm Troupers: The Fight to Forecast the Weather	11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	1:10pm 5 News Lunchtime
2:45pm Doctors	3:15pm A Place to Call Home	1:00pm Posh Pawnbrokers	12:00pm Undercover Boss USA	1:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
3:15pm Shakespeare and Hathaway	4:00pm More Creatures Great and Small	2:05pm Countdown	1:00pm Channel 4 News	2:15pm Home and Away
4:00pm Escape to the Country	4:50pm Flog It!	3:10pm A Place in the Sun	1:05pm Come Dine with Me	2:45pm Neighbours
4:45pm Get Away for Winter	5:20pm Eggheads	4:00pm A New Life in the Sun	1:05pm My Family's Secret	3:15pm NCIS
5:30pm Antiques Road Trip	7:00pm Great British Railway Journeys	5:00pm Four in a Bed	5:30pm Antiques Road Trip	6:00pm 5 News at 5
6:15pm Pointless	8:00pm Athletics	6:00pm The Simpsons	6:15pm Pointless	6:30pm Neighbours
7:00pm BBC News at Six	10:00pm Mock the Week	7:00pm Hollyoaks	7:00pm BBC News at Six	7:00pm Home and Away
7:30pm BBC London News	11:30pm Newsnight	8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:30pm BBC London News	7:30pm 5 News Tonight
8:00pm The One Show	12:15am Top Gear	9:00pm George Clarke's Amazing Spaces	8:00pm The One Show	8:00pm The Secret Life of Puppies
8:30pm EastEnders	1:20am Nigel Slater's Middle East: Lebanon	10:00pm Married at First Sight	8:30pm MasterChef	9:00pm Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun
9:00pm MasterChef	2:20am Royal Recipes	11:00pm The Job Interview	9:00pm EastEnders	10:00pm Panic at 30,000 Feet: Airline Emergency
10:00pm The Inside Story	3:05am This is BBC Two	12:05am Gogglebox	9:30pm Room 101	11:00pm Concorde
11:00pm BBC News at Ten			10:00pm Requiem	12:05am Concorde
11:30pm BBC London News			11:00pm BBC News at Ten	1:00am Super Casino
11:45pm Question Time			11:25pm BBC London News	
12:45am This Week			11:35pm The Young Offenders	

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
10:15am Murder, Mystery and My Family	7:00am Caught Red Handed	8:30pm Top of the Pops	9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond	9:20am Digby Dragon
11:00am Homes Under the Hammer	7:30am Get Away for Winter	9:00pm John Denver: Country Boy	9:30am Frasier	9:35am Rusty Rivets
12:00pm Wanted Down Under Revisited	8:15am Wanted Down Under Revisited	10:00pm Synth Britannia	10:00am Frasier	9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
12:45pm Caught Red Handed	9:00am Back in Time for Tea	11:00pm Synth Britannia at the BBC	10:35am Frasier	10:05am Mofy
1:15pm Bargain Hunt	10:00am Athletics	12:30am Top of the Pops	11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	10:15am The Wright Stuff
2:00pm BBC News at One	2:45pm Plan it, Build it	1:30am Mike Read and Steve Wright present the pop chart	12:00pm Undercover Boss USA	12:15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
2:30pm BBC London News	3:15pm Yes Chef	2:00am Lionel Richie: Dancing on the Ceiling	1:00pm Channel 4 News	5 News Lunchtime
2:45pm Doctors	4:00pm A Place to Call Home	3:00am John Denver: Country Boy	1:05pm Come Dine with Me	1:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
3:15pm Shakespeare and Hathaway	4:50pm More Creatures Great and Small	4:00am Tones, Drones and Arpeggios: The Magic of Minimalism	2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers	2:15pm Home and Away
4:00pm Escape to the Country	5:20pm Greece with Simon Reeve	5:00am This is BBC Four	3:10pm Countdown	2:45pm Neighbours
4:45pm Get Away for Winter	6:20pm Great British Railway Journeys	6:00pm A Hijacking	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	3:15pm NCIS
5:30pm Antiques Road Trip	6:50pm Athletics	6:30pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	4:15pm My Family's Secret
6:15pm Pointless	11:00pm QI	7:00pm A Hijacking	6:00pm Four in a Bed	6:00pm 5 News at 5
7:00pm BBC News at Six	11:30pm Newsnight	7:30pm The Sheriffs are Coming	6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers	6:30pm Neighbours
7:30pm BBC London News	12:05am The	8:00pm The Magic of Minimalism	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away
8:00pm The One Show	12:55am A Hijacking	8:00pm This is BBC Four	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:30pm 5 News Tonight
8:30pm MasterChef	2:35am The Sheriffs are Coming	8:30pm BBC Four is the BBC channel for people who want more.	8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm The Secret Life of Puppies
9:00pm EastEnders	3:35am Julius Caesar Revealed	9:00pm Gogglebox	9:00pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast	9:00pm Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun
10:00pm Room 101	4:35am Royal Recipes	10:00pm Rude Tube	10:00pm Gogglebox	10:00pm Panic at 30,000 Feet: Airline Emergency
10:00pm Requiem	5:15am This is BBC Two	1:05am 30 Days of Night	11:00pm Rude Tube	11:00pm Concorde
11:00pm BBC News at Ten		3:10am Born to Kill	12:05am Rude Tube	12:05am Concorde
11:25pm BBC London News		4:05am Damned	1:05am 30 Days of Night	1:00am Super Casino
11:35pm The Young Offenders		4:35am The Question Jury	3:10am Born to Kill	
			4:05am Damned	
			4:35am The Question Jury	

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SATURDAY - 3 MARCH

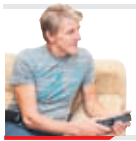
SUNDAY - 4 MARCH

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
7:00am Breakfast	7:10am Nature's Weirdest Events	5:00am This is BBC Four	7:45am 3rd Rock from the Sun	11:10am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
11:00am Saturday Kitchen Live	7:25am Naomi's Nightmares of Nature	8:00pm The Dark: Nature's Nighttime World	8:10am King of Queens	11:40am Make You Laugh Out Loud
12:30pm Classic Mary Berry	7:55am The Pets Factor	9:00pm Masters of the Pacific Coast: The Tribes of the American Northwest	8:35am King of Queens	12:10pm Police Interceptors
1:00pm Football Focus	8:15am Dengineers	10:00pm Modus	9:00am Everybody Loves Raymond	1:10pm Police Interceptors
2:00pm BBC News	8:45am Absolute Genius: Monster Builds Beyond Bionic	10:45pm Modus	9:30am Everybody Loves Raymond	2:10pm Police Interceptors
2:10pm Weather	9:15am Robot Wars	11:30pm Promises and Lies: The Story of UB40	10:00am Frasier	3:10pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
2:15pm Triathlon World Series	9:45am Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby	12:30am Top of the Pops	10:30am Frasier	4:10pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
3:45pm Cycling: World Track Championships	5:30pm Hugh's Wild West	1:05am Top of the Pops	11:00am Frasier	5:05pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
5:30pm Final Score	6:30pm Athletics	1:40am The Shires: New Country	11:30am The Big Bang Theory	6:00pm Rich House, Poor House
6:10pm A Question of Sport	Championships at Birmingham Arena	2:40am Masters of the Pacific Coast: The Tribes of the American Northwest	12:00pm The Big Bang Theory	7:00pm The Secret Life of Jane McDonald
6:40pm Celebrity Mastermind	10:30pm A Little Chaos	3:40am Promises and Lies: The Story of UB40	12:30pm The Big Bang Theory	8:00pm Cruising with the Queen
7:10pm BBC News	12:20am The Help		1:00pm The Simpsons	9:00pm The Queen
7:20pm Regional News	Drama based on Kathryn Stockett's best-selling novel		1:30pm The Simpsons	9:55pm 5 News
7:23pm Weather			2:00pm The Simpsons	10:00pm Football on 5
7:25pm Pointless			2:30pm Come Dine with Me	The Championship
8:15pm All Together Now			3:30pm Coast v Country	11:00pm Live Championship Boxing
9:20pm Casualty			4:35pm A Place in the Sun	
10:10pm Troy: Fall of a City			5:35pm The Secret Life of the Zoo	
11:10pm BBC News			6:35pm The Supervet	
11:25pm Weather			7:30pm Channel 4 News	
11:30pm Match of the Day			8:00pm Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages	
12:55am My Brother the Devil			9:00pm Britain at Low Tide	
2:40am Weather for the Week Ahead			10:00pm 10 Cloverfield Lane	
2:45am BBC News			12:00am Predator	

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
7:00am Breakfast	7:50am A-Z of TV Gardening	8:00pm Only Connect	7:20am King of Queens	5:45am House Doctor
8:35am Match of the Day	8:15am The Instant Gardener	Victoria Coren Mitchell hosts the series where knowledge will only take you so far.	7:45am King of Queens	6:10am Nick's Quest
10:00am The Andrew Marr Show	9:00am Gardeners' World	8:30pm University Challenge	8:10am Everybody Loves Raymond	6:35am Wildlife SOS
11:00am The Big Questions	9:30am Countryfile	Cult student quiz show.	8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond	7:00am Milkshake!
12:00pm Sunday Politics	10:30am Saturday Kitchen	9:00pm Killer Whales	9:00am Frasier	10:30am Football on 5
1:15pm Murder, Mystery and My Family	12:00pm Best Bites	10:00pm Time Shift	9:30am Frasier	11:20am Football on 5
2:00pm BBC News	12:45pm Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge	11:00pm From Ice to Fire: The Incredible Science of Temperature	10:00am Frasier	11:50am FIA Formula E: Highlights
2:10pm Weather for the Week Ahead	Lorraine Pascale: How to be a Better Cook	12:00am Conversations	10:30am Sunday Brunch	12:50pm Police Interceptors
2:15pm MasterChef	MOTD2 Extra	Sean Curran talks to former senior Liberal Democrat Baroness Shirley Williams about her life.	1:30pm Jimmy's Friday Night Feast	1:50pm Wyatt Earp
3:15pm MasterChef	Cycling: World Track Championships	7:40pm Channel 4 News	The Simpsons	5:20pm The Dirty Dozen
4:45pm Money for Nothing	3:45pm Athletics	8:00pm Posh Pawn	The Simpsons	8:10pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
5:15pm Songs of Praise	7:00pm Back in Time for Tea	9:00pm Churchill's Secret Affair	3:25pm The Simpsons	9:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
5:50pm Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa	8:00pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes	10:00pm Homeland	3:55pm Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters	9:55pm 5 News
7:05pm BBC News	9:00pm Top Gear	11:05pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown	5:55pm Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb	10:00pm When Award Shows Go Horribly Wrong
7:20pm Regional News	10:00pm Life and Death Row	12:05am Lee Mack	8:00pm The Mash Report	12:50am Jo Brand: Secrets of Her Success
7:25pm Weather	11:20pm The Mash Report	1:05am The Haunting	8:30pm Top Gear Extra	
7:30pm Countryfile	11:50pm Top Gear Extra	3:00am Art of France	Gear	
8:30pm Hold the Sunset	12:15am Cleverman	4:00am From Ice to Fire: The Incredible Science of Temperature	12:15am Cleverman	
9:00pm Call the Midwife	1:10am Question Time		1:10am Holby City	
10:00pm Strike - Career of Evil	2:10am This is BBC Two		3:10am Highlights of programmes on BBC Two.	
11:00pm BBC News				
11:20pm Regional News				
11:25pm Weather				
11:30pm Match of the Day 2				
12:30am Reign of Fire				

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'Sorry Jane, you should be in the life boat'



**TV COUCH
CRITIC**

WE have to remember that although it's been cooler in Spain recently, the UK is shivering, so I thought I would ask a couple of friends visiting from Milton Keynes (recent visit to escape the cold) what they had been watching as the temperature plummeted.

Now, Graham and Robert are no nonsense TV people. They know what they like and they stick with what they know. So why, please why, did they recommend I catch up with *Cruising With Jane McDonald*, final episode Friday April 2, *Channel 5*?

I like Jane McDonald, I like rivers and water, I like travelling and don't even mind ships where very small cabins with even smaller balconies are now called Staterooms, but I did not enjoy Jane's trip along the Mekong in Vietnam.

Everyone, but everyone on the ship not only knows Jane, but seems to be a signed up fan club member. It put me in mind of eating foods which lower cholesterol. We all know we should like them, there is no reason to dislike them, but as soon as the cam-



TOTAL LET-DOWN: Cruising With Jane McDonald.

eras are turned off, we are back to cheese and crackers to finish a meal.

Jane is travelling the Mississippi in the final show. Two predictions, firstly she is going to walk around in a shawl which could pass at any decent Sunday market on the Costas as a tablecloth and second, she is going to close the show belting out something by Elvis. I won't know if I'm right about Elvis or the tablecloth because I can't watch Jane be educated about the biggest maximum security prison in the US or sugar plantations. I don't much like Elvis songs either.

RIP: Emma Chambers.

Gogglebox, *Channel 4*, Fridays was back last week. This is cheese and crackers TV and I love it.

Leon isn't gracing the *Gogglebox* screens this time around, but I just know he's sitting somewhere in a massive armchair saying just what he thinks about TV and telling June, in his own unique way, just how much he still loves her. Thank you Mr Bernicoff.

In separate news, one half of the Brighton hairdressing duo has announced he is leaving the show to chase a TV career. Oh dear, this won't end well. Chris Butland-Steed (the one with the better beard)

hasn't thought this one through.

Paul O'Grady already has any shows Chris might think he could be part of in the bag. Good luck though Chris.

This week I also wanted to say 'thank you' to Emma Chambers, who sadly passed away aged just 53. Emma was and always will be Alice Tinker, the Verger to the Vicar of Dibley. Try not to smile when you remember that wedding dress.

I don't know how much of the BBC's Winter Olympics coverage you have caught, but I have been blown away by most of the action in the freezing South Korean temperatures. The competitors equally match their Summer Games counterparts and if the reaction to Spain's first medal at the Winter Games in 26 years is anything to go by, the Winter Olympiad will continue to go from strength to strength.

Looking ahead, fellow Geordies Ant and Dec continue their *Saturday Night Takeaway* with the 100th offering this Saturday. The seemingly joined at the hip Alfie Boe and Michael Ball are the stars of the end of the show, and Scarlett Moffatt shows that she is more than *Gogglebox* with a surprise for a family who don't know what's coming - do we believe that?

Happy viewing.

Critique: Adam Whalley-Lewis, Casares, Costa del Sol

Time to take bold action

Welcome to your March 2018 Forecast. Every month I write about how the Astrology, Numerology, and Tarot for the month ahead affect you. Below is your forecast for March 2018.

Sally Trotman

www.sallytrotman.com

Sally Trotman is a qualified Counsellor who works with Astrology, Numerology and the Tarot. Each month she will deliver the forecast as an intuitive tool to aid increased self awareness.

Astrology: trust your vibes

SUN in Pisces: The watery influence of this sign throughout most of March helps you to develop your intuition.

What feels right to you in each moment? Consider your deepest yearnings, listen to your inner voice and notice any repeated messages in your dreams. On March 22, around the time of the spring equinox, the sun moves into Aries. This is a time of renewed energy, so make the most of this fiery energy to take bold action when you are inspired.

Get in tune with the moon: This month the moon is full twice - on March 2 and on March 31. The first full moon is ruled by the earthy sign of Virgo, encouraging you to make practical plans and get organised.

The second full moon in balanced Libra brings the focus to your relationships. Changing your perspective can help you to move beyond challenges, so perhaps consider the viewpoints of others to create more harmony. Also put in boundaries where necessary. Honour your feelings in all your relationships, balancing giving with receiving where you can.

Numerology: go with the flow

Number 3: This number reminds you that in each moment you are co-creating with the universe. Find balance between action and rest this month to help you make the most of the opportunities ahead. Remember you are a human being so relax into the flow of life and trust that you are being guided in the best direction for you.

The Empress : nurture yourself

The Empress is represented in the tarot deck as a bountiful woman surrounded by nature. With her foot on



ARIES: A time of renewed energy.

the new moon and a flower in her hand, she is able to balance the spiritual, emotional, mental and physical aspects of herself. The archetypal mother, she instinctively knows how to nurture herself and others.

Consider how you can look after yourself better this month, and then extend this care to those around you.

Repeat this affirmation through the month to help you: I am open to receiving abundance through all channels of the universe.

Your 2018 forecast

Astrology, Numerology and the Tarot are ancient tools of divination which aid self-awareness. By looking at the unique numbers and planets in your date of birth, I will intuitively guide you to become clearer, calmer and more confident about your direction for the year ahead. I offer readings by Skype, Facetime, WhatsApp video and email. Contact me at sally.trotman@btinternet.com to book in.

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MONDAY - 5 MARCH

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
3:15pm Shakespeare and Hathaway	3:15pm Yes Chef	8:30pm Sea City	3:10pm Countdown	2:15pm Home and Away
4:00pm Escape to the Country	4:00pm A Place to Call Home	9:00pm India: Nature's Wonderland	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	2:45pm Neighbours
4:45pm Coast and Country	4:50pm Pilgrimage with Simon Reeve	10:00pm The Art of Japanese Life	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	3:20pm NCIS
5:30pm Antiques Road Trip	5:50pm More Creatures Great and Small	11:00pm Mary Beard's <i>Ultimate Rome: Empire Without Limit</i>	6:00pm Four in a Bed	4:15pm Forbidden Secrets
6:15pm Pointless	6:20pm Flog It!	12:00am Mothers, Murderers and Mistresses: Empresses of Ancient Rome	6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers	6:00pm 5 News
7:00pm BBC News	7:00pm Eggheads	1:00am A Brief History of Graffiti	7:00pm The Simpsons	6:30pm Neighbours
7:30pm Regional News	7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys	2:00am Top of the Pops	7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:00pm Home and Away
8:00pm The One Show	8:00pm Top Gear	2:30am Top of the Pops	8:00pm Channel 4 News	7:30pm 5 News
8:30pm Inside Out	9:00pm Only Connect	3:00am India: Nature's Wonderland	9:00pm Dispatches	8:00pm Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights
9:00pm EastEnders	9:30pm University Challenge		9:30pm Food Unwrapped	9:00pm Extreme Winter Road Rescue
9:30pm Classic Mary Berry	10:00pm Collateral		10:00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody	10:00pm The Flying Scotsman
10:00pm MasterChef	11:00pm Two Doors Down		11:00pm Electric Dreams	11:00pm The X Files
11:00pm BBC News	11:25pm Big Field		12:05am Married at First Sight	12:00pm The X Files
11:30pm Regional News	11:30pm Newsnight		1:10am The £1 Houses: Britain's Cheapest Street	12:55am Traffic Cops
	12:10am Weather			1:55am Britain's Greatest Bridges
				2:10am Super Casino

TUESDAY - 6 MARCH

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
3:15pm Shakespeare and Hathaway	4:50pm Pilgrimage with Simon Reeve	8:00pm Beyond 100 Days	3:10pm Countdown	3:15pm NCIS
4:00pm Escape to the Country	5:50pm More Creatures Great and Small	8:30pm Sea City	4:00pm A Place in the Sun	4:15pm Bond of Silence
4:45pm Coast and Country	6:20pm Flog It!	9:00pm Immortal Egypt with Joann Fletcher	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	5 News
5:30pm Antiques Road Trip	7:00pm Eggheads	10:00pm David Starkey's Magna Carta	6:00pm Four in a Bed	6:30pm Neighbours
6:15pm Pointless	7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys	11:00pm Byzantium: A Tale of Three Cities	6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers	7:00pm Home and Away
7:00pm BBC News	8:00pm Top Gear	12:00am Dreaming the Impossible: Unbuilt Britain	7:00pm The Simpsons	7:30pm 5 News
7:30pm Regional News	9:00pm Only Connect	1:00am Two Types: The Faces of Britain	7:30pm Hollyoaks	8:00pm Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild
8:00pm The One Show	9:30pm University Challenge	2:00am Top of the Pops	8:00pm Channel 4 News	9:00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Tichmarsh
8:30pm Inside Out	10:00pm Collateral	2:30am Top of the Pops	9:00pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer	10:00pm Wild Britain with Ray Mears
9:00pm EastEnders	11:00pm Two Doors Down	3:00am Fabric of Britain	10:00pm Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	11:00pm Elizabeth
9:30pm Classic Mary Berry	11:25pm Big Field	4:00am Becoming a Lied Singer	10:15pm Seven Year Switch	12:05pm The Yorkshire Steam Railway: All Aboard
10:00pm MasterChef	11:30pm Newsnight		12:25am Before We Die	1:05am Weather Terror
11:00pm BBC News	11:30pm Newsnight		1:35am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	2:00am Super Casino
11:30pm Regional News	12:10am Weather		2:25am It's a Weird World	
11:40pm Weather				
11:45pm This Country				

WEDNESDAY - 7 MARCH

BBC one	BBC TWO	BBC FOUR	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5
12:45pm Caught Red Handed	12:30pm The Daily Politics	8:30pm Sea City	10:00am Frasier	7:00am Milkshake!
1:15pm Bargain Hunt	2:00pm Perfection	9:00pm The Secret History of Our Streets	10:30am Frasier	10:15am The Wright Stuff
2:00pm BBC News	2:45pm Plan it, Build it	10:00pm <i>The stories of archetypal streets in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen.</i>	11:00am Ramsay's Kitchen	12:15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
2:30pm Regional News	3:15pm Yes Chef	11:00pm <i>The stories of archetypal streets in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen.</i>	12:00pm Nightmares USA	1:10pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
2:45pm Doctors	4:00pm A Place to Call Home	11:30pm Clarissa and the King's Cookbook	1:00pm Channel 4 News	1:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
3:15pm Shakespeare and Hathaway	4:55pm Pilgrimage with Simon Reeve	12:00am The Man Who Shot Tutankhamun	1:05pm Come Dine with Me	2:05pm Access
4:00pm Escape to the Country	5:55pm More Creatures Great and Small	1:00am Sing's Stevie Wonder	2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers	2:15pm Home and Away
4:45pm Coast and Country	6:25pm Flog It!	2:00am Top of the Pops	3:10pm Countdown	2:45pm Neighbours
5:30pm Antiques Road Trip	7:00pm Eggheads	2:30am Top of the Pops	4:00pm Crufts Extra with Alan and Clare	3:15pm NCIS
6:15pm Pointless	7:30pm Great British Railway Journeys	3:00am Lucy Worsley's Fireworks for a Tudor Queen	5:00pm A New Life in the Sun	4:15pm Love You to Death
7:00pm BBC News	8:00pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes	3:30am Lucy Worsley's Fireworks for a Tudor Queen	6:00pm Four in a Bed	5 News
7:30pm Regional News	9:00pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story		6:30pm Extreme Cake Makers	6:30pm Neighbours
8:00pm The One Show	10:00pm Live at the Apollo		7:00pm The Simpsons	7:00pm Home and Away
8:30pm Immigration: Who Should We Let in? - Panorama	11:30pm Newsnight		7:30pm Hollyoaks	7:30pm 5 News
9:00pm DIY SOS the Big Build	12:10am Weather		8:00pm Channel 4 News	8:00pm Extreme Winter Road Rescue
10:00pm Earth's Natural Wonders	1:00am Women's Football		9:00pm The Supervet	9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
11:00pm BBC News			10:00pm One Born Every Minute	10:00pm Violent Child, Desperate Parents
11:30pm Regional News			11:00pm Damned	11:00pm Most Shocking
11:40pm Weather			11:35pm 24 Hours in Police Custody	1:55am Super Casino
			12:35am 999: What's Your Emergency?	4:10am Cowboy Builders
				5:00am Now That's Funny!

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Electric cars in Mallorca could cause major problems

IT was announced recently that the Balearic government is to ban new petrol and diesel cars over the next few years.

Once again, this is a prime example of the government's failure to do 'joined up thinking'!

If everyone has to have an electric car, how will current drivers be able to afford one if they are unable to sell their current petrol/diesel vehicle?

How will people be able to afford all the new sets of batteries when they pass their 'drop dead date' a few years later and they are currently made of lithium which is mined, shouldn't this proposal wait until a new form of battery is invented?

Power brown-outs and black-outs occur on the island now so what can be done to improve the supply to cover the huge amount of electricity required to charge all these electric vehicles?

How many electric buses, coaches, vans and heavy goods lorries are on the market as well as agricultural equipment and gener-

Roundabout positions can cause accidents

I HAVE been a Driving Instructor in the UK for 56 years and also employed by the DSA as a Driving Examiner.

I have an HGV Licence which I also use to teach HGV drivers. I have travelled worldwide and driven in all the countries in Europe and the USA and OZ, Canada, New Zealand. Can I point out that the Spanish driving at roundabouts is dangerous and an accident black spot?

In God's name IF you are turning left at a roundabout why not approach in the left lane with a left signal on then change to a right signal and the right lane to exit just after the exit prior to your exit?

I find the Spanish way of always



BENIDORM: Is a fun place to be.

going round the outside (right) lane irrespective of where you intend to go bloody dangerous and the big cause of accidents at roundabouts. There needs to be TV announcements to inform Spanish drivers how to signal lane position and leave roundabouts before more are killed and maimed.

J Barry Clark, DSAADI UK

Editor's note:

Barry thank you for your letter. Recently the authorities and the Guardia Civil have been encouraging drivers to always enter the right hand lane as early as possible and to exit roundabouts from that lane but it obviously is taking time for some Spanish drivers to come to terms with this.

ators?

Motorcyclists have little choice in electric bikes and the price is far higher than petrol powered models.

Even though it is just under eight years away for the diesel ban, and 18 for the petrol vehicles, how long will 'traditionally fuelled' vehicles be allowed to be on the road? Why not move to hydrogen powered vehicles?

Brian Gatcombe, Mallorca

Many thanks

THROUGH your paper could I express my thanks to the Local Police at Calle el Parquet Nijar? On Sunday we visited Nijar.

While in the town I used the ATM at a bank branch when my card was jammed in. Thinking this may be some sort of fraudulent device I went to the Local Police station where an officer went above what I would have expected.

He came back to the ATM with me to check and then we went back to the station where he telephoned the bank to report the problem, then contacted my bank in the UK to help.

Unfortunately I didn't get the officer's name, but if you could pass on my thanks through *Euro Weekly News* I would be very grateful.

Ron English at present on holiday at Vera Playa

Nerja fan

I LOVE Nerja because it is essentially Andalucian. Unfortunately many of our newer developments are faceless, featureless boxes. It was therefore very pleasing to see the new hostel built on Calle Cruz, near the entrance to the underground car park. The developer is clearly proud of traditional Spanish architecture. Can we have more?

Gordon Clark, Nerja

Likes Leapy

WHAT an excellent article, we have sent it to all our friends and family.

We cannot praise you every week for all your many excellent articles, we read them all.

We hope that you can get one or more of the GB papers to publish your excellent articles.

*Kind Regards
Andrew and Lucie Murray UK
and Pacheco*

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.

English football 'hooligans' arrested

It's not important if they were football supporters or not, take their passports off them.

Helen Massingham

Most Brits don't misbehave, it's the minority morons who cause the trouble. I have been holidaying in Spain since the late 60's and have never caused any nuisance ever.

Sheila Bowman

Arrest them, put them in a Spanish prison, once their sentence is complete, deport them and shred their passports.

Trev Vennard

British government debates expat vote

If you leave the UK why would you still want to vote? OK so people will say pensions, but what is so bad about the UK that people leave but still want to have a vote? I know people move with work so they are not staying out of the UK permanently. I did watch the full debate live this afternoon - an interesting debate.

Libbyj Ogden Rainey Phelp

Because Libbyj many expats still have property, pensions, investments, and if you were in the civil service or army you still pay tax in the UK. Makes sense to be able to have a say in what happens. We also have family we are concerned about who

Comments from EWN online

still live there.

Jenny Dodd

As a Scot living in Spain I do not have the right to vote in Spanish general elections, only local ones. After the Brexit farce I doubt many of us would vote Tony!

Claire Twigg

Priors finally receive payout for demolition

So sorry that money is an insult, but they have to move forward now, this ordeal is shocking. Nasty bullying.

Sandra Russell

About time, hope they have many years to enjoy a good life.

Gill Reynolds

I hope this paves the way for more victims to be compensated

Pps Estepona

Police officer dies after football fans clash

Frankly, the whole of European football fans should boycott the World Cup this year otherwise there will be blood shed!!

Steve Homer

So sorry for this man's family, yes it was a heart attack but it was the violence that caused it. DEP.

Gill Reynolds

Watched the build up preparations... so much was set in place roads / transport, etc even schools in area closed all day. Guess they never expected it to be bad pitchside.

Lydia Taylor

UK benefit cheating gran avoids jail

People come to Spain wanting things now which most of us have worked all our lives to achieve. I love it when they say 'I am 40 years old and paid in to the system all my life.' Try paying in for 40/45 years then claim your rewards. If you need to work then be very certain you can make it here without benefits as they don't exist in Spain. Don't expect others to bail you out.

Gill Reynolds

How to strengthen your immunity

MAKING sure you eat healthily, exercise regularly, and minimise stress levels - not to mention keeping unhealthy vices such as smoking and alcohol consumption to a minimum - are just a few things you can do to make sure your immune system is in top shape.

Food in particular plays a significant role in having a positive impact on your belly bacteria, which helps to strengthen your immunity.

Harvard University research revealed that the amount of good bacteria in the belly rapidly improved when people are placed on a vegetable-only diet for a few days, so top up on your greens.

Many vegetables also contain natural prebiotics, such as artichokes, asparagus, onions, chicory, leek and garlic.

These prebiotics pass undigested through the stomach and small intestine so as soon as they reach the large intestine; they help to stimulate the probiotic bacteria that are in there.

Ensuring you have a healthy balance of bacteria in your gut will benefit your digestion and help you to absorb minerals, therefore boosting your immune system.

Fermented food such as sauerkraut is also



HAPPY TUMMY: A healthy balance of bacteria in your gut will benefit your immune system.

high in probiotic bacteria which can stop harmful bacteria from getting attached to

the lining of your gut and growing there.

Carbohydrates can also fuel unhealthy

bacteria so try to stick to whole grains or sourdough bread, which are high in fibre.

The importance of protein

PROTEIN is of great importance in helping the body's recovery process, so eating protein rich food comes in extra handy after a workout.

According to a study published in the Journal of the International Society of Sports Nutrition (JISSN), the body's ability to build muscle mass is raised for 24 to 48 hours following training, so this is the best time to go heavy on the protein.

During this period, which is known as the anabolic phase, the body is hungrier for nutrients as the muscles absorb copious amounts of glucose and it is easier for the body to process protein.

Protein is also necessary to build and repair muscle tissue, so not eating enough after a workout could hinder your progress, and also leave your muscles feeling sorer for longer.

Good-quality, protein rich food includes eggs, milk, chicken, turkey, tuna and Greek yoghurt.

Go nutty for nut butter

NUT butters are packed with protein, and are also full of those good fats which help to keep your heart healthy. However, are some versions better than others?

Nut butters generally fall into two kinds: raw and roasted. Roasting nuts apparently does not change their nutrition levels and gives them a more rich and toasty flavour.

However, many companies that roast the nuts beforehand often do so in oil, which increases the fat content as they absorb 2 to 5 per cent of the oil they are cooked in.

You can also get 'no added' or natural nut butters. While a 'no added' butter means it still has added oil, peanuts and preservatives, just no sugar and salt, the 'natural' kind should be free from all of these.

Aside from traditional peanut butters which are high in protein and a good source of vitamin E, you can also get almond butter, cashew butter, macadamia

butter and walnut butter.

Almonds are a good source of magnesium, calcium and vitamin E and are low in cholesterol whereas cashews are rich in iron and magnesium.

Macadamia nuts contain manganese and thiamine and can lower cholesterol while walnuts are packed with folate, fibre and omega-3 fats which have been proven to boost brain function.

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Stars of the West End

LOVERS of West End and Broadway musicals are in for a treat in March when the popular Stars of the West End return to the coast for a six date tour.

An entertaining two hour show, featuring the most popular songs from the best loved musical theatre.

Musicals like *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Mary Poppins*, *Oliver*, *Les Miserables*, *Wicked*, *West Side Story* and more can be seen in six venues from Torre del Mar to Gibraltar.

Appearing in Stars of the West End are three principal performers,

Mike Sterling who made more than a thousand performances in *The Phantom of the Opera* including a cast recording and also appeared in *Les Miserables* as well as numerous other musicals on the West End and on tour.

Lucy Van Gasse is best known for her performances in *Wicked* and *The Sound of Music*.

Kate Galston has appeared in *Chicago* as well



WEST END STARS: Lucy Van Gasse and Mike Sterling performing in a previous tour.

as *Mamma Mia!*

The three artists will be featuring songs from the shows they have appeared in, as well as many other well-known numbers from other top musicals.

Residents and visitors to Torre del Mar will have the chance to see the Stars of the West End at the Salon del Mar on Thursday March 15

All information about the

venues and ticket prices can be found on the promoters website www.costadeldisco.com and there is a hotline on 658 579 695 to make sure of your reservation.

Upcoming wine region

PRIORAT as one of the upcoming Spanish wine regions has recorded an extraordinary leap in quality and reputation over the last decade.

This small area which qualifies as Denominació d'Origen Qualificada (DOQ) is in Tarragona Province in Catalunya and is one of only two - alongside Rioja - regions to qualify as DOCa, the highest qualification.

It produces mainly red and powerful wines.

Characterised by a terroir of volcanic origins with black slate and quartz soil known as llicorella with vineyards on terraces at 100m - 700m, the area has low yields due to the rocky soil that does not allow water accumulation.

Wine production in the area dates from the 12th century, when monks from the Monastery of Scala Dei introduced viticulture and the prior ruled as a feudal lord, giving rise to the name Priorat.

At the end of the 19th century, the phylloxera pest devastated the vineyards and replanting was undertaken only in the 1950's. In the 1980's bulk wine production was phased out

**BACCHUS
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by Lorenzo
Barbareschi



PRIORAT: On the march.

and bottling of quality wine was introduced.

The traditional grape variety in El Priorat is the red Garnacha tinta, which is found in all the older vineyards. Other red varieties are Garnacha Peluda, Cariñena, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah.

White varieties are Garnacha blanca, Macabeo, Pedro Ximénez and Chenin.

The traditional reds are a single grape bottling of Grenache and Carignan, or a blend of these with French grape varieties including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, or Syrah. Usually aged in oak barrels for 18 months followed by six months in the bottle, Priorat wines have a consumption optimal two years later.

Happy tasting.

A night at the opera

CONTINUING the regular Noches de Burriana, the group Ventana Abierta is presenting an evening of opera featuring some of the greatest composers from France, Germany and Russia.

The honours will be shared between Bellini, Bizet, Mozart, Puccini, Verdi and Wagner.

The evening will consist of a welcome drink upon arrival and the performance of works by the six composers.

Tickets, which are strictly limited, cost €48 and in addition to the recital, which starts at 7.30pm on Saturday March 24, include a full dinner buffet plus drinks.

The evening will once again be enjoyed in an intimate setting on a winter night, ideal for a song recital and fine dining at Playa & Sol Restaurant on Burriana Beach in Nerja.

Reservations may be made on the organiser's website at <http://www.ventana-abierta.es> and there is a 15 per cent discount for members.

New house has Banderas in a Huf

ANTONIO BANDERAS has travelled around the world for the glitziest Hollywood functions, but these days the Spanish movie star is more likely to be seen cycling through leafy Surrey.

Banderas, 55, recently bought a €2.7 million five-bedroom home with Dutch-German girlfriend Nicole Kimpel, 36, in Cobham, which he has described as a 'magical' setting.

The prefabricated home, by German building firm Huf Haus, is an eco-friendly contemporary design featuring a stylish blend of wood and glass.

The Mask of Zorro actor, who divorced Melanie Griffith in December 2014, has sold the LA home he shared with her for €12.9 million.

Banderas recently starred in *The 33*, a film about the Chilean miners who were trapped underground for 69 days in 2010 with Juliette Binoche.

He is now commuting from his home in Surrey to study at the prestigious Central Saint Martins college in London, and plans to launch his own fashion label.

Surrey has clearly struck a chord with Banderas who said recently: "I



BUTTERFLY EFFECT: The stylish and eco-friendly designs are seeing demand soar.

am not a party person any more, so I have the space and peace to write and really get inside my own head and I am working on several scripts.

"Above all I am surrounded by nature and love watching the deer and foxes that come to my garden.

"All this wood and glass, it is a

beautiful concept. I have owned a lot of houses with many types of architecture but I think this is my favourite so far."

The A-list actor was introduced to the home by Nicole's father, who previously owned two Huf Houses and found the Cobham property for the couple.

There are now about 200 Huf houses in the UK which have distinctive post-and-beam structures, eco-friendly credentials and generous glazing.

Banderas' model has a classic 'butterfly' split-roof, with four large reception rooms and more than an acre of gently sloping gardens.

He so charmed by the house that he plans to build a beachside Huf in Marbella.

The company deliberately restricts the number of houses built as the factory can put up only 200 homes a year, with just 20 to 30 of those in the UK.

Seen as the Rolls-Royce of kit homes, factory production in Germany takes four months after which the flat-pack is shipped to the UK along with a team of builders.

Assembly of the shell takes a week or less, with the interiors (including electrics and plumbing) taking a further 12 to 14 weeks.

Celebs and super-rich in world of privacy and plenty

IN 2004, Harrison Ford and Calista Flockhart were seen in Barcelona together and became the surprise couple of the season.

The actress was shooting for the film *Fragile* in the city, and her new boyfriend had travelled to accompany her.

Ford did not like being pursued by cameras every time he left his hotel, so he was provided with a luxury apartment right in the centre of Barcelona.

This then set a trend among celebrities for requesting exclusive yet private accommodation, to avoid the paparazzi.

Moreover, Barcelonian hotel groups are keenly tapping into the market of billionaires who visit the city and are looking to rent high-end properties with all the extras including a butler, personal shopper, tour guide, or a Michelin-starred chef.

The Majestic and Murmuri Hotel Group for example, are happy to cater to these niche needs.

A spokesman from the company said: "Imagine that a couple goes out for the night to see a play.

"When they return they want to immediately have dinner with friends, so they



Credit: Wikimedia, Andrei Dan Suciu

MAJESTIC SURROUNDINGS: The hotel is a lap of luxury in the heart of Barcelona.

ask us to arrange it and we do it."

Prices in the group's Majestic Residence range from €450 to €1,200 a night, apart from the cool €15,000 a night that is charged for the penthouse suite.

Majestic and Murmuri's journey began 10 years ago when it snapped up 28 apartments in the middle of the housing crisis, for €1.2 million each.

Their extraordinary success since has been based on a simple model of two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living room and kitchen within 70 square metres.

Feeling Barcelonely

Barca's new star loses car and gets burgled in same day

PHILIPPE COUTINHO'S new home in Barcelona has been burgled while he was visiting the famous Sagrada Familia with his family.

The playmaker endured a day to forget having earlier seen his Audi car towed away by the authorities.

Coutinho had stayed behind while his Barcelona teammates travelled to London to face Chelsea in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie (with the game ending 1-1).

He is ineligible to play for Barca in the competition, having featured for the Reds during the group stages.

The thieves are thought to have taken advantage of two ladders that had been left by a neighbouring property, due to construction work there.

Coutinho contacted police immediately and the investigation is ongoing, which includes the analysis by

forensic experts.

The Brazilian international signed for Barcelona in Janu-

ary, finally sealing a protracted exit from Liverpool for a mammoth €164 million fee.



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Natural gardens

LIVING in Spain, relaxing, strolling, drinking and eating in natural surroundings is an easy thing to do on as many days as possible, whatever the time of year.

Valentine's Day was a good example even though no Valentina was around.

The morning awoke cold with a four-degree centigrade nip in the air but a bright blue windless day followed and by 1pm it was pleasantly warm to have a tapas lunch on a south facing terrace.

By 2pm one was tempted to strip off for a two-hour early sun tanning and vitamin D topping up session. Then before things started to chill down it was interesting to observe how quickly the natural world reacted to the warm direct sunshine which took the liquid in a south facing thermometer up to 48 degrees.

For the first time this year the Koi carp were continuously cruising the surface, two plump toads crept out from beneath a large rock and plopped into the pond, a welcome red squirrel ran with amazing balance along the electricity line across the nearby street, for a second time this month a youngish hedgehog came out of hibernation, and naturally common garden birds visited nesting boxes and the thickest shrubs to see if one met their needs. Sadly rarer species disap-



Photo credit Shutterstock/Dick Handscombe

AWASH WITH LIFE: A natural garden and (inset) Dick's latest must-read book.

peared 15 years ago when copses were felled and many new houses built.

On the flower front early spring colour is led by the first

yellow crocuses, winter jasmine, acacias, euryops, oxalis, nasturtiums until popped in a salad, and aeoniums. The first blues already follow with rosemary, echiums

and the first heads of broccoli for daily eating. Looking through the study window across to the local moun-

tain ridge seems that this afternoon will be as sunny as yesterday, but today I need to give some shrubs and a tunnel path for summer shade along the southern edge of the garden some urgent pruning to achieve some interesting shaping and heavier flowering.

The 20 builder's tubs that comprise today's salad bed are in full production having had no heavy frosts - at least as yet.

There were 21 varieties of salad leaves and flowers in the starter salad served to guests three evenings ago.

If you have yet to start to eat a few healthy garden flowers

and leaves, if not raising vegetables in a raised bed or two, a read through the book *Living well from our garden Mediterranean style* could be an interesting read on a sunny terrace or in front of an evening fire.

It is most easily obtained speedily and inexpensively from Amazon Books.

Naturally it would be possible to organise a talk on the topic for a local social or gardening club, or radio station.



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Ideas to spruce up your garden

IF your garden is looking a little tired and is in need of some sprucing up, now's a great time to put the work in so it's ready come summer for all the outdoor antics you'll no doubt be partaking in, from barbecues to badminton games.

Whatever you get up to, you want your garden to be looking its best but you don't have to spend a lot to make it look good.

Simple lighting designs such as fairy lights or well-placed tea lights can make all the difference to your outdoor space.

When it comes to furniture, keep it simple, sleek and stylish.

A one-colour scheme can help bring it all together and prevent it



FURNITURE: Keep it simple, sleek and stylish.

feeling cluttered.

Meanwhile some metallic paint is an easy way to refresh any old, iron garden furniture.

Colourful pillows and throws

could also smarten it up.

Don't forget to add cute accessories made from old knick knacks such as a cute bird feeder made from a vintage teacup.



David
THE Dogman



columnists@ewnmediagroup.com

Link to animal abuse

“THERE is no doubt that there is a link between animal abuse and human abuse,” says Dr Rhonda Schulman, a veterinarian at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

“The statistics are frightening, but it is important that everyone, including veterinarians, recognise this serious problem because animal abuse in a home is very likely a sign of an even bigger problem within that family.”

It is estimated that nearly 90 per cent of pets living in homes where domestic abuse is taking place are either abused or killed, and nearly 60 per cent of women who seek assistance from shelters to escape abuse have had a pet killed by an abuser.

In an abusive situation the family pet is often used by the abuser as leverage to control the person being abused. Threat of harm to a beloved pet can be a very powerful tool for the abuser. Abuse of the pet is also a way to inflict mental anguish on the abused. Many



NEGLECTED:
Make sure your animals are well looked after.

women are reluctant to leave the abuser for fear that the pet will be harmed.

Until recently there have been few options for abused women with pets. Now domestic violence shelters have begun to implement ways to protect not only the women and children but their pets as well.

“Abuse can also be self-propagating within a family,” says Dr Schulman. “For instance, the mother or father

abuses the child and then the child abuses the pet. This is sometimes the only way the child can assume any sense of personal power.”

Witnessing the abuse of a family pet can influence children to become abusive later in life, because they have learned the behaviour through observing and identification with the abuser.

Studies have also shown that children who torture animals are at higher

risk than others to grow up to use violence against people. Many adults who have committed serial murders or mass violence tortured animals as children.

“This means that if a child is exhibiting this sort of behaviour, it is extremely important to take it seriously and intervene while there is still a chance to positively influence the child’s development,” says Dr Schulman.

“Veterinarians are starting to take a

more active role in spotting abuse and providing help for people who are in abusive situations; however, many veterinarians still do not ask questions when presented with suspicious circumstances, either they do not wish to be involved or because they don’t know how to help,” says Dr Schulman.

It has been shown that women in abusive situations will seek medical care for themselves and their pets when they feel it is safe to do so. They may not volunteer how the injuries came about, but may give such information if asked. “Sometimes all it takes is asking,” says Dr Schulman.

“As a profession, veterinarians need to start getting involved. Simply posting flyers for the local women’s shelter in the veterinary clinic might encourage women to seek help if they need it.

“In order to help people at risk, we have to work together, and that includes professionals in all areas of health care, including veterinary medicine,” says Dr Schulman.

Where should your dog sleep?



CUDDLE UP: It’s normal for your dog to try and get into bed with you.

AN adult dog spends around 12 hours of the day sleeping, and a lot more goes into their decision about where to sleep than you may realise.

Most dogs prefer to sleep at the foot or side of your bed, on their favourite cushion or blanket or just their dog bed, so long as it’s in a warm spot that is protected from draughts.

Many also like to nap on your bed throughout the day while you’re out of the house

because it smells like you, or in other rooms where people tend to gather.

However, some dogs prefer their own crate, so they can enjoy some privacy away from the hustle and bustle.

No matter where your dog chooses to get in a few winks, it’s probably best not to let your dog sleep in your bed with you, especially if she’s a new introduction to the home.

A dog should never believe she has a right to sleep in your bed, as this will make her think she is the household’s dominant member.

All that training will go right out the window if your dog wins the bed war and starts to assert her authority over you.

If you really want to snuggle with your pooch, save it for the occasional Sunday morning as a special treat.

Need pet-sitters to keep an eye on your pets at home?

MANY of our homeowners these days tell us they need a friendly house-sitter to stay in the house and look after their pets while they travel away on holiday. Do you have pets that need a friendly presence and a watchful eye?

Keeping pets safe at home in their own environment

If you have young, or mature pets and especially pets with a nervous disposition it can be a worry when you go on holiday. Planning ahead to find a suitable pet-sitter is the best way, someone who can come and be with them while you are away.

For the pet-sitter this is like a working holiday, you choose the person or couple you want to house-sit and prepare a list of things for them to do while you are away.

How you benefit

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~ Sonia, Estepona, Spain ~ Home & Pet owner
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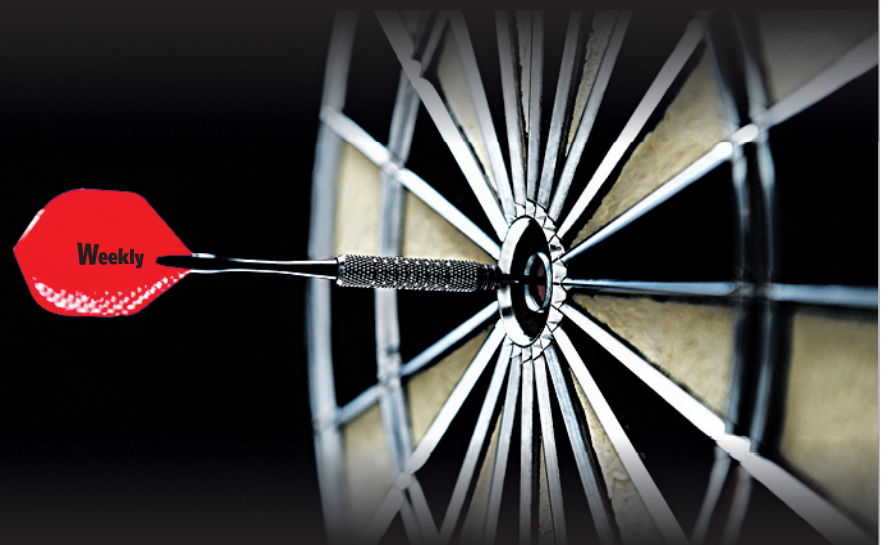


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MOTORING FACT

“ In 1941, Henry Ford made a car out of soybeans.

SEAT launches Cupra as independent brand

SPANISH car giants SEAT have officially launched CUPRA as its own independent brand.

The announcement was made at an exclusive event in Barcelona where the new brand's first model was also revealed, the CUPRA Ateca.

CUPRA, which has always been SEAT's ultimate expression of sportiness, is born to captivate car enthusiasts around the world.

CUPRA becomes its own entity, created to develop models in conjunction with SEAT and with the firm commitment to grow independently.

SEAT President Luca de Meo said: "CUPRA is a big opportu-

nity for SEAT, for our customers and for the business.

"The whole project has surfaced as the dream of a group of people who were looking for a way to conquer a new group of car lovers."

As part of its new identity, CUPRA will also encompass the entire motorsport and racing division, an area that until now was the responsibility of SEAT Sport and which will be directly integrated into the new brand.

The CUPRA logo, which was revealed a few weeks ago, is inspired by the attitude of tribal civilisations and reflects the values that the new brand is keen to transmit - passion, precision, de-

termination and courage.

As part of the announcement, the brand's first model, the CUPRA Ateca was also revealed.

"CUPRA Ateca offers versatility like no other brand. It's about a unique model in its segment, with 300 PS, 4Drive and a new seven-speed DSG gearbox.

It is the best example of balance between sportsmanship, fun at the wheel and ease of use in everyday life," said SEAT Executive Vice-President for Research and Development, Dr Matthias Rabe.



Photo by SEAT

SEAT: The CUPRA Ateca will be the brand's first model.



FORD has achieved the Guinness World Record for largest billboard with a new advert in Madrid.

The billboard, which advertises the brand new Ford EcoSport is plastered on the side of the Edificio España building, the eighth tallest in Spain.

Measuring 5,265 metres, approximately 20

Guinness World Rec-Ford!

tennis courts, and weighing 2,000 kilos the board eclipses the previous record set in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia in 2014.

Director of Marketing for Ford Spain, Elena Burguete, said: "Our Guinness World

Record title for the largest billboard demonstrates the creativity that drives our company.

"Ford's message is 'go further,' and that's what we aim to do with our campaign for the launch of the new EcoSport. It's a great way

to deliver the message 'Life is out there, are you?' to as many people as possible, right in the heart of Madrid."

When the advertising campaign ends at the end of the month, it will be donated to the Apascovi Foundation employment centre for people with disabilities who will re-use all of the materials for other projects.

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Jay Kay's Mini sells for €25,600

A MINI Countryman that was owned and restored by pop icon Jay Kay has been sold for €25,600.

The Jamiroqui singer offloaded his pristine Mini estate at an auction last Saturday despite recently giving it a full makeover.

He fitted it out in homage to the much sportier Mini Cooper S, with a full body restoration that transformed the motor from a bare shell into a gleaming red classic.

Work commissioned by Jay Kay has included a new sportier gearbox, a specialist handling kit and brand new state of the art disc brakes, along with a full body respray in tartan red paint.

A new, much more powerful four-cylinder 1.3 litre engine was also installed, giving the Mini much more bark than before.

Inside is a red leather interior with a period cigarette lighter, and a hint of the modern with a hidden Bluetooth audio system.

After spending several thousand pounds on the makeover, the musician has used the car sparingly as a runaround at one of his holiday homes.

The characterful Mini Countryman went under the hammer with Silverstone Auctions, at their Stoneleigh Park sale in Coventry.

La Liga Preview

Barca seek to extend record unbeaten run

by Ben Park

BARCELONA will look to extend their record unbeaten run as they travel to struggling Las Palmas later tonight (Thursday).

The league leaders thrashed neighbours Girona 6-1 on Saturday as a Luis Suarez hat-trick, Messi's brace and a stunning strike from Philippe Coutinho saw the Catalan giants set a new club record of 32 games unbeaten.

Following tonight's fixture, they host Atletico Madrid at the Camp Nou just four days later in a top of the table clash.

Atletico, who currently sit in second, will be without highly rated duo Yannick Carrasco and Nico Gaitan after announcing that they had left for Chinese side Dalian Yifang earlier in the week.

Elsewhere, Real Betis continue their push for a Europa League place as they host Real Sociedad later this

evening (Thursday).

Betis are hot on the tails of Sevilla in sixth having won four of their last six league games and will be looking for a win against bottom of the table Sociedad, before fact Valencia on Saturday.

At the other end of the table, Alaves will hope to pull further away from the relegation places as they face struggling Levante.

The Babazorros El Glorioso have hit a rich vein of form in recent weeks, winning three of their last four, and victory over tonight's relegation rivals may all but secure their safety before heading to Real Sociedad on Sunday.

Last season's champions Real Madrid will look to continue their recent good form as they welcome Getafe to the Bernabeu on Sunday.

Madrid have refound their scoring boots in the past few games, much thanks to the return to goalscoring form of Cris-

tiano Ronaldo, and will look to continue to boost their confidence ahead of their Champions League second-leg with Paris Saint German on Tuesday.

Full fixture list

Today (Thursday)

Real Betis vs Real Sociedad

Las Palmas vs Barcelona

Alaves vs Levante

Saturday

Villarreal vs Girona

Sevilla vs Athletic Bilbao

Deportivo La Coruña vs Eibar

Leganes vs Malaga

Real Madrid vs Getafe

Sunday

Levante vs Espanyol

Barcelona vs Atletico Madrid

Real Sociedad vs Alaves

Valencia vs Real Betis

Monday, March 5

Celta Vigo vs Las Palmas

Premier League preview

Manchester City face tough double-header

MANCHESTER CITY play Arsenal for the second time in four days later tonight (Thursday) hoping to extend their lead at the top of the Premier League.

The runaway league leaders were far from their brilliant best against tonight's opponents in the Carabao Cup final on Sunday, but still coasted to a 3-0 victory over the North London side.

Goals from Sergio Aguerro, Vincent Kompany and David Silva were enough to brush aside a very poor Arsenal at Wembley to secure the Citizens' first trophy of the season.

They sit 13 points clear at the top of the table and face an Arsenal side who currently find themselves 10 points adrift of the Champions League places.

Anything but a victory for the Gunners will all but ensure that they will not qualify for next season's Champions League competition, who later face Brighton on Sunday.

Following their match against Arsenal, City are back in action

no less than three days later as they welcome Chelsea to the Etihad.

Chelsea will be looking to bounce back from their loss at the hands of Manchester United on Sunday and get back into the Champions League places.

In order to do that they will need Tottenham to lose, who continue their own quest for a top for spot as they host Huddersfield at Wembley on Saturday.

Spurs opened up a two-point gap between them and fifth placed Chelsea following their late win against Crystal Palace last weekend and also sit just two points behind third placed Liverpool.

Liverpool themselves will go back up to second in the table if they beat Newcastle on Saturday at Anfield.

The Reds ran riot against West Ham last weekend as goals from Emre Can, Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane ensured that their unbeaten record at Anfield in the Premier League remained intact.

At the other end of the table, two huge games in the battle against relegation as Southampton host Stoke while Swansea face West Ham.

Just six points separate Swansea in 18th and Watford in 10th, meaning up to 11 teams are facing the real threat

of relegation with just 10 games left to play of the season.

On Monday, Manchester United will look to consolidate their Champions League position as they travel to relegation threatened Crystal Palace.

The Red Devils held on to a memorable 2-1 victory over Chelsea on Sunday as goals from Romelu Lukaku and Jesse Lingard were enough to see off last season's champions, while Palace could find themselves back in the Premier League bottom three before they kick-off should results not go their way.

Full fixture list

Today (Thursday)

Arsenal vs Manchester City

Saturday

Burnley vs Everton

Leicester City vs Bournemouth

Southampton vs Stoke City

Swansea City vs West Ham Utd

Tottenham vs Huddersfield Town

Watford vs West Bromwich A

Liverpool vs Newcastle United

Sunday

Brighton and H A vs Arsenal

Manchester City vs Chelsea

Monday, March 5

Crystal Palace vs Manchester Utd

SPANISH LA LIGA 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	PI	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 • Barcelona	25	20	5	0	68	12	65
2 • Atlético	25	17	7	1	41	11	58
3 • Real Madrid	25	15	6	4	62	27	51
4 • Valencia	25	15	4	6	49	29	49
5 • Villarreal	25	12	5	8	36	29	41
6 • Sevilla	25	12	3	10	33	40	39
7 • Betis	25	11	3	11	43	50	36
8 • Celta	25	10	5	10	43	37	35
9 • Eibar	25	10	5	10	32	38	35
10 • Girona	25	9	7	9	35	36	34
11 • Getafe	25	8	9	8	29	22	33
12 • Athletic	25	7	10	8	26	28	31
13 • Leganés	25	8	6	11	21	28	30
14 • R. Sociedad	25	8	5	12	47	47	29
15 • Espanyol	25	6	10	9	22	32	28
16 • Alavés	25	9	1	15	22	37	28
17 • Levante	25	3	11	11	21	40	20
18 • Las Palmas	25	5	4	16	18	52	19
19 • Deportivo	25	4	6	15	24	53	18
20 • Málaga	25	3	4	18	16	40	1

Champions L.

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Relegation

PREMIER LEAGUE 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	PI	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 • M. City	27	23	3	1	79	20	72
2 • M. United	28	18	5	5	53	20	59
3 • Liverpool	28	16	9	3	65	32	57
4 • Tottenham H.	28	16	7	5	53	24	55
5 • Chelsea	28	16	5	7	50	25	53
6 • Arsenal	27	13	6	8	51	36	45
7 • Burnley	28	9	10	9	22	25	37
8 • Leicester City	28	9	9	10	40	41	36
9 • Everton	28	9	7	12	32	47	34
10 • Watford	28	9	6	13	38	47	33
11 • Bournemouth	28	8	8	12	33	43	32
12 • Brighton	28	7	10	11	26	37	31
13 • West Ham Utd.	28	7	9	12	35	50	30
14 • Huddersfield Town	28	8	6	14	25	48	30
15 • Newcastle United	28	7	8	13	27	38	29
16 • Southampton	28	5	12	11	29	41	27
17 • Crystal Palace	28	6	9	13	25	43	27
18 • Swansea City	28	7	6	15	21	41	27
19 • Stoke City	28	6	8	14	28	54	26
20 • West Bromwich	28	3	11	14	22	42	20

Full speed ahead!

FORMULA ONE teams have begun their 2018 pre-season testing in Barcelona.

The first test of the week-long pre-season testing officially got underway on Monday; with drama unfolding from the get go.

McLaren got off to the worst possible start as Fernando Alonso lost a wheel after six laps on the first day.

The two-time champion lost control at the final corner of Spain's Circuit de Catalunya and his right wheel came loose of the car.

At the time, McLaren Executive Director, Zak Brown said: "There is no drama. It is quite an easy fix.

"It is what testing is for. All the teams will have a variety of issues. We will lose very little time. No

big deal at all."

Alonso had been on course to set the fastest time of the day so far when he crashed out and was back out before the end of the day, setting the fifth fastest time; before they lapped quicker than they managed in the whole of testing last year on day two.

Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo set the pace on day one and was the only driver to complete 100 laps, finishing ahead of Valtteri Bottas' Mercedes and Kimi Raikkonen for Ferrari.

Testing continues for the rest of the week and after this week's session, another test will take place in Barcelona between March 6 and 9, before the season officially gets underway in Australia on March 25.



CUP WINNERS:
City comfortably beat Arsenal 3-0 in the Carabao Cup final on Sunday.



LA LIGA President Javier Tebas has announced the date for this season's second El Clasico. The much-anticipated clash between Barcelona and Real Madrid will officially take place on Sunday, May 6 at 8:45pm to reportedly appeal to the American market.

TO READ MORE

Axarquía's best guide to local sport

SuperJavi steals the show

SPANISH figure skater Javier Fernandez stole the show at the exhibition gala at the end of the Winter Olympics with a super performance.

The exhibition gala sees figure skaters from around the world come together to perform routines that are not judged and enjoyed by large crowds.

Fresh from taking his first Olympic bronze medal in Pyeongchang, the 26-year-old performed his 'SuperJavi' routine, which he first debuted in 2013, with a standout moment coming when the Spaniard was covered in a bucketful of



SUPERJAVI: The bronze medallist wowed with his performance.

water by an accomplice while lying on the ice.

During his performance, 'SuperJavi' also showed off by doing press ups and paraded around the rink in his Spanish inspired superman costume for his 1980's inspired routine.

Other highlights from the exhibition gala saw the Olympic Athlete from Russia Alina Zagitova dressed in a skin-tight tiger suit and Uzbekistani skater Misha Ge combine dance moves with boxing.



Credit: Twitter

NEYMAR: Expected to return before the end of the season in time for the World Cup.

Neymar to sit out crucial clash

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN forward Neymar is expected to miss his side's crucial Champions League tie with Real Madrid after suffering a fractured metatarsal and a twisted ankle injury.

The world's most expensive player played a pivotal role in his side's 3-0 win over Marseille on Sunday, but left the field in tears as he was stretchered off after rolling his ankle.

Fears of a broken ankle were quickly allayed after the Brazilian underwent scans on Sunday and Monday, which reportedly revealed that the injury is not as bad as first expected.

PSG confirmed on their official website "Further examinations on Monday have confirmed (Neymar has) a twisted right ankle and

a hairline fracture of the fifth metatarsal."

While no indication was given as to how long the 26-year-old will be out for, he is expected to miss a number of weeks due to the injury, but should reportedly recover before the end of the season in time for the World Cup.

Madrid take a 3-1 lead to Paris after they came from behind to secure a memorable victory at the Bernabeu. Late goals from Cristiano Ronaldo and Marcelo gave the holders a commanding lead ahead of the second leg after the Portuguese superstar's 100th Champions League goal for Real had levelled Rabiot's opener.

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