

Mayor backs prison plans

RAMON FERNANDEZ PACHECO, the mayor of Almeria City, has met with petitioners at the council's headquarters who gathered signatures in support of expanding so-called permanent prison sentences.

Fernandez Pacheco was joined by fellow members of the conservative Partido Popular (PP) who supported efforts to add more crimes to the list of those which qualify for the penalty.

The mayor said he supported the push to expand the sentencing powers. He said the penalty would be used against people who showed they could not be rehabilitated and were likely to commit further crimes on release.

Revisable permanent prison sentences give courts powers to put people found guilty of the most serious crimes in prison indefinitely, or until they are deemed fit for release.

Those in favour of the sentences argue they are needed to deter serious crimes and that such penalties exist elsewhere in Europe.

Opponents of the sentence claim it does away with attempts to rehabilitate criminals and that it would see some spend the rest of their lives behind bars.

Recent efforts to expand the sentences were unsuccessful after Spain's parliament voted against PP proposals. Debate became more charged in the wake Ana Quezada's murder of Gabriel Cruz.

Murder probe

Expat held over suspected killing

by Joe Gerrard

A Lithuanian man has been remanded in custody on suspicion of murdering his partner in the British expatriate hotspot of Albox.

Known only as MP, the alleged murderer faces up to 15 years in prison for murder charges.

The 48-year-old victim reported him to police in 2016, but he was later acquitted in court, according to the provincial Women's Institute.

A post mortem examination revealed that Maria del Carmen died of blood loss but the method of murder remains unclear.

Medics pronounced the woman dead after the suspect, 38, himself called an ambulance, finding her body in the toilet of the couple's Calle Longo home.

According to reports there were numerous altercations between the couple along the years, as well as several restraining orders put forward, but blocked by the victim who refused to stand against the accused in court.

The latest alleged case of domestic violence has sparked outrage, with several demon-



One of the protests held in Almeria following the death of Maria del Carmen.

strations held throughout the province. The Junta de Andalucía's delegate in Almeria Gracia Fernandez, called for central government to tackle the issue following the latest 'act of terrorism which does not cease, because there is no other way of calling it.'

Albox Council released a statement in the wake of the shocking incident, in which the town hall expressed its 'sincere condolences to the victim's family and friends, as well as our ever more firm commitment to continue fighting against domestic violence.'

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NEWS EXTRA**Desperate appeal**

A FAMILY in Almeria has demanded the Andalucian Health Service help with their two sons, six and nine, who are suffering from an unknown developmental disease, and are now too old to be treated by the Early Infancy Treatment Programme.

Family help

ALMERIA hospitals dealt with some 127 cases of elderly patients having no family support upon being discharged. In the majority of cases, the patient had to be transferred to an elderly residents centre.

Baby boom

THE Education Board in Almeria has increased the number of places available for children aged between zero and three from disadvantaged backgrounds to receive public funding to go to school to 1,609 for next year.

Manhole fall

Council to pay compensation

ALMERIA Council will have to pay compensation for a man who became trapped after falling through a faulty manhole cover.

Witnesses reported seeing a man fall 'up to his waist' down a hole in the street, who had to be rescued and transferred to hospital.

When the victim took the incident to the courts, the council argued the manhole cover - which slipped off when he stood on it - belonged to a private company and therefore the issue should have been taken up with them. The Andalucian Claims Consulate (CAA) ruled however that 'the accident occurred on a public walkway' and therefore 'the responsibility for its maintenance lies with the council' as permits and licences are needed to carry out works on public grounds.



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FALL: The street (inset) where the accident occurred in Almeria.

The claimant has asked for €15,440 in compensation for the days spent in hospital, the operation needed to treat his injuries, and 'moral damages' suffered during and after the accident which occurred in April 2016 but the CAA has not yet set an amount to be paid as there has not been 'an expert report that determines with certainty the damages suffered.'

€48.42m windfall

by Tom Woods

THE Junta's Ministry of Finance has transferred €12.1 million to the towns and cities of Almeria Province, as part of the first tranche of its regional funding commitments.

Throughout 2018, the province is expected to receive €48.42 million in unconditional investment, distributed over four payments.

The funding allows local authorities to establish their spending priorities in exercising their autonomous powers.

In terms of the total endowment for Andalucia in 2018, €480 million has been ringfenced despite the fiscal consolidation of the central government.

In addition, the budget of Almeria Council for this

year has grown 7.8 per cent according to the Municipal Cooperation Plan, representing a total of €1.1 million.

This sum is mainly intended for the development of employment plans and community social services.

All local authorities in the province receive the funds in four quarterly instalments, and the distribution is made on a formulaic basis.

The formula is calculated according to population, geographical dispersion, urbanisation and fiscal capacity.

On March 27 the Ministry of Finance transferred €2 million to Almeria City; €1 million for El Ejido and Roquetas de Mar; €417,859 for Nijar; and €360,691 for Adra, among others.

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New British Airways route

BRITISH AIRWAYS have launched a new flight from London's Heathrow Airport to Almeria, placing them in indirect competition with easyJet and Ryanair. The twice-weekly service will operate on Tuesdays and Saturdays, with an Airbus A320 plane set to be used for the 1,632 kilometre journey.

Case dismissed

THE Military Chamber of Spain's Supreme Court has overturned a sanction handed down to a Guardia Civil officer who was accused of altering official reports. The court ruled in its dismissal of the case that the officer, stationed at Almeria's Port, had his rights violated.

City officials

SEVEN administrative assistants have taken up their posts at Almeria City Council following a formal welcome from the mayor on Tuesday. All of them have been sworn in, with Mayor Ramon Fernandez-Pacheco saying they will be part of efforts to make the city "better and better."

Photo show

AN exhibition featuring photographs taken by a diverse group of people giving their perspective on Almeria debuted on Tuesday. Do You Watch With Me? has been housed in Almeria City's Archaeological Museum, where it will be open for the public to visit until April 22.

Tomato sales

ALMERIA Province exported more tomatoes than the entire country of Morocco, according to the latest data from the United Nations. The province sent 537.6 million kilograms overseas compared to Morocco's 524.9 in 2016, with Almeria's exports accounting for almost 60 per cent of Spain's total.

**THE BIG PICTURE Nº 8**

Tickled pink!

ON THE MARCH: Greater flamingo males.

IT is Europe's second largest congregation of greater flamingos, and the only inland site where they breed.

And the courtship dance of 40,000 of the majestic birds is underway at Laguna Fuente de Piedra, one of the largest natural lakes in the Iberian Peninsula.

Measuring 6.5 kilometres long by 2.5 kilometres wide, the lagoon is set for a bumper year after drying up completely in 2017.

Recent rains have filled the shal-

low basin, serving up ideal conditions for the flamingos, which are attracted by teeming brine shrimp in the salty water.

The tiny crustaceans give the birds' feathers their pink hue, with those of youngsters plain grey.

Their courtship ritual sees many separate colonies form, with groups of 15 to 50 males at their centre.

They perform an elaborate dancing display with exaggerated neck stretching, head stretching and preen-

ing, plus group moves in which they march and turn as one.

And once the chicks hatch they are raised in a 'creche' watched over by many adults.

The dance of the flamingos can be seen throughout April both at Fuente de Piedra and other sites along Spain's Mediterranean coast, including Doñana National Park, Mar Menor in Murcia, Santa Pola in Alicante, and the Ebro Delta in Cataluña.

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The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1708 of the Euro Weekly News Costa de Almeria edition, including 31 local stories.

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Fair enough



ANDALUCIAN PASSION: Women wearing traditional flamenco dresses dance a Sevillana.

IT was voted number one in travel guide Lonely Planet's top 10 cities to visit in 2018.

And as the dust settles on Andalusian capital Sevilla's world famous Holy Week celebrations, the city is already gearing up for another of its internationally renowned events.

The week-long Feria d'Abril (April Fair) traditionally takes place a fortnight after the end of Easter, and this begins on Sunday April 15.

Women rock flamboyant, glamorous flamenco dresses, while men slip on their best attire and parade on horseback throughout the vibrant festivities, which feature plenty of eating, drinking and dancing the time-honoured Sevillana.

Dating back to 1847, the event was started as a livestock fair by two councillors from northern Spain, the Basque Jose Maria Ybarra and Catalan Narcisco Bonaplata.

Their idea was approved by Queen Isabella II - who ruled Spain from 1833 until 1868 - and the first fair took place at the Prado de San Sebastian on the outskirts of the city centre.

But just a year later the fair began to mutate, as the first three casetas, traditional wooden buildings

housing bars and eateries still used today, sprang up.

They belonged to the French Duke and Duchess of Montpensier, the city council and Sevilla casino, and their introduction eventually saw the event become an enormous celebration which today brings together more than 1,000 casetas and tens of thousands of people on a new site in the Los Remedios neighbourhood.

The casetas mostly belong to important local families, clubs, trade associations, political parties or groups of friends. They function as informal restaurants during the day but from around 9pm to 6am are filled with crowds of dancing revellers drinking sherry, beer and wine.

There is also a giant amusement park for families.

But the daily proceedings begin with a parade of carriages and horse riders carrying leading citizens to the La Real Maestranza bullring for the controversial daily bullfights.

For more information about this year's feria see the website: www.feriadesevilla.andalunet.com/?lang=en.

POLL OF THE WEEK

Do you think the new maximum €30,000 fine for animal cruelty crimes in Spain is sufficient?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Following his arrest in Germany, should former Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont be extradited to Spain?

Yes **50%**

No **50%**

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EXCLUSIVE: 'Bargain-Loving Brits In The Sun' is packing Benidorm bags and heading to Costa del Sol



Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun is set to move to the Costa del Sol.

10,225 'Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun' is heading to Costa del Sol
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9,573 'He's a life saver' expat found by Easter holidaymaker
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5,467 "He's home" missing expat found safe but 'confused and distressed'
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4,920 Costa del Sol family issue urgent appeal for 'missing' man
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OUR VIEW**Red faces over blue passports**

THERE seemed to be an incredible irony surrounding the decision to move back to blue passports to show that Britain was recapturing its true independence from Europe.

Firstly it appears that in actual fact the move to a red passport was only a strong recommendation from the European Union and had Britain decided that it wanted to keep the colour blue (or some argue black), then it could have done so.

The real controversy has raised its head with the fact production of these new passports has been put out to tender in accordance with EU rules which meant effectively any qualified printer in any member states could bid to undertake the work.

Almost predictably, the bid from British printer De La Rue - which currently holds the contract - was rejected as being too expensive and it appeared that the job would be given to a printer based in France and Holland.

Quelle horreur, this symbol of Britishness would for the first time be printed outside of Britain at a time when the country wanted to be seen as standing strong and outside of European domination.

It is suggested that the winning bid was £120 million (€137 million) cheaper than De La Rue, but the company has managed to win a respite of a further two weeks in order to allow them to challenge the decision, based on the fact that they believe that their product will be better and more secure.

Time will tell but you couldn't make this story up!

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Elderly woman theft

A WOMAN who allegedly stole thousands of euros in cash and jewellery from an 86-year-old she was caring for has been arrested by National Police.

The 32-year-old stands accused of theft and fraud. Police claimed she took advantage of having the woman's trust to take around €86,000 from two of the elderly woman's bank accounts and jewellery valued at €6,000 since 2015.

Officers began their investigation about two weeks ago after receiving a complaint from the 86-year-old.

She claimed several payments from her life savings account had

been declined since October 2017 due to a lack of funds.

The alleged victim told police money had last been taken from the account on February 26. She also said several chains, medals, a pair of earrings, a bracelet and a gold watch were taken from her home.

Officers searched pawn shops and other stores and reportedly found receipts stating the woman's jewellery had been traded in at three of them.

Police claimed receipts found at the stores confirmed the accused as being behind the crimes. Officers then arrested the woman.



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Harry's style goes Spanish

HE donned suits by Gucci and Givenchy at the recent Victoria's Secret Fashion Show.

And former One Direction singer Harry Styles, 24, became the new face of Andalucian designer Palomo Spain during his shows in Madrid and Barcelona this week.

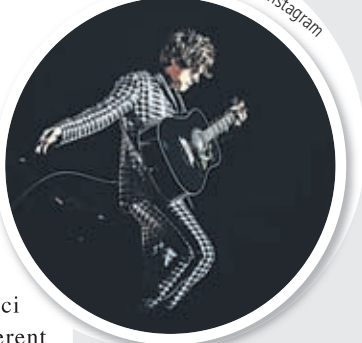
The *Sign of the Times* hitmaker temporarily dropped his signature Gucci style, slipping into a different black-and-white outfit by the Cordoba-based fashion house at each of the gigs.

Harry rocked a houndstooth-style checked blazer with flared trousers in the Catalan city, then opted for a matching finely-striped outfit with white lapels in the Spanish capital.

Designer Alejandro Gomez Palomo has just turned 26 and was creating clothes for doll brand Barbie three years ago, but a meteoric rise has seen him open shows at Paris Fashion Week, with stars including the Rolling Stones, Beyonce, Miley Cyrus and Rita Ora buying into his whimsical style.

SHE'S GOT FRONT: The star chose to go braless.

Photo credit Paloma Spain/Instagram



NEW DIRECTION: The mega star in Barcelona.



Photo credit Eiza Gonzalez/Instagram

Eiza does it!

SHE shot to fame in last year's hit action movie *Baby Driver*.

And Mexican actress Eiza Gonzalez, 28, has jetted to Spain to film new flick *Paradise Hills* in Barcelona.

The star set pulses racing after strolling to the set wearing just a loose-fitting t-shirt and skinny jeans.

She is rumoured to be dating *Transformers* star Josh Duhamel, 45, after the pair met at a Superbowl party.

Light as a feather

SHE recently revealed that she has lost two stone.

And *Loose Women* star Linda Robson, 60, showed off her toned figure as she posed in a swimsuit in Marbella.

The former *Birds of a Feather* actress was enjoying a sunshine break with son Louis and daughter Roberta, and she shared a series of snaps on social media.



TOP BREAK: Linda Robson.

Photo credit Linda Robson/Instagram

Eleven out of ten for new pay packet



Photo credit OK! Magazine

STRANGER CHING: Millie Bobby Brown.

MARBELLA-BORN actress Millie Bobby Brown is set for a giant pay rise.

The 14-year-old *Stranger Things* star has reportedly put pen to paper on a contract worth €2.6 million ahead of filming the third series of the hit Netflix series.

And while all the young stars of the supernatural drama have been rewarded with improved deals after the second series received rave reviews, Millie's agents

have negotiated the biggest salary.

According to US media reports she was due to receive €19,500 for each of the upcoming series' nine episodes, but will now take home at least €200,000, with some rumours suggesting she will be paid a whopping €285,000 per show.

That would put the Emmy-award nominated performer in the same wage bracket as cast-mate Winona Rider.

Dyer straits

DANNY DYER'S daughter, Dani, has been spotted frolicking on a Costa del Sol beach.

Having recently being forced off the ITV2 show *Survival Of The Fittest* due to injury, the reality star, 22, was pictured in a range of skimpy swimwear as she enjoyed a spot of bat and ball on the sand.



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Palomares - 69,950€ (ref: PAA)

2 beds • 1 bath • Plot: 72m² • Build: 65m²

Situated on the outskirts of Palomares this ground floor apartment with covered terrace & communal pool is an ideal "lock up and leave" holiday property. Short distance from village and beach.



Vera Playa (Naturist) - 69,950€ (ref: NBVSA)

1 bed • 1 bath • Build: 41m²

A well presented studio apartment ready for immediate 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 wide sandy Las Marinas beach, the property is in a superb location for amenities including airport shuttle stop. Perfect for those wanting to holiday but not drive!



Vera Playa - 89,950€ (ref: VPAA)

2 beds • 2 baths • Build: 61m²

This is a well maintained property, furnished to a high standard & suitable for sleeping 5 people. Located on a gated complex with outdoor & indoor pools making it a great all year round holiday location.



Los Gallardos - 89,950€ (ref: HNAR)

2 beds • 1½ baths • Plot: 125m² • Build: 83m²

A fully furnished 2 bedroom house on a small community. Open plan living area, covered terrace, gardens, solarium, allocated off-road parking and communal swimming pool.



Los Gallardos - 94,950€ (ref: HNCSC)

3 beds • 1½ baths • Plot: 150m² • Build: 68m²

Fully furnished and equipped south facing property with good internal & external living spaces. 2 beds / 1 bath on the ground level & 1 bedroom with ½ bath-room on the first floor.



Alfaix - 98,500€ (ref: AHB)

3 beds • 2½ baths • Plot: 138m² • Build: 112m²

Large semi-rural property near to the village of Los Gallardos. One of only eight town-houses surrounded by olive & orange orchards. East & west orientations, communal pool & gardens.



Los Gallardos - 299,000€ (ref: LGCG)

3 beds • 2 baths • Plot: 10,000m² • Build: 163m²

Located only 1km from the village of Los Gallardos this property has the benefit of both a quiet rural location and the convenience of village life and its amenities close to hand.



Featured Property



**Vera Playa
219,950€
(ref: VM6P)**



**3 bedrooms • 2 bathrooms
Plot: 330m² • Build: 98m²**

Located just a few minutes' walk away from the beautiful beaches of Vera Playa this villa benefits from the perfect mix of generous outside space with ideal internal living space.

The villa offers a large open plan kitchen with dining area and lounge area with marble floor and air conditioning; the kitchen is fully equipped with ample storage and workspace facilities while the lounge diner has a statement feature brick fireplace.

Leading out of the lounge/dining area and through the hallway there are three spacious double bedrooms all with fitted wardrobes and air conditioning and two bathrooms.

To the exterior is a huge terrace that wraps around the property with Jacuzzi and outside shower, fruit trees, pergola and private parking for two vehicles.

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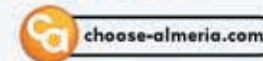
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Jailed for irrigation embezzlement

A LEADING member of an irrigation community found guilty of embezzling more than €164,000 from the group has been handed a two-year prison sentence.

The former secretary of the Fuente Cela association, located in Tijola, was sentenced by Almería's Provincial Court at a hearing on Tuesday.

The defendant will also be required to pay a fine of €160,000 at a rate of €1,000 a month from May, according to reports.

The defendant's lawyers said they would request the prison sentence be suspended, according to reports.

The court heard the defendant had access to the community's accounts as part of his responsibilities as secretary from 2011 to 2013.

He also functioned occasionally as a treasurer for the group during that time which



CREDIT: Wikimedia Commons

JAILED: The Provincial Court in Almería has jailed the defendant for two years.

gave him powers over the group's funds.

Prosecutors requested a three-year six months prison sentence for the defendant on the grounds that he had sought to obtain an 'illicit

benefit' from his role.

He was able to make at least €164,000 during his time in the post by incorporating the group's funds into his accounts, prosecutors added.

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Junta hails magnificent melons

THE Junta de Andalucía has started a 'no cuts in green' campaign with the aim of promoting the marketing of melon and watermelon.

A similar initiative on the subject was launched more than two decades ago in collaboration with Hortyfruta and the fruit and vegetable sector of Almería.

Cultivation of the two fruits has increased by 90 hectares over the past year, and Almería was the first

province to export watermelon (the second for melon).

Agriculture delegate Jose Manuel Ortiz said:

"The recovery of the national and international market share of Almería's watermelon, that had been lost, has been achieved thanks to the development of excellent produce that consumers appreciate."

Over the past year, the Agriculture Department has

carried out 65 inspections across 15 companies, in which 1,500 tons of these crops were assessed.

"The objective of the campaign is to raise awareness among farmers about the importance of the fruit meeting consumers' tastes, getting the level of maturity and flavour just right to ensure that marketing can be based on the quality of the product," added Mr Ortiz.

A city on the rise

ALMERIA has increased its number of tourists by almost 40 per cent in the last five years.

According to a hotel occupancy survey released by the Junta de Andalucía, the province experienced a record number of visitors and overnight stays last year.

Based on the provisional figures from the survey that were gathered by the National Institute of Statistics, Almería received a total of 1.4 million tourists in 2017, representing a 2.5 per cent in-

crease on the previous year.

In terms of Andalusian provinces, only Sevilla has maintained a similar expansion in visitor numbers to Almería, while Málaga tops the overall standings in exceeding five million visitors.

The data shows that foreign tourists are playing an increasingly important role in Almería, although Spaniards still make up 75 per cent of the total.

Moreover, while the average stay of Spaniards in Almería is 3.4 days, for foreign visitors it amounts to 5.4 days.

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NEWS EXTRA

Blood drive

THE Almeria Centre for blood transfusions has organised 32 donation points in more than 25 municipalities in order to maintain blood stocks in the province.

Sports funds

THE mayor of Adra Manuel Cortes has announced a series of sporting infrastructure projects with an estimated budget of €500,000. Among the projects announced was a new skate park and the renovation of the Pabellon Municipal de Deportes.

Green fingers

ALMERIA Council has begun works on clearing space for three allotments in the Los Angeles, Piedras Redondas-Los Almendros and Barrio Araceli following the success of the Costacabana project.

Report requested on Palomares cleanup

SPAIN'S national court has asked the Nuclear Safety Council (CSN) to submit a report on the status of radioactivity in Palomares.

The request comes after Ecologists in Action, an environmental group, filed a lawsuit at the court claiming targets and deadlines for the cleanup of the area had not been met.

The report, which received approval to begin in July 2015, aims to establish whether around half of the land contaminated by radioactive waste has been removed.

The goal on removing the amount of land, specifically 50,000 cubic metres, was agreed as part of the CSN's Palomares Rehabilitation Plan in May 2010. The Plan also set a deadline for the removal from the town near Cuevas del Almanzora, according to reports.

Ecologists in Action claimed regulators modified the plan in 2015. The amount of land marked for removal was reduced to 28,000 cubic metres after negotiations with the United States which caused the problem of waste to



CLEANUP: Radioactive waste was spilled over Palomares after nuclear bombs dropped on the area in 1966.

go unresolved, the group added.

The state lawyer, in response to the national court's request, said there was no unacceptable level of exposure to the population from the waste.

The basic principle of protection was guaranteed and all regulations have been complied with, the

lawyer added.

"The level of intervention set by the CSN for Palomares has been maintained over time. There have been no changes in the level as the claimant sustains.

"What has changed since 2015 is the activity concentration values due to the

fact that in the course of time, data and means have been available to consider more realistic solutions," the lawyer said.

The state bar, also responding to the case brought before the court, said it was 'impossible' to set a deadline for the 2010 plan because it was preliminary in nature.

Help from the US remains of 'primary importance' because Spain has no facilities to store the waste collected over the long term, the bar added.

The expropriation of land and fencing off of areas in Palomares helps to guarantee that the current dose of radioactivity is not exceeded, the bar said. The current radiological impact is not deemed significant, it added.

The cleanup of radioactive waste in Palomares dates back to 1966 when an US warplane crashed in midair while refuelling, dropping its payload of four nuclear bombs on Almeria.

The bombs did not go off. However, they spewed radioactive waste across the Palomares area on impact, with much of it still there.

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Nine arrested in drugs ring bust

OFFICERS of the National Police have arrested nine people and are investigating two others in relation to a drug trafficking and money laundering ring in Vicar.

Under Operation Rooster, €16,000 in cash and six high-end vehicles have been seized, while an embargo has been placed on nine other cars, a boat, four bank accounts and three properties.

Police became aware at the beginning of 2017 that a drugs gang had settled in Vicar, and were involved in the trafficking of narcotics for financial gain.



Credit: National Police

VICAR UNVEILED: The small town was the scene of a major operation.

Investigators then tracked their business network through which illicit capital flowed, and was enabling the purchase of the

exclusive cars and properties.

After further surveillance, all were identified and even their specific roles were exposed.

Job figures have spring in their step

THE number of registered unemployed in Andalucía fell by 6,541 people in March, according to the National Institute of Employment (INEM).

This represents a drop of 0.78 per cent over the previous month, and Andalucía remains below one million for its overall unemployment figure, which totals 837,426.

At the national level, data from the Ministry of Employment and Social Security shows that in March those out of work fell by 47,697 on the previous month.

The outlook has been boosted by the services sector, which usually gets its momentum during the Holy Week celebrations.

Almería Province has reported 547 fewer unemployed over the same period, a drop of 0.93 per cent.

Although the services sector saw those out of work fall by 12,208, construction and agriculture experienced rises of 2,547 and 1,619 respectively.

Of the Andalusian unemployment total, 480,034 were women, and 357,392 were men.



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Coast guards rescue hundreds off the coast

SPAIN'S Salvamento Marítimo rescued 231 people, including three young children, from a total of six boats in the Alboran Sea last week.

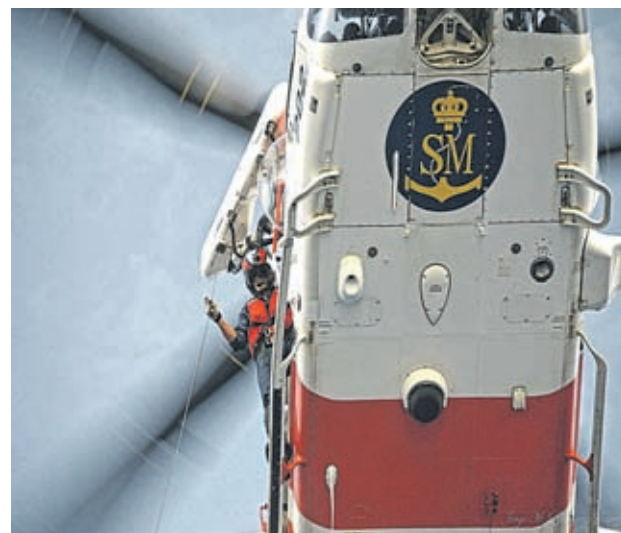
The operation began after coast guards were notified that a vessel had left Charrana, Morocco, according to a Ministry of Development spokesperson.

The SAR Mastelero vessel was despatched along with a Sesemar 305 plan to locate the boat. It was found carrying 59 people, including eight women and three young children.

The Mastelero then found another boat carrying a further 32 men and two women shortly afterwards.

The coast guard aircraft and a Helimer 207 helicopter later found three more boats carrying 38, 34 and 32 people.

A sixth boat with 34 men



RESCUED: Coast guards picked up a total of 231 people during the operation.

on board was found around 25 nautical miles southeast of Motril, Granada. They were transferred to the town's port after being taken off the boat.

Passengers from five of the boats were reportedly in good health when they were picked up and trans-

ferred to the migrant reception centre in Almería City's port. Red Cross workers were on hand to provide food, water, blankets and clothing.

All those travelling on the boats were migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, according to reports.

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Ref: NW1056 Beds: 3 | Baths: 2 Villa

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Cuevas del Almanzora 369,950€



Ref: NW1117
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Beds: 3 | Baths: 2 Villa

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Ref: NW1087 Beds: 3 | Baths: 2

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Ref: NW1089 Beds: 2 | Baths: 2

Immaculate ground floor apartment with 2 terraces on the popular El Faro community.

Mojácar 139,950€



Ref: NW1101 Beds: 2 | Baths: 1

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Ref: NW1106 Beds: 2 | Baths: 2

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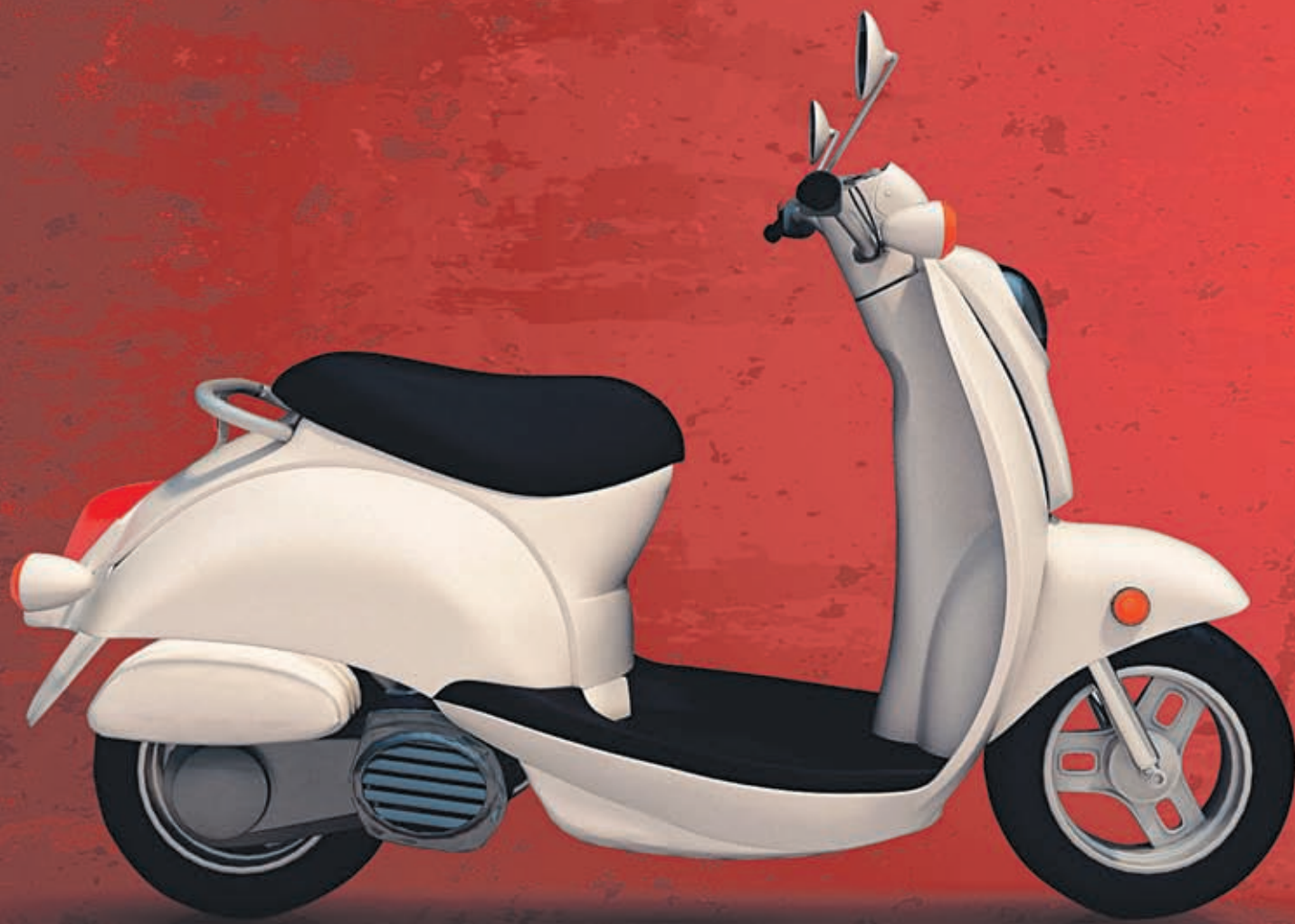


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Wave of funding for English Pier

THE Port Authority of Almería (APA) has announced its intention to invest €2.4 million for the renovation works of the iron ore loading site English Pier, a Cultural Inter-

est Property.

Restoration of the access platform will cost €975,290 and will be modelled as a pedestrian area, while €1.5 million will be spend on the

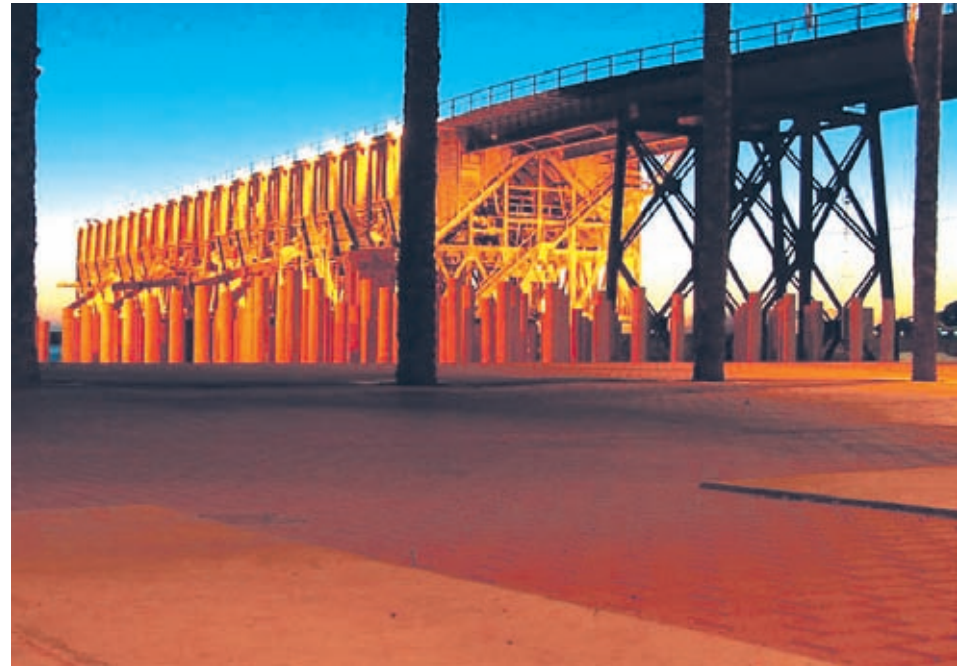
lighting of the English Pier.

Almería port will shoulder most of the financing, and a small contribution will come from the Culture Department.

The architect Ramon de Torres was commissioned to update the project he drew up in 2009 for the Junta de Andalucía.

It is hoped that the works will be completed by the end of May so that the iron ore can start to be loaded by the end of the year.

The Port Authority requested an analysis of the pier from Intemac, and the company recommended emergency action to avoid safety hazards for pedestrians eg landslides.



IRON MEN: The works will transform the pier and make it safer.

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TWO people were taken for medical treatment and five

blocks of flats were evacuated after a blaze broke out in a garage in Roquetas de Mar.

A total of 19 vehicles were also affected by the fire, which began on Calle Joaquín Rodrigo de Aguadulce at about 3.30pm on Friday.

Several flats evacuated after garage fire

Firefighters from Poniente, along with Guardia Civil and Local Police officers, Civil Protection personnel and paramedics were despatched to the blaze.

Two elderly people were left needing treat-

ment after the fire and a total of 15 cars and four motorcy-

cles were also affected.

The residents of nearby blocks of flats were also evacuated as a precautionary measure. They were able to return once the blaze was put out, according to Emergencias 112 Andalucía.



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FIREBALL: Astronomers said a rock from an asteroid created a trail of flames visible in the skies over Murcia.

Great ball of fire

Space debris spotted over Murcia

by Joe Gerrard

A TRAIL of flames in the sky seen by astronomers was caused by a rock from an asteroid, the Astronomical Complex La Hita in Toledo said.

The phenomenon was reportedly visible from Murcia, as well as Almeria and Granada, at around 6.17am on Monday.

It was recorded by monitors operated by the University of

Huelva and astronomical observatories in Calar Alto, Almeria, La Sagra and the Sierra Nevada, both in Granada and Sevilla.

Professor Jose Maria Madiedo, of the university, analysed data from the sighting which suggested the fireball had been caused by the debris' entry into the Earth's atmosphere.

Astronomers believe the rock was travelling at around

83,000 kilometres per hour when it passed over southern Spain.

It was sighted first over Granada before crossing into the skies above first Almeria and then Murcia, where it was about 29 kilometres high.

The monitoring was undertaken by the SMART project which aims to track the skies to record the impact of rocks from space on the Earth's atmosphere.

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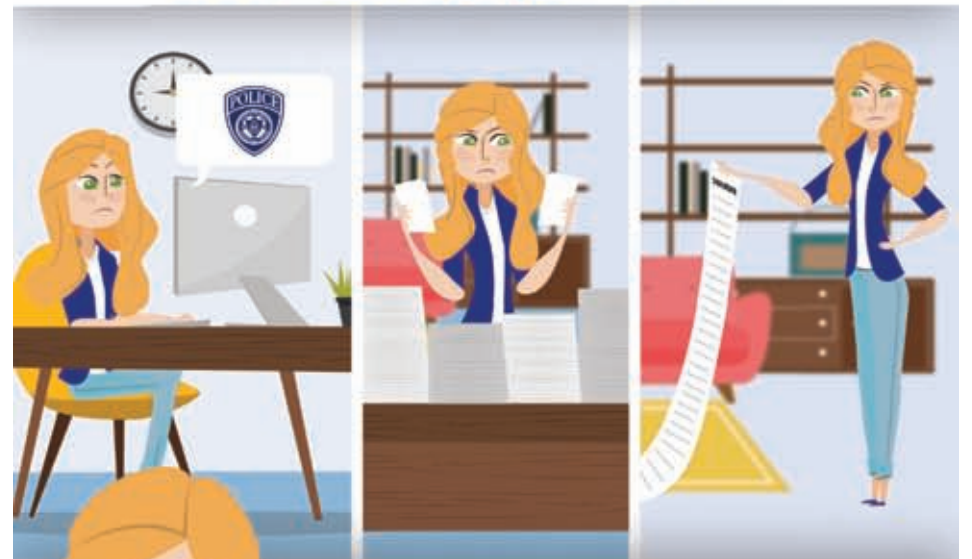
     

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NEWS EXTRA**Back on track**

THE Spanish Central Government's budget aims to invest €7.4 million for the development of the Almería-Murcia high-speed train line.

Big builds

DEVELOPMENT groups have put forward a total of 180 rural projects to the Junta de Andalucía in the hopes of receiving up to €22.63 million in grants, just 6.5 per cent of the total number of projects presented in Andalucía.

Pipe dream

LUBRIN has received €244,000 to invest in water supply and sanitation services, with work set to commence this week on two 125 cubic metre tanks in Rambla Aljibe.

Almeria set for €60 million in investment

SPAIN'S government has estimated around €60 million will be invested in Almería this year if the General State Budget is passed.

The ruling Partido Popular (PP) unveiled its spending proposals on Tuesday, with the €60 million figure coming from an initial analysis.

Around €37 million of the total will be spent on projects for state-run companies including the ACUAMED water treatment service and ADIF-Alta Velocidad, a railway infrastructure body.

More than €19 million is set to be spent on water projects, according to reports.



PROPOSED: Cristobal Montoro (left) presented the government's budget plans in Madrid on Tuesday.

Proposals have also been put forward to repair the Bajo Almanzora treatment plant.

More than €7 million will be spent on the AVE

railway body in the province if the budget is passed, the PP said.

Government ministers, including Treasury head Cristobal Montoro, presented proposals for the budget in Madrid on Tuesday.

President of the Diputación de Almería, Gabriel Amat also outlined further details at a meeting in the afternoon.

Jose Luis Sanchez Teruel, the head of the leftist Partido Socialista (PSOE) in Almería, said the plans did not respond to the needs of the province.

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Photo credit You Tube

JACK KNIFE: The man careered into a parked car before being pinned down by police.

Well fuelled!

A 'DRUNK' British holidaymaker was held by Spanish police after stealing a Coca Cola delivery lorry in Benidorm.

Footage emerged online showing the unnamed man shouting in English while being pinned down by an officer as horrified pedestrians look on.

He reportedly made off in the vehicle while the driver and his colleague were making a delivery on the corner of Avenida Mediterraneo and Calle Filipinas, before crashing into a parked car.

The video was shot by one of the delivery men, who explains that "this drunk foreigner stole our

lorry and everyone is watching. We called the police and pulled him out before they arrived.

"It was just unbelievable."

The culprit reportedly refused to undergo a breathalyser test before he was taken away, but it is unclear if he has been held in custody.

As he protests one of the police officers is heard to say in English: "Don't move a bit, buddy."

Benidorm's security councillor Lorenzo Martinez told local press that the dramatic incident showed "once again how effective our police are."

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Holiday horror

Irish boy, 10, killed in hit-and-run

TWO men have been held after a 10-year-old Irish schoolboy was killed in a suspected hit-and-run accident while on a family holi-

day in the Canary Islands.

Carter Carson, from Newtownabbey in County Antrim, described as 'a happy go lucky wee boy,' was

on holiday with dad Stuart and his partner Claire when he was hit by a car in Adeje, Tenerife.

The little boy died from his injuries in the intensive care unit at hospital the following day.

The occupants of the red Alfa Romeo fled the scene and did not stop to offer assistance, with Spanish investigators later revealing that two Latvian men have been held in connection with the incident.

Initial press reports suggested the suspects were British.

In a statement Joanne Griffith, principal of Abbots Cross Primary School said, "The whole school community is deeply saddened by the sudden loss of one of our pupils, Carter Carson.

"Carter was a quiet, hard-working boy with lovely manners and a gentle, car-



CREDIT: Guardia Civil

TWO QUIZZED: The red car with black wheels allegedly involved in the fatal accident.

ing nature. He loved a game of football and was an enthusiastic member of our school running club and our football club.

"He was recently our star pupil of the month and no one had a bigger smile than Carter when he received his Star Pupil Award.

"Our thoughts and

prayers are with Carter's immediate and wider family circle and we, as a primary school family, will do all we can to support them and Carter's many friends in school in the weeks and months ahead.

Friends of the Carson family have been raising money to pay for the repa-

triation and funeral costs, and have incredibly now raised almost £12,500 after setting a £3,000 target.

On the crowdfunding page it said, "Carter was a happy go lucky wee boy who just loved his footy. I can't even put into words how heartbreaking this is. Sleep tight wee man xxx."

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by Matt Ford

A BRITISH teenage murder suspect who was thought to be holed up in Spain has handed himself into police in the Netherlands.

Detectives have been hunting fugitive Bradley Blundell, 18, since John Pordage, 34, was shot through the heart outside a petrol station in Chelmsford, Essex, last summer.

And Essex police have confirmed that extradition papers are being readied after Blundell

turned himself in at a station in Dutch capital Amsterdam on Saturday.

Detective Chief Inspector Martin Pasmore, of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, told UK media that the victim's family have been informed.

"A number of agencies both in the UK and abroad, including the National Crime Agency (NCA), have been involved in this search, and we

extend our thanks for their welcome assistance," he added.

Mr Portage died from a single gunshot during an early

morning confrontation at a BP garage on August 5 last year.

A 16-year-old boy was last month cleared of the attack but charged with perverting

the course of justice during a trial at Chelmsford Crown Court.

And 18-year-old co-defendant Saul Stanley was found guilty of firearm offences before being jailed for five years.

Investigators initially thought that Blundell had fled to Ibiza in the wake of the shooting.

Murder suspect held

Brit teen hands himself in to Dutch police



Photo credit Essex Police



GOT HIM: Bradley Blundell and (inset) victim John Pordage.

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Photo credit: Twitter

FATALLY GORED: The Easter bull-running festival in Arcos de la Frontera, southern Spain.

Easter death shock

One killed and 20 injured in bull run

A MAN has been fatally gored at an Easter bull-running festival in southern Spain and a further 20 people hurt, one seriously.

The well-known local man, in his 50's, was gored in the lungs by a 510-kilo bull named Trampero, in the first run of the bulls at the festival in Arcos de la Frontera in Andalusia.

Despite being rushed to hospital in Jerez the man died from his injuries.

A shocking video of the incident that drew screams from horrified onlookers has been widely circulated on Twitter.

Another man was reported seriously in-

jured in the second bull run when his stomach was pierced. He was treated at the field hospital before being transferred to Villamartin.

More than 20 minor injuries were reported during the afternoon.

Over 120 safety and security personnel took part in the festival including Guardia Civil officers, Local Police, Civil Protection volunteers and paramedics.

In a statement, the mayor, Isidoro Gambin, expressed his 'support and affection' towards the family and close friends of the deceased.



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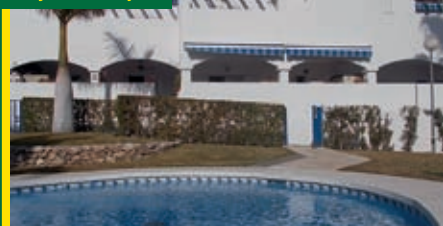
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A1335 135,000€

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A1336 169,000€

Mojácar Playa



Superb south facing 2 bed, 2 bath, golf penthouse of 95m² built. Golf & sea views. A/C. Terraces & Solarium. 2 x underground parking. Community pools & gymnasium

A1320 245,000€

Turre



Attractive 3 bed, 2 bath, detached villa of 100m² on a plot of 400m². A/C, large pool & gated parking. Short drive to town centre & the coast.

DV1454 210,000€

Mojácar Playa



Impressive 4 bed, 4 bath, detached villa of 212m² on 801m². Full rental licence. Sea views. Private pool & garage. Huge under build & more.

DV1456 475,000€

Vera



Superb south-facing 3 bed, 3 bath, detached villa of 220m² on a fenced plot of 10,900m². Good quality. Great views. 9x4 pool, A/C, carport & much more.

DV1447 380,000€

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3 bed, 3 bath, detached villa of 105m² on a plot of 424m² + garage of 11m². Private pool & terraces. Sea views. Excellent location for beaches & amenities.

DV1428 255,000€

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South-facing 3 bed, 2 bath, townhouse of 80m² on a plot of 98m² in a quiet residential area. Solarium. Sea & village views. Community pool

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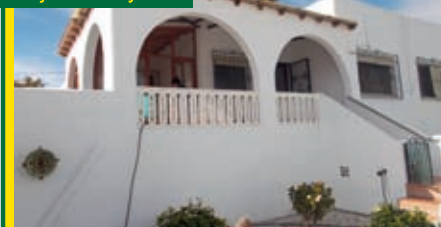
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Charming part renovated semi-detached property of 93m², previously used as an art gallery. There is at least 1 bedroom & 1 bathroom, and a covered terrace.

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A1327 138,000€

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A1183 130,000€

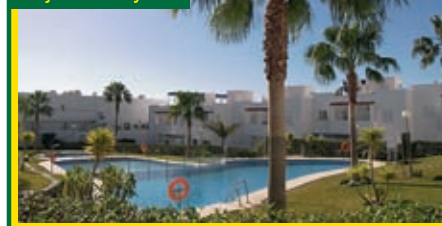
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2 bed, 1 bath, furnished penthouse apartment of 63m² + huge terrace of 43m² with fantastic sea views. Secure complex with community pool & gardens.

A1204 160,000€

Mojácar Playa



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A1330 182,500€

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

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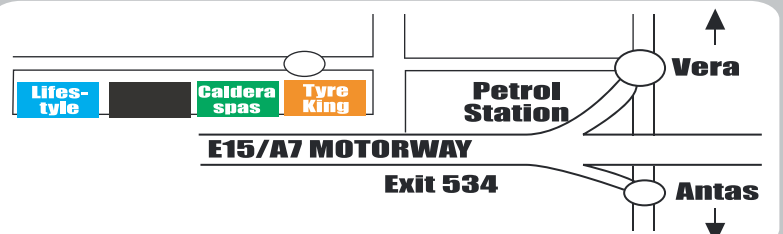
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Shell-shocked but false alarm

A STREET was cordoned off, the area evacuated and the bomb squad called in after a mortar shell was found in a street in Spain.

The National Police received a call about a possible explosive device next to a rubbish bin in the Mendebaldea district of Pamplona.

At around 3.00pm on Tuesday, a large police presence sealed off the area.

Bomb squad specialists from TEDAX were called in who declared that the mortar bomb was inert and didn't present any real risk of explosion.

It is believed that the mortar shell may have been owned by a collector who no longer wanted it and disposed of it in the rubbish container.

Cruise control

Teen bags luxury trip to Spain

A 15-YEAR-OLD boy from the United States is on his way to Spain after a cruise company offered him a €4,000 holiday in exchange for his Snapchat username.

Darian Lipscomb set up the handle @CarnivalCruise on the photo-sharing platform in 2012, when he was aged nine.

"When I was nine-year-old, I went on a cruise and got really excited and wanted to share it with my friends," the teen told local media in his hometown of Prospect, Virginia.

But American-British firm Carnival Cruise Line decided they wanted the handle for themselves.

Marketing chiefs left signs featuring the brand's 'chief fun officer,' ex-basketball star Shaquille O'Neal, asking 'Hey Prospect, does anyone know Darian?' around the town, before sending a lorry with a giant poster on the side to Darian's home.

"I answered the door, walked outside and saw my name on a big truck. I was really surprised," he said.

Darian agreed to trade his username for an all-expenses paid luxury trip to Barcelona on the maiden voyage of the company's brand new cruise liner, Carnival Horizon.

Organisers of the whacky scheme say he and his family will receive customised surprises throughout the holiday, which will be documented on the operator's social media accounts.

Carnival official Robyn Fink said: "We thought this would be a fun way to claim our handle and reward a 'superfan' at the same time," before describing the trip as a 'once-in-a-lifetime' experience.

Darian says he has yet to decide what his new Snapchat handle will be.

"I'll have to think up another name. Maybe another company name," he quipped.



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<p>Apartment in Mojacar Playa • VIP7267</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Bedrooms • 1 Bathroom • Communal Pool • Sea View <p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Price: 130,000€</p>	<p>Villa in Turre • VIP7520</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Bedrooms • 1 Bathroom • Private Pool <p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Price: 174,000€</p>	<p>Apartment in Villaricos • VIP7551</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bedrooms • 2 Bathrooms • Communal Pool • Gated Community <p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Price: 137,750€</p>	<p>Townhouse in Valle del Este • VIP7471</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bedrooms • 3 Bathrooms • Communal Pool • Golf Property <p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Price: 129,000€</p>
<p>Villa in Mojacar Playa • VIP7528</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bedrooms • 2 Bathrooms • Sea Views • Room for a Pool <p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Price: 325,000€</p>	<p>Apartment in Mojacar Playa • VIP7549</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Bedrooms • 1 Bathroom • Communal Pool • El Cantal Area <p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Price: 128,000€</p>	<p>Villa in San Juan de los Terreros • VIP7558</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bedrooms • 2 Bathrooms • Sea Views • Private Pool <p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Price: 265,750€</p>	<p>Villa in Turre • VIP7550</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bedrooms • 2 Bathrooms • Breathtaking Views <p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Price: 110,000€</p>
<p>Apartment in Mojacar Playa • VIP7559</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bedrooms • Private Solarium • Communal Pool and Gym • 2 Bathrooms • Sea Views <p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Price: 239,950€</p>	<p>Apartment in San Juan De Los Terreros • VIP7539</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Bedrooms • Communal Pool • 1 Bathroom • Easy Walking distance to Beach <p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Price: 121,000€</p>	<p>Apartment in Mojacar Playa • VIP7476</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Bedrooms • Communal Pool • Centrally Located • 1 Bathroom <p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Price: 139,000€</p>	<p>Townhouse in Vera Playa • VIP7526</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Bedrooms • 1 Bathroom • Private Solarium • Communal Pool <p style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Price: 89,000€</p>

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€ 600,000 to rescue ambulance service



AMBULANCES: A new building is to be provided at Torrecardenas hospital.

SIX companies have submitted bids for the tender of a new building for ambulances at the Hospital Torrecardenas de Almeria in a contract worth over €600,000.

The council of Almeria is now reviewing the applications, and the project will include the complete remodelling of the building and its infrastructure.

External works will also be undertaken to en-

sure that the premises are effectively connected and integrated with existing public services.

Hospital Torrecardenas is already expanding with a new building to house the maternal and child wings, and up until now the emergency department had been highlighted as a weakness.

Every speciality on the new premises will have the necessary waiting rooms, toilets, nursing and administrative spaces.

WANTED



4

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WE COVER ALL THE COSTA BLANCA

Grab a fayre bargain

ANGLICAN Chaplaincy of Costa Almeria and Costa Calida will hold their annual general meeting on Tuesday April 24. Please arrive at 11.30am for 12pm start.

The AGM will be held at the Miraflores Restaurant at Camping Los Gallardos and there will be lunch afterwards.

Contact Pam Carter on: 667 947 573 for more information.

On Saturday April 28, they will hold a Spring Fayre at Levante Car Park (opposite Price Brown) in Mojacar Playa. The fayre will open at 9.30am, and there will be many stalls available, entrance is free.

Non-church stall holders welcome for a fee of € 10. Contact Tony Noble on: 634 303 807 for more information.



NO RESISTANCE: The cast of Return to Hotel La Resistance.

Simply irresistible

FOLLOWING the success of Hotel La Resistance's seven sell-out shows, Shoestring Productions is pleased to announce that the sequel Return to Hotel La Resistance arrives in early May.

More laughter, fun, silliness and an unforgettable songs will be performed at Montmartre Bar and Restaurant in Mojacar. The show will be performed Friday May 4 and Sat-

urday May 5 from 8pm, with a further two shows on Sunday May 6 at 3.30pm and 6.15pm.

Tickets cost €8 and all proceeds will be donated to PAWS-PATAS. To pre-book your tickets do so online via Facebook (Shoestring Productions) or buy them directly from PAWS-PATAS locales in Mojacar and Las Buganvillas, or in Connexions in Turre.

APSA raffle

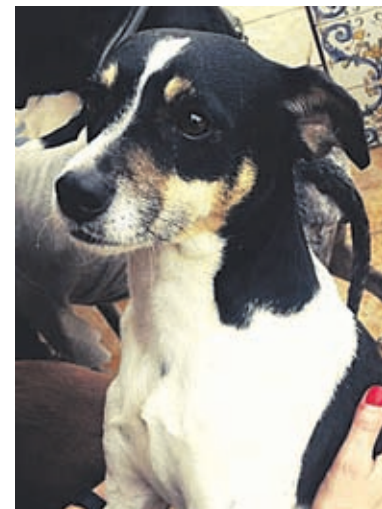
THE Animal Protection Society Albox (APSA) recently held its monthly raffle for March with tickets drawn by Jean from the Corner Shop.

The winners have been announced as follows: Charlie and Gerry Day have won a two-course Sunday lunch for two or fish and chips with dessert, donated by Almeria Tenpin Bowling.

Jean and Mac MacDonald won a €10 voucher, donated by Colin The Card. Jim Forrest won a €10

voucher, donated by Sol Supermarket. Doreen and Les Skinner won a bonus price from Albox Insurance Glenn.

APSA is grateful to the sellers, Jean, Mac and Keith, and to all the businesses who donated prizes. All proceeds go towards helping the many animals in the care of APSA.



LITTLE CHAP: One of the many dogs still needing homed.

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A Selection of our Latest Properties



Villa in San Juan De Los Terreros
Ref 1939 price €259.000

3 Bed 2 bath · Private pool · Video intercom on the Gate · Electric gate · Electric Shutters · Private parking · Sea views



Villa in San Juan De Los Terreros
Ref 1963 price €228.500

3 bed 3 bath · Air conditioning and heating · Private pool · Off street parking · Gated and walled property · Sea views



Villa in Desert Springs
Ref 2030 price €259.000

4 bed 4 bath · Air conditioning and heating · Private pool · Off street parking · Gated and walled property · Sea views **A REAL MUST SEE PROPERTY**



Villa in Antas
Ref 2067 price €185.000

3 bed 2 bath · Air conditioning · Private pool · Close to shops Bars etc · Close to golf **VERY HIGH SPEC !!**



New apartments in Carboneras
Ref 2063 price €113.000

1, 2 and 3 bedroom · High quality finish
10 year builders guarantee
Sea views · Ask about great finance plans



Beach front Apartment in Mojácar
Ref 2046 price €165.000

2 bed 2 bath · Communal pool and garden · Garage
Fully furnished · Air conditioning
Overlooking the beach !



Villa in Bedar
Ref 1742 price €299.000

3 bed 3 bath · Very large plot of 11,000m
Stunning views · Beautiful Gardens
Off street parking · Must be seen !!



Townhouse in Vera
Ref 1736 price €97.000

2 bed 1 bath · Fully furnished
Air conditioning · 2 communal pools
Very well kept gardens · Close to the beach and shops

Open Monday to Friday 10am - 6pm
Saturday 11am - 2pm

ADVICE TO SELLERS

Never pay to advertise | Agree inventory prior to contract
Never sign a sole agency agreement | Ask locally about your agent
Ensure reservation is paid to you, not an agent

ADVICE TO BUYERS

Appoint a solicitor to control all transactions | Ask locally about your agent
Never pay money to the agent, only to your solicitor | Research what you are looking for
Know your budget and don't be pushed into a purchase

Spanish firm wins UK deal

A SPANISH construction firm has landed a €161 million contract to build a motorway in the UK.

Madrid-based Sacyr beat off the competition to bag a 60 per cent slice of the €250 million scheme for the 26-kilometre A6 motorway between Dungiven and Durmahoe Dualling in Northern Ireland.

The stretch is part of the North Western Transport Corridor connecting Belfast and Londonderry, and the remaining 40 per cent of the project will be carried out by local Willis Bros.

Summer cheer for TV fans

SOME of the UK's biggest television broadcasters have relaxed their online regulations.

Britons in Spain and mainland Europe are now able to access pay-TV subscriptions, including Premier League football, without breaking the rules due to a new European Union digital single market decree.

Firms including Sky, ITV, Netflix and Amazon have been forced to open up their online TV services Now TV, ITV Hub+ and Prime Instant Video to users on the continent since Monday.

By Matt Ford

Prior to the move subscribers were unable to legally access their accounts and were forced to miss their favourite shows or rely on illegal streams.

"The new portability rules for online content is great news for TV lovers everywhere," said Gidon Katz, managing director of Sky's Now TV service. "Holidays are all about unwinding and it is clear TV is a big part about how Brits relax, so it's great news that you can swap your sofa for a sunbed and your

cuppa for a cocktail and never have to worry about missing your favourite TV on holiday again."

Free TV service providers are not adopting the new measure, however.

The BBC says that its iPlayer registration system is not secure enough to stop non-licence fee payers accessing content, while ITV and Channel 4 currently rake in around €1.1 billion per year selling shows to European broadcasters, meaning they are unlikely to ever follow the recommendation.

Airlines' €4m payout insult

MORE than 10,000 British travellers are being denied compensation from airlines totalling €4.6 million.

TUI, formerly known as Thompson, owes the most, with 5,000 passengers awaiting claims totalling €2.7 million, with budget carrier easyJet failing to reimburse more than 3,000 holiday-makers €1.7 million.

Travellers are entitled to compensation if their flight is more than three hours late, but law firm Bott and Co said that TUI in particular "displays ignorance" by disobeying court rulings.

Quote of the Week

Under plausible assumptions, the de-leveraging process of the public sector towards levels considered safer will be very gradual in Spain... possibly taking up to several decades." Bank of Spain Governor Luis Maria Linde.



MPs set to vote on delayed budget

THE Spanish government has presented its 2018 draft budget, six months late.

It comes after political instability in troubled northern region Cataluña delayed the process.

Finance Minister Cristobal Montoro said he forecasts a 2.7 per cent rise in gross domestic product and that unemployment will fall to 15.5 per cent this year.

State expenditure is to climb by 3 per cent to €327.9 billion, of which €246.28 billion will be set aside for pensions, payments to regional governments and unemployment benefits.

State income from taxes will soar by 6 per cent to more than €210 billion, the wage ceiling for income tax exemption has been boosted by €2,000 to €14,000 per annum, and there will be rebates for those earning less than €18,000 per year.



BETTER LATE THAN NEVER: Spain's finance minister Cristobal Montoro and President of the Congress of Deputies Ana Pastor Julian present the long overdue 2018 draft budget.

ing less than €18,000 per year.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's cabinet has already approved the draft, which now faces a parliamentary vote amid calls for the leader's resignation should it fail to be passed.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

Bubble alert checked out

INDUSTRY experts have warned that Spain faces a 'supermarket bubble' after the total reached 20,100 by the end of 2017, up from 17,148 in 2008 and equivalent to 3.4 for each 1,000 citizens compared to a European average of 2.6.

Pretty penne

SPAIN'S Ebro Foods - one of the world's leading rice producers - has snapped up 70 per cent of Italian filled pasta firm Bertagni, the world's oldest, for a fee in the region of €130 million, according to reports.

Jobs boom

THE number of people registered with social security in Spain has topped 18.5 million for the first time since December 2008, but critics say that more than 80 per cent of employment contracts issued in March were temporary.



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Travel giant forks out

EUROPE'S largest travel and tourism firm TUI has splashed €110 million to buy back part of Spanish hotel room company Hotelbeds Group.

The sale includes the group's Destination Management division, which comprises the global brands Destination Services, Intercruises and Pacific World.

TUI sold Hotelbeds for €1.2 billion in 2016, but CEO Fritz Jousen said that it had proven

impossible to split the company at the time, and that the purchase represents good value for money.

He added that the aim is to sell additional 'in-destination' activities to holidaymakers between them booking and leaving on their trips.

"That's a period where we can virtually exclusively offer these customers such services," the executive said.

LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES APRIL 2

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,703.50	42.50	2.56	22,709.83
Associated British Foods	2,500.00	9.00	0.36	19,807.69
Admiral Group	1,847.50	3.50	0.19	5,350.55
Ashtead Group	1,959.50	19.50	1.01	9,559.29
Antofagasta	922.50	1.50	0.16	8,979.18
Aviva	497.00	1.10	0.22	19,977.91
AstraZeneca	4,860.00	-35.50	-0.73	62,613.23
BAE Systems	583.00	1.60	0.28	18,343.26
Barclays	209.00	2.50	1.21	35,156.77
British American Tobacco	4,150.00	19.00	0.46	93,672.48
Barratt Developments	529.00	-1.40	-0.26	5,388.74
Berkeley Group Holdings	3,894.50	105.50	2.78	5,080.62
British Land Co	640.50	-1.50	-0.23	6,333.68
BHP Billiton	1,395.00	-8.60	-0.61	29,083.23
Bunzl	2,095.50	0.00	0.00	6,943.75
BP	474.00	-5.25	-1.10	93,909.29
Burberry Group	1,597.50	-98.50	-5.81	7,100.15
BT Group	224.20	-3.30	-1.45	22,398.70
Coca-Cola HBC	2,450.00	-184.00	-6.99	9,488.16
Carnival	4,625.00	45.00	0.98	9,416.10
Centrica	142.25	0.05	0.04	7,922.60
Compass Group	1,467.50	12.00	0.82	23,515.33
Croda International	4,567.00	0.00	0.00	5,983.18
CRH	2,410.00	0.00	0.00	20,299.19
DCC	6,565.00	0.00	0.00	5,902.03
Diageo	2,410.00	-2.00	-0.08	59,154.57
Direct Line Insurance Group	379.50	-1.80	-0.47	5,192.00
Evrast	427.25	-7.25	-1.67	6,089.09
Experian	1,513.00	-24.50	-1.59	14,181.96
easyJet	1,589.00	-15.50	-0.97	6,220.28
Ferguson	5,420.00	66.00	1.23	13,535.46
Fresnillo	1,276.50	8.00	0.63	9,082.21
G4S	242.25	-5.85	-2.36	3,823.13
GKN	412.50	-50.50	-10.91	7,269.01
Glencore	358.03	4.23	1.20	50,940.97
GlaxoSmithKline	1,380.00	-14.00	-1.00	69,295.20
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,632.75	0.00	0.00	7,750.37
Halma	1,189.50	10.50	0.89	4,403.84
HSBC Holdings	670.00	4.60	0.69	134,014.28
International Consoldtd Air Gr	620.00	5.40	0.88	12,286.20
InterContinental Hotels Grp	4,285.00	17.00	0.40	8,282.70
3i Group	873.20	14.20	1.65	8,450.54
Imperial Brands	2,616.50	190.50	7.85	22,956.45
Informa	719.10	0.00	0.00	5,906.47
Intertek Group	4,876.00	216.00	4.64	7,557.92
ITV	145.50	1.35	0.94	5,836.84
Just Eat	754.20	55.80	7.99	4,711.35
Johnson Matthey	3,065.00	23.00	0.76	5,984.05
Kingfisher	293.50	1.00	0.34	6,271.94
Land Securities Group	935.50	-1.60	-0.17	6,932.65

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Legal & General Group	257.00	-0.80	-0.31	15,337.58
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	65.05	0.39	0.60	46,755.36
London Stock Exchange Grp	4,127.00	0.00	0.00	14,316.76
Micro Focus International	989.50	2.70	0.27	4,277.55
Mediclinic International	700.50	99.50	16.56	4,215.56
Marks & Spencer Group	270.00	-0.20	-0.07	4,341.33
Mondi	1,885.50	-29.50	-1.54	7,051.02
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	213.45	0.00	0.00	4,911.92
National Grid	817.05	14.85	1.85	27,016.11
NMC Health	3,276.00	-124.00	-3.65	7,070.56
Next	4,840.00	81.00	1.70	6,923.15
Old Mutual Group	215.00	-24.30	-10.15	11,695.61
Paddy Power Betfair	7,302.50	0.00	0.00	6,163.58
Prudential	1,862.50	84.00	4.72	47,580.15
Persimmon	2,739.50	209.50	8.28	7,900.95
Pearson	750.70	1.70	0.23	5,865.81
Reckitt Benckiser Group	5,962.50	-71.50	-1.18	42,231.17
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	254.00	-4.80	-1.85	30,752.59
Royal Dutch Shell	2,245.00	11.50	0.51	102,585.09
Royal Dutch Shell	2,310.00	33.00	1.45	85,584.37
RELX	1,460.00	-5.00	-0.34	15,501.07
Rio Tinto	3,586.50	-24.50	-0.68	47,185.31
Royal Mail	506.70	-34.10	-6.31	5,358.00
Rolls-Royce Group	876.50	4.90	0.56	16,232.71
Randgold Resources	5,875.00	-7.00	-0.12	5,496.52
RSA Insurance Group	630.50	0.50	0.08	6,466.49
Rentokil Initial	250.50	-21.20	-7.80	4,999.12
Sainsbury (J)	236.75	-2.05	-0.86	5,136.34
Schroders	3,163.50	-28.50	-0.89	7,203.33
Sage Group (The)	647.50	8.30	1.30	6,974.88
Segro	601.30	0.00	0.00	5,987.47
Shire	3,535.00	-35.50	-0.99	31,875.58
Smurfit Kappa Group	3,019.00	137.00	4.75	6,944.57
Sky	1,331.25	33.75	2.60	22,630.86
Standard Life Aberdeen	398.25	38.55	10.72	10,796.41
Smith (DS)	478.55	7.95	1.69	5,002.41
Smiths Group	1,591.25	77.75	5.14	5,983.77
Scottish Mortgage Invstmnt Trst	448.00	5.80	1.31	6,131.23
Smith & Nephew	1,280.50	-50.50	-3.79	11,804.45
SSE	1,292.00	16.00	1.25	13,134.85
Standard Chartered	710.50	-2.20	-0.31	23,576.31
St James's Place	1,068.25	-18.25	-1.68	5,766.98
Severn Trent	1,950.00	106.00	5.75	4,366.32
Tesco	205.50	-0.40	-0.19	20,059.10
TUI AG	1,633.50	105.50	6.90	8,998.77
Taylor Wimpey	183.45	-1.15	-0.62	6,075.86
Unilever	3,899.50	-56.00	-1.42	48,229.84
United Utilities Group	691.00	-24.40	-3.41	4,936.87
Vodafone Group	195.50	1.28	0.66	51,718.66
WPP Group	1,135.00	2.50	0.22	14,412.64
Whitbread	3,721.00	21.00	0.57	6,809.44

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DOW JONES

CLOSING PRICES APRIL 2

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE%	CHANGE	VOLUME(M)
3M	212,620	-3,14%	-6,900	126.571,69
AMERICAN EXPRESS	91,0000	-2,44%	-2,2800	78.333,29
APPLE	166,680	-0,66%	-1,100	845.736,49
BOEING CO	322,440	-1,66%	-5,440	189.227,19
CATERPILLAR	143,890	-2,37%	-3,490	86.076,04
CHEVRON	112,24	-1,58%	-1,80	214.597,85
CISCO SYSTEMS	41,010	-4,38%	-1,880	202.737,94
COCA-COLA	42,67	-1,75%	-0,76	181.987,52
DOWDUPONT	62,04	-2,62%	-1,67	144.464,46
EXXON MOBIL	73,22	-1,86%	-1,39	310.436,48
GENERAL ELECTRIC	13,1200	-2,67%	-0,3600	113.928,55
GOLDMAN SACHS	247,35	-1,79%	-4,51	93.825,04
HOME DEPOT	172,9000	-3,00%	-5,3400	200.045,61
IBM	150,07	-2,19%	-3,36	138.248,88
INTEL CORP	48,9200	-6,07%	-3,1600	228.945,60
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	107,8500	-1,93%	-2,1200	370.308,32
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	124,5600	-2,80%	-3,5900	334.256,63
MC DONALD'S CORP	157,7200	+0,86%	1,3400	125.316,15
MERCK AND CO. NEW	53,27	-2,20%	-1,20	143.518,22
MICROSOFT	88,520	-3,01%	-2,750	682.895,51
NIKE	64,12	-3,49%	-2,32	83.258,67
PFIZER	35,0500	-1,24%	-0,4400	208.676,39
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	77,400	-2,37%	-1,880	195.050,06
TRAVELERS CIES	134,84	-2,90%	-4,02	36.640,06
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	123,48	-1,86%	-2,34	98.866,65
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	217,20	+1,50%	3,20	210.447,33
VERIZON COMMS	47,16	-1,38%	-0,66	194.853,40
VISA	118,39	-1,03%	-1,23	213.340,62
WAL-MART STORES	85,5500	-3,84%	-3,4200	253.342,86
WALT DISNEY CO	98,6600	-1,77%	-1,7800	148.157,14

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NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES APRIL 2

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Credit Suisse AG	\$ 11.20	1.78 ▲ 18.90%
MediciNova, Inc.	\$ 12.15	1.93 ▲ 18.88%
Allena Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 13.07	2.05 ▲ 18.60%
Forward Pharma A/S	\$ 2.44	0.27 ▲ 12.44%
ProShares UltraPro Short NASDAQ Biotechnology	\$ 11.75	1.29 ▲ 12.33%
TRACON Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 2.55	0.25 ▲ 10.87%
Commvault Systems, Inc.	\$ 63.40	6.20 ▲ 10.84%
Mannatech, Incorporated	\$ 17.40	1.70 ▲ 10.83%
ArQule, Inc.	\$ 3.18	0.30 ▲ 10.42%
Clementia Pharmaceuticals Inc.	\$ 16.72	1.57 ▲ 10.36%
Credit Suisse AG	\$ 21.90	1.90 ▲ 9.50%
Most Declined		
SORL Auto Parts, Inc.	\$ 4.99	1.52 ▼ 23.35%
Alkermes plc	\$ 45.23	12.73 ▼ 21.96%
Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 101.18	17.92 ▼ 15.05%
Rhythm Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 17.02	2.88 ▼ 14.47%
Concert Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 19.66	3.24 ▼ 14.15%
KemPharm, Inc.	\$ 6.80	1.10 ▼ 13.92%
Ovid Therapeutics Inc.	\$ 6.16	0.91 ▼ 12.87%
Pacira Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 27.50	3.65 ▼ 11.72%
Proshares UltraPro Nasdaq Biotechnology	\$ 28.11	3.72 ▼ 11.69%
Arena Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 35.30	4.20 ▼ 10.63%
resTORbio, Inc.	\$ 8.57	1.01 ▼ 10.54%

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PRICE MOVEMENT

£0.0039

Accumulating Funds

Multi Asset Conservative B GBP

Multi Asset Conservative B EUR

Multi Asset Balanced B GBP

Multi Asset Balanced B EUR

Multi Asset Growth B GBP

Multi Asset Growth B EUR

DEALING PRICE

£1.1370

£1.0501

£1.2870

£1.1780

£1.4196

£1.3060

PRICE MOVEMENT

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-£0.0064

-£0.0211

-£0.0204

-£0.0387

-£0.0368

.....

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Monetary policies driving the majors

Ask the expert

Peter Loveday



Currencies Direct

Contact me at euroweekly@currenciesdirect.com

EURO

EUR/GBP: Down from £0.89 to £0.87

EUR/USD: Up from \$1.21 to \$1.24

The outlook of the European Central Bank (ECB) has been a major source of movement for the euro in recent weeks amid discussions over when the bank would seek to begin raising interest rates.

While the ECB's March policy meeting saw the bank remove the easing bias from its policy statement, the news that the ECB would be winding up its stimulus programme was undermined by a dovish outlook from President Mario Draghi.

The euro also found its advance limited in March as more modest Eurozone economic data was seen as further evidence that growth in the bloc may have begun to level out in 2018.

Looking ahead, the ECB's path towards tightening monetary policy is likely to remain in the spotlight for EUR investors over the coming



THE POUND: On the way up at the moment.

month, with the euro possibly spiking if the bank strikes a more bullish tone in April's policy meeting.

Pound

GBP/EUR: Up from €1.12 to €1.14

GBP/USD: Up from \$1.37 to \$1.41

Speculation of an upcoming rate hike from the Bank of England (BoE) was the main contributing factor to the pound's advance in March, which saw GBP climb to its highest levels of 2018.

Some impressive UK wage growth figures saw most investors lock in a May rate hike from the BoE, limiting the impact of hawkish comments from policymakers in the wake of the BoE's March policy meeting.

Sentiment was also lifted by some positive progress in Brexit negotiations as the UK and EU were able to come to an agreement over a transition period.

Brexit developments are likely to continue dictating the direction of the pound over the next month, with market sentiment likely to dip again unless some positive progress is made towards a post-Brexit trade deal with the EU.

US Dollar

USD/GBP: Down from £0.72 to £0.70

USD/EUR: Down from €0.81 to €0.80

The Federal Reserve voted to raise interest rates again in March, with anticipation of the hike lending some underlying strength to the US dollar throughout the month, although a more cautious outlook from the Fed saw USD tumble in the immediate wake of the decision.

The US dollar has also faced considerable pressure in recent weeks as Donald Trump shocked markets by announcing blanket tariffs on steel, triggering concerns about the possibility of a US-led trade war.

The potential for further US political or trade uncertainty is likely to keep USD on its toes over the coming weeks, with any further shake up in the White House likely to reflect negatively on the US dollar.

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'HOLY GRAIL OF SHIPWRECKS' ROW GOES ON €14bn treasure hunters

THE Colombian government has sparked outrage after pledging to spend millions in public funds to raise a treasure-filled Spanish warship from the depths.

The galleon San Jose was found by an American search team in 1981 after lying at the bottom of the sea for more than 300 years.

The 60-gun Spanish navy vessel was transporting a six-year haul of gold, silver, and precious jewels back to Spain from the Americas in 1708, when it was attacked by the British Royal Navy.

But the ship was blown up after a battle broke out, with almost 600 Spanish sailors drowning as it sank in the Caribbean Sea near the Colombian port of Cartagena.

According to estimates, the booty on board is now worth €8-14 billion, and president Juan Manuel Santos last week revealed plans for a €57.5 million splurge

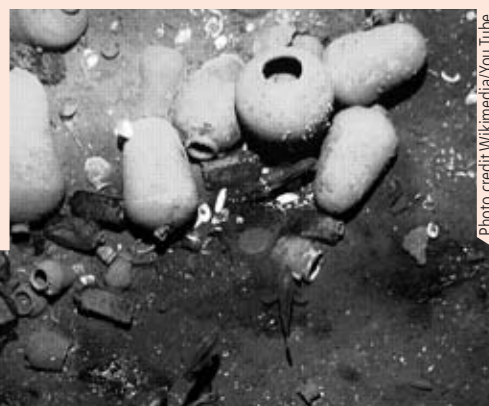


Photo credit Wikimedia/You Tube

GOLD RUSH: The wreck could be the world's richest and (inset) a painting by UK artist Samuel Scott shows the San Jose being destroyed by the British navy.

to recover the precious cargo.

He said that some of the cash will be spent on building a laboratory and museum for preserving archaeological and cultural remains.

However there is an ongoing dispute between Spain, US-based salvage company Sea Search Armada (SSA), which found the wreck, and Colombia over who should claim the haul.

Madrid has always claimed that

the boat flew the state flag, was crewed by Spaniards and that the site is a Spanish war grave, a tactic it has successfully used to reclaim sunken warships in the past.

The SSA agreed to share details of the galleon's location with Colombia in 1984 on the understanding it would receive a 35 per cent cut of the treasure.

But the Colombian parliament failed to honour the deal, passing a law entitling SSA to a 5 per cent 'finder's fee' taxed at 45 per cent.

SSA sued, sparking an 18-year legal battle which ended in 2007, when the Colombian Supreme Court ruled that SSA should receive 50 per cent of the hoard.

In 2015, President Santos claimed that a Colombian team had located the wreck in a different location to that reported by SSA and reasserted ownership of the ship.

He appears set to push on with plans to raise the San Jose as the decades-long quarrel rumbles on.

Built on deep foundations

A SPANISH banking foundation has been named the third-largest organisation of its kind in the world.

The Foundation of the Valencia-based La Caixa group is worth €24 billion, according to the Coordinadas Institute of Governance and Applied Economics.

The organisation - which manages social welfare body Obra Social - is beaten only by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which has assets valued at €32.8 billion, and the UK-based Wellcome Trust, worth an estimated €26.3 billion.

La Caixa also ranks third globally in terms of annual investment, having spent more than €500 million on philanthropic projects for the 10th consecutive year in 2017.

The Gates Foundation last year laid out €3.4 billion and Wellcome Trust €1.4 billion.



High street battle goes on

SUPERMARKET TAKES AIM AT ONLINE GIANTS

FRENCH supermarket giant Carrefour is to massively expand the number of products available to Spanish internet shoppers.

The retailer's offshoot Carrefour Spain wants to increase its range of goods by launching a digital marketplace open to third party suppliers.

And the move will see the firm's catalogue skyrocket from its current 100,000 items to more than two million.

It comes after the chain successfully opened online marketplaces in France and Poland, with a Belgian version in the pipeline.

Rafael Sanchez-Sendarrubias, director of ecommerce for Carrefour Spain, said: "We consider that it is a disruptive and quite interesting idea for our customers."

"The biggest advantage of a marketplace is the speed: to be able to have a wide offer in a very short time."

"A marketplace is a magical place that can bring together the interests of customers and sellers."

One intriguing aspect of the marketplace platform is the 'click and collect' service, allowing customers to pick up their goods from a local hypermarket or smaller outlet.

High tech digital terminals will also be installed in the firm's shops so customers can make online purchases if they are unable to find what they need in store.

As internet market leader Amazon proved after installing collection lockers in American supermarkets, introductions like these can increase footfall.

Carrefour's online offering is already established in Spain, attracting 87 million visits, 35 million unique users and around 320 million page views per year, according to figures from the National



Photo credit Carrefour

ONE STOP SHOP: Carrefour hopes the new platform will send sales soaring.

Institute of Statistics.

Carrefour says that third party suppliers will be able to list their products on the marketplace free of charge and with no fixed time limit, and will also consider selling popular products in its stores.

Business-owners can simply upload their products to the platform and wait for the orders to come in via email from the marketplace team.

They must then pack and send out the orders, before being paid by Carrefour, which will snap up an unconfirmed cut of each sale.

The move marks an increasing trend by brick and mortar retailers to increase their range by hosting third party suppliers online as they struggle to compete with Amazon and eBay.

Power supplier scoops €770m mega contract

SPANISH multinational electricity firm Iberdrola has bagged a €770 million contract to link the United States and Canada.

The Bilbao-based company beat off competition from 45 rivals to win the 20-year agreement.

It will see a new 230-kilometre high voltage line built, which when complete will send electricity generated from 'clean' wind and water sources from Canada to Maine, New England.

The scheme is expected to generate 3,700 jobs and become operational in 2020 according to Iberdrola president Ignacio Sanchez Galan.

He added: "The awarding of this contract reaffirms our commitment to clean energy and long-term infrastructure projects... while also increasing our presence in the US, a key market for future investment."

The project is expected to supply 1.5m customers while reducing carbon dioxide emissions by the equivalent of 296,000 cars.



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The cheats can cry all they like

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT

OTHERS THINK IT



OH dear. Poor little dinkums.

Didn't the sight of all those weeping willow wielders fair bring a tear to your eyes? Well it didn't mine. These so called Australian 'sportsmen' were not sports at all. They were cheats. They weren't crying because they were repentant, they were crying because they got caught.

Had their underhanded, unsporting actions gone undetected, they would have been splashed across the media all butch bronzed and beaming - with eager sponsors queuing up to pour even more money into their already over-stuffed coffers. And there's the rub. These days sport is all about money. Gone are the glorious days of true sportsmen and women who competed against each other out of pure pride and sporting rivalry.

During the amateur days of yore, apart from a couple of countries who used events as propaganda exercises, I can't recall any accusations of cheating by the competitors or officials. Nowadays they are all at it. Doping, drugging, betting and game throwing are now regular features on the back pages of the nationals. Hardly any corner of the sporting world has not been infected by this



'CRYING BECAUSE THEY GOT CAUGHT': Australian cricketers Cameron Bancroft (left) and Steve Smith face the media in the wake of the ball-tampering scandal.

greedy virus that leads to the 'win at any cost' attitude that prevails among the athletes of today.

And you know what really sticks in my craw. Sooner or later they all seem to wheedle their way back in. Even those who commit, what are to my mind unforgivable offences, are, after the authorities have considered their wrists have been

slapped hard enough, allowed back in to carry on as though nothing has happened!

Well, if I had my way, this unsporting bunch of arrogant manipulators would never be allowed to partake in any sporting event again. I also think they should be heavily fined and stripped of all past medals and winner's awards. After all, who

knows how long they have been at it? We must bear in mind, that they have also been cheating the public. When sports fans indulge in these events we like to think that everyone involved is competing against each other in an equally fair and legal manner, otherwise what's the point?

No, they can cry all they like. If it comes on top, they should all get the chop. Don't lie and cheat if you can't take the heat! That's my opinion anyway. After all it's just not cricket is it clobber?

Another pair of wailers this week were the despicable duo who were dubbed 'the Beatles' (I bet that pleased Paul and Ringo!), by their equally despicable Daesh leaders after they were quite rightly relieved of their UK citizenship.

'We don't belong anywhere' they simpered. 'We won't get a fair trial.'

'Who's going to campaign for us.' What?! 'Our Mums won't know where we are,' they drivelled on. You really couldn't make it up. Perhaps they should have thought of these things when they were sawing off the heads of journalists or torturing and crucifying innocent aid workers. I wonder what sort of a fair trial those poor victims got? Not a lot I'll be bound.

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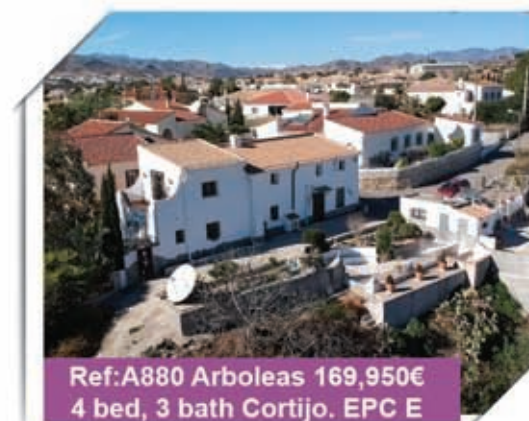


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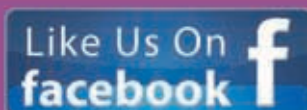
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**TECH FOR
THE TIMID**

REMEMBER when computers were huge chunky towers with noisy fans, colonising vast areas of our desktop or floor?

Oh, how insensitive of me: yours still is. Forgive me if I've become slightly supercilious now that I have a tiny new desktop toy and have seen the future of computing.

A complete computer in a cube, it's barely a CD case on steroids, stuffed with the latest processor, memory and solid-state hard-drive, and it's light-years more powerful than many computer towers big enough to smuggle children across Checkpoint Charlie.

Welcome to the era of the Mini PC. Albeit a belated welcome, because while the rest of us have been getting on with life the universe and everything, Intel, HP, Asus, Gigabyte and scores of Asian innovators have been jumping on the Mini PC bandwagon. Indeed, the device I am now wooing is already in its sixth generation.

As fewer consumers buy traditional desktops, and with laptops dominating the new computer market, compress-

Don't cry for me Argentina if something breaks, says Terence Kennedy

Terence Kennedy discovers the joys of cubism in a big market for small computers



ANYONE FOR TENNIS? Big power, little footprint.

ing laptop miniaturisation into a hybrid desktop version was inevitable.

Inside these compact cubes is a tightly-packed circuit board, a processor with or without an almost silent fan depending on its power, one or two RAM (memory) sticks, and either your own SSD (solid state hard-drive)

or an onboard one, depending on the model and price range.

Mini, or cube, or 'NUC' computers (Next Unit of Computing, a truly awful name Intel probably went with because no-one dared to contradict the boss) free your desk of the clutter of a monster machine. They can even be



bolted to the back of the monitor, out of sight and reach.

Less than a €100 buys you a basic Chinese mini (just add a keyboard, monitor or mouse), all the way up to several hundreds for one which could calculate Pi to several squintillion decimal places, make coffee and play an infinite number of cat videos.

They come ready-made, or as so-called 'barebones' systems where you choose and install your own memory, storage media and operating system.

They're also bought as fancy home theatre media centres, to power in-store marketing displays, and as the ideal solution for workers who 'hot-desk' between workplaces, just unplug the cube and pop it in your briefcase.

Mini magic

HARD to believe you can buy a complete Mini PC for just €89 in a growing market for these tiny wonders.

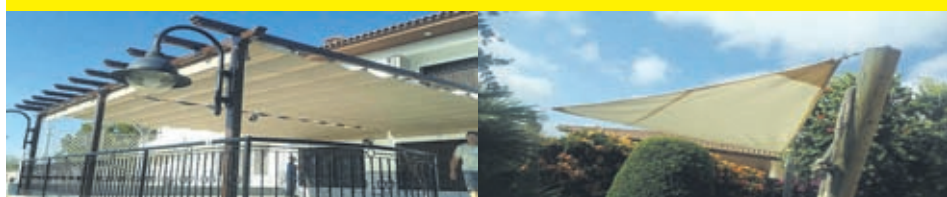
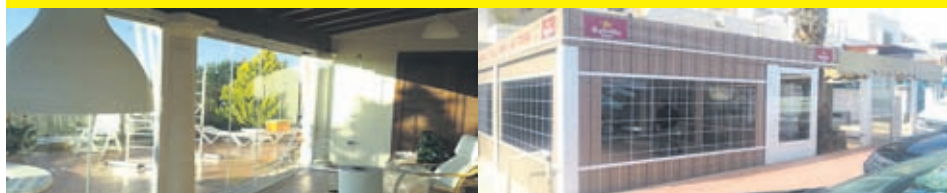
But beware: for that you only get an 'Atom' processor (slow), 2 GB of memory (barely adequate for Windows 10) and 32 GB of on-board storage (which will soon fill up).

Amazingly it does include a legitimate copy of Windows 10, whose licence alone would probably cost you that.

Far better to pony up for something better. This new love of my life has a quad-core processor, 8 GB of RAM and 240 GB of storage, and gave me change from €300.

Now you must excuse me while I pursue my latest affair. I wonder if it prefers flowers, chocolates or a bottle of Rioja?

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No-show diners take big bite out of restaurants' piece of the pie

Nora Johnson

Breaking Views

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

NO-SHOWS, the curse of many UK restaurants, are now so commonplace that some name and shame them online like local papers once did to paedophiles.

Over one single weekend a Peterborough restaurant lost £3,000, while over a month an Edinburgh chef had 450 no-shows and cancellations. Apparently, people book several restaurants, making a final choice on the night.

Perhaps it's all down to impersonal online booking systems making it too easy to 'ghost' without blame?

Similarly, no-shows for house viewings with estate agents are also common across the industry. Sadly, this is how many people behave these days and actually think it's OK.

Maybe one solution for restaurants is non-refundable deposits - or like an increasing number of restaurants especially in hipster Hackney, decline all bookings and simply open the doors? And if it gets full, just turn 'em away.

No shows at restaurants are bad enough, but in the NHS, they come at a huge cost - last year alone they cost the NHS £1 billion - and take away appointments from those really in need.

As for 'ghost' appointments, I know of someone who regularly books a GP's appointment a month in advance, then if she doesn't need it, simply



GOES ON AND ON: Empty chairs at empty tables.

cancels. Which is one way round the problem of not being able to get an appointment, I suppose - and sums up today's '#me, me, me' culture.

While a no-bookings system clearly wouldn't work in today's NHS, it's not unknown.

One GP's surgery, I read about decades ago, had bench-

es. You arrived, took your seat and slid along onto the bench in front as patients were seen, until you were next in line.

Finally, heard about the

waiter fired for rudeness in Canada claiming he was 'just being French'? But rudeness is hardly a uniquely French trait, is it? Many European countries, umm, serve up something similar.

Perhaps he should be 'time-travelled' back across the pond to Torquay, and have a stint at that bastion of politeness, Fawlty Towers. Question is: would he get his just desserts there from Basil?

Nora Johnson's psychological crime thrillers *'The Girl in the Red Dress'*, *'No Way Back'*, *'Landscape of Lies'*, *'Retribution'*, *'Soul Stealer'*, *'The De Clerambault Code'* (www.nora-johnson.net) available from Amazon in paperback/eBook (€0.99; £0.99) and iBook store.

All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca cancer charity.

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

Advertising Feature

LPL strengthening their service

AS founders of LPL we are so pleased to see our Spanish representative Greg Bryan signing an agreement with the Administrador Fincas Colegiado which represents Administrators throughout the Alicante region.

This agreement gives a fantastic cost benefit to their membership. The members are made up of the bulk of community administrators in the region and there will be a direct benefit to the hundreds of communities represented by administrators when instructing LPL by paying fees for successful collection at a reduced rate.

It also allows us to meet regularly with the membership to discuss debt related issues in the UK, Spain and throughout Europe generally.

Of course LPL are pleased to also benefit from the services offered by the Alicante AFC by way of training, marketing, ongoing trends in the market place and as well as updates on Spanish law in particular.

LPL has been proud to also be associated with Malaga AFC with whom we have enjoyed a similar relationship for a number of years. Hundreds of communities in the Malaga



SIGNING THE AGREEMENT: To further improve service to clients in Spain.

region consistently benefit from lower costs and over the years we have had the opportunity to meet many administrators and their teams to understand the problems that all communities suffer from time to time.

I hope that the same benefits will

translate to communities in the Alicante region and beyond.

Suffice to say that whilst we would all prefer there to be no community debt, it is a sad fact of life that management fee debt will continue. It is a problem not only in Spain, but LPL

are also working for communities in Portugal, Cyprus and elsewhere, the problems are no different, it is just the language that changes.

It is worth noting that property laws and government controls on property purchase in Cyprus have, up until re-

cently, been very lax indeed, allowing developers and land owners to take advantage of potential and future buyers. Obtaining high value deposits with no prospect of final build and also leaving other buyers obligated to pay high management fees on incomplete developments.

Fortunately the law is changing much along the lines of Spanish Horizontal law but if any of the readership have experienced problems in Cyprus, please let LPL know as we can put you in touch with specialist advisors who may be able to assist.

As some of you may know, LPL recently celebrated 40 years of successful collection. The recent contract signing with Alicante AFC is another milestone in our continued growth throughout Spain.

If your community has any management fee collection problems, wherever you may be situated, please do not hesitate to contact us on 0044 205 514 019, direct to Greg Bryan our representative in Spain on 0034 689 408 412 or email gbryan@lplgroup.com.

SUPINBOX

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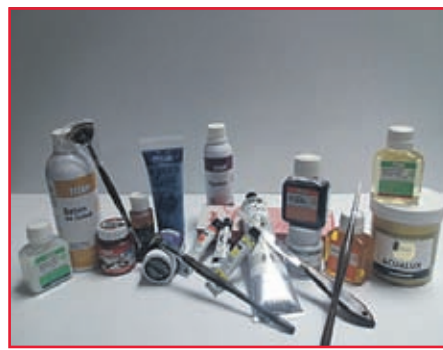
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TV COUCH CRITIC

by Adam Whalley-Lewis

FANS of *Saturday Night Take Away*, *Saturday ITV* might have wondered how the show would feel with Dec flying solo for the final programmes. The show is after all Ant & Dec's Take Away and we all know that the Two Ronnies wouldn't have been the same with just one pair of enormous black rimmed glasses.

So, the big question was something like 'will Dec cope without Ant'? Answer, Yes. There were the predictable mutterings in some of the Sunday newspapers about Dec's body language showing he was nervous and him speaking more quickly than usual, but I didn't notice any problems. Of course there was an Ant-shaped gap for most of the show, but it lost none of the energy and bounce fans tune in for.

The penultimate show was packed with a gaggle of stars including Davina McCall and Paloma Faith and didn't Paloma look stunning in red leather? The 'This Time Next Year' segment featured Davina wearing enormous white boats, rather than shoes and a lovely Mum who was poorly on Mother's Day weekend so was surprised by her children last Saturday.

Her son Paul sang with the Jersey Boys, daughter Katie conquered her fear of flying

A take away on Saturday evening, a fondue set and a cuddly toy



JOB WELL DONE: Dec flies solo for the first time.

with some therapy and a packet of hob-nobs (who knew?) and second son Craig sat so far away from Davina on the sofa I think they must have had competing aftershave and perfume on - clearly someone was worried about them getting too close. Oh and Craig introduced Mum's half-sister who nobody had seen for 30 years.

Cilla would have been proud. The final Take

Away of the current run is on ITV on April 7.

In TV news this week, Ben Fogle claims he was sacked from *Countryfile* because he sounded too posh. Well, the sacking was in 2009 and I don't think him sounding too posh was the real issue, do you? The Island with that Bear bloke is back and social media went into meltdown when the contestants were split into two groups according to their income.

The 'rich' team didn't want to engage with the 'not so rich' team - I didn't want to engage with any of them to be honest. Picture you knowing you are on a TV show, on an island and your outfit of choice is a black bikini top under a wet, white t-shirt and you are half way there. Oh, and the Have I Got News for You team are ramping up for yet another series of this never-ending show by claiming female politicians are not robust enough to host the show. Bull, red rag, you do the maths.

Another duo in the form of Mel and Sue have brought *The Generation Game* back to BBC1 on Sunday evenings, albeit for a very short run. I'm not sure what some people were expecting, but a show born and raised in the 1970's was always going to look just a little bit naff in 2018 and rely on some canned laughter. We still have the conveyor belt of prizes and if you are old enough to remember Sir Bruce and the cuddly toy, you probably weren't disappointed.

Finally this week, BBC TV is covering the 21st Commonwealth Games until April 15. If the opening ceremony was anything to go by, we are in for a sporting treat. *Happy viewing.*

Astrology: get ready, set, go!

Sally Trotman

www.sallytrotman.com

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



SUN in Aries: The fiery influence of this sign throughout most of April helps you to feel motivated and inspired to reach your goals.

Be confident and bold in your approach. As Aries is the first sign of the zodiac, consider where you need to take the lead this month. Take the initiative in love, work and socially to feel confident and positive about yourself!

On April 20 the sun moves into the more earthy and steady sign of Taurus. Later in the month use this energy to make practical plans to ensure your vision stands the test of time.

Get in tune with the moon:

The new moon in Aries on the 16th of the month will help you to plant the seeds for your vision. Now is the perfect time to create a vision board

(pictures from newspapers and magazines of your dreams to a cork board) and seize opportunities that present themselves to help you create your desires. Aries is a sociable sign, so make fun a priority!

Say yes to parties, lunches and

ARIES: The first sign of the zodiac.

weekends away. At the end of the month the full moon in psychic Scorpio will help you to discern what is working for you and what needs to change in your life.

This sign of rebirth can be intense and transformative, so prepare to make changes in any area of your life which may have become a little stagnant. Graciously release the old and become open to embracing the new.

Numerology: go with the flow

Number 4: This number brings your attention to the structure of your life, your daily routines and home. Is there anything you would like to change in these areas?

This would also be a good time to add something new into your routine, perhaps taking up a new hobby, making your fitness regime more of a priority or improving your home.

Is your daily routine serving you or do you need to make some simple changes, such as getting more rest or drinking more water? Take some time this month to make lifestyle changes which will help you to feel happier and healthier.

The Emperor: assert yourself

The Emperor is represented in the tarot deck as a mature man in charge of his destiny. He represents power and authority, whilst assuring protection and security. He also reminds

you to balance your head with your heart.

Listen to your inner voice this month and blend this with practical action to help you reach your goals more quickly and easily.

Who are the influential males in your life? Consider who is an important role model to aspire to, and become the very best version of yourself.

Repeat this affirmation throughout the month to help you: I am clear, confident and calm in my approach to life.

Your 2018 forecast

Astrology, Numerology and the Tarot are ancient tools of divination which aid self-awareness. By looking at the unique numbers and planets in your date of birth, I will intuitively guide you to become clearer, calmer and more confident about your direction for the year ahead.

I offer consultations by Skype, Facetime, WhatsApp video and email. Sessions cost £30 for 30 minutes, £40 for 45 minutes or £50 for an hour. Contact me at sally.trotman@btinternet.com to book in and visit www.sallytrotman.com for more information.

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IT'S ALL ABOUT SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Looking to sell a villa in Arboleas?
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.

FOR SALE

147,500€ | cla 6957



Bargain 3 bed 2 bath villa. La Alfoquia swimming pool, roof terrace, easy walk to village

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3 bed 2 bath villa with swimming pool. Arboleas

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Modern and contemporary 3 bed 2 bath villa. La Perla. 708m corner plot

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3 bed 2 bath villa
Las Golondrinos

349,950€ | cla 7091



5 bed 3 bath villa
Las Golondrinos

99,950€ | cla 6397



3 bed 2 bath village house
Chirivel

195,000€ | cla 7108



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La Perla

159,995€ | cla 7080



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Los Torres

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3 bed 2 bath villa
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Spanish Queen's peerless blue diamond at Noble Jewels sale

Nick Horne *The Rich Pick*

Freelance correspondent, London, England



AFTER the Wars of Spanish Succession were concluded more than 300 years ago; at Parma in Italy, Princess Elisabeth Farnese married Philip V of Spain.

While the intrigues of Europe swirled, a spectacular wedding gift was making its way from the Philippines to Madrid. Spain had issued instructions to the Governors of its colonies throughout its overseas empire that suitable wedding gifts were to be sent to Madrid.

A year later in August 1715 a fleet assembled and sailed from the island of Cuba. The Golden Fleet - 12 ships carrying a fortune in gold bullion and a casket of enormous emeralds - set sail for Europe and Spain. Unfortunately 10 days later a hurricane scattered and destroyed most of the fleet off the coast of Florida.

One vessel survived and escaped and she



THE FARNESE BLUE: A historic 6.16 carat pear-shaped fancy dark grey-blue diamond.

was carrying a pear-shaped blue diamond sent by the Governor of the Philippine Islands, a gift to the new Spanish Queen.

Blue diamonds were viewed as the ultimate royal gift, blue was identified as the colour of royalty - blue blood - and like the famous Hope and Wittelsbach diamonds the Farnese Blue was found in the Golconda mines of India, which was the sole source of

diamonds until the discoveries in Brazil in the 1720's.

As Elizabeth and Philip's descendants married into Europe's royal dynasties, Elizabeth Farnese passed the diamond to her favourite son Philip Duke of Parma (1720-1765), continuing down the line passing through four of Europe's dynasties.

Documented by Maria Anna von Habsburg (1882-1940) Arch Duchess of Austria, the wife of Elias Bourbon, Duke of Parma (1880-1959) created a detailed inventory of the family jewels such that a record exists charting the fascinating history of these jewels. Among them the Farnese Blue.

Each May in Geneva ever since, the famed sale of the Jewels of the Duchess of Windsor, Sotheby's auction house has held the Royal and Nobel Jewels sale, this year titled 'Magnificent Jewels and Noble Jewels.'

The fascination of pedigreed 'Nobel Jewels' and their desirability remains strong. Dr Philip Herzog von Württemberg, chairman of Sotheby's Europe said: "With its incredible pedigree, the Farnese Blue ranks among the most historic diamonds in the world. From the first minute I saw the stone, I could not resist its magic and as such it is a huge privilege to have been entrusted with its sale."

The peerless Farnese Blue a 6.16 carat pear-shaped blue diamond has an estimate of €2.99 to €4.28 million. But the story is priceless.

Changes to Spain from home and abroad!

Ric Polansky



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

I HAD lived here a full 19 years before I witnessed two drunken Spaniards. It was at a village fair, nevertheless it shocked me in that I had not seen anything like it before. Personal decorum on their part and severe scrutiny by the village elders usually kept youth within bounds.

But, this was a big fair, Sevilla, and one was expected to do just such a thing, let their hair down a little without anyone knowing who you were lost in the rebellious crowd. Yet, I was still disturbed.

You wouldn't think I could have become bothered in the least when my very own home town of Mojacar was notorious for its drinking habits. Our usual morning greeting was "shush, speak quietly, I got very pissed last night."

Hmm, in that regard our invasion ruffling centuries old dogmatic tradition didn't serve up any exemplary living standards for the locals to



MAGIC MOJACAR: Notorious for its nightlife.

adopt or admire. And that admonition against my fellow foreign residents lasted as long as those initial pioneers could keep the pace with each other.

Consequently few of those great names are remembered or celebrated to their elevated status they so well deserve. Now the village is a place where visitors come and go asking who was Michael Angelo?

Souvenir shops abound as does the trinket mentality. Thank the gods for giving us the Indalecinos and their totem legend of the Indalo which gives the visiting neophytes something to ask about.

As it seems to me they enquire about little else; our past fantastic history or our local customs and giants of the ancient times that brought us to such a successful present day

fruition. Then again, I don't get out as much any more and need to be more in contact with the villagers who meet these invaders and peer at their enquiries first hand.

Speaking momentarily on behalf of the foreign contingent our upmost achievement was the immediate integration of insisting the local Spanish join us in our festivities and games.

They in turn invited us to their

mantanzas, weddings, funerals and table hopping. (Rarely does a Spaniard eat alone without knowing who else is in the room and how and why they might be related to him). It is still considered a polite custom here but I wouldn't dare using it back in old Blimey, i.e. talking to the person at the next table without being first introduced.

As the waves of time have rolled by I worry that we are losing some of those important ties with each other. Most certainly the 'legal bulldozing' of nearby houses (who had fulfilled all the legal requirements of the time) is still causing major consternation.

Ten years of the prior dilemma wore them down to taking a settlement. But the same situation continues elsewhere. Red flags are going up back on the British Isles suggesting once again that the sunny refuge of Spain isn't possibly all that it is suggested to be.

I can assure you this next round of battles won't be conducted on such a dignified confrontation as the prior's allowed. Generations of good work will be undone as will the mutual convivial living that has long been established.



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The yolk's on us says sharp eyed reader

RELUCTANT as I am to suggest that there is egg on Leapy's face, BUT 'the yolk's on him'!

Please would someone kindly tell him (or the beleaguered proof reader) that yolk is 'the yellow part of an egg that nourishes the young before it hatches'?

Methinks he means yoke, 'a wooden crosspiece fastened over the necks of two oxen and attached to a plough or wagon,' ie a symbol of oppression.

However, 'the yolk of fascism' does conjure up surreal images - in the style of Monty Python - of a bizarre episode of Celebrity Master Chef, with Mussolini et al, competing in a pancake tossing competition.

I could go on but I do not want to over egg the pudding!

A sad typo loving person who really should get out more...

Rae McLucas, Cabopino

Brexit is final live with it

DAVID WORBOYS says in his letter (*Issue 1707*) 'what we all know is that a majority in the UK now favour Remain.' He sounds very sure of this, so perhaps he could tell us where he gets his information.

Only last Friday the result of a substantial poll by BMG Research showed that 57 per cent agreed with the following statement 'The government should get on with implementing the result of the refer-



Credit: David Davis Twitter

BREXIT: Theresa May and David Davis getting on with it.

endum to take Britain out of the EU.' Only 22 per cent disagreed

with this statement.

Jenna Baker, Arroyo Cauche

Very cross

THE letter published in the 1708 edition from Edmund Taylor has made mine

and everyone else's blood boil.

You sir are an ignorant pompous man.

Animals cannot help themselves. Humanity can, but chooses not to. They

would rather take their frustration out on defenceless animals or eat them.

You had better hope I never meet you or it will be one injection time for you.

Trisha, Almeria

Water resource

WE have had a lot of recent rainfall so the water levels in reservoirs, rivers and such are not too bad but come early

HAVE YOUR SAY

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

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

Airports to reduce price of water

Nice to see someone is doing something about the ridiculous price of water in airports. Let's hope other countries follow, especially France where a 50cc bottle will cost you 3.65€ unless you can reach to the top shelf of the self serves and get the 'discounted' water at 2.50€ at CDG. The airport does have the odd drinking fountain where you could fill an empty bottle, but how many people carry an empty bottle!

Saya Sendiri

Give us water fountains then we can fill them before we board. Simple.

Elizabeth Bennett

In Dublin airport it is piled high in the corridor just past security with an honesty box for €1 beside it. I've watched and never seen anyone take them for free.

Jackie Fitzgerald

Hopefully airports in England will also do the same as I don't think it's exclusive to Spain.

Mark Rainey

'Drunk' Brit held after stealing lorry

Luckily the VAST MAJORITY of us are decent people who

Comments from EWN online

just want to enjoy this lovely country. This man has NOTHING to do with me!

Anne Whitfield

Thank goodness he didn't kill anyone. I hope he gets charged.

Ann Rudkin

Lucky it was a car he drove into and not people. Should lock him up and throw away the key.

Coral Simpson Tasker

Cyclists - know the law in Spain

Maybe cyclists using the public roads should be made to take a test as I've never seen one that adheres to rules. Or make it simple and introduce a few classes in schools at the age of 16 (as I wouldn't let anyone under that age ride a bike on the road).

Jennifer Knowles

I ride a bike regularly on the roads here and I see motorists breaking the law especially using mobiles and have no respect for the laws about passing cyclists. I too drive a car and a motorbike and adhere to the laws.

Peter Anthony Boland

They ride all over the road, cycle across the crossings, pull out and never stop at crossings. One just missed my husband down by the beach front.

Christine Thomas

One dead in bull-running festival

Stupid tradition and what is probably worse is that the bull is killed afterwards! Sorry for family, but do wish they stopped this.

Sian Foster

It's time to stop these stupid events. People are dying because they are too drunk even to walk.

Fran Ramirez

It may be a tradition set up many moons ago, but in this day and age when I feel strongly against cruelty to animals there is no place for this particular tradition or bull fighting.

Gillian Evans

May to early October, we have hardly any rain and they again become depleted, and this is a time when farming and tourism (and evaporation) uses most of the water.

Is it not time to build some desalination plants around the coast so we do not have to keep our eyes on falling stocks of water every summer? It is in and near coastal areas that a greater part of the population lives, so the fresh water would be where it is needed.

Michael Hill, Torre del Mar

Gimme shelter

THROUGH the column of your esteemed newspaper I would like to draw attention to the concerned authorities that there is need of a bus shelter and bench for tourists at C/Gerona in front of Hotel sol Pelconos Benidorm.

The spot has been identified and functional for tourists in Benidorm. The tourist bus arrives every one hour and 15 minutes for a tour of Benidorm.

The said bus stop without bench and shed has and is causing lot of inconvenience to adults/old age people, mostly tourists.

Furhat Subla, Benidorm

Vexogram

MY wife Christine and I were Page 1 Pinups on *Issue 1355* in 2011. The headline was 'Pickpocket trickster ruins couple's day.'

We were in Spain recently for one of our regular visits to our holiday home near Vera, when your *Issue 1705* took a leaf out of that pickpocket's leaf and also ruined my day! I noticed that the Hexogram puzzle had disappeared from your puzzle page and it's not returned!

Please bring it back! I'll be over again in late May for a few weeks and will look for it! Please don't let me and many other readers down... bring it back and leave it back!

Rex Martin, Vera

Editor's note

Rex, thank you for your observation. Unfortunately, the size of any free paper is dictated by the number of adverts received which means that some weeks editions are thicker than others. This therefore means that the puzzles section can be either two or four pages. When four pages, there is a Hexogram puzzle and when two it is dropped.

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THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky sports main event
5 APRIL	<div>6:15pm Pointless</div> <div>7:00pm BBC News at Six</div> <div>7:30pm BBC London News</div> <div>8:00pm The One Show</div> <div>8:30pm EastEnders</div> <div>9:00pm MasterChef</div> <div>10:00pm Not Going Out</div> <div>10:30pm Still Game</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News at Ten</div> <div>11:30pm BBC London News</div> <div>11:45pm Unsolved</div>	<div>2:00pm Commonwealth Games 2018</div> <div>6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is</div> <div>7:00pm Eggheads</div> <div>7:30pm Today at the Games</div> <div>9:00pm Big Cats</div> <div>10:00pm Civilisations</div> <div>11:00pm Match of the Day</div> <div>11:30pm Newsnight</div> <div>12:15am Top Gear</div> <div>1:20am MasterChef</div>	<div>7:30pm ITV Evening News</div> <div>8:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>8:30pm Pets</div> <div>9:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>9:30pm The Cruise: Sailing the Caribbean</div> <div>10:00pm The Investigator: A British Crime Story</div> <div>11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather</div> <div>11:30pm ITV News London</div>	<div>4:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun</div> <div>5:00pm A New Life in the Sun</div> <div>6:00pm Four in a Bed</div> <div>6:30pm Star Boot Sale</div> <div>7:00pm The Simpsons</div> <div>7:30pm Hollyoaks</div> <div>8:00pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>9:00pm Location, Location, Location</div> <div>10:00pm Indian Summer School</div> <div>11:00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody</div> <div>12:05am First Dates</div>	<div>6:30pm Neighbours</div> <div>7:00pm Home and Away</div> <div>7:30pm 5 News Tonight</div> <div>8:00pm The Yorkshire Vet</div> <div>9:00pm Casebook</div> <div>9:00pm Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords</div> <div>10:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!</div> <div>11:00pm Undercover: Nailing the Fraudsters</div>	<div>11:00am Live NRL</div> <div>2:00pm Sky Sports News</div> <div>3:00pm Sky Sports News</div> <div>4:00pm Sky Sports News</div> <div>5:00pm Sky Sports News</div> <div>6:00pm Sky Sports News at 5</div> <div>7:00pm Sky Sports News at 6</div> <div>8:00pm Masters - Live</div> <div>1:30am Jordan Spieth: From Minor to Major</div> <div>2:00am Sky Sports News</div>
FRIDAY	<div>6:15pm Pointless</div> <div>7:00pm BBC News at Six</div> <div>7:30pm BBC London News</div> <div>8:00pm The One Show</div> <div>8:30pm Sounds Like Friday Night</div> <div>9:00pm EastEnders</div> <div>9:30pm Room 101</div> <div>10:00pm MasterChef</div> <div>10:30pm Have I Got News for You</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News at Ten</div> <div>11:25pm BBC London News</div>	<div>2:00pm Commonwealth Games 2018</div> <div>6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is</div> <div>6:45pm Golf</div> <div>7:45pm Football: Women's World Cup Qualification - England v Wales</div> <div>10:00pm The City and the City</div> <div>11:00pm Episodes</div> <div>11:30pm Newsnight</div>	<div>5:00pm Tipping Point</div> <div>6:00pm The Chase</div> <div>7:00pm ITV News London</div> <div>7:30pm ITV Evening News</div> <div>8:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>8:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>9:00pm Love Your Garden</div> <div>9:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>10:00pm Lethal Weapon</div> <div>11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather</div>	<div>4:00pm A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun</div> <div>6:00pm Four in a Bed</div> <div>6:30pm Star Boot Sale</div> <div>7:00pm The Simpsons</div> <div>7:30pm Hollyoaks</div> <div>8:00pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>9:00pm I Don't Like Mondays</div> <div>10:00pm Gogglebox</div> <div>11:00pm Lee and Dean</div> <div>11:35pm 8 Out of 10 Cats</div>	<div>6:30pm Neighbours</div> <div>7:00pm Home and Away</div> <div>7:30pm 5 News Tonight</div> <div>8:00pm The Gadget Show</div> <div>9:00pm Britain's Great Cathedrals, with Tony Robinson</div> <div>10:00pm Jane Mcdonald and Friends</div> <div>11:00pm Will and Grace</div> <div>11:35pm Greatest Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever!</div>	<div>3:00pm Football Centre</div> <div>4:00pm Football Centre</div> <div>4:30pm Paddock Uncut</div> <div>4:45pm Live Bahrain F1 GP: Practice</div> <div>6:45pm Paddock Uncut</div> <div>7:00pm Sky Sports News at 6</div> <div>8:00pm Masters - Live</div> <div>1:30am Last 9 on Sunday</div> <div>2:30am Super League Highlights</div> <div>2:45am Rugby Archive</div>
SATURDAY	<div>7:40pm Regional News</div> <div>7:45pm Weather</div> <div>7:50pm Pointless</div> <div>8:40pm Who Dares Wins</div> <div>9:20pm Casualty</div> <div>10:10pm Troy: Fall of a City</div> <div>11:10pm BBC News</div> <div>11:25pm Weather</div> <div>11:30pm Match of the Day</div> <div>12:55am Commonwealth Games 2018</div>	<div>3:15pm MasterChef</div> <div>4:45pm Escape to the Country</div> <div>5:15pm Money for Nothing</div> <div>6:00pm Big Cats About the House</div> <div>7:00pm Today at the Games</div> <div>8:30pm Golf</div> <div>1:00am Having You</div> <div>2:30am Civilisations</div> <div>3:30am Weather for the Week Ahead</div>	<div>6:00pm The Chase</div> <div>7:00pm ITV Evening News</div> <div>7:15pm Regional News and Weather</div> <div>7:30pm You've Been Framed!</div> <div>8:00pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Take Away</div> <div>9:30pm The Voice UK - Live Final</div> <div>11:10pm ITV News</div> <div>11:30pm Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows</div>	<div>3:55pm F1: Grand Prix Qualifying Live</div> <div>6:45pm Car S.O.S</div> <div>7:40pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>8:00pm Coastal Railways with Julie Walters</div> <div>9:00pm Britain's Most Historic Towns</div> <div>10:00pm Legend</div> <div>12:35am Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter</div>	<div>2:30pm Aviva Live Premiership Rugby: Bath v Leicester</div> <div>5:15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!</div> <div>8:00pm The Secret Life of Owls</div> <div>9:00pm Everest: World's Greatest Mountain</div> <div>9:55pm 5 News</div> <div>10:00pm Football on 5</div> <div>11:00pm Football on 5</div>	<div>10:00am Masters Breakfast - Live</div> <div>12:30pm Football</div> <div>1:30pm Live Premier League</div> <div>4:15pm Gillette Soccer Saturday</div> <div>6:00pm Football</div> <div>6:30pm Football</div> <div>9:00pm Masters - Live</div> <div>1:30am Football</div> <div>3:35am Live Rugby 7s: Hong Kong</div>
SUNDAY	<div>6:05pm Celebrity Mastermind</div> <div>6:35pm BBC News</div> <div>6:50pm Regional News</div> <div>6:55pm Weather</div> <div>7:00pm The Big Painting Challenge</div> <div>8:00pm Countryfile</div> <div>9:00pm The Generation Game</div> <div>10:00pm Ordeal by Innocence</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News</div> <div>11:20pm Regional News</div> <div>11:25pm Weather</div>	<div>12:00pm Saturday Kitchen Best Bites</div> <div>1:30pm MasterChef</div> <div>2:30pm MasterChef</div> <div>3:00pm The Secret Helpers</div> <div>4:00pm Emma</div> <div>6:00pm Today at the Games</div> <div>7:30pm Golf</div> <div>1:00am The Rookie</div> <div>3:00am Countryfile</div> <div>3:55am Holby City</div>	<div>5:30pm ITV Evening News</div> <div>5:45pm Regional News and Weather</div> <div>6:00pm Tipping Point</div> <div>7:00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special</div> <div>8:00pm Change Your Tune</div> <div>9:00pm The Durrells</div> <div>10:00pm The Good Karma Hospital</div> <div>11:00pm ITV News</div> <div>11:20pm Info not available</div>	<div>4:00pm F1: Grand Prix Live Build Up</div> <div>4:45pm F1: Grand Prix Live</div> <div>7:20pm F1: Grand Prix Live Reaction</div> <div>7:45pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>8:00pm Escape to the Chateau</div> <div>9:00pm Jesus' Female Disciples: The New Evidence</div> <div>10:00pm Homeland</div> <div>11:05pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown</div> <div>12:00am Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy</div>	<div>1:50pm Oliver!</div> <div>4:40pm The Deep End of the Ocean</div> <div>6:50pm Marley and Me</div> <div>9:00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!</div> <div>9:55pm 5 News</div> <div>10:00pm When Live News Goes Horribly Wrong</div> <div>12:55am Football on 5: The Checkatrade Trophy</div> <div>1:50am Britain's Greatest Bridges</div>	<div>3:35am Live Rugby 7s: Hong Kong</div> <div>7:00am Live Rugby 7s: Hong Kong</div> <div>10:00am Masters Breakfast - Live</div> <div>1:00pm Goals on Sunday</div> <div>2:30pm Live Nissan Super Sunday</div> <div>5:15pm Live Nissan Super Sunday</div> <div>8:00pm Masters - Live</div> <div>1:30am Steel Magnolia: Willett's 2016</div> <div>2:00am Sky Sports News</div> <div>3:00am Sky Sports News</div>
MONDAY	<div>6:15pm Pointless</div> <div>7:00pm BBC News</div> <div>7:30pm Regional News</div> <div>8:00pm The One Show</div> <div>8:30pm Fake Britain</div> <div>9:00pm EastEnders</div> <div>9:30pm Panorama</div> <div>10:00pm MasterChef</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News</div> <div>11:30pm Regional News</div> <div>11:40pm Weather</div>	<div>6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is</div> <div>7:00pm Eggheads</div> <div>7:30pm Today at the Games</div> <div>9:00pm Only Connect</div> <div>9:30pm University Challenge</div> <div>10:00pm Secret Agent</div> <div>11:00pm Selection : Ww2</div> <div>11:30pm QI</div> <div>12:10am Newsnight</div> <div>12:10am Weather</div>	<div>7:00pm Regional News and Weather</div> <div>7:25pm Party Election Broadcast</div> <div>7:30pm ITV Evening News</div> <div>8:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>8:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>9:00pm The Kyle Files</div> <div>9:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>10:00pm Marcella</div> <div>11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather</div>	<div>6:00pm Four in a Bed</div> <div>6:30pm Star Boot Sale</div> <div>7:00pm The Simpsons</div> <div>7:30pm Hollyoaks</div> <div>8:00pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>9:00pm Britain's Diesel Scandal: Channel 4 Dispatches</div> <div>9:30pm Travel Man</div> <div>10:00pm The Island with Bear Grylls</div> <div>11:00pm Kiss Me First</div> <div>12:05am Indian Summer School</div>	<div>6:30pm Neighbours</div> <div>7:00pm Home and Away</div> <div>7:30pm 5 News</div> <div>8:00pm Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights</div> <div>9:00pm Springtime on the Farm</div> <div>10:00pm Paddington Station 24/7</div> <div>11:00pm Police UK: Armed and Deadly</div> <div>12:05am Criminals Caught on Camera</div>	<div>12:00pm Sky Sports Daily</div> <div>1:00pm Sky Sports News</div> <div>3:00pm Sky Sports News</div> <div>4:00pm Live Indian Premier League</div> <div>8:30pm Sky Sports Tonight</div> <div>9:00pm How the 2018 Masters Was Won</div> <div>11:00pm The Debate - Live</div> <div>12:00am Sky Sports News</div> <div>1:00am Sky Sports News</div>
TUESDAY	<div>4:45pm Money for Nothing</div> <div>5:30pm Flog It!</div> <div>6:15pm Pointless</div> <div>7:00pm BBC News</div> <div>7:30pm Regional News</div> <div>8:00pm The One Show</div> <div>8:30pm EastEnders</div> <div>9:00pm Holby City</div> <div>10:00pm Come Home</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News</div> <div>11:30pm Regional News</div>	<div>1:15pm Bargain Hunt</div> <div>2:00pm Commonwealth Games 2018</div> <div>6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is</div> <div>7:00pm Eggheads</div> <div>7:30pm Today at the Games</div> <div>9:00pm Great Indian Railway Journeys</div> <div>10:00pm Hospital</div> <div>11:00pm Cunk on Britain</div>	<div>4:00pm Dickinson's Real Deal</div> <div>5:00pm Tipping Point</div> <div>6:00pm The Chase</div> <div>7:00pm Regional News and Weather</div> <div>7:25pm Party Election Broadcast</div> <div>7:30pm ITV Evening News</div> <div>8:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>9:00pm This Time Next Year</div> <div>10:00pm Last Laugh in Vegas</div> <div>11:00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather</div>	<div>4:00pm A Place in the Sun</div> <div>5:00pm Escape to the Chateau: DIY</div> <div>6:00pm Four in a Bed</div> <div>6:30pm Star Boot Sale</div> <div>7:00pm The Simpsons</div> <div>7:30pm Hollyoaks</div> <div>8:00pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>9:00pm Class of Mum and Dad</div> <div>10:00pm Seven Year Switch</div> <div>11:00pm Gogglebox</div>	<div>3:20pm NCIS</div> <div>4:20pm Nightmare 911</div> <div>5:00pm 5 News</div> <div>6:00pm Neighbours</div> <div>6:30pm Home and Away</div> <div>7:00pm 5 News</div> <div>8:00pm Moto GP Highlights</div> <div>9:00pm Springtime on the Farm</div> <div>10:00pm Made in Yorkshire</div> <div>11:00pm Secrets of the Great Yorkshire Castle</div>	<div>12:00pm Sky Sports Daily</div> <div>12:30pm Sportswomen</div> <div>1:00pm Sky Sports News</div> <div>2:00pm Sky Sports News</div> <div>3:00pm Sky Sports News</div> <div>4:00pm Live Indian Premier League</div> <div>8:30pm Football</div> <div>11:15pm The Debate - Live</div> <div>12:15am Revista de la Liga</div> <div>12:45am La Liga Icons: Zidane</div>
WEDNESDAY	<div>4:00pm Escape to the Country</div> <div>4:45pm Money for Nothing</div> <div>5:30pm Flog It!</div> <div>6:15pm Pointless</div> <div>7:00pm BBC News</div> <div>7:30pm Regional News</div> <div>8:00pm The One Show</div> <div>9:00pm MasterChef</div> <div>10:00pm DIY SOS the Big Build</div> <div>11:00pm BBC News</div> <div>11:30pm Regional News</div> <div>11:40pm Weather</div>	<div>6:15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is</div> <div>7:00pm Eggheads</div> <div>7:30pm Today at the Games</div> <div>9:00pm The Secret Helpers</div> <div>10:00pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story</div> <div>10:50pm Live at the Apollo</div> <div>11:30pm Newsnight</div> <div>12:10am Weather</div> <div>12:15am Hospital</div>	<div>5:00pm Tipping Point</div> <div>6:00pm The Chase</div> <div>7:00pm Regional News and Weather</div> <div>7:25pm Party Election Broadcast</div> <div>7:30pm ITV Evening News</div> <div>8:00pm Emmerdale</div> <div>8:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>9:00pm Britain's Brightest Family</div> <div>9:30pm Coronation Street</div> <div>10:00pm Benidorm</div> <div>11:00pm ITV News at Ten</div>	<div>5:00pm Escape to the Chateau: DIY</div> <div>6:00pm Four in a Bed</div> <div>6:30pm Star Boot Sale</div> <div>7:00pm The Simpsons</div> <div>7:30pm Hollyoaks</div> <div>8:00pm Channel 4 News</div> <div>9:00pm The Supervet</div> <div>10:00pm One Born Every Minute</div> <div>11:00pm First Dates</div> <div>12:05am Gogglebox</div>	<div>4:15pm McBride: Murder Past</div> <div>Midnight Midnight</div> <div>5:00pm 5 News</div> <div>6:00pm Neighbours</div> <div>7:00pm Home and Away</div> <div>7:30pm 5 News</div> <div>8:00pm World Rally</div> <div>9:00pm Springtime on the Farm</div> <div>10:00pm Housing Yorkshire: Somewhere Called Home</div> <div>11:00pm Restless Legs Syndrome: Can't Stop Twitching</div>	<div>12:00pm Sky Sports Daily</div> <div>1:00pm Sky Sports News</div> <div>2:00pm Sky Sports News</div> <div>3:00pm Sky Sports News</div> <div>4:00pm Live Indian Premier League</div> <div>8:30pm Football</div> <div>11:00pm The Debate - Live</div> <div>12:00am Sky Sports News</div> <div>1:00am Sky Sports News</div> <div>2:00am Sky Sports News</div> <div>3:00am Sky Sports News</div>

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I think it's a liberty!

Mike Senker
In my opinion



Views of a Grumpy Old Man

I WAS having a chat with a friend of mine and we were discussing bank charges here and I was moaning about charges that appear now and again. It's nothing monstrous but just like, in my case, I hadn't spent enough on my debit card over three months so they 'fined' me.

My friend then proceeded to tell me a horror story and asked my advice. I'm now going to tell you and I hope someone out there can let me know if this is common practice. I can't tell you the name of the bank but here's the story.

He was selling his house to buy a flat - all very simple, no mortgages involved, just straightforward payments in and out. He paid a deposit on the flat of €19,500 and the bank charged him €78 for that which is 0.4 per cent.

He then paid €379,637.82 into to the bank, a bank he has, by the way, been with for 17 years. They charged him €759.35 for paying the money IN to his own account. They then charged another €300 for him to pay €217,646.38 for his new place then another €150 for paying €37k to his lawyer. So, all in all, for making three payments and paying some money in they charged him just under

€1,288. Why? What we don't understand is the charge for paying the money in to your own account - it's horrendous. The charge for the bank transfers are also too high but I appreciate there must be some charge.

When my friend queried these charges the bank refunded €300 but said 'you should have discussed it beforehand.' I think it's a liberty. Has anyone else come across this? He was told, off the record, because interest rates are so low, the banks are instructed to get money off customers any way they can which sounds like when I used to work the markets years ago.

This then brought me on to the subject of cancelling stuff here. Some time ago I got a reminder that my house insurance was due next month - with the same bank as it happens. So I looked around to make sure I was getting the best deal and guess what - I wasn't. We decided to cancel and go with a new company.

The bank then informed us that we can't do that as we have to give three months' notice to cancel the policy! What a joke! When I asked why all I got was the usual 'it's in the terms and conditions, page 105, sub section 96, blah blah.' Anyway we cancelled it and told them to sue us if they want to. We were even told we could get blacklisted. Nothing ever happened and we are now with a new company.

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

Email me your similar experiences: mike.senker@gmail.com.

LEGALLY SPEAKING

New speed radars approved for use

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



BRAKING THE LAW: A Velolaser in situ and (inset) a close-up of the new device.

THE DGT has taken delivery of around 60 new portable speed detecting units, Velolaser, which have undergone extensive testing around the country. These devices have now been approved for use and can enter service protecting the country's roads.

The Director General of Traffic, Gregorio Serrano, announced the certification just in time for one of the most intense road planning periods, the Easter holiday.

Small enough to fit in the panniers of a motorcycle, the units can be set up in seconds, either on a tripod, a vehicle mount, or on roadside features such as crash barriers. It should be noted, despite many speculative reports to the contrary, these devices are not mounted on the motorbikes but are carried to locations where they are set up on tripods or similar mounts.

The device manufacturers say that the units obtain the best results in sensitive urban areas (zone 30, schools, parks, children's areas, etc), and thanks to their versatility they can work using vehicles available at any time, in any area,

including those places otherwise inaccessible, and, most importantly, in a minimum time.

The simple, ingenious and innovative solution provides a new way to control speed in a wide variety of situations, on both urban and interurban roads. The devices can monitor vehicles at speeds of up to 250 kilometres per hour, covering two lanes, monitoring both directions of travel, and can distinguish between different types of vehicles, knowing the difference between a car and a lorry, for example.

The units can connect over 3G or 4G telephony, or via WiFi, providing simultaneous monitoring of several devices at the same time, recording information on internal or external storage.

As well as monitoring speed, the devices are clever enough to calculate safety distances, and can operate both day and at night.

They are designed and manufactured in Spain, and come in a range of colours, although the units delivered to the DGT carry the distinctive colours and labelling of the Guardia Civil.

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

Was the election legal?

Q. We have just had our Community AGM. When it came time to elect a president, two committee members put themselves forward. Neither was formally proposed and seconded. Is this a necessary step

for the AGM? The successful candidate is a local builder and is currently tendering for work in the community. Is there 'conflict of interest' in Spain? If so, what is the solution?

S H (Costa Blanca)

A. The short answer is that you have a number of irregularities here, but nothing that invalidates the election of the president. It is not necessary for a candidate for president to be nominated in advance, although this would be the proper procedure.

David Searl
You and the Law in Spain

Yes, the concept of 'conflict of interest' exists in Spain, and it certainly seems to exist in your example. However, if the

majority of the community voters accept the situation and elect the builder as president, there is no legal reason to challenge the vote. If it later comes to light that the builder-president awards himself the contract and charges twice the going rate, then you would have a case.

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

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MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



'IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THE WEATHER -
HE'S ONE OF THOSE DIPLOMATS EXPELLED FROM RUSSIA!'

Trivia from around the world

*** The Green Zone or Tornio Golf Club has nine holes in Sweden and the other nine in Finland.

*** Anywhere between 30 and 40 per cent of Mongolia's population is nomadic, with families moving around the country with their livestock to seek the best conditions at a given time.

*** Bolivia, not Brazil, is the world's leading exporter of Brazil nuts.

*** The Democratic Republic of the Congo hosts the world's largest United Nations peace-keeping mission, consisting of around 21,000 soldiers from about 50 countries.

*** Around 70 per cent of all university graduates in the United Arab Emirates are women, who also fill about two thirds of all government jobs.

*** Russia, Greenland, Canada, the USA, Norway, Iceland, Sweden and Finland



MORE MOBILES: Many Africans can access a mobile phone easier than paved roads or piped water.

DID YOU KNOW?

Around 93 per cent of Africans have access to a mobile phone, but less than one in three have proper drainage systems. The lead author of the report which compiled the data said many used their mobiles while not having electricity at home.

all have territory in the Arctic, Arctic Council along with which they govern through the Denmark.

Women's wit

“The world is put back by the death of everyone who has to sacrifice the development of his or her peculiar gifts to conventionality.”

Florence Nightingale, nurse

Famous quote

“What's money? A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and goes to bed at night and in between does what he wants to do.”

Bob Dylan, musician



World of English

“Pilgric - A bald-headed man or a person regarded with mild contempt.”

YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS



AQUARIUS
(January 21 - February 19)

You are about to tackle some tough tests. Work and personal hurdles could preoccupy you, but after the weekend you'll be able to sort out the ice from the cream. No matter how awkward things seem on Monday or Wednesday, trust your ability to wait for the right moment, rather than risk spoiling your plans.



PISCES
(February 20 - March 20)

Feisty Mars and the fiery Sun are warring with changeable Pluto, so avoid any tearaway temptations on Thursday or Friday. You could be emotionally vulnerable, or even lulled into a false sense of security. However confusing the planets may seem, even out the odds as best you can by ensuring your worries take second place.



ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)

Hassles and battles are on the cards. If things don't happen as fast as you'd expected, or domestic and workaday blips assail your patience, transform them into an opportunity to show your special qualities. Potent planetary influences urge you to look, listen, learn and refuse to allow petty stumbling blocks to undermine your confidence on Tuesday and Thursday.



TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)

Astrologically, it's not unreasonable to assume that when sparky Mars and the zesty Sun conflict with restless Pluto, life could become a tad frustrating. You might find it hard to tolerate hypocrisy and setbacks, but fortunately, it's all just a passing cloud. Regardless of any lack of continuity, concentrate on keeping going and prepare for next week's brighter outlook.



GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)

Punchy Mars and the heady Sun are set for a scramble with touchy Pluto. You've been there before, so despite any administrative bumps, gossip whirls or curious rejections, don't be too sensitive. Add up what you've achieved, subtract your fears and keep your emotions under control.



CANCER
(June 22 - July 23)

Upfront Mars and the upbeat Sun will be at loggerheads with powerful Pluto. You might not

appreciate some of Friday or Saturday's antics, so be ready to use your charm, or perhaps your equally wicked sense of humour will do the trick.



LEO
(July 24 - August 23)

This is an intense week, and if you get stuck with a particular issue, jumble your words, or just can't seem to do anything right, it might be worth finding out if the grass is greener on the other side.



VIRGO
(August 24 - September 23)

Quirky planetary niggles will surface without warning. A variety of talks, news and last-minute changes surround your family members, friends or colleagues. No matter what affects your personal or occupational activities, stay focused, decide what your goals are and, just as importantly, find the easiest way to move forward without losing your healing sense of humour.



LIBRA
(September 24 - October 23)

Even the best-made plans can suddenly sink without a trace. Your dreams for a fresh start in one particular direction still need tender, cautious care, and you may equally need to be wary of overstepping the mark where money's concerned.



SCORPIO
(October 24 - November 22)

You will need bucketloads of humour and understanding as impatient Mars and the sprightly Sun engage with touchy Pluto. Stay well clear if you want to escape potential power struggles.



SAGITTARIUS
(November 23 - December 21)

If you suspect that some things are not what they seem, you could be right. Repel doubts, ban anxieties and stick to facts and tact. If certain individuals or situations continue to conspire against you, change course and do something entirely different. What goes around will come around quicker than you think.



CAPRICORN
(December 22 - January 20)

Storms in tea-cups need loads of sweet-talking. Of course, if you can't be bothered with it all, fair enough; keeping quiet could be the best way to deal with problems, glitches or sudden backfires. If you can't take a break, at least chill out with whatever or whoever brings you the greatest pleasure.

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY	IRISH LOTTO	EURO MILLIONS		LA PRIMITIVA		EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Saturday March 31	Saturday March 31	Tuesday March 27	Friday March 30	Thursday March 29	Saturday March 31	Sunday April 1
<div>6 8</div> <div>20 26</div> <div>35 36</div>	<div>1 2</div> <div>17 19</div> <div>38 47</div>	<div>17 20</div> <div>23 40</div> <div>46</div>	<div>12 17</div> <div>28 35</div> <div>47</div>	<div>2 15</div> <div>17 19</div> <div>26 38</div>	<div>14 22</div> <div>24 26</div> <div>31 41</div>	<div>3 27</div> <div>30 38</div> <div>53</div>
BONUS BALL	BONUS BALL	LUCKY STARS	LUCKY STARS	REINTEGRO	REINTEGRO	REINTEGRO
39	13	9 10	7 11	33 3	39 6	7
		EL MILLON: ZXL35128		JOKER: 744 825	JOKER: 6 166 394	

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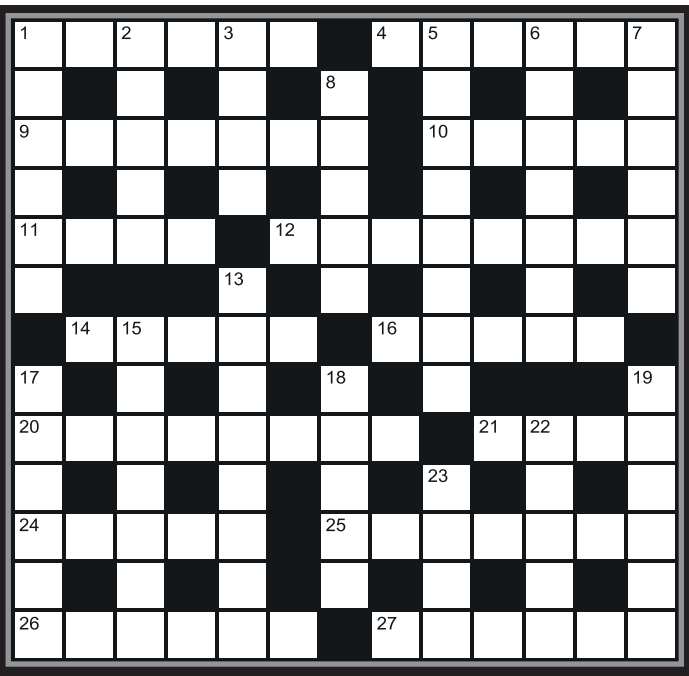
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Cryptic

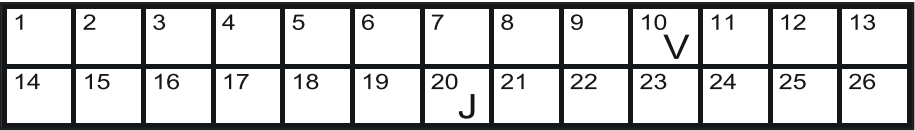
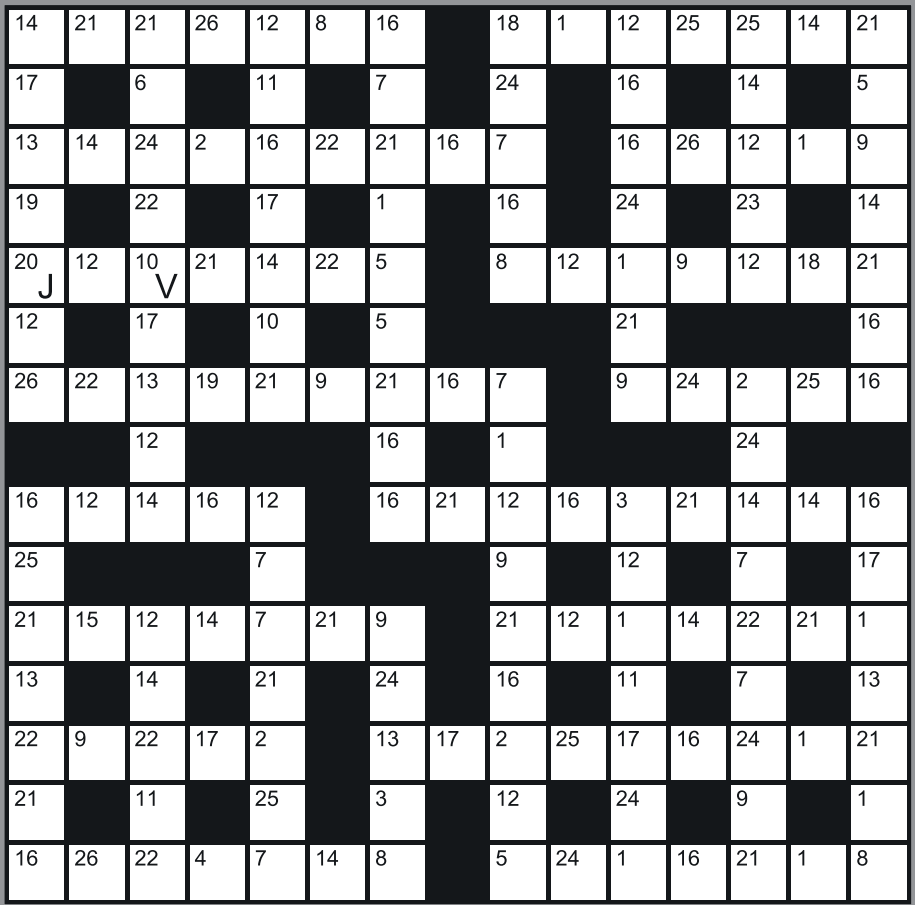
- Across**
- 1 A model you can't miss (6)
 - 4 Expel shoplifter finally discovered in store (6)
 - 9 Trains with a different skilled worker (7)
 - 10 Explicit about king in play (5)
 - 11 Renown for Football Association and yours truly (4)
 - 12 Leap made by old king around Fools' Day (8)
 - 14 Exclusive portion of ice-cream? (5)
 - 16 Some mix up about love for elk (5)
 - 20 The Spanish notice changes of appointment (8)
 - 21 Skilful Latin in Lincoln (4)
 - 24 Prevent Ted returning to meet the Queen (5)
 - 25 I get a pound after an argument about space (7)
 - 26 Not as light as the remodelled red ark (6)
 - 27 Customer with legal right to appear in court (6)



- Down**
- 1 Stick with a Scottish island (6)
 - 2 Add 'em up quickly to get a kind of pole (5)
 - 3 Please, end with simplicity (4)
 - 5 Get Oscar to change the French delicacy (8)
 - 6 Plenty follow old church cats (7)
 - 7 Jack has to fetch Mark (6)
 - 8 Require sound massage (5)
 - 13 Dreamy music is a night scene on canvas (8)
 - 15 God involved a rector (7)
 - 17 Repaired first of machines, then finished (6)
 - 18 Police chase ends in the wood (5)
 - 19 French water added to auction item, red wine (6)
 - 22 Trees, we hear, that will cover billiard table (5)
 - 23 Initially family approval is likely to go wrong (4)

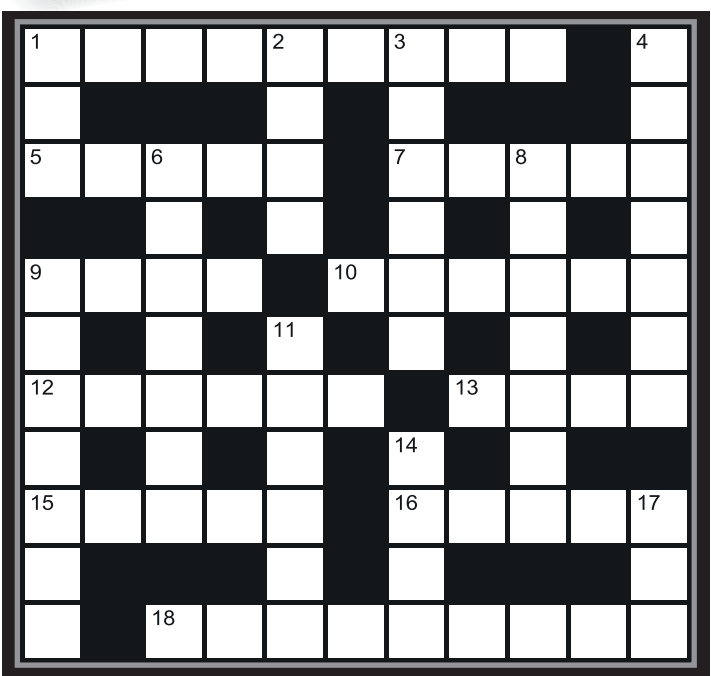
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 10 represents V and 20 represents J, so fill in V every time the figure 10 appears and J every time the figure 20 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

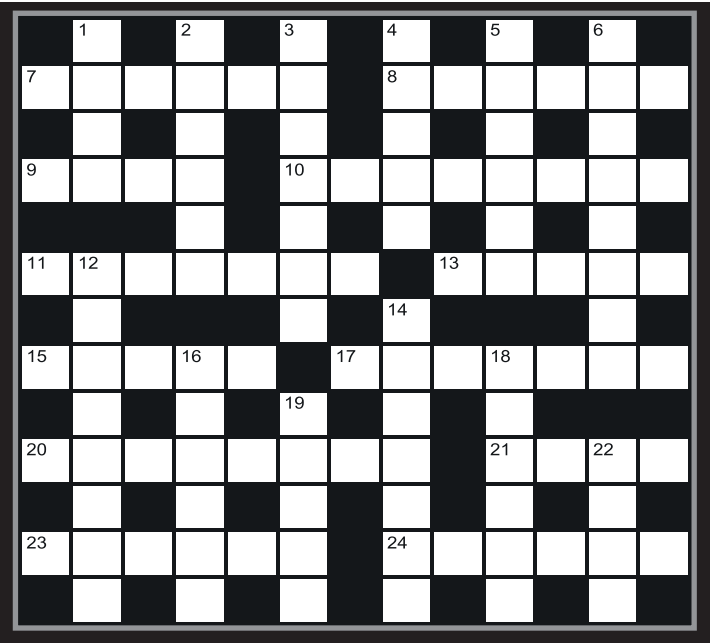
Quick



- Across**
- 1 Failure to notice (9)
 - 5 Thigh bone (5)
 - 7 Private instructor (5)
 - 9 Sound in mind (4)
 - 10 Proceed slowly (6)
 - 12 Address of a religious nature, usually during a church service (6)
 - 13 Young horse (4)
 - 15 Give out (5)
 - 16 Malicious burning to destroy property (5)
 - 18 Aroused to impatience or anger (9)
- Down**
- 1 See 17
 - 2 Separate into lots or classes (4)
 - 3 Rich cake (6)
 - 4 Make right (7)
 - 6 Inferior dog or one of mixed breed (7)
 - 8 Tiresomely long (7)
 - 9 Provide with nourishment (7)
 - 11 Licensed medical practitioner (6)
 - 14 Quick (4)
 - 17/1 Fall asleep (3,3)

English - Spanish

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



- Across**
- 7 Shoulder (anatomy) (6)
 - 8 Kind (nice) (6)
 - 9 Chiste (4)
 - 10 Collar (joyería) (8)
 - 11 Aquarium (7)
 - 13 To believe (have faith) (5)
 - 15 Fine (legal) (5)
 - 17 Monstruo (7)
 - 20 Dormitorios (8)
 - 21 Kiss (4)
 - 23 Flour (6)
 - 24 Subibaja (6)
- Down**
- 1 Silly (person) (4)
 - 2 Grandmother (6)
 - 3 Uña de pie (7)
 - 4 Partido (deporte) (5)
 - 5 To dance (6)
 - 6 Ojo morado (5,3)
 - 12 Chops (culinary) (8)
 - 14 Tener (poseer, disponer de) (7)
 - 16 Nabo (6)
 - 18 Envelopes (for letters) (6)
 - 19 Real (de la realeza) (5)
 - 22 Palmada (4)

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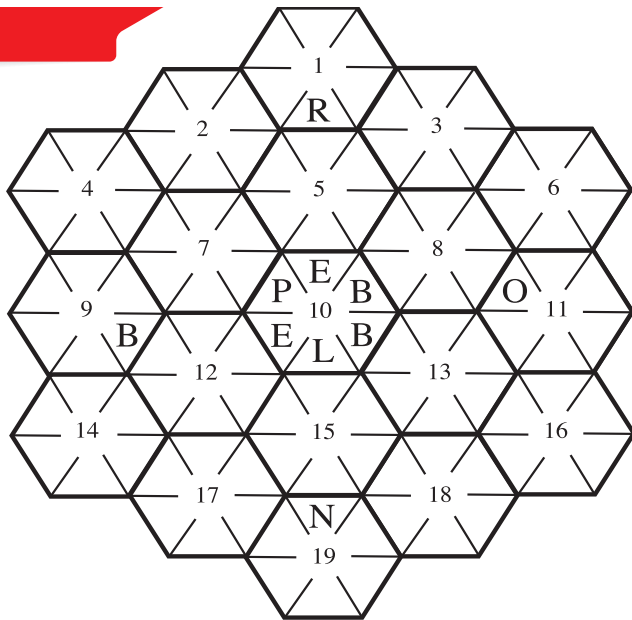
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Hexagram

ABDUCT
BOUNTY
COMPLY
EMBRYO
EROTIC
ESCHEW
FLABBY
FLAUNT
FOIBLE
FRUGAL
INSULT
MEMOIR
MYRTLE
ORACLE
PAYOUT
PEBBLE (10)
SULLEN
TOWHEE
WOBBLE



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

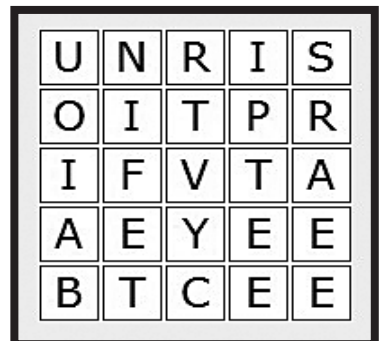
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1 Oblong 2 Tonsil 3 Ocular 4 Chancy
5 Breast 6 Fickle 7 Stucco 8 Squeak
9 Creaky 10 Taught 11 Citrus 12 Crutch
13 Quahog 14 Expect 15 Psycho
16 Aviary 17 Apathy 18 Sphinx
19 Harass.

Boggled

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

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



TARGET:

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

SCORING:

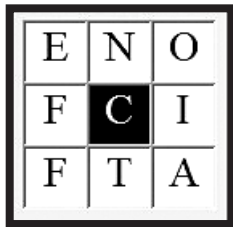
4 letters: 1 point 7 letters: 5 points
5 letters: 2 points 8 or more letters: 11 points
6 letters: 3 points

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

jots berm berth bows bots bout bouts
swob swot swum statute statue state
stow stout stem stet steep step weber
outs hews herb hots hottie home huts
tows tats tattie tows tout tome tuttee
teem teeth teehee tepee mojo mows
mote motet moue mutt mutts mutate
mute meet meth metre meets mete
moth mother thew thews therm thou
tote totem atom tuts emote ether other
item pets pitta pita tether tother

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 C)** and there must be **AT LEAST ONE NINE LETTER WORD**. Plurals, vulgarities or proper nouns are not allowed.



TARGET:

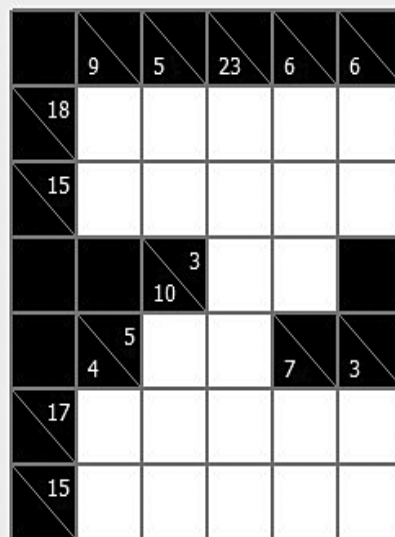
- Average: 9
- Good: 12
- Very good: 17
- Excellent: 22

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

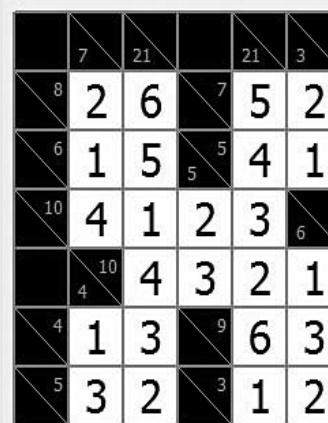
cere cert ever peer peri pert pier rete rice ripe rite
rive tier tire tree trip veer vert citer creep crepe
crept eerie erect evert peter price recti reeve retie
revet rivet terce trice tripe viper pierce privet
recipe recite tierce receipt perceive RECEPTIVE

Kakuro

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



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK

Across:

1 Robust, 4 Gale, 8 Scare,
9 Shout, 10 Mouth organ,
13 Laboratory, 17 Crave,
18 Ruddy, 19 Shed,
20 Odious.

Down:

1 Rash, 2 Beano,
3/18 See red, 5 Among,
6 Extend, 7 Escort, 11 Tureen,
12 Slacks, 14 Brave,
15 Rodeo, 16 Eyes.

CODE BREAKER

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

CRYPTIC

Across:

1 Pledge, 4 Mousse, 9 Antonym, 10 Drill,
11 Stave, 12 Serious, 13 Feeble, 15 Status,
18 Scamper, 20 Basis, 23 Equip,
24 Preside, 25 Scenic, 26 Mullet.

Down:

1 Pears, 2 Extra, 3 Genteel, 5 Order,
6 Spin out, 7 Enlists, 8 Amuse, 13 Fosters,
14 Erasure, 16 Tableau, 17 Gripe,
19 Pepsi, 21 Skill, 22 Smelt.

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

1 Sábado, 4 Espada, 9 Becerra, 10 Agree,
11 Otoño, 12 Esgrima, 13 Aerial,
15 Sphere, 18 Heating, 20 Elas, 23 Muela,
24 Aliento, 25 Duster, 26 Hornet.

Down:

1 Sabio, 2 Bicho, 3 Derrota, 5 Slang,
6 Airline, 7 Average, 8 Baker, 13 Ashamed,
14 Readers, 16 Prefijo, 17 Igual,
19 Image, 21 Linen, 22 Short.

App of the week



Magnus Trainer

An app designed to train users in the art of playing chess. It is crafted by chess and game design experts and is geared towards players of all levels. It features a series of mini games and new updates come every week.

QUIZ: SLEEPY HEADS

Answers:

- Eric Coates' By the Sleepy Lagoon is the theme tune to which long-running BBC Radio 4 programme, which has been hosted by Kirsty Young since 2006?
- First screened on Christmas Day 2003, Sleepless in Peckham was the title of the final episode of which popular BBC sitcom?
- From which 1945 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical does the song When the Children Are Asleep come?
- The American handed Leamas another cup of coffee and said, 'Why don't you go back and sleep? We can ring you if he shows up.' are the opening lines of which novel by John le Carré, first published in 1963?
- The Sleeping Beauty, The Nutcracker and Swan Lake are all ballets written by which Russian composer?
- The title character of which of William Shakespeare's plays speaks the line: "To sleep! perchance to dream; ay, there's the rub"?

- The tropical disease commonly known as 'sleeping sickness' is caused by parasitic protozoans (trypanosomes) that are transmitted by the bite of which bloodsucking insect?
- What was the name of the private detective played by actor Humphrey Bogart in the 1946 film version of Raymond Chandler's The Big Sleep?
- Which 19th century American author wrote the short story The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, first published in 1820?
- Which British pop group topped the UK singles charts in 1982 with The Lion Sleeps Tonight?

Not a lot of people know that... in general, exercising regularly makes it easier to fall asleep and contributes to sounder sleep. However, exercising sporadically or right before going to bed will make falling asleep more difficult.

- DESERT ISLAND DISCS. 2. ONLY FOOLS AND HORSES (there was another episode, but it was only a Sport Relief special in March 2014).
- CAROUSEL. 4. THE SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD. 5. PYOTR ILYCH TCHAIKOVSKY. 6. HAMLET - it is part of his 'To be or not to be' speech. 7. TISEISE FLY. 8. PHILIP MARLOWE. 9. WASHINGTON IRVING. 10. TIGHTFIT

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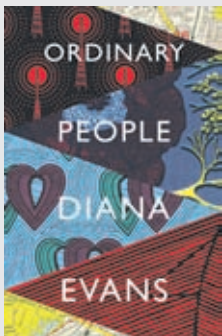
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TIME OUT

BOOKS



Times
are
changing

SOUTH LONDON in the year 2008. Barack Obama has won a historic election victory in the US but two couples in England find their lives strained close to breaking point.

Melissa and Michael have welcomed a new baby into the world but are finding it hard to adapt. She is scared of losing her identity while he struggles with whether or not to stay faithful to the relationship.

Stephanie and Damien are happily married with three children, but the recent death of Damien's father has brought on an existential crisis leading him to question his life.

Diana Evan's Ordinary People is a study of identity, parenthood, sex, grief, friendship and ageing. It looks at love through the lens of crisis.

books@euroweeklynnews.com

Costa de Almería

weather

TODAY



TOMORROW



SATURDAY



Malaga

TODAY: Max 21, Min 12-C
Fri - 22 12 - C
Sat - 20 11 - Sh
Sun - 18 10 - Sh
Mon - 19 10 - C
Tues - 20 10 - Sh
Wed - 18 11 - C

Almeria

TODAY: Max 23, Min 15-S
Fri - 24 15 - C
Sat - 21 14 - C
Sun - 19 11 - C
Mon - 20 12 - S
Tues - 19 13 - S
Wed - 18 12 - C

Bilbao

TODAY: Max 21, Min 12-C
Fri - 24 13 - C
Sat - 22 12 - Sh
Sun - 15 9 - Sh
Mon - 19 9 - C
Tues - 19 9 - Sh
Wed - 17 9 - Sh

Madrid

TODAY: Max 20, Min 6 - C
Fri - 23 9 - C
Sat - 19 7 - Sh
Sun - 14 5 - Sh
Mon - 16 6 - C
Tues - 16 6 - Sh
Wed - 15 6 - Sh

Alicante

TODAY: Max 20, Min 12-C
Fri - 21 13 - C
Sat - 22 14 - C
Sun - 21 11 - C
Mon - 20 12 - C
Tues - 20 12 - C
Wed - 20 12 - C

Benidorm

TODAY: Max 21, Min 12-S
Fri - 21 13 - C
Sat - 21 13 - C
Sun - 20 11 - Sh
Mon - 20 12 - S
Tues - 19 13 - C
Wed - 19 13 - C

Mallorca

TODAY: Max 20, Min 9-S
Fri - 20 11 - C
Sat - 21 12 - C
Sun - 18 10 - Sh
Mon - 19 11 - S
Tues - 19 11 - C
Wed - 18 11 - S

Barcelona

TODAY: Max 16, Min 8 - S
Fri - 17 10 - C
Sat - 17 12 - C
Sun - 16 9 - Sh
Mon - 17 10 - S
Tues - 17 10 - S
Wed - 17 10 - C

S: Sun

Cl: Clear

C: Cloudy

Sh: Showers

Th: Thunder

Sn: Snow

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

BIRTHDAYS

Pharrell Williams, Singer; April 5, 45

Williams was nominated for an Oscar after writing the hit song Happy for the film Despicable Me 2. He also won a Grammy Award with Ludacris in 2007 for Money Maker, in the Best Rap Song category. He was born in Virginia Beach in the US and played in his high school band.

Zach Braff, Actor; April 6, 43

The star of Scrubs is also known for his role in the crowd funded film Wish I Was Here in 2014, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. The native of South Orange in the US also wrote, directed, starred in and compiled the soundtrack for Garden State.



Tim Peake.

Tim Peake, Astronaut; April 7, 46

Born in Chichester, England, Peake became the first British astronaut for the European Space Agency and the sixth born in Britain to go aboard the International Space Station in 2015.

Izzy Stradlin, Musician; April 8, 56

Stradlin, real name Jeffrey Dean Isbell, is best known as the original rhythm guitar player for American rock band Guns N' Roses. He met Axl Rose, the lead singer, at high school where they formed their first group.

Kirstin Stewart, Actor; April 9, 28

The Twilight star began her career at the age of eight in the Disney film The Thirteenth Year. She has since gone on to have roles in Clouds of Sils Maria, Zathura and

Adventureland and to win numerous Teen Choice and People's Choice awards.

Sadio Mane, Footballer; April 10, 26

The Southampton and more recently Liverpool player has represented his home country of Senegal in the 2012 Summer Olympics and the 2015 African Cup of Nations. Born in Sedhiou, he began his career with FC Mertz in 2011 before transferring to Austrian side Red Bull Salzburg in 2014.

Joss Stone, Singer; April 11, 31

Stone rose to fame when her debut album, The Soul Sessions, went multi platinum. Born in Dover, England, her record Mind, Body & Soul landed her three Grammy nominations, including one for Best New Artist.

Sudoku

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

Word Ladder

BEER

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

CHAT

CHAT
COAT
BOAT
(BEAT)
BOAR
BEAR
BEER
Solution

DVD

Covering up



ECCENTRIC former teacher Paul Lohman (Steve Coogan) has reluctantly agreed to go with his wife Claire (Laura Linney) to meet his politician brother Stan (Richard Gere) for dinner.

Stan, who is joined by his wife Katelyn (Rebecca Hall), soon reveals the true purpose of the outing. The couples must decide how to deal with their teenage sons who have committed a serious crime.

The four are torn between protecting their children from the consequences or exposing them in The Dinner.

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**THE TEAM:** Get together regularly to discuss new events.**Advertising Feature**

MACS fundraising helps launch initiatives

MACS volunteers are the backbone of the charity, and their roles are very varied but equally vital, shop volunteers, buddies, administrators, drivers and many more, all giving up their spare time to support cancer patients and their families.

Also, busy away in the

background, is the fundraising team. This vital part of the volunteer-network meets regularly to come up with new ideas for events and to organise the established annual fundraisers which generate much-needed funds for the charity.

Fundraisers don't just hap-

pen overnight, volunteers spend months planning the events, preparing publicity, recruiting helpers and generally ensuring everything runs smoothly.

The team is always happy to listen to new ideas for events and is grateful to hear from venue owners willing to give use of their facility.

Aside from the main in-house fundraising group, local people and business owners also play a part, offering their skills etc to help raise much-needed funds for MACS.

Some of the regular events have become mainstays of the local social calendar, including the fabulous Big MAC mammoth music event which takes place every February.

The Moon Walk, where ladies (and men) dress to impress in colourful costumes and rattle their tins along the 10km route along Mojacar Playa.

'A celebration of Ashlea's life' is enjoyed every year at volunteer, Maggi Lake's, beautiful home, with music, food and a great atmosphere to mark the life of a wonderful lady.

Smaller but equally important events include, fashion shows arranged by local boutique owners, quizzes and fun activities in local bars and restaurants and not to forget the collection tins distributed throughout premises in the area.

Another regular event Boogie in Blue, organised by fitness instructor, Alison Bramwell and musician, Phil Jones, has helped raise awareness for prostate cancer over the past few years and has become an annual fundraiser.

Prostate cancer is the third most common cancer overall and the number one most common for men. A simple test can detect early signs of the disease but despite this, the number of sufferers continues to rise.

With this in mind, MACS is organising FREE prostate cancer tests in local pharmacies and vouchers will be available at an upcoming event so please look out for information.

This new initiative would not be possible without fundraising so do give the event your support as soon as it is announced.

Without the fundraising team and outside contributors, MACS would not be able to help and support the dozens of people who rely on the charity in numerous ways.

MACS would like to thank everyone who has contributed in some way to keeping the charity in operation and its founders and volunteers hope for the generosity to continue throughout 2018 and beyond.

Call 634 656 555 for the care line and 634 328 334/5 for general enquiries.

MACS
CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
Charity No G04691572

VOLUNTEER BUDDIES URGENTLY REQUIRED
IN ALBOX AND HUERCAL-OVERA AREA. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A BUDDY HELPING CANCER PATIENTS AND BEING A FRIEND CONTACT - macscancersupport@live.co.uk or 607 598 470. You must have internet

SHOP VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR ALL SHOPS AND EASTER AFTERNOONS OPENINGS FROM APRIL 2nd at LAS BUGANVILLAS and MOJACAR.
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Albox Shop - 1st Thursday of every month
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El Encuentro brings Semana Santa to a climax

THE final Semana Santa procession in Adra known as El Encuentro attracted a large crowd of both local residents and visitors. More than 1,000 people congregated in the Plaza de San Sebastián as is traditional in order to view Jesus Risen and the Immaculate Conception to enjoy the pageantry and to see the statue of the mourning Virgin as the procession moved on to the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Apart from a number of local councillors and mayor, Manuel Cortés, guests of honour included Andalucian parliamentarian Carmen Crespo and representatives of the Guardia Civil and Local Police.

ADRA: Scenes from the procession.



Credit: Ayuntamiento de Adra

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Walk for Life 2018 on Saturday May 5

WALK FOR LIFE supports people affected by cancer and their families and regularly raises funds with great events.

Most people know somebody affected by cancer so all are invited to come along and support Walk for Life.

It will be a fun-filled day starting in front of Arboleas Town Hall at 2.30pm with a dog show, (registration at 1.45pm), followed by a flamenco display.

The walk itself will start at 5pm with registration from 4.30pm. There are three and six kilometre routes and participants can run, walk, walk with their friends, children or even their dogs (or a combination of all of those).

This year the organisers are encouraging as many people as possible to don fancy dress to make the journey even more interesting and Photo Loco will be there to provide a lasting memento of the day.

Go for gold! This year winners will be awarded medals with gold, silver and bronze in all categories including fancy dress.



Credit: Mike Holiday Photography

Enjoying the start of the 2017 Walk for Life.

It doesn't stop there as the Party in the Plaza kicks off at 7.45pm with singer Kayleigh, followed by Danny, solo guitarist and vocals, then Danny is joined by Jordan whilst Roadrunner finish off the night.

Registration forms are available from the website walk4lifearboleas.com or more information may be found on walkforlife Arboleas on Facebook.

A dry pleasure

BACCHUS CELLAR

by Lorenzo
Barbareschi



SHERRY, an anglicisation of the Spanish Jerez, is a fortified wine from white grapes grown near Jerez de la Frontera in Andalucía.

After fermentation the wines are fortified with grape spirit to increase the final alcohol content. Wines suitable for ageing as Fino and Manzanilla are fortified until they reach a total alcohol content of 15.5 per cent. As they age in barrel, the wines develop natural yeast known as flor that helps protect them from excessive oxidation.

Wines chosen to undergo ageing as Oloroso are fortified to reach an alcohol content of at least 17. They do not develop flor and oxidise slightly as they age, giving



SHERRY PICKER: There are several different varieties.

them a darker colour.

Because fortification takes place after fermentation, most Sherries are initially dry, with any sweetness added later.

Jerez has been a centre of viniculture since Phoenician times in 1100 BC, with the Moors - after conquering the region - introducing distillation and producing brandy and fortified wine.

During the Moorish period, the town was called Sherish, from which both Sherry and Jerez are derived.

By the end of the 16th century, sherry had a reputation

as the world's finest wine and both Christopher Columbus and Ferdinand Magellan took it on voyages to the New World.

Because sherry was heavily exported to the UK many of the Jerez cellars were founded by British families.

Wines from different years are aged and blended before bottling, so sherry bottles do not usually carry a specific vintage year.

Sherry is traditionally drunk from a copita or catavino, a special tulip-shaped glass.

Happy tasting.

Free art exhibition in Mojacar

THE Municipal Art Centre La Fuente in Mojacar, has inaugurated a painting exhibition that will remain open to the public until the end of April.

The exhibition, organised by the council through the Department of Culture features artists Anika Samoa, Jorge Juan Gómez, Manuel Garcia de la Torre and has the special collaboration of Martin Albers.

Jorge Juan Gómez is a renowned illustrator of comics with the artist Juan Alvarez. His works, always original and characteristic, have been published in publications such as TBO, El Jueves and Penthouse.

The exhibition consists of 49 paintings and entry is free from 9am to 1pm Tuesday to Friday, and 10am to 1pm on Saturday and Sunday.



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CREDIT: Wikimedia Commons

'NOT ENOUGH': The Tajo-Segura transfer supplies water for about 23,000 hectares of land.

Water transfer 'insufficient'

SPAIN'S Agriculture Minister has been sent proposals for water transfers for approval, with the Almanzora region set for 30 per cent of its usual supply.

Isabel Garcia Tejerina will have to sign off the plans for the Tajo-Segura transfer which have been drawn up to run until June.

A total of 60 hectometres cubed (60 billion litres) will be shipped throughout the southeast of Spain in 20 Hm3 per month instalments under the plans.

Almanzora is set to receive less than half a cubic hectometre (425,000 cubic metres) of that to-

tal. It will be the only region in Almería entitled to a share of the transfer, according to reports.

Almería's Water Board said the amount allocated to the area under the plans was not enough to meet demand.

The amount would not help the region get out of its structural drought situation, with more than 23,000 hectares of land relying on the Tajo-Segura transfer.

The transfer typically supplies Almería with 10 Hm3 for supply and 15 for irrigation. These flows have been cut back in recent years due to droughts.



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HOLY MOLY

Albox celebrates Easter



Thousands attended this year's processions.

THOUSANDS are believed to have attended the numerous processions held over the course of this year's Easter holidays.

The mayor, Francisco Torrecillas, said "since becoming mayor, we have actively collaborated with the brotherhoods," by carrying out roadworks on the routes to improve safety such as the works done on Principe Asturias

street, Palmeras street and many others.

Lighting fixtures were also installed, and in future brotherhoods will be allowed to raise funds for future processions at the Albox Feria.

"The council understands that the Albox Holy Week has a great effect on businesses and hotels in our municipality," he said.



The council has vowed to work closely with the brotherhoods.



HOLY WEEK: Many processions were held throughout the holidays.



CREDIT: Ayuntamiento de Albox

Look out for

Kevin Lewis

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Albox council session 'violated Spain's constitution'



CREDIT: Google Maps

VIOLATION: The court declared the Albox council meeting 'null and void.'

MAGISTRATES at the second Contentious-Administrative Court of Almería have declared a meeting held by Albox Council 'null and void' for reportedly violating the Spanish Constitution.

The court ruled the meeting, held on June 29, 2017, went against rules governing opposition parties' access to information laid out

in Article 23 of the document.

The Partido Popular (PP) opposition was found to have been denied access to information during a meeting where a rise in bar and restaurant rates was approved.

The rates were trebled following the meeting.

They will now return to their previous level with proposals for the increases requiring a further vote.

The rates covered the occupation of public roads, which affects venues with terraces.

The PP claimed they were not given the chance to study documents related to the plans.

It was not available during the meeting,

which is a direct violation of Article 46.2 b) of Law 7/1985, which regulates councils.

PP councillors had opposed the plans from the outset, claiming several establishments had removed their terraces after the new rates were applied.

"This rise is a frontal attack on the economic activity of Albox and it strangles catering establishments, as well as jobs in the area," the party said in a statement.

"The viability of many businesses may be affected. They will have to choose between reducing the occupation space or increasing prices," the statement added.

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English course is a hit with youth

THE Diputación de Almería has now closed its seasonal 'Introduction to the preparation of the B1 in English' course in Albox.

This initiative was part of the 'Training for Youth 2018' programme in which 30 students participated.

The course offers face-to-face training for young people between 14 and 30 across the province, free of charge.

It had a duration of 25 teaching hours and the qualification of level B1 in the English language is acquired when the student is able to understand the main points of texts in standard language.

Students must also write simple and coherent prose on various topics, and describe experiences, events, and feelings.

Some young people in Albox have also taken advantage of a free course centred around activities related to animation, group dynamics and sports.



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Messi strikes to land luxury hotel

LIONEL MESSI has purchased an incredible €600 a night hotel in Ibiza, as he develops his MiM brand.

The 30-year-old Barcelona star has bought the stunning Hotel Es Vive, located on the Figueretas beach, and the 52-room property boasts a luxury pool and rooftop bar.

Last summer the footballing icon started his hotel splurge with a €30 million swoop for the four-star hotel MiM Sitges.

Following that, this exclusive resort will be managed by the Majestic Hotel Group, with prices starting from €257 per night.

Management company Gemini Group Evisia confirmed the takeover, and it has since been renamed MiM Ibiza Es Vive.



REGAL RESORT: The palatial hotel will attract high society.

Sean Cochrane, a British designer, redesigned the hotel in 2014 in a 1940's-inspired Art Deco style.

Real Madrid rival Cristiano Ronaldo recently announced his business plans for the pop-

ular island, but it appears he has been again pipped by Messi.

The 33-year-old's Pestana CR7 chain of hotels had revealed last year that they were looking for a suitable property

in Ibiza, with the help of JLL Hotels and Hospitality Group.

Ronaldo is already well versed in the hotel business, having bought establishments in Lisbon, as well as his hometown of Funchal.



Credit: Twitter @Ebenzerberg54

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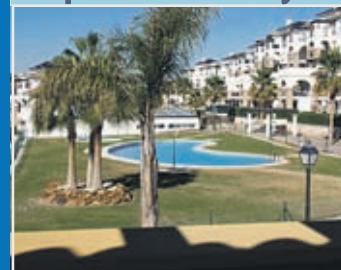
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Underground
storage room
Communal pool
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A brief introduction and an Italian classic

By Andy Harding
columnists@euroweeklynews.com

THIS is what I hope will be the first of many cookery columns I will be writing for the Euro Weekly News.

The name of this column will I hope, explain the ethos behind my cooking. Simply put, you are what you eat. I cook with pure ingredients, I know what goes into my food, there is nothing hidden or harmful, and as a result my family and I enjoy good health.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. You already know my name, so let me tell you the rest. I am a retired dentist and have lived in Marbella for three years, prior to that we had a holiday home here since 2006. I have three grown up children, who, with my wife, live in Newcastle upon Tyne. When I started university I couldn't cook, but one night 39 years ago I decided to impress a new girlfriend (who hated cooking) by doing something I had never done before; cook a meal from basic ingredients. She must have been impressed, a year later we were engaged! I have cooked for her and our family ever since.

I hope you enjoy this column and all comments good or bad are welcome.

Happy Reading!

Recipe of the week: Spaghetti Bolognese

**Eat Well
to Live Well**



1 tablespoon olive oil
1 medium onion, chopped
30 grams bacon, chopped
200 grams beef, minced
2 whole garlic cloves (add more if you want to), chopped
250 millilitres red wine
1/2 teaspoon celery salt
2 teaspoons dried mixed Italian herbs
2 whole bay leaves, whole
1 tin chopped tomatoes
1 tablespoon tomato paste
1 whole beef stock cube, crumbled
125 grams mushrooms, sliced
Black peppercorns (ground), to taste
1 litre water, boiling
2 teaspoons salt
180 grams dried spaghetti
2 teaspoons olive oil
60 grams parmesan cheese, grated

Servings: 2

Preparation Time: 15 minutes

Start to finish: 1 hour 30 minutes

In a suitably sized saucepan gently sauté the onion and bacon in olive oil, add garlic and continue to sauté continually stirring until the garlic has taken on a golden hue. Add the



SPAGHETTI BOLOGNESE: Serve with freshly grated parmesan cheese.

minced beef and stir until browned. 2/3 hob heat is the hottest required for the sauce, any higher and it will burn.

Add the red wine and simmer until the smell of alcohol has disappeared and it has reduced by about 1/2.

Add the herbs, tinned tomatoes, tomato paste and the beef stock cube continually stirring, turn the heat to 1/3 for 45 minutes. If the pan has a lid, just leave it on, if not occasionally top up with water. The sauce needs to have a similar consistency to a bowl of old fashioned rice pudding.

Add mushrooms and stir, bring back to a

light simmer for 10 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Discard the bay leaves.

At the same time, add a teaspoon of salt and two teaspoons of olive oil to a pan of boiling water on the highest hob setting, add spaghetti.

Cook until it is slightly al dente with a slight resistance when biting, drain in a colander. The Bolognese sauce should be ready at the same time.

Serve on a pre-warmed plate with freshly grated parmesan cheese.

Serving Ideas: Slices of garlic bread.

Suggested Wine: A full bodied Red, Italian or Spanish.

Travel

Elche: a city of variety

ELCHE - and its predecessor, La Alcudia, was settled by the Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Goths and Moors. So it is safe to say that the city has some history.

But the city offers far more than museums - in fact, part of its appeal is its variety.

The coastal location provides it the obligatory beach attraction but there are cultural options aplenty for those looking for a more sophisticated experience.

Perhaps the most notable is the Basilica of Santa Maria - an impressive, Arabic-looking structure well worth a visit. Another must for architecture is the Torre de la Calahorra.

If greenery is your thing then the Palm Grove of Elche should be right up your garden path, having been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000.

Twinned with six towns -



PALM GROVE: The city boasts a Unesco World Heritage Site.

including Toulouse in France - Elche is within striking distance of Alicante, for those who want the allure of one of Spain's largest cities. But Elche should be easily big

enough for all travel needs and boasts a number of top restaurants and hotels.

The local football team, Elche CF, were in the top tier of Spanish football until last

year, but could make a return to La Liga in the coming seasons - giving football fans the chance to see giants like Real Madrid or Barcelona in quaint surroundings.

Alicante's underrated tourist base

TORREVIEJA is not the destination at the top of many travellers' lists in Spain.

However, the city makes for an ideal base from which to see a number of quaint, charming villages and popular beach spots.

The waterfront promenade, lined with palm trees and Spaniards out for a stroll, comes alive in the evenings. Buskers and merchandise sellers add spirit to a number of endearing bench-based monuments, while the lively restaurants culture adds to the homely feel.

The real draw, though, is the sea view - particularly at sunset - and the ice cream vendors who serve all manner of flavours, from the exotic to the traditional.

Another tourist favourite is the Go-karting just outside of town.

Though the city is not particularly authentic - or much different to other tourist-filled seaside towns - what is impressive is the number of nearby locations that you can day trip to.

With relatively cheap accommodation on offer, tourists can see the delights of countless local beaches. Try the quiet Lomas de Cabo-Roig or Punta Prima, wave-filled Guardamar, or popular sand and sun-filled La Zenia.

Nearby Spanish towns are also worth a visit for travellers after a more authentic experience.

Advertising Feature

How I get my pool to 28°C

WHO doesn't want to get the most out of his pool? Outside summer season it's a big investment just sitting there in your garden. Swimming in a heated pool whenever you want, whatever the season, economical and failsafe, that's what most pool owners are looking for.

Whether you want to be the first to host a pool party this year, have family coming over for some splashing fun or just want to enjoy a few poolside days off ... Poolworx makes it possible and is confident of their four-days promise.

How does that work?

Albert from Poolworx explains: "As long as nighttime temperatures exceed 10° it takes less than four days to heat the average 8x4 pool from around 15°C to 28°C. After that you can easily maintain your temperature by heating mainly during off-peak hours!

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pool year round is less than €2 a day, with the use of a pool cover.

"Our Duratech air source heat pumps are the single most efficient

way to heat a pool and don't require sunshine, only ambient temperature. They are durable high-end Belgian-made units absorbing

heat from the air and transferring it into the pool water, just like a reverse air con."

What are the four steps?

Albert: "Step 1 is talking to you in person! Choosing the right model fit for your pool is where it all starts. Poolworx is always your contact, before and after installation! We are experts in doing the calculations and fully assess your current pool situation. If required, we do a site visit. After that it's a natural job for a skilled installer. We advise people to first explore their options online with our calculator at www.poolworx.eu.

"In Step 2 Poolworx selects an installer near you so they can arrange the on-site delivery. If you have your own preferred installer, Poolworx provides him or her with all the required information to perform a quality installation.

"Step 3 is the installation of the unit. This is straightforward for a skilled installer as the package

comes with everything included. The unit is then connected to your power supply and piping is connected with three valves correctly directing the flow of pool water. Poolworx Duratech units can autonomously steer your pool filtration pump and automatically detect water flow from your system. This means you have full control and flexibility in heating your pool!

"Step 4 is setting the desired temperature on the digital control panel. Then, whenever you press START, only four days of patience are required to enjoy your heated pool!"

Contact Poolworx for your no obligation 'pool specific' price quote, by calling Spain 643 363 179 or Belgium (+32) 497 408 800 or email albert@poolworx.es. Visit their websites in English at www.poolworx.eu, Spanish at www.poolworx.es or Dutch at www.poolworx.be.

Tips to make your home look unique

IT'S easy, when trying to copy the latest design trends, to fall into the trap of decorating your house to look like a model home.

While this no doubt still looks stunning, it's the unique touches that correspond to your own personal taste which make your house feel like a home, and they also help create good talking points for when you have guests over.

If you're stuck on how to achieve

this, investing in a good work of art is always a good place to start. Whether it's a beautiful watercolour painting from a talented local artist or a large print by one of your favourite photographers, art is an investment and speaks volumes to your taste so be sure to choose wisely.

Another easy way to make your home look unique is to juxtapose antiques with more contemporary pieces.

The great thing about antiques is that you're guaranteed none of your friends will find the same marble coffee table in the local furniture shop and they help to add character.

Play around with colour and textures. Don't be afraid to go bold if you think it's something you can live with. After all bright colours add vibrancy to your surroundings, and can be a real mood booster.



Photo credit: unsplash

GORGEOUS: Old school meets modern design is a real winner.

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It's a small world

Mini gardens within gardens and on terraces add interest and pleasure

MOST house gardens and apartment terraces in Spain benefit from being designed as a series of interesting mini gardens. Preferably each with its own soul and style, but integrated into an overall holistic landscape that enables great living and garden wanders all the year round.

Even only four to six metres on one or two sides lends itself to five distinct gardens. One on each side and a fifth under a covered terrace. The latter can be attractive all year round with shade from the high sun in summer and the warmth of the low winter sun. Such a terrace garden immediately integrates the house into the garden.

Success in having a number of integrated mini gardens is in choosing what to have in each area and how you separate them. Possible types of mini garden include the following:

- ♦ The pool or jacuzzi garden surrounded by shrubs and trees to give privacy and a sense of being in a natural glade when cooling off or sun-bathing. Also this is a good way of hiding the pool away during the non-pool months. So many gardens are dominated by a pool in the most prominent spot where it adds no real interest.
- ♦ Seasonal flower gardens.
- ♦ A Japanese raked chipping or water and rock-based garden.
- ♦ A water garden with fountains and fish ponds.



LITTLE TO THE IMAGINATION: A planted garden pond or small vegetable gardens.

- ♦ A dry cacti and succulent garden.
- ♦ A rockery or embankment garden.
- ♦ A container garden with 50 to 100 plants in containers of various shapes, sizes and colours.
- ♦ A specialist mini botanical or collector's garden.
- ♦ A rose garden with a collection of climbers, standards and bush forms.
- ♦ A mini orchard with perhaps a secret

garden hidden in the centre.

- ♦ A vegetable garden planted in the soil or in raised beds or containers.
- ♦ An oasis garden mainly planted with palms or a dry riverbed garden.
- ♦ An Arabic style garden incorporating coloured ceramics in the floor walls, water features, containers etc.
- ♦ A water plant garden around a pond.
- ♦ A desert garden with plants planted

through sand or stone chippings laid over black plastic.

♦ A lily garden glowing with masses of lilies during late spring and summer.

♦ A greenhouse and potting shed garden for those who like to grow from seeds and cuttings.

♦ A herb garden which can be interesting and relaxing all year round as well as yielding continuous harvests of culinary and medicinal herbs.

♦ A vineyard with grapes growing on the walls and over arches or even covered walkways.

♦ A citrus garden perfumed by the flowers of a perpetual flowering and fruiting lemon tree.

♦ A wild garden of natural herbs, shrubs and trees allowed to grow fairly wild like a miniature L'Arbada garden, as can be visited near Pedreguer in the Alicante region.

There are so many possible styles to choose from.

If you came to Spain for the sunny weather then get out to enjoy it in a garden created to draw you outside so that you live in it in preference to the house for much of the year.

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Out of the blues

AS spring emerges and your garden comes to life, why not bring the colour of the outdoors into your home.

Of course, it's very easy to create a white blank canvas but why not be more adventurous and introduce a bold colourful feature

wall. However, think long and hard about the colours used.

Each has its own meaning which can affect your mood

and energy levels. A dark black feature wall might go with your favourite rug but it might make you depressed.

Use grey in your living area to create an elegant look. Paired with other warm colours, it can create an inviting effect.

A splash of orange in your kitchen or dining space should stimulate appetite and spice up conversation. Instead of blue, try a calming shade of lilac in your bathroom to create a sense of relaxation.

If you work from home, surround yourself with the colour blue to increase your productivity.

A pale yellow is perfect for your hallway to create some neutrality and offer a sunny vibe. Whilst candy-apple red in your bedroom should introduce a bite of passion to those spring evenings!

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MOST of my readers are aware that I have been involved in the canine industry for over 60 years having covered most aspects from police work, Air Sea Rescue film work and most importantly teaching the public how to bring up their dog. Running all types and levels including agility and flyball at all levels. Looking at the dog training industry today I, and many of my colleagues, are appalled that so many young people are starting up classes with no experience and have never entered a 'proper' competition apart from their local animal shelter etc. This goes on in many countries especially the USA, UK, Australia, etc. It is so simple today to join organisations run by bogus individuals who sell certificates over the internet which suggest you have passed many exams and have had hands on experience. I wonder if they could present their own dog to demonstrate how good they are? However you must not be impressed by this, as they may not have trained the dog. Let them show you what they are able to do with your dog.

David
THE Dogman

columnists@ewnmediagroup.com

Today whilst writing this article I received an email from my friend David Davies who was an instructor in the UK Police force:

'I am afraid everything is about money these days.'

The canine world is going bonkers here in the UK. There are new trainers, behaviourists, walkers, creches etc opening up everywhere. Most are run by youngsters who have only been around dogs a few years, months in many cases. What I struggle to accept is when this involves creatures. No one can be involved at a senior level with animals until they have many years' experience. I mean experience, not simply had a few dogs, cats etc. One must have worked with them in a very diverse and involved way beforehand. There is a young man opening up near me. He has minutes of experience and is running a workshop on how to

Training tips



train your dog using motivation, he seems to think [believe] he has invented this concept.

How do you start? Talk to your vet who will be aware of the trainers in the area. In fact many vets now run schools at their premises like Pointer Clinic East. Take a look at as many schools as you are able to but do not take your pet.

Explain to the 'instructor' that you're thinking of having lessons. Now you can see what goes on, shouting and rough handling is out. It is also an idea to have a chat with those attending with their dogs to see if they have advanced in training and behaviour. Look before you book as you would with your children.

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MOTORING FACT

The world's first speeding ticket was issued to a motorist in 1896. The limit at the time was 2mph and he was driving at 8mph.

PEUGEOT'S best-selling car of all time, the Peugeot 206, celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

The original 206 was launched in the form of a hatchback in 1998 and had seen over 5.4 million global sales by December 2005.

The car remains Peugeot's best-selling vehicle to date with 5.1 million sold in Europe and 8.3 million globally.

In celebration of the landmark anniversary, Peugeot took on the challenge of recreating one of the most iconic 206 adverts, 'The Sculptor.'

The advert was originally filmed in Jaipur, India, in 2003 and depicted a young man converting his Ambassador into a 206 after seeing the car in a newspaper advert. The man makes the modifications by repeatedly crashing his Ambassador into a wall and encouraging an elephant to sit on it to make it resemble the Peugeot 206.

In homage to this, the French carmaker recreated the advert, by converting a Hindustan Ambassador into the Peugeot 208 GTi, using a team of engineers at Ajeenkya D Y Patil University, based in Pune, India.

Mark Pickles, Peugeot marketing director, said: "It's been 15 years since 'The Sculptor' advert appeared on TV screens and as Peugeot has recently acquired the Ambassador brand, it seemed a fitting way to mark the

20 years on

Peugeot celebrates 206 anniversary



Credit: Peugeot/twitter

206's anniversary year.

"The outstanding work that the Ajeenkya D Y Patil University team has put into the vehicle modification has been incredible to watch.

"The anniversary of the Peugeot 206 is a great opportunity to recognise the vehicle's success in becoming Peugeot's best-selling model of all time. On sale between 1998 and 2008, the 206's reliable build and iconic design made it a popular choice of vehicle."



ICONIC: Peugeot's 2003 'the Sculptor' advert (inset) has been recreated as part of the celebrations.

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ROAD TEST

by Nick Fletcher

THE Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross is a new small SUV offering smart styling, cabin versatility and the reassurance of a five-year warranty.

The sector is highly competitive - rivals include the Peugeot 3008 and SEAT Ateca - but Mitsubishi has a strong reputation for reliability which is a big plus-point, as is the striking look of the Eclipse Cross in an image-sensitive market-place.

Priced from €24,277 (£21,275), this newcomer offers several trim levels and either two-wheel drive or four-wheel drive depending on model. All variants are powered by a 1.5-litre turbocharged petrol engine, mated to six-speed manual or all-new eight-speed CVT automatic transmission.

Standard kit includes Smartphone connection compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, touch-pad controller, rear view camera, DAB radio, climate control, LED daytime running lights, and alloy wheels.

Safety features include lane departure warning and forward collision mitigation, which uses radar technology to detect collision risk.

Eclipse Cross looks and feels a good package for the money, and its interior space makes it very family-

friendly.

The rear seats slide for variable load/occupant versatility and they do fold flat.

The cabin has an upmarket look, the controls are well-placed and the seating

is very comfortable. My only negative is that the tailgate screen has a central bar which though hardly impeding vision, is mildly distracting.

My test model was a flag-

ship version adding extra kit including leather upholstery and panoramic sunroof. With manual gearbox and front wheel drive, this model costs €28,504 (£24,975).

The 1.5 litre 161 hp turbo-

petrol engine is smooth and eager, with a top speed of 204 kph (127 mph) and a 0-60 kph time of 10.3 seconds. Fuel economy is 15.2 kpl (42.8 mpg), with emissions at 151 g/km.

Ride quality is excellent

and the Eclipse Cross proves composed on cornering and the steering has good feedback. The car looks good, drives well and should give the Mitsubishi brand a real boost.

Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross

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La Liga Preview

Real host Atletico in Madrid derby

REAL MADRID host rivals Atletico in the Madrid derby on Sunday, with both sides looking to strengthen their positions in this year's top four.

Atletico moved to within nine points of leaders Barcelona after a 1-0 victory against Deportivo on Saturday, with Kevin Gameiro's goal enough to separate Atletico and the struggling side.

They travel to a Real side who themselves come into the game off the back of some good form, having won all of their La Liga games in March and got themselves up to third in La Liga.

A win for Real will see them move to within just a point of their Madrid rivals, but a win for Atletico would see them move five points clear and all but guarantee Champions League football for next season.

Elsewhere, Barcelona will look to continue their unbeaten run in La Liga against Leganes after they extended it even further in dramatic fashion during a 2-2 draw with Sevilla last weekend.

The Champions-elect looked to be heading for their first La Liga defeat since 2017 after goals from Franco Vasquez had hosts Sevilla 2-0 up with just five minutes to go.

But it was not meant to be for Sevilla as Barcelona scored two in the final two minutes of the game through Luis Suarez and Lionel Messi to ensure their record run continued.

Barcelona can now make it 38 games unbeaten in La Liga as they host Leganes on Saturday almost a year to the day since they last suffered defeat in the league; a 2-0 loss to Malaga on April 8, 2017.

Tomorrow (Friday), Malaga travel to Deportivo in a battle at the bottom of the league, having registered their first win of 2018 last time out against sixth placed Villarreal.

Chory Castro's penalty was enough to give the Malaga boss his



GOALLESS: The reverse fixture between Real and Atletico in November ended in a 0-0 draw.

first win since taking over the side in January and register Los Boquerones' fourth win of the season, but was not enough to take them off the bottom of the table.

Clarence Seedorf's Deportivo La Coruña find themselves in a similar position, struggling to survive and have picked up just one win in their last 16 La Liga matches.

Elsewhere, Sevilla will look to get back into the Europa league spots against Celta Vigo after being leapfrogged by Real Betis, who went into sixth following their win against Getafe.

The Champions League quarter-finalists have slipped out of the top six having picked up just one point from their last three games.

In the weekend's other fixtures, Real Betis host Eibar on Saturday, Sunday sees Levante play Las Palmas before Real Sociedad take on Girona and Villarreal face Athletic Bilbao on Monday.

SPANISH LA LIGA 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	PI	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 • Barcelona	30	23	7	0	76	15	76
2 • Atlético	30	20	7	3	50	14	67
3 • Real Madrid	30	19	6	5	76	33	63
4 • Valencia	30	19	5	6	58	31	62
5 • Villarreal	30	14	5	11	40	34	47
6 • Betis	30	14	4	12	50	53	46
7 • Sevilla	30	14	4	12	39	46	46
8 • Girona	30	12	8	10	44	43	44
9 • Celta	30	11	7	12	46	43	40
10 • Eibar	30	11	7	12	36	43	40
11 • Getafe	30	10	9	11	35	28	39
12 • Athletic	30	8	12	10	30	34	36
13 • Espanyol	30	8	12	10	26	37	36
14 • Leganés	30	10	6	14	25	36	36
15 • R. Sociedad	30	9	7	14	51	52	34
16 • Alavés	30	10	2	18	26	45	32
17 • Levante	30	5	13	12	26	44	28
18 • Las Palmas	30	5	6	19	21	61	21
19 • Deportivo	30	4	8	18	26	61	20
20 • Málaga	30	4	5	21	17	45	17

Champions L.

Europa L.

Relegation

PREMIER LEAGUE 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	PI	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 • M. City	31	27	3	1	88	21	84
2 • M. United	31	21	5	5	60	23	68
3 • Liverpool	32	19	9	4	75	35	66
4 • Tottenham H.	31	19	7	5	62	26	64
5 • Chelsea	31	17	5	9	53	30	56
6 • Arsenal	31	15	6	10	58	41	51
7 • Burnley	31	12	10	9	29	27	46
8 • Leicester City	31	11	10	10	47	43	43
9 • Everton	32	11	7	14	38	53	40
10 • Bournemouth	32	9	10	13	39	51	37
11 • Watford	32	10	7	15	41	57	37
12 • Newcastle United	31	9	8	14	31	40	35
13 • Brighton	31	8	10	13	28	42	34
14 • West Ham Utd.	31	8	9	14	39	57	33
15 • Swansea City	31	8	7	16	25	44	31
16 • Huddersfield Town	32	8	7	17	25	53	31
17 • Crystal Palace	32	7	9	16	31	50	30
18 • Southampton	31	5	13	13	29	47	28
19 • Stoke City	32	6	9	17	29	61	27
20 • West Bromwich	32	3	11	18	25	51	20

Premier League preview

Derby day could see Citizens crowned

MANCHESTER CITY can officially wrap up the Premier League title with six games to spare if they beat bitter rivals Manchester United at the Etihad on Saturday.

Pep Guardiola's side moved to within just one win of the title after a 3-1 victory over Everton on Saturday as they became just the third Premier League side to beat all other teams in a single Premier League season.

First half goals from Leroy Sane, Gabriel Jesus and Raheem Sterling were enough to blow away the Merseysiders on the day, despite a 63rd minute consolation from Yannick Bolasie.

The result means just a win against United at the Etihad on Saturday will be enough for City to wrap up their third title in the past seven years and the earliest title ever to be won in Premier League history.

Elsewhere, Liverpool will look to overtake Manchester United into second place as they host Everton at Anfield in the Merseyside derby.

The Reds come into the game in scintillating form having lost just one of their last eight games as they continued their good run of results with 2-1 win over Crystal Palace.

Having fallen behind to an early Luka Milivojevic penalty, Sadio Mane equalised early in the second half be-



RECORD BREAKERS: City could seal the title in record time on Saturday.

fore Mo Salah's 29th Premier League goal of the season secured the result for Liverpool.

On Sunday, Chelsea face West Ham in a London derby looking to bounce back from their heavy defeat to top four rivals Tottenham last weekend.

The Blues are all but assured not to finish in this season's top four after the damaging 3-1 defeat to Spurs as Dele Alli scored a brace and Christian Eriksen's stunner were enough to condemn Chelsea to their ninth defeat of the season.

The result leaves them eight points behind Spurs in the table with just seven games left to play in the race for the top four.

Tottenham themselves head to Stoke on Saturday looking to consolidate their position in fourth, while their opponents are desperate for points in the fight against relegation.

Stoke are in real danger of relegation from the Premier League this season and currently sit in 18th place, eight points away from safety following last week's heavy defeat to Arsenal.

Elsewhere, West Brom play Swansea City at the Hawthorns and will be desperate for a result after they slumped to a record eighth successive league defeat at the hands of Burnley on Saturday.

In the weekend's other fixtures, Watford play Burnley, Bournemouth host Crystal Palace, Brighton face Huddersfield Town, Leicester City are against Newcastle and Arsenal take on Southampton on Sunday.

Spain's RWC decision delayed

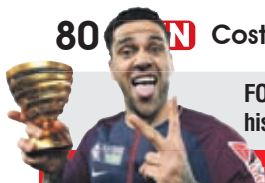
GOVERNING body Rugby Europe has again delayed a decision on the outcome of the Spain vs Belgium World Cup Qualifying match.

The Spanish Rugby Federation (FER) has asked Rugby Europe to look into their final qualifier after they lost 18-10 to Belgium which meant Romania qualified for next year's World Cup instead of Spain.

The FER had requested that the officials be changed prior to the match, due to the potential conflict of interest, and have now asked for the game to be replayed on account of 19 decisions they feel were unfair against them.

A Rugby Europe referees' selection committee had an initial meeting in Poznan following the match, which included the Spanish Rugby Federation President, Alfonso Feijoo, before a conference call between the Rugby Europe Board of directors was set to take place on Thursday last week.

It had been thought that a decision would be imminent following the conference call, but that call has now been rescheduled due to the need to 'gather, clarify and share all the additional information' before making an accurate decision.



FORMER Barcelona defender Dani Alves has officially become the most decorated footballer in history after PSG's victory in the Coupe de la Ligue gave the 35-year-old his 36th official trophy.

Costa de Almería's best guide to local sport

TO READ MORE

Garcia going for Masters

SERGIO GARCIA returns to Augusta National this weekend looking to become just the fourth man to win back-to-back Masters' titles.

The Spaniard enjoyed a fantastic season last year, winning three times on the European Tour including his maiden major win, becoming just the third Spaniard behind Seve Ballesteros and Jose Maria Olazabal to win the coveted Masters green jacket.

He was subsequently named European Tour Golfer of the Year in December but despite his amazing season last year, Garcia's name doesn't appear

among the favourites to take the title this time around.

Dustin Johnson, Rory McIlroy, Justin Thomas, Jordan Spieth and a resurgent Tiger Woods head the list of favourites for Augusta, but ahead of this week's competition, which begins today (Thursday), Garcia has admitted that it doesn't bother him where he is placed going into the tournament.

He told *Sporting Life*: "That doesn't really matter to me because at the end of the day I know what I'm capable of and I know how I'm playing."

"Obviously I feel like my game is in good shape. I'm really happy with all my new equipment. I've had a couple of good weeks so I'm excited to go back there and defend my title as well as I can be and as well as I can do."

"If I'm looked at as a favourite or not it doesn't really matter, because it depends on myself and what I do and on what I believe."

Garcia heads into the competition on the back of marrying his long term partner last year, while the couple also welcomed their first daughter.

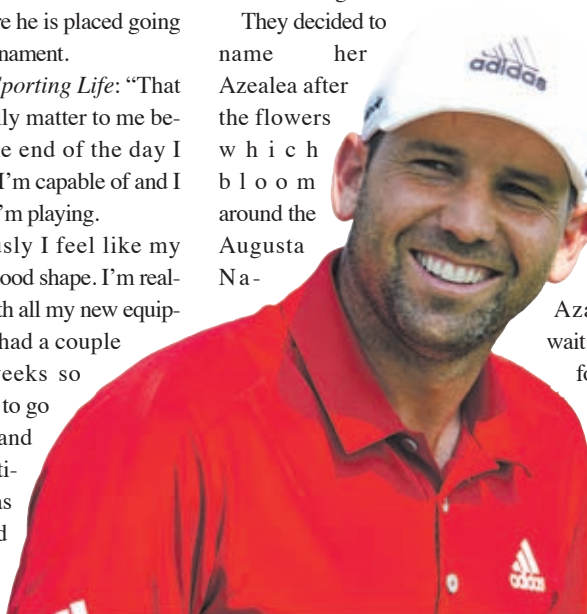
They decided to name her Azealea after the flowers which bloom around the Augusta Na-

tional course and on his return to the Masters' famous course earlier this week, the 38-year-old told *USA Today*: "It is so special."

"The drive down Magnolia Lane, it's a different feeling, a special feeling. To have Azalea come and see where the idea of her name came from is unbelievable. It's an amazing combination of feelings and sensations."

"I've had a great career and an amazing life, and now it's even better. Winning the Masters, marrying my best friend, an amazing woman like Angela, seeing beautiful Azalea every day. We can't wait to see what the future holds for us."

RETURNING CHAMPION: Sergio Garcia will look to become just the fourth man to win back-to-back Masters' titles this weekend.



Return of the Raf

RAFAEL NADAL is set to return from a longstanding hip injury next week after he was named in Spain's Davis Cup squad.

The 31-year-old has not played since he was forced to withdraw from the Australian Open quarter-final against Marin Cilic in January due to a hip injury.

He had looked to return at last month's ATP 500 Acapulco in Mexico but withdrew at the last minute due to a recurrence of the same injury.

And if he does feature, he is set to return to action as World Number 1 after Roger Federer's shock second-round loss to Thanasi Kokkinakis at the Miami Open.

Speaking to the Spanish Federation website, Spain's Davis Cup Captain Sergi Bruguera said: "Rafa is getting better and training more. There is still a week and a half for the games to start and there is time."

Fellow Spaniards Roberto Bautista Agut, Pablo Carreno Busta, Feliciano Lopez and David Ferrer make up the rest of the team that take on Germany in Valencia between April 6 and 8.

The winner will then take on either France or Italy in the semi-finals, while Croatia face Kazakhstan and United States play Belgium in the other quarter-finals.

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