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On the run

Prisoner escapes on way to hospital

by Joe Gerrard

An inmate from the Sangonera La Verde Prison became the subject of a police search after reportedly fleeing from custody while being taken for hospital treatment.

The prisoner, convicted of drug offences, escaped shortly before being taken into the Emergency Department of the Virgen de la Arrixaca hospital in Murcia at around 2pm last Saturday.

Police said a search operation had been active since then but refused to provide further details, according to reports.

The inmate, who reportedly has a lengthy criminal record, told prison workers he felt a pain in his foot before the transfer.

Arrangements were made to take him from the prison to hospital which is around



Credit: Google Maps

ESCAPED: The inmate fled after the vehicle transporting him stopped outside the Virgen de la Arrixaca hospital in Murcia.

two kilometres away due to there being no x-ray equipment there.

The prisoner ran out of the vehicle that took him for treatment and hit one of his guards before reportedly getting into a waiting car which drove off.

It has not been possible to

establish whether the inmate was able to contact someone before the transfer to according to reports.

The Guardia Civil said neither of the two officers who guarded the prisoner were seriously injured by him during the incident. The escape marks the first from prisons in Murcia for at least 10 years.

The police added the reason for the inmate being transported to the hospital without handcuffs or shack-

les was still to be confirmed. It was a decision that would have been taken by prison authorities, they said.

The news comes after a union representing prison workers criticised the running of the institutions, which they said were understaffed.

The ACAIP union made the claim following the death of a prisoner who allegedly killed himself after taking a mixture of drink and drugs. The cause of death is yet to be confirmed.

Total balls up

AN elderly man has been rescued by firefighters after an unfortunate incident at a hotel in Torrevieja.

According to reports, the man was taking a shower using a chair to aid himself at a hotel in Torrevieja when he found that he had become trapped in the chair.

The man, who reportedly suffers from senile dementia, became stuck when one of his testicles became trapped in a slit of a seat in the shower.

Emergency services were called to the scene, with firefighters reportedly having to break the plastic of the chair in order to release the trapped testicle.

TERRA NATURA
ZOO Benidorm
DISCOUNT
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dfs
San Javier
See page 14

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NEWS EXTRA

No time to spare

DAYLIGHT saving time starts this weekend, with clocks going forward by an hour at 1am on Saturday, meaning we will lose an hour of sleep, but benefit from an earlier sunrise and sunset until October.

Appy tax

THE Spanish Tax Agency has released a mobile phone app - available by searching 'Agencia Tributaria' on both Google Play and Apple app stores - to help citizens submit their tax returns, this year's campaign running from April 4 to June 27.

By the book

THE Euro Weekly News Facebook page has soared past 25,000 'likes,' a year-on-year leap of more than 31 per cent, as the EWN website and social media continue to demonstrate rapid growth in 2018.

Car blaze

FIREFIGHTERS were called to the A-30 motorway to put out a burning vehicle which reportedly set on fire after its engine overheated, with the Guardia Civil confirming that no one had been injured.

Stubbed out

SIX people have been arrested in Alicante as part of an operation that has seen more than 120 people arrested across the country on suspicion of tobacco smuggling.

In the second phase of the operation known as 'Pacote,' which has lasted over a year, Guardia Civil officers have reportedly analysed more than 172,000 computer files and 3,000 different shipments in order to extract enough evidence to enable these arrests.

Those arrested are believed to form part of a criminal organisation that would allegedly use courier companies and rental vans to smuggle tobacco throughout Europe in order to bypass police.

A total of 124 people have been arrested as a result in provinces including: Albacete, Alicante, Almeria, Badajoz, Barcelona, Cádiz, Castellón, Ciudad Real, Córdoba, Huelva, Jaén, La Coruña, León, Madrid, Málaga, Murcia, Navarra, Pontevedra, Seville, Tarragona, Toledo and Valencia.

Jail rap for sex abuser

A MAN in Torrevieja has been sentenced to four years in prison after pleading guilty to abusing his 10-year-old daughter.

According to reports, the case dates back to 2011, when the girl, along with her two siblings was living with her father following the separation of her parents.

And it was reportedly during this time that the man would sexually abused his then 10-year-old daughter on several occasions.

The Public Prosecutor's Office had initially asked for a six-year sentence but an agreement was reached to reduce the man's sentence to four years as he

had pleaded guilty to the crime.

As a result of the plea, the man has also been given a restraining order against his daughter for 14 years.

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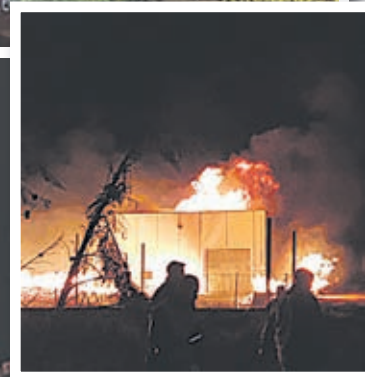
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UP IN SMOKE: The blaze tore through the pallet factory.

Wall of smoke
Huge fire rips through factory

by Benjamin Park

THE Moval pallet factory in La Molina has been left decimated after a huge fire ripped through the building on Saturday.

Several firefighters were called to the scene on Calle La Hoya late on Saturday night to tackle the huge blaze after a security guard at the factory had warned of the outbreak of a fire.

The factory, which housed wooden pallets, became engulfed in flames as firefighters initially struggled to control the fire.

Those on the scene reportedly worked throughout the night and some of the morning to control the blaze, which is believed to have left half of the building in ashes and burned through several company vehicles.

No one was reported injured as a result of the fire while the surrounding area is also believed to have been left unaffected.

Investigations are currently underway to determine the cause of the fire and sources have reportedly confirmed to Spanish media that the rest of the factory will now be demolished due to structural damage caused by the fire.

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Readers' views on eclectic topics in print and online.

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MOTORING

ALL THE LATEST CAR NEWS PLUS OUR WEEKLY TEST DRIVE



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Police guns criticism

OPPOSITION parties have criticised the National Police in Murcia after officers armed with sub-machine guns were deployed in the Santiago El Mayor area while children made their way to school. Government Delegate Francisco Bernabe said they were there due to the high terror alert level.

Crime plan

CARTAGENA councillor Cesar Pion has sent a letter to Sergio Londoño Zurek, the city's mayor, proposing initiatives to reduce crime locally. The document calls for the strengthening of social inclusion and oversight over youth and family intervention programmes to stop rising crime, Councillor Pion said.

Job figures

THE number of those in work in Murcia has reached its highest level since late 2008, according to Spain's National Institute of Statistics (INS). Figures showed there were around 586,400 people with a job in the province, 81,700 more than at the low point of 2013.

Car fire

FIREFIGHTERS were called to a burning car after the driver noticed smoke coming from the engine and pulled over on the Avenida Doctor Gregorio Marañon in Torrevieja. Emergency services covered spilled fuel on the road with foam before putting out the fire on Thursday.

Bullying drive

MORE than 100 schools in 46 different urban areas in Alicante and Albacete are set to take part in an anti-bullying campaign. The campaign was organised by Oscar Sanchez, a Local Police officer from Elche, who has reportedly spoken to around 16,000 students to date.

Spring break!

THE BIG PICTURE Nº 6



TOTAL WIPEOUT: Huge waves batter the Galician coast.

SPRING has sprung, but the winter chill lingers on.

Much of Spain has spent the week in the grip of a deep Siberian cold front that brought blizzards, strong winds and giant waves.

The north and centre of the country was badly affected by snow, with almost 200 stretches of road closed and schools shut down in Galicia, Cantabria, Asturias, Castilla y Leon, Castilla-La

Mancha and Cataluña.

Meanwhile a second storm battered southern Spain, with five-metre waves and gale-force winds lashing Andalucia and the Balearic Islands.

A motorist was killed in Jaen Province before a Guardia Civil officer lost his life after being swept away by flood waters while rescuing three people in Guillena, Sevilla.

The Arctic blast saw tempera-

tures plummet, with the mercury in some regions plunging to between 10-15°C below average for the time of year.

And the freezing snap came as the country said an official goodbye to winter on Tuesday, the first day of spring.

Falling on the vernal equinox, the date on which day and night both last for around 12 hours, it usually takes place on March 19, 20 or 21.

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Do you have news for us?

Email: newsdesk@euroweeklynews.com or call 951 38 61 61 and ask for the EWN news team.

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On the wing



Photo credit Matt Ford/Shutterstock

IN A FLAP: A huge group of white storks arrives at Tarifa in Cadiz and (inset) a short-toed snake eagle makes the crossing.

It is one of Europe's greatest natural spectacles. And the annual spring migration of millions of birds from their wintering grounds in sub-Saharan Africa across the Strait of Gibraltar to breed in Europe is in full swing.

With just 14 kilometres separating the two continents at the Strait, the area serves up ideal conditions for huge numbers of large soaring species from storks to raptors including eagles, kites, and vultures.

This is because they are not strong flyers, and rely on thermals - the columns of rising air that form above the land as it warms in the sun - to travel.

But thermals do not form over water, meaning the birds have to use the narrowest hop possible, rising as high as possible in Morocco before gliding over to Spain.

Spread over several months, peak numbers are observed from March to May, and on a good day it is possible to see literally thousands of birds of prey, storks and smaller birds make the crossing.

Although some stay in Spain, many continue on

their epic journeys to northern Europe, Greenland or Russia, having already crossed the Sahara, the world's largest desert, with some racking up more than 5,000 kilometres.

But there is concern that the migration is in danger, with the numbers of birds returning to their breeding grounds plummeting in recent years, with some species in danger of disappearing completely.

Threats from hunting to illegal poisoning, power lines, wind farms and draining of wetlands have had a devastating effect on populations, which are thought to have halved to 2.1 billion since the 1950s.

Yet it is still a not-to-be-missed extravaganza for nature buffs.

There are a number of dedicated migration watchpoints along the coast between Gibraltar and the kite surfing mecca of Tarifa, Cadiz, and the website c/ is a good source of information should you wish to take your seat for one of the greatest shows on earth.

POLL OF THE WEEK

In the wake of national protests, should Spain introduce life prison sentences for a wider range of crimes?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Following recent parliamentary debates, should Spain decriminalise insulting the crown?

Yes **67%**

No **33%**

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TOP 5 stories

Holiday sickness scammers face £15,000 in costs for fake claim in Spain

COUPLE: Must pay £15,000 in costs to Tui for fraudulent claim.

- 8,339** views Holiday sickness scammers face £15,000 for fake claim
- 8,132** views Police find body of missing eight-year-old boy in Spain
- 5,780** views Girl who died in window fall was daughter of woman arrested with body of dead boy in car
- 5,734** views Father's girlfriend confesses that she killed Gabriel Cruz Ramirez
- 4,227** views Drunk and aggressive Brit pair held after clash with airport police

**For week 12 - 19 March*

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FOR COMMENTS FROM EWN ONLINE TURN TO LETTERS PAGE

CORRECTIONS

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Don't walk this way



CONTROVERSIAL: The construction of the new footbridge.

DEMONSTRATORS gathered in the Santiago El Mayor area of Murcia City to call on local authorities to halt the construction of a footbridge over a railway line.

Protestors claimed the building of the bridge would have "serious" consequences, including harming business in that area of the city.

The demonstration also saw readings from manifestos and accusations of a

disproportionate response from police to demonstrators, including at the recent International Women's Day marches.

Protestors moved from Santiago El Mayor to the city centre later in the day. The police presence consisted of four vans and around 20 officers, according to local media.

Local residents have also previously taken issue with a decision to open the bridge

before it is finished. They said people with reduced mobility would not be able to climb it.

Adif, the railway infrastructure body overseeing the works, said they hoped the crossing would open by late this year.

They added they were aiming to install both a level and 'catwalk' crossing at the site and have the two running simultaneously until pedestrians got used to the latter.

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BESOTTED:
Liam and Zaidi.

Footie star's brekky quiz

HE'S the Liverpool legend who saved two penalties in a Champions League final shootout.

And Jerzy Dudek, 44, proved he is the master of confusion after showing off his eccentric breakfast choice while holidaying in Spain.

The Polish goalkeeper famously employed the 'spaghetti legs' tactic used by former Reds 'keeper Bruce Grobbelaar to distract opposition players during penalties at the end of the 2005 final against AC Milan, which Liverpool won 3-2.

And he warmed up for a round of golf in La Manga, Murcia, by tucking into a peculiar combination of baked beans, croissants, salami and half a cherry tomato on a cocktail stick.

He even posed with the meal before posting a snap on social media, captioned: 'What is your breakfast like? Mine today is to give a good result in the field.'

GOLDEN GIRL: Kylie's career has spanned three decades.

Photo credit Jerzy Dudek/Instagram



FULL SPANGLISH:
Jerzy Dudek.



Photo credit Twitter

Minogue in vogue

SHE'S the pint-sized pop star on a whistle stop tour to promote her new album.

And Australian singer Kylie Minogue, 49, was all smiles as she stepped off the plane at Barcelona Airport clad in a fluffy white jumper.

The *Can't Get You Out Of My Head* hitmaker was in Spain ahead of her 14th long player Golden hitting the shops on April 6.

Reality lovebirds frolic on the beach



SURVIVORS: Metisse and Tristan.

Photo credit Metisse Campbell/Instagram

THEY hit it off while competing against each other in the South African savannah on *Survival of the Fittest*. And Metisse Campbell, 21, and Tristan Jones, 20, showed they are still going strong after being snapped on a Spanish beach.

The reality stars jetted off for their first holiday as a couple in the wake of their appearance on the ITV2 show dubbed the 'ultimate battle of the sexes.'

While Tristan donned a pair of pink swimming shorts, Metisse sent temperatures soaring after slipping into a revealing red bikini.

She was crowned the fittest of the winning girls' team at the end of the series and chose to split her £40,000 winnings with her teammates.

The pair were both models before their TV stint.

Benidorm love story

TWO members of the Benidorm cast have revealed they are a real life couple.

Adam Gillen plays Liam Conroy while Laila Zaidi joined the latest series as Rob Dawson's girlfriend Cyd.

And the pair appear to have got together while filming last summer, with a slew of social media selfies showing them together, including a recent jaunt to paradise island Mauritius.

Fun in the sun

IT'S a coming together of reality TV royalty.

Former *Ex on the Beach* and *TOWIE* star Megan McKenna and *Love Island* hunk 'Muggy' Mike Thalassitis have confirmed they are an item.

It comes after a series of racy snaps appeared of the pair as they holidayed together in Tenerife.



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OUR VIEW

NGOs must boost employees' rights

THE revelations about charity employees' wages in Spain are nothing short of a disgrace.

Full-time workers for giant non-profit organisations (NGOs) including the Red Cross, the country's biggest, can earn less than €800 per month gross, while managers bring home €3,500 plus.

The third sector rakes in €14 billion annually, representing 1.5 per cent of Spain's gross domestic product.

So why can it not afford to pay its staff a decent wage?

NGOs are by definition supposed to balance investments against revenue, but the behaviour of some suggests they are becoming ever more corporate.

And in a sector which aims to tug at the heart strings as it appeals for donations, there is an irony in the fact that many of its employees are victims of the same human rights issues they are battling to overturn elsewhere.

One anonymous staff member told Spanish media: "One major conflict is that many organisations fight for human rights, including employment rights, and there's a perverse logic at work in which they compete to bring down costs to win contracts that the government has outsourced to the detriment of salaries."

This smacks of a worryingly institutionalised corporate approach by charity bosses in Spain, and suggests that NGOs may to an extent perpetuate the problems they were set up to solve.

Charity wage woe goes on - page 46

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Former PM brings Irish charm

BRIAN COWEN, the former Taoiseach of Ireland, took part in an annual St Patrick's Day parade in Cabo Roig as Grand Marshall last Saturday.

Cowen, who served as the country's Prime Minister from 2008 to 2011, was joined by Frank Fahey, a former minister and former mayor of Galway Martin Quinn.

Onlookers told the *Irish Independent* that Cowen was in great spirits and that locals were delighted to have him there.

"He is a great name to lead out the parade," one said.

The former Taoiseach donned a green tie, a sash with the colours of Ireland on it and a bunch of shamrocks on his jacket for the event.

His duties as Grand Marshall included overseeing the parade of local businesses, charities and groups who were compet-



Credit: Irish Echo Australia/Facebook

GRAND MARSHALL: Cowen oversaw the St Patrick's Day festivities in Cabo Roig last weekend.

ing for the €500 prize for the best float.

Cowen cut the ribbon for a pub in the area, visited an Irish bar and played a round of golf

during the visit.

He also posed for pictures with spectators and showed off a sign for the Costa Blanca Irish Caravan and Camping Club.

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NEWS EXTRA

Business park expansion

ELCHE Council's governing board has approved increasing the size of the Torrellano Business Park by around 600,000 square metres, as well as granting money to a youth employment programme and homes for the disabled.

Quarry fees

AN Izquierda unida member of Lorca's city council has claimed the authority has not charged companies a fee for quarrying in public forests in the area since 2012 which would make extractions illegal.

Stolen car

POLICE in Los Alcazares have arrested a man on identity theft charges after two cars he drove were allegedly found to have been stolen and fitted with false registration plates.

Labour cost fall largest in nation

THE average cost per worker per month fell by 1.3 per cent in the final quarter of 2017, the largest drop in the price of labour of the autonomous communities.

Each employee cost firms in Murcia an average of almost €2,409 a month by the end of last year, according to the National Institute of Statistics (INS).

Included in this figure is the wage cost which stood at an average of more than €1,814, a fall of 1.5 per cent compared to the same period in 2016.

Non-salary payments and social security contributions, as well as other costs, made up the rest of the total at almost €595. Those costs fell by 0.7 per cent from the final quarter of 2016.

Joy for the jobless

MURCIA's Employment Minister, Juan Hernandez, has announced that his department has pledged €4.6 million to help companies hire the unemployed.

Grants from this budget allocation will be made available until October 1 to companies that offer internships or permanent contracts to the out of work.

The council believe that the fortunes of 1,000 disadvantaged people will be transformed in this way.

Mr Hernandez said: "This aid will encourage more and more companies to expand their workforce."

"The fundamental thing is that they will not only be stable contracts but will benefit the unemployed which is a priority for this council."

Groups of unemployed that are being focused on include people under 30; the long term unemployed; people at risk of social exclusion; victims of terrorism and female victims of violence.

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FRUIT FELONS: The thieves were stopped in their tracks.

Orange thieves caught red handed

THE Local Police of Orihuela has arrested five people from the towns of Cabezo de Torres and El Palmar for the alleged robbery of 1,200 kilos of oranges in an orchard of Las Majadas. Three men, a woman and

a teenager have been detained in the operation, which saw 14 police officers seize 87 large bags of oranges. An investigation began following a telephone call which reported the presence

of four cars of people who were not known in the area. Police mobilised immediately and as well as making the arrests and taking away the bags of oranges, also discovered tools to cut fences, and several torches.

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Car thief caught in cop chase

THE Local Police of Murcia have arrested a man after he was caught trying to flee from a stolen car. A black SEAT Ibiza had been reported stolen a few days earlier and was spotted in the Infante Don Juan Manual district. A phone call to police led them on the hunt and the car was located on Calle Pintor Pedro Flores where it was ordered to stop. The driver, a 42-year-old Moroccan, got out and tried to escape on foot but was caught after a short chase. However, there was a passenger in the car who also ran away, and he could not be found. Police discovered equipment in the stolen car that could be used for breaking and entering properties, and the detainee has been transferred to the Carmen District Police Station.

Rajoy visits Murcia for PP conference

By Joe Gerrard

THE Spanish Prime Minister was in Murcia to close the 17th Congress of the Partido Popular (PP) in the region of Murcia last Sunday.

Mariano Rajoy addressed delegates at the conference who were there to discuss the party's platform and strategy for the region.

He told those in attendance that the PP had put the general interest of Spain first when making tough decisions and that the party was 'focused, open and responsible.'

"We are the original party of the Spanish centre-right. We have our record to present to the Spanish people, an accredited trajectory of seriousness, efficiency, solvency and responsible management," Rajoy said.

He added the PP government offered safe pensions in contrast to what he described as false promises from opposition parties.

"The only thing that can put pensions at risk is a return to the erroneous policies that Spain lived under in the years prior to our arrival in government.

"Spain cannot afford to return to policies of economic recession, neg-



SPEECH: Mariano Rajoy was in Murcia to speak to PP delegates at a regional conference.

ative growth, unemployment and the collapse of public accounts," he said.

The Prime Minister also highlighted a planned increase in the inter-professional minimum wage. He said the wage, which applies to people on lower incomes, would rise by 4, 5 and 10 per cent in 2018, 2019

and 2020 respectively.

He added an increase in the salaries for public officials would be included in the 2018 budget.

Rajoy also addressed issues relating to water and reforms to the system of financing Spain's Autonomous Communities. He said the PP wanted to work with the opposi-

tion Partido Socialista (PSOE) to resolve the issues.

"It will be better for everyone in Spain if they are able to get along with the government in matters that affect the Spanish," he said.

The Prime Minister also spoke about the recent debate surrounding permanent prison sentences. The PP

recently lost a vote in the Spanish Parliament to increase the number of crimes the measure applies to.

Rajoy said other political parties should have 'sensitivity' about the issue and that they should be prepared to listen to people who supported the sentences.

"Do not say the victims ask for revenge, because it is a lie and that is an insult to them. What they are asking is for no one to suffer pain like they have suffered," he said.

Diego Conesa, the general secretary of the PSOE in Murcia, said the government had not taken the issue of pensions seriously. He added the PP had broken the Toledo pact between the two parties on the matter.

"You cannot send a letter to pensioners in this country saying that their pensions will rise by €1. They will think that more money was spent on the letter than the increase," he said.

Francisco Lucas, the deputy general secretary of the PSOE in the region, said the PP's conference was a 'crude' attempt at democracy.

"It is a clear example of the lack of democracy in the PP. It was a pantomime," he said.

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Roman amphitheatre to make a comeback



Credit: Ayuntamiento de Cartagena

ENTERTAINED?: Excavators will uncover more secrets of the site.

THE restoration of the Roman Amphitheatre in Cartagena is underway, with the first phase focusing on restoration of the double outer ring.

Three rooms, called 'jails' which housed gladiators and animals, will be excavated and despite the works, tourists will be able to visit the site from May onwards.

Archaeologists discovered the three jails near the Autopsy Pavilion and councillor for Culture, David Martinez, explained that Cartagena Council has invested €200,000 in the project. A Master Plan is in the process of being drawn up which will establish the full cost of the excavations, as well as the full roadmap of the work ahead.

plained that Cartagena Council has invested €200,000 in the project. A Master Plan is in the process of being drawn up which will establish the full cost of the excavations, as well as the full roadmap of the work ahead.

Council's pet project under fire

THE Popular Party is to raise a series of questions to Cartagena Council as to the progress of plans for canine beaches and parks in the town. Councillor Carolina Palazon commented: "Two

years on, Cartagena still does not promote the coexistence between people and animals, and the pet-friendly spaces that were promised are nowhere to be seen."

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Council agrees €629,000

WORKS for the second project of 'Murcia river,' a new green route between Calle Gaspar de la Peña and the Segura river, will begin after the spring festival.

A sum of €629,000 has been allocated by Murcia Council in order for the restoration work to be carried out by the UTE Eneas Servicios Integrales.

The objective is to remodel the landscape of the area with fruit trees, palm trees, horticultural gardens and recreational areas.

Some regions more equal than others

A RECENT report has found that Murcia is among the autonomous communities with the least social mobility, along with Madrid, Andalucía and Cataluña.

The study, entitled: 'Educational Equity in Spain' by the Ramon Areces Foundation, also reveals that Galicia, Castile, Leon and the Basque Country are the regions in which the socio-economic status of the student has the least influence on their performance.

These areas even rank above the OECD average of countries like Norway, Canada and Finland.

The findings are based on information provided by the latest Programme for Inter-

national Student Assessment (PISA) report of the OECD, in which all autonomous communities took part for the first time (28,864 students aged 15).

Researchers used the three competences of international criteria, Language, Mathematics and Science for the study.

"An equitable educational system guarantees that academic performance is determined by effort and capability regardless of students' social and economic background," say the report's authors.

It was acknowledged that more information would be needed to establish why some regions are falling behind in the assessment.

NEWS EXTRA

Software secures port

CARTAGENA'S Port Authority has said its anti-malware computer program helped to improve performance, a statement which comes after the traffic of goods reportedly rose by 9 per cent in 2017 to 35 million tons.

Bridge win

A BRIDGE made out of around 1,500 ice cream sticks that took four days to build has won a 15th annual load bearing contest at Elche's Miguel Hernandez University after it supported 928 kilograms.

Farm forum

LORCA played host to the first Agriculture Innovation Forum held in Murcia, which saw around 30 companies discuss introducing automation, cyber-security and drone technology on their farms.

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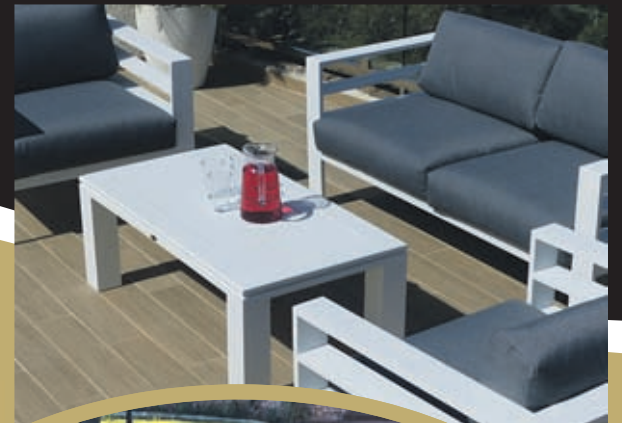
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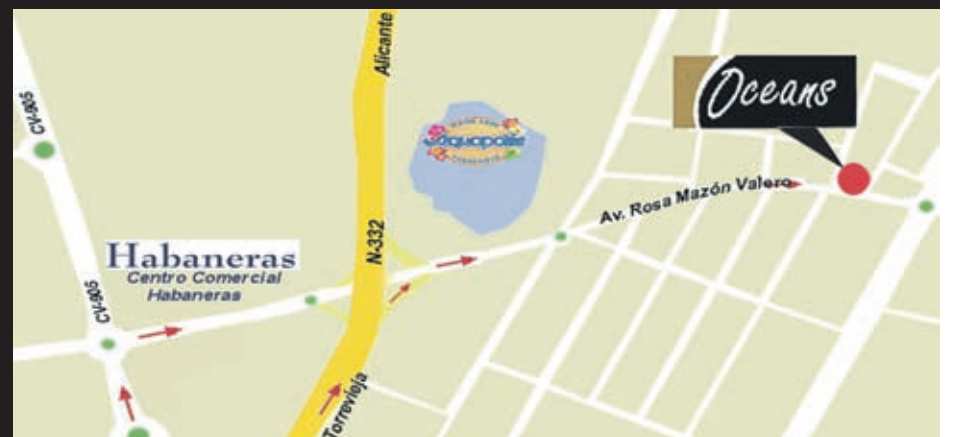
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Criminal con caught out

THE Guardia Civil in Murcia has arrested a seasoned offender in Mazarron after an investigation.

There had been two search warrants issued for the man's arrest by the Provincial Court of Alicante. The Algerian detainee, 35, was caught by police driving without a licence, and has also been charged with a road safety offence.

Given his lack of documentation, the man tried to mislead the officers into believing that he was a different person who matched his physical attributes.

However, the Guardia Civil wasn't so easily fooled and the defendant was taken to a police station where his real identity was uncovered.



NICE TRY: The detainee tried to pass himself off as someone else.

Credit: Guardia Civil

Alleged paedophile facing time

A MAN has appeared in the Court of Alicante charged with downloading and sharing child pornography.

According to reports, the alleged events occurred between 2011 and 2013 when the man

would distribute videos and photographs of a sexual nature, containing images of children between the ages of four and 13, on the internet.

After officers arrested the man and searched his home,

they reportedly found the material stored on his computer, with more allegedly found on an external hard drive.

As a result, the Public Prosecutor's Office has asked for a seven-year prison sentence.

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‘Water pact’ agreed for Alicante Province



Credit: Wikimedia Commons

AGREEMENT: The pact is designed to address shortages at sites such as the basin of the Segura river.

POLITICAL parties in the Diputacion de Alicante have agreed a province-wide water pact with public universities, irrigators and suppliers.

The provincial water pact, agreed last Friday, is designed to address issues relating to the supply of water in the Alicante area. The EsquerraUnidedel-Pais Valencia (EUPV) party was the only political group that did not back the pact.

Joaquin Melgarejo, the president of the water pact commission, said the issue of water was a fundamental one.

“This is an extraordinary agreement. For the first time in Spain in a province like ours, which has a structural water deficit, all political parties have

reached a consensus with irrigators, suppliers and technicians,” he said.

The pact covers issues such as water infrastructure, deficits, treatment, reuse, management and sustainability. It will now be sent to the Diputacion’s Technical Water Commission before going to the province’s Water Board for approval.

Raquel Perez, the EUPV’s deputy in the Diputacion, said the agreement incorrectly identified the cause of water shortages which she claimed was ‘dire’ management.

“There is an excess demand for water that has occurred with the PP’s consent and the permission of the Segura Hydrographic confederation,” she said.



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Churning... the worst enemy of your pension or investment portfolio?

By Sam Kelly, Managing Partner, Chorus Financial.



So, before anyone asks, no I've not given up financial services to campaign against the dairy industry! Churning, in financial terms, is when a financial advisor persuades a client to buy or sell funds with the sole intention of generating commissions, rather than acting in the client's best interests. This unethical practice is illegal in the UK, so why is it so prolific here in Spain?

The problem lies in the fact that in Spain, financial advisors can still receive hidden payments from investment fund providers. I have seen numerous examples here in Spain where companies have found a new fund provider who will pay them a 3-5% 'entry charge' when they persuade their clients to invest in that particular fund.

This generates problems in two ways: Firstly, that 3-5% comes right out of the client's pocket, and is either paid for by reducing the number of units you buy in the fund, or by elevating the fees for a period of time, normally 5 years, in order to recoup that payment. This can leave

the client playing catch up from day one. The other problem, and often even more damage results from this practice, is that funds that an advisor wouldn't usually recommend - perhaps because they don't have a strong track-record, are from an unproven fund house, or are poorly regulated - are finding their ways

into client's portfolios, thereby lowering the quality of their investment portfolio.

The funds your advisor chooses for your pension or investment portfolio, should be chosen independently, after rigorous research. The Chorus approach is to favour UK based, FCA regulated funds, from well-known fund houses like

Rathbones, Investec, HSBC, BlackRock, Fidelity and Aviva. We will never receive any financial incentive when it comes to choosing funds for a client's portfolio, so you can be confident that our goals are aligned with yours.

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Chorus will happily review any portfolio, whether it's in a QROPS, Spanish Compliant Bond or on a Platform, and let you know within 24 hours if you've been a victim of this practice. Even if it's just to reassure you everything is ok, it's better than taking the chance that you are holding an investment that may be exposing you to unnecessary risk.

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Tree bacteria campaign launched



CONTAINMENT: Citrus and olive trees in Murcia are believed to be under threat from Xylella.

MURCIA'S Agriculture Ministry has begun efforts to target the spread of the Xylella disease in the region's trees, which has included meeting with farmers to demonstrate containment methods.

The purpose of the campaign is to improve prevention, detection and control of the bacteria, which causes trees' fruit to decay and their leaves to dry out, among other problems.

The programme follows the

uprooting of hundreds of trees in Spain and elsewhere following the outbreak and spread of the disease, known as evola in olive trees.

Francisco Gonzalez, the general director of agriculture, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture in Murcia, said the region was joining with others in Spain and Portugal to combat the spread of bacteria.

"If Xylella spreads through a certain area one of the key points for managing it is relat-

ed to how the disease is transmitted between plants.

"This is being verified in Europe and from our experience in the USA and South America," he said.

The campaign is set to start this spring and last until autumn. It will reportedly see farming authorities in the region sample five citrus farms.

Citrus farms are an important part of Murcia's economy and cover more than 37,847 hectares of land.



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Kidnap investigation is on the move

POLICE have launched an investigation after rescuing a man in San Isidro who was found tied up in the boot of his car following an alleged kidnapping.

Officers were made aware of a potential incident when a dog walker reportedly called the emergency services claiming she had heard screams coming from a car parked at the end of a dead end street in San Isidro.

When arriving at the scene, police searched the car and in the boot, found the driver of the vehicle who had both his hands and feet tied up.

According to Spanish media, the man claimed to officers that he had been sitting at traffic lights in Albaterra when two men, who he described as Arab origin, came up to the car



Credit: Google maps

MAN FOUND. Police reportedly found him in the boot of his car at the end of a dead end street.

unexpectedly.

One of the men is claimed to have sat in the passenger seat next to him while the other sat behind him pull over before they allegedly assaulted him and stole €200 and a gold chain.

He also claimed that they then tied him up and put him in the boot before driving and dumping the car.

After freeing the man, officers took the man to a local health centre to be checked over and a full investigation into the incident is now underway.

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Big cats rescued from 'filthy' circus

by Matt Ford

THE heartbreaking moment that two lions and a tiger were freed from squalid circus cages in Spain was captured on video recently.

The starving animals were covered in bruises and sores and living in wretched conditions with floors covered in excrement.

Their claws had been removed, some had broken teeth and one of the lions had chewed part of its own tail off due to stress.

The emaciated cats were collected from the Circus Francia - also known as Circus Paris - in Murcia by specialists from the APP Primadomus (APP) exotic animal rescue in Villena, Alicante. It comes after months of negotiations between officials from the circus, local authorities and animal rights groups, with lawyer Raquel Lopez from the DeAnimals law firm acting as mediator.

The circus becomes the third in Spain to offload its live animals, with a pony and a bull among others rehomed.

Pablo Delgado, a big cat expert from APP, said that the "terrible conditions in which the animals, especially the lions, were kept is unfortunately typical in circus rescues.



Photo credit: APP Primadomus



CLAWS OF DEATH: The animals were saved in the nick of time.

"They were living in tiny cages, facilities without the legal requirements for a zoo, in the hands of people without the knowledge or proper means to take care of them."

A video uploaded by his team shows the animals being sedated ahead of their journey to the centre to begin their rehabilitation.

NEWS EXTRA

Religious symbol move

JUMILLA'S council has removed a Christian image from a public place in the town and the local Ombudsman has requested information on transferring it elsewhere after it was found to have violated religious neutrality rules.

Tribute paid

A SURPRISE dinner was put on for Miguel Lopez Sanchez in La Hoya on Sunday, with more than 250 people there to recognise his work as the director of San Antonio school.

Crop probes

MURCIA'S environmental authority received a total of 395 complaints about farms that have allegedly broken laws by raising crops on protected land, with around 140 cases being processed.

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King's visit is a fillip for irrigators

KING FELIPE VI is to attend the 14th National Congress of Irrigators in Torrevieja, having been invited by the organisers.

The event will take place in the town's International Auditorium from May 14-18, although the monarch's duties on the day have not yet been confirmed.

Ximo Puig, president of the autonomous community of Valencia, will open the conference and it is hoped that Felipe VI will preside over its closing, which is expected to host 1,500 irrigation professionals from all over the country.

The King has also been invited to visit the Diocesan School of Santo Domingo in Orihuela while he is in the area, and have lunch with the organisers.

The King recently took some time off from royal duties by spending it on the slopes at the



ROYAL APPROVAL: The King's presence is a boost for the irrigation industry.

Formigal ski resort in the Pyrenees mountains in the north of Spain.

Having the nation's monarch

to visit is reportedly an important boost for the industry, which forms a significant part of the country's economy.

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Man held over bank hacks

A 40-YEAR-OLD accused of being part of a network that stole hundreds of millions of dollars from banks in Russia, the USA and elsewhere has been arrested.

The Ukrainian citizen was picked up by National Police in Alicante City following an investigation into the hacking group. Police allege he was involved in fraud, money laundering and organised crime.

Authorities said little was known about the scope of the network but they have not ruled out allowing the suspect to be extradited to face trial elsewhere.

Police, including officers from the FBI, Russia and Europol, raided the suspect's apartment in the Playa de San Juan area of Alicante and arrested him on March 6. They also seized several computer files during the search.

Officers reportedly found the suspect to be in possession of several million bitcoins, with one unit of the currency currently worth around €6,877.

Investigators accused the suspect of buying the digital currency with money stolen from cash machines around the world by using a 'Trojan' computer virus.

Trojan viruses are designed to appear to a computer as legitimate software and are used by hackers to gain access to systems by fooling their security.

Other members of the group would collect the money from the machines in exchange for a commission, according to reports.

Police have not disclosed any further details about the functioning of the group due to the investigation being ongoing.

The suspect appeared before the National Court in Madrid which has remanded him in custody. The investigation continues.



Photo by Ayuntamiento de Murcia

HELPING HAND: The funding will help hundreds of marginalised women.

A worthwhile investment

MURCIA Council has allocated €6,463 of its budget to help fund the educational and professional training of women in the deprived areas of San Fernando de la Mora, in Paraguay.

Councillor for Social Rights and Development, Conchita Ruiz, announced the measure, which has been introduced in

collaboration with the Fade Foundation and the Association for the Development of Education, Excellence and Work.

The total number of beneficiaries of upper secondary education and professional training is to be 300 women from low-income families.

Those included in the programme will help develop a marketing plan and deliver two food fairs of produce that they themselves will have made.

There will be four different courses for professional training, as well as three workshops to hone personal skills.

NEWS EXTRA

TV head sacked

FRANCISCO MARTINEZ CAMPOS, director of Murcia public radio and television, has been dismissed over comments he made in an article about women journalists he said were "good to see," which critics branded as sexist.

Equality plan

MURCIA City Council's social rights commission approved a male and female equal opportunities plan last Friday, with the title of Favourite Son of the City of Murcia also approved for five people at the meeting.

Beach works

ALICANTE'S tourist board has reportedly begun maintenance work to prepare the province's beaches for visitors during Holy Week, with footpaths replaced and more lifeguards set to be deployed.

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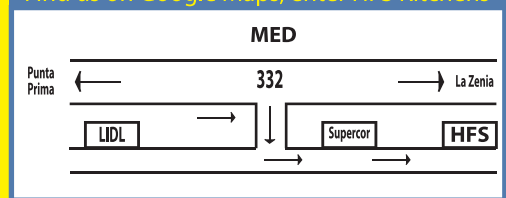
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NEWS EXTRA

'Inaction' on land

THE Cartagena Si Se Puede party said authorities in Murcia had failed to act on the 'terrible and pressing' contamination problem in the El Hondon area because no fence has been installed or declaration made.

Shoe work

THE Federation of Spanish Footwear Industries made a pitch to get more young people recruited into shoe companies in Elda on Friday and called for the renewal of technology used in preparing children for work.

Market claim

COMPROMIS members of Elche's city council have asked the authority if they have had communication over the Palmeral and other World Heritage sites which could be affected by the building of the central market.

Women walk

ANTONIO ZAPATA, a historian from Los Alcazares, took walkers for a guided tour which focused on notable women from the town, the first walk of its kind in the area.

Weed raid

POLICE in Lorca have seized around 150 marijuana plants, 10 kilograms of buds, as well as containers and tools following a raid which saw a suspect arrested on drugs and electricity fraud charges.

Beach probe

MURCIA prosecutors have begun an investigation into the use of heavy machinery and vehicles on the region's beaches which is prohibited by regulations, with authorities having said the works were endorsed by ecological researchers.

A MAN has been arrested by police in Elche on suspicion of domestic violence after attempting to flee officers by jumping out of a window.

According to Spanish media, police were first alerted to the scene by worried neighbours in Elche claiming that a couple in the neighbourhood was screaming at each other in the early hours of the morning.

Hit and run

Police attended the scene but upon their arrival there was reportedly no answer at the house in question, before officers spotted a man jump from the first floor window onto the road in an attempt to escape.

After eventually catching the man, he claimed that the fight had been mutual and after returning to the property to clarify the events, he was reportedly arrested on suspicion of gender violence.

Police also arrested the woman, who subsequently refused to testify in court.

She had reportedly suffered minor injuries during the brawl, according to the police report, and claimed that the argument had occurred because the man had arrived home late and wouldn't explain the reason why, which made him get defensive.

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Pluck of the Irish

Man arrested on suspicion of fake shirt scam

A 37-YEAR-OLD Irishman has been arrested in Torrevieja on suspicion of attempting to sell an estimated €80,000 worth of fake football tops.

The Irishman was held by police in Torrevieja after officers reportedly confiscated more than 1,600 illegal products, allegedly made in China, from him at Alicante Airport.

According to reports, it is

believed that the clothing was bought to be sold on to fans in Spain, Ireland and the Spain via the internet.

Police have also reportedly claimed that the man had only paid €3,000 for the seized items, which had a market value of more than 26 times that amount.

A Guardia Civil spokesperson said: "A total of 1,612 falsified football garments have been seized with a

market value of around €80,000.

"The goods were detected in five boxes from China due to be sent to the Irishman that was arrested.

"The counterfeit garments were of exceptional quality and very difficult to detect by non-experts because the quality of the material that was used and the stitching which appeared to be original.

"Officers acted after detecting a tiny difference in one of the club shields on the shirts which didn't match the standard design.

"Detectives believe the man arrested was planning to sell the garments online because there was no sign of business activity at his property.

"He could have sold the counterfeit clothes to buyers in his country, Spain or the UK for a profit of around €75,000 because he had acquired them at a very low price."

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NEWS EXTRA

Local Police ceremony

MURCIA'S mayor Jose Ballesta and the city's security spokesperson Lola Sanchez attended an event with Local Police officers on St Patrick's Day (Saturday) to hand out awards and highlight their contribution to the city.

Catalan push

THE Omplim Murcia-Llenemos Murcia group said they have organised a protest in solidarity with those pushing for independence for Cataluña, which is set to take place on Saturday April 7 in Murcia City.

Wine intake

MURCIANS drank on average less than seven litres of wine per person last year which was one of the lowest levels of consumption in Spain, according to an industry report.

School claims

PABLO RUZ, the head of Elche's Partido Popular, has accused the city's council of ignoring local education after the authority's education spokesperson said the Colegio 37 would not be built until after the next elections.

Repair works

A LIFT is set to be installed and cracks dating back to 2015 repaired in the Jaime I public school in Elche after education authorities put out the tender for the works.

Council funds

ALGORFA'S council closed the year 2017 with a budget surplus of more than €871,512 after completing an Adjustment Plan designed to bring the town's finances in line with spending standards.

Warning issued over use of e-cigarettes

MURCIA'S Ministry of Health has said the use of electronic cigarettes should be discouraged due to its harmful effects.

The Directorate of Public Health and Addictions, of the Ministry, said it had issued the warning due to cancer causing substances found in the liquids used in e-cigarettes.

Health risks brought on by exposure to vapour from the devices could not be ruled out, the Directorate added.

Jose Carlos Vicente, the Director General of Public Health and Addictions, said the ministry's objective was to promote health and prevent diseases associated with smoking.

The authority would also continue to promote the Regional Strategy against Tobacco which aims to reduce consumption in the province



AT RISK: Cancer causing chemicals have been found in the liquid in e-cigarettes.

to a minimum, Vicente added. Estimates state that around 340,000 people in Murcia smoke and that about 2,800 tobacco-related deaths occur in the province every year.

It is also estimated that around a third of tumours are caused by smoking and that the habit reduces life ex-

pectancy by around 10 years. Shops selling e-cigarettes are required to restrict the sale, promotion and sponsorship of the devices. Regulations brought in nationally in 2017 class e-cigarettes as being applicable for the same rules that govern the sale of other tobacco products.

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EU report unmask free trade pirates

by Tom Woods

A REPORT from the EU's Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) based in Alicante Province has warned of a link between free trade zones and the export of counterfeit products.

In collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), officials believe that free trade zones are boosting the value of illegal exports by 5.9 per cent.

The worrying findings follow on from a joint study in 2016 by the EUIPO and OECD which estimated that the value of counterfeit products account for 2.5 per cent of world trade, with an annual turnover of €338 million.

In the European Union, such illegal goods make up 5 per cent of all imports,

worth up to €85 million.

There are more than 3,500 free trade zones in the world, employing 66 million people and generating more than €365 million in revenues.

These zones offer companies real benefits based on geographical location, specialised infrastructure, and lighter regulations.

However, due to reduced customs controls and the lax regulations, they also attract those looking to capitalise for criminal and illicit ends.

Using data from international customs seizures, the report reveals that the stronger the role that a free trade zone plays in a country's economy, the greater the value of the counterfeit products that the country exports.

Evidence suggests that trade routes from transit points in Albania, Egypt,

Morocco and Ukraine are particularly involved in fake products.

Executive Director of EUIPO, Antonio Campinos, said:

"This report takes the analysis of pirated products a step further and we hope that the findings will support governments and legislators in addressing the economic damage they cause around the world."

The Alicante-centred EUIPO is a decentralised agency of the EU, responsible for managing the registration of EU trademarks (MUE) and Registered Community Designs (DMC) for the 28 member states.

EUIPO hosts the European Observatory on the Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights, and organises the DesignEuropa Awards.

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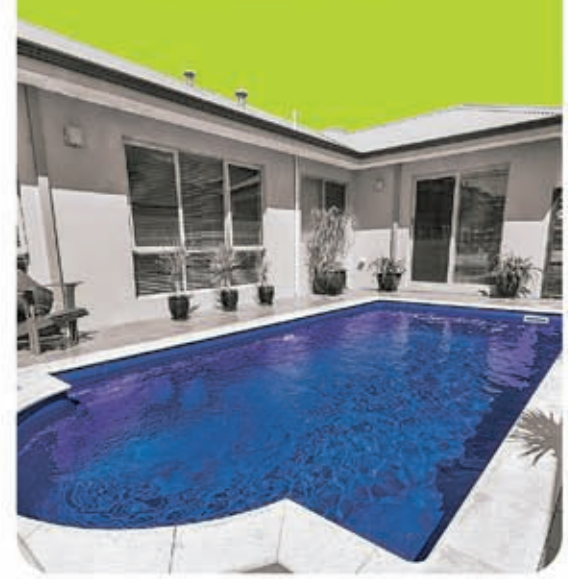
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TOP OF THE SLOTS: Ryanair was the biggest player in the low-cost market to Spain.

Boom time

10m passengers in two months

NEWLY-RELEASED Spanish government data has shown that international airline passenger numbers to Spain have soared during the first two months of 2018.

Statistics show that 9.98 million international passengers have arrived in the country by plane, a 5.9 per cent increase on the same period last year. Low-cost airline passenger numbers have particularly taken off with 5.21 million

passengers arriving in Spain in January and February - up 12.7 per cent on 2017.

The low-cost companies took 52.2 per cent of the market.

In contrast, 'traditional' airlines carried 4.7 million passengers, down 0.6 per cent.

Among the low-cost airlines Ryanair, easyJet and Vueling continue to lead the field and between them carried 67.6 per cent of 'low cost' market and

35.6 per cent of the total market.

The United Kingdom, with 1.5 million passengers (28.8 per cent of the total), was ahead of the pack despite a drop of 1.1 per cent in arrivals with the low-cost carriers.

Germany, with 13.3 per cent of the arrivals, showed an increase of 695,036 passengers (43.2 per cent more) and Italy with 683,997 low-cost flyers sent 13.2 per cent more.

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Hailed a hero

Policeman's body found after search

AFTER three days of searching the body of the Guardia Civil officer swept away by floodwaters in Spain has been found.

The officer was rescuing a trapped motorist from his vehicle in a swollen stream when he lost his footing.

Diego Díaz, originally from Malaga, was swept away by the fast-flowing water in Guillena in Sevilla in Andalucia on Saturday evening.

At 10am on Tuesday morn-



Photo credit: Twitter /EmergenciasSev

SEARCH: More than 200 were involved in the search for the Guardia Civil police officer.

ing after a search involving more than 200 people the body was located.

According to initial reports,

the body was found around 300 metres from where the accident happened on Saturday night.

Dare devil's failed climb

A YOUTUBE dare-devil with more than 770,000 subscribers has failed in his attempt to free-climb Barcelona's Sagrada Familia after being spotted by security guards.

Despite the botched attempt, Ally Law's video has received half-a-million views on his channel in just five days.

The 21-year-old from Southampton has climbed in multiple locations around the world, such as Melbourne, Dubai, Bangkok and Blackpool, but his latest attempt in Spain could see him fined or even banned from the country as security forces launch an investigation.

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Pension scammer couple sniffed out

A WOMAN and her husband have been arrested after allegedly taking more than €90,000 in pension payments to her father who died in 2007.

National Police officers in Cadiz, southern Spain, have arrested the married couple, aged 55 and 54, for crimes of misappropriation and falsifying documents.

The pension payments were made into the deceased man's account to which the daughter had access and withdrew the money.

The alleged fraud came to light when the Social Security services contacted the retired worker's employer, the provincial government of Cadiz, about his status.

Builders find body wedged between walls

BUILDERS have found the body of a man, believed to have died more than 10 years ago, 'sandwiched' between two walls of a house in Spain.

The corpse was found by workers doing renovations at the house that has only recently changed hands in Valencia.

The workers who found the dressed skeleton of the man advised the owners of the house and they called police to inform them of the macabre find.

National Police officers are now investigating the discovery of the remains which have been taken to the Institute of Legal Medicine in Valencia to try to determine their age and cause of death.

Balcony death horror

Brit uni student killed 'after St Patrick's Day party'

THE young British man who fell to his death from a Palma de Mallorca balcony has been named.

James Walton, 23, was on a placement year from Sheffield Hallam University and was killed after a St Patrick's Day party with friends.

Doctors say the language student died due to fatal head injuries after plummeting from a fourth floor balcony onto the pavement below.

Originally from Ealing in London, he had been in Mallorca since last September to work as a global loyalty intern at Melia Hotels International.

The placement was part of his Bachelor's degree in Languages with International Business, of which he was in his third year.

Detectives currently believe he lost his balance after a heavy drinking session with workmates and friends from the UK.

A post mortem examination took place yesterday.

James' body was found lying on Calle Aragon in Palma City centre by a pedestrian early on Sunday morning.

Medics pronounced him dead at the scene after attempts to revive him failed.

His friends reportedly had no idea that



Photo credit: Facebook/Google

FATAL PLUNGE: The block of flats from which James (inset) fell.

he had fallen until police knocked on the door of their flat.

Investigators are not currently treating the incident as suspicious, and an official confirmed: "At this point in time everything is pointing towards it being accidental."

Friends have paid tribute to him via Facebook, with Melia colleague Maja Jaroszevska writing:

"Words can't describe how heartbroken

we feel to have lost you so soon and so unexpected. You are forever in our hearts. We will remember you, doing your amazing dance moves and winning dance offs with strangers.

"Thank you for being in my life."

A Foreign Office official told UK media: "We are in touch with local police and are providing bereavement advice to his family, following the death of a British man in Mallorca."

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Photo credit: Shutterstock / Social media

COUPLE: Must pay £15,000 in costs to Tui for fraudulent claim.

Holiday sickness fury

Scammers face £15,000 for fake claim

A COUPLE from Liverpool has been ordered to pay a holiday company's costs after submitting a fraudulent sickness claim following a 10-day all-inclusive holiday in Spain.

Chelsea Devine, 21, and Jamie Melling, 22, were seeking £2,500 compensation each after claiming that the food and drink at their Benidorm hotel on the Costa Blanca left them ill for weeks afterwards.

But the judge at Liverpool County Court heard that the pair posted photographs on social media showing them smiling and happy in their hotel room and swimming in the pool.

She ordered them to pay holiday operator Tui £15,000 in costs - a record amount for costs awarded against a fraudulent claim of holiday sickness.

Holiday operator Tui said, "It's disappointing we have had to go this far to defend our industry and hotel partners, as well as protect honest holidaymakers.

"The court has found they brought claims that are fundamentally dishonest and have been ordered to pay our costs.

"This goes to highlight the penalty you can face if you bring an exaggerated or fraudulent holiday sickness claim."

The doctor who backed the couple's case has been referred to the General Medical Council after it emerged he is married to a partner at the legal firm representing them.

The law firm has also been referred to the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

Travel association ABTA is calling on the government to bring in new measures to

tackle sickness claims ahead of the 2018 holiday season.

They claim figures from a YouGov survey of British adults reveal almost one in five people (19 per cent) have been contacted about making a compensation claim for holiday sickness.

The most common way people said they were approached was over the phone (14 per cent), followed by text (7 per cent) and email (7 per cent). Some people also reported being contacted on social media (3 per cent) and some were approached in person (2 per cent) including in airports or while on holiday.

ABTA's 'Stop Sickness Scams' campaign highlights that false claims are costing the travel industry tens of millions of pounds and ABTA is calling for the urgent closure of a loophole in the law, which enables claims management companies and legal firms to make more money in fees from sickness claims abroad, than they're able to from personal injuries in the UK.

They remind the public that making a false compensation claim for holiday sickness is an act of fraud and if prosecuted could result in a large fine, criminal record or jail term of up to three years.

Since 2013, there has been a 500 per cent rise in the number of compensation claims received by travel companies for holiday sickness - yet the number of sickness reports to hotels in resorts has remained the same.

The problem is only associated with UK holidaymakers - travel firms in other countries have not experienced an increase.

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Rescue drama

A MOTHER and her three-year-old daughter have been seriously injured after their vehicle left the road and plunged three metres down an embankment.

No other vehicle was involved in the accident on the Cas Ripolls road, in the municipality of Sant Joan on the holiday island of Ibiza.

The young child was trapped by her legs and had to be sedated while firefighters cut her free. She was taken to hospital but, given the nature of her serious injuries, a helicopter transfer to another specialist unit is planned.

Her mother fractured her pelvis in the accident which took place last Sunday evening.

A nine-month-old baby travelling in the car was uninjured.

Publisher beats Madrid gag

A WEBSITE has been created which allows visitors to read a banned book about drug smuggling through the words of Don Quixote.

Fariña, a non-fiction work about cocaine being shipped from Columbia to Spain, was banned by a court in Madrid last week.

Sales of the book were stopped after Jose Alfredo Bea Gondar, the former mayor of O Grove in Galicia, brought libel proceedings against the publishers.

The Booksellers Guild of Madrid has since made a site which searches through the text of Don Quixote to recreate the banned book word by word.

The website had more than 30,000 hits as of Friday after being online for two days, according to the Booksellers Guild.

Fernando Valverde, the secretary of the guild, said those behind the site found out all the words in Fariña were in Don Quixote in some form.

Those who made the site just had to

find out a way of placing the words in the same order as the book and displaying it so people could read it.

"It's a metaphor for the fact that in the digital era you can seize a book, but you cannot gag words," he said.

Bea Gondar brought the case to the court because the book alleges he was involved in the unloading and shipment of cocaine. It also alleged he took part in negotiations between the Columbian Cali cartel and local smugglers.

"It's all completely false," Bea Gondar said in an interview on the La Sexta television channel.

The former mayor was investigated and convicted of drug smuggling. His sentence was subsequently overturned by the Spanish Supreme Court after an appeal, which is stated in the newest edition of Fariña.

The launch of the website comes as Amnesty International recently claimed free expression in Spain was being stifled by the country's legal code.



Photo credit: Facebook / Toño Garcia Garcia

RESCUED: Farmhands drive the livestock from the flooded barn.

Cattle herd saved from drowning

FARMHANDS bravely stepped into waist-deep, dangerous floodwater to rescue a herd of cattle from a farm in Spain.

A dramatic video has emerged on social media showing the farm workers releasing the livestock from a barn as the water was up to the animals' necks.

The footage was uploaded at the weekend as Andalusia was battered by heavy rain and winds leaving many parts of the region under water. Facebook user Toño Garcia Garcia uploaded the video which, it is believed, was shot in Eciija in Sevilla Province in the south of Spain.

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New beginnings



ALL SMILES: Volunteers, friends and supporters at the new Help at Home office and furniture shop.

THE local charity Help at Home Costa Blanca recently 'expanded,' when their new office and furniture shop was officially opened.

The opening party was attended by almost 100 volunteers, friends and supporters, welcomed by the president, Carmen Perez.

Situated just off the N332 at Cabo Roig, the premises comprise a large, bright space to display donated items of furniture and home accessories. At the rear is an office and interview room. It is here that people who need a little help can come to discuss their needs. Maybe

they are in need of help to get them to hospital or doctors' appointments, or shopping trips or just want someone to visit and chat to.

The charity is always eager to hear from volunteers willing to work in the furniture shop or the original charity shop in Playa Flamenca, or undertake tasks such as driving or befriending.

People can donate directly to the furniture shop or large items can be collected. Pop in and have a look round - there's parking close by.



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Getting on TRAC

THE Torrevieja Retired Activities Club (TRAC) meets the third Wednesday in the month from 11am to 1pm at Marina Club Cafeteria, International Marina, Torrevieja.

They have a speaker at their monthly meetings or quiz, etc. Enjoy an activity once a month such as petanca, mini-golf, 10-pin bowling etc and on the first Sunday of the month they organise a lunch at a different restaurant

each time. A dinner dance is held in June and also a Christmas meal is arranged for December.

The joining fee is €10 but you can attend one meeting or lunch before you join to see if you like it. They don't meet in July or August and couple and singles are welcome.

For more information please phone Sandy Hollywood, President (698 266 696) or Jill Hayes, membership Secretary (672 983 019).

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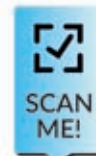


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AFA benefits from U3A generosity

By Darren Parmenter

REPRESENTATIVES of the Alzheimer's Association (AFA) in Torrevieja were delighted to receive a magnificent donation from U3A.

The sum of €4,000.81 was handed over during a presentation ceremony last week held at the Torrevieja branch of the AFA. Speaking exclusively to the *Euro Weekly News*, Director of the AFA Lidia Navarro said that this wonderful amount of money will go towards adapting the mini-bus that is currently used to transfer the day patients back and forth to the centre.

"We plan to spend the money on installing an automatic lift to allow wheelchair users to board the mini-bus, and will enable us to bring more people to use the facilities of our centre," she explained.

AFA Torrevieja is one of a num-



Photo credit: Barry Weston U3A

DELIGHTED: President of the AFA Torrevieja Purificacion Garcia (2nd left) receives the donation from U3A President Rosemary Rickman (4th from right).

ber of day centres for the use of Alzheimer's patients that are experiencing different stages of the condition. As Lidia said during a short tour of the facilities, "there are other centres in Bigastro, Elche and Mur-

cia. As a rule we have around 45 to 50 people here every day during the week that undergo a series of different mental and physical stimulation treatments.

"We also have a number of pa-

tients that are housebound and we undertake home visits to them too."

The money donated by the U3A Torrevieja raised the €4,000 via a series of raffles over a two-year period.

Putting their best foot forward

DEBRA, The Butterfly Children Charity, are holding a Mar Menor Charity Walk on April 14 and 15 to try to raise €5,000 for medical care and research.

They have no entry fee but each walker has a donation form to hopefully raise a minimum €50 each.

They are producing a wall chart featuring photos of the walk, and are asking businesses to sponsor for a fee of only €50. They hope to produce five wall charts for the five areas of Mar Menor.

They are looking for a main sponsor to feature on all five charts, and receive prominence. Could you be that sponsor?

They have over 50 walkers at present, including three who will do the whole 60kms in one day. This is a fun walk; let's hope Phil, Sheena and Ian will still be laughing at the end of their 60kms.

Ten other walkers will do 60kms over two days and the rest five to 25kms on the Sunday.

They would like more walkers, more business sponsors, and of course people willing to donate to this worthwhile charity. Please do not hesitate to call 659 751 611.

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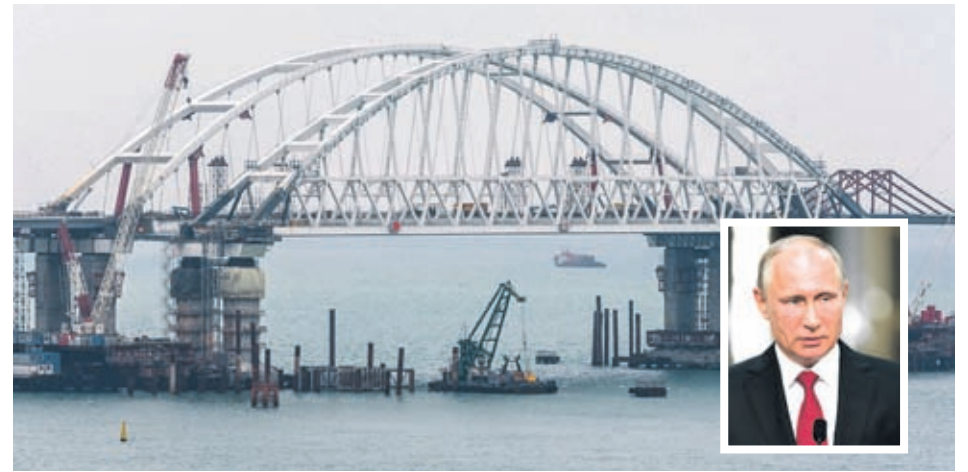
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BUILDING BRIDGES: President Putin (inset) visited the Kerch Strait Bridge ahead of elections on March 18.

Putin visits Crimea bridge before vote

PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin has visited the site of a new bridge currently being built between the Crimean peninsula and Russia in the Kerch Strait. The 19-kilometre-long road and rail bridge is being constructed as part of efforts to integrate the territory which was annexed in 2014 amid widespread international condemnation.

shut up.” Major-General Igor Konashenkov’s comments were part of an ongoing diplomatic spat between the two countries over Russia’s alleged poisoning of former double agent Sergei Skripal in Salisbury. Russia denies any involvement.

Blacklist expands

RUSSIA’S Deputy Foreign Minister has said the country would respond to a new raft of sanctions from the United States by adding more Americans to its own blacklist. Sergei Ryabkov’s comments come after the US Treasury announced measures against 19 Russian citizens and five organisations over allegations of the country’s meddling in the 2016 Presidential election.

A heated debate

THREATS, name-calling, tears and swearing were all reportedly part of the last televised presidential debate before Russia went to the polls on March 18. Communist candidate Maxim Suraikin threatened to break the jaw of rival Communist Pavel Grudinin and called him “hired scum.”

Destination Mars

VLADIMIR PUTIN has said Russia will launch a mission to Mars next year in an interview broadcast shortly before the March 18 presidential election. The President said in the discussion a landing near the planet’s poles would be attempted with a view to conducting further research from there.

Trading blows

A SPOKESPERSON for Russia’s Defence Ministry has called the British Defence Secretary “intellectually impotent” after the latter, Gavin Williamson, told Russia to “go away and

Raining gold

AROUND 172 bars of gold and other precious metals were left strewn across an airport runway after the door of a cargo plane opened during take-off. An estimated 3.4 tonnes of gold, worth around 21.6 billion rubles (€300 million), fell from the AN-12 cargo plane.



GOLDEN SHOWER: Around 3.4 tonnes of gold are believed to have fallen from the plane.

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An offer they could refuse

A SPANISH restaurant chain is unable to trademark its name after European judges ruled it could 'shock and offend' people.

It comes after Italy launched a complaint after Spanish chain La Mafia, which runs 42 Italian eateries, applied to trademark the name La Mafia Se Sienta a la Mesa (The Mafia take a Seat at the Table).

But the European Court of Justice said that the Godfather-style branding is not compatible with 'fundamental EU values.'

Ryanair lands new airline

By Matt Ford

RYANAIR has agreed to buy a majority stake in a new Austrian airline founded by former motor racing champion Niki Lauda.

Europe's largest budget carrier will buy an initial 24.9 per cent stake in Laudamotion, which recently regained control of airline Niki from insolvent former owner Air Berlin.

This will rise to 75 per cent 'as soon as possible,' subject to European Union approval, the carriers said in a statement, with Ryanair set to pay a total of around €50 million.

It is the Irish low cost giant's first acquisition since it bought UK airline Buzz from KLM in 2003, closing it down a year later.

It has since tried to take over Aer Lingus and last year pulled out of an auction for Air Berlin last year amid claims that it was rigged in favour of German rival Lufthansa.

Lauda will become chairman of Laudamotion and oversee the company's rebuilding, while Ryanair will provide six crewed aircraft this summer to increase its fleet to 21

planes, with further expansion to 30 jets planned within three years.

Ryanair has reportedly beaten off competition from Lufthansa and British Airways parent IAG to secure the deal, which will see it launch a major push on the German and Austrian markets.

Ryanair CEO Michael O'Leary said in a statement: "This Laudamotion partnership is good news for Austrian and German consumers/visitors who can now look forward to real competition, more choice and lower fares."

€18.8bn deal ends toll war

A POTENTIAL bidding war for Spain's biggest toll road operator has been averted.

It comes after Madrid-based construction firm ACS and Italian company Atlantia - which had been competing separately for months - agreed a joint takeover deal for the Abertis group.

Under the agreed terms, ACS's German arm Hochtief will buy Abertis for €18.18 billion.

But in the final holding, the Italians will own 50 per cent, ACS 30 per cent and Hochtief 20 per cent.

Quote of the Week

"Our concern is the citizens... we're trying to reach an agreement that at least maintains the general economic situation in Gibraltar." Foreign Minister Alfonso Dastis discusses Spain's approach to the rock during Brexit negotiations.



Photo credit Viadi Private Islands/Flickr

ISLE TAKE IT: S'Espalmador is popular in summer when tourists head ashore for mud baths (inset).

Protected island sold at discount

A BALEARIC island between Ibiza and Formentera has been sold to a private bidder for €18 million.

An unnamed family from Luxembourg has bagged 137-hectare S'Espalmador after attempts to sell it to Formentera Council failed.

Former owners, Catalan architect Norman Cinnamon and his sister Rosy, confirmed the sale with the price dropped from €24 million after three

years on the market.

The island - which is almost three kilometres long and 800 metres wide - had been owned by the Cinnamon family since 1932.

It boasts a 13-bedroom house, chapel and watchtower, can be reached by foot from Formentera when the tide is low and is part of the protected Las Salinas Natural Park.

In summer it is a popular mooring spot for yachts, and many people head ashore for a mud bath.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Dress to impress

SPANISH clothing giant Inditex, which owns Zara among other brands, has revealed that net profit soared to €3.37 billion in 2017, placing the group ahead of long-term Swedish rival H&M, which posted returns of €1.6 billion.

Samba style

SPANISH energy firm gas Natural Fenosa will sink €95 million into two solar energy projects in Minas Gerais, Brazil, after snapping them up from rival Canadian Solar, with the plants set to become operational before the end of the year.

Anti-social

SPAIN'S data protection agency, AEPD, has slapped Facebook and WhatsApp with €300,000 fines for processing and sharing users' personal data without their consent, with the former currently appealing an earlier €1.2 million sanction for the same offence.

Ikos invests in luxury

INNOVATIVE Greek luxury hotel chain Ikos is to sink €150 million into its first Spanish project.

The company has snapped up the Costa del Sol Princess Hotel in Estepona, Malaga, which will be transformed into its latest 'infinite lifestyle' venture.

The resort will include 400 rooms, eight restaurants, upmarket sports facilities, a theatre, indoor

and outdoor swimming pools, a spa and 70,000 square metres of gardens, Ikos said in a statement.

It will become the brand's fifth hotel and first in Spain, and is set to open in 2020.

Ikos has created a buzz in the industry after redefining the all-inclusive boutique concept, and two of its Greek hotels were ranked in the world's top three in 2017.

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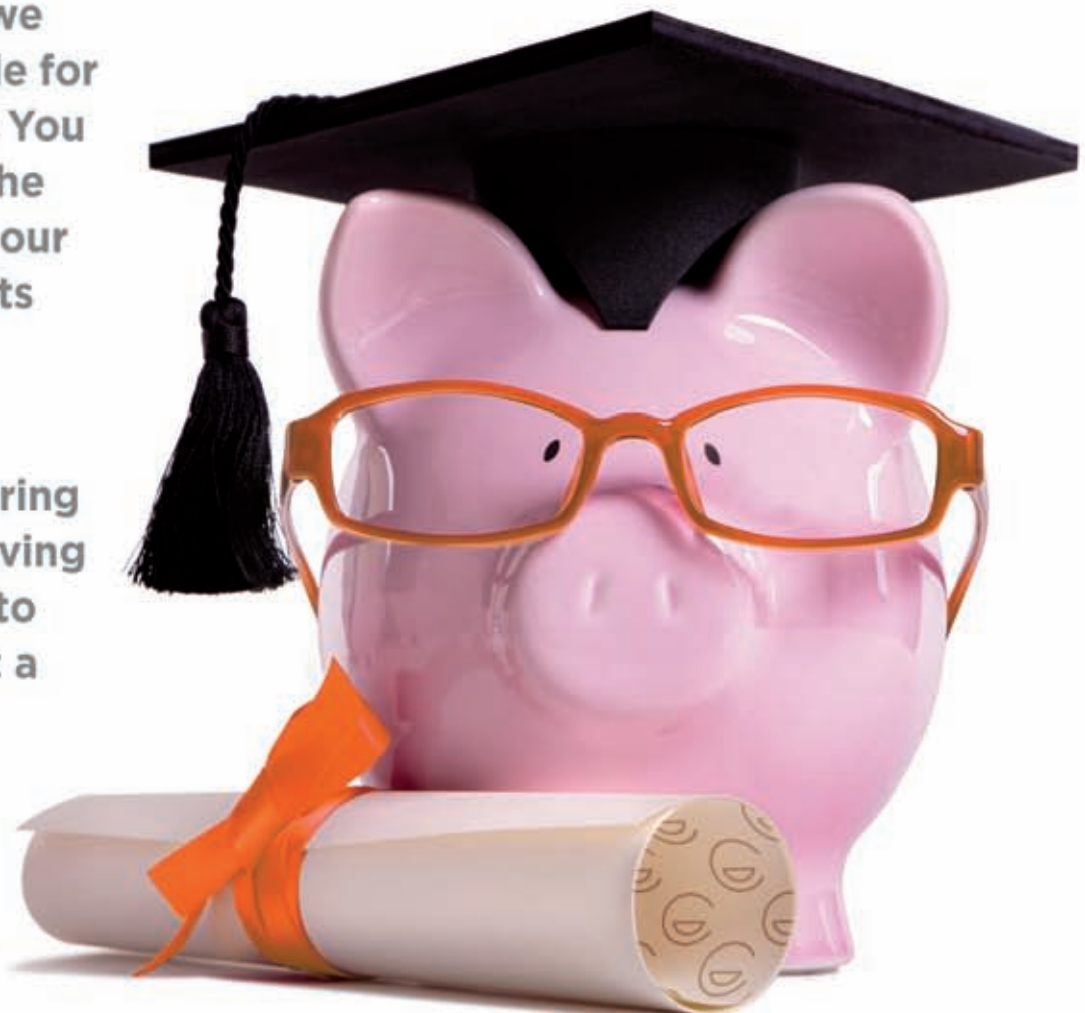
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€14.8bn fraud windfall

'TRIVIAL' DROP AS TAX DODGERS TACKLED

THE battle against fraud in Spain continues.

And the national Tax Agency has revealed that last year it raked in almost €14.8 billion - a year-on-year decrease of €91 million - in sanctions from cases relating to illegal renting of homes and other financial crimes.

The total has plunged for the third consecutive year, after the bureau revealed that it made €14.9 billion in 2016 and €15.7 billion in 2015.

Agency director Santiago Menendez argued that the average income from fraud over the last three years beats that of the previous three by 3.5 per cent, as he said: "The results consolidate the upward trend in recent years... it is a trivial drop with no significant reason."

And the figures still far outstrip the €8 billion earned in 2008, when the Tax Agency employed 2,000 more people and the housing bubble - having yet to burst - fuelled a significant 'underground economy.'

Fines for undeclared rental income shot up to €522 million in 2017, an increase of around 40.5 per cent on 2014, when the agency launched an annual campaign of sending inspectors to suspects' homes.

Among 32,215 visits made by tax inspectors last year, 14,698 were related to non-payment of IVA, the Spanish equivalent to VAT in the UK.

Menendez added that the use of new technology capable of processing big data has allowed investigators to acquire almost €333 million from cases including "aggressive tax planning, 'hidden' companies, buying powers that did not match what was declared and assets abroad."

He explained that thanks to Spain's tax amnesty (a disclosure facility introduced in 2012), plus revelations exposed in the Panama



RICH TWIST: Spain has clamped down on cheats owing more than €1 million - who allegedly include pop star Shakira - says Tax Agency director Santiago Menendez (inset).

Papers and other legal documents, that his agency has new data available.

And the result is that tax debt fell by the greatest amount yet recorded in a single financial year.

Pending collection, the outstanding amount plummeted by 7.6 per cent compared with 2016, with the total of €42.4 billion the lowest since 2010.

The annual inventory of defaulters owing more than €1 million to the state, introduced by Treasury Minister Cristobal Montoro in 2015, also contributed heavily to debt reduction, with €1.2 billion raised from taxpayers "afraid to appear on the list," according to Menendez.

Photo credit Shutterstock/Twitter

Abu Dhabi set to invite bids for Spanish oil and gas giant

THE United Arab Emirates is seeking to offload part of Spanish oil and gas multi-national CEPSA.

It comes after the Mubadala Investment Company, Abu Dhabi's state-owned holding firm, bought out French oil giant Total's stake in 2011.

The move saw the investment vehicle seal 100 per cent control of Spain's second-largest petrol company, which was at the time valued at around €8 billion.

But reports suggest that it is now worth much more, leading Mubadala to invite bids for a partial stake from a 'strategic ally' or 'major investment fund.'

Cepsa has been on an upswing since the takeover, breaking new ground in exploration and production, with several 'mega projects' in Asia and the Middle East.

UNION FURY OVER BELOW AVERAGE PAY

Charity wage woe goes on

THE working conditions of charity workers in Spain are under scrutiny.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) employ around 645,000 across the country, but both central and regional governments slashed third sector budgets during the 2008 financial crisis.

The move saw many of Spain's 30,000 NGOs freeze or reduce salaries, and conditions have not improved in the 10 years since.

"There is a latent instability," an administrator for several NGOs told Spanish media. "It's a sector that has been damaged and which requires a certain element of volunteering and a huge dose of personal motivation, which is exploited when it comes to unstable contracts and unpaid overtime.

"One major conflict is that many organisations fight for human rights, including employment rights, and there's a perverse logic at work in which they compete to bring down costs to win contracts



Photo credit Cruz Roja España

HELP FOR ZEROS: Charity staff are underpaid, critics say.

that the government has outsourced to the detriment of salaries."

Around 34 per cent of NGO contracts are temporary, and employment reforms introduced by the Spanish government in 2012 mean that companies and not-for-profits are able to ignore national labour

agreements and bring down salaries while maintaining investment.

In Teruel, Aragon, a full-time cleaner employed by the Red Cross now earns €765 gross per month in the wake of a 2.5 per cent January increase following a long

freeze on wages, while in Alicante part-time telemarketing staff can earn as little as €500.

Jose Luis Pascual, Red Cross Spain's Human Resources director, said: "We're not inventing low salaries, it's a fact. Should that be changed? Possibly."

When quizzed if €800 per month is enough to live on, he hesitated before admitting: "It would be very hard to cover everything... I don't agree that we ignore employment rights. In many cases, our salaries are better than others in the sector."

Critics, including unions, have panned Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and the regional authorities after spending on social issues was cut by 23 per cent since 2016 despite the national economic upturn.

Pilar Marmol, from the UGT union, added: "Many NGOs don't behave like NGOs; they're all about business. And when there's an [outsourced] tender, they're like vultures. They go as low as they can."

Cashing in on crowdfunding

A SPANISH provincial council has become the first authority in the world to set up its own crowdfunding platform.

The innovative scheme allows residents of Biscay in the Basque Country to invest in start-up projects chosen by the governing body.

According to venture capital think tank, Seed Capital Bizkaia, the move will boost investor confidence and reduce risk.

The goal is to launch eight start-ups - cherry-picked from around 30 applicants - in the first year of the scheme, with the council hoping to attract some 350 investors after agreeing to plough €240,000 into the project itself.

Businesses must be headquartered in Biscay, of which Spain's 10th largest city Bilbao is capital.



TRADING BLOWS: The US President claimed that European Union subsidies create unfair competition before announcing the tariffs.

MEPs condemn Trump olive tax

THE European Parliament has called on the United States to reverse President Trump's move to impose import duties of up to 20 per cent on Spanish olives.

The tariffs were introduced in January to protect producers in California after Washington said that growers in Spain benefit from subsidies allowing them to sell olives below fair value.

"The US has started a trade war and they have used us as scapegoats," said Gabriel Re-

dondo, chairman of exporter Agro Sevilla, at the time.

And MEPs in Strasbourg have hit back at the levies, claiming that the EU agricultural grants follow World

Trade Organisation rules.

"The European Parliament calls on the US authorities to withdraw their interim decision and re-establish a mutually constructive approach in this domain to the mutual benefit of producers and consumers on both continents," they said in a statement.

Spain exported 32 million kilos of black olives worth €70 million to the US in 2016, but says the new tariffs will cost the sector €350-700 million over the next decade.



Thumbs down for €4.9 billion Hammerson takeover bid

A €4.9 BILLION bid for British shopping centre operator Hammerson sent the company's shares soaring by almost 27 per cent.

French firm Klepierre was behind the offer, which is being seen as an attempt to derail its competitor's €3.9 billion takeover of Intu Properties, which owns or has stakes in 17 shopping centres in the UK and three in Spain.

The deal is set to create the UK's biggest property group, worth an estimated €24 billion.

Klepierre said in a statement that it had offered 615p a share, but the bid was rejected by Hammerson chairman David Tyler within 24 hours. Tyler described the approach as "wholly inadequate and entirely

opportunistic," before advising shareholders to take no action.

He said in a statement that the board "sees absolutely no merit in Klépierre's proposal and has unanimously rejected it."

Klepierre is one of Europe's biggest players in the retail market, with more than 100 shopping centres in 16 countries.

The Hammerson takeover bid highlights the pressure currently gripping the sector, as more customers choose to shop online.

Hammerson owns or part-owns 37 shopping centres, including Birmingham's Bullring, and if the Insu deal goes ahead it will gain control of a €650 million scheme to create one of Spain's largest shopping complexes in Torremolinos on the Costa del Sol.

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NOT only is Vladimir Putin a gangster, he is actually your classic gangster.

I think the facts speak for themselves. He is undoubtedly an egomaniac and a bully. He is surrounded by thugs, hit men and bent politicians. He rubs out or 'subdues' any opposition. As a warning to others, those he considers 'ratfinks' are ruthlessly hunted down and 'eliminated.'

Both he and his henchmen are worth billions, and the general public of his domain consider him a hero. You don't get more classic than that.

Of course, that is where the resemblance ends. His operation makes the Capone, Gambino's and Mafia Dons of yore look like pussies.

However, in my opinion, through all this worrying new 'cold war' era I believe we can all console ourselves with one fact, Putin won't attack the West, certainly not nuclear. Why would he? He earns a big chunk of his ill-gotten gains from the West. He's not involved in all his skulduggery from a view of patriotism, or the old communistic ideals - heaven forbid. He's in it purely for the power and the money.

To take out the UK would be like Al Capone



Photo credit Twitter

VLADIMIR PUTIN: A 'gangster' but unlikely to attack the West.

destroying Chicago. He definitely doesn't want to terminate a golden egg layer of our magnitude. All that aside, I do truly believe that at this moment in time we are nearer to the ultimate holocaust than we have ever been - even during the Cuban missile crisis. At least in those days the USA and the USSR pulled most of the strings.

Both of these powers were fairly stable and had

reasonably sane leaders. Now they are all at it, and in my opinion a number are nowhere near stability. North Korea, run by a man/boy who thinks he's playing video games. Iran, who probably have a few tucked away by now, is run by a fanatical regime, who have vowed to destroy Israel - also a nuclear power. India, in an uneasy and still precarious 'truce' with fellow nuclear

power Pakistan. Saudi Arabia, threatening to develop nuclear weapons if Iran doesn't halt its own programme (some chance), France mmm! The ever-unpredictable China.

And, top of the bill, two megalomaniacs in the shape of Trump and Putin, who both think they are infallible. Sounds pretty volatile to me. Oh, I forgot about the good 'ol UK. Well I wouldn't worry too much about us. If Corbyn gets elected we'll all be sheltering behind our CND badges. Perhaps that means they'll leave the UK alone? Ha ha! Good luck all!

As most of you know, I have always believed in free speech. Thank the Lord I write for a publication that, although it may not always agree with my views, also considers free speech a human right!

I have always been a firm believer that if it ever came to being prevented from speaking the truth because it may 'offend' somebody, would mean we had either succumbed to the yolk of fascism or were finally being run by a bunch of lily livered leaders running totally scared. Well, try speaking out in the UK these days and you can take your pick!

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**TECH FOR
THE TIMID**

All you need is pods

Terence Kennedy's listening life changed forever when he discovered the joy of podcasts.

IF you think silence is golden maybe give this week's column a miss. It's inspired by a Canadian lady who fills every unoccupied moment listening to podcasts, a hundred a week.

Mea not quite so culpa, I have to confess, and she's definitely the pod one out (sorry), but my own consumption does certainly max out at three or four a day.

My listening life changed radically when keeping my butterfly mind topped up during fallow periods suddenly meant I didn't have to put up with whatever dross was on the radio at the time, but instead a chosen programme I could actually control as my own DJ.

'Women's Hour' discussing hysterectomies might have been all well and good mid-morning when there was nothing else on, but podcasts meant I could now listen on demand to Melvyn Bragg discussing the finer points of three-toed newts or quantity

surveying. And I could hit the pause button so as not to miss a riveting second of it.

Initially we could tape radio programmes directly off-air onto cassettes. The tech breakthrough came with the iPod 17 years ago, then MP3 players and today there are two-thirds as many smartphones in the world as there are people.

Now four billion podcasts are downloaded each year and rising, with sensible users (unlike our Canadian lady or indeed me) spending an average of four hours a week listening to them.

In the western world, more people listen to podcasts than go to the movies. An American statistician John Lennon would have loved says there are more regular podcast listeners than Catholics.



PODCASTS: Four billion a year and rising.

Where original adopters were typically under 25, now the fastest growth is among the so-called 'silver surfers', those of us somewhat closer to our sell-by dates.

Downloading (mostly free)

pods straight off the web is the work of seconds to an MP3 player or increasingly now, a smartphone. And almost all will let you interrupt and pick up where you left off again at will, freeing you forever from the shackles of broadcast schedules.

There are hosts of apps for finding and playing podcasts. and for the latest pod experience, this year's 'next best thing' in tech, smart home assistants like Amazon's Echo and Google's Home can serve up unlimited podcasts on demand.

For the moment I'm stuck with downloading them straight off the web, as not all of us are (yet) blessed with a smart home assistant.

I was going to drop in a gag here about my wife fulfilling that role, but on reflection it could cost me my dinner.

Taking pod luck

TYPE 'podcasts' into your browser and prepare to be swamped.

A good place to start is with the traditional broadcasters, who all now package their output into free podcasts for downloading.

The BBC is a great source (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts>), with simply hundreds free for the grabbing, all in the ubiquitous MP3 format which any player or phone can handle.

Other broadcasters like America's NPR (www.npr.org/podcasts/), or Australia's ABC (www.abc.net.au/radio/podcasts/) have their own treasure-troves. Services like Apple's iTunes have pages and pages of them. If you 'subscribe' they will even be downloaded automatically to your player without human intervention.

So all you have to do, as Shakespeare so famously said, is 'lend me your ears'. Perhaps adding headphones for domestic harmony.

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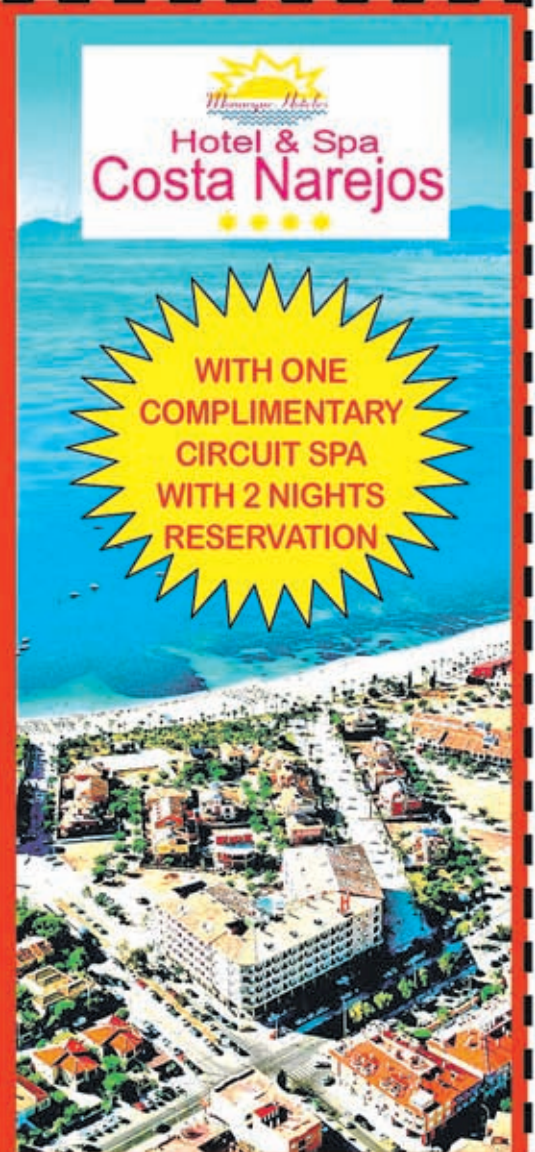
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Those wilting violets

Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

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

FRANCISCO CAMPS, erstwhile Valencian Community president, emerges pristine and clutching violets every time foes and former friends push him into the doo-doo.

His one court case until now centred on tailor-made suits in return for dozens of contracts irregularly awarded to companies linked to the Gurtel corruption setup headed by Francisco Correa.

He was acquitted after a jury found five-to-four in his favour in 2013, by which time he had already resigned as president.

Camps was a close friend of Correa's emissary in Valencia, Alvaro Perez aka El Bigotes (Whiskers), who was his Amiguito de mi alma, something approximate to a bosom friend.

Camps, with all his ex-presidential perks, has stayed out of harm's way and remanded Perez is no longer a bosom friend.

Instead Perez spilled the beans in the national criminal court during the Partido Popular's illegal funding case, maintaining that Camps knew what was going on.

When Camps' turn came to give evidence he explained that the PP's regional Secretary Gener-

al Ricardo Costa dealt with economic matters. In any case, his predecessor Eduardo Zaplana sent him to El Bigotes, Camps said.

Nice one Paco! You re-washed your immaculately clean hands while im-

plicating Zaplana, who immediately issued a communique stating that he could easily demonstrate that Camps was not telling the truth.

He also expressed surprise that his successor should have taken so many years to air his version.

Zaplana must be less surprised than he claims. There is little love lost between the two and Camps, once again in the doo-doo, has killed two birds with one stone while reviving those wilting violets.

reluctantly admitted that they were Juancarlistas during the first years of the transition to democracy and most of the country would readily agree that Felipe VI is doing his best in a thankless role.

Whether or not Esquerra Republicana's proposal to depenalise insults to the Crown prospers, it is missing the point.

Democracy and royal families - and politicians - should be able to take it on the chin without precipitating a revolution. But nobody should publicly insult anybody else: that should be an issue of good manners, not legislation.

FRANCISCO CAMPS: Selling tailor-made corruption?



Photo credit: Salvador Enguix

Mind your tongue

THE Spanish are not monarchist by vocation and there are few royal groupies as there are in the UK. Nevertheless, Republicans

Changes the day after?

MOST recent general strikes in Spain have come and gone with neither pain nor glory and were largely invisible outside the biggest cities.

The same can't be said for the women's strike on March 8, calling for equal pay, equal treatment and equal rights. It was seen and heard all over Spain and in the smallest villages, too. Even Spain's president Mariano Rajoy, who ini-

tially showed little interest or enthusiasm in the strike, saw which way the wind was blowing and finally fixed a purple ribbon to his lapel.

All very well, but what about March 9? Did anything change the next day? What about a month's time, a year's time? That's when we'll know and few women are holding their breath right now.

No foregone conclusion

REGARDLESS of whether Brexit turns out hard or soft the Partido Popular wants British residents to have the vote in municipal elections. Very thoughtful of them, but what makes them so sure they would get their votes?

Along the Costas there are countless Brits who vote and a look at the 2015 election results makes it quite clear that not all of them voted for the Partido Popular.

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Hey! Study uncovers yet more useless bits of research!

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

ACCORDING to a recent survey, 11 per cent of young adults believe Margaret Thatcher was prime minister during the First World War.

If you think that's bad enough, a 2015 survey suggests that 20 per cent of youngsters believe fish fingers are fingers from actual fish.

Problem is, people are always ready to express an opinion, even on subjects they know nothing about.

In one survey, 15 per cent of people said they were either for or against the Monetary Control Bill. The Monetary Control

Bill doesn't exist (Oops! Men are the worst offenders here according to 'research').

People also lie to pollsters. According to the British Election Study, 11.6 per cent of survey respondents claimed to have taken part in the 2010 general election despite not doing so. This accounts for 5.3 million people.

And then there are all these research 'studies.'

Household cleaning products are as bad for lung function as smoking claims one recent investigation. And was it just yesterday we were told processed foods cause an increase in various sorts of cancer? What doesn't, it seems?

Modern living exposes us to a

range of chemicals that wouldn't have been present in primitive societies. But life expectancy in times past was much lower than today. On balance, the contemporary world, although it presents new dangers, offers us the prospect of

living well beyond the biblical three score plus 10.

Fortunately, no one believes any of these scare stories in any case. We've been saturated with so much doom and gloom

(and still are) that you'd think that the world's coming to an end tomorrow through disease, famine and pestilence.

I reckon dogs are far smarter than many of the individuals

involved in any of these surveys or 'studies.'

For instance, in a vet's waiting room recently I was surprised to see owners pacing up and down, jingling coins in pockets, listlessly checking out posters and notices while all the dogs present were sitting, waiting calmly and patiently.

Then I noticed the sign on the waiting room door: 'Be back in five minutes, Sit! Stay!'

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

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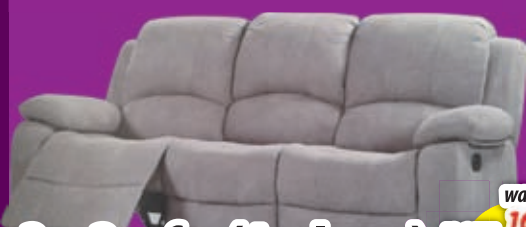
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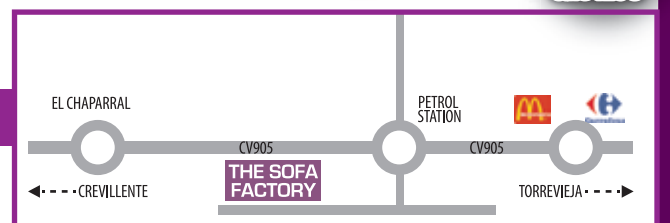
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 2:00pm BBC News at One
 2:30pm BBC London News
 2:45pm Doctors
 3:15pm A Place to Call Home
 4:00pm Escape to the Country
 4:45pm Money for Nothing
 5:30pm Flog It!
 6:15pm Pointless
 7:00pm BBC News at Six
 7:30pm BBC London News
 8:00pm The One Show
 8:30pm EastEnders
 9:00pm MasterChef
 9:30pm Not Going Out
 10:00pm EastEnders
 10:30pm Still Game
 11:00pm BBC News at Ten
 11:30pm BBC London News
 11:45pm Question Time
 12:45am This Week

BBC TWO

7:30am Holding Back the Years
 8:15am The Sheriffs are Coming
 9:00am Earth's Natural Wonders
 10:00am Victoria Derbyshire
 12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live
 1:00pm The Daily Politics
 2:00pm Two Tribes
 2:30pm Yes Chef
 3:15pm Monty Halls' Great Irish Escape
 4:15pm Planet Earth
 5:15pm Spy in the Wild
 6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is
 7:00pm Eggheads
 7:30pm The Repair Shop
 8:00pm Saving Lives at Sea
 9:00pm Big Cats
 10:00pm Civilisations
 11:00pm Match of the Day
 11:30pm Newsnight
 12:15am Top Gear

BBC FOUR

8:00pm Beyond 100 Days
 8:30pm Top of the Pops
 9:00pm Secret Universe: The Hidden Life of the Cell
 10:00pm Contagion! The BBC Four Pandemic
 11:15pm Michael Mosley v the Superbugs
 12:15am Britain's Outlaws: Highwaymen, Pirates and Rogues
 1:15am Top of the Pops
 1:45am The Inca: Masters of the Clouds
 2:45am The Inca: Masters of the Clouds
 3:45am Britain's Outlaws: Highwaymen, Pirates and Rogues
 4:45am Sounds of the Seventies
 4:55am Sounds of the Seventies Solos
 5:00am This is BBC Four

CHANNEL 4

7:00am Countdown
 7:45am 3rd Rock from the Sun
 8:10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
 8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond
 9:30am Frasier
 11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
 12:00pm Undercover Boss USA
 1:00pm Channel 4 News
 1:05pm Come Dine with Me
 2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
 3:10pm Countdown
 4:00pm A Place in the Sun
 5:00pm A New Life in the Sun
 6:00pm Four in a Bed
 6:30pm Star Boot Sale
 7:00pm The Simpsons
 7:30pm Hollyoaks
 8:00pm Channel 4 News
 9:00pm Location, Location, Location
 10:00pm My Baby's Life: Who Decides?
 11:00pm The Job Interview
 12:05am Gogglebox
 1:05am Seven Year Switch

CHANNEL 5

9:05am Floogals
 9:20am Digby Dragon
 9:35am Rusty Rivets
 9:55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
 10:05am Mofy
 10:15am The Wright Stuff
 12:15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
 1:10pm 5 News Lunchtime
 1:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
 2:15pm Home and Away
 2:45pm Neighbours
 3:15pm NCIS
 4:15pm Secrets in the Attic
 5:00pm 5 News at 5
 6:30pm Neighbours
 7:00pm Home and Away
 7:30pm 5 News Tonight
 8:00pm The Yorkshire Vet Casebook
 9:00pm Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun
 10:00pm Do the Right Thing with Eamonn and Ruth
 11:00pm Under Siege

4

7:00am Hollyoaks
 8:00am Rules of Engagement
 9:00am How I Met Your Mother
 10:00am New Girl
 11:00am 2 Broke Girls
 12:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
 12:30pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
 1:00pm The Goldbergs
 2:00pm The Big Bang Theory
 3:00pm How I Met Your Mother
 4:00pm New Girl
 5:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
 6:00pm The Goldbergs
 7:00pm The Big Bang Theory
 8:00pm Hollyoaks
 8:30pm My Hotter Half
 9:00pm The Big Bang Theory
 9:30pm Young Sheldon
 10:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
 10:30pm Derry Girls
 11:00pm Five Star Hotel
 12:05am The Big Bang Theory
 1:00am First Dates
 2:05am Five Star Hotel
 3:05am Tattoo Fixers on Holiday

sky sports main event

7:00am Cricket
Day one of the opening Test as New Zealand host England at Eden Park in Auckland.
 9:25am Cricket
 5:00pm Cricket
 6:00pm Cricket
 6:30pm Sky Sports News at 5
 7:00pm Sky Sports News at 6
 8:00pm Live Premier League Darts
The eighth week of the Unibet Premier League Darts season at the SSE Hydro in Glasgow
 11:30pm Live World Golf Championship
Day two of the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play from the Austin Country Club
 1:00am F1: Grand Prix

itv

7:00am Good Morning Britain
 9:30am Lorraine
 10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
 11:30am This Morning
 1:30pm Loose Women
 2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News
 2:55pm Regional News and Weather
 3:00pm Judge Rinder
 4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
 5:00pm Tipping Point
 6:00pm The Chase
 7:00pm Regional News and Weather
 7:30pm ITV Evening News
 8:00pm Emmerdale
 8:30pm Pets
 9:00pm Emmerdale
 9:30pm Coronation Street
 10:00pm Martin Luther King by Trevor McDonald
 11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
 11:30pm Regional News and Weather
 11:45pm The World's Ugliest Pets
 12:45am The Durrells

itv2

7:45am Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
 8:10am Who's Doing the Dishes?
 8:55am Emmerdale
 9:20am Coronation Street
 9:55am Coronation Street
 10:25am The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 11:20am The Bachelor
 1:15pm Emmerdale
 1:45pm Coronation Street
 2:15pm Coronation Street
 2:45pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 3:35pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
 4:40pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
 5:50pm Judge Rinder
 6:50pm Take Me Out
 8:00pm You've Been Framed!
 8:30pm You've Been Framed!
 9:00pm Two and a Half Men
 9:30pm Two and a Half Men
 10:00pm Family Guy
 10:30pm Family Guy
 11:00pm Celebrity Juice Live
 12:05am Family Guy

itv3

7:00am Coronation Street
Sally discovers Gina has locked her out. Emily helps Shirley make the flat look nice.
 7:25am Coronation Street
 7:50am Heartbeat
 8:55am The Royal
 9:55am Judge Judy
 10:25am Judge Judy
 10:50am Judge Judy
 11:15am Inspector Morse
 1:35pm The Royal
 2:40pm Heartbeat
 3:40pm Coronation Street
 4:15pm Coronation Street
 4:50pm On the Buses
 5:20pm On the Buses
 5:55pm You're Only Young Twice
 6:25pm Rising Damp
 7:00pm Heartbeat
 8:00pm Murder, She Wrote
 9:00pm Vera
 11:00pm Unforgotten
 12:00am Unforgotten
 1:05am DCI Banks
 2:05am DCI Banks
 3:00am ITV3 Nightscreen
 3:30am Teleshopping

itv4

7:00am The Chase
Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh.
 8:00am The Chase
 9:00am Ironside
 10:00am Quincy, M.E.
 11:05am Minder
A video implicating two senior police officers is mistakenly returned to Daley Videos.
 12:10pm The Saint
Troubleshooter Simon Templar embarks on another case involving action and intrigue
 1:15pm Storage Wars
 1:45pm Snooker
 6:00pm Football's Greatest
 6:15pm The Avengers
 7:15pm Storage Wars
 7:45pm Snooker
 12:00am The Dictator
 1:00am FYI Daily
 1:05am The Dictator
 1:40am Minder
 2:45am Deals, Wheels and Steals
 3:15am Deals, Wheels and Steals
 3:45am ITV4 Nightscreen

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9:30am 300
 11:30am Assassin's Creed
Stylish action about a career saved from criminal death shadowy row by a organisation.
 1:35pm Troy
 4:30pm Robin Hood
 7:00pm Braveheart
 10:00pm Assassin's Creed
 12:00am 300

sky CINEMA COMEDY

8:00am The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
 10:00am Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous
 12:00pm Bridesmaids
 2:10pm Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie
 3:50pm This is Spinal Tap
 5:20pm National Lampoon's Animal House
 7:15pm The Boss
 9:00pm Bridesmaids
 11:10pm Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie
 12:50am Police Academy
 2:35am Cooties

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

6:30am Monster Family: Special
 7:00am Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: Special
Sky Movies takes a behind-the-scenes look at the latest trip into JK Rowling's wizarding world.
 7:30am Eat Locals
 9:20am Transformers: The Last Knight
 12:00pm The Land
 2:00pm It Comes at Night
 3:50pm Jasper Jones
 5:40pm My Feral Heart
 7:10pm Inconceivable
 9:00pm Transformers: The Last Knight
Blockbuster sci-fi action about an inventor tasked with saving humanity from impending doom.
 11:40pm The Land
 1:35am Eat Locals
 3:15am It Comes at Night
 4:55am Numb

sky sports football

12:00pm One2eleven
 12:30pm SPFL Greatest Games
 12:45pm SPFL Greatest Games
 1:00pm Playoff Final Highlights
 2:00pm La Liga Icons
 2:30pm La Liga Icons: Falcao
 2:45pm La Liga Icons
 3:00pm Playoff Final Highlights
 4:00pm Football's Greatest Teams
 4:30pm Football's Greatest Teams
 5:00pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
 5:15pm Scottish Cup Greatest Games
 5:30pm La Liga Greatest Games
 5:45pm La Liga Greatest Games
 6:00pm Football Years
 6:30pm Football Countdowns
 7:00pm Eredivisie
 8:00pm EFL Matters
 8:30pm The Best La Liga Goals 2016/17
 9:30pm EFL Matters
 10:00pm La Liga Show
 10:30pm EFL Matters
 11:00pm The Debate - Live

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2:00pm	BBC News at One
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4:45pm	Money for Nothing
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7:00pm	BBC News at Six
7:30pm	BBC London News
8:00pm	Sport Relief 2018
11:00pm	BBC News at Ten
11:25pm	BBC London News
11:35pm	Sport Relief 2018
2:00am	Zoe Ball's Hardest Road Home
3:00am	Weather for the Week Ahead
3:05am	BBC News

BBC TWO

8:15am	The Sheriffs are Coming
9:00am	Back in Time for Tea
10:00am	Victoria Derbyshire
12:00pm	BBC Newsroom Live
1:00pm	The Daily Politics
2:00pm	Two Tribes
2:30pm	Yes Chef
3:15pm	Monty Halls' Great Irish Escape
4:15pm	Planet Earth
5:15pm	Spy in the Wild
6:15pm	Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is
7:00pm	Eggheads
7:30pm	The Repair Shop
8:00pm	Saving Lives at Sea
9:00pm	David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities
9:30pm	Gardeners' World
10:00pm	Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago
11:00pm	A Question of Sport Relief
11:40pm	Newsnight
12:15am	The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	World News Today <i>The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.</i>
8:30pm	Top of the Pops
9:00pm	Fleetwood Mac: Don't Stop
10:00pm	Better than the Original
11:00pm	Pop Charts Britannia: 60 Years of the Top 10
12:30am	Top of the Pops
1:00am	Ultimate Cover Versions at the BBC <i>Smash hits from 60 years of great cover versions in performance from the BBC TV archive.</i>
2:00am	Better than the Original
3:00am	Guitar Heroes at the BBC
4:00am	Fleetwood Mac: Don't Stop
5:00am	This is BBC Four

CHANNEL 4

7:00am	Countdown
7:45am	3rd Rock from the Sun
8:10am	3rd Rock from the Sun
8:35am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:30am	Frasier
10:00am	Frasier
11:05am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
12:00pm	Undercover Boss USA
1:00pm	Channel 4 News
1:05pm	Come Dine with Me
2:05pm	Posh Pawnbrokers
3:10pm	Countdown
4:00pm	A Place in the Sun
5:00pm	A New Life in the Sun
6:00pm	Four in a Bed
6:30pm	Star Boot Sale
7:00pm	The Simpsons
7:30pm	Hollyoaks
8:00pm	Channel 4 News
9:00pm	Britain's Favourite Food
10:00pm	Gogglebox
11:00pm	The Last Leg
12:05am	Rude Tube
1:10am	The Net

CHANNEL 5

9:20am	Digby Dragon
9:35am	Rusty Rivets
9:55am	Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10:05am	Mofy
10:15am	The Wright Stuff
12:15pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
1:10pm	5 News Lunchtime
1:15pm	GPs: Behind Closed Doors
2:15pm	Home and Away
2:45pm	Neighbours
3:15pm	NCIS
4:15pm	The Gourmet Detective 3: Death Al Dente
6:00pm	5 News at 5
6:30pm	Neighbours
7:00pm	Home and Away
7:30pm	5 News Tonight
8:00pm	The Gadget Show
9:00pm	Sandringham: Holidaying with the Queen
10:00pm	Jane McDonald and Friends
11:00pm	Will and Grace
11:30pm	Lip Sync Battle UK
12:05am	Greatest Ever
12:15am	Celebrity Wind-Ups

4

9:00am	How I Met Your Mother
9:30am	How I Met Your Mother
10:00am	New Girl
11:00am	2 Broke Girls
12:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
1:00pm	The Goldbergs
2:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
3:00pm	How I Met Your Mother
4:00pm	New Girl
5:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
5:30pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
6:00pm	The Goldbergs
6:30pm	The Goldbergs
7:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm	Hollyoaks
8:30pm	Rude(Ish) Tube Shorts
8:45pm	School of Rock
11:00pm	Five Star Hotel
12:05am	The Big Bang Theory
12:35am	The Big Bang Theory
1:00am	First Dates
2:05am	Five Star Hotel
3:10am	Tattoo Fixers on Holiday
4:05am	Timeless
4:45am	Rude Tube

sky sports main event

7:00am	Cricket <i>Day two of the opening Test as New Zealand host England at Eden Park in Auckland</i>
9:25am	Cricket <i>Day two of the third Test as South Africa play host to Australia at PPC Newlands in Cape Town.</i>
5:00pm	Cricket
6:00pm	Cricket
6:30pm	Sky Sports News at 5
7:00pm	Live World Golf Championship <i>Day three of the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play from the Austin Country Club.</i>
8:30pm	Live Super League
11:00pm	The Debate - Live
12:00am	Sky Sports News <i>All the news from the Premier League and beyond</i>
1:00am	Cricket
1:30am	Cricket

itv

7:00am	Good Morning Britain
9:30am	Lorraine
10:25am	The Jeremy Kyle Show
11:30am	This Morning
1:30pm	Loose Women
2:30pm	ITV Lunchtime News
2:55pm	Regional News and Weather
3:00pm	Judge Rinder
4:00pm	Dickinson's Real Deal
5:00pm	Tipping Point
6:00pm	The Chase
7:00pm	Regional News and Weather
7:30pm	ITV Evening News
8:00pm	Emmerdale
8:30pm	International Football
11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather
11:35pm	Regional News and Weather
11:45pm	International Football Highlights
12:50am	Play to the Whistle
1:40am	Jackpot247
4:00am	Take on the Twisters

itv2

8:55am	Emmerdale
9:20am	Emmerdale
9:55am	Coronation Street
10:25am	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
11:20am	The Bachelor
1:15pm	Emmerdale
1:45pm	Emmerdale
2:15pm	Coronation Street
2:45pm	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
3:35pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
4:40pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
5:50pm	Judge Rinder
6:50pm	Take Me Out
8:00pm	You've Been Framed!
9:00pm	Crazy Stupid Love
11:20pm	Family Guy
11:50pm	Family Guy
12:20am	Family Guy
12:50am	American Dad!
1:20am	American Dad!
1:50am	The Cleveland Show
2:20am	The Cleveland Show
2:45am	Totally Bonkers Guinness World Record

itv3

7:00am	Coronation Street
7:25am	Coronation Street
7:55am	Heartbeat
8:55am	The Royal
10:00am	Judge Judy
10:25am	Judge Judy
10:55am	Judge Judy
11:20am	Inspector Morse
1:40pm	The Royal
2:40pm	Heartbeat
3:40pm	Coronation Street
4:15pm	Coronation Street
4:50pm	On the Buses
5:20pm	On the Buses
5:55pm	You're Only Young Twice
6:25pm	Rising Damp
6:55pm	Heartbeat
8:00pm	Murder, She Wrote
9:00pm	Agatha Christie's Marple
11:00pm	The Security Men
12:00am	Killer Women with Piers Morgan
1:00am	Vera
2:50am	A Touch of Frost
4:30am	Million Dollar Princesses
5:25am	On the Buses

itv4

7:00am	The Chase <i>Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh.</i>
7:55am	The Chase
8:55am	Ironsides
10:00am	Quincy, M.E.
11:00am	Minder
12:10pm	The Saint
1:15pm	Storage Wars
1:45pm	Snooker
6:00pm	British Touring Car Crashes and Smashes <i>A short sports film depicting extraordinary British Touring Car crashes and smashes.</i>
6:15pm	The Avengers
7:15pm	Storage Wars
7:45pm	Snooker
12:00am	Wanted
1:05am	FYI Daily
1:10am	Wanted
2:15am	Fifth Gear
3:10am	The Protectors
3:45am	ITV4 Nightscreen
4:00am	Teleshopping
5:00am	Teleshopping

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

9:10am	The Terminator
11:00am	Top Gun
1:00pm	Beverly Hills Cop
2:50pm	Beverly Hills Cop II
4:45pm	Conan the Barbarian
7:00pm	The Terminator
9:00pm	Top Gun
11:00pm	RoboCop
1:00am	Bloodsport
2:45am	Beverly Hills Cop
4:40am	Beverly Hills Cop II

sky CINEMA COMEDY

8:50am	Groundhog Day
10:40am	Click
12:35pm	Juno
2:20pm	30 Minutes or Less
3:50pm	Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates
5:35pm	Liar Liar
7:10pm	Big
9:00pm	30 Minutes or Less
10:30pm	Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates
12:15am	The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad!

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

6:30am	The Great Wall: Special
7:00am	The Land
8:50am	Jasper Jones
10:40am	Transformers: The Last Knight <i>Blockbuster sci-fi action about an inventor tasked with saving humanity from impending doom.</i>
1:20pm	Going in Style
3:05pm	My Feral Heart
4:40pm	Eat Locals <i>A team of Special Forces vampire killers stake out the British bloodsuckers gathered at a remote country farmhouse.</i>
6:20pm	Transformers: The Last Knight
9:00pm	Going in Style
10:45pm	It Comes at Night
12:25am	The Land
2:20am	Inconceivable
4:20am	Eat Locals

sky sports football

10:00am	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
10:30am	La Liga Greatest Games
11:00am	La Liga Show
11:30am	EFL Matters
12:00pm	One2eleven
12:30pm	SPFL Greatest Games
1:00pm	La Liga Show
1:30pm	EFL Matters
2:00pm	La Liga Icons
2:30pm	La Liga Icons
3:00pm	La Liga Show
3:30pm	EFL Matters
4:00pm	Football's Greatest
4:30pm	Football's Greatest Teams
5:00pm	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
5:30pm	La Liga Greatest Games
6:00pm	La Liga Preview
7:00pm	La Liga Icons
7:15pm	La Liga Icons
7:30pm	EFL Matters
8:00pm	Football's Greatest
8:30pm	Football
11:00pm	The Debate - Live
12:00am	La Liga Icons



**TV COUCH
CRITIC**

by Adam Whalley-Lewis

THE DURRELLS have returned to *ITV* on Sunday evenings to bring a touch of Corfu to our weekends. This is the third series of the drama very loosely based around Gerald Durrell's memoir about his life in 1930's Corfu and is a perfect tonic if you are fed up with talent(less) shows and movie reruns.

I like the soft storylines, the scenery and the fact I could watch it with my Mum and not have to worry about anything nasty flashing across the screen. There are few shows which could simultaneously carry plotlines about giving up on finding love, taking up the harp and juggling multiple girlfriends and still be OK to watch con mi madre - but *The Durrells* does it really well. The Greek sunshine helps to make you feel just a little bit warmer too.

Immediately after *The Durrells* have gently guided us around their Greek lives, Amanda Redman wizzes us to Southern India with the return of *The Good Karma Hospital*, *ITV* Sunday evenings. I'm really not sure about Dr Ruby (Amrita Acharia) on that motorbike you know, the helmet must play havoc with her hair, but fans of the show will be pleased that she is still around to be put in her place by Ms Red-

The Durrells, Good Karma and a chateau



Photo credit ITV/Channel 4

PERFECT TO WATCH WITH MUM: The Durrells.

man and to continue her strange flirting antics with Dr Varma; I say flirting, I think that is what's happening, but Dr R can be so grumpy she will surely find herself heading for a night shift at *Holby City* if she doesn't crack a smile sometime soon. This isn't hard hitting, point making medical stuff, but it does what it sets out to do and I like it.

Sticking with Sunday night viewing for just a little bit longer, I'm so pleased that *Channel 4* are serving up another series of *Escape to the Chateau*. The Chateau de la Motte Husson is in the Loire and over the previous three series has been restored by Dick and Angel - she is the

brains and he is, well everything else. Dick can fix just about anything and knows how everything works, frankly I could do with him for a couple of days in mi casa, just to pull everything together.

Having 'done up' the Chateau, the couple are running an obviously successful foodie and wedding business and it's lovely to watch. You might struggle with Angel's hair and the fact Dick sometimes looks like an eccentric Englishman being Bohemian in the French countryside, oh wait, that's exactly what he is!

I don't know what to make of BBC2's new show *The Secret Helpers*, *BBC2* Wednesdays.



MANE ATTRACTION: Escape to the Chateau.

The format links people who need help or advice with random people around the world via secret earpieces. Family and friends aren't aware of the earpiece advice as their loved ones muddle through their personal challenges.

The advice givers include a Catholic nun, a retired NY police officer and someone in Denmark who is neither a nun nor a policeman, they just seems to be Danish. Now, the get-you-to-watch element seems to be the people getting advice. Show one helped out Dan who was left blind after two strokes and first time parent Brett who just wants to be a good Dad. You know I will be coming back to this one!

Looking ahead, *The Voice* is slowly drawing to a close with the knockout shows continuing on *ITV* on Saturday. I have no idea who is going through... *Happy viewing.*

With a lot of flower[er]

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BBC one

7:00am	Breakfast
11:00am	Saturday Kitchen Live
12:30pm	Classic Mary Berry
1:00pm	Football Focus
1:30pm	BBC News <i>The latest national and international news stories, followed by Weather.</i>
1:40pm	Weather
1:45pm	Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists
3:05pm	Gymnastics
4:50pm	The Boat Race
7:15pm	Doodlebugs
7:30pm	BBC News
7:40pm	Regional News
7:43pm	Weather
7:45pm	Pointless
8:40pm	Who Dares Wins
9:20pm	Casualty
10:10pm	Troy: Fall of a City
11:10pm	BBC News
11:25pm	Weather
11:30pm	Guardians of the Galaxy
1:23am	Weather for the Week Ahead
1:30am	BBC News

BBC TWO

8:10am	The Pets Factor
8:30am	Dengineers
9:00am	Absolute Genius: Monster Builds
9:30am	Beyond Bionic
10:00am	Robot Wars
11:00am	Elephant Family and Me
12:00pm	Famously Unfit for Sport Relief
1:00pm	Homes Under the Hammer
1:45pm	Escape to the Country
2:30pm	Planet Earth I
3:30pm	Me and My Dog
4:30pm	The Repair Shop
5:00pm	The Secret Helpers
6:00pm	Big Cats About the House
7:00pm	Hugh's Wild West
8:00pm	Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby
9:00pm	David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities
9:30pm	Dad's Army
10:00pm	Picasso's Last Stand
11:00pm	A Late Quartet
12:40am	Safe Haven
1:30am	Civilisations

BBC FOUR

9:00pm	The Silk Road
10:00pm	Below the Surface
10:45pm	Below the Surface
11:30pm	Top of the Pops <i>Mike Read and Steve Wright present the pop chart programme, first broadcast on 23 May 1985.</i>
12:00am	Top of the Pops
12:30am	Blues at the BBC
1:30am	Ballrooms and Ballerinas: Dance at the BBC
3:30am	Lost Kingdoms of Central America
4:30am	The Silk Road
5:30am	Secret Knowledge <i>In 1912, workmen demolishing a building in London's Cheapside district made an extraordinary discovery - a dazzling hoard of nearly 500 Elizabethan and Jacobean jewels.</i>

CHANNEL 4

6:20am	Coast v Country
7:15am	King of Queens
7:40am	King of Queens
8:05am	King of Queens
8:30am	Mobil 1 the Grid
9:00am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:25am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:55am	Frasier
10:25am	Frasier
11:00am	Frasier
11:30am	The Big Bang Theory
12:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
12:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
1:00pm	The Simpsons
1:30pm	The Simpsons
2:00pm	Formula 1
3:50pm	Car S.O.S
4:50pm	Coast v Country
5:50pm	A Place in the Sun
6:35pm	The Secret Life of the Zoo
7:30pm	Channel 4 News
8:00pm	Coastal Railways with Julie Walters
9:00pm	Britain at Low Tide
10:00pm	Everest
12:20am	Predator 2
3:20am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA

CHANNEL 5

6:10am	HouseBusters
6:35am	Wildlife SOS
7:00am	Milkshake!
11:00am	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
11:35am	The Gadget Show
12:30pm	Police Interceptors
1:30pm	Police Interceptors
2:30pm	Police Interceptors
3:30pm	Live Premiership Rugby
6:15pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
7:15pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
8:00pm	Cruising with Jane McDonald
9:00pm	Inside Windsor Castle
9:55pm	5 News
10:00pm	King Tut's Treasure Secrets
11:00pm	King Tut's Tomb: The Hidden Chamber
11:55pm	Secrets of the Valley of the Kings
12:45am	Football on 5 Goal Rush.
1:15am	Super Casino
4:10am	Due Date
5:45am	House Doctor

4

7:00am	Couples Come Dine with Me
7:55am	Couples Come Dine with Me
8:55am	Made in Chelsea
10:00am	Don't Tell the Bride
11:00am	The Goldbergs
11:30am	The Goldbergs
12:00pm	The Goldbergs
12:30pm	The Goldbergs
1:00pm	The Goldbergs
1:30pm	Dragonball Evolution
3:05pm	Rude(Ish) Tube Shorts
3:30pm	The Goldbergs
4:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
4:30pm	Young Sheldon
5:00pm	The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer
6:15pm	Extreme Cake Makers
6:50pm	Extreme Cakemakers
7:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
9:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
9:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
10:00pm	2 Guns
12:05am	Gogglebox

sky sports main event

6:55am	Live Australian F1 GP: Qualifying <i>The qualifying stage from the 2018 Australian Grand Prix at the Melbourne Grand Prix Circuit.</i>
8:40am	The F1 Show
9:10am	Paddock Uncut
9:25am	Cricket <i>Day three of the third Test as South Africa meet Australia in Cape Town.</i>
5:00pm	Cricket <i>Day three of the opening Test as New Zealand host England at Eden Park in Auckland.</i>
6:00pm	Football <i>Luton Town take on Barnet at Kenilworth Road in Sky Bet League 2</i>
8:30pm	Boxing
12:00am	Boxing
12:30am	AJ: The Knockouts
1:00am	Cricket

itv

7:00am	CITV
10:25am	ITV News
10:30am	Saturday Morning with James Martin
12:20pm	Who's Doing the Dishes?
1:20pm	ITV News and Weather
1:30pm	Dancing on Ice
3:30pm	Britain's Brightest Family
4:00pm	Celebrity Catchphrase
5:00pm	Tipping Point
6:00pm	The Chase
7:00pm	ITV News and Weather
7:20pm	Local News and Weather
7:30pm	You've Been Framed!
8:00pm	Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
9:30pm	The Voice UK
11:30pm	ITV News and Weather
11:45pm	Fast Five
3:00am	Jackpot247
4:00am	Babushka

itv2

7:20am	Emmerdale Omnibus
9:50am	Coronation Street Omnibus
12:20pm	Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
1:50pm	You've Been Framed! Gold
2:55pm	Spy Kids 3: Game Over
3:55pm	FYI Daily
4:00pm	Spy Kids 3: Game Over
4:40pm	Happy Feet
5:40pm	FYI Daily
5:45pm	Happy Feet
6:45pm	The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor
7:45pm	FYI Daily
7:50pm	The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor
8:50pm	The Amazing Spider-Man
9:55pm	FYI Daily
10:00pm	The Amazing Spider-Man
11:30pm	Celebrity Juice
12:35am	Family Guy

itv3

6:15am	Judge Judy
6:35am	ITV3 Nightscreen
7:00am	Judge Judy
7:20am	Murder, She Wrote <i>Drama series about a sleuthing writer who solves murder mysteries.</i>
8:15am	Murder, She Wrote
9:15am	A Touch of Frost <i>Set in the town of Denton, this police drama series focuses on Detective Inspector Frost and his long-suffering Superintendent Harry Mullett.</i>
11:20am	A Touch of Frost
1:30pm	Agatha Christie's Marple
3:40pm	Evil Under the Sun
6:00pm	Midsomer Murders
8:00pm	Midsomer Murders
10:00pm	Midsomer Murders
12:00am	Lewis
1:55am	ITV3 Nightscreen
3:30am	Teleshopping

itv4

7:00am	Football's Greatest
7:10am	The Avengers
8:15am	The Avengers
9:20am	The Avengers
10:30am	ITV Racing: The Opening Show
11:30am	Fishing Allstars
12:00pm	Fishing Allstars
12:25pm	Monster Carp
1:25pm	Monster Carp
2:30pm	ITV Racing: Live from Doncaster
5:00pm	Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure
6:05pm	FYI Daily
6:10pm	Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure
6:45pm	Storage Wars
7:15pm	Storage Wars
7:45pm	Snooker <i>Coverage and reaction from the latest Snooker event taking place.</i>
12:00am	Windtalkers
1:10am	FYI Daily
1:15am	Windtalkers
3:45am	ITV4 Nightscreen
4:00am	Teleshopping

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:00am	Armageddon
9:45am	Star Trek Beyond
12:00pm	John Wick: Chapter Two
2:15pm	Fast and Furious 8
4:45pm	The Bourne Identity
6:45pm	Star Trek Beyond
9:00pm	John Wick: Chapter Two
11:10pm	Fast and Furious 8
1:30am	Birth of the Dragon
4:15am	Bad Boys

sky CINEMA COMEDY

8:05am	Happy Gilmore
9:45am	Uncle Buck
11:30am	Little Man
1:15pm	Baywatch
3:20pm	Paul
5:15pm	Couples Retreat
7:15pm	The Rocky Horror Picture Show
9:00pm	Baywatch
11:00pm	Paul
12:50am	Kill Me Three Times
3:35am	Coming to America
5:45am	The Apartment

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

6:30am	Monster Family: Special
7:00am	Jasper Jones
9:00am	My Feral Heart
10:40am	Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: Special <i>Sky Movies takes a behind-the-scenes look at the latest trip into JK Rowling's wizarding world.</i>
11:10am	Despicable Me 3
12:55pm	Going in Style
2:45pm	Transformers: The Last Knight
5:25pm	Jasper Jones
7:25pm	Despicable Me 3
9:00pm	Going in Style
10:40pm	Transformers: The Last Knight <i>Blockbuster sci-fi action about an inventor tasked with saving humanity from impending doom</i>
1:20am	Inconceivable
4:10am	The Land

sky sports football

7:00am	EFL Greatest Games <i>Relive some classic action from the English Football League</i>
7:15am	EFL Greatest Games
7:30am	SPFL Greatest Games
7:45am	SPFL Greatest Games
8:00am	Football Years
8:30am	Football Countdowns
9:00am	Football's Greatest
9:30am	Football's Greatest
10:00am	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
10:15am	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
10:30am	Football Years
11:00am	Soccer A.M.
12:30pm	Football Countdowns
1:00pm	Gillette Soccer Saturday
6:00pm	Football
8:30pm	EFL Greatest Games
8:45pm	MLS Greatest Games
8:50pm	Football
10:55pm	MLS Greatest Games
11:00pm	Football
1:05am	Magical Messi
3:00am	One2eleven

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BBC one

10:00am	The Andrew Marr Show
11:00am	The Big Questions
12:00pm	Sunday Politics
1:15pm	BBC News
1:25pm	Weather for the Week Ahead
1:30pm	MasterChef
2:30pm	MasterChef
3:30pm	MasterChef
4:00pm	Money for Nothing
5:00pm	Escape to the Country
5:30pm	Songs of Praise
6:05pm	Sport Relief 2018
7:05pm	The Best Bits.
7:05pm	BBC News
7:20pm	Regional News
7:25pm	Weather
7:30pm	Countryfile
8:30pm	Hold the Sunset
9:00pm	MasterChef
9:30pm	RAF at 100 with Ewan and Colin Mcgregor
11:00pm	BBC News
11:22pm	Regional News
11:25pm	Weather
11:30pm	War of the Worlds
1:15am	The Women's Football Show

BBC TWO

7:20am	Coast
8:20am	The Instant Gardener
9:05am	Gardeners' World
9:35am	Countryfile
10:35am	Saturday Kitchen
	Best Bites
12:05pm	Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge
12:50pm	Lorraine Pascale: How to be a Better Cook
1:20pm	Homes Under the Hammer
2:20pm	Bringing Up Baby
4:00pm	Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago
5:00pm	The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives
6:00pm	Real Steel
8:00pm	Down the Mighty River with Steve Backshall
9:00pm	Top Gear
10:00pm	Reggie Yates: Searching for Grenfell's Lost Lives
11:00pm	Mock the Week
11:30pm	Top Gear Extra Gear
11:55pm	Life of Crime
1:30am	Question Time
2:30am	Holby City

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	Only Connect
	<i>A show in which connections must be made between seemingly unconnected things.</i>
8:30pm	University Challenge
9:00pm	Ancient Greece: The Greatest Show on Earth
	<i>Classicist Dr Michael Scott journeys to Athens to explore how drama first began.</i>
10:00pm	Capability Brown's Unfinished Garden
11:00pm	The Banker's Guide to the Art Market
12:30am	The Secret Life of Children's Books
1:00am	The World's Most Beautiful Eggs: The Genius of Carl Faberge
2:00am	Moonland Tales: The Life of Tove Jansson
3:00am	Capability Brown's Unfinished Garden
4:00am	Ten Little Indians

CHANNEL 4

6:15am	Coast v Country
7:10am	King of Queens
7:35am	Everybody Loves Raymond
8:25am	Frasier
9:25am	Race of Champions 2018
10:30am	Sunday Brunch
1:30pm	Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
2:30pm	The Simpsons
3:30pm	Formula 1
6:15pm	The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer
7:30pm	Channel 4 News
8:00pm	Homes by the Med
9:00pm	Escape to the Chateau
10:00pm	Homeland
11:15pm	8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown
12:10am	Rush
2:25am	The Last Leg
3:20am	The Question Jury
4:15am	KOTV Boxing Weekly
4:45am	Mobil 1 the Grid
5:10am	Mobil 1 the Grid
5:40am	Coast v Country

CHANNEL 5

7:00am	Milkshake!
10:50am	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
11:25am	Football on 5 Goal Rush.
11:50am	Make You Laugh Out Loud
12:20pm	Police Interceptors
1:20pm	The Illusionist
3:25pm	The Man in the Iron Mask
5:45pm	A Knight's Tale
8:05pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
9:00pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
9:55pm	5 News
10:00pm	The Bodyguard
12:35am	Whitney Houston: A Tragic Love
2:20am	Whitney Houston: Her Greatest Hits
3:10am	Super Casino
4:10am	Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind Ups
5:00am	Britain's Greatest Bridges
5:45am	House Doctor

4

5:30am	How I Met Your Mother
7:00am	Hollyoaks Omnibus
9:20am	Made in Chelsea
10:25am	Don't Tell the Bride
11:25am	The Crystal Maze
12:30pm	The Goldbergs
1:00pm	The Goldbergs
1:30pm	The Goldbergs
2:00pm	The Goldbergs
2:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
3:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
3:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
4:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
4:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
5:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
5:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
6:00pm	The Goldbergs
6:30pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
7:00pm	Young Sheldon
7:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:55pm	Fantastic Four
10:00pm	Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.
11:00pm	The Inbetweeners
11:35pm	The Inbetweeners
12:10am	The Big Bang Theory
12:35am	The Big Bang Theory
1:05am	Five Star Hotel
2:05am	Five Star Hotel
3:10am	Five Star Hotel

sky sports main event

7:05am	Live Australian F1 Grand Prix
9:30am	Live Australian F1 GP: Paddock Live
10:10am	F1: GP: Race Replay
12:25pm	Cricket
	<i>Day four of the third Test as South Africa host Australia in Cape Town.</i>
2:00pm	Football
	<i>Chesterfield take on Notts County at the ProAct Stadium in Sky Bet League 2.</i>
4:30pm	Football
	<i>Portsmouth take on Oxford United at Fratton Park in Sky Bet League 1</i>
7:00pm	Live World Golf Championship
1:00am	Cricket
	<i>Day four of the opening Test as New Zealand host England at Eden Park in Auckland.</i>
2:00am	Cricket
2:30am	Cricket

itv

10:30am	Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury
11:00am	Peston on Sunday
12:00pm	The Voice UK
1:50pm	ITV News and Weather
2:00pm	Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
3:30pm	You've Been Framed!
4:00pm	Tenable
5:00pm	Tipping Point
6:00pm	The Chase
7:00pm	Paul O'grady: For the Love of Dogs
7:30pm	ITV News and Weather
7:45pm	Local News and Weather
8:00pm	Celebrity Catchphrase
9:00pm	The Durrells
10:00pm	The Good Karma Hospital
11:00pm	ITV News and Weather
11:20pm	Peston on Sunday
12:20am	Captain Corelli's Mandolin

itv2

7:00am	Planet's Funniest Animals
7:10am	Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
7:35am	You've Been Framed! Gold
8:00am	Emmerdale Omnibus
10:40am	Coronation Street Omnibus
1:05pm	You've Been Framed!
2:10pm	The Voice UK
4:05pm	BGT: Stephen's Unsung Heroes
5:10pm	Hotel Transylvania Preview
6:10pm	FYI Daily
6:15pm	Hotel Transylvania Preview
6:55pm	Happy Feet Two
7:55pm	FYI Daily
8:00pm	Happy Feet Two
9:00pm	Skyfall
10:00pm	FYI Daily
10:05pm	Skyfall
11:50pm	Family Guy
12:20am	Family Guy
12:50am	Family Guy
1:20am	American Dad!
1:50am	American Dad!

itv3

8:30am	Heartbeat
9:30am	Heartbeat
10:35am	Inspector Morse
12:55pm	A Touch of Frost
2:55pm	Brief Encounter
4:40pm	The Theory of Everything
7:00pm	Vera
	<i>Drama based on the novel by Ann Cleeves.</i>
9:00pm	The Cruise
9:30pm	The Cruise
10:00pm	Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure
11:00pm	Murder on the Homefront
12:00am	Murder on the Homefront
1:05am	Evil Under the Sun
3:25am	Blue Murder
4:40am	Rising Damp
5:05am	Road to Avonlea
	<i>Drama series following the adventures of a young girl who is sent to live in remote Avonlea.</i>

itv4

7:00am	Snooker v Darts Sports short film.
7:05am	Quincy, M.E. Another case for the chief coroner of LA County.
8:10am	Minder
9:10am	Storage Wars
9:40am	Storage Wars Reality series. In Oceanside, Rene seeks revenge on his fellow bidders.
10:05am	Fishing Allstars
10:40am	Fishing Allstars
11:10am	Fishing Allstars
11:40am	Monster Carp
12:40pm	Monster Carp
1:45pm	Snooker
6:15pm	Storage Wars
6:45pm	Storage Wars
7:10pm	Storage Wars
7:45pm	Snooker
12:15am	Senna
1:15am	FYI Daily
1:20am	Senna
2:25am	It's Not Rocket Science
3:30am	Fishing Allstars
4:00am	Teleshopping

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:00am	Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol
9:00am	Hancock
10:45am	Assassin's Creed
12:45pm	The Great Wall
2:45pm	Iron Man 3
5:00pm	300
7:00pm	Assassin's Creed
9:00pm	The Great Wall
11:00pm	Hancock
12:40am	Iron Man 3
2:55am	300

sky CINEMA COMEDY

5:45am	The Apartment
8:00am	Top Ten Show, the 2018
8:15am	Music and Lyrics
10:05am	All Roads Lead to Rome
11:45am	Mrs. Brown's Boys D'Movie
1:25pm	Stuck on You
3:25pm	Snatched
5:05pm	That Thing You Do!
7:00pm	How to be a Latin Lover
9:00pm	Stuck on You
11:00pm	Snatched
12:45am	Go
2:35am	The Night is Young

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

6:30am	Moana: Special
7:00am	The Great Wall: Special
7:30am	Jasper Jones
9:15am	Transformers: The Last Knight
	<i>Blockbuster sci-fi action about an inventor tasked with saving humanity from impending doom</i>
11:50am	Despicable Me 3
1:25pm	Going in Style
3:05pm	The Beguiled
4:45pm	Transformers: The Last Knight
7:25pm	Despicable Me 3
	<i>Dismissed from the Anti-Villain League after botching a mission, Gru sets off to meet his long-lost twin brother.</i>
9:00pm	Going in Style
10:45pm	The Beguiled
12:30am	Eat Locals
2:15am	It Comes at Night
4:00am	Inconceivable

sky sports football

9:00am	Football's Greatest
9:30am	Football's Greatest Teams
10:00am	EFL Goals: League One and League Two
10:30am	Sunday Supplement
12:00pm	One2eleven
12:15pm	One2eleven
12:30pm	SPFL Greatest Games
12:45pm	SPFL Greatest Games
1:00pm	Football Countdowns
1:30pm	EFL Goals: League One and League Two
2:00pm	Football
4:30pm	Football
7:00pm	Football's Greatest
7:30pm	Football's Greatest
8:00pm	Football's Greatest
8:30pm	Football's Greatest
9:00pm	Football's Greatest
9:30pm	Football's Greatest
10:00pm	Football's Greatest
10:30pm	Football's Greatest
11:00pm	EFL Goals: League One and League Two
11:30pm	Football Years
12:00am	La Liga Icons: Zidane
12:15am	La Liga Icons
12:30am	La Liga Icons

A letter from Cuba

by Barbara Belt

AFTER a seven-hour transatlantic flight, your Canarian correspondent finds herself in Cuba. Were this the early 19th century, I'd have come on the weekly Canaries-Cuba sea route.

Incredibly, there were more boats to Cuba then than to mainland Spain. The Cuban sugar, tobacco and coffee industries, developed with African slave labour in the late 16th century, attracted massive Canarian emigration centuries later. Why stay on a feudal Canary Island as a Cacique's vassal when opportunities for making a living were within reach?

And Cuba, 6,000kms away, was within reach, as Venezuela was later when Cuba's attractions declined, because anything tossed into Canarian waters is 90 per cent sure to wash up in the Caribbean. The currents and winds take you there.

Canarian emigration to the Americas and the exportation, then re-importation of morphed versions of culture-particularly music- is why I'm here. After 30 years listening to what's popularly termed Salsa music, I'm investi-

gating its origins.

All Canarian fiestas feature this bounce between music from the Canaries and the Americas and Cuba's racial and cultural mix plays a key role in its creation.

If you've never been, well, go (unless you're a wuss). If you've been, you'll know Cuba is multi-faceted and often contradictory.

La Habana's a dirty, decrepit, port city full of ancient cars and crumbling

grandeur, with some of the best music you'll ever hear. One street, Calle Obispo, with all its bars and musicians, took me all day and alone merited the trip.

I left for Viñales, first stop on my metre-long bus itinerary print out. West of La Habana, it's rural, beautiful. Horses are transport. Riding the valley's a treat. Accommodation there, and everywhere, in 'casas particulares,' costs from €15 to €25. Eating

there disappoints less than eating out.

My see-it-all travel itinerary was typically masochistic. Cuba's a big island and I've bussed the 1,500km length of it, meeting nice, totally multi-racial people, many with Canarian ancestors, hearing music everywhere.

I'm happily exhausted.

At Sancti Spiritus, bookseller Roberto Merino Martin - who has Canarian great grandparents - told me fascinating stories, surrounded by

ancient books.

Later, in contrast, Brit reserve saved me from hysterics as 34 French people line-danced salsa behind their teacher in La Casa de La Trova (Cuban music holy of holies. Tourism strikes again).

Towards big, hot, noisy Santiago de Cuba, lush landscapes begin, the racial mix darkens and then... bang!

There's rubbish on the streets, a contaminated coastline, cheap street food, nice people, more percussion, heavy music and more hasslers. I escaped to a beach on Julio's moto-taxi. Refusing to leave me 'unprotected,' as his presence 'ensured' peace.

Some old European ladies seem flattered, it was a Cuban memory I'd happily ditch. Cubans are often beautiful and generally moneyless. Go figure.

Sixteenth century Baracoa the first town established by Spanish conquerors and my last stop. Here, my music quest ends, thanks to an invitation to see Grupo Folklorico Bararumba, whose brilliant dance/percussion narrative performance on Cuban musical evolution says it all.



POPULAR CANDIDATE: Ines Arrimadas is boosting support for Ciudadanos in Cataluña.



Fervour, processions, choral songs, images and gastronomy are merging into a hug to make our Easter Week, Feast of International Tourist Interest.

The Easter Week of Crevillent, Feast of International Tourist Interest since 2011, has some peculiarities that make it different from the others. On the afternoon of the Saturday of Passion, the sounds of the two "Bocinas" of the passage of the Convocation invite us to participate, to go out into the street, to live "our" particular Easter Week. Saturday, 24 March.

It is Palm Sunday and the first "Benlliure" runs through our streets accompanied by a crowd of worshippers with their palms, everything is bustle. In front, the austerity of Holy Tuesday and its Procession of Penance, the dim lights, torches, grave voices, Christ on his shoulders, austerity. Sunday, 25 March.

The afternoon of Holy Wednesday, after the arrangement of the steps by the families, everything is transformed with its concentration around the Church, the reunion of friends and family with the phrase "there are more people than ever" and the Procession of The Passion of Christ that ends with the songs of the people to their "Sorrowful", so that at dawn give out to the Procession of the Transfer. Wednesday, 28 March.

We are on Good Friday and the "dianas" are awakened and the "Hugs" of the Nazarene arrive with the Virgin and the lunches ("cocas", "pa torrat", beans, cod and garlic), after a rest, with great fervour, rigor and seriousness Witness or participate in the Procession of the Death of Christ, a whole concert of polyphony, eight choirs, after the different steps, four of them Benlliure. Friday, 30 March.

Procession of the Holy Burial of Christ for the night of Holy Saturday and blast of joy on Easter Sunday when the Virgin leaves her clothes in mourning and sounds the Hallelujah of G.F.Handel. Saturday, 31 March.

It is Easter Week in Crevillent, our Easter Week, we would like you to meet her.

EASTER WEEK OF CREVILLENT
 Declared to be of international touristic interest



GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR CAR 902 123 309



BBC one

7:00am	Breakfast
10:15am	Holding Back the Years
11:00am	Homes Under the Hammer
12:00pm	The Sheriffs are Coming
12:45pm	Claimed and Shamed
1:15pm	Bargain Hunt
2:00pm	BBC News
2:30pm	Regional News
2:45pm	Doctors
3:15pm	A Place to Call Home
4:05pm	Escape to the Country
4:45pm	Money for Nothing
5:30pm	Flog It!
6:15pm	Pointless
7:00pm	BBC News
7:30pm	Regional News
8:00pm	The One Show
8:30pm	MasterChef
9:00pm	EastEnders
9:30pm	Classic Mary Berry
10:00pm	The Queen
11:00pm	BBC News
11:30pm	Regional News
11:40pm	Weather
11:45pm	Imagine...
1:25am	Live at the Apollo
2:15am	Weather for the Week Ahead
2:20am	BBC News

BBC TWO

7:30am	Holding Back the Years
8:15am	The Sheriffs are Coming
9:00am	Hugh's Wild West
10:00am	Victoria Derbyshire
12:00pm	BBC Newsroom Live
12:30pm	The Week in Parliament
1:00pm	The Daily Politics
2:00pm	Coast
2:10pm	Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House
3:40pm	Monty Halls' Great Irish Escape
4:40pm	Blitz Cities
5:10pm	Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF
6:15pm	Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is
7:00pm	Eggheads
7:30pm	The Repair Shop
8:00pm	Top Gear
9:00pm	Only Connect
9:30pm	University Challenge
10:00pm	Hospital
11:00pm	QI
11:30pm	Newsnight
12:10am	Weather
12:15am	Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago

BBC FOUR

8:00pm	Beyond 100 Days
8:30pm	Danny Baker Rocks the Seventies (a Bit)
9:00pm	Treasures of the Indus
10:00pm	The Art of Spain Critic and art historian Andrew Graham-Dixon travels from southern to northern Spain to tell the story of some of Europe's most exciting and vital art.
11:00pm	The Lost Genius of British Art: William Dobson
12:00am	Elegance and Decadence: The Age of the Regency
1:00am	How to be a Surrealist with Philippa Perry
2:00am	Top of the Pops Simon Bates presents the weekly pop chart show, first broadcast on 6th May 1982.
2:30am	Top of the Pops
3:00am	The Art of Spain

CHANNEL 4

8:35am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:00am	Everybody Loves Raymond
9:30am	Frasier
10:00am	Frasier
10:35am	Frasier
11:05am	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
12:00pm	Undercover Boss USA
1:00pm	Channel 4 News
1:05pm	Come Dine with Me
2:05pm	Posh Pawnbrokers
3:10pm	Countdown
4:00pm	A Place in the Sun
5:00pm	A New Life in the Sun
6:00pm	Four in a Bed
6:30pm	Star Boot Sale
7:00pm	The Simpsons
7:30pm	Hollyoaks
8:00pm	Channel 4 News
9:00pm	Dispatches
9:30pm	Thrifty Ways to... Summer Holiday
10:00pm	24 Hours in Police Custody
11:00pm	The Great Spy Murder Mystery
12:05am	How to Get a Council House

CHANNEL 5

7:00am	Milkshake!
10:15am	The Wright Stuff
12:15pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
1:10pm	5 News
1:15pm	The Gadget Show
2:10pm	Access
2:15pm	Home and Away
2:45pm	Neighbours
3:15pm	NCIS
4:15pm	Kidnapped: Desperate Hours
6:00pm	5 News
6:30pm	Neighbours
7:00pm	Home and Away
7:30pm	5 News
8:00pm	Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights
9:00pm	Paralysed: Britain's Worst Winter
10:00pm	Paddington Station 24/7
11:00pm	Armed and Deadly: Police UK
12:05am	The X Files
1:05am	The X Files
1:55am	Super Casino
4:10am	Bargain Loving Brits in the Sun
5:00am	Britain's Greatest Bridges

4

8:00am	Rules of Engagement
9:00am	How I Met Your Mother
10:00am	New Girl
11:00am	2 Broke Girls
12:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
1:00pm	The Goldbergs
1:30pm	The Goldbergs
2:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
2:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
3:00pm	How I Met Your Mother
4:00pm	New Girl
5:00pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
5:30pm	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
6:00pm	The Goldbergs
6:30pm	The Goldbergs
7:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm	The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm	Hollyoaks
8:30pm	Extreme Cake Makers
9:00pm	The Big Bang Theory
9:30pm	Young Sheldon
10:00pm	Made in Chelsea
11:00pm	Five Star Hotel
12:05am	The Big Bang Theory
12:35am	The Big Bang Theory
1:00am	First Dates
2:05am	Five Star Hotel
3:05am	Made in Chelsea

sky sports main event

2:30am	Cricket
7:00am	Cricket Day five of the opening Test as New Zealand host England at Eden Park in Auckland.
10:30am	Cricket Day five of the third Test as South Africa host Australia in Cape Town.
5:30pm	Live ATP 1000: Miami
6:00pm	Live ATP 1000: Miami
3:30am	Super League Full Time
4:00am	Sky Sports News All the news from the Premier League and beyond.
5:00am	Sky Sports News

itv

7:00am	Good Morning Britain
9:30am	Lorraine
10:25am	The Jeremy Kyle Show
11:30am	This Morning
1:30pm	Loose Women
2:30pm	ITV Lunchtime News
3:00pm	Judge Rinder
4:00pm	Dickinson's Real Deal
5:00pm	Tipping Point
6:00pm	The Chase
7:00pm	Local News and Weather
7:30pm	ITV Evening News
8:00pm	Emmerdale
8:30pm	Coronation Street
9:00pm	The Kyle Files
9:30pm	Coronation Street
10:00pm	Marcella
11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather
11:50pm	100 Years Younger in 21 Days
12:50am	100 Year Old Driving School
1:15am	Martin Luther King by Trevor McDonald
2:05am	The Kyle Files

itv2

7:20am	Totally Bonkers
8:10am	Who's Doing the Dishes?
8:55am	Emmerdale
9:25am	You've Been Framed! Gold
10:25am	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
11:20am	The Bachelor
1:15pm	Emmerdale
1:45pm	You've Been Framed! Gold
2:45pm	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
3:35pm	The Jeremy Kyle Show
5:50pm	Judge Rinder
6:50pm	Take Me Out
8:00pm	You've Been Framed! Gold
8:30pm	You've Been Framed! Gold
9:00pm	Two and a Half Men
9:30pm	Two and a Half Men
10:00pm	Family Guy
10:30pm	American Dad!
11:00pm	Action Team
11:35pm	Family Guy
12:05am	Family Guy
12:30am	American Dad!

itv3

6:45am	ITV3 Nightscreen
7:00am	Classic Coronation Street
7:25am	Classic Coronation Street
7:55am	Heartbeat
8:55am	The Royal
9:55am	Judge Judy
10:25am	Judge Judy
10:50am	Judge Judy
11:20am	Inspector Morse
1:35pm	The Royal
2:40pm	Heartbeat
3:40pm	Classic Coronation Street
4:15pm	Classic Coronation Street
4:50pm	On the Buses
5:20pm	On the Buses
5:55pm	You're Only Young Twice
6:25pm	Rising Damp
6:55pm	Heartbeat
8:00pm	Murder, She Wrote
9:00pm	Lewis
11:00pm	DCI Banks
12:00am	DCI Banks
1:05am	Scott and Bailey
2:05am	Scott and Bailey
3:00am	ITV3 Nightscreen

itv4

7:00am	The Protectors
7:30am	The Chase
8:30am	Ironsides
9:30am	Quincy, M.E.
10:35am	Minder
11:40am	The Saint
12:45pm	The Avengers
1:50pm	Ironsides
2:50pm	Quincy, M.E.
3:55pm	Minder
4:55pm	The Saint
6:00pm	The Avengers
7:05pm	Storage Wars
7:30pm	Storage Wars
8:00pm	Pawn Stars
8:30pm	Pawn Stars
9:00pm	River Monsters
10:00pm	Death Row 2018 with Trevor McDonald
11:00pm	Jaws
12:05am	FYI Daily
12:10am	Jaws
1:30am	Senna
2:35am	FYI Daily
2:40am	Senna
3:40am	Football's Greatest
3:50am	ITV4 Nightscreen
4:00am	Teleshopping

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:00am	Rocky
9:05am	Rocky II
11:10am	Central Intelligence
1:10pm	Rogue One: A Star Wars Story
3:30pm	12 Rounds 3: Lockdown
5:15pm	Asian Connection
7:00pm	Central Intelligence
9:00pm	Rogue One: A Star Wars Story
11:25pm	The Bourne Supremacy

sky CINEMA COMEDY

8:30am	Brewster's Millions
10:20am	Did You Hear About the Morgans?
12:10pm	In and Out
1:50pm	Table 19
3:30pm	Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story
5:10pm	Norbit
7:00pm	Splash
9:00pm	Table 19
10:35pm	Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story
12:20am	Death at a Funeral
2:00am	Police Academy

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

6:00am	Monster Family: Special
6:30am	Black Panther: Special
7:00am	My Feral Heart
8:40am	Jasper Jones
10:30am	Gadget Gang in Outer Space
12:10pm	Despicable Me 3
1:55pm	Going in Style
3:45pm	The Beguiled
5:35pm	Gadget Gang in Outer Space
7:15pm	Despicable Me 3
9:00pm	Going in Style
10:45pm	The Beguiled The arrival of a wounded Civil War soldier brings jealousy and betrayal to a Southern girls' school. Starry remake.
12:30am	The Land
2:30am	Eat Locals
4:20am	Jasper Jones

sky sports football

10:00am	Scottish Cup Greatest Games
10:30am	La Liga Greatest Games
11:00am	La Liga Files
12:30pm	La Liga Files
2:00pm	Magical Messi
3:00pm	The Best La Liga Goals 2016/17
4:00pm	20 Years of El Clasico
4:45pm	Ronaldo
5:15pm	La Liga Greatest Games
5:45pm	La Liga Greatest Games
6:00pm	Football Years
6:30pm	Football Countdowns
7:00pm	EFL Rivalries
7:30pm	EFL Rivalries
8:00pm	Soccer A.M.
8:30pm	La Liga Greatest Games
8:40pm	Football
10:45pm	La Liga Icons
11:00pm	MLS Round Up Show
11:30pm	Soccer A.M. - The Best Bits
12:00am	Ronaldo
12:30am	La Liga Icons

The Golden Man of Malaga

Nick Horne *The Rich Pick*

Freelance correspondent, London, England



PABLO PICASSO led Sotheby's London's Impressionist and Modern Art and Surrealist Art in February and last week the most popular Museum in London the Tate Modern opened Picasso's Golden Year exhibition which focused on his creations of 1932.

A year of two halves the first part dominated by his urgency to meet the deadline of his first major retrospective held in Paris in June 1932 at the Galeries George Petit.

The painting that crowned the Sotheby's sale Pablo Picasso's 'Femme au béret et à la robe quadrillée (Marie-Thérèse Walter)' achieved the second highest price for any work ever sold at auction in Europe - priced at €56.7m - as three bidders competed. This painting was created in 1937, the same year in whose final months saw his master work 'Guernica,' which happily may be seen by Spaniard and visitor alike at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia in Madrid, regarded by most as the greatest anti-war statement in art.

In a decade of extraordinary significance many see echoes of the trajectory of that decade in the profuse and varied output of an



Photo credit Sotheby's

PRICEY: Femme au béret et à la robe quadrillée (Marie-Thérèse Walter).

artist who never seemed to stand still. By 1932 Picasso was an established artist, famous and wealthy. Tailored suits and chauffeur driven car attest to that as well as the Paris apartment and country chateau.

At a moment when some entertained the thought that Picasso was at his peak, perhaps even past it, he continued to search and discover. For an impoverished immigrant from Spain who would have blamed him for slowing and enjoying the fruits of his youth?

Also 1932 was the year that Picasso is considered to have reinvented himself. Here he can be seen to be exploring surrealist distortion, painting and sculpture. It also saw the start and development of his relationship with his muse Marie-Thérèse Walter, by 1935 his wife Olga Khokhlova had left him for the south of France.

The darkening clouds of war marked with the Spanish Civil War which began in 1935 and ended in 1939, with the rest of Europe engulfed in what came to be known as the Second World War months after its conclusion.

Picasso was a man of his times. As an artist his times cover much of the 20th century. The triumphs, anxieties and tragedies, the vast scope of his art continues to fascinate and attract. For a determined collector a fascination that very occasionally may be satisfied by an acquisition.



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BBC one

7:00am Breakfast
 10:15am Holding Back the Years
 11:00am Homes Under the Hammer
 12:00pm The Sheriffs are Coming
 12:45pm Claimed and Shamed
 1:15pm Bargain Hunt
 2:00pm BBC News
 2:30pm Regional News
 2:45pm Doctors
 3:15pm A Place to Call Home
 4:00pm Escape to the Country
 4:45pm Money for Nothing
 5:30pm Flog It!
 6:15pm Pointless
 7:00pm BBC News
 7:30pm Regional News
 8:00pm The One Show
 8:30pm EastEnders
 9:00pm Holby City
 10:00pm Come Home
 11:00pm BBC News
 11:30pm Regional News
 11:40pm Weather
 11:45pm This Country
 12:15am Tiredness, Tears and Tantrums: Diary of a New Mum

BBC TWO

7:00am The Repair Shop
 7:30am Money for Nothing
 8:15am Bargain Hunt
 9:00am Celebrity Antiques Road Trip
 10:00am Victoria Derbyshire
 12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live
 1:00pm The Daily Politics
 2:00pm The Super League Show
 2:45pm Gunga Din
 4:40pm Blitz Cities
 5:10pm Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF
 6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is
 7:00pm Eggheads
 7:30pm The Repair Shop
 8:00pm Mountain
 9:00pm Great Indian Railway Journeys
 10:00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby
 11:00pm Mum
 11:30pm Newsnight
 12:10am Weather
 12:15am Reggie Yates: Searching for Grenfell's Lost Lives
 1:15am David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities

BBC FOUR

8:00pm Beyond 100 Days
 8:30pm Danny Baker Rocks the Eighties (a Bit)
 9:00pm Immortal Egypt with Joann Fletcher
 10:00pm How Quizzing Got Cool: Tv's Brains of Britain
 11:00pm The Prosecutors: Real Crime and Punishment
 12:00am Elegance and Decadence: The Age of the Regency
 1:00am Treasures of Ancient Egypt
 2:00am Top of the Pops
 2:30am Danny Baker Rocks the Eighties (a Bit)
 3:00am How Quizzing Got Cool: Tv's Brains of Britain
 4:00am Ten Little Indians

CHANNEL 4

7:00am Countdown
 7:45am 3rd Rock from the Sun
 8:10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
 8:35am Everybody Loves Raymond
 9:30am Frasier
 10:00am Frasier
 11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
 12:00pm Undercover Boss USA
 1:00pm Channel 4 News
 1:05pm News Summary
 2:05pm Come Dine with Me
 2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
 3:10pm Countdown
 4:00pm A Place in the Sun
 5:00pm A New Life in the Sun
 6:00pm Four in a Bed
 6:30pm Star Boot Sale
 7:00pm The Simpsons
 7:30pm Hollyoaks
 8:00pm Channel 4 News
 9:00pm Includes sport and weather.
 9:00pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer
 10:15pm Seven Year Switch
 11:20pm Gogglebox
 12:25am Before We Die

CHANNEL 5

5:45am House Doctor
 6:10am The Great Artists
 6:35am Wildlife SOS
 7:00am Milkshake!
 10:15am The Wright Stuff
 12:15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
 1:10pm 5 News
 1:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
 2:10pm Access
 2:15pm Home and Away
 2:45pm Neighbours
 3:15pm NCIS
 4:15pm Marriage of Lies
 6:00pm 5 News
 6:30pm Neighbours
 7:00pm Home and Away
 7:30pm 5 News
 8:00pm Elizabeth: Our Queen
 9:00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh
 10:00pm Britain's Wild Rivers
 11:00pm Mr. & Mrs. Smith
 1:15am A Walk Among the Tombstones
 3:05am Super Casino
 4:10am GPs: Behind Closed Doors
 5:00am Britain's Greatest Bridges
 5:45am House Doctor

4

8:00am Rules of Engagement
 9:00am How I Met Your Mother
 10:00am New Girl
 11:00am 2 Broke Girls
 12:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
 1:00pm The Goldbergs
 1:30pm The Goldbergs
 2:00pm The Big Bang Theory
 2:30pm The Big Bang Theory
 3:00pm How I Met Your Mother
 4:00pm New Girl
 4:30pm New Girl
 5:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
 5:30pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
 6:00pm The Goldbergs
 6:30pm The Goldbergs
 7:00pm The Big Bang Theory
 7:30pm The Big Bang Theory
 8:00pm Hollyoaks
 8:30pm Extreme Cake Makers
 9:00pm The Big Bang Theory
 9:30pm The Big Bang Theory
 10:00pm Tattoo Fixers
 11:00pm Five Star Hotel
 12:05am The Big Bang Theory
 12:35am The Big Bang Theory
 1:00am First Dates
 2:05am Five Star Hotel

sky sports main event

7:30am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize
 Round-up of the sports news with live analysis and comment plus extended interviews with the headline makers.
 8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
 9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
 9:30am Good Morning Sports Fans
 10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
 11:00am Premier League Daily
 12:00pm Sky Sports Daily
 1:00pm Sky Sports News
 2:00pm Sky Sports News
 3:00pm Sky Sports News
 4:00pm Sky Sports News
 5:00pm Live ATP 1000: Miami
 9:25pm Football
 11:30pm Parker in Camp
 12:00am Sky Sports News
 1:00am Sky Sports News
 2:00am Live WWE Late Night Smackdown
 4:00am Sky Sports News
 5:00am Sky Sports News

itv

7:00am Good Morning Britain
 ITV's breakfast show featuring the latest news, sport and weather.
 9:30am Lorraine
 10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
 11:30am This Morning
 1:30pm Loose Women
 2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News
 3:00pm Judge Rinder
 4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
 5:00pm Tipping Point
 6:00pm The Chase
 7:00pm Local News and Weather
 7:30pm ITV Evening News
 8:00pm Emmerdale
 8:30pm International
 Football: England v Italy Live
 11:15pm ITV News
 12:05am International
 Football Highlights: England v Italy
 1:05am Play to the Whistle
 1:55am Jackpot247
 4:00am Loose Women
 4:50am ITV Nightscreen

itv2

8:10am Who's Doing the Dishes?
 8:55am Emmerdale
 9:20am Coronation Street
 9:55am Coronation Street
 10:25am The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 11:20am The Bachelor
 12:15pm The Big Soap Quiz: Coronation Street v Emmerdale
 1:15pm Emmerdale
 1:45pm Coronation Street
 2:15pm Coronation Street
 2:45pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 3:35pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
 4:40pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
 5:50pm Judge Rinder
 6:50pm Take Me Out
 8:00pm You've Been Framed! Gold
 8:30pm You've Been Framed! Gold
 9:00pm Two and a Half Men
 9:30pm Two and a Half Men
 10:00pm The Break-Up
 11:00pm FYI Daily
 11:05pm The Break-Up
 12:10am Family Guy
 12:40am Family Guy

itv3

7:00am Coronation Street
 Rita tells Alan she doesn't know where she stands with him.
 7:25am Coronation Street
 Alf tells Audrey he's sick of hearing about Steven.
 7:50am Heartbeat
 8:55am The Royal
 9:55am Judge Judy
 10:25am Judge Judy
 10:50am Judge Judy
 11:20am Inspector Morse
 1:35pm The Royal
 2:40pm Heartbeat
 3:40pm Classic Coronation Street
 4:15pm Classic Coronation Street
 4:50pm On the Buses
 5:20pm On the Buses
 5:50pm You're Only Young Twice
 6:20pm Rising Damp
 6:55pm Heartbeat
 8:00pm Murder, She Wrote
 9:00pm Midsomer Murders
 11:00pm Scott and Bailey
 12:00am Scott and Bailey
 1:05am A Touch of Frost
 3:00am ITV3 Nightscreen
 3:30am Teleshopping

itv4

7:00am The Chase
 Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh.
 7:45am Pawn Stars
 8:10am Pawn Stars
 8:30am Ironside
 Detective drama series set in San Francisco.
 9:30am Quincy, M.E.
 10:35am Minder
 11:35am The Saint
 12:40pm The Avengers
 1:45pm Ironside
 2:50pm Quincy, M.E.
 3:55pm Minder
 5:00pm The Saint
 6:05pm The Avengers
 7:10pm Storage Wars
 7:35pm Storage Wars
 8:05pm Pawn Stars
 8:30pm Pawn Stars
 9:00pm World Superbike Highlights
 10:00pm Cliffhanger
 11:00pm FYI Daily
 11:05pm Cliffhanger
 12:15am Driven to Kill
 1:15am FYI Daily
 1:20am Driven to Kill
 2:10am Fifth Gear
 3:10am Ax Men
 4:00am Teleshopping

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:00am Armageddon
 9:35am Babylon A.D.
 11:15am After Earth
 1:00pm Robin Hood
 3:25pm The Bourne Identity
 5:25pm Babylon A.D.
 7:10pm After Earth
 9:00pm Robin Hood
 11:25pm The Bourne Identity
 1:30am Bloodsport
 3:10am Death Warrant
 4:45am Cyborg 009
 9:15am The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad!
 10:50am O Brother, Where Art Thou?
 12:45pm Monster Family: Special
 1:15pm Get Him to the Greek
 3:15pm The Boss
 5:05pm Billy Madison
 6:45pm Knocked Up
 9:00pm Get Him to the Greek
 11:00pm The Boss
 12:45am Superbad
 2:45am The Love Guru

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

6:15am Top Ten Show, the 2018
 6:30am The Great Wall: Special
 7:00am Monster Family: Special
 7:30am Gadget Gang in Outer Space
 9:00am Going in Style
 10:40am Despicable Me 3
 Dismissed from the Anti-Villain League after botching a mission, Gru sets off to meet his long-lost twin brother.
 12:20pm Whiskey Galore
 2:10pm The Beguiled
 3:55pm Gadget Gang in Outer Space
 5:30pm Despicable Me 3
 7:10pm Whiskey Galore
 9:00pm Going in Style
 When their pension pots disappear overnight, a trio of cash-strapped retirees decide to rob a Brooklyn bank
 10:45pm The Beguiled
 12:30am Eat Locals
 2:20am The Land
 4:20am My Feral Heart

sky sports football

12:00pm One2eleven
 12:30pm SPFL Greatest Games
 1:00pm MLS Round Up Show
 1:30pm Soccer A.M. - The Best Bits
 2:00pm La Liga Icons
 2:30pm La Liga Icons: Zidane
 2:45pm La Liga Icons
 3:00pm MLS Round Up Show
 3:30pm Soccer A.M. - The Best Bits
 4:00pm Football's Greatest Teams
 4:30pm Football's Greatest Teams
 5:00pm Scottish Cup
 Greatest Games
 5:30pm La Liga Greatest Games
 5:45pm La Liga Greatest Games
 6:00pm Football Years
 6:30pm Football Countdowns
 7:00pm Soccer A.M. - The Best Bits
 7:30pm MLS Round Up Show
 8:00pm Ronaldo
 8:30pm Magical Messi
 9:25pm Football
 11:30pm The Debate - Live
 12:30am La Liga World
 1:00am MLS Round Up Show
 1:30am La Liga Icons

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BBC one

12:00pm The Sheriffs are Coming
12:45pm Claimed and Shamed
1:15pm Bargain Hunt
2:00pm BBC News
2:30pm Regional News
2:45pm Doctors
3:15pm A Place to Call Home
4:05pm Escape to the Country
4:45pm Money for Nothing
5:30pm Flog It!
6:15pm Pointless
7:00pm BBC News
7:30pm Regional News
8:00pm The One Show
9:00pm BBC News and Regional News
9:01pm DIY SOS the Big Build
10:00pm MasterChef
11:00pm BBC News
11:30pm Regional News
11:40pm Weather
11:45pm A Question of Sport
12:15am Film 2018

BBC TWO

9:30am Classic Mary Berry
10:00am Victoria Derbyshire
12:00pm BBC Newsroom Live
12:30pm The Daily Politics
2:00pm Wuthering Heights
3:40pm Monty Hall's 'Great Irish Escape'
4:40pm Blitz Cities
5:15pm Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF
6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is
7:00pm Eggheads
7:30pm The Repair Shop
8:00pm Mountain
9:00pm The Secret Helpers
10:00pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story
10:55pm Live at the Apollo
11:30pm Newsnight
12:10am Weather
12:15am Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby

BBC FOUR

8:00pm Beyond 100 Days
The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.
8:30pm Danny Baker Rocks the Nineties (a Bit)
9:00pm Metalworks!
10:00pm Make! Craft Britain
11:00pm Carved with Love: The Genius of British Woodwork
12:00am Elegance and Decadence: The Age of the Regency
1:00am Treasures of Ancient Egypt
2:00am Top of the Pops 1983: Big Hits
Compilation of some of the biggest hits of 1983 featuring soul, reggae, jazz, new wave and pop.
3:00am Metalworks!
4:00am The Witness for the Prosecution

CHANNEL 4

9:30am Frasier
11:05am Ramsay's Kitchen
Nightmares USA
12:00pm Undercover Boss USA
1:00pm Channel 4 News
1:05pm Come Dine with Me
2:05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
3:10pm Countdown
4:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun
5:00pm A New Life in the Sun
6:00pm Four in a Bed
6:30pm Star Boot Sale
7:00pm The Simpsons
7:30pm Hollyoaks
8:00pm Channel 4 News
9:00pm The Supernet
10:00pm One Born Every Minute
11:00pm Are You Autistic?
12:05am 999: What's Your Emergency?
1:05am Live From Abbey Road Classics
1:30am Seven Year Switch
2:30am The Raven

CHANNEL 5

7:00am Milkshake!
10:15am The Wright Stuff
12:15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
1:10pm 5 News
1:15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
2:10pm Access
2:15pm Home and Away
2:45pm Neighbours
3:15pm NCIS
4:15pm My Daughter Must Live
6:00pm 5 News
6:30pm Neighbours
7:00pm Home and Away
7:30pm 5 News
8:00pm King Tut's Treasure Secrets
9:00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
10:00pm Minute by Minute
11:00pm Social Housing, Social Cleansing
12:05am Under Siege
2:05am Super Casino

4

7:00am Hollyoaks
7:30am Hollyoaks
8:00am Rules of Engagement
9:00am How I Met Your Mother
10:00am New Girl
11:00am 2 Broke Girls
12:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
1:00pm The Goldbergs
2:00pm The Big Bang Theory
3:00pm How I Met Your Mother
4:00pm New Girl
5:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine
6:00pm The Goldbergs
6:30pm The Goldbergs
7:00pm The Big Bang Theory
7:30pm The Big Bang Theory
8:00pm Hollyoaks
8:30pm Extreme Cake Makers
9:00pm The Goldbergs
9:30pm The Big Bang Theory
10:00pm Don't Tell the Bride
11:00pm Five Star Hotel
12:05am The Big Bang Theory

sky sports main event

6:00am Sky Sports News
7:00am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize
7:30am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize
8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
9:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
9:30am Good Morning Sports Fans
10:00am Good Morning Sports Fans
11:00am Premier League Daily
12:00pm Sky Sports Daily
1:00pm Sky Sports News
6:00pm Sky Sports News at 5
8:00pm Sky Sports News Tonight
9:00pm Live ATP 1000: Miami
11:00pm Sky Sports News at Ten
11:30pm AJ: Off Limits
12:00am Sky Sports News
1:00am Sky Sports News
2:00am Sky Sports News

itv

6:05am The Jeremy Kyle Show
7:00am Good Morning Britain
9:30am Lorraine
10:25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
11:30am This Morning
1:30pm Loose Women
2:30pm ITV Lunchtime News
3:00pm Judge Rinder
4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
5:00pm Tipping Point
6:00pm The Chase
7:00pm Local News and Weather
7:30pm ITV Evening News
8:00pm Emmerdale
8:30pm Coronation Street
9:00pm Britain's Brightest Family
9:30pm Coronation Street
10:00pm The Real Full Monty
11:30pm ITV News
12:20am easyJet: Inside the Cockpit
1:15am Britain's Busiest Airport - Heathrow
2:05am Jackpot247
4:00am Tenable
4:50am ITV Nightscreen

itv2

7:20am Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
8:10am Who's Doing the Dishes?
8:55am Emmerdale
9:20am The Cube
10:25am The Ellen DeGeneres Show
11:25am The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas
12:30pm FYI Daily
12:35pm The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas
1:15pm Emmerdale
1:45pm You've Been Framed!
2:45pm The Ellen DeGeneres Show
3:35pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
4:40pm The Jeremy Kyle Show
5:50pm Judge Rinder
6:50pm Take Me Out
8:00pm You've Been Framed! Gold
9:00pm Two and a Half Men
10:00pm Hell's Kitchen
11:55pm Family Guy
12:25am Family Guy
12:55am Family Guy
1:25am American Dad!

itv3

7:00am Classic Coronation Street
7:25am Classic Coronation Street
7:50am Heartbeat
8:55am The Royal
9:55am Judge Judy
10:20am Judge Judy
10:50am Judge Judy
11:15am Inspector Morse
1:35pm The Royal
2:40pm Heartbeat
3:40pm Classic Coronation Street
4:15pm Classic Coronation Street
4:45pm On the Buses
5:20pm On the Buses
5:50pm You're Only Young Twice
6:25pm Rising Damp
6:55pm Heartbeat
8:00pm Murder, She Wrote
9:00pm Endeavour
11:00pm Law and Order: UK
12:00am Law and Order: UK
1:05am Unforgotten
2:05am Unforgotten
3:00am ITV3 Nightscreen

itv4

7:00am The Chase
7:45am Pawn Stars
8:10am Pawn Stars
8:30am Ironside
9:30am Quincy, M.E.
10:30am Minder
11:35am The Saint
12:40pm The Avengers
1:45pm Ironside
2:50pm Quincy, M.E.
3:55pm Minder
5:00pm The Saint
6:05pm The Avengers
7:05pm Storage Wars
7:35pm Storage Wars
8:05pm Pawn Stars
8:30pm Pawn Stars
9:00pm Goodwood Members Meeting Highlights
10:00pm Football's Foreign Legion
11:00pm Crank
12:00am FYI Daily
12:05am Crank
12:50am The Americans
1:55am Minder
3:00am Deals, Wheels and Steals
3:30am Deals, Wheels and Steals
4:00am Teleshopping

sky CINEMA ACTION & ADVENTURE

7:00am Anaconda
8:35am 2012
11:25am Rocky
1:30pm Rocky II
3:35pm Salt
5:20pm Xxx: Return of Xander Cage
7:20pm 2012
10:00pm Salt
11:45pm Xxx: Return of Xander Cage
1:35am End of Days

sky CINEMA COMEDY

8:00am The House Bunny
9:45am The Naked Gun 2 1/2: The Smell of Fear
11:20am Get a Job
12:50pm The Nutty Professor
2:35pm The Klumps
4:30pm Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby
6:40pm Love Actually
9:00pm Fist Fight
10:40pm The Nutty Professor
12:25am Nutty Professor II: The Klumps
2:20am Dirty 30

sky CINEMA PREMIERE

6:00am Monster Family: Special
6:30am Moana: Special
7:00am Gadget Gang in Outer Space
8:40am Whiskey Galore
10:25am My Feral Heart
11:55am The Beguiled
The arrival of a wounded Civil War soldier brings jealousy and betrayal to a Southern girls' school.
1:40pm Despicable Me 3
3:15pm Going in Style
5:00pm Gadget Gang in Outer Space
6:30pm Whiskey Galore
8:15pm Despicable Me 3
10:00pm Going in Style
When their pension pots disappear overnight, a trio of cash-strapped retirees decide to rob a Brooklyn bank
11:40pm An
1:40am The Beguiled
3:20am The Land
5:20am My Feral Heart

sky sports football

12:45pm SPFL Greatest Games
1:00pm 20 Years of El Clasico
1:45pm La Liga Icons
2:00pm La Liga Icons: Falcao
2:15pm La Liga Icons
3:00pm Ronaldo
3:30pm La Liga World
4:00pm Football's Greatest
4:30pm Football's Greatest Teams
5:00pm Scottish Cup
Greatest Games
5:30pm La Liga Greatest Games
5:45pm La Liga Greatest Games
6:00pm Football Years
6:30pm Football Countdowns
7:00pm La Liga World
7:30pm MLS Round Up Show
8:00pm EFL Rivalries
8:30pm EFL Rivalries
9:00pm Championship Season Review
11:00pm Championship Season Review
12:00am La Liga Icons
12:15am La Liga Icons: Zidane

Advertising Feature

The place to park at Alicante-Elche airport

WE PARK ALC is the new name you have to remember if you want the best in Alicante Airport parking.

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Parking at Alicante-Elche airport has never been as cheap, simple and near to the airport as it is now with We Park Alc.

Under the management of Ilde Casanova who has over eight years of experience in the field, We Park Alc is part of a new group of parking services that really cares about what they do.

You can see this on their logo which is a smart combination of a heart and parking lines, meaning that they love what they do.

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WE PARK ALC: The friendly management.

they use, every detail they care about shows you that you have found a really first class parking option.

The company carefully consid-

ers all the individual needs of each client and with many being repeat and returning customers their details are logged and stored so that a friendly service becomes a fa-

miliar one.

Ilde Casanova comments: "I always say: 'we work with cars but deal with people - everyone by their name,' and we pride ourselves on offering that personalised and friendly service."

All of their outdoor spaces and under cover spaces are covered in tarmac and they operate a shuttle service 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so there is never any waiting for your transfer to the airport terminal after you have dropped off your vehicle.

We Park Alc is conveniently located just two minutes from Alicante-Elche airport and is accessed via its own entrance so users know they are close by without having to add to their journey time.

Unlike most other companies they do not move your vehicle so you can keep your key giving customers extra security and peace of mind.

However, if you are leaving your vehicle for a longer period of time you may wish to entrust Ilde

Casanova and the We Park Alc team with the key and take advantage of a range of other services available.

We Park Alc offers a full valet service, can arrange an ITV test and undertake mechanical checks to make sure when you return, your car is in perfect working order.

A weekend stay costs just €17, a week €26 or a year (with up to 12 visits) €250, but show their advertisement in *Euro Weekly News* and the annual pass costs just €199!

If you know Ilde Casanova from previous roles, do get in contact with him, but if you haven't met him yet, visit We Park Alc and find out what he can offer.

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Not convinced by Couch Critic Issue 1704

THIS guy certainly has no taste and I'm all shook up!

However I'm so pleased that his friends Graham and Robert do have taste along with myself and family and friends.

I so look forward to Jane McDonald's cruising programme as Jane is so vibrant and comes across with so much enthusiasm, the cruises are all so different.

We are so lucky to live here in Spain but there's a big wide world out there to explore so why not be tempted to try something different? I feel sure that so many people will be tempted by this programme, cruising is already very big business and I think Jane will have encouraged a lot more people to try one, going to different countries and seeing different cultures.

Before the end of each programme I am trying to guess what song she will be singing, never guessed yet. A shawl that looks like a tablecloth um, I must look for one of those at my Sunday market.

Looking for news about Altea wildfowl

I WONDER if any of your readers can put me in the picture regarding the swan and duck that are always together in the river mouth by Altea Yacht Club. I often drive by there and it really pleases me to see the pair of them so contented together.

The only thing I've heard is that they both used to live on the river mouth by the flags in Altea but, after hooligans broke one of the swan's wings, a local animal charity moved them both to their present location, which is hopefully safer for them. Thanks in anticipation.

Roy Gough, Altea



Photo Credit: Somos Gos Facebook

Paco the Swan and friend.

Editor's note
Back in September of last year, Paco the Swan was rescued by the animal charity Somos Gos as he had a problem with his wing and was depressed. Perhaps readers will be able to give more information about current whereabouts.

So Adam;

Are you lonesome tonight? No because you're watching Jane cruising,

Can't help falling in love but perhaps not with Jane's cruising.

Don't be cruel so what can one say?

Perhaps You're the Devil in disguise!

Ann Rosser, Calpe

Difficult journey

I REFER to the waterfall article in Issue 1705. Thought this would be a great visit, so yesterday set off from Quesada. When we arrived there some 2.5 hours later we discovered that the access road was closed. What your article FAILS to mention is that at this time of the year the access road is CLOSED, and we were informed by Spanish locals that it was a 7km walk to the falls and thus another 7km back!!!! As it was around 4pm we gave it a miss, so will have to return later in the year, do you know when the road is opened?

Bill Peters, Quesada

Editor's note

We have been unable to find any reference to the access road being closed for part of the year on local tourism websites, and there was no answer when we phoned the tourist office in Cazorla. Most likely is that the road was damaged or flooded and you were extremely unlucky.

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.euroweeklynews.com.

Girl rescued after dangerous stunt

Downright stupid if you ask me and her parents should be made to pay for the emergency services costs and she should repay it out of her pocket money! When will this generation learn?! Get a life... everything isn't about uploading photos and videos of yourself to see how many people like you!!

Tessa Green

Where the hell were her parents while this was going on?

Christine Petrie

Holiday sickness scammers face £15,000 fine

Thankfully there was a sensible judge in this case. Now she needs to throw the book at the doctor and law firm who are involved.

Clare Lloyd

Fantastic...and so they should. People don't like to hear this but I remember as a Main Line Holiday Rep in Benidorm, overhearing people discussing on their way to resorts from the airport ways of trying to claim on the insurance!!... and this just makes it more problematic for the genuine claims and of course is part of the reason premiums are so high for everyone... Of course it's all over the world this horrible claim culture...

Stephen Chatt Milne

Comments from EWN online

Brilliant. About time these thieves we taken to task and made cough up.

Gerard O'Brien

Police roll out 'invisible' speed cameras

If they are invisible how is that going to improve safety... just another money making measure.

Alex Walker

Invisible cameras do nothing to improve safety. Visible warnings improve safety, they cause people to slow down. This is a punishment, pure and simple. What would improve road safety is targeting lorry drivers who drive with disregard for other road users.

Robert Mitchell

Just don't speed. Simple! What's the hurry anyway? Relax and enjoy your holiday.

Dean Grande

Starving lions and tiger rescued

I've now watched the video of these poor injured, starved and very sad lions and a tiger. These circus people are disgusting and should be prosecuted to the highest degree, let's hope they are.

Chris Gregory

Thank God they were rescued. Thank you to all who achieved this.

Danusia Bourdon

This circus used to come to the town where I live. Hateful treatment, so glad they are safe now.

Jenny Brodie

Thank the Lord for this rescue. Will the circus owners be prosecuted?

Mary Povey

Ryanair: 'We're still Europe's No 1 customer service airline'

They are great, they get you there cheap what more do you want for 30 quid?

Tim Northern

Our View Brexit

IT is clear which extreme end of the political divide Colin MacGregor sits (Issue 1705). He seems to assume that because he favours Brexit, the majority of expats think likewise. Let me repeat what we all know. What is relevant is that a majority in the UK now favour Remain, because they realise they were fed false, misleading and inadequate information prior to the referendum. It is now irrelevant how they voted in June 2016. This is not a case of 'whining because we lost.' The future direction of the UK is at stake.

The government should not be too timid or too proud to admit we got it wrong. There is still time for a meaningful referendum.

David R Worboys, El Capistrano Village, Nerja

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MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



'IT'S HER - MARY POPPINS, AS SOON AS THIS CRAZY WIND DROPS - GET HER AUTOGRAPH'

YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS

AQUARIUS
(January 21 - February 19)

The last time that you sat down and thought about your finances it was confusing. Things are a lot simpler now. Keep emotions and the needs of others out of the equation. Balance is what this week is all about. Get the percentages right now and it is plain sailing for the immediate future.

LEO
(July 24 - August 23)

At last it is clear that the future holds something quite exciting. Looking back during the past few years there has been a build-up to this moment. Treading a new path is half the story. There is much to be discovered both outside and inside your sphere.

PISCES
(February 20 - March 20)

Something comes to your attention that makes you feel both anger and injustice. As you are urged to speak out and put your cards on the table, you hesitate. Be sure to have the true facts of the matter because this gives you real confidence. Keep emotions out of the equation and speak with a balanced view.

VIRGO
(August 24 - September 23)

Your heart is saying 'Let's get out and have some fun'. Your head is saying 'Okay, but let's leave it until later'. Which is right? Well, one thing is for sure, emphasis on finances is restraining.

You are, however, building on something strong for the future.

ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)

There is a strong urge to be up and doing something to further your artistic needs. Be sure that you know what is important. Keep it simple and aim straight for it. There may be other options to be explored, but do not go off at a tangent. To do so would see you have many fingers in many pies but making little real progress. Trust your instincts.

LIBRA
(September 24 - October 23)

What others see as our way ahead is not always the path which we want to tread. It would be easy to be cosy and not take a chance. Is that what you really want? Outside influences are heavy and pressing at times.

SCORPIO
(October 24 - November 22)

Be sure not to put up with tedious comments. Someone is trying to rile you. Who are they to think this way? It is foolish and impossible to please this person. Avoid them and move on to something out of their sphere.

TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)

Although you are feeling more confident in many ways, there is also a secret insecurity. There is a strange emotional atmosphere this week, which perplexes you. An unusual feeling that you need to change your surroundings cannot be put down to a seasonal 'nesting' instinct. Let this be a time to pay more than lip service to your ideals and beliefs.

SAGITTARIUS
(November 23 - December 21)

Who wants you to go where and who wants you to do what?

Each day seems to be spoken for before it arrives. Spending your life like this means running out of credit on your health. Do not neglect your well-being for the wishes of others. Give yourself permission to love and care for yourself as you do so much for others.

GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)

Waiting for just the right time to do and say things this week can produce miracles. Spontaneity may be your watchword but forward planning is where real progress is at the moment. It's not a week to expect co-operation from others.

CAPRICORN
(December 22 - January 20)

There are plenty of people who will tell you that what you seek does not exist. They will also tell you that what you feel is unsustainable.

This is, however, no time to compromise your dreams or emotional needs.

Taking a bright view and a chance now seems unusual to those round you. Who knows best?

CANCER
(June 22 - July 23)

If you are James Bond, I see no surprises in the week ahead. If you are not, then I certainly do. Something quite shocking crosses your path, so be cautious in your approach to new situations. Keep your eyes and ears open and be prepared to seek advice. Your social life may be dynamic, but what has to be done is irrefutable.

Trivia from around the world

*** Denmark, Germany and Iceland all have lists of state-approved names for babies that fit with their languages.

*** Around 11 per cent of the world's gold is in the hands of Indian women, more than the reserves of the USA, IMF, Switzerland and Germany combined.

*** Pedro Lascurain became Mexico's president on February 19, 1913, before resigning less than one hour later. His time in office was the shortest of any president in world history.

*** The Serengeti in Tanzania hosts the world's largest wildlife migration. More than 750,000 zebra and around 1.2 million wildebeest are involved, according to estimates.

*** Iran produced a handmade carpet the size of a football field for a mosque in the United Arab Emirates, the largest such carpet in the world.



REWRITE: More than 70 per cent of those involved in the study developed false memories.

DID YOU KNOW?

A study has found that human memories are so easy to manipulate that within three hours people can be convinced they are guilty of a crime they never committed. Participants in the study provided detailed descriptions of events which never happened.

*** Japan repealed a 67-year-old law requiring venues to have a licence for dancing in 2015.

Women's wit

Never do things others can do and will do if there are things others cannot do or will not do."
Amelia Earhart, aviator

Famous quote

The only people for me are the mad ones: the ones who are mad to live, mad to talk, mad to be saved and desirous of everything at the same time."
Jack Kerouac, writer



World of English

Dragoman - An interpreter or professional guide for travellers especially in the Middle East.

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY	IRISH LOTTO	EURO MILLIONS		LA PRIMITIVA		EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Saturday March 17	Saturday March 17	Tuesday March 13	Friday March 16	Thursday March 15	Saturday March 17	Sunday March 18
(7) (8)	(4) (10)	(9) (11)	(4) (17)	(5) (9)	(8) (21)	(3) (4)
(13) (24)	(13) (22)	(13) (33)	(24) (27)	(11) (20)	(35) (36)	(5) (13)
(45) (46)	(25) (31)	(49) (33)	(31) (27)	(22) (29)	(37) (43)	(20) (13)
BONUS BALL	BONUS BALL	LUCKY STARS	LUCKY STARS	REINTEGRO	REINTEGRO	REINTEGRO
(39)	(30)	(6) (12)	(10) (11)	(33) (0)	(39) (1)	(9)
		EL MILLON: ZPF44617		JOKER: 3 794 358	JOKER: 4 497 057	

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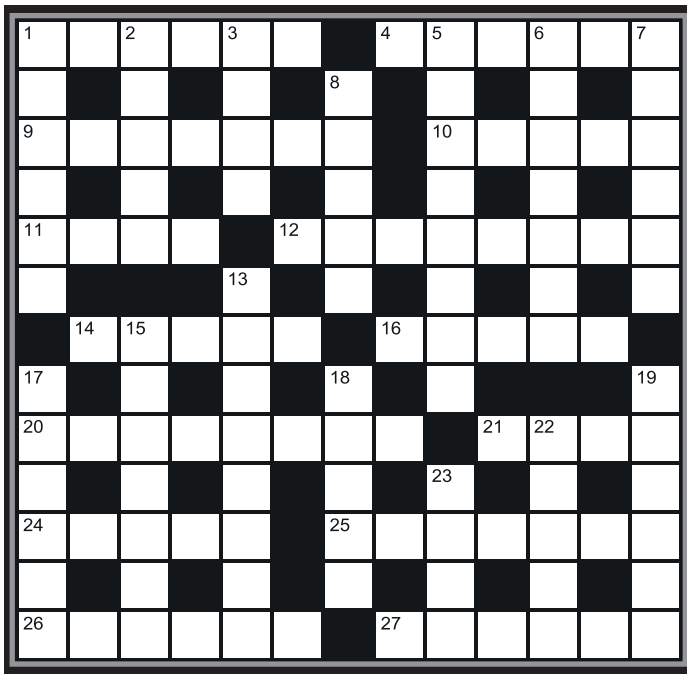


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Cryptic

Across

- 1 Clues I arranged for Watergate (6)
- 4 Has faith in repaired struts (6)
- 9 Plead for British cheese, for a change (7)
- 10 The Irishman I love for the terrace (5)
- 11 Parking on a great many building sites (4)
- 12 I acted in poor show (8)
- 14 Take the road to the river, going back by horse (5)
- 16 It's reported the dogs have reached the tops of the mountains (5)
- 20 Is a huge fan of dual seat contraption (8)
- 21 Encourage some of our generation (4)
- 24 President and African leader's animal (5)
- 25 Increase Green movement around Louisiana (7)
- 26 A duty list or back rest, maybe (6)
- 27 Withhold food from pop star vegetarian's diet (6)



Down

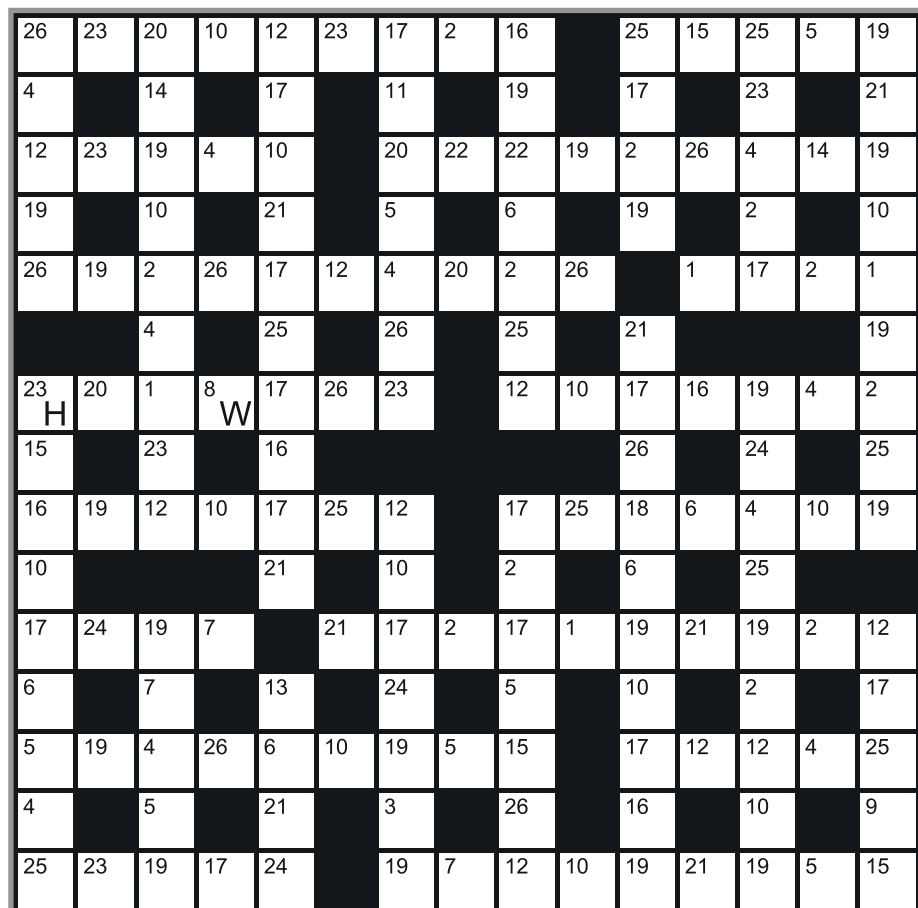
- 1 Delicate bust remodelled on the French (6)
- 2 Disturbed by the unexpected result (5)
- 3 Cook some borsch effortlessly (4)
- 5 About being put into twosomes,

- 6 Difficulty is fixed by rugby player (7)
- 7 Inclined to work in a sleigh (6)
- 8 She's caught in the beam (5)
- 13 State challenge to accept European rule (8)
- 15 Forgery of art stun absentees (7)

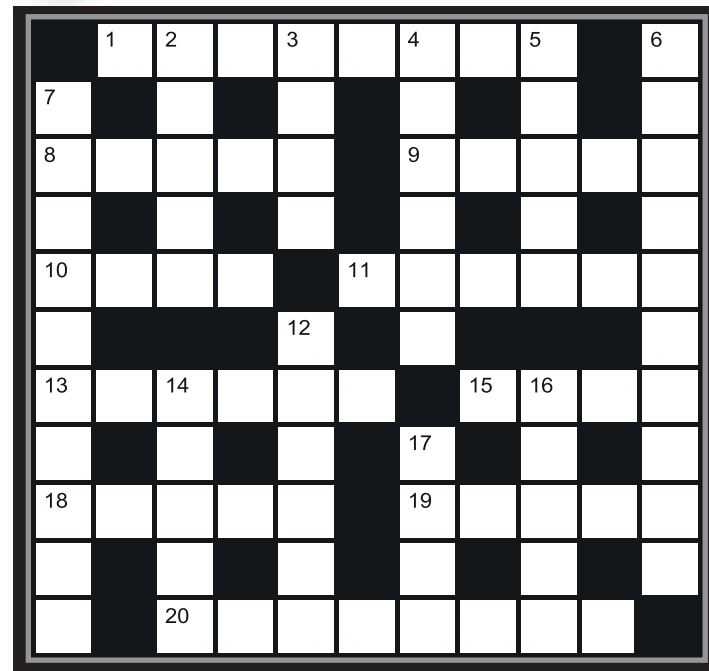
- 17 Hold up picnic container? (6)
- 18 Put off in high-altitude terrain (5)
- 19 Remove delegate and Latin sweetheart (6)
- 22 More uncommon rubles are registered (5)
- 23 Spot partial job lot (4)

Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 8 represents W and 23 represents H, so fill in W every time the figure 8 appears and H 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

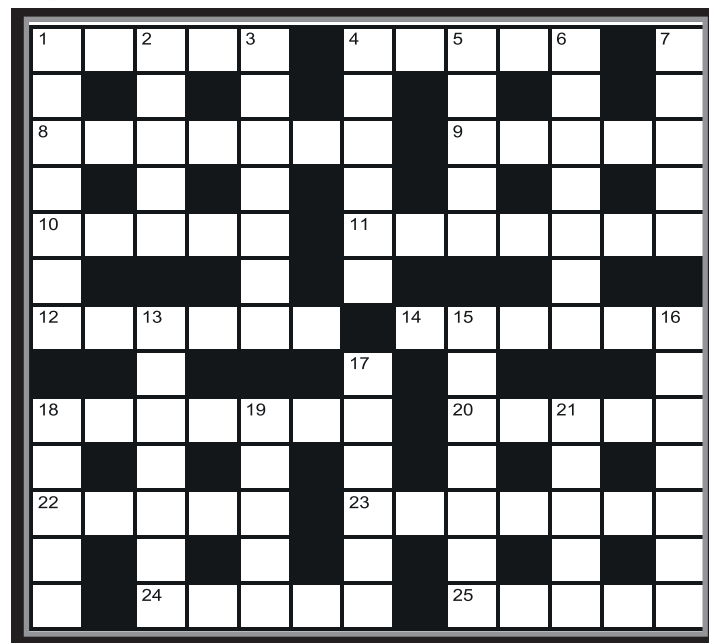
- 1 Journalist (8)
- 8 Escape or avoid by cunning (5)
- 9 Giver (5)
- 10 Speed (4)
- 11 Report or maintain (6)
- 13 Salted roe of the sturgeon (6)
- 15 Silvery-white metal (4)
- 18 Defendant's plea of being elsewhere at the relevant time (5)
- 19 Shoulder firearm with long barrel (5)
- 20 Natural opening in something (8)

Down

- 2 Precise (5)
- 3 Kitchen appliance (4)
- 4 Slightly intoxicated (6)
- 5 Scope (5)
- 6 Implausible (10)
- 7 Mischievous elf in Irish folklore (10)
- 12 Arrived at without due care or effort (6)
- 14 There you are (5)
- 16 Establish by deduction (5)
- 17 Worry unnecessarily or excessively (4)

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Levantarse (3,2)
- 4 Alterado (5)
- 8 To hold on to (7)
- 9 Codo (5)
- 10 Cuchara (para comer) (5)
- 11 To achieve (7)
- 12 Tailor (6)
- 14 Dove (6)
- 18 To know (someone) (7)
- 20 Code (cipher) (5)
- 22 Cocineros (5)
- 23 Elected (7)
- 24 Roncar (cuando se duerme) (5)
- 25 Forma (figura) (5)

Down

- 1 Vasos (para beber) (7)
- 2 Cloth (for cleaning) (5)
- 3 Pareja (compañero) (7)
- 4 Magpie (6)
- 5 Vapor (5)
- 6 Ankle (7)
- 7 Menos (5)
- 13 Cantantes (7)
- 15 Arqueros (7)
- 16 Impresionante (7)
- 17 Brisa (6)
- 18 To cook (5)
- 19 Basket (5)
- 21 Friend (f) (5)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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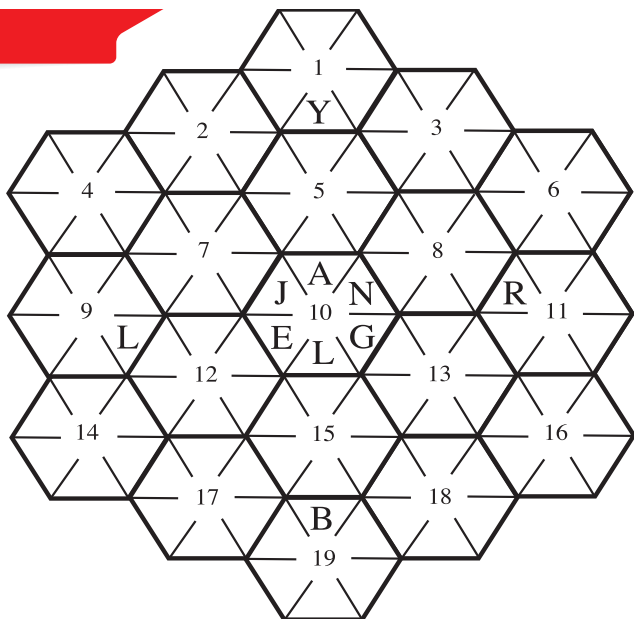
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Hexagram

- BEDLAM
- BEGGAR
- BEYOND
- BLANCH
- EMPLOY
- GIRDLE
- GRAVID
- IRONIC
- JANGLE (10)
- JUDGED
- MEDICO
- MYRIAD
- PAGODA
- PLEASE
- RAISED
- SCREEN
- TUNDRA
- VALUED
- VERSUS



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

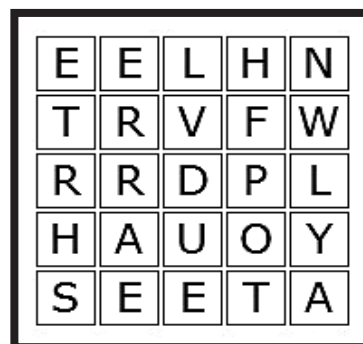
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

- 1 Abrupt 2 Aghast 3 Cloudy 4 Throne
- 5 Apogee 6 Defect 7 Spurge 8 Mingle
- 9 Couple 10 Sentry 11 Fathom
- 12 Choppy 13 Otiose 14 Glossy
- 15 Micron 16 Swishy 17 Hiatus
- 18 Iodine 19 Family.

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: 20
- Very good: 40
- Good: 28
- Excellent: 52

SCORING:

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

arts attar altar altars rata rats ruts
turf turfs tars tart tartar tartars talk
twos twirl twin taut tarts tats lark lard
drat star statal stark start stalk strata
spot spoof soft sour soot frat frats
fowl fops four foot food foodie furl
wood wind ruin rind post postal pour
oops odour hind heir tofts tofu tops
tour topos dost dour duos dirt dirndl

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:

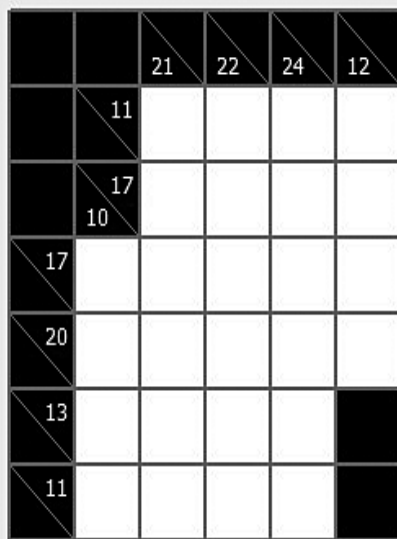
- Average: 12
- Good: 16
- Very good: 24
- Excellent: 31

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

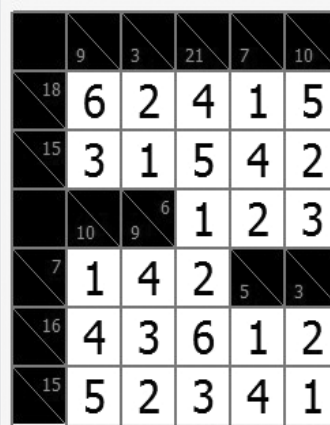
dent even need neep nerd neve been pend pent rend
rent teen tend tern vend vent enter event nerve never
preen trend deepen eterne evened evener needer
nerved rented repent tender vendee vender veneer
vented venter entered preened preteen pretend prevent
repented PREVENTED

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 Secure, 4 Fake, 8 Adapt, 9 Apple, 10 Legitimate, 13 Assistance, 17 Chaos, 18 Torso, 19 Lies, 20 Decide.
- Down:** 1 Stag, 2 Cease, 3 Rat, 5 Alpha, 6 Eleven, 7 Fajita, 11 Insist, 12 Cancel, 14 Snare, 15 Corgi, 16 Core, 18 Tie.

CODE BREAKER

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

CRYPTIC

- Across:** 1 Susan, 4 Crass, 8 Curator, 9 Green, 10 Ember, 11 Errands, 12 Stroll, 14 Walrus, 18 Pottage, 20 Sable, 22 Pence, 23 Evening, 24 Stale, 25 Event.
- Down:** 1 Sachets, 2 Scrub, 3 Natural, 4 Cornea, 5 Anger, 6 Sterner, 7 Bends, 13 Ratings, 15 Austere, 16 Sleight, 17 Recede, 18 Pupil, 19 Akela, 21 Bribe.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

- Across:** 1 Espalda, 5 Crabs, 8 Capaz, 9 Terraza, 10 Mostrar, 11 Santo, 12 Daisy, 14 Tenth, 19 Apodo, 21 Ropería, 23 En avión, 24 Sabor, 25 Again, 26 Answers.
- Down:** 1 Encima, 2 Pipes, 3 Lizards, 4 Altura, 5 Caras, 6 Against, 7 Season, 13 Abogada, 15 Esposas, 16 Maceta, 17 Prensa, 18 Cabras, 20 Onion, 22 Roble.

App of the week



Lingvist

A language learning app that is able to adapt to the user's skill level. It supports learning French, Spanish, German, Russian and Estonian and is designed to help users pick up a new language in a faster and more engaging way.

QUIZ: TOYS R QUIZ

- 'How gentle is the rain that falls softly on the meadow' is the opening line of which 1965 UK Top five hit single by The Toys?
- In which 1968 British musical adventure fantasy film did comedian Benny Hill play the part of the Toymaker?
- Released in Japan in November 1996 and the rest of the world six months later, what was the name of the electronic toy displaying a digital image of a creature that had to be looked after and responded to by the 'owner' as if it were a pet?
- The name of which famous toy is derived from the Danish phrase for 'play well'?
- What is the nationality of the sculptor and professor of architecture Ernő Rubik, the inventor of the famous 3-D combination puzzle the Rubik's Cube?
- Which actor is the voice of Woody (Sheriff Woody Pride), a pull-string cowboy doll in the Toy Story series of films?

1. A LOVERS CONCERTO, 2. CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG, 3. YAMA-GOTCHI, 4. LEGO (leg godt), 5. HUNGARIAN (born in Budapest), 6. TOM HANKS, 7. LAUREL AND HARDY - the film is also known by the alternate titles Laurel and Hardy in Toyland, Revenge is Sweet and March of the Wooden Soldiers, 8. LETCH A SKETCH, 9. JAMES BOND ASTON MARTIN DIE-CAST CAR - Spyrograph (1967) and Hot Wheels (1969), 10. HAWAII
7. Which comedy duo starred in the musical film Babes in Toyland, first released in November 1934?
8. Which mechanical drawing toy was invented by Frenchman André Cassagnes in 1960?
9. Which of these toys was the first ever winner of the British Association of Toy Retailers' Toy of the Year award in 1965: (a) Hot Wheels, (b) James Bond Aston Martin die-cast car or (c) Spirograph?
10. Which toy shop, the oldest and largest toy shop in the world was founded as Noahs Ark in High Holborn in 1760 but moved to its current site on Regent Street in 1881?

Not a lot of people know that... the yo-yo is believed to be the second-oldest toy in the world. Its name likely derives from the northern Philippine Ilocano language word 'yóyo'

Answers:

1. A LOVERS CONCERTO, 2. CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG, 3. YAMA-GOTCHI, 4. LEGO (leg godt), 5. HUNGARIAN (born in Budapest), 6. TOM HANKS, 7. LAUREL AND HARDY - the film is also known by the alternate titles Laurel and Hardy in Toyland, Revenge is Sweet and March of the Wooden Soldiers, 8. LETCH A SKETCH, 9. JAMES BOND ASTON MARTIN DIE-CAST CAR - Spyrograph (1967) and Hot Wheels (1969), 10. HAWAII

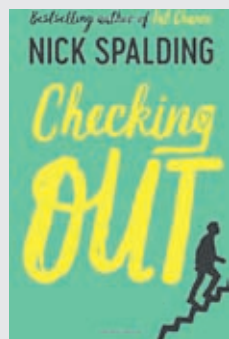
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Staring down death

NATHAN JAMES has just learnt he is about to die and there is nothing doctors can do for him.

The successful 33-year-old now has to confront the prospect of no longer being around, which causes him to rethink the choices he has made.

He sets out on a journey of self-discovery that sees him encounter bean bags, monster potatoes and a bipolar donkey.

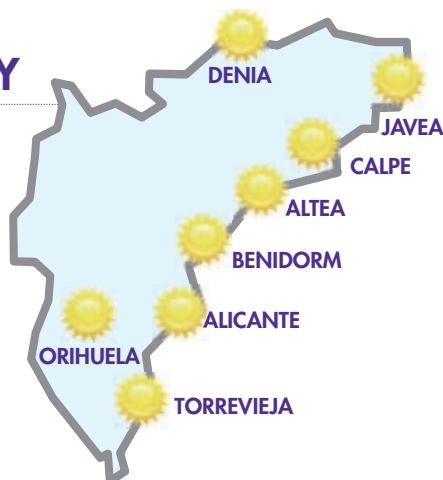
He also meets a girl called Alison and falls in love with her but is torn because he knows he will soon no longer be there to give himself to her.

Nick Spalding's *Checking Out* is a comedy about trying to live while haunted by the spectre of death.

books@euroweeklynews.com

Costa Blanca

TODAY



Malaga TODAY: MAX 17, MIN 8-S Fri - 17 8 - Sh Sat - 17 9 - Cl Sun - 18 10 - Sh Mon - 19 9 - S Tues - 20 9 - S Wed - 21 10 - S	Almeria TODAY: MAX 14, MIN 8-S Fri - 17 10 - C Sat - 16 10 - S Sun - 17 11 - C Mon - 18 10 - Cl Tues - 18 11 - S Wed - 20 11 - S	Bilbao TODAY: MAX 11, MIN 4-Sh Fri - 12 6 - Sh Sat - 11 6 - Sh Sun - 13 7 - Sh Mon - 12 8 - Sh Tues - 15 8 - Sh Wed - 15 8 - C	Madrid TODAY: MAX 13, MIN 2 - S Fri - 11 3 - Sh Sat - 12 3 - C Sun - 12 3 - Sh Mon - 14 3 - C Tues - 16 3 - S Wed - 17 4 - C
Alicante TODAY: MAX 15, MIN 9-S Fri - 19 9 - C Sat - 18 8 - C Sun - 18 10 - C Mon - 19 10 - Cl Tues - 19 10 - S Wed - 20 10 - S	Benidorm TODAY: MAX 14, MIN 8-S Fri - 18 10 - Sh Sat - 16 8 - C Sun - 17 10 - C Mon - 18 10 - Cl Tues - 18 11 - S Wed - 18 12 - S	Mallorca TODAY: MAX 12, MIN 6-Cl Fri - 15 8 - Cl Sat - 13 7 - Sh Sun - 13 7 - Sh Mon - 14 7 - Sh Tues - 15 8 - Sh Wed - 16 9 - S	Barcelona TODAY: MAX 13, MIN 4 - S Fri - 13 8 - Cl Sat - 12 6 - Sh Sun - 13 6 - Sh Mon - 15 6 - Sh Tues - 16 7 - Cl Wed - 16 8 - Cl

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

weather

TOMORROW



SATURDAY



590 - Theodosius crowned
Byzantine Emperor Maurice proclaims his son Theodosius co-emperor of the Byzantine Empire. He would go on to be executed in a military revolt.

1199 - Richard I injured
Richard I, also known as Richard the Lionheart, is wounded by an arrow in France. He would go on to die on the following April 6.

1566 - Valletta building
Jean Parisot de Valette, Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, lays the foundation stone of Valletta, Malta's capital city.

1807 - Slave trade banned
The Slave Trade Act, which banned the kidnapping of Africans from their homeland and their sale into slavery, becomes law in the British Empire following several attempts to pass it.

1896 - First radio signal
The first radio signal transmission in history is made by Russian physicist Alexander Popov.

1916 - Shikai abdicates
Yuan Shikai, the last Emperor of China, abdicates his throne leading to the restoration of the Republic of China after a year-long hiatus.

1977 - Frost-Nixon talks
The first of the Nixon interviews is recorded with British journalist David Frost and former President Richard Nixon. The Watergate Scandal discussion would be watched by the largest audience of a political interview in history.

2017 - Westminster attack
Khalid Masood drives a car into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge, crashes into railings near the Houses of Parliament, gets out and stabs PC Keith Palmer before being shot. Six people died and 49 were injured as a result.

This week in history

BIRTHDAYS

• **Andrew Lloyd Webber, Composer; March 22, 70**

The writer of *Cats*, *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* went to Westminster school before going on to study at the Royal College of Music. He has had a lengthy collaboration with lyricist Tim Rice with their songs covered by Johnny Mathis and Celine Dion, among others.

• **Mo Farah, Athlete; March 23, 35**
Farah won the 5,000 and 10,000 metre running races at the London Olympics in



Mo Farah.

2012 and was named the European Athlete of the Year two years in a row.

• **Mary Berry, TV chef; March 24, 83**

Born in Bath in Britain, Berry has written more than 70 cooking and food books and has hosted her own BBC Two show *Mary Berry Cooks*. She is also known for having hosted *The Great British Bake Off* alongside Paul Hollywood.

• **Elton John, Musician; March 25, 71**
John, born Reginald Kenneth Dwight, has sold over 250 million albums in his 50-year

career. He began playing the piano at the age of three and went on to sing the hits *Rocket Man*, *Goodbye Yellow Brick Road* and *Tiny Dancer*. He performed his song *Candle in the Wind* at Princess Diana's funeral in 1997.

• **Keira Knightley, Actor; March 26, 33**
The BAFTA award-winning star of *Pride & Prejudice* and *Atonement* first rose to fame after featuring in the films *Bend It Like Beckham* and *Love Actually*. Born in London, Knightley began her acting career by appearing in adverts from the age of six.

Sierra Nevada SNOW REPORT

More snow is forecast on the Sierra Nevada this weekend, with lows of minus eight degrees. Sunday is expected to be the worst day with heavy snowfall forecast for the entire day and continuing on into Monday. The rest of the week is expected to have clear skies. Many slopes have been closed due to weather conditions.



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

SWAP

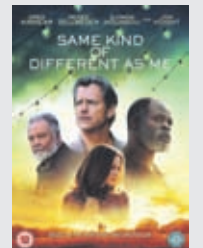
Move from the start word (**SWAP**) to the end word (**GERM**) in the same number of steps as there are rungs on the Word Ladder. You must only change one letter at a time.

GERM

- GERM
- TERM
- TEAM
- SEAM
- SWAM
- SWAP
- Solution

DVD

A test of character



MILLIONAIRE art dealer Ron Hall (Greg Kinnear) is self-absorbed, but he is desperate to win back his wife Debbie (Renee Zellweger) after she discovers he has had an affair.

Debbie decides to test his commitment by giving him a challenge. She asks him to help her feed the homeless at their local shelter and befriend notorious ex-convict Denver Moore (Dijon Hounsou).

The trio then embark on a life-changing journey for Hall in *Same Kind of Different as Me*.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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

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

Dairy: the good and the bad

WHILE it isn't wise to give up entire food groups unless you are advised to by your doctor - like when you have an allergy, for example - it is becoming increasingly popular to cut dairy completely out of diets.

You may notice several changes to your body if you decide to go dairy-free - whether you need to or not - both good and bad.

This is because each food group fuels your body with different nutrients that are needed by your body to work properly, including dairy, however the US National Library of Medicine claims that two thirds of the world's population lack the enzyme needed to digest cow's milk.

This means your digestion may improve and you may feel less bloated if you cut out dairy, however, you



GOT MILK: Giving up dairy has both positive and negative side effects.

could also feel more bloated at first as your body reacts to the change in your diet.

You also might get fewer headaches as cheese contains a natural chemical called tyramine which can cause migraines and headaches.

However, dairy also contains vitamin B2 and people with a deficiency of this vitamin can suffer from migraines as a side effect, so make sure you eat lots of spinach, mushrooms and almonds which can contribute to this.

You could also miss out on other essential nutrients such as calcium and vitamin D if you go dairy-free so eat lots of fatty fish, as well as plant-based milks, which are normally a good alternative source of the nutrients you need.



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BRAIN FUEL: Eating oily fish helps your brain to function.

How to keep your brain healthy

AS we age, it is expected that our cognitive functions will start to decline, and we will become more forgetful, tired and flummoxed by simple tasks.

However, it is easier than you may think to keep your brain in good shape and prevent cognitive decline as you get older.

First things first, try to get at least eight hours sleep each night as sleeping less has been linked to cognitive decline.

Vices such as smoking and alcohol have also been proven to prematurely age the brain and body, so try to cut down on these as much as possible.

Go to your doctor to find out your homocysteine levels as increased levels in the blood have been connected to Alzheimer's disease.

While you're there, also get your testosterone level tested as low levels of the hormone have been associated with low energy, depression and Alzheimer's disease.

On a daily basis, leading a healthy lifestyle by eating well and exercising are small things that can help to make all the difference.

Eating oily fish and lots of fruits and vegetables will help to keep your brain functioning effectively and check your blood pressure often to make sure it is under control.



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FULL BODY SCAN: Using the most advanced computer technology.

long before symptoms of diseases occur. The first application of the technology was in the 1980's when Russian cosmonauts first used it for the

diagnosis and treatment of diseases in space as the use of chemical drugs is not favourable in space. Since then the technology has advanced into

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Can I you g

GETTING a good amount of sleep is important for keeping us happy and healthy, and affects how we age, how we deal with stress and even our day to day decisions. However, in today's technology obsessed culture, it can seem harder than ever to drift off at night.

To battle insomnia, it's wise to keep all electronic devices out of the bedroom to avoid distractions but if you're still finding it challenging, it might be worth trying a more pragmatic approach to tackle the problem

“ The pressure applied during a massage can trigger melatonin which the body needs to help drift off to sleep.

Research has demonstrated that there is a link between massage therapy and the chemistry of sleep because massaging the body directly helps it to produce serotonin and melatonin, which both play a vital role in our sleep patterns.

Studies have shown that massage can help to balance our hormones, boosting serotonin levels by up to 28 per cent while at the same time reducing the amount of cortisol - the stress hormone - by around 30 per cent.

The pressure applied during a massage can also trigger melatonin which the body needs to help drift off to sleep.

While it would be incredibly pricey to go and see a masseuse every night, just giving yourself a light massage on your feet, and neck could make all the difference and help banish your sleep difficulties for good.

Massages help go to sleep?



SLEEP TIGHT: Massages could help you to drift off.

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GUT health is fast becoming one of the biggest wellness trends of 2018, with new food products, diets and books being cultivated around the concept.

Looking after your gut basically means taking care of the ecosystem of fungi, yeasts, bacteria and viruses which live in the intestinal tract.

Several reports claim that having a healthy gut helps to reduce chronic inflammation that can cause all manner of diseases, but could also have

a significant impact on our mood.

This is because the gut produces many hormones and transmitters that have an impact on the brain, such as serotonin which helps to regulate sleep, social behaviour and mood.

Some studies have claimed that the gut produces 95 per cent of the body's serotonin which is why an imbalanced intestinal tract can have a big impact on our emotions.

Conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome has also

been linked to mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression, with several studies showing more than a third of people with IBS also suffer from the disorders, compared to the 7.8 per cent of the general population.

Eating food high in fibre can help keep you in high spirits as it feeds the gut bacteria, while 'probiotic' foods such as live yoghurt, sauerkraut, kombucha and kimchi will make sure your gut is packed with a wide range of 'good' bacteria.

Blame it on the bubbly drink

THERE'S something about drinking a glass of Prosecco that can make you on top of the world.

Although you might have splashed a bit more on your drink of choice, there's something about bubbly alcoholic drinks that leave you feeling giddier than usual.

In fact, scientific research has confirmed that being 'Prosecco drunk' is a real thing.

An experiment which monitored a group of people who were all given the same Champagne to drink - but half were given it flat while the other half were given it still sparkling - found that the alcohol levels of those who were given the sparkling Champagne rose more quickly

than the alcohol levels of the group drinking it flat.

The bubbly Champagne drinkers had an average of 0.54 milligrams of alcohol per millilitre of blood after just five minutes, while the flat Champagne drinkers only had an average of 0.39 milligrams of alcohol.

This is believed to be because the bubbles found in sparkling alcoholic drinks help the stomach or intestine to absorb the alcohol more quickly into the bloodstream.

If you still want to drink Prosecco or Champagne but not become overly tipsy, try drinking from a shallow glass instead of a flute as the larger surface area allows the bubbles to disperse more quickly.

Just three Spanish gigs for Carlos Santana sees him visit Alicante

by John Smith

VOTED the 20th best guitarist of all time in *Rolling Stone Magazine*, the legendary Carlos Santana has set out on the Divination world tour which will see just three performances in Spain.

He and his band will be appearing at the Plaza de Toros in Alicante on Tuesday August 7 from 10.30pm with tickets, which are now on sale, costing from €56 to €81.

Next year sees the 50th anniversary of the release of Santana's first album and also their stunning appearance at the Woodstock music festival which surprised many and kick started the band's incredible career.

Mixing Latin rhythms -

learned from his birthplace in Mexico where his father was a Mariachi performer - with African sounds, the early album releases were completely different from those of any of the other West Coast bands but showed how Carlos Santana had blended his heritage within the burgeoning rock scene.

Having been a major headliner for many years he started to find a new interest in Jazz Fusion, working with John McLaughlin who introduced him to his personal guru, Sri Chinmoy and Carlos became known as Devadip, meaning 'The lamp, light and eye of God.'

The two guitarists collaborated on the album *Love, Devotion, Surrender* which enjoyed some commercial success but

although he continued to receive critical acclaim, sales of his albums began to drop and record company, Columbia even refused to release a triple album, *Lotus* in the USA.

His manager Bill Graham (of Fillmore West fame) who, as a promoter, had given him his first main commercial break, persuaded him to return to the funk and Latin sound which had first brought him success and the album *Amigos* contained a number of tracks ideal for the emerging and increasingly important FM radio stations.

After having a fairly bleak period (when compared to his former popularity) during the 1990's, his album *Supernatural* released in 2000 saw Santana winning no less than nine



ON STAGE: Carlos Santana and band.

Grammy Awards including Album of the Year and Record of the Year.

Since then he has returned to the pantheon of great rock musicians and has performed with

a huge number of big names both live and on record.

He reformed one of the most successful line ups of the band in 2016 to release a new album and undertake a short tour but

at the age of 70 he seems more than happy to undertake a huge tour which will see him and his band performing many of the outstanding tracks from his long and distinguished career.

Photo by Anthony Correia - Shutterstock

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Former Supertramp frontman to perform

ALICANTE is going to enjoy a busy musical August with both Santana and Bunbury visiting but there is a third great performer, Roger Hodgson also arriving in the city during that month.

The former singer with hugely popular Supertramp and writer of such hits as *Breakfast in America*, *The Logical Song* and *Dreamer* will be appearing at the Plaza de Toros in Alicante on Tuesday August 14 with tickets costing €50.

His current world tour runs from June to October with just four Spanish dates announced so far and his latest performances can be viewed at his website <http://www.rogerhodgson.com>.

Advertising Feature

The ideal place

SITUATED in the Ciudad Quesada suburb of Rosales, the Indian Ocean has been serving exceptional Indian food for more than a decade.

With glamorous high ceilings and chandeliers as well as upstairs space, perfect for private parties and an outdoor terrace for al fresco dining if the weather allows. The Indian Ocean is a great place to enjoy an intimate meal for two or to enjoy a large gathering with friends and family.

Whilst the restaurant itself is a lovely environment to dine in, food is, of course, behind its success, with owner Mohsin Reza priding himself on the quality and freshness of the Bangladeshi food: "Ninety-five per cent of restaurants in the UK are actually Bangladeshi rather than Indian and it is a slightly different type of cuisine, so we



IMPRESSIVE: A superb choice at the Indian Ocean Restaurant.

offer the much loved tastes that people are so fond of in the UK."

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ce for a great Indian meal



They have begun to introduce a few new ingredients and make subtle little changes to things like garnishes, which are proving popular with customers enhancing the flavours and presentation of the dishes and everything is cooked fresh to order.

Aware of the dietary needs of many customers, gluten-free is available; just ask one of the friendly and attentive waiters and tell them of any allergies and those with special requests will be served a meal they can safely enjoy.

Indian Ocean remains open every day for lunch from 12-3pm and again in the evening from 6pm until 11pm. The menu del dia (menu of the day) offers the most affordable way to try the cui-

sine costing €8.95 and the evening menu is €10.95 with both menus available Sunday to Thursday.

Apart from all of the dishes you would expect from a good Indian restaurant, the chef's specialities include a great selection of chicken, meat and prawns as well as a range of starters and main dishes suitable for vegetarians.

Take-aways are also available so you can enjoy a little bit of the Indian Ocean in the comfort of your own home.

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Ciudad Quesada
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Visit www.indianoceanrestaurant.com

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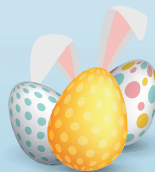


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Monday Closed

Orihuela Holy week bus service

DURING Holy Week the Department of Tourism in Orihuela will be arranging special tours through the historic centre of the town, with English commentary next Wednesday and Thursday.

In addition there will be a number of extra bus routes which will be in operation provided that 20 people or more wish to take advantage

of the services.

Running from next Tuesday to March 31, the bus will depart Playa Flamenca at 10am on each day and return at 3pm.

For more information on these and other special bus routes, as well as making reservations contact the Tourist Information office at Orihuela beach on 966 760 000 ext.32

Students of fine arts exhibition



Photo by Frax Foundation

OPENING: The fine arts exhibition.

EVERY year, the Navarro Ramon room at the Frax Foundation hosts an exhibition of sculptures in stone by students of fine arts from the Miguel Hernandez University (UMH).

This year, it will run until April 10 and the exhibition has been entitled Subtraction and contains the work of students on the subject 'Sculptural Volume.'

The stone carving is a sculptural procedure called subtractive, which requires the modelling of this hard, rigid and heavy material, in order to obtain the desired shape.

This is achieved by removing or subtracting pieces of different sizes from the main mass or block, from which it is split until reaching a certain form.

This process is developed in different phases by sketching, cutting, chiselling, abrasion and polishing of the surface

What's on!

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SINGER SONGWRITER: Enrique Bunbury singing on stage.

Enrique Bunbury in Alicante

SPANISH singer songwriter Enrique Bunbury (real name Enrique Ortiz de Landazuri Izarduy) will be appearing at the Plaza de Toros in Alicante on Saturday August 25 from 10.30pm with tickets, which are now on sale, costing €40.

He has had a long career which has brought plenty of

success although his surname causes some confusion. It is a stage name he adopted in 1984 with one of his first professional bands and is taken from a character who appears in the Oscar Wilde play, 'The Importance of Being Earnest.'

His band, Heroes del Silencio, were a major influ-

ence in the Hispanic rock scene and he started his solo career in 1987 following the break-up of the band.

With his powerful almost operatic voice, he has experimented with a whole range of different musical styles and continues to attract audiences to his regular concerts around the country.

For the chosen few

BODEGAS VEGA SICILIA is a Spanish winery founded in 1864 by Don Eloy Lecanda y Chaves and owned since 1982 by the Alvarez family.

BACCHUS CELLAR

by Lorenzo Barbareschi



Don Eloy, a Spanish winemaker, brought several grape varieties back from the Bordeaux region where he trained to his Castile homeland, including Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, all of which are still used today together with Tempranillo and Malbec.

In the 20th century, Vega Sicilia - located in the Ribera del Duero DO in northern Spain - earned a reputation as one of Spain's most notable wineries with its top bottles selling for an average of €300.

The name Vega Sicilia refers to the Catholic Saint Cecilia with no connection to the island of Sicily.

Many of Vega Sicilia's 250 acres are planted with old vines, some more than 100 years old, resulting in a low yield during harvest.

The wines are aged in barrel and bottle for many years and depending on vintage for decades before release.

For example, in 1991 the winery released the 1968 and 1982 vintages after 23 and nine



BODEGAS VEGA SICILIA: Family-run since 1864.

years ageing.

Vega Sicilia produces three cuvees:

Unico: This Gran Reserva is the signature wine released 10 - 15 years after vintage. Taken from some of the oldest vines it consists of Tempranillo (80 per cent) and Cabernet Sauvignon (20 per cent) and accounts for about a third of production.

Valbuena 5º: Aged for five years, it is composed mostly of Tempranillo, with Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Vega Sicilia Unico Reserva Especial: A non-vintage blend of different Unicos, aged at least for 10 years; it can include grapes from vintages harvested more than 30 years apart and usually only available to private customers.



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The path of the poet

IN recent years the Institut Valencia de la Joventut, in collaboration with a number of local councils has been promoting a series of walks which commence this year on April 13.

The Provincial Council of Alicante, has been developing this activity that runs through the most unique places in the life and work of the poet Miguel Hernandez.

This is a three-day hiking activity which combines cultural, tourist and environmental interests and promotes values such as participation and coexistence between different generations and specially targets young people from the region of Valencia.

At all times the hike will be monitored by several guides who will advise the walkers on all matters relevant to both the poet and the hike.

There will be three stages with the first on April 13 which will see the walk start in Orihuela - the town where the poet was born - and terminate that day in Albatera. The second day will take the participants to Elche and the final leg will go from Elche to Alicante City.

The journey includes three stages that run along the GR-125 international path, making stops at each location on the route.

There those taking part will be able to



Photo by Metro Madrid

DEDICATION: A station in Madrid was named after the poet in 2017.

rest at various points and be entertained by a selection of poetry, drama and music mainly performed by students from the towns along the path.

All those who love outdoor activities, nature, hiking and especially poetry will be able to register to take part although those under a certain age will have to be accompanied a responsible person.

Overnight stays will be arranged but each hiker must bring his / her own sleep-

ing bag and a mat to lie on. Although there will be a vehicle for heavy luggage, as the tour is made entirely on foot, it is recommended to carry at least two pairs of comfortable footwear, spare socks and a walking stick.

Also don't forget sun protection, sunglasses and a sun hat, a rain jacket and a water bottle.

For more information call 966 478 103 or email: sendadelpoeta_ivaj@gva.es.

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LEGALLY SPEAKING

Cyclists - know the law

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.



PEDAL POWER: The rules of the road still apply.

IT is probably safe to say that all road users have witnessed a bicycle rider going through a red light or riding on the pavement, a practice that many find frustrating, but always one that raises the same question, are cyclists allowed to do such things?

The simple answer is NO.

In terms of law, once a bicycle is being ridden it is classed as a vehicle and therefore covered by the same rules and laws as a car, a truck, a bus, in fact any other vehicle on the road.

It is only when the rider dismounts and walks with the bicycle is it considered otherwise. In this instance, the situation means that the person has become a pedestrian.

That is the same reason why cyclists cannot ride across zebra crossings, because we wouldn't expect a truck to do that, and the rider must dismount before they do.

Listening to music using headphones or using a mobile phone when riding a bike are prohibited in the same way as they are for other vehicles. Consuming more than the prescribed limit of alcohol or using drugs is also not al-

lowed, as a cyclist you are governed by the rules of the road. Just so you know what you are risking, let's have a look at some of the most common infractions.

- Not having a bell on your bicycle - 80€
 - Faulty or no brakes - 80€
 - Carrying an extra person on the bicycle - 80€
 - Failing to stop at a traffic light - 200€
 - Failing to give way at a junction - 200€
 - Not having lights - 200€
 - Having too many lights - 200€
 - Failing to wear high visibility clothing between sunset and sunrise and in poor visibility - 200€
 - Riding under the influence of alcohol - 500€
- There are many other laws and infractions commonly committed by cyclists, as well as other road users of course.

We will look at these in more detail in future editions, but for now, take note, you can indeed be fined on your bike and remember that one golden rule, when you are riding your bike, it is a vehicle and governed by the same rules and laws as every other vehicle.

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

Can he fly his national flag?

Q. I live on a multinational housing estate where people are proud of their heritage and country and fly their respective national flags from their balconies or outside their houses. I have been told that this is not

against Spanish law providing that a Spanish flag is flown at the same time and that the Spanish flag is flown higher than their national flag. Is this correct?

J B (Costa Blanca)

A. It is not necessary to fly a Spanish flag as well as the flag of your own nation. You are free to put up a flagpole in your front yard and fly the Belgian or Swedish flag by itself. Or

David Searl
You and the Law in Spain



you can drape it from your

balcony. If you choose to fly a Spanish flag also, then indeed it goes in top position. I quite like the idea of an estate of detached villas with each one displaying the flag of the inhabitant's nation.

It's no joke any more - not like the old days

Mike Senker
In my opinion



Views of a Grumpy Old Man

YOU know what I miss? I miss jokes. Nobody tells jokes anymore. Yeah, there are loads of comedians but they are all, bar one or two, observational comedians. Years ago, when I was out with friends, we would all sit around telling or repeating jokes.

The types with a build up then a punch line. In fact, although I'm now very definitely labelled 'Mr Grumpy,' I was known for my sense of humour and my party trick was to be able to tell a joke on nearly any subject. My point is it doesn't happen now.

Why? Because everyone has 'jokes' on their phones 24/7. There are jokes on Twitter, Facebook etc etc. Nobody is actually telling them - they are just there to read. There's no delivery, no comic genius timing like the great comedians they used to have on the TV. My favourite show was actually called The Comedians and was just a bunch of guys telling joke after joke.

Most were so politically incorrect but hilarious and I'd try to remember as many as I could to add to my repertoire. I also get loads

of videos and GIFs (not sure what that actually stands for) on WhatsApp now.

I don't mind the odd one but I've got one friend who can send what seems like a 100 a day. Most are not funny and many are just YouTube stuff and when I tell him it's enough he gets the hump. Hope he reads this!

I watched a bit of the winter Olympics and thought the Russians were banned for their vast government run doping scheme that allowed them to win loads of medals by cheating. So I was to see, not their Olympic team, but a bunch of people called 'Olympic Athletes from Russia.'

What a lot of hogwash! One-hundred-and-sixty-eight of them took part and, guess what, two of them failed a drugs test! I don't get it - they were Russian athletes from Russia and no, they didn't march under their flag.

But it's simple - they were banned for cheating, got slung out, found a loophole, got back in and surprise, surprise, they cheated again! It's like the asthma drugs and the cyclists.

I know three people that have asthma. One can't walk up a flight of stairs and the other two won the Tour de France. When I took drugs I wouldn't have even been able to find my bike, never mind ride it!

Email mikesenker@gmail.com



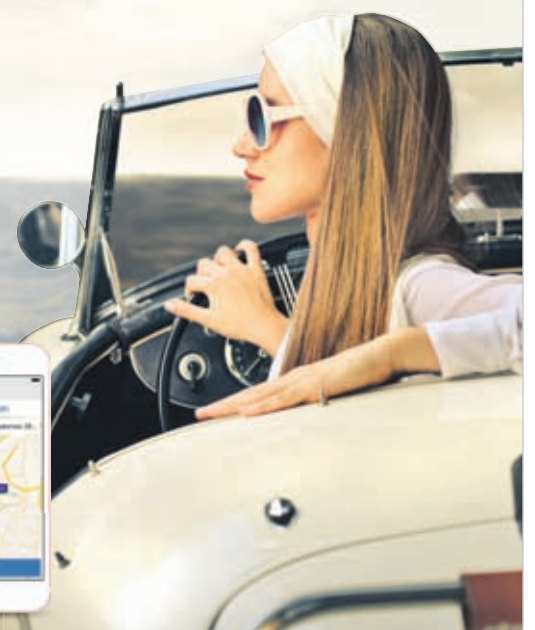
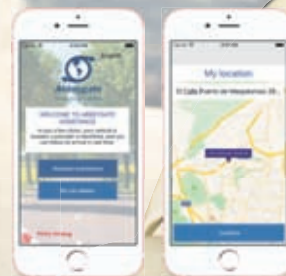
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Family caught in €691 million raid

CUSTOMS officers have seized properties owned by President Assad's family worth €691 million, mainly located in Marbella and Paris.

The homes are believed to belong to the president's uncle, Rifaat Assad, and the haul represents a record year for French customs officials who have seized €862 million of criminal assets in 2017, up 477 per cent on the previous year.

Rifaat Assad's property empire includes 503 prop-

erties around Marbella, ranging from restaurants to parking spaces, with an estate valued of €50 million.

His whole portfolio in the city is estimated to be worth a staggering €600 million.

In France, police seized €91 million of property, including a 3,000 square metre mansion on the exclusive Avenue Foch in Paris and a 110-acre chateau just outside the capital.

The police operation has

been carried out by a Spanish-Franco taskforce, after Rifaat Assad, 80, was charged with laundering the proceeds of financial fraud and misusing public funds.

Prosecutors say his fortune derives from money plundered by the Syrian regime after his brother, Hafez (the president's father), came to power in 1971.

Rifaat Assad was a well-known figure in Damascus but made enemies with his



Photo by Twitter/CombatChris1

PROPERTY PLUNDER: Rifaat Assad's real estate empire has been seized.

brother after attempting to oust him in the 1980's, after which he fled to Europe.

Mr Assad denies any

wrongdoing and claims his wealth largely emanates from gifts bestowed by Saudi Arabian royalty.

In a statement last year,

he and his family said they had 'never benefited from financing that, in any way, wronged the Syrian state and its people.'

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Advertising Feature

Sell2Go your first choice estate agent in Torrevieja

RECENT reviews have suggested that the property market in Costa Blanca is moving up again and that there is a boost in Northern Europeans looking to purchase property.

Sell2Go is an established family-run property business with its offices in a busy commercial centre close to Torrevieja and La Mata, so is ideally placed to help buyers and sellers to meet.

This busy thriving area with residents and visitors from many different countries is the perfect location covering property sales and rentals in the Costa Blanca and beyond.

The experienced team at Sell2Go has been involved in the property business here in Spain for over 10 years. This superior real estate agency is expert in valuing and selling older properties for the best prices possible but also has a thriving market for new builds where all of the work is done before you move in.

The latter is often a great choice for expatriates from a range of countries who want to have the opportunity to move into an energy efficient property which has all of the most modern appli-



SELL2GO: There is always a great selection of property.

ances installed and included in the price.

This is particularly appealing to those who are purchasing a holiday home but want to generate some income from the 'dead times' when they are not in residence.

Sell2Go offers a rental service and can advise on the recently introduced laws governing short



term lets as well as understanding all that is required if you purchase an investment property and are looking to benefit from long term letting.

This agent offers a full property management service including maintenance and key holding for those wishing to rent their properties out, taking the stress out of renting your property.

Those overseas residents who want to purchase a property in the area need to ensure that they obtain assistance from a reputable and well-established company which has knowledge of the market and will do all that they can to help find the right property at the right price without trying to pressurise you into spending more than you want for a property that doesn't suit.

This is an estate agent who wants to ensure that buyers and sellers are pleased with the results and go on to recommend Sell2Go to family and friends.

To make life easier for those visiting the website from overseas, there are versions in Dutch, English, French, Norwegian, Swedish and of course Spanish.

To find out the wide range of properties both resale and new build available and also for those looking to rent, visit www.sell-2-go.com/en, email info@sell-2-go.com, look at their Facebook page, call +34 644 124 370 or pop into the office, Sell2Go Real Estate, Local 4, C/C Torremarina A1, Calle Diana, 03183 Torrevieja, Alicante.

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Ghost town comes alive again

SESENA, a town that came to symbolise the excesses of Spain's last real estate boom, has begun building again.

It was a decade ago that ghost-like buildings in the Castilian countryside became an emblem of out-of-control speculation and of the housing crash.

However, Sesena, (34km south of Madrid), is making plans to build thousands of new homes after councillors approved the 'Quixote Park' project in late January.

Mayor Carlos Velazquez says proposals to combine homes with an industrial park on the site prove that



BUILDING BLOCK: The housing crash left Sesena littered with unfinished homes.

the town has learnt from the mistakes of the past.

In fact Sesena's change in fortunes is a sign of how soaring demand is causing Madrid's real estate and rental markets to heat up again.

Fernando Encinar, co-founder and head of research at Idealista said:

"There is as yet no bubble but there is a mini-boom. People will start to move out of the capital to the satellite cities."

As Spain's economic recovery stretches into its fifth year, property prices are rising strongly in the Madrid region, where they climbed 12 per cent in 2017.



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BOOMING BENIDORM: Property demand is high in the city.

Benidorm riding a wave of popularity

BENIDORM may be best known among tourists for its sun, sea and nightlife, but it's the city's burgeoning real estate market that is causing interna-

tional investors to take notice.

Back in 2008, Spain's unemployment rate shot up by 36 per cent and when the property bubble burst, investors couldn't get rid of Spanish real estate fast enough.

Today, however, there is a very different outlook: the economy is doing well; the banks are healthy; there is an investor-friendly legal framework; and property is still cheap compared to other European cities.

The recovery started six years ago with a €41 billion banking system bailout, and it is gathering pace as lenders clear out toxic property assets.

In the rental sector, cities like Benidorm have witnessed record average prices due to a combination of increased demand and a fall in supply.

That is because many homeowners, who had been renting out their properties during the economic slump, are now putting them back on the market as prices start to pick up again.

Added to this is the fact that short-term rentals to tourists have become a more profitable proposition than long-term leases.

Visitors flock to Benidorm for the beach, hotel and theme park pleasures by day, and the highest concentration of entertainment and clubbing venues in Europe by night.

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DESIGNING the plantings in your garden takes a lot more skill than just what looks good on paper.

It is a good idea to also know which plants can help and support each other's characteristics and needs. Many plants provide attributes that can greatly benefit each other.

Something as simple as providing shade where a taller, more sun tolerant plant can shelter a softer, sun sensitive one is a way to use plants to benefit each other.

Trees are an obvious example of a good means of providing shade for a variety of plants that cannot tolerate the hot Mediterranean sun.

In the vegetable garden corn can provide shade for beans, pumpkins, cucumbers, lettuce, Swiss chard, spinach, peas, potatoes and many other shorter heat intolerant plants, including flowers.

There are also plants that are incompatible. Tomatoes will not grow well with corn. Sun-loving plants or plants that need low nitrogen will not do well in a well prepared nitrogen-rich corn bed. Many culinary herbs fit into this category.

Companion planting can be



COMPANION PLANTING: Peas and spring onions.

Photo Credit: Miyuki Satake Shutterstock

Companion planting

Finding the right friends for your plants

very detailed. If you want to find natural ways to improve your garden, it is important to at least understand the basics of it.

Pests can be repelled by adding flowers and herbs such as marigolds, thyme, sage, lavender, tansy, mint and many more. Some plants will attract

beneficial insects, such as zinnias which attract ladybirds. Garlic and onions are good pest deterrents but they can stunt the growth of some legumes including beans and peas.

There are many guides on companion planting and there is a lot of variation in advice so it

is best to research ideas you like and just try it out to see if recommendations work for your plants in your environment. It can be a help to research plants beneficial to the specific problems you have with your plants and use those.

Combining plants known to

support each other and ones that are detrimental to each other is also very handy to know. Lavender growing under or around fruit trees susceptible to codling moth will give them some protection.

Growing flowers in vegetable gardens is becoming more popular as people learn of the benefits of different flowers to deter damaging pests and to attract beneficial ones.

Do not be too concerned that you cannot follow garden plans for companion planting exactly.

Plants may not be crucially affected and some advice is regional. It is just an additional skill for better gardening. You can still get enjoyment from learning for yourself what works well and what does not.

It may be more detrimental to plants to be dug up and removed to another place if you find established plants are not where they should be to get the benefit of companion planting.

The most important thing is that you can feel good about gardening.

Marching into spring

SPRING is on the horizon, so now is the perfect time to really start to get stuck into your gardening.

With the last of the winter weather (hopefully) out of the way, your garden is sure to really start sprouting in the next few weeks, so make sure you get on top of it before it gets on top of you.

Besides, the days will be getting longer, not to mention warmer, so why wouldn't you want to make the most of it? First things first, start by trimming any unruly hedges or bushes, giving your lawn a mow and removing any weeds. The sooner you get started on this,

the less work you'll have to do later.


Now is also the best time to get planting your bulbs if you want to see your garden in full bloom come summer.

At the end of the month, you should make sure to lift and separate your winter perennials in order to get a better display next year.

Finally, lay some compost or manure around any bushes or fruit trees and mulch the earth around your plants, using wood chips or bark to help fertilise the soil.

You could also use any waste from your pruning to help boost your compost bins.

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Denning is a natural instinct

David
THE Dogman



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SAFE AND HAPPY: A place of her own.



DOMESTICATION of dogs is a fairly recent event in the history of canines on earth. Although wild canines have been around for millions of years, they have only spent a few thousand of those as our pets. As a result, they still retain some of their 'wild' instincts, and one of those is the instinct to 'den.'

Canines have a definite instinct to hide out in dens. If they do not have one available, they will 'make their own.' We frequently see our dogs under desks or the dining room table, if they can fit. When a dog digs a hole in your garden one reason might be the instinct to make a den.

What this behaviour is all about is a canine's natural desire to have a place he can call his own.

Many people dislike the idea of

'caging' or 'crating' their dog, feeling as if it is cruel and somehow hampering his freedom. This is not true. Just go to a friend's house who has a dog that has been properly crate (or cage) trained.

The dog will often seek out this refuge when he is tired, stressed, or just wants to be away from it all. Your friend probably feeds her dog in or near his 'den', has provided soft, comfortable bedding for his 'den', and has plenty of toys for him to play with or to chew nearby. What dog would not want to stay in a place with so many luxurious amenities?

Many people leave a cage or crate available for their dog so he has his own place to go to. The door is always open and the pet comes and goes as he pleases.

To him it is not a cage, but rather an

indoor doghouse that he feels secure in.

Other advantages of cages or crates include:

- Safety for your dog and house.
- Having your young or untrained dog in

a cage may protect your house from dog-related destruction while you are away or are unable to watch him.

I know of a woman who forgot to put her 10-month-old giant breed puppy in his cage. She came home to papers ripped up and spread all over, and toilet paper strewn throughout the house.

A crate can prevent this type of disaster from happening. It can also prevent the young, unsupervised animal from hurting himself by chewing electric cords or becoming ill from something he ate during his escapade.

- When travelling with your pet, a crate in your car can protect both your pet and the driver from being disturbed. Whether you choose a plastic crate or a wire cage, you will be doing both you and your pet a favour when you get him his own 'den.'

Mature pets need understanding care

IF you are fortunate enough to have had a pet live with you into old age, you'll understand what I am about to describe. With every year, every noticeable limp, their comfort becomes more important both to you and to them.

They may not be as agile as they once were, and despite obvious enthusiasm and excitement about the prospect of going out with you, perhaps their gait is a little arthritic and the tail wagging somewhat shorter in duration than before.

Just like humans the older our pets become they may need prescribed medications and treatments to keep them well and comfortable. This can make a trip away more of a challenge.

Do you take them somewhere for the duration of your absence or keep them at home? Often pet owners express a wish to keep mature pets at home. They say it is less stressful if they know their location, familiar smells, and their routines.

Fortunately, today in the age of the internet there are options available to access affordable pet care for when we go on holiday. Joining a membership network where the house and pet-sitters are all checked on registration is easier than ever.



Keeping mature pets at home can be a great solution.

On HouseSitMatch.com the sitters offer an exchange of services free for home and pet care swapped for free accommodation.

It is easy to join our membership network online and we can help you get started. Check out our Trustpilot (link to <https://www.housesitmatch.com/testimonials/>) references online to see what our verified customers say about us too.

"Excellent company and we have always had brilliant house sitters from here!"

Jules Ross - home and pet owner in Malaga

So if you have holiday plans for this year, and especially if you have mature pets, it is best to find your house-sitter now and ensure you have good pet care at home for free!

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Walk this way

OWNING a dog can work wonders for your health, much more so than most other pets.

A new survey by Harringtons pet food discovered that dog owners walk their four-legged friends more than 1,000 miles on average each year and play 2,080 rounds of fetch.

The study, which surveyed 2,000 dog owners, also found that they take their dogs for a walk roughly 10 times a week, and each trip lasted an average of 34 minutes.

Therefore, owning a dog is an easy way to reach the recommended goal of 10,000 steps a week, helping you to stay fit and healthy without it seeming like a chore.

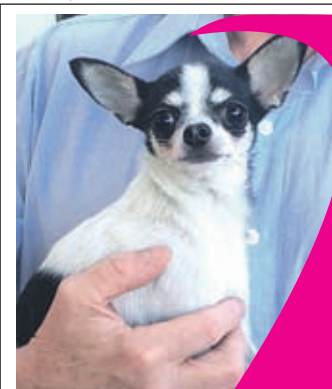
However, the survey also revealed that couples or families who own dogs fight at least twice a week about whose turn it is to take their pooch for a walk.

Nonetheless, owning a dog can also work wonders for your mental health, as exercise in any form releases endor-

phins, a natural mood booster.

It is also a great social activity as dog walkers bump into four other people on average while out with their pet and stop to have a chat on half of these occasions.

They also tend to have one break to grab coffee or a drink in a pub along the way.



Pets in Spain

Oreo is 1 of 4 Chihuahuas we recently rescued from a puppy farm. She is around 4 years old and is a very timid little girl so will need a home with patience to help her overcome what she has been through. She is chipped, vaccinated and good with other dogs.

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Punk

Punk was found in the streets around Almoradi in a very distressed state. Obviously he had been dumped so spent the first night screaming thus drawing the attention of an animal lover. Punk was bought in to the Almoradi shop where he was then taken to our smaller cattery. He is very playful and affectionate and loves to have behind his ears scratched, he is also very talkative. Punk has lost part of his sight. He also has feline leukaemia. D.O.B APRIL 20 2014 APPROX
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every Sunday and Tuesday after the service. The Divine Service, with Mediumship on Sunday 25th March will be taken by Annette Rogers. The Evening of Mediumship on Tuesday 27th March, will be taken by Len Cox. The Divine Service on Sunday, 1st April will be taken by Donna Collins (UK Medium). Contact Wendy on 965 323 028. www.spiritualistcentre-benijofar.com New email is phoenixchurch23@gmail.com or info@spiritualistcentre-benijofar.com Identificacion Fiscal G54713789.

LA SIESTA EVANGELICAL CHURCH on Urbanisation La Siesta, Torrevieja is a friendly, English speaking church. We hold services each Sunday and everyone is welcome. Our 11.15am Services are held every 2nd and 4th Sunday in the month (and 11.15 am on the 5th Sunday, if this applies.) On the 1st and 3rd Sunday's our Services are at 9.30am. Our choir sings at our 11.15am Services and there is also a Sunday school, called Stepping Stones, on these Sundays. We welcome residents, visitors and children. For more information see our website www.lasies.taevangelicalchurch.org or telephone Pastor Keith on 666 180 108.

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH, La Fustera. For more info: contact Frank Bentley on 966 495 188. (95461)

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ROUNDAABOUT CHARITY SHOP. We are now into summer and very soon we will be feeling the heat! It is time therefore for another visit to the shop where you might find a bargain or two. Choose from the clothing selection, jewellery, household goods, books or bric a brac. There is usually something there for everyone - but not always. Charitable donations have recently been made to The Alzheimers Centre, Cancer Research and The Amigos Ambulance Service. We still need your help with donations etc. Please keep them coming in! We are situated on Avenida Del Furs close to the Fountain Roundabout and immediate left by Don Colchon bed shop. (93325)

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION, Torrevieja Branch, meet at 17.00 on the first Wednesday of each month at the Restaurante El Paraiso, Urb. Jardin del Mar 3 (behind Carrefour), Torrevieja. Contact Paul Edwards, Chairman 618 644 934 or Margaret Forshaw, Secretary 966 921 996. (95455)

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Orihuela Costa - covering from Punta Prima to San Javier. The branch meets at Olympia restaurant, Mil Palmeras on 3rd Thursday of each month at 19.00 - 19.30pm. More info can be found on branch website www.oriuelacostarbl.co.uk (95457)

HELP VEGA BAJA. We are a non-profit making organisation that helps and supports anyone, without prejudice, in times of need or crisis within the Vega Baja area. Our offices are based in San Miguel at Calle Lope de Vega 46 (Tel 966 723 733), Torrevieja at Rambla Juan Mateo Garcia 4 (Tel 965 704 282). Both offices are open Monday to Friday from 10 am to 1.30 pm and the Helpdesk at La Marina is open every Thursday (10 am to 1.30 pm) at the Hope Fellowship Church (opposite the Thursday Market site) at Avda de Justo Antonio Quesada, Urb. La Marina (Tel 615770145). We are online at www.helpvegabaja.com and also on Facebook. You can email the San Miguel Centre at office@helpvegabaja.com. **We also have a 24 hour Emergency help-line which is available to both members and non-members on 966 723 733 (95456)**

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am start. Tuesday, evening of clairvoyance doors open 7'o'clock for 7.30 start. Spiritual Healing is available on Sundays after service and on Thursday mornings from 10.30 until 12. We have a development group on Tuesdays 5 until 6.30 for those interested in meditation and advancing your knowledge of spirit. Private readings are available on request. Please join us and make new friends, a warm welcome awaits you all. Tea, coffee and soft drinks are available. You can join us on Facebook at, The Baker Foundation spiritual centre. Hall is available for hire. For more information please contact Linda on 606 990 665. Email, schugy54@gmail.com (95458)

THE PHILIP SCOTT LODGE No 10671 of the RAOB meets every Friday in the Bar Catorce, Benijofar. Please call the secretary, Colin Bird on 693 287 614 for further information. (95459)

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TORREVIEJA Christian Fellowship (TCF) is an English speaking lively church located at Avenida de las Valencianas 68, Torrevieja 03183. Residents and holidaymakers are welcome to attend our services with communion and 'kids church' each Sunday at 10.30am. We have a Fellowship Meeting (Bible Study) each Wednesday at 6.00pm. For further information see our website www.tcf-spain.org or tel 966 700 391. (95464)

THE AIRCREW ASSOCIATION COSTA BLANCA BRANCH. Former & serving aircrews of the UK or Allied Armed Forces are welcome to join this convivial & friendly organisation, now in

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STROKE ASSOCIATION Spain (formally known as Torrevieja stroke support) meet every Wednesday and Friday 2.30pm until 5.00pm. Our new address is Casa de Cultura, Calle Francisco Ribera Perez Benijofar. Our aim is to help and support stroke survivors and their carers. With rehabilitation, speech therapy, OC therapy and a very active social group. For info please contact 654 801 260 or email strokesupportgroup@hotmail.com, website: torreviejastroke-support.org. We are always looking for volunteers who have the skills and knowledge to support our groups and activities. (95474)

CAMPELLO CONTRA CANCER in conjunction with AECC Association Español Contra Cancer has opened a charity shop at C/Virgen de los Desamparados No 13 (next door to Mas y mas) El Campello. The shop is open Mon-Fri 10 - 2pm and is run by unpaid volunteers and all monies raised goes to the AECC. We urgently need donations of clothes, books, large and small furniture etc, and we will arrange collection of large items. We need volunteers to help out in the shop and also clothes rails, shelves etc. for display. Please support your local Cancer charity and if you wish to obtain literature or simply talk to someone. Please stop by at the shop. Contact Mina or Trisha. Tel 650 071 278 or 610 921 413 e-mail aecc_campello@hotmail.com (95475)

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY, TORREVIEJA Calle Urbano Arregui, 23, Torrevieja 03185, Alicante Evangelical non-denominational church. All nationalities welcome. Sunday service 11.00 a.m.; Sunday school; Prayer meetings; craft and computer clubs. Ladies Bible Study: Thursday 11.00 a.m. Church Bible Study: Thursday 1.30 p.m. House groups in Torrevieja, La Siesta, La Zenia - Contact 966 752 543 / 617 215 463. For other church matters Phone: 966 799 273 / 966 752 543 / 617 215 463 www.icatorrevieja.org (95476)

ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION (Costa Blanca) The aim of the Association is to bring together not just ex Royal Marines, but ex Service personnel with an affinity to the Royal Marines. We meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 5.30. For further details Hon Sec 692 938 664

FREEMASONRY. Are you aware that Freemasonry is thriving on the Costa Blanca? There are various lodges meeting up throughout the Valencia region. If you already are a Mason or simply wish to know more about Freemasonry in Spain please contact Harry Palmer Membership Committee. Tel: 966 712 326 or email: palmers.quesada@yahoo.co.uk (95477)

ROYAL AIR FORCES Association Branch #1359 Costa Blanca. The Branch meets on the third Tuesday of the month at the El Paraiso Restaurant located close to the Carrefour Supermarket in Torrevieja. The meeting starts at 1430 hrs. You do not have to be an ex-member of the RAF to join this friendly Association, which supports the welfare of the RAF family and provides a social hub for ex RAF members and their friends. For further information about the Association and its activities please contact the Chairman on 692 508 916 or the Welfare Officer on 615 048 892 or visit our website: www.rafa.org.uk/costa-blanca (238593)

THE PATIENCE LODGE No 2177 of the R.A.O.B meets every Sunday morning at the Sacko's Bar, El Limonar near Las Siesta at 10am. We are always looking for new and lapsed members to join us. Please call Secretary Dave Tonge on 688 704 091 for further information. (253807)

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MOTORING FACT

“Domino’s Pizza co-founder Jim Monaghan traded his shares, half of the business, for a Volkswagen Beetle in 1961.”

Rock and Roll-ing in style

THREE vintage supercars previously owned by rock and roll superstars have gone under the hammer at auction for staggering fees.

Billed by some as the ‘rock stars’ cars’ auction, the three cars formerly owned by Paul McCartney, Sir Rod Stewart and Pink Floyd’s Nick Mason went up for auction as part of Bonhams’ Goodwood Members’ Meeting sale on Sunday, March 18.

Paul McCartney’s limited edition 1967 Lamborghini 400 GT, one of just 247 ever built, belonged to McCartney during the Beatles’ heyday and went on sale for a stunning €559,000 (£494,000).

According to reports, the former Beatle had the car specially converted to right hand drive in the late 1960’s before eventually selling it on in 1979.

Tim Schofield, head of the auction house’s motor department, told British media: “There is certainly a market for celebrity owned vehicles, especially when the cars themselves are desirable marques and models such as this Lamborghini.

“Paul McCartney, he has had some fantastic cars in his time and this is no different.

“It was first registered to him in February 1968, the heyday of his time with The Beatles.”

Also sold at the auction was Pink Floyd drummer Nick Mason’s 1974 Ferrari Dino 246 GT Spider.

Dubbed the coolest car ever made, the jet black supercar has ‘Nero’ painted



Credit: Bonhams

COOL: Mason’s former Ferrari has been dubbed the ‘coolest car ever made.’

down the side of it and fetched almost €476,000 (£420,000) when it went to auction.

Also under the hammer



Credit: Twitter

LIMITED: The 1967 Lamborghini, previously owned by Paul McCartney, is one of only 247 ever made.

was Sir Rod Stewart’s bright red Lamborghini Diablo.

The 200mph supercar,

which Sir Rod reportedly bought for himself at Christmas 1991, after his album

went platinum in six countries, fetched €154,000 (£136,000).

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New lawnmower - a cut above the rest

JAPANESE giants Honda have revealed their latest model is set to hit a top speed.

In a remake of their Mean Mower, which claimed the title of world's fastest lawnmower in 2014, Honda are set to release the new impressive follow up model - the Mean Mower Mk2.

Honda's latest super powered ride-on grass cutter has the same engine as the brand new CBR1000RR Fireblade, a 1,000cc engine with roughly 189bhp.

And while it is yet to be officially tested, the Japanese manufacturing giants reportedly claim that the super-bike powered mower will top 134mph - which would make it faster than a 2017 Honda Civic hatchback.



FAST: The Honda Mean Mower Mk2 is claimed to top 134mph.

The Mean Mower secured the world record for world's fastest lawnmower in Spain four years ago, when it reached 116.57 mph at the IDIADA proving ground close to Barcelona.

But Honda lost their title to the Norwegian Speed Factory Team just over a year later as they topped out 133mph on a modified Viking T6 lawnmower.

And now set the Japanese giants are set to challenge that figure and reclaim their title with the Mean Mower MK2 model, which they promise will be able to go beyond the current record of 133mph.

Honda have also said that Fast and Furious Live stunt driver, Jessica Hawkins, will drive the new model when it finally reaches testing; but a test date is yet to be set.

ROAD TEST by Nick Fletcher

Land Rover Discovery S

THE Land Rover Discovery is an iconic model, visually unmistakable, refined on-road and unrivalled off-road.

There are impressive rivals in its sector including the Audi A7, Volvo XC90 and Mercedes GLE, yet there is such mystique about the Discovery it is arguably in a class of its own.

There are around a dozen versions of Discovery with petrol and diesel choices, starting from around €51,794 (£45,895) for the featured car, the entry-level S version. It is quite well equipped with features including touch-screen infotainment, air-con, cruise control, powered tailgate, alloy wheels, air suspension, and safety kit in-

Stats panel:

- **Model:** Land Rover Discovery
- **Engine:** 2.0 litre diesel
- **Transmission:** 8-speed automatic
- **Performance:** 0-100 kph 8.3 seconds, top speed 195 kph (121 mph)
- **Economy:** 15.3 kpl (43.5 mpg)
- **Emissions:** 171 g/km

cluding lane departure warning and auto emergency braking.

The popular choice four-cylinder twin-turbo 2.0 litre diesel offers a hefty 237 hp, delivering 0-100 kph time of 8.3 seconds, top speed of 195 kph (121 mph) and re-

spectable fuel-economy of 15.3 kpl (43.4 mpg). Emission figure is 171 g/km.

The exterior styling is cool and classy, the cabin has more wow-factor than any other in the sector, and when you start driving, it is surprising how quick and agile the



LAND ROVER DISCOVERY: A true icon.

car is, partly due to being around 480 kg lighter than previous models.

The diesel unit is impressively smooth and quiet, the eight-speed auto box seamless. The ride quality is refined, and while there is some body-roll on tight corners, the car still feels planted and assured. While permanent four-wheel drive is standard

you can, at the turn of a dial, tailor the response to suit mud, snow or even sand.

Most of the time, the Discovery will be on the tarmac but should the terrain get tough, it can certainly cope. I've driven one up a Scottish mountain in deep snow and it never faltered!

Discovery gets top marks for practicality - even the

third-row seats at the back can take adults in comfort and there is still boot space of 258 litres. With all seats folded down, there is a van-like 2,400 litres available.

Overall, Discovery S is a great package at an attractive price for a premium seven-seater with all wheel drive and plenty of style and image.

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

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A 50-YEAR-OLD Land Rover that features in the new Hollywood family film Peter Rabbit starring James Corden and Margot Robbie has gone up for sale.

Used by villainous farmer Mr McGregor in the 3D live-action animated comedy film version of beloved Beatrix Potter classic Peter Rabbit, the Landrover can be seen throughout various scenes shot in the Lake District in the film, and sold for just €17,000 (£15,000).

Peter grab-it!

One of just two Land Rovers used in the film, the 1969 Series IAA model has a 2250cc petrol engine, has a tan

interior and is in 'near new' condition.

The series IAA first hit the marker in 1961 and sold an estimated 60,000 units for most of the 60's.

A spokesman for auctioneers H&H Classics told British media: "This lovely-looking 88-inch Series IIA is something of a movie star, being one of two used in the 3D live-action animated comedy film Peter Rabbit based around the famous characters created by Beatrix Potter.

Spain to take on world champions Germany

By Benjamin Park

SPAIN face a tough double header in their penultimate round of friendly fixtures ahead of this summer's World Cup in Russia.

La Roja will head to current world champions Germany on Saturday, before hosting the Germans' final opponents in 2014, Argentina, at the Wanda Metropolitano in Madrid on Tuesday.

Spain go into the matches in good spirits having not lost a match since the 2016 European Championships, but will be without front man Alvaro Morata after the Chelsea striker was left out by Julen Lopetegui.

The 25-year-old, who has struggled since his €85.7 million (£75 million) move from Real Madrid, got his first goal of 2018 in the 2-1 FA Cup quarter-final win over

Leicester on Sunday but has been replaced by rejuvenated former Chelsea man Diego Costa. There were also first time call-ups for Chelsea's Marcos Alonso, Valencia playmaker Dani Parejo and Villarreal's Rodri.

Speaking to English media, Lopetegui was adamant that his final selection for the World Cup was far from made, but was full of praise for the newcomers in his side.

He said: "There are players who are not on the list whose chances of going to the World Cup are intact.

"We've now got two exciting matches against two great sides and after that everyone will have their chances. The fact players haven't been called is down to various things; form, injuries and also to see new players better."

"We felt it was the right time for them to come in and take a look at them.

"We like (Rodri) a lot. He's very young but he's ready. We've liked watching him a lot, the reports from his club and the under-21's are excellent and we thought it was a good time to see him closer."

Elsewhere, England will hope to secure two victories in their penultimate double header.

England boss Southgate's side will be without key man Harry Kane after he was ruled out until April, as they head to the Netherlands on Saturday ahead of hosting Italy at Wembley on Tuesday.

Southgate has handed a place in the squad to three uncapped players ahead of the fixtures, all looking to state their claim for a place on the plane to the World Cup.

Burnley duo Nick Pope and



Credit: Twitter

FRIENDLIES: Germany ran out 1-0 winners the last time they faced Spain in 2014.

James Tarkowski receive their first call-ups on the back of the club's good form this season, alongside Swansea centre-back Alfie Mawson. Bournemouth midfielder Lewis Cook has been called up for the second time after he was originally called up for the 0-0 draw with Brazil in November.

There are also recalls for Arsenal pair Jack Wilshere and Danny Welbeck, while West Brom's Jake Livermore also retains his place in spite of his club side's poor form this season.

West Ham's Joe Hart also retains his place in the three lions' squad despite several high profile mistakes for the struggling Londoners this season, while high profile absentees include Chelsea captain Gary Cahill and Manchester United's Chris Smalling.

Other fixtures will see Argentina play Italy tomorrow (Friday) as well as Russia against Brazil and France take on Colombia before Portugal face the Netherlands on Monday and Germany host Brazil on Tuesday.

By Benjamin Park

SPAIN missed out on automatic qualification to next year's Rugby World Cup in dubious circumstances as they were beaten 18-10 in Brussels amidst ugly scenes at the final whistle.

Los Leones looked on course to qualify for just their second ever World Cup and their first since 1999 ahead of the match, needing just a win over bottom side Belgium in their final qualifying match to leapfrog Romania into top spot.

But Spain were undone as Belgian fly-half Vincent Hart kicked six penalties, scoring all of his sides points in the process, in a game controversially overseen by Romanian referee Vlad Iordachescu and two Romanian assistants.

Tempers flared after the final whistle with several of the Spanish players confronting the referee, while others sarcastically applauded the official's performance as he had to be escorted from the field by security.

The result means that Romania qualified for the 2019 Rugby World Cup and extended their record of competing at every World Cup since its inception in 1987, while Spain must now beat Portugal in a playoff; before the winner faces a two-legged tie against Samoa to secure a place in Japan.

Captain, Jamie Navara, was quick to apologise for his side's actions after the final whistle but remained critical of the referee and his assistants.

He told Radio Marca: "I'm the captain and I would like to apologise for what happened with the referee.

"The image at the end of the game does not represent the sport nor the values of this team. It must be understood however, we've lost part

"We've lost part of our dream"

Tempers boil over as Spain fail in their bid for automatic Rugby World Cup qualification



Credit: Twitter

UGLY SCENES: Spanish players confronted the Romanian referee at the final whistle.

of our dream."

While Spanish coach, Santiago Santos, also seemed incensed with the way the match was officiated.

"We weren't allowed to play," he told the media.

"The referee kept stopping the game at every moment. Our game was stopped continuously, the

Belgians benefited from many more decisions.

"The difference between penalties against us and for us was huge. When we were trying to come back in the game the play kept on being interrupted."

Reports suggest that the Spanish Rugby Federation (FER) made an official request for the officials to be changed on February 19 given the po-

tential outcome of the fixture.

The appointment was made by Rugby Europe, whose president is former Romanian player Octavian Morariu, as opposed to the governing body World Rugby.

The FER have since made a formal claim to both Rugby Europe and World Rugby for the game to be replayed, while Rugby Europe themselves have also released a statement regarding the match.

It reads: "Rugby Europe has always operated the highest standards of match official selection whatever the competitions. Our structures have provided a pathway for some of the world's top officials.

"While we appreciate that this is a subject of high-emotion, it would be inappropriate to comment on a match official performance before the usual full review has been undertaken.

"This is a usual procedure and occurs for every match.

"(The) Rugby Europe selection committee is waiting for the assessment report of the supervisor for Belgium v Spain match officials. This committee will meet in Poznan next Friday on the occasion of the Rugby Europe U18 Championships.

"Its agenda will be modified and a large portion of the meeting will be devoted to the analysis of every stage of the Belgium v Spain game.

"Following this meeting, a statement will be released to Rugby Europe Board of Directors for dissemination."

And it has now been confirmed that World Rugby will investigate the circumstances, with the governing body stating that it will look at the 'context of events' around the result.

CRISTIANO RONALDO scored his 50th career hat-trick as he scored four for Real Madrid in a thrilling 6-3 win over Girona at the weekend, as he also took his tally to 17 goals in his last eight games.

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Costa Blanca's best guide to local sport

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THE Formula One season officially kicks off this weekend, getting underway with the Australian Grand Prix on Sunday.

All eyes will be on last year's champion Lewis Hamilton and his battle with Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, who will both be attempting to win their fifth titles respectively.

Mercedes will also be looking to pick up their fifth consecutive constructors' title this season but the infamous fifth title may be the hardest of all, with several competitors set to rival them for the championship.

Alongside Ferrari, who will be desperate to reclaim the title, Red Bull finished

Start your engines!

Formula One season begins in Australia

the year hot on Mercedes' heels; and young Red Bull driver Max Verstappen is also tipped for a good year this season.

Verstappen, 20, is one of nine drivers this year under the age of 25 in this year's championship and is an outsider for the title after a strong performance in 2017.

The young Belgian-Dutch driver showed glimpses of what may be to come in 2018 last season with wins in Malaysia and Mexico, and he will certainly be in contention, along with last year's Abu Dhabi champion, Valtteri Bottas and Verstappen's Red Bull teammate, Daniel Ricciardo, whose future still remains seemingly up in the air.

The Australian is out of



Credit: Twitter

BACK: The F1 returns this weekend, with Brit, Lewis Hamilton aiming for his fifth driver's championship.

contract at the end of the season and there is currently no news of him close to agreeing a new deal, unlike

youngster Max Verstappen who signed an extension with the team until 2020 last year.

If Red Bull hit the ground running, we may see a change of heart from the 28-year-old but a reported 2019

move to Mercedes continues to seem the likeliest alternative at the moment.

Spaniard Fernando Alonso and McLaren will be positive heading into the season after posting the third fastest time in testing, despite five breakdowns, while the Australian GP will also see the return of Alfa Romeo, who teamed up with Sauber ahead of the 2018 season.

This weekend's race in Australia will also be an F1 first as it will be the first ever season opener to feature two four-time world champions.

Action gets underway from 2am tomorrow (Friday) with P1 followed by P2, ahead of Saturday's Qualifying, which begins at 7am.

And the season's racing will officially begin at 7.10am on Sunday.

After Australia, the Formula One season heads to Bahrain on April 8 and then Shanghai the following week before taking a two week break ahead of the Azerbaijan GP in Baku on April 29.

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