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Issue No. 1707 22 - 28 March 2018

COSTA DE ALMERÍA » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION WWW.EUROWEEKLYNEWS.COM

SolShaders

Hospital slapped with fine

THE Hospital de Poniente in El Ejido has been ordered to compensate the family of a woman who died after falling from a balcony in 2010 with more than € 187.000.

According to reports, the woman, then aged 56, fell from a balcony estimated to be between four and five metres high in El Ejido in May 2017.

X-rays showed that she had suffered several fractures but an orthopedic surgeon who assessed her x-rays allegedly deemed surgical intervention not necessary, but later that same day the woman suffered an alleged cardiac arrest and was pronounced

It was later reportedly found that the woman instead died of 'hypovolemic shock' secondary to internal bleeding after her internal organs had suffered severe damage with an Almerian court ruling that the necessary tests were not carried out by the hospital.

In addition to the €187.500 of compensation, the hospital will also have to pay the legal interests accumulated by the husband and daughter of the woman since 2010.

Council scam shock Prison time for former official



BEHIND BARS: Former Vice-President Luis Perez Montoya (inset) and former Secretary for the Board of Tourism, Maria Teresa Gonzalez have been given lengthy sentences.

by Benjamin Park

Former Vice-President of the Diputacion de Almeria Luis Perez Montova has been sentenced to more than seven years in prison after being found guilty of fraud, embezzling more than €700,000 of public funds.

In addition, former Secretary for the Board of Tourism, Maria Teresa Gonzalez has also been sentenced to spend nine years and 10 months in prison for several crimes including fraud, falsifying documents and misappropriation of public funds.

According to Spanish media. the pair first agreed on a plan that would enable them to allocate public funds for their own use in September 2007.

A court was reportedly told that the pair had made an agreement with certain businessmen and businesses shortly after Gon-

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zalez was appointed as secretary that would see the public funds of the Provincial Tourism Board allocated for purposes that were not then fulfilled.

Magistrates have been reported as saying that they both would "draft invoices for services or supplies that could be owned by the Board, but nevertheless, these services were not provided, or these supplies were not delivered, or were delivered in a much lower amount than the one actually invoiced."

As well as their sentences, the pair also received heavy fines for civil liability with Gonzalez ordered to pay €706,000 and Montoya € 640,000.

Also sentenced was wellknown businessman Joaquin Conde, who was given a fiveyear sentence and a € 363,000 fine, while 11 other people were also given sentences ranging between a year and five months to two years.

Life sentence protest

HUNDREDS of people reportedly gathered in Almeria City to protest in favour of the expansion of permanent prison sentences.

The demonstration took place at the La Ballena sculpture in the Plaza de Almeria. The site became an improvised memorial for Gabriel Cruz, the boy alleged murdered by his father's girlfriend Ana Quezada.

The protest coincided with others nationally which were called following a vote in Spain's Parliament against expanding the number of crimes that would qualify for the sentence. The death of Gabriel Cruz has been used by supporters to justify expanding it.













Homes & Beyond

PAGE 20

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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

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 vear'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.

Fight club

Man dies after nightspot brawl

ing shot in the stomach outside a nightclub in El Ejido following a brawl.

The 36-year-old man was being treated at in the ICU at the Hospital de Poniente since the incident which occurred at the beginning of February, but has now died as a result of his injuries.

Police have now identified and arrested a 23-yearold man as the alleged

According to reports, the incident occurred in the early hours of February 4 after a fight between a large group of people which had broken out inside a night club spilled out into the street.

The fight reportedly seemed to be between two separate groups of people fore three members of the other group returned with a weapon.

The brawl then allegedly continued, with one member of the rival group attempting to disarm the individual with the gun.

He was reportedly hit

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butt of the weapon before three shots were taken, with one hitting the 36year-old man in his abdomen.

The three who had returned to the fight then allegedly fled the scene before police and emergency services arrived on the scene to treat the wounded individuals.

In the 12 hours following the attack, two alleged members of the group that were intercepted by police in the region, neither of whom are believed to have taken the shots.

After 38 days of searching, police managed to locate the 23-year-old individual they believe to have taken the shots.

They have arrested him on suspicion of murder.



DRUGS DEN: Police uncovered an array of narcotics.

Supermarket sweep!

By Tom Woods

OFFICERS of the National Police have dismantled what they have called a "supermarket" of heroin and cocaine in Almeria, arresting a woman as the alleged ringleader of the drugs ring.

Investigations began at the beginning of January when police learned that drugs were being trafficked from Calle Blas de Lezo.

The woman, 29, came under suspicion as she had three previous arrests for crimes related to public health.

Their inquiries led officers to establish that there was a constant presence of drug addicts visiting the house to acquire narcotics.

Having obtained the evidence they needed, police carried out a raid of the house and discovered an array of narcotics for sale. equipment for their preparation, and €800 in small

The drugs haul included 121 grams of heroin, 86 grams of cocaine and 190 grams of marihuana among

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LETTERS Readers' views on eclectic topics in print and online. P40 **MOTORING**

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Call for resignation

OPPOSITION parties on El Ejido's council have asked for Francisco Gongora, the town's Partido Popular mayor, to resign amidst allegations of falsifying public documents for financial gain. The local Partido Socialista has called for Gongora to quit before the opening of a trial against him.

Book fair

VELEFIQUE is set to host a series of events designed to encourage a love of literature and reading, as well as social inclusion, coexistence and diversity. Shows, storytelling workshops and other activities are all planned for the Veleficuento event, due to take place this week-

Clean coasts

MORE than 300 hundred students from five schools took part in a Junta de Andalucia regional government conversation programme for beaches in the Levante area of Almeria. The pupils picked up litter on the coast after celebrations with their families for the Day of the Old festival.

Farm thefts

ALMERIA saw the highest amount of robberies from farms of any province in Spain last year, according to government and police data. There were a total of 792 cases recorded, with Andalucia accounting for more than a third of all robberies throughout the coun-

Street works

ALMERIA City has contracted the Construcciones Glesa Company to install five urban waste containers in the Paseo de Almeria area over a period of one month at a cost of almost €228,406. The containers have been designed to have a stylish aesthetic so they blend in with their surroundings.



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 fivemetre 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.

PLUS THE REGULARS

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Do you have news for us? Email:

newsdesk@euroweeklvnews.com or call *951 38 61 61* and ask for the EWN news team.

The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1706 of the Euro Weekly News Costa de Almería edition, including 39 local stories.



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On the wing



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 glid-

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 com-

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?

No 33%

WN online this week 165,111 Page views

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 daim.

8,339

Holiday sickness scammers face £15,000 for

8,132

Police find body of missing eight-year-old boy

Girl who died in window fall was daughter of woman arrested with body of dead boy in car

Father's girlfriend confesses that she killed Gabriel Cruz Ramirez

Drunk and aggressive Brit pair held after clash with airport police

*For week 12 - 19 March

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CORRECTIONS

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NEWS EXTRA

Tree deal renewed

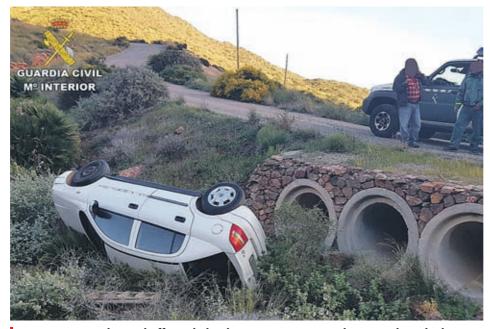
THE council of Huercal de Almeria has extended the contract of Japrotec Andalucia to prune the town's trees and treat them for pests for another year at a cost of almost €64,314.

Water talk

THE Partido Socialista held an event with Jose Luis Caparros, the general manager of the Junta de Andalucia's Environment and Water agency in Cuevas del Almanzora. with maintenance and hydraulic works discussed.

Complaints

A TOTAL of 971 complaints were made to the Andalucian public institutions ombudsman in Almeria in 2017, the highest amount of any province in the autonomous community.



RESCUED: Guardia Civil officers helped to remove two people trapped inside the car.

Roadside rescue

THE Guardia Civil have rescued two people after they became trapped in their overturned car.

Officers became aware of a situation when they were informed that a vehicle had come off the road on the access road to the Vela Blanca lighthouse.

A crew was quickly sent to the scene where they found the car overturned in a ditch but found no one in the area however, when they checked inside the car they

found that two people had become trapped following the crash.

Before officers could carry out the evacuation they had to make sure that the vehicle was stable and used a wooden ladder that they had with them to prop up the

After securing the vehicle, officers proceeded to move the pair safely out of the car, who were reportedly left shaken but with no serious injuries.

1 day

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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

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 30

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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.



FULL SPANGLISH: Jerzy Dudek.



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

Benidorm love story

TWO members of the Benidorm cast

Adam Gillen plays Liam Conroy while Laila Zaidi joined the latest series as Rob

BESOTTED:

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.

Liam and Zaidi. have revealed they are a real life couple.

Dawson's girlfriend Cyd.

Fun in the sun

IT'S a coming together of reality TV roy-

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.

Reality lovebirds frolic on the beach



SURVIVORS: Metisse and Tristan.

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.



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perty of this size in the village centre. With thought & vision the property could undoubtedly be developed in to something quite unique.



Vera Playa (Naturist) - 69,500€ (ref: NPV1SB 1 bed • 1 bath • Build: 32m3

A south-east facing studio apartment on Parque Vera 1, equipped to a high standard and with relatively low running costs making it an ideal "lock-up-and-leave" naturist retreat.



Los Gallardos 248.950€ (ref: HNVM) Villa 3 bedrooms 3 bathrooms (2 en suite)



Plot: 437m²





Vera Playa (Naturist) - 69,950€ (ref: NBVSA) 1 bed • 1 bath • Build: 41m²

A well presented studio apartment ready for mmediate occupancy that is furnished to a higher standard than market competitors. An ideal "lock-up-and-leave" property with low running costs.



Vera Playa - 87,500€ (ref: FMDS2) 2 beds • 1 bath • Build: 62m2

Located 500m from the Paseo and deep sandy Las Marinas beach, the property

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Cluding airport shuttle stop. those wanting to holiday but not drive!



With the risk of using the cliché "Location,

location, location" this property with uninterrupted rural and mountain views certainly does offer a location that is

rather special.

The property comprises covered entrance terrace, living room, dining room, fully fitted kitchen, utility room, hallway, 3 double bedrooms with 2 having en suite bathrooms

Externally there is an 8x4m pool and patios, parking for two vehicles, a pergola covered terrace with sun awnings, storage space, garden area and roof top solarium.

and also a family bathroom.



Vera Playa - 94,950€ (ref: VPAA) 2 beds • 2 baths • Build: 61m²
This is a well maintained property, furnished to a

This is a well maintained property, high standard & suitable for sleeping 5 DAG with outdoor & indoor pools making it a great all year round holiday location.



Los Gallardos - 94,950€ (ref: HNCSC) 3 beds • 11/2 baths • Plot: 150m2 • Build: 68m Fully furnished and equipped south facing property with good internal & external living spaces. 2 beds / 1 bath on the ground level & 1 bedroom with 1/2 bath-1.



Los Gallardos - 110,000€ (ref: HNAO) 2 (/3) beds • 1½ baths • Plot: 125m² • Build: 83r ully furnished property on a small community Open plan living area, covered terrace 🗐 👯 gardens, solarium, allocated off-road parking & communal swimming pool. Ready to move straight into!



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IKEA's big plan to reign in Spain

INVESTMENT Group Carrida has announced that it will be allocating €3 million of funding for the construction of the new IKEA store in Almeria.

The 40,000 square metre site will also have green areas and parking, and will be located at the exit of the A-7 motorway by Avenida Federico

A 12-month timescale has been allotted for the duration of the works, which will eventually mean that IKEA will be opening its fourth store in Andalucia after those in Sevilla, Malaga and Cadiz.

In a statement Carrida said that its aim was for 80 per cent of the Spanish population to have an IKEA store less than an hour's drive away.

Bespoke boats deter boarders

THE anti-intrusion measures that have been installed in the port of Melilla to prevent access for stowaways have reduced the number of illicit entry attempts by 43 per cent.

The boats that connect Melilla with Malaga, Almeria and Granada have been fitted

with four-metre high fences which have sharp points on the exterior.

Opposition parties and social organisations had criticised the measure, saying that people would still try to board the boats and would hurt themselves in the process.

Melilla Port Authority, Miguel Marin, rejected the complaints because the 'fences are static features that alone cannot hurt anyone, and the purpose of their installation is to dissuade intruders at

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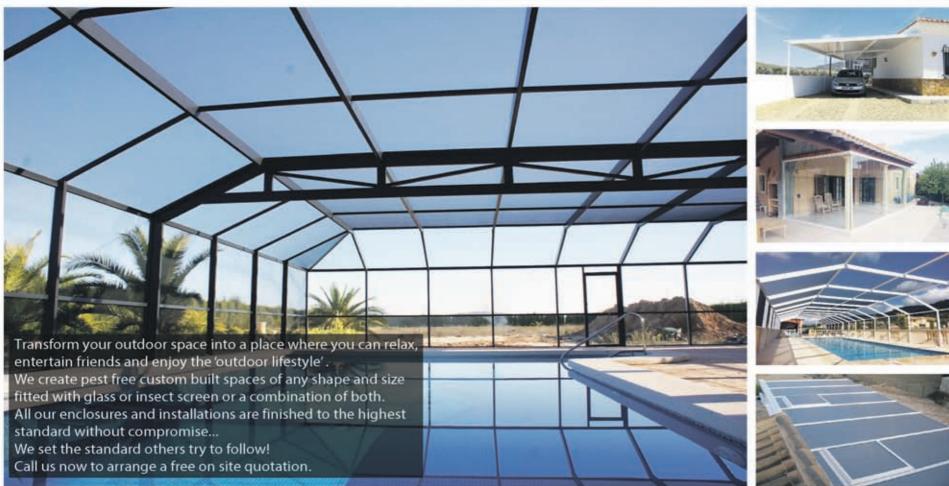


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A show of solidarity



UNITY: The Ambassador (centre) showed his support for the province.

THE Ambassador for the Dominican Republic in Spain Olivo Rodriguez Huertas has visited Almeria to express his 'solidarity with the communitv of Almeria' in the wake of Gabriel Cruz Ramirez's death.

Huertas' visit comes after Dominican expat, Ana Julia Ouezada, was arrested for and later confessed to the killing of the eight-year-old boy who went missing in the Almerian town of Las Hortichuelas.

During his visit, Olivo Rodriguez Huertas told the media that he had come to Almeria to 'express the solidarity of the Dominican people with the community of Almeria' while also assuring that the Dominican people as a collective are 'industrious and honest :

Currently, it is believed that an estimated 400 Dominicans live in Almeria and the ambassador gave his support to those residing in the region while also sending 'a message of reflection, fraternity and in which the capacity for understanding must be developed.'

The ambassador was welcomed by the secretary general of the Spanish government for Almeria, Juan Ramon Fernandez Imbernon, while Huertas's wife and Juan Feliz Borg Gil, consul of the Dominican Republic in Sevilla, were also in attendance.

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Whale in Plaza de Almeria possible memorial site Space to be dedicated to Gabriel

ALMERIA'S council has said it will create a memorial for Gabriel Cruz, the eight-year-old found dead after a 12-day search, in the

The authority is set to begin talks with Angel Cruz and Patricia Ramirez, the boy's father and mother, both of whom will have the final say on its location.

Among the possible sites for the memorial is the La Ballena, a sculpture of a

THE judge overseeing the ongoing investigation into

Ana Quezada's alleged in-

volvement in the death of

Gabriel Cruz has turned his

attention to drugs reportedly

found in her car.

whale that became an improvised place of memory for Gabriel after his body was discovered.

Rocio Muñoz, a spokesperson for Gabriel's parents, said they were delighted a site was being dedicated to

"I think La Ballena would be a great place to pay tribute to him," he said.

The sculpture is located at the mouth of the Rambla of Almeria near the Cable Ingles pier. It could be turned into a permanent memorial for the eight-year-old due to fishes being his favourite animals, which caused the original tributes to be left

Muñoz added the family were still recovering from the shock of their ordeal and that they were overwhelmed by the messages of support they had received.

"We are receiving letters from the United Kingdom, from Argentina, from all over the world. Every day we receive at least 80," he said.

Almeria's council said tributes left for Gabriel at the sculpture would stay there indefinitely and that cleaning staff were only there to work in the surrounding area.

The council has received numerous petitions from locals suggesting several different sites for the memorial.



MEMORIAL: The La Ballena sculpture is one of the proposed sites for a memorial to Gabriel Cruz.

The case continues

Gabriel Cruz suspect may have given him tranquillisers

Judge Rafael Soriano has Guardia Civil officers found reportedly opened a new line pills during a search of her of inquiry into the use of car, according to reports.

medication in the killing. Police and the courts are Investigators are exploring still waiting on final results the possibility of the use of from a post-mortem examidrugs in the killing after nation before moving forward with the theory.

The examination is set to establish whether there were any traces of tranquillisers in the eight-year-old's system at the time of death.

Esteban Hernandez Thiel,

the suspect's lawyer, said she was undergoing treatment at the time of the alleged murder and that she was taking the pills as part of that.

He added he believed his client was sincere and that she was co-operating with police in their investigation of the killing.

Initial findings from the first post-mortem suggested Gabriel had been strangled to death by Ana Quezada, the

girlfriend of his father.

She allegedly picked him up while he was walking from his Grandmother's house near Las Hortichuelas in the Nijar area on February

Ouezada claimed that the eight-year-old had begun arguing with her so she hit him and then strangled him, according to reports from her police interview. The investigation continues.

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UK government rep to attend Brexit talk

A REPRESENTATIVE of the British government will be in attendance at an event organised by an expat group in Cuevas del Almanzora to discuss Brexit.

The event, organised by group Br-

expats in Spain, will give residents of Almeria the opportunity to be given advice as well as ask questions about next year's Brexit.

The meeting will take place at Cuevas del Almanzora's Community

Rooms in Palomares Square at 11am tomorrow (Friday) and consist of an introduction to the structure, aims and ethos of Brexpats in Spain and the current Brexit position with particular references to expats.

It will also include recommendations from the Department for Exiting the European Union (DEXEU) and the British Consulate for expats alongside a prognosis discussion and end with a question and answer session.

NEWS EXTRA

Holy week preparations

COUNCILLORS in Adra have met with representatives from the town's religious brotherhoods to finalise the details for its Holy Week celebrations, with processions and a production of The Passion planned for the programme.

Road funds

THE Diputacion de Almeria has announced it will invest €60,000 in repaying the Avenida Nicolas Salmeron in Alhama de Almeria in order to repair cracks caused by bad weather and age.

Youth aid

ANDALUCIA'S Institute of Youth (IAJ) has announced a total budget of more than €136,660 for groups aimed at young people and for the setting up of youth projects.

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Pensioners march for better deal



PENSIONER PROTEST: Marchers line the streets in Almeria.

MORE than 10,000 people have marched in Almeria in anger at their pensions.

The protests took place across Andalucia having been organised by the unions, which has also expressed its support for Podemos Andalucia.

Although pensions have risen 0.25 per cent, this is lower than inflation which is up 1.1 per cent in the past year.

The loss of purchasing power for retirees is un-

derstandably a worry, and no solution is forthcoming at the moment.

There are 103,386 pensioners in Almeria and according to data from the Workers' Union, the average pension there is €908 for men and €613 for women.

These figures are well below the average for Andalucia and Spain, and in fact only the pensioners in Jaen receive a smaller sum.

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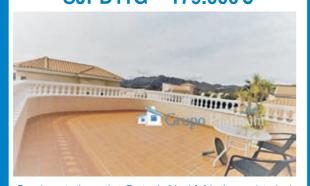
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Six month sentence for sex pest

A 67-YEAR-OLD man has been sentenced by the Criminal Court of Almeria to spend six months in prison for a crime of exhibitionism.

According to Spanish media, the man was caught masturbating at the Paseo Maritimo de Almeria in the presence of children.

The incident occurred in May last year close to El Palmeral, when the man was seen close to the beach performing the act while small children were playing nearby

The man had reportedly attempted

to claim that he had only gone to urinate: however witness statements argued this fact as there was no urine found at the area where the incident had occurred.

Testimonies were reportedly given by two witnesses who were present during the time of the event, while the sentencing judge pointed out that the man's movements were 'intentional.

As a result, the man was sentenced to six months in prison as well as having to pay procedural costs.

124 arrested in tobacco raids Martinez de la Casa Archilecis PERFORMANCE Call:665 810 411 MURCIA-ALICANTE-ALMERIA (+2)Group EPC48hrs - REGISTRATION 72hrs ANTIQUITY CERTIFICATES (RETROSPECTIVE LICENCES) Pools 190 €+IVA Extensions 270 € OCCUPATION LICENCES

SMOKED OUT: The Guardia Civil worked with other police units in the operation.

THE Guardia Civil has arrested 124 people across Spain, including Almeria, in a tobacco smuggling bust.

This represents the second phase of Operation 'Pacote,' whose first phase led to the ar-

rest of six members in Caceres of the same ring, last November.

The police have said that the criminal network had "multiple channels" with which to distribute the tobacco, as it used courier companies or rental vans which were loaded with the merchandise at night.

In total, the latest operation has seen 124 people detained across 22 provinces including Almeria, Barcelona, Alicante, Madrid, Malaga and Cadiz.

NEWS EXTRA

Councillor in new post

HUERCAL-OVERA'S council invested Councillor Jose Manuel Viseras Perez as its new Rural Development and Environment spokesperson at a special meeting on Monday, with subsidies for low carbon energy also discussed.

Arms meeting

THE Guardia Civil in Almeria met with representatives from weapons, explosives and pyrotechnics firms at a conference where information and updates were provided on the law enforcement body's powers.

Water works

MANUEL CORTES, Adra's mayor, has asked Almeria's Environment Ministry to build the final stretch of the Camino breakwater in order to protect farms in the area from flooding and erosion.

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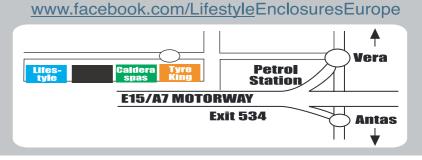




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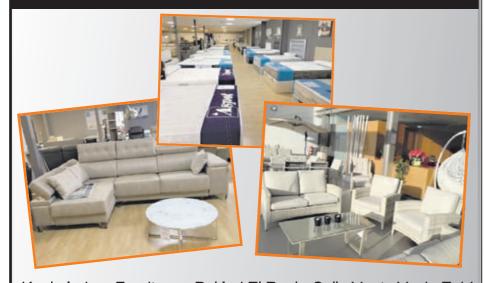
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HARMED HERITAGE: The El Chuche heritage site is under review.

Ancient site may have been ruined

THE judiciary of Almeria has ordered that there be a full assessment of the archaeological site of El Chuche, to determine if there has been careless damage to it.

Dismantling work carried out by the General Directorate of Roads in the Benahadux area has caused complaints as to their efficiency.

An expert archaeologist has been drafted in to examine the

Directorate's report on the site, while a technician from the Culture department will be tasked with examining El Chuche for signs of damage.

The presiding judge has also requested that the Association of Friends of La Alcazaba submit their evidence and grievances by April 17.

In its response to the case so far, the conservation group has highlighted the 'contradictions and ambiguities' of the archaeological report.

The court wants to 'know in detail the work carried out on the flight and the subsoil,' given that heavy machinery was used in the dismantling

It has also stressed that the studies should cover graphic and cartographic elements, and that any damage to the site must be identified.



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Ropey road gets €200,000 cash injection

THE provincial council of Almeria is investing €200,000 to restore 2.5 km of road between Velez-Rubio and 'El Jardin' of Velez-Blanco

Development Councillor Oscar Liria announced the plans which are designed to improve the safety of one of the most densely populated roads in Los Velez.

The works are part of the Road Plan the council produced in 2017, which also includes the repair of the breakwater wall and the drainage system.

In fact a budget of €6.2 million



ROAD RENEWAL: The works will improve the safety of the busy route.

has been allocated for the improvement and maintenance of the Network Provincial Highway this year.

The funding will be distributed between the Investment Plan and the Conservation and Signalling Plan.

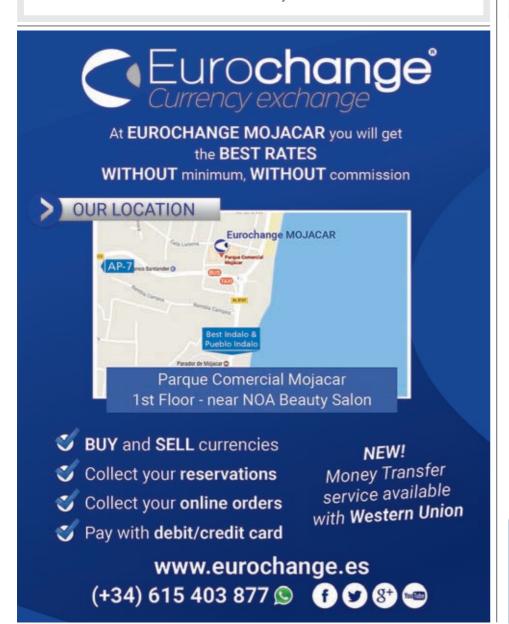
€1.2 million boost

ALMERIA Council plans to invest €1.2 million to restore the landscape around La Hova and La Alcazaba.

The Urbanism Department has expropriated 53 estates totalling 2,000 square metres in the area behind the town hall.

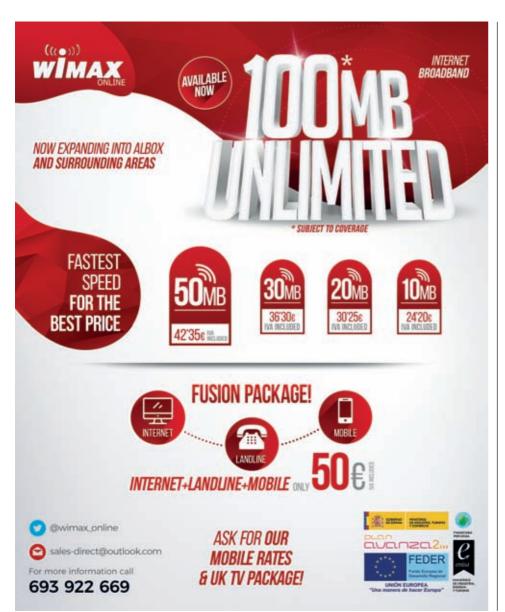
These properties are located between the streets of Posito, Luna, Dicha and Toledo.

Plans are also in place to regenerate Las Perchas and restore its road network which has seen its condition worsen over the years.





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Water investment!



DEMAND: Sanchez Teruel, pictured speaking at a previous event, has asked for €206 million towards water works in Almeria Province.

PSOE GENERAL Secretary of Almeria Jose Luis Sanchez Teruel has asked for the central government to reserve €206 million from their General State Budgets (PGE) for pending water works in Almeria Province.

The head of the provincial PSOE told Spanish media that the upcoming budgets are the "ideal time" for the government to "contemplate the subsidies for irrigation water expected by farmers in Almeria

and provide the €51 million needed to build a new reservoir in the Guadiana Menor that would allow the arrival of 289 cubic hectometres of water in eastern Andalucia."

The money would also reportedly go towards infrastructures including works on the desalination plant in Cuevas del Almanzora, the expansion of the Carboneras desalination plant, improvement of the pipelines that sit between the Venta del Pobre and the Campo de Tabernas, as well as the expansion of the Roquetas de Mar wastewater treatment plants among others.

Sanchez Teruel also stated that the investment would respond to the PSOE "priority needs of this province in terms of desalination, ensure water for our agriculture at a fair price that farmers can pay and make profitable their farms and undertake these works that would give security to populations and people."

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NEWS EXTRA

Weather call outs

EMERGENCY services in Almeria responded to a total of 17 incidents caused by wind and rain, with most related to falling objects and the impact on roads.

Plastic waste

THE recently-formed Association of Agricultural Residue Managers has said it plans to set up two reception and storage centres to manage and trace recyclable and non-recyclable plastic agricultural waste.

Road money

ALMERIA City's council has contracted the Construcciones Nila company to maintain and repair roads in public spaces in 2018 and 2019 at a cost of €1,920,000.

Party grows

THE Secretary of the Ciudadanos party in Almeria, Eva Garcia, said that the party saw 2,096 new members join in the province since last September, an increase of almost 50 per cent.

Deal signed

THE President of Almeria's Port Authority signed an environmental research and development agreement with the University of Almeria and businesses to monitor natural areas in Almeria City, Carboneras and El Alquian Cabo-Gata.

Workshops

THE Andalucian Institute for Women in Almeria hosted a series of talks on promoting female entrepreneurs and business leaders last week, with improvements to skills and profiles discussed.

Boy convicted of house fire freed

A COURT in Almeria has acquitted a boy found guilty of causing a house fire in which three people died after an appeal against his sentence.

The boy was originally set to serve three years detention with therapy and be supervised

for five years after his release.

All references to him in the original ruling, which saw another boy sentenced, have been removed following his acquittal. The other boy will remain

The ruling follows hearings

on the original case which is connected with events in April 2017.

The court originally heard the boy, who remains in prison, had an argument over alleged debts with a 21-year-old who used to spend time at

The 21-year-old entered the house to pass the time and chat with two girls at around 5pm on April 3 last year. The boy then sealed the door to the building with tape as a joke to make it difficult to leave.

A sofa was then placed near the exit to the house and set on fire, reportedly to scare the three inside. The boy got out but the flames stopped the other three from escaping. They later died due to smoke inhalation.







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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

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Hallam University and was killed after a St Patrick's Day party with

Doctors say the language student died due to fatal head injuries

wers international

after plummeting from a fourth floor balcony onto the pavement

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 vesterday.

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

Investigators are not currently treating the incident as suspicious, will remember you, doing your ning dance offs with strangers.

life." colleague Maja Jaroszewska writ-

"Words can't describe how heartbroken we feel to have lost you so soon and so unexpected. You are forever in our hearts. We

amazing dance moves and win-

"Thank you for being in my

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."

Dare devil's failed climb

A YOUTUBE daredevil 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 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.



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

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Treading the boards

STAGE DOOR are appearing in The Roof Garden in Parque Comercial today (Thursday). Please note this is a matinee performance. First course will be served promptly at 2pm and the show begins at 2.30pm.

Two weeks later by popular demand, they are making a return visit on Wednesday April 4 to the Miraflores Ballroom on Camping Los Gallardos. This is an evening performance with the first course served promptly at 7.30pm and the show commences at 8pm.

For those who saw the show here last time, you can come again as they have a different murderer every night. The following week on Wednesday

April 11 and Thursday April 12 they are back on Mojacar Playa in Le Magnifique. These are both evening performances. The main course will be served promptly at 7.30pm and the show will commence at around 8pm.

Tickets are € 15 each including a meal and the show and are only available from the venues. The only exception to this is Le Magnifique where tickets are €16 each but include complimentary drink, meal and

On Friday April 20 in the Roof Garden you can come along and meet them and join the Indalo Players. More details on this coming soon so watch this space.

IN addition to support of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Andalucia Charity Festival over the last three years, the brethren of Almeria Lodge No.74 and the Lodge of Unity No. 98 have not lost sight of the special needs of the local community in the areas served by these lodges.

This has again been demonstrated by the presentation of €1,000 to ASADIS - the Asociacion.

Amigos Discapacitados, which is an association that gives practical specialist support to young children who are in some-way disabled and need one-to-one special teaching support.

This association was

Mojacar **Masons** supporting the community

formed by parents of these children in 1997 and is attached to the local primary school in Los Gallardos in the Almeria Province.

This latest donation

brings the total support of the two lodges to over $\in 2,200$ over the last two years together with the provision of a computer tablet to support a special

needs child.

ASADIS is supported well by the local authority but as always the financial support is heavily constrained and they rely on financial aid from supporters and sponsors in the community which has again been answered by this latest donation.

The children, when they are 18 years old, transfer to another association called ASPRODAL-BA (butterfly with a broken wing) where they continue to get specialist support throughout adult-

ASPRODALBA has also been well supported by these lodges to the sum of more than €13,000 over the last 10 years.





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Almeria Bowling Club celebrates

little windy, but a pleasant day which matched the occasion when the Almeria Bowling Club members attending the annual St Patrick's Day

Once again all the members dressed enthusiastically in fancy dress, the Irish way.

Thanks to Cath and Graham Patrick along with Brian

Hughes who did a great job in decorating the bowling

This year, as usual, it commenced with a spider, won by Pat Deacon, followed by

a game of bowls. In order that all those attending were able to play, captain John Fitzgerald arranged games of

The men's winners were

Chris Ewer, Bill Lovett and Ray Bolton. The ladies' winners were Cath Patrick, Mandy Harris and Jenny Birmingham. The prizes were presented on completion of the competition.

They were required to finish in a relaxed time to ensure the members were ready for the buffet and music by the very talented camp entertainment, 'The Happy Pluck-

This year Eileen and John Phoenix, with the help of others, organised everything in a magnificent way, which included Chris Fitzgerald, Rona Hendry, Marjory Scoble, Caro Roberts, Maureen Ohara, Linda Burgess and a special mention to Elaine Lovett for her help.

The tombola was run this year by Joyce Sheard, Joe Sibley and Carole Hollett.

Siobhan Herrity auctioned off the bottle of whisky, raising €50 for it.

The fancy dress was won

by the best Lady; Carol Williams dressed as an Irish Colleen with an orange wig. The best Man won by Ian Williams dressed with a Leprechaun on his front.

The money raised was a great €1,005.

This will be given to two charities, MACS and Stepping Stones charity which deals with Dementia and Alzheimer's.

Representatives of the charities, namely, Elaine Brown founder of MACS and Fanny Davies, founder of Stepping Stones gave speeches to explain their work and purpose of the

Finally Eileen and John would like to thank everyone who supported, donated prizes and contributed to making this day so success-

The report and photographs will be on the website: www.bowlingalme





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Must see property



Vera Pueblo Villa of 180m Build on 5100m plot 4 Bed and 3 Bath. 16 x 5 pool 50m sq Garage. Beautiful gardens. Stables Too many extras to list !! A must see property.



Apartment in El Faro 2 Bed 2 Bath Fully furnished Large terrace. Communal pool and Gardens Walking distance to the beach



New Villa in San Juan 3 bed 2 bath. Private pool. Video intercom. Electric Gates. Electric Shutters. Private Parking.



Chalet in Mocajar Playa 2 bedrooms 1 bath Air conditioning Solarium and terrace Chimney Close to the beach



Mojacar Playa Apartment 2 bethroms 2 baths Fully furnished Full A/C Close to golf shops etc. Beach location A must view

DVICETO **SELLERS**

247,000

The average daily number of employees who pulled a 'sickie' after faking an illness in Spain last year, equivalent to 1.3 per cent of the national workforce.

An offer they could refuse

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

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 Godfatherstyle branding is not compatible with 'fundamental EU val-

Ryanair lands new airline

RYANAIR has agreed to buy a maiority 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

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

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

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.



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

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 Cinnamond and his sister Rosy, confirmed the sale with the price dropped from € 24 million after three

vears on the market.

The island - which is almost three kilometres long and 800 metres wide - had been owned by the Cinnamond 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

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.

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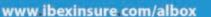
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Ikos invests in luxury

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.

LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES MARC		C(-)	0/ 0	N V-
	RICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% Снд.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,746.50		-1.29	24,816.76
Associated British Foods	2,699.00		7.53	20,124.36
Admiral Group	1,925.00		1.80	5,467.12
Ashtead Group	2,010.00		0.78	9,914.18
Antofagasta	963.80		-0.39	9,464.22
Aviva	519.50		0.33	20,908.98
AstraZeneca	4,820.00	-47.00	-0.97	60,776.88
BAE Systems	555.00	-30.00	-5.13	18,591.83
Barclays	209.75	0.25	0.12	35,327.44
British American Tobacco	4,455.00	271.50	6.49	96,791.84
Barratt Developments	566.00	38.80	7.36	5,431.26
Berkeley Group Holdings (Th	ne) 3,856.50	143.50	3.86	5,289.73
British Land Co	633.00	1.00	0.16	6,262.93
BHP Billiton	1,440.00	-3.20	-0.22	30,363.14
Bunzl	1,960.00	-85.00	-4.16	6,869.85
BP	472.50	-1.25	-0.26	92,553.97
Burberry Group	1,598.50	-70.50	-4.22	6,930.46
BT Group	234.50	6.65	2.92	22,319.32
Coca-Cola HBC	2,385.50		-5.75	9,359.59
Carnival	4,790.00		1.96	9,744.90
Centrica	138.75		0.29	7,768.57
Compass Group	1,558.50		1.20	24,124.99
Croda International	4,599.00		1.12	6,000.29
CRH	2,486.00		0.22	20,912.78
DCC	6,942.50		0.00	6,156.31
Diageo	2,500.00	64.00	2.63	59,941.82
Direct Line Insurance Group	· ·		0.44	5,365.25
Evraz	440.00		4.54	6,279.55
Experian	1,571.00		-2.12	14,790.44
easyJet	1,632.50		-1.57	6,454.63
Ferguson	5,263.00		0.00	13,187.12
Fresnillo	1,274.00		5.86	8,787.46
G4S	266.25		5.99	3,894.50
GKN	405.00		-5.13	7,392.74
Glencore	381.50		-1.04	54,691.41
GlaxoSmithKline	1,322.50		-0.07	65,020.66
Hargreaves Lansdown			-1.54	
Halma	1,707.75		0.13	8,200.97 4,551.90
	1,193.50			
Hammerson USPC Holdings	437.05	-1.25	-0.28	3,450.12
HSBC Holdings	710.00		0.38	139,917.55
International Consoldtd Airs			1.54	12,940.64
InterContinental Hotels Grp	3,755.50		-16.73	8,635.44
3i Group	907.30		0.00	8,919.48
Imperial Brands	2,475.00		0.84	23,643.14
Informa	698.30		-4.29	5,929.54
Intertek Group	5,022.00		1.39	8,011.43
ITV	158.58		7.44	5,957.61
Just Eat	805.00	55.40	7.39	5,128.90
Johnson Matthey Kingfisher	2,999.50 342.70		-4.41 -0.20	6,164.04 7,569.81

_				
COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% Сна	. NET VOL
Land Securities Group	960.25		5.89	6,740.61
Legal & General Group	260.25	-2.15	-0.82	15,617.64
Lloyds Banking Group O	RD 67.00	-0.50	-0.74	48,137.71
London Stock Exchange	Grp 4,048.00	52.00	1.30	13,935.35
Micro Focus Internationa	ıl 1,936.50	52.00	2.76	8,378.50
Mediclinic International	774.00	172.20	28.61	4,419.04
Marks & Spencer Group	286.70	10.80	3.91	4,554.17
Mondi	1,885.50		-3.26	7,168.54
Morrison (Wm) Superma	rkets 230.50	19.50	9.24	4,980.24
National Grid	782.50	1.80	0.23	25,892.17
NMC Health	3,300.00	-148.00	-4.29	7,070.56
Next	4,712.00	-47.00	-0.99	6,928.60
Old Mutual Group	219.70	-29.30	-11.77	12,479.93
Paddy Power Betfair	7,287.50	-347.50	-4.55	6,502.01
Prudential	1,920.00	6.50	0.34	50,283.86
Persimmon	2,725.00	198.00	7.84	7,950.64
Pearson	743.50	-32.30	-4.16	5,965.74
Reckitt Benckiser Group	5,735.00	60.00	1.06	39,759.41
Royal Bank of Scotland C	Group 255.00	-5.60	-2.15	30,812.42
Royal Dutch Shell	2,272.50	59.00	2.67	100,815.19
Royal Dutch Shell	2,250.00	1.50	0.07	83,168.53
RELX	1,635.25	149.75	10.08	15,760.74
Rio Tinto	3,725.00	-10.00	-0.27	50,143.11
Rolls-Royce Group	916.00	14.40	1.60	16,917.11
Randgold Resources	6,675.00	711.00	11.92	5,617.19
RSA Insurance Group	628.70	3.28	0.52	6,489.01
Rentokil Initial	250.50	-26.00	-9.40	5,074.71
Sainsbury (J)	231.60	-4.50	-1.91	5,239.28
Schroders	3,494.50	84.50	2.48	7,707.36
Sage Group (The)	759.90	72.90	10.61	7,471.07
Segro	591.30	-17.10	-2.81	6,111.84
Shire	3,200.00	-5.50	-0.17	28,769.99
Smurfit Kappa Group	3,234.00	76.00	2.41	7,423.67
Sky	1,324.75	15.25	1.16	22,691.03
Standard Life Aberdeen	380.00		1.31	11,100.28
Smith (DS)	495.55		-0.36	5,336.55
Smiths Group	1,567.50	-23.50	-1.48	6,322.14
Scottish Mortgage Invstr			3.72	6,586.11
Smith & Nephew	1,343.50		1.09	11,603.26
SSE	1,265.50		2.14	12,480.13
Standard Chartered	767.50		0.01	25,363.25
St James's Place	1,149.25		0.68	6,034.16
Severn Trent	1,853.00		4.39	4,173.76
Tesco	206.50		-1.57	20,878.64
TUI AG	1,642.50		6.28	9,054.57
Taylor Wimpey	185.50		0.73	6,116.81
Unilever	3,750.00		-0.98	46,265.17
United Utilities Group	691.00		-0.49	4,733.67
Vodafone Group	206.00		2.23	53,724.66
WPP Group	1,253.00		7.19	14,646.34
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APPLE	178,020	-0,35%	-0,630	902.768,39
BOEING CO	330,470	0,15%	0,490	194.172,38
CATERPILLAR	156,460	1,22%	1,890	93.576,24
CHEVRON	115,40	-0,16%	-0,18	219.621,82
CISCO SYSTEMS	45,010	-0,71%	-0,320	222.364,12
COCA-COLA	43,46	-0,48%	-0,21	185.420,44
DOWDUPONT	67,96	0,12%	0,08	158.280,44
EXXON MOBIL	75,12	0,94%	0,70	317.809,66
GENERAL ELECTRIC	14,3100	-0,35%	-0,0500	124.087,39
GOLDMAN SACHS	267,60	0,37%	0,99	101.623,58
HOME DEPOT	178,9600	0,50%	0,8900	209.318,94
IBM	160,26	0,41%	0,65	147.829,02
INTEL CORP	51,1700	0,57%	0,2900	239.335,20
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	115,4400	0,17%	0,2000	396.322,57
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	133,6800	0,47%	0,6200	357.335,66
MC DONALD'S CORP	162,3600	0,46%	0,7500	129.066,18
MERCK AND CO. NEW	55,67	0,76%	0,42	150.056,48
MICROSOFT	94,600	0,45%	0,420	728.488,73
NIKE	65,91	-0,72%	-0,48	85.601,34
PFIZER	36,7800	0,55%	0,2000	218.887,43
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	78,970	0,38%	0,300	199.108,87
TRAVELERS CIES	141,32	0,61%	0,85	38.358,20
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	128,33	-0,71%	-0,92	102.931,09
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	227,86	-0,71%	-1,62	220.685,21
VERIZON COMMS	48,56	0,56%	0,27	197.916,27
VISA	124,53	+0,91%	1,12	224.698,96
WAL-MART STORES	89,1700	1,90%	1,6600	265.799,68
WALT DISNEY CO	102,8700	-0,36%	-0,3700	154.758,28

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COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Aemetis, Inc	\$ 2.45	1.33 ▲ 118.75%
Teligent, Inc.	\$ 3	0.52 ▲ 20.97%
Aeglea BioTherapeutics, Inc.	\$ 10.64	1.59 ▲ 17.57%
Chicken Soup for the Soul Entertainment, Inc	. \$ 7.95	1.04 ▲ 15.05%
Amyris, Inc.	\$ 6.40	0.82 ▲ 14.70%
Proteon Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 2.45	0.30 ▲ 13.95%
Citi Trends, Inc.	\$ 26.47	3.10 ▲ 13.26%
Destination Maternity Corporation	\$ 2.77	0.31 ▲ 12.60%
Forterra, Inc.	\$ 8.74	0.96 ▲ 12.34%
Natera, Inc.	\$ 10.84	1.19 ▲ 12.33%
Spok Holdings, Inc.	\$ 15.65	1.60 ▲ 11.39%
Most Declined		
Energy XXI Gulf Coast, Inc.	\$ 4.08	1.33 ▼ 24.58%
SecureWorks Corp.	\$ 8.33	1.39 ▼ 14.30%
Sundance Energy Australia Limited	\$ 4.94	0.76 ▼ 13.33%
RISE Education Cayman Ltd	\$ 14.34	2 ▼ 12.24%
Everspin Technologies, Inc.	\$ 7.92	1.09 ▼ 12.10%
ACM Research, Inc.	\$ 12.44	1.59 ▼ 11.33%
Kratos Defense & Security Solutions, Inc.	\$ 9.28	1.17 ▼ 11.20%
Rockwell Medical, Inc.	\$ 5.58	0.64 ▼ 10.29%
Raven Industries, Inc.	\$ 33.60	3.35 ▼ 9.07%
Tintri, Inc.	\$ 3.19	0.31 ▼ 8.86%
The ExOne Company	\$ 8.36	0.75 ▼ 8.23%









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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 fi-

The total has plunged for the third consecutive year, after the bureau revealed that it made \in 14.9 billion in 2016 and \in 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'

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

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

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

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 multinational CEPSA.

It comes after the Mubadala Investment Company, Abu Dhabi's stateowned 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 Mid-

UNION FURY OVER BELOW AVERAGE PAY Charity wage woe goes on

THE working conditions of charity workers in Spain are under scruti-

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



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 invest-

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

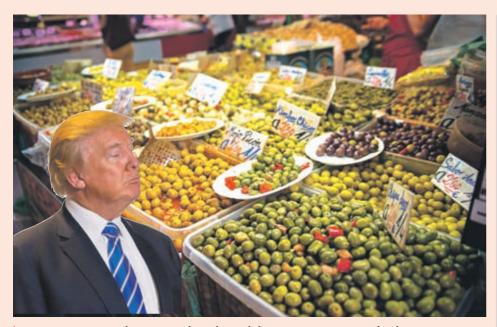
A SPANISH provincial council has become the first authority in the world to set up its own crowdfunding platform.

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

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 - cherrypicked 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

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

> EWN online

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

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

French firm Kleppierre 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

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

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You don't get more classic than that



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 vore look like pussies.

However, in my opinion, through all this worrving 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



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!

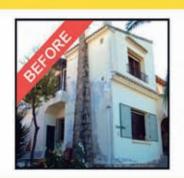
I have always been a firm believer that if it ever came to being prevented from speaking the truth because it may 'offend' somebody, would mean we had either succumbed to the yolk of fascism or were finally being run by a bunch of lily livered leaders running totally scared. Well, try speaking out in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

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WE COVER ALL THE COSTA BLANCA





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



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

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-towatch 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.



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J.H. of Orba.

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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

pause button so as not to miss a riveting second of it.

Initially we could tape radio programmes directly off-air onto cassettes. The techno 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 statistic John Lennon would have loved says there are more regular podcast listeners than Catholics.

ules. There are hosts

PODCASTS: Four billion a year and rising.

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

Downloading (mostly free)

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 sched-

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

Taking pod luck

TYPE 'podcasts' into your browser and prepare to be

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

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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Hey! Study uncovers yet more useless bits of research!



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

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 processed foods cause an increase in various sorts of cancer? What doesn't, it seems?

Modern living exposes us to a n't have been present in primiplus 10. tive societies. But life ex-

pectancy in times past was

much lower than today. On bal-

ance, the contemporary world,

Fortunately, no one believes any of these scare stories in any case. We've been saturated with so much doom and gloom 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 (\in 0.99;£0.99) and iBookstore. All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity.

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THURSDAY	ввеопе	BBGTWO	ito	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky sports main event
22 MARCH	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 5till Game 11:00pm BBC News at Ten	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	5:00pm Tipping Point 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Regional News and Weather 7:30pm ITV Evening News 8:00pm Emmerdale 9:00pm Pets 9:30pm Coronation Street Martin Luther King by Trevor Mcdonald	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 10:00pm My Baby's Life: Who Decides?	4:15pm Secrets in the Attic 6:00pm 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	7:00am Cricket 9:25am Cricket 5:00pm Cricket 6:30pm Cricket 6:30pm Sky Sports News at 5 7:00pm Sky Sports News at 6 8:00pm Live Premier League Darts 11:30pm Live World Golf Championship 1:00am F1: Grand Prix
FRIDAY 23 MARCH	3:15pm 4:00pm 4:45pm 5:30pm 5:30pm 6:15pm 7:00pm 8BC News at Six 7:30pm 8:00pm 11:25pm 11:35pm A Place to Call Home Escape to the Country Money for Nothing Flog It! Pointless Pointless BBC News at Six BBC London News Sport Relief 2018 BBC London News Sport Relief 2018	5:15pm 6:15pm 6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 7:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 9:00pm Saving Lives at Sea David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities 9:30pm 10:00pm 10:00pm	5:00pm G:00pm Tipping Point The Chase Regional News and Weather T7:30pm ITV Evening News Emmerdale International Football TV News at Ten and Weather T1:35pm Regional News and Weather	4:00pm 5:00pm A Place in the Sun 5:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Four in a Bed 5:30pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Production Services 6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm Four in a	6:00pm 5 News at 5 6:30pm Home and Away 7:30pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm 5 News Tonight 8:00pm Sandringham: Holidaying with the Queen 10:00pm Jane Mcdonald and Friends 11:00pm Will and Grace 11:30pm Lip Sync Battle UK	7:00am Cricket 9:25am Cricket 5:00pm Cricket 6:00pm Cricket 6:30pm Sky Sports News at 5 7:00pm Live World Golf Championship 8:30pm Live Super League 11:00pm The Debate - Live 12:00am Sky Sports News 1:00am Cricket
SATURDAY 24 MARCH	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 BBC News	3:30pm 4:30pm The Repair Shop 5:00pm 5:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm 7:00pm 8:00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby 9:00pm David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities 9:30pm 10:00pm Ne And My Dog The Repair Shop Big Cats About the House Hugh's Wild West Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities 9:30pm Picasso's Last Stand	3:30pm 4:00pm 5:00pm 7:00pm 7:20pm 7:20pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 7:30pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 11:30pm 11:30pm 4:00pm 8:00pm 11:30pm 11:30pm 11:30pm 11:30pm 11:30pm 12.00pm 13.30pm 1	3:50pm	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	6:55am Live Australian F1 GP: Qualifying 8:40am The F1 Show 9:10am Paddock Uncut 9:25am Cricket 5:00pm Cricket 6:00pm Football 8:30pm Boxing 12:00am Boxing 12:30am Al: The Knockouts 1:00am Cricket
SUNDAY 25 MARCH	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	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 11:30pm Top Gear Extra Gear Life of Crime	5:00pm Tipping Point 6:00pm The Chase 7:00pm Paul O'grady: For the Love of Dogs 1TV News and Weather 1:00pm Celebrity Catchphrase 10:00pm The Durrells 11:00pm TN News and Weather	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 Homeland	12:20pm Police Interceptors 1:20pm The Illusionist 3:25pm The Illusionist 3:25pm 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	7:05am Live Australian F1 Grand Prix 9:30am Live Australian F1 GP: Paddock Live 10:10am F1: GP: Race Replay 12:25pm Cricket 2:00pm Football 4:30pm Football 7:00pm Live World Golf Championship 1:00am Cricket
MONDAY 26 MARCH	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 11:00pm BBC News 11:30pm Regional News	4:40pm 5:10pm 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 Only Connect 9:30pm University Challenge Hospital	4:00pm 5:00pm Tipping Point The Chase 100pm Tree Coronation Street 10:00pm Marcella	5:00pm 6:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm 7:30pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 9:00pm 9:30pm 10:00pm A New Life in the Sun Four in a Bed Star Boot Sale The Simpsons Hollyoaks Channel 4 News 9:30pm Thrifty Ways to Summer Holiday 10:00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody	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	2:30am
TUESDAY 27 MARCH	3:15pm 4:00pm 4:45pm 5:30pm 6:15pm 7:00pm 8:00pm 8:30pm 8:30pm 8:30pm 8:00pm 8:30pm 9:00pm 10:00pm Come Home	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	4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal 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 International Football Highlights: England v Italy	4:00pm S:00pm A Place in the Sun 6:00pm Four in a Bed 6:30pm The Simpsons 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:00pm Channel 4 News 9:00pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer 10:15pm Seven Year Switch	3:15pm	7:30am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize 8:00am Good Morning Sports Fans 11:00am Premier League Daily 1:00pm Sky Sports News 5:00pm Live ATP 1000: Miami 9:25pm Football 11:30pm Parker in Camp 12:00am Sky Sports News
WEDNESDAY 28 MARCH	3:15pm 4:05pm 4:45pm 5:30pm 5:30pm 6:15pm 7:00pm 8:00pm 8:00pm 9:00pm 9:01pm 10:00pm A:45pm A:425pm Money for Nothing Flog It! Pointless Pointless Regional News Regional News BBC News and Regional News BUY SOS the Big Build MasterChef	5:15pm Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF 6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is 7:00pm Eggheads 7:30pm Hountain 9:00pm The Secret Helpers The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story	3:00pm 4:00pm 5:00pm 5:00pm 7:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 8:00pm 8:30pm 9:00pm 9:30pm 10:00pm 11:30pm 4:00pm 10:00pm 11:30pm 11:00pm 11:00pm 11:30pm 10:00pm 10:00pm 10:00pm 10:00pm 11:30pm 10:00pm 10:00p	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 Supervet 10:00pm One Born Every Minute 11:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun: Winter Supervet Are You Autistic?	5:00pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine 5:30pm Brooklyn Nine-Nine 6:00pm The Goldbergs 7:00pm The Big Bang Theory 7:30pm Hollyoaks 8:30pm Extreme Cake Makers 9:00pm 9:30pm The Big Bang Theory 10:00pm Don't Tell the Bride 11:00pm Five Star Hotel	7:00am Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize 8:00am 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

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Advertising Feature

Fast broadband connection is not a luxury

NOWADAYS everyone not only wants but expects a high speed internet connection at an affordable price, but in Spain up until now this hasn't always been pos-

Rural areas in particular have been neglected for some time and even built up areas are only sporadically seeing fibre cables being introduced.

Wimax Online, is a company that is doing something about this and is offering some exceptional deals with high speed internet packages which include landlines and mobile connections running alongside broadband.

This is a company that is registered with the Spanish government and is now expanding so that it can offer a service in Albox and the surrounding areas in order to ensure that residents and those with holiday homes in Almeria are not left out in the in-

All of the services that Wimax Online offer are via wireless technology and it would be pos-



WIRELESS CONNECTION: Available for all of the family.

sible to enter into a contract whereby those who are irregular visitors can make a monthly payment to 'hold' the connection and then an increased payment

once they are in Spain and wish to use the internet.

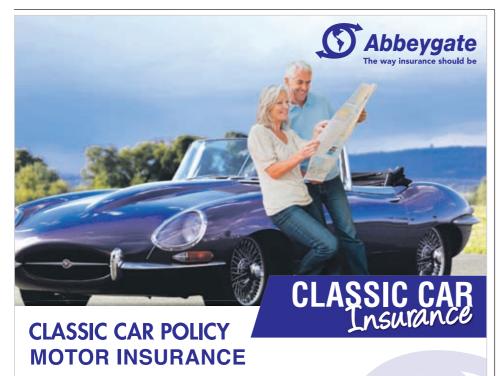
It's not just high speed broadband without the cost of expensive satellite connections but there are also some exceptional offers for mobile phone lines and UK TV packages.

There are a whole range of different speed offers running from 10MB to 100MB so that you can tailor your spend to the amount of use you would expect to make of the internet service.

Games and movies are best downloaded or played with the fastest of connections and you need plenty of memory if you are a family group to make sure that downloads are fast and efficient.

There are a number of great incentives to users to recommend Wimax Online to friends and the longer the contract entered into the better the deal that can be offered and as well as domestic customers, Wimax Online are more than happy to offer high speed broadband and cheap calls to commercial customers as well.

Potential customers are encouraged to visit www wimaxonline es to view all of the options available and then to either fill in the enquiry form online, email salesdirect@outlook.com or call the company on 693 922 669 to discuss your needs.



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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-andsixty-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 cy-

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



Contact: 607 705 085 or 687 938 466 C/Llanos, Bedar(Next to the Miramar Restaurant) Open: Monday-Friday 10.00am-3.30pm www.olivehouse-es.com

...it's all in the detail

Ref: OLV0540



A wonderfully reformed 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom Cortijo situated in the beautiful countryside near Cariatiz, just over 20 minutes to the coastal resort of Mojacar, The property boasts beautiful gardens and private swimming pool.

259,950€

Cucador

This beautifully finished, immaculate 3 bedroom,

2 bathroom villa is located in the peaceful hamlet

of Llanos de Peral under 10 minutes from the popular villages of Alfoquia and Zurgena and under 30 minutes from the coastal resort of Vera

Ref: OLV0982

Ref: OLV1034



This well presented 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom townhouse is situated in the quiet hamlet of Alfaix, just 5 minutes from the popular market town of Los Gallardos and just 15 minutes from the wonderful coastal resort of Mojacar.

79,950€

This magnificent and bespoke Cortijo is located just minutes from the whitewashed Andalucian villages of Tahal and Alcudia de Monteagud in the Sierra de Los Filabres, this wonderful property boasts 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and sits on a private plot of over 50,000m2 of irrigated land. Almeria city is just a 45 minute drive.

Cariatiz

169,950€

325,000€



This wonderful and unique property is located in the beautiful whitewashed mountain village of Bedar. This sizable property boasts 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a good size office / bedroom 5, a communal pool and stunning views.

338,000€

Sierra Cabrera

349,000€

/alle de Este

149.950€

just a few minutes walk from the main Plaza in the triendly market town of Lubrin. This charming property boasts an abundance of character, 2 bedrooms and 2 wonderful sunny terraces.

109,950€

Ref: OLV1345



This spacious property is located in Turre village, walking distance to all amenities and less than 10 minutes to the coast. The property has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with large storage area with potential for a separate apartment, there is also a large private garage



This wonderful and spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom property is located in the beautiful

mountains of Sierra Cabrera just minutes from the

popular market town of Turre and minutes from the

village of Cabrera which boasts two fantastic

This spacious 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom property is located in the former mining village of El Pinar, just 5 minutes from the picturesque town of Bedar and 5 minutes from Los Gallardos. This semi detached villa also boasts a wonderful roof terrace and

This wonderful 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom townhouse

is located on the exclusive Agave Real development

situated on the award-winning Valle del Este Golf resort under 10 minutes from the historical town of

Vera. This fantastic property also includes an underground parking space with storeroom.



This wonderful 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom villa is just 5 minutes from the market towns of Bedar and Los Gallardos with the coastal resort of Mojacar Playa just 15 minutes away. The property boasts a larger than average private pool as well as stunning coastal views

Ref: OLV1358



This fine looking detached village house is located

This wonderful property is located in the beautiful and picturesque valley of Cortijo Grande, this unique abode is made up of 4 separate units that include 12 double bedrooms and 12 bathrooms, there are also magnificent vistas of the valley and Sierra Cabrera mountain range.

129,950€

Bedar (El Pinar)

185,000€

Bedar (El Pinar)

279.950€

595,000€

Your paper - your voice - your opinion

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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



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.

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 Lloya

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. Simples! 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

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.

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 '

Trivia from around the world

*** Denmark, Germany and Iceland all have lists of stateapproved 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 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-yearold 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

> Jack Kerouac. writer

World of Enalish

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

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA IRISH LOTTO **EURO MILLIONS** Tuesday March 13 Friday March 16 Saturday March 17 20 LUCKY STARS REINTEGRO **BONUS BALL** LUCKY STARS (33) (10) (39) (39) (30) (9) EL MILLON: ZPF44617 JOKER: 3 794 358 JOKER: 4 497 057

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.



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



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.



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.



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.



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 ir-



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.



(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



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.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

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

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 ne-glect your well-being for the wishes of others. Give yourself permission to love and care for yourself as you do so much for 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 unsustain-

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

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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
- 5 About being put into twosomes,

that's fixed (8)

24

26

- 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
- 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)

10

18

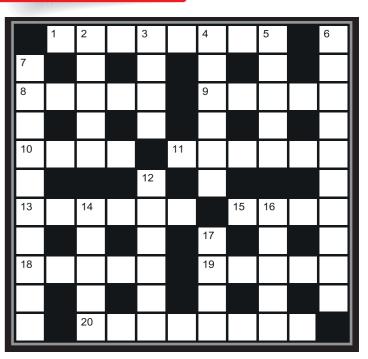
25

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.

26	23	2	0	10	12		23	17	2	16		25	15	12	25	5	19
20	20		U		12		23	''		10		20		<u> </u>	.0	J	13
4		1	4		17			11		19		17		2	23		21
12	23	1	9	4	10			20	22	22	19	2	26	6 4		14	19
19		1	0		21			5		6		19		2	2		10
26	19	2		26	17		12	4	20	2	26		1	1	7	2	1
		4			25			26		25		21					19
23 H	20	1		8 W	17		26	23		12	10	17	16	1	9	4	2
15		2	3		16							26		2	24		25
16	19	1	2	10	17		25	12		17	25	18	6	4		10	19
10					21			10		2		6		2	25		
17	24	1	9	7			21	17	2	17	1	19	21	1	9	2	12
6		7			13			24		5		10		2)		17
5	19	4		26	6		10	19	5	15		17	12	! 1	2	4	25
4		5			21			3		26		16		1	0		9
25	23	1	9	17	24			19	7	12	10	19	21	1	9	5	15
	_	_															
1	2		3	4		5		6	7	8 W	9	1	0	11		12	13
14	15		16	1	7	1	8	19	20	21	22	2	3 H	24	- 2	25	26

Quick



Across

SSWOR

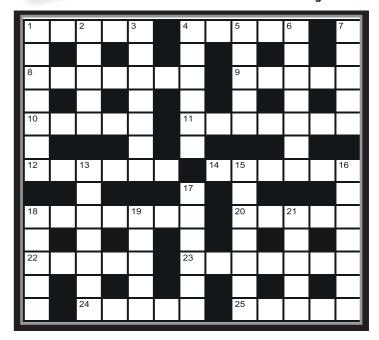
- 1 Journalist (8)
- 8 Escape or avoid by cunning (5)
- 9 Giver (5)
- 10 Speed (4)
- 11 Report or maintain (6)
- 13 Salted roe of the sturgeon (6)
- 15 Silvery-white metal (4)
- 18 Defendant's plea of being
- elsewhere at the relevant time (5)
- 20 Natural opening in something (8)

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)
- 19 Shoulder firearm with long barrel (5) 16 Establish by deduction (5)
 - 17 Worry unnecessarily or excessively

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)

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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**

6 R 10 11 12 13 16 18 В

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.

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 muNst 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 peen 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.

		21	22	24	12
	11		(()		
	17 10		()		
17					
20					
13					
11					

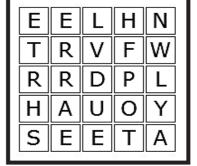
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

	9	3	21	7	10
18	6	2	4	1	5
15	3	1	5	4	2
	10	9 6	1	2	3
7	1	4	2	5	3
16	4	3	6	1	2
15	5	2	3	4	1

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: 6 letters: 3 points 11 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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK

1 Secure, 4 Fake, 8 Adapt, 9 Apple, 10 Legitimate, 13 Assistance, 17 Chaos, **18** Torso, **19** Lies, **20** Decide.

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

												¹³ P
14 R	15 D	16 H	17 J	¹⁸ Z	19 Q	²⁰ U	21 	²² X	23 W	24 E	²⁵ C	²⁶ Y

CRYPTIC

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.

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.

1 Espalda, 5 Crabs, 8 Capaz, 9 Terraza, 10 Mostrar, 11 Santo, 12 Daisy, 14 Tenth, 19 Apodo, 21 Ropería, 23 En avión,

ENGLISH-SPANISH

24 Sabor, 25 Again, 26 Answers.

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

language learning apr

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

- 1. '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?

 2. In which 1968 British musical adventure fantasy film did comedian Benny Hill play the part of the Toymaker?

 3. 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
- 4. The name of which famous toy is derived from the Danish phrase for 'play well'?
- 5. 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?
- 6. Which actor is the voice of Woody (Sheriff Woody Pride), a pull-string cowboy doll in the Toy Story series of

7. Which comedy duo starred in the musical film Babes in Toyland, first released in November 1934?

9. 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 LOVER'S CONOERTO, 2. CHITTY A LEGO (leg godt), 5. HUNGAFIAN (born in Budgess), 6. TOM HANKS, 7. LAUPEL AND HARDY-the firm is also hrown by the alternate titles Laurel and Hardy in Toyland. Revenge is Sweet and March of the Wooden Soldies; 8. ETCH A SKETCH, 9. LAMES BOND ASTON MARTIN DE-CAST CART - Springgraph (1997), and Hd Wheels (1969),

BOOKS



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-yearold 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

Costa de Almería

weather





Malaga	Almeria	Bilbao	Madrid	SATURDAY
TODAY: MAX 17, MIN 8-S	TODAY: MAX 14, MIN 8-S	TODAY: MAX 11, MIN 4-SH	TODAY: MAX 13, MIN 2 - 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	Fri - 17 10 - C Sat - 16 10 - S Sun - 17 11 - C Mon - 18 10 - Cl Tues - 18 11 - S Wed - 20 11 - S	Fri - 12 6 - Sh Sat - 11 6 - Sh Sun - 13 7 - Sh Mon - 12 8 - Sh Tues - 15 8 - Sh Wed - 15 8 - C	Fri - 11 3 - Sh Sat - 12 3 - C Sun - 12 3 - Sh Mon - 14 3 - C Tues - 16 3 - S Wed - 17 4 - C	VELEZ RUBIO HUERCAL OVERA
Alicante Today: Max 15, Min 9-S Fri - 19 9 - C Sat - 18 8 - C	Benidorm Today: Max 14, Min 8-S Fri - 18 10 - Sh Sat - 16 8 - C	Mallorca Today: Max 12, Min 6-CL Fri - 15 8 - Cl Sat - 13 7 - Sh	Barcelona Today: Max 13, Min 4 - S Fri - 13 8 - Cl Sat - 12 6 - Sh	GARRUCHA MOJACAR RETAMAR
Sun - 18 10 - C Mon - 19 10 - Cl Tues - 19 10 - S Wed - 20 10 - S	Sun - 17 10 - C Mon - 18 10 - Cl Tues - 18 11 - S Wed - 18 12 - S	Sun - 13 7 - Sh Mon - 14 7 - Sh Tues - 15 8 - Sh Wed - 16 9 - S	Sun - 13 6 - Sh Mon - 15 6 - Sh Tues - 16 7 - Cl Wed - 16 8 - Cl	ADRA ROQUETAS
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

Andrew Lloyd Webber, Composer; March 22, 70

The writer of Cats, 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

2012 and was named the European Athlete of the Year two years in a

· Mary Berry, TV chef; March 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

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.

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 slav-

British Empire following several attempts to pass it. 1896 - First radio signal

ery, becomes law in the

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 in-

terview in history. 2017 - Westminster attack

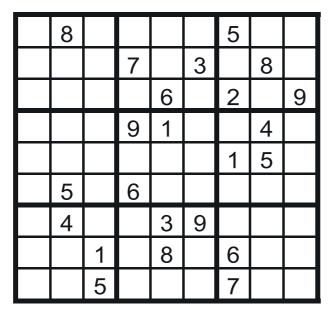
Khalid Masood drives a car into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge, crashes into railings near the Houses of Parliament, gets out and stabs PC Keith Palmer before being shot. Six people died and 49 were injured as a

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.

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



Word Ladder

SWAP

GERM

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.

Move from the start

LERM MA₃T MA₃S

MAW2 **AMN**S Solution

CEKM

DVD

A test of character

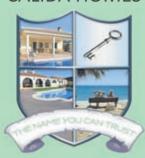


MILLIONAIRE art dealer Bon Hall (Greg Kinnear) is self-absorbed, but he is desperate to win back his wife Debbie (Renee Zellweger) after she discovers he has had an affair.

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 (Djimon Hounsou).

The trio then embark on a lifechanging journey for Hall in Same Kind of Different as Me.

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IT'S ALL ABOUT SUPPLY AND DEMAND

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THEN BE SURE TO BEAT THE INOVACION
14 PROPERTY DELUGE.

Over the last 18 months the property market has been very busy in this area with prices rising steadily due to high demand from the UK and other European buyers.

Arboleas remains ever popular with huge demand for 2 and 3 bed villas with swimming pools in all areas.

The passing of Inovacion 14 means that within the next 4-6 months some 400 villas situated all around the village will become fully paper worked. Undoubtedly a large percentage of these will be flooding on to the market and in a very short period of time.

Whilst at this moment in time demand in Arboleas is high and selling prices have been steadily increasing, when the deluge hits it can only have an adverse effect on both selling time and, also importantly, selling prices.

If you want to avoid this market saturation and take advantage of a growing seller's market then act quickly to get your property listed for sale. Give us a call or call into our office in the village for a chat as to how we can help you get moving.

199,950€ | cla 7040a



3 bed 2 bath villa Las Golondrinos

199,000€ | cla 7078



5 bed 3 bath villa La Perla

159,995€ | cla 7080



2 bed 2 bath villa Los Torres

349,950€ | cla 7091



5 bed 3 bath villa Las Golondrinos

195,000€ | cla 7108



4 bed 2 bath villa La Perla

165,000€ | cla 6649



3 bed 2 bath villa Los Carrascos

FOR SALE

194,950€ | cla 7093



3 bed 2 bath villa with beautiful garden and swimming pool

174,950€ | cla 7090



2-3 bed villa with detached garage, swimming pool and stunning views

134,950€ | cla 7086



5 bed 3 bath character property with swimming pool

145,000€ | cla 7095



3 bed 2 bath villa easy walk to bars and restaurant, plenty of space for a pool

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Advertising Feature

MACS – here for you when you need us

HEARING the news that you or a loved one has cancer is a devastating time and can throw your whole world into turmoil.

So many questions to ask, so many decisions to make and much soul searching to do.

With so many emotions in play it is hard to gather your thoughts and start to think about the way forward and how you will cope with this intrusion into your life.

We all have different ways of dealing with bad news, some of us want to have our friends and family around us and others prefer to try to go it alone.

Whatever your personal coping method is, MACS is here to help. Early registration allows us to ensure that all our patients



MACS: Always here to help.

and their families have access to all the support, assistance and services they may need as they undergo treatment.

Our volunteers are here for you and will encourage you to take the lead in whichever way you want support, they will not push or pry and will simply be there to offer guidance and help when it is needed.

Being part of MACS can make a huge difference to cancer patients and their families with access to a range of services available to you to make life that little bit easier. Free services initially include, transport for chemotherapy, medical aid equipment on loan, wigs, prosthesis, bras, etc, also on loan, plus free therapy or beauty

MACS also holds regular, uplifting meetings for patients, carers and survivors and the volunteers can help with applying for UK-based benefits.

The 24-hour care line and website can be a real lifeline for many people and the 'buddy' volunteers are there for when you need that extra support.

Enhanced services are also available, subject to financial assessment, and include, translator's costs during treatment until remission, assistance with economic needs and professional care by ANR nurses/carers (these are reviewed individually by MACS' committee and/or independent financial assessors). Remember all your information is held in strict confidence and covered under the Data Protection Act.

MACS also works closely with the AECC cancer support group which enables us to have stronger communications with hospitals.

Fighting this disease will be your main priority and this will be your focus throughout your treatment but don't let yourself miss out on the incredible support and comfort that being a part of the MACS family can

So many people embark on this tough journey alone before realising that together we can be stronger, help each other through the hard times and make each other smile during lighter moments.

MACS adopted song is Lean on Me and that's exactly what we offer, someone to turn to, a shoulder to cry on and a trusted network of friendly folk who are there for you whenever you need them

Contact MACS registration and care line on 634 656 555. general enquiries 634 328 334/5, visit the Facebook page MACS Mojacar area cancer



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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 Sofía 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



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

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

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

EVERYONE that I know has tried to forget it already. The high winds, the lack of sunshine, the sprinkles of rain then more wind. If that wasn't enough to unsettle any normal person, the horrendous crime in nearby Nijar was too shocking to believe.

In a distant world so full of rage, bitterness and war, to have something so vile happening on our doorsteps seemed a right proper slap in the face to our tranquil routine.

Even the weather had to be avoided in conversation as the events transpiring just down the road were so horrifically upsetting. (A sad reminder that no matter how Hollywood paints it, happy endings in life are as truly common as herds of unicorns. Pure evil somehow thrives deep within some folks, often unnervingly close to us).

So, to not confront the outside forces we remained inside and were forced to face the TV glow of the Spanish nation passing judgment to solve the riddle of 'who done it'?

The victim's face was splattered on

What a strange and discombobulated week!



TV screens and became an instant icon for all the children of Spain. The rallies and protests were truly unfathomable in numbers uniting an entire nation. In my 49 years of observation I had never seen so many people ever protesting in Almeria. The crime needed to be solved.

I listened intently to each interview

of the parents, friends, announcements of the Guardia Civil and even what the local priest contributed. Not a shred of evidence or a crackling voice was detected.

The Guardia Civil were criticised immediately, after all, they were renowned for knowing everything. Not a word from them, but they were

watching. No movement was left unexamined nor any statement not pro-

FORGOTTEN: The

murder of Gabriel

Cruz (inset) broke

the hearts of the

Almeria community.

My observations from the TV screens noted a new woman in the life of the father always wearing something with a picture of the victim, Gabriel. She was also very ostentatious, showing her love for her new man, while the actual mother remained stoic and unrelenting toward a quick solution.

Time dragged on accompanied once again by the light rains and con-

stant winds, and then the sun peeked through but more winds and drizzle.

The world wasn't turning anymore but obviously stuck on its own axis. And we, the patient living witnesses, were caught in our own time warp, spinning and becoming more confused with each new forlorn dawn.

Then it was announced. An arrest had been made. Everyone already knew who did it and publicly announced as such. The Guardia Civil had known since day one. They had studied her past black histories in the Dominican Republic.

Cries for renewing the death penalty abounded. Everyone had concocted a way for the killer to meet her sweet justice. The best note I got on Facebook was from a group of prisoners at Azabache prison near Almeria. They simply stated 'send her here and we will sort her.' To my understanding, that's where she's bound. Solved? Well, not quite, the damn wind hasn't seized.

Punk legends announced for 6th Juergas Rock Festival

THE head line acts for the sixth Juergas Festival to be held in Adra from August 1 to 4 have just been announced by the local council.

With a larger budget than ever and more than 20 acts already announced, it is expected that the 40,000 people who attended last year will be exceeded consider-

The main performers are Bad Religion and Loquillo and during the announcement, there were performances by acoustic guitarists Victor Guirado and El niño de la Hipoteca.

Los Angeles Punk Rock band Bad Religion were formed in 1980 and are due to release their 17th studio album this year.

Influenced by the Ramones, the Sex Pistols and the Clash as well as the proto punk MC5 and Iggy and



Announcing the headliners

the Stooges, surprisingly all members of the band were all fans of the Beatles and their two main writers Greg Graffin and Brett Gurewitz have been called the Lennon and McCartney of punk rock.

Their pulsing form of punk and

hard rock sees them singing about many of the social ills that affect the world and the passage of nearly 40 years hasn't tamed their energy.

The other main attraction Loquillo a singer from Barcelona was initially into Rockabilly but since then

Bad Religion still ready to rock

has been associated with pop, punk and rock having been a member of Los Troglodytes and now fronts his own seven-piece band.

The support acts are increasing on a regular basis and whilst the majority are Spanish, the appear-

ance of Jamaican band the Skatalites will ensure that everybody will be on their feet and dancing.

The Adra Council is completely behind the festival as it brings work for local people, promotes the town on an international basis and 40,000 plus people generate large amounts of money to spend locally.

It's remarkably cheap as the welcome party on August 1 is free whilst a ticket for the rest of the event is €40 although that may well rise as the festival gets nearer.

There is also a special meet and greet option which gives a number of special opportunities for access and plenty of free drinks for €99.

Camping is encouraged and all details including the current line up may be explored by visiting the festival website at https://thejuergas rockfestival.com.





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The Beyoncé Tribute tour is on the road

IF you don't want to spend up to €1,500 for a VIP ticket to see Beyoncé and Jay Z in Barcelona in July. it will only cost €18 to see the tribute tour at the Teatro Cervantes in Alme-

Having started in Madrid, this special and very high quality show featuring Maria Badel as the Single Lady herself will visit Almeria City on Friday March 30 starting at 10pm.

This promises to be one



ON TOUR: Maria Badel is Beyoncé.

of the tribute tours of the year with a spectacular stage show, backing dancers and singers, great music and impressive lighting effects honouring a woman who is considered by many to be one of the greatest female performers alive today.

Reproducing the sound, the costumes and the routines, Maria Badel accompanied by some great dancers, will be performing

a full routine including some of the stars most popular hits including Halo. If I were a Boy, Listen, Crazy in love. Drunk in Love. Sorry and of course Single La-

Tickets for this show which will be touring across Spain currently cost €18 from the Teatro Cervantes website or will be charged at €22 if purchased from the box office on the





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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.



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

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 years ageing.



BODEGAS VEGA SICILIA: Family-run since 1864.

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 5°: 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 cus-

Happy tasting.





THREATENED: The remote driving test centre in Albox.

Centre put to the test

THE local Partido Popular (PP) party have presented a motion to help prevent the Almeria Traffic Headquarters from getting rid of the remote driving test centre.

Juan Pedro Pérez Quiles said "the motive behind the motion is to prevent Albox from losing a service that it has been providing for more than 36 years."

Quiles pointed out how residents from neighbouring villages such as Macael, Cantoria, Oria, Bacares, and Somontin come to the town daily to practise for their driving exam and do their test. This in turn benefits Albox residents and

businesses as it brings more visitors to the town.

The PP fear that the Almeria Traffic Headquarters will decide to dispense with the Albox Driving Test Centre while keeping the one in Huercal-Overa, which has a specific classroom dedicated to carrying out theory exams necessary to obtain a driver's licence.

To avoid the loss of this centre, from the PP have asked the town council to urgently allocate a public space to carry out theory exams which is equipped with at least 15 computers on which they can install the software so locals can take









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SPRING FUN: Easter basket with shop manageress Maggie and volunteer Pat.

Easter basket raffle

THE APSA charity shop in Avenida Lepanto, Albox has launched its Easter Basket Raffle with tickets just €2 each.

The prize is a basket full of Easter goodies plenty of chocolate and cava for the winner. Maggie, shop manageress, said all the goodies had been bought and donated by the shop volunteers and Harrisons Food Store next door to the APSA shop. Tickets can be bought from 10am to 2pm, Monday to Saturday.

APSA Charity AGM

APSA will hold its AGM at Chapmans in

Albox on Monday April 16 from 2.30pm. Everyone is welcome, come along to find out about this Albox animal charity.

Perhaps you can help with dog-walking, fostering or helping in the shop - you can speak with like-minded volunteers to find out more information.

They all look forward to seeing you, coffee and cake will be provided.

Membership is only €5 annually, only members can vote but all are welcome at the



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Puppy needing a home



THIS little fellow is the last of a litter which was dumped in a bin near Albox, he is the last to find a home. As soft as velvet, a gorgeous male, black puppy.

If you can help please contact APSA via Facebook or ring the homing officer on 664 730 289.

PUPPY LOVE: Hilary and Di with a little friend who needs a home.

Full of drama

ALMOST a thousand spectators attended the Albox Amateur Theater Festival.

The winning group of the 48th edition of the festival was Verea Teatro from Baza while the La Luna Roja company from Almeria City won second prize.

Verea Teatro performed the famous play The Crucible by Arthur Miller based on real events that happened during the 17th century witch trials in the United States - taking home the €2,000 prize.

The Best Actor Award went to Angel Santisteban from the Cordoba-based company, Loyola Teatro.



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Advertising Feature by Next Stop Almeria

Property of the week

Stunning ground floor apartment

THIS is a three bedroom ground floor apartment with excellent outside living space, communal pool and underground garage.

Located on Huerta Nueva in Los Gallardos the property is well proportioned and excellently presented making it ideal for full time living.

Set on a plot of 272m² the apartment comprises 'L' shaped living room defining lounge and dining areas with patio doors leading to the garden; fully fitted galley style kitchen including all white goods and generous storage space and access to the rear terrace; master double bedroom with en-suite bathroom with bath and shower over, basin, toilet and bidet; two further double bedrooms and second bathroom with shower, basin and toilet.

The largest area of outside living space is the south east facing garden to the front of the property that gets the sun from first thing in the



PERFECT: Sizeable outside living.

morning until late afternoon when it moves to the rear of the property.

The garden is laid with shingle and planted in a Mediterranean



style with mature hedges to two sides and furnished with a table and chairs, this is a superb space for enjoying the Andalucia climate. To the front of the dining area there is a small covered terrace in which to perhaps take morning coffee escaping the sun. To the side of that a path leads to the main entrance of the property and the rear terrace.

The description of the terrace is in fact underselling the space at the rear of the property somewhat as it is truly a complete outdoor living room. With screening and hedges it creates a private courtyard feel and is furnished with a dining table and chairs, wicker sofa, chairs and coffee table. For private al fresco dining or social entertaining, it is a superb extension to the already sizeable property.

Being a full time home for the current owners the apartment has been well maintained and has air conditioning and ceiling fans installed throughout; two bedrooms benefit from built-in wardrobes and patio doors to either the front

Ref: HNJM2 104,950 euros

garden or rear terrace; new installations include a Vaillant gas boiler for hot water and a washing machine; and the oven and hob are also relatively new appliances.

An underground parking space is also included with the property as is use of the communal swimming pool and gardens.

NSA Ref.: HNJM2 3 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms Plot Size : 273 m² Build Size : 81 m² Garage : 14m² Price: € 104,950

For further information or to arrange a viewing contact paul@nextstopalmeria.com or call 950 617 518 / 678 034 651



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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 properties 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

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

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

Prosecutors say his fortune derives from money plundered by the Syrian regime after his brother, Hafez (the president's father), came to power in

Rifaat Assad was a wellknown figure in Damascus but made enemies with his



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 Eu-

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.'



BUILDING BLOCK: The housing crash left Sesena littered with unfinished homes.

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 'Ouixote Park' project in late January.

Mayor Carlos Velazquez says proposals

to combine homes with an industrial park on the site prove that 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

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."

Benidorm 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 international 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

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.





GRAEME TYRRELL

DESIGNING the plantings in your garden takes a lot more skill than just what looks good

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



COMPANION PLANTING: Peas and spring onions.

Companion planting

Finding the right friends for your plants

that need low nitrogen will not do well in a well prepared nitrogen-rich corn bed. Many

culinary herbs fit into this cat-

Companion planting can be

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 ladvbirds. Garlic and onions are good pest deterrents but they can stunt the growth of some legumes including beans and

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

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

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

The most important thing is that you can feel good about



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Denning is a natural instinct



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)

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

trained.

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 dogrelated destruction while you are away or are unable to

I know of a woman who forgot to put her 10-monthold giant breed puppy in his

cage. She came home to papers ripped up and spread

all over, and toilet pap e r

strewn

through-

out the

house. A crate can prevent this type of disaster from happen-

ing. 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



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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 stag-gering

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,

COOL: Mason's former Ferrari has been dubbed the 'coolest car ever made.'

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 down the side of it and fetched almost €476,000 (£420,000) when it went to auction.

Also under the hammer was Sir Rod Stewart's bright red Lamborghini Diablo.

LIMITED: The 1967 Lamborghini, previously owned by Paul McCartney, is one of only 247 ever made.

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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

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

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 Norweigan Speed Factory Team just over a year later as they topped out 133mph on a modified Viking T6 lawnmow-

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



FAST: The Honda Mean Mower Mk2 is claimed to top 134mph.

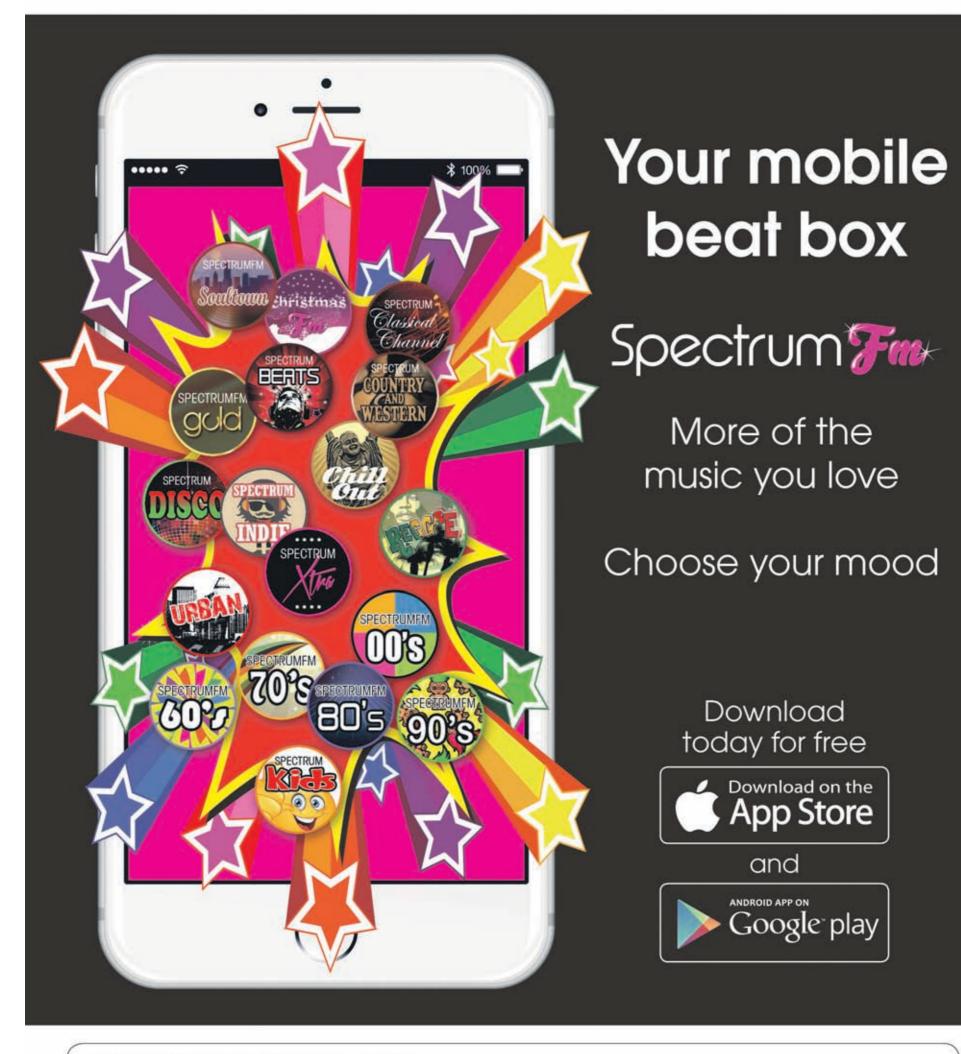












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Spain to take on world champions Germany

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

He said: "There are players who are not on the list whose chances of going to the World Cup are in-

"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

"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



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

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 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



UGLY SCENES: Spanish players confronted the Romanian referee at the final whistle.

While Spanish coach, Santiago Santos, also seemed incensed with the way the match was offi-

"We weren't allowed to play," he told the me-

"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 in-

Reports suggest that the Spanish Rugby Federation (FER) made an official request for the officials to be changed on February 19 given the potential 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

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

"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

"(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.

Costa de Almería's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE

SPORT

THE Formula One season officially kicks off this weekend, getting underway with the Australian Grand Prix on

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



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Formula One season begins in Australia

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



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

If Red Bull hit the ground running, we may see a change of heart from the 28year-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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