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COSTA DE ALMERÍA » YOUR PAPER, YOUR VOICE, YOUR OPINION

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Strife of crime

Drug hitman clips spark outrage

by Gregory Kirby

INFAMOUS Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar's former hitman - who has admitted to 250 murders and arranged the killing of 3,000 others - has been used to promote holidays in Carboneras.

Pascual Diaz, the town's tourism councillor, reportedly signed up ex-assassin John Jairo Velasquez because of his massive YouTube following.



ESCOBARMY: Ex-killer John Jairo Velasquez has been chosen to promote local tourism.

Turn to page 3 »

Just beachy!

SPAIN has maintained its status as the nation with the most blue flag beaches on the planet.

It comes after the Association for Environmental Education and the Consumer (ADEAC) handed the coveted award to 590 sandy strips across the country.

The Blue Flag is given to beaches meeting high standards of hygiene, sanitary conditions, safety, and accessibility.

And Spain's total has increased by 11 this year, with the sun-drenched hotspot having topped the world ranking since the awards began in 1987.

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26 injured after minibus plunge

ADRIVER who allegedly crashed into a minibus carrying farm employees in Almeria later tested positive for alcohol, police claimed.

Nine farm workers were left seriously injured following the crash on the A-332 road between Cuevas de Almanzora and Aguilas, Murcia.

They were part of a group of 23 passengers who were travelling in the vehicle when the 30-year-old driver reportedly crashed into them



COLLISION: A total of 26 people were taken to hospital following the crash.

headlong.

The bus then fell three to four metres down a roadside embank-

ment while the driver's car hit a guard rail, according to emergency services.

The motorist, who was travelling alone and suffered a suspected broken leg, had to be cut free of the wreckage by the fire brigade. He remained in hospital for treatment.

A total of 26 people were hurt, with 16 hospitalised after a helicopter and ambulances from Pulpi, Mojacar, Vera, Cuevas del Almanzora and Huerca-Overa attended.

They were taken to La Inmaculada and Torrecardenas hospitals in

Huerca-Overa and Almeria City, and Baza Hospital in Granada.

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Currencies Direct
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Pot luck!

POLICE have reportedly seized 6.5 tonnes of marihuana from plantations in the province during the first four months of 2018.

It led to more than 30 suspected drug trafficking arrests.

In Almeria the police drug unit spends much of its efforts busting drug farms and warehouses, local media reports.

In an operation last December, National Police located a family drug clan selling substances from their home next to schools.

The investigations began in the Hortensia street area after spotting 'several youths in possession of hachis and marihuana,' police report.

This gave officers their first bust of the year, seizing 40 kilograms of marihuana plants and four suspects.

Police's success so far this year has uncovered a household drug operation 'phenomenon,' media report.

Of the 36 drug dealers arrested so far this year, 27 were men and nine were women.

It's a fair cop

UK's 'most-wanted' fugitive accepts fate

By Matt Ford

ONE of Britain's most wanted fugitives will not fight extradition after being held in Spain, it has been confirmed.

It comes after former Stephen Lawrence murder suspect Jamie Acourt was arrested as he ate lunch following a workout at Metropolitan Sagrada Familia Gym in Barcelona.

Reports suggest he tried to impersonate an Italian tourist but was unable to fool armed undercover officers who had spent days posing as fitness fanatics while keeping tabs on the 41-year-old from Eltham in south east London.

Acourt went on the run three years ago amid allegations that he was involved in a €4.5 million UK cannabis smuggling ring. Scotland Yard said in a statement he had been remanded in custody by Spanish police on a European Arrest Warrant at the close of an operation involving the UK's National

Crime Agency (NCA).

Dramatic images released in the wake of the swoop show the handcuffed suspect in a Barcelona police station.

And a court appearance in Madrid has reportedly been cancelled after the Spanish High Court heard via video link that he will accept his extradition.

Ian Cruxton, Head of Inter-

national Operations for the NCA, said: "Acourt thought he could evade capture but as a result of an intelligence-led operation his days on the run have ended."

"We were able to direct the Spanish authorities to his location in Barcelona."

"Our ability to share information and work at speed with our international partners ensures there is no safe haven for fugitives. We will never stop pursuing these individuals."

A Crimestoppers appeal to find Acourt was launched in October 2016, when he was described as one of Britain's Top 10 fugitives.

It is believed he regularly returned to the UK using a false passport to raise money for his life on the run.

A Met Police statement said: "Spanish authorities arrested Jamie Acourt, 41, in Barcelona on a European Arrest Warrant (EAW) on behalf of the Metro-



BARCELONA ARREST: Jamie Acourt was held in the Catalan capital.

politan Police Service.

"The EAW was issued as part of the Met's efforts to trace Acourt in relation to an investigation into the unlawful supply of controlled substances."

"This relates to an investigation launched in 2016 by detectives from the Serious and Organised Crime Command."

"Extradition proceedings now await."

Acourt's arrest follows recent reports that he had been spotted living a party lifestyle in glamorous Costa del Sol resort Marbella.

He was alongside his brother Neil named among the five

prime suspects in the Stephen Lawrence murder enquiry, but was not convicted and has always maintained his innocence.

Stephen was aged 18 when he died on April 22, 1993 after a racially motivated attack at a London bus stop.

Gary Dobson, now 42, and David Norris, 41, were found guilty of his murder and handed life prison sentences in 2012.

Acourt is the 81st of 96 British fugitives to be traced by Operation Captura, a joint scheme between the NCA, Crimestoppers and Spanish authorities.

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Two dead in home gas leak

A MAN and a woman have died and a further 80 people were evacuated from more than 20 homes in Roquetas de Mar after a carbon monoxide leak. Emergency services personnel were called to Calle Mar Egeo and reportedly found meters had recorded a 'very high' level of gas last Saturday.

Drugs trial

FOUR defendants who stand accused of running a marihuana farm allegedly made up of some 1,500 plants have appeared in Almería's Provincial Court. The men are also accused of defrauding the power grid out of some €33,000 of electricity taken to run their operation and of using two children as lookouts.

Cart critics

A TRADE UNION has claimed medical records at Torrecardenas Hospital are being moved around in shopping trollies which if true would violate data protection laws. The Independent Trade Union Centre of Officials Almería (CSIF) added caretakers were being made to transport the files in an "insecure" and "rudimentary" way.

Farm storms

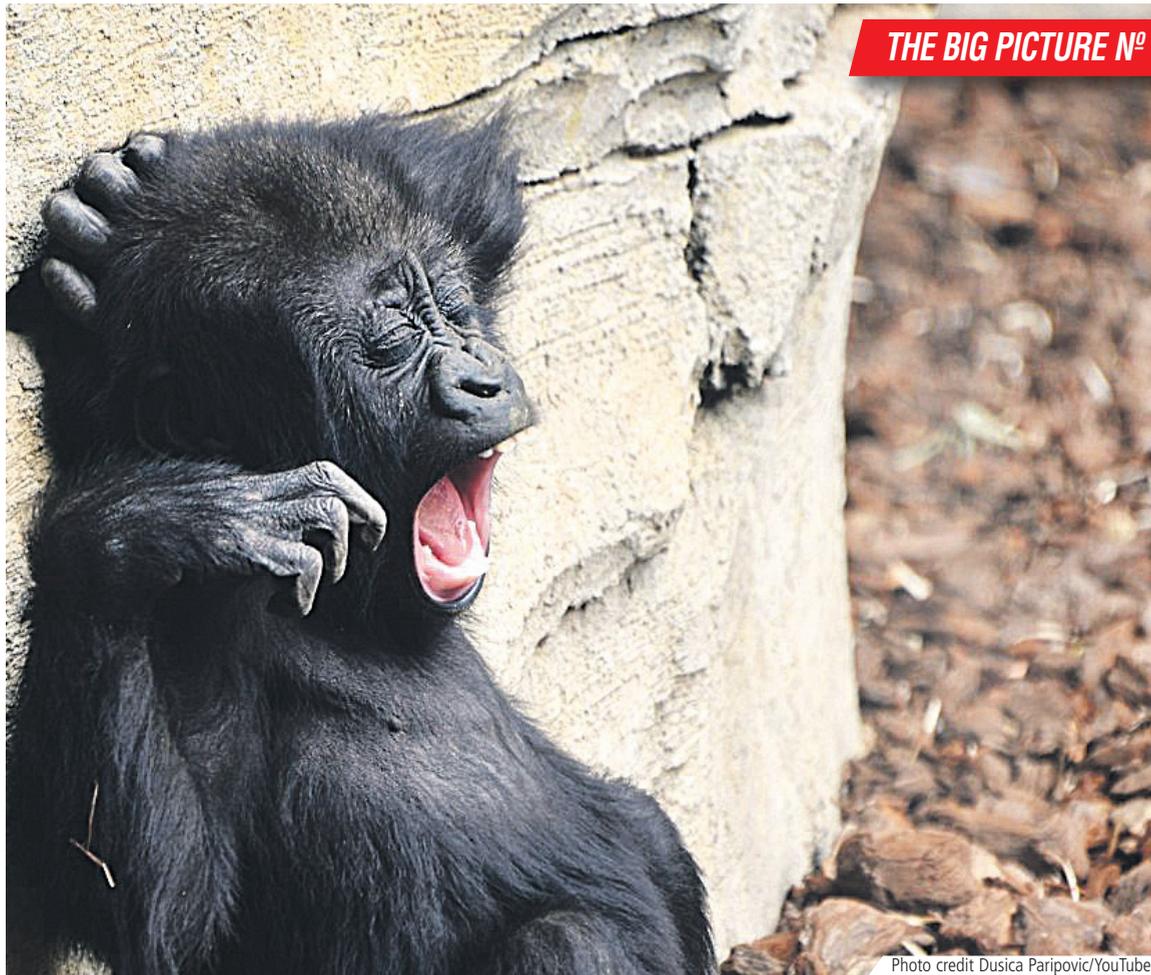
SOME 44 hectares of covered farmland in Vicar, La Mojenra and El Ejido were left damaged after the areas were struck by hail storms. Francisco Gongora, El Ejido's mayor, said the town would appeal to authorities for aid with repair work, with some greenhouses left flattened following the showers.

Biker death

A 59-YEAR-OLD man was pronounced dead by emergency services personnel after his motorcycle fell 10 metres through a ravine in Ohanes. Firefighters and Guardia Civil officers were called after the motorcyclist dropped though the ravine near kilometre 12,700 of the A1-3401 road, Andalucía's 112 Emergency Services line said.

Driver pulled

A COACH travelling from Belgium to Almería was stopped by Catalan police near the French border after officers found it to be around 2,000 kilograms above the weight limit. Mossos d'Esquadra officers found goods were taking up space for travellers, with the journey resumed the day after issues were resolved.



THE BIG PICTURE Nº 13

Photo credit Dusica Paripovic/YouTube

GOING APE: The young primate unleashes an almighty yawn.

Planet of the naps!

THIS is the adorable moment that a baby gorilla was captured on camera as it hung loose at a Spanish zoo.

The at-ease ape was snapped by Bosnian photographer Dusica Paripovic, 32, during a visit to Bioparc Valencia.

The zoo has maintained a population of critically endangered western gorillas since 2007, and the group started breeding in 2012.

Named Mbeli, the youngster pictured here will be a year old this summer.

Dusica said: "The baby gorillas are so adorable and expressive. They play with twigs or whatever they can find, they stumble and fall, they playfully wrestle with other gorillas."

"When you photograph animals, you never know if you are going to get any good photos. They will not

stand in the best light for you or give you the best angle.

"But when I saw this baby gorilla yawning, I knew there had to be at least one good photo there. I was excited."

She added: "Animals are my favourite subject to photograph - it's challenging and fun. They are unpredictable, fast, can't be posed and there's no need for retouching."

from Front page »

Critics slam council choice

The councillor posted videos featuring Escobar's security chief, also known as 'Popeye,' on his personal Facebook page.

In the videos he calls himself Pablo Escobar's 'trusted assassin' and praises Almería for having the "best shrimp in all of Europe and Spain."

The Popular Party councillor's controversial marketing move has sparked a backlash from the the leftist PSOE opposition party.

PSOE's town official Jose Luis Amerigo said the Popeye posts had caused a "scandal" in the coastal town.

He called for the Partido Popular councillor's resignation and added: "The image of a hitman implicated in the murder of more than 2,000 people doesn't belong in Carboneras."

The councillor agreed choosing Popeye, only released from a 22-year jail term in 2014, wasn't the best choice to promote the

town because of his crimes.

He added, he had never predicted the media attention which followed the publicity stunt.

"I never wanted to damage the town's image", he said.

Escobar himself was shot dead by a Colombian police sniper in 1993 and is widely considered the deadliest and wealthiest drug dealer in history.

Do you have news for us?

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

101

The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1713 of the Euro Weekly News Costa de Almería edition, including 64 local stories.

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- 2011 Company of the Year - Costa del Sol Business Awards
- 2010 I Love Marbella - Professionalism award
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Photo credit: Experimento Stuka/Suica Films

'WE NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY THEY HAD CHOSEN US': A Nazi soldier among buildings destroyed during one of the attacks and (inset) survivor Angel Beltran in the film.

80-year riddle

A MOVING new documentary film has revealed why four small villages in rural Valencia were targeted by Nazi bombers.

In May 1938, three Junkers 87-A dive-bombers, dubbed stukas by Nazi Germany's Condor Legion, dropped their payloads on the hamlets of Benassal, Albocasser, Ares del Maestre and Vilar de Cane in Castellon Province.

Many buildings were reduced to rubble and 38 people died.

"It was the first plane I saw in my life. It was like a great bird, but different," remembers Obdulia Mir in Experimento Stuka (Stuka Experiment), which this week opened at the Docs Valencia international documentary festival.

Entirely lacking strategic or military value to the Germans, locals for decades believed that the attacks were ordered by Republicans fighting for General Francisco Franco in the Spanish Civil War, which ended a year later.

Others blamed Franco's troops themselves, since some of the villages briefly fell within Republican territory.

"My father heard that the Reds [Republicans] had destroyed the village and the church," added

Angel Beltran, the son of a Republican militant. But 80 years later, modern-day residents have finally learned the truth.

University physics professor Oscar Vives, who was born in Benassal, travelled to Freiburg in Germany to study local archives after finding a clue in a Spanish Civil War book.

A short passage revealed that the Condor Legion used the Spanish villages as a testing ground for Second World War operations, and in the German archive Vives found a folder containing 66 photographs of the attacks.

The images show Nazi soldiers driving to the bomb sites and studying the devastation before returning to an airbase in La Senia, Tarragona, and drinking beer together on the beach.

The film reveals the Nazis were testing whether their dive-bombers were able to transport and drop 500-kilo bombs, double the standard weight.

Rafa Moles, who directed the documentary alongside Pepe Andreu, says that the raids were among the world's first "surgical military strikes."

The film is a follow-up to the pair's Five Days to Dance, an award-winning documentary about a school dance performance.

POLL OF THE WEEK

Do you agree that Spain has the best beaches in the world after it topped the global blue flag ranking?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:
 In the wake of the 'La Manada' court ruling do you think sexual assault laws in Spain should be reformed?

Yes **92%** No **08%**

EWN online this week
159,815 Page views

TOP 5 stories



TENERIFE VOLCANO: Mount Teide and (inset) earthquakes recorded in the past 10 days.

- 15,536** views Volcano eruption fears as almost 300 earthquakes rock Spanish holiday hotspot
- 8,741** views MAGALUF DEATH PROBE: Witness claims Brit was 'kicked in head' by trio
- 8,369** views Brain tumour boy abducted from UK hospital to Spain 'clear of cancer'
- 5,353** views Hundreds of flights cancelled by pilots' strike in Spain
- 5,310** views Internet cafe owner on Costa del Sol faces fine and prison for pirated software

**For week 2- 8 May 2018*

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FOR COMMENTS FROM EWN ONLINE TURN TO LETTERS PAGE

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Weapons suspects bailed

FIVE family members who allegedly possessed a cache of weapons which investigators claimed they used to intimidate locals in El Punche have been bailed pending further investigations.

Judge Rafael Soriano has ordered the suspects to appear before the court regularly until they are tried or charges against them are dropped.

Police have been investigating them as part of a wider operation into allegations that the group were aiming to establish themselves as an armed gang in the area.

Officers claimed they seized two pistols, two shotguns, several rounds of ammunition and one bulletproof vest during raids on the group.

Police identified six members of the family and went on to arrest four last week.

Another member was detained later and all the members have now been bailed.

OUR VIEW

Black start to summer bodes badly for resort

AS the summer party season begins and thousands of Britons jet to Magaluf, the resort already has its first casualties.

And the death of young father Aaron Henderson plus an unnamed Scottish teen in recent days should trigger alarm bells for local authorities who have for years been promising to tighten regulations and curb drinking practices.

But Magaluf's reputation continues to plummet, with reports of balcony falls, rapes and muggings on the increase.

At what point does enough become enough?

Holiday death probe - page 14

Have we brought it on?

THE alleged abandonment of a British man by a Benidorm ambulance crew who were high on drugs and alcohol has rightly sparked outrage.

And it is arguably a sad indictment of the professional standards rife in private firms drafted in to provide cheaper alternatives to 'expensive' public services in Spain and the UK alike.

Perhaps just as worrying is that the two men accused of negligence were not even trained paramedics, but cut-price technicians.

But perhaps the question is, why do the general public allow such moves to happen without apparently batting an eyelid? Have we truly become so apathetic?

Ambulance blunder - page 20

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Ova the moon!

SHE'S currently ranked number 52 in the world after a recent return from a drugs ban. But tennis star Maria Sharapova, 31, appeared at ease with life after posting a series of photos of herself enjoying the sights of Madrid, where she is competing in a tournament. And she was clearly amused by the local custom of late eating as she captioned one of the snaps: 'First ones at the restaurant...9pm #SpanishStyle.'



Photo credit Maria Sharapova/Instagram



FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE: Maria has this week been in Madrid (inset).

Sheer outrage

BRITISH singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran has angered a fan who travelled from Spain to watch him perform.

As the Shape Of You hitmaker kicked off his Irish tour at Cork's Páirc Uí Chaoimh stadium, the irate concertgoer tweeted: 'Just travelled from Spain to Cork. Ticket in my friend's name. Xmas present.'

"Told at box office I can't get in. WTF ED. After costing me €800 I can't get in. Screw you."

HE'S the former One Direction singer who has struck out alone.

But Liam Payne, 24, was joined by Mexican songstress Sofia Reyes on stage in Madrid as he performed at the LOS40 Primavera POP Festival.

The pair belted out his hit For You, which he originally sang with Rita Ora for the racy film Fifty Shades Freed.

Liam's relationship with ex-Girls Aloud star Cheryl Tweedy, 34, has reportedly been under strain since his solo career took off.

Liam heads in own direction

The couple's son Bear recently celebrated his first birthday, but widespread reports have suggested he is more committed to his pop career than family.

However the pair insist all is fine after a recent 'make or break' getaway at an undisclosed location.



Photo credit Liam Payne/Instagram

PAYNE ATTRACTION: Liam on stage in Madrid.

The former X Factor contestant said in a magazine interview Cheryl's bond with the baby left him feeling 'desperate' as he tried to "get through fatherhood."

Dan in the dumps over split rumour

JOSS A BREAK? Jacqueline and Dan. THEY have broken things off following 'a string of heated rows.'

And new reports have claimed that former The Only Way Is Essex star Dan Osborne, 26, failed to get in touch with wife Jacqueline Jossa, 25, while on a 'holistic bootcamp' in Marbella.

The ex-Eastenders actress - who is pregnant with their second child - is said to have been left furious after he failed to return her messages while on the sun-soaked break with Hollyoaks actress Stephanie Davis and Love Island's Gaby Allen, among others.

But Dan took to Twitter to vent his frustrations, as he wrote: 'Whenever a relationship goes through tough times etc... why is it always the man that gets stick...?'

And Jacqueline appeared to back him as she added: 'Daniel and I are dealing with things privately as a team, there is always two sides to every story. Stop with the nasty comments, no one deserves them.'

Sexy Sadie

ENGLISH actress and fashion designer Sadie Frost has been enjoying a sunshine break in Mallorca.

And the Bram Stoker's Dracula star, 52, shared a cheeky snap of herself after slipping into a black and orange bikini, posing in the doorway of her luxury suite at Belmond La Residencia, near Deya.



FUN IN THE SUN: Sadie in Mallorca.

Photo credit Sadie Frost/Instagram



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Saved by the waves

A LIVE blue shark has flipped its own way to safety after being washed up on a beach in Vera, 'Equinac' environmental volunteers said.

The animal lovers first called for Guardia Civil backup after receiving the alert. They had been told the shark was surrounded by

dead fish and a fishing boat.

This led them to think a rogue fisherman may have caused the shark's sticky situation.

But when they arrived the shark flipped its fins 'rigorously' amid a rising tide to secure its own way back to safety, the volunteers said.



MOURNING: Gabriel Cruz's funeral was held at Almería cathedral on March 13.

Gabriel Mother's Day mourning

by Gregory Kirby

THE mother of Gabriel Cruz, the boy whose death united Spain in tears, has made a plea not to televise his suspected killer's trial.

The eight-year-old was allegedly murdered by his father's girlfriend, Ana Julia Quezada, on February 27, who is now in prison.

Patricia Ramirez recognises the 'brutal killing' of her child but wants the 'morbid' details of his killings kept private.

She wants to protect her son's image from news which could "trouble, dirty, hurt or reflect the atrocities he had to go through,"

Ramirez said.

"I hope and wish to god that this process stays behind closed doors," she said.

In a letter she read out in a video published online, she plead for the Andalucian legal studies association and the Campoamor foundation to drop a petition to make public the trial.

"If they were really trying to help us, the correct way would have been to contact us and our lawyer," she added.

The plea echoed desires Ramirez expressed in an emotive Mother's Day letter she wrote to her son and posted on social media.

She told her son of her goal to protect his 'eternal smile,' values, happiness and way of being, in the letter.

Ramirez wished miracles existed to have 'one more minute' with him, she added.

"If I keep dreaming I can see your face and loving eyes," she wrote before imagining holding her boy like 'a package' in her arms.

Closing the letter, Ramirez told her son she was not alone.

"Tomorrow will be a good day, my boy... see you in our dreams," she signed off.

The investigation into Gabriel Cruz's death continues.

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Mayor 'slapper' jailed

By Gregory Kirby

AN El Ejido resident has been sentenced to two years in prison for slapping the town's mayor.

Before leaping on the

mayor, the 32-year-old culprit said: "What a s**t mayor you are, you're disgusting," according to the town hall's director of citizen's security.

The culprit then grabbed

the mayor - Francisco Gón-gora - by the neck as he walked in the town's procession.

He slapped him on the right side of his face and landed him a 'strong whack'

on his back before onlookers restrained him.

The mayor said he didn't remember much from the attack but added it was an "unpleasant episode."

"It really shocked me because nothing like it had ever happened to me," Gongora said.

The El Ejido mayor said he had accepted his attacker's apology and was sure the attacker 'regretted' his actions.

The attacker - known to the public as BLLB - didn't testify before police but told prosecutors he didn't remember anything.

He said he'd been drinking and taking amphetamines when something 'took a hold of him' when attacking the mayor.

He reportedly didn't know the man before the event.

His claim to have been under the influence was not



Photo credit Twitter @PPE/EJIDO

SLAPPED: The Partido Popular politician and El Ejido town mayor was attacked in June 2015.

confirmed by testing.

In addition to the jail term, the attacker will have to pay an €8 per day fine

for nine months.

He will also be barred from contacting the councillor for two years.

Family feud head stabbing

A MAN from Berja, Almeria - who stabbed his son in several parts of his body - faces nine years in prison for attempted murder.

The suspect - who police call JSLL - allegedly approached his son yielding two knives as he opened the fridge.

He intended to "end his (son's) life," the public prosecutor said.

The pair were reportedly in a family feud when the father stabbed his 23-year-old son in

the head, arm and lung as he fled towards the bathroom.

The victim was able to escape his father and seek help from neighbours.

He was then taken to Poniente hospital in El Ejido, where he was suffering from 'life-threatening' stab wounds, the public ministry said.

The detainee - who had previous convictions - will stand before provincial courts on June 21.



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by Matt Ford

A SELF-STYLED 'maverick tycoon' who drove his €300,000 supercar through the front window of a Mallorca shop has escaped with a €500 fine.

But playboy millionaire Jody Sanders, 39, is now being quizzed for illegally modifying the licence plate of the convertible Rolls Royce Dawn involved in the accident.

Investigators believe he has substituted the number 1 with a letter J, so that it reads JODY, as the vehicle remains impounded in Calvia.

The new probe comes after

Got his number

Brit playboy probed for false plates

the property magnate turned up to a police station in Palma five hours after reversing through the façade of a Portal Nous tobacconist while two bikini-clad women took selfies on the back seat of the car.

He told the shop owner his flip-flop got stuck under the accelerator pedal during a phone call in the wake of the smash, with the pricey motor 'narrowly missing' around 20 people dining on a terrace.

A well-placed source told UK media: "He passed a breath test although several hours had elapsed since the crash and he was reported for reckless driving.

"Because he paid up there and then, he got a 50 per cent discount so ended up handing over €250.

"The damage he's caused to his car and the tobacco shop is another matter and bound to run into thousands of pounds but that's a matter

for him, the shop owner and the insurance people.

"He put [the five-hour delay] down to one of the women he was with being injured so his first concern was to get her to hospital."

It has also emerged that the trio were accompanied by a second man who popped into a nearby chemist just prior to the accident, and that Jody may have lost control while reversing the wrong way up the road to pick him up.



Photo credit Policia Local Calvia/YouTube/Facebook

ROLL WITH IT: The Rolls Royce owned by Jody Sanders in the wake of the smash, before which he was partying with two bikini-clad girls.

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Holiday death probe

Witness claims Brit was 'kicked in head'

By Matt Ford

MALLORCAN police are probing the death of a British man in Mallorca.

Aaron Henderson, from Coleraine, Northern Ireland, was on holiday with his partner and children when he was allegedly assaulted on Magaluf's Punta Ballena party strip.

The dad-of-two, 30, was found lying on the corner of Calle Martin Ros Garcia in critical condition after suffering a severe head injury in the early hours of the morning, and investigators initially believed he had fallen.

But a witness, described as 'foreign' in local media, has since come forward to claim that he saw three men beating Aaron. According to reports, he was pushed to the ground before being kicked in the head, and later died of his injuries in capital Palma's Son



Photo credit Facebook/Twitter

ALLEGED BEATING: Magaluf's Punta Ballena, where Aaron Henderson (inset) reportedly suffered severe head injuries.

Espases Hospital after medics failed to revive him. The precise cause of his death has not yet been con-

firmed.

Detectives say they are now scouring CCTV footage recorded on the night of his death while quizzing hotel customers and staff as they try to trace his attackers.

It is believed he decided to continue partying after partner Daniella Baxter returned to their accommodation.

She paid an emotional tribute to him on social media as she wrote: "I love you Aaron

Hendy Henderson always and forever, you've made me the happiest I've ever been in my entire life.

"Life is cruel... Love and miss you always... My babes xxxxxxxx."

Tributes have also been flooding in to the Facebook page of his family business Paul Henderson Wholesale, which has attracted more than 400 messages of condolence.

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Dicing with death

Brit expat thrill-seekers held



BASE STUPIDITY: The daredevils were caught trying to parachute off Torre Levante.

by Matt Ford

FOUR British expatriates face fines of up to €300,000 after being caught trying to leap from a 33-floor skyscraper on the Costa Blanca.

The unnamed thrill-seekers were reportedly surprised by police as they prepared to launch themselves off the 120-metre Torre Levante building on the Benidorm seafront with para-

chutes strapped to their backs.

Their arrests follow a brief probe after investigators were tipped off about a series of internet videos filmed by the BASE jumping quartet.

An official revealed that the daredevils are suspected of performing several illegal jumps in the area, before confirming that their parachutes, helmets and other equipment have been seized.

BASE jumping is the practice of parachuting from a fixed structure or cliff and is considered much more dangerous than sky diving from a plane due to the relatively low height of the jumps.

The abbreviation stands for building, antenna, span, and earth (cliff), the four types of object from which fans of the extreme sport typically hurl themselves.

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Fresh migrant crisis

Hundreds rescued by coastguard

A TOTAL of 476 people bound for Spain have been rescued by the country's coastguards in the Mediterranean during a surge in crossings triggered by favourable weather conditions.

Three were taken to hospital with hypothermia, chest pains and a suspected fractured ankle, according to Red Cross sources quoted in Spanish media.

Those three were from around 111 migrants, made up of 103 men and eight women, of the total of 308 picked up on Friday.

Two were taken to Malaga while another was airlifted by helicopter to Almeria 'sick and semi-unconscious,' according to reports.

Maritime Rescue patrols located and rescued the 476 men, women and children from a total of 15 vessels on Friday and Saturday. Calm weather in the Strait of Gibraltar was reportedly a factor in the number of crossings made.

Antonio Sanz Cabello, the government's delegate in Malaga, said on Twitter a total of 308 migrants had arrived on the Andalucian coast in eight



CREDIT: Salvamento Marítimo, via Twitter

RESCUED: Hundreds of migrants were picked up by coastguards in the Mediterranean while attempting to reach Spain at the weekend.

boats by the end of Friday.

In a later post he thanked coastguards for their 'professionalism and delivery' during the operations.

In a separate development a further 105 migrants were reportedly rescued by Proactiva Open Arms, a refugee NGO, in the sea near Libya during their own operation. The group report-

edly found the migrants in a boat without an engine.

Most of the migrants picked up over the weekend are believed to be from sub-Saharan Africa. A total of 22,429 people have arrived on the coasts of Europe since the start of this year and 615 have died making the journey, according to United Nations estimates.

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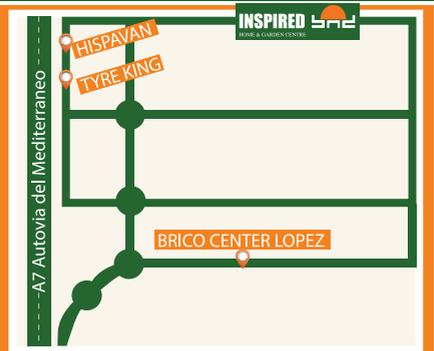
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Ambulance blunder

Brit assault victim found in roadside ditch

by Staff Reporter

ALICANTE COLLEGE OF NURSING has claimed that

two ambulance crew members who tested positive for drugs after 'losing' a British attack

victim on the way to hospital were not paramedics.

The institution released a statement in the wake of the pair being held by police in which it said it wanted to 'make clear' that the men were 'emergency health technicians,' and that no nursing professionals had been involved in the shocking incident.

It comes after the unnamed victim was found lying unconscious in a ditch a few hundred metres from La Villajoyosa Regional Hospital.

He had allegedly suffered serious injuries during a brawl between four Britons in central Benidorm, with National Police officers calling for an ambulance after attending the scene.

But when they called the hospital several hours later in order to write their report, they were told that no-one in

emergencies knew anything about the man, and it transpired that he never arrived.

According to Spanish media, the ambulance workers had returned to their depot, and when contacted by investigators said that the victim 'woke up in the middle of the journey' and started to attack one of them.

And when the driver stopped the vehicle and opened the back door the injured party 'escaped.'

Police launched a search for the Briton, and called the ambulance back out when they found him, at which point they noticed that the two crew members were behaving strangely.

A Guardia Civil traffic patrol was drafted in and local media confirmed they tested positive for cocaine, cannabis and alcohol before being held and charged with failing to as-



MEDICAL SHAME: The brawl took place in central Benidorm and (inset) an ambulance operated by ASV Transport Sanitario Ayuda Group.

sist a person in danger.

The Valencian Health Department has requested a full report of the incident, while sources reportedly told local media that the two men had been suspended without pay but could soon return to work.

Rosa Louis Cereceda, manager of the directorate of the local health department,

claimed no knowledge of the incident when quizzed, pointing out that the ambulance service is subcontracted to a private company.

The ASV Transport Sanitario Ayuda Group, the temporary union for the firm providing the service, did not respond to a comment request.

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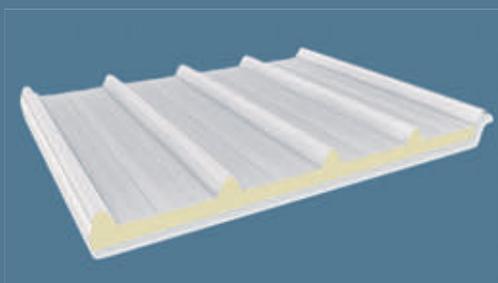
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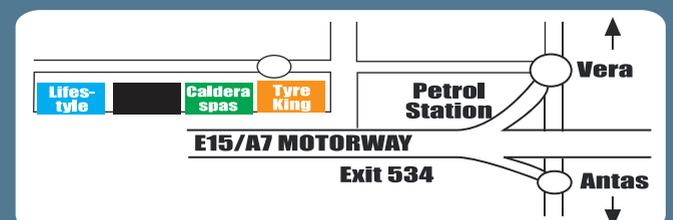
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BOOZE BLUES: Playa de Ingles and (inset) one of the revellers after being cuffed by police.

Drunk let off

Irish pair cleared of robbery rap

By Staff Reporter

A CANARY ISLANDS judge has cleared two 26-year-old Irish revellers of theft after ruling they broke into a holiday flat by mistake because they were too drunk.

Two Spanish women who had rented the accommodation in the popular resort of Playa del Ingles, Gran Canaria, claimed they had lost €280 in cash and a pair of sunglasses af-

ter finding one of the men asleep on their bed and the other on the sofa.

But a local court in San Bartolome de Tirajana heard there was 'no evidence' to suggest the unnamed pair - who were staying in the same complex - stole the items, concluding that they mistook the flat for their own after a night partying.

An official statement said that the holidaymakers "had been drinking a lot and do not

remember how they accessed the apartment... in fact they thought they were in their own room."

A police report confirmed they were 'extremely intoxicated,' and that it took officers '20 minutes' to wake them up.

The ruling added that the door to the property had not been forced and that the accused only had €22 in their pockets when they were arrested.

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Los Conteros support Poppy Appeal

LOS CONTEROS restaurant in Villaricos is organising a number of events for this year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

And the first of these is a fish and chips dinner with fun quiz on Friday May 18. All profits will go to the appeal.

The restaurant has also offered to donate €2 for every Sunday lunch sold on May 20, plus keep an eye out for their upcoming music weekend in October.

RBL Spain Mojacar branch secretary Christine White said: "Many thanks to Chris, Lenka and staff at Los Conteros for their continued support of the Poppy Appeal, please come and support them."



ON A MISSION: Chris, Lenka and Ellie from Los Conteros, Mick Coote (president), Christine White (branch secretary) and Barbara Tapsell (social events secretary), RBL Spain Mojacar Branch.

HERE COMES THE FUN!

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Woof, step, woof, slide

ON occasion of the second birthday of the Strictly Line Dancing Mojacar group, the co-founders Mary Beth Hazeldine and Glynis Hurst have donated a whopping €250 to PAWS-PATAS.

Line Dancing is a very enjoyable form of fun exercise and it has been proven to be beneficial to your memory.

Classes are held in Sala Hollywood at the Hotel el Puntazo on Mojacar Playa on Friday evenings from 7pm until

10pm. Entry is €5 and men are welcome! The evening starts with beginner dances and during the evening the dances progress for the more experienced.

If you would like the group to perform at one of your functions, please come and visit Glynis and Mary Beth during their weekly class. For further information about volunteering or fundraising for PAWS-PATAS, please visit their website www.paws-patas.org.

Anglican Spring Fayre

THE Anglican Churches of Costa Almeria and Costa Calida recently held their Spring Fayre in Mojacar, raising a staggering €2,876.65. The stalls were manned by helpers from Aljambra Chapel, Llanos Del Peral Church and Mojacar Church. It was the first Fayre attended by their new priest, Canon Vincent Oram and his wife Robyn-Ann.

The churches would like to thank everyone who went and supported this event.

The Actress

ITG, the Independent Theatre Group, recently staged Peter Quilter's play 'The Actress' in Arboleas.

The cast, the lighting and sound, and the set weaved together perfectly due to the light touch and combined experience of director Roger Dickman and producer Ian Jones.

Beautifully written, it received a rousing response for its fine performances from the entire cast as they brought the characters to life.

Their combined talent took the audience through the whole gamut of emotions. Laughing one minute, close to tears the next. And waiting anxiously for their next production.

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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 €

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South facing 3 bed, 2 bath, penthouse apartment of 98m2. Large terrace. Mountain & sea views. Community pool & parking. Excellent location.

A1313 170.000 €

Mojácar Playa



Attractive 1 bed, 1 bath, penthouse of 60m2 with sea & mountain views. South-facing with sunny terraces. A/C. 2 store-rooms & underground parking.

A1312 115.000 €

Los Gallardos



3 bed, 2 bath stylish penthouse of 80m2 + solarium. A/C, F.C.H. & fly screens. Easy parking. Great community pool & gardens. Short drive to local shops, golf & beaches.

A1299 119.995 €

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Modern 2 bed, 2 bath, ground floor apartment of 62m2 & terrace of 31m2. Underground parking. Sea views. In walking distance of beach & amenities.

A951 120.000 €

Cortijo Grande



Very attractive end of terrace, 2 bed, 2 bath townhouse of 92m2. A/C & fly screens. Well maintained & fabulous views. Large terrace. Easy parking.

LV752 110.000 €

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Beautifully refurbished 2 bed, 2 bath, townhouse of 79m2 on a plot of 235m2. Sea views. Front & rear gardens & garage. Excellent location.

LV748 249.950 €

Mojácar Playa



South facing 2 bed, 2 bath, townhouse of 89m2 + garden & terraces on a highly sought after front-line urbanisation. A/C. Community pool and gardens.

LV744 172.500 €

Mojácar Playa



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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Cortijo Grande



A spacious 3 bed, 3 bath, villa of 225m2 plus 2 bed, 1 bath guest house of 85m2. Stunning location with large garage, private pool & 2 storerooms.

DV1144 580.000 €

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4 bed, 3 bath, villa of 114m2 on a plot of 200m2. Outstanding sea views, pool & terraces. Carport. In easy walking distance of the beach.

DV1308 550.00 €

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DV1330 178.500 €

Los Gallardos



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HACKED OFF: Experts said cyber attacks were picking up ahead of the World Cup.

Online strikes step up ahead of World Cup

ONLINE attacks aimed at Russia and people heading to the country for the World Cup are becoming more frequent and sophisticated, crime analysts have said. Scams including spam emails about winning tickets to the event and fake websites offering cheap flights and hotels have sprung up and popular websites have been infected with viruses.

Sukhoi Su-30SM fighter jet plunged into the sea shortly after taking off from Russia's Khmeimim air base where planes regularly fly from to target troops fighting Syrian government forces.

'Statue vandal' caught

A MAN who allegedly toppled a sculpture of Russia's ruble currency in the town of Syktyvkar has reportedly confessed less than a week after the incident, according to local police. The glass and metal statue of the Russian Cyrillic letter R was found shattered on the ground shortly after the incident last month.

Demonstrators fined

PROTESTORS in St Petersburg have been arrested and fined for waving non-Russian flags and some were jailed following May Day rallies. Vadim Charushev was reportedly fined 11,000 rubles (€ 143) after allegedly being caught with a British flag and was charged for violating public assembly laws and resisting arrest.

Haircuts for veterans

MOSCOW authorities arranged for Second World War veterans arriving in the city for the Victory Day celebrations to receive free haircuts. Barbers were also on hand to provide free home services for the former soldiers, Moscow region consumer official Vladimir Posazhenikov said.

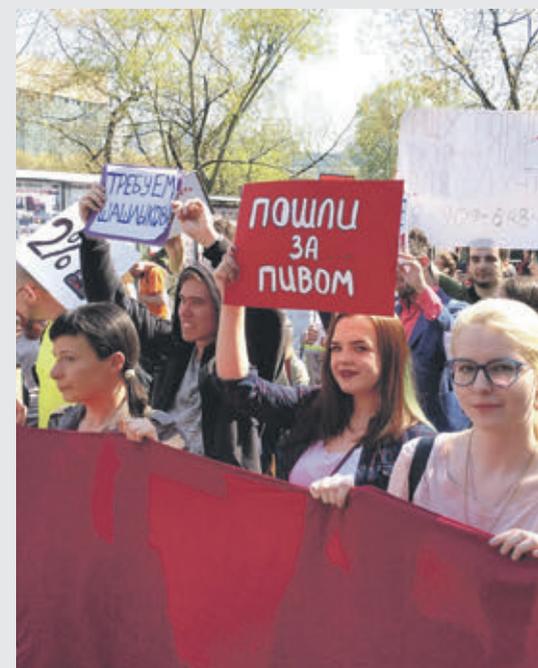
Syria crash deaths

TWO Russian pilots were killed after a military plane crashed off the coast of Syria in what is reportedly believed to have been an accident. The

'Monstration' march

SEVERAL people took to the streets of Moscow for Monstration marches recently for a light-hearted take on protesting. An estimated 100 to 150 people turned out, with demonstrators bearing signs which read: 'We Ban Bans,' 'Piece, Work, Nonsense' and 'The Future Ripens in a Corner.' The idea behind the protests is to spoof traditional demonstrations by carrying signs which make little or no sense.

'BAN BANS': Between 100 and 150 people took part in the parody protests.



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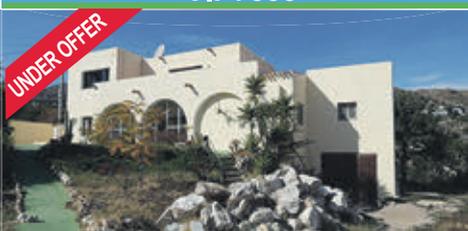


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STAT OF WEEK**€1.66 billion**

The amount owed in unpaid community fees across Spain, with up to 40 per cent of Communities of Property Owners affected, according to the latest government data.

Countries show united tax front

FRANCE and Spain have agreed on the need for 'financial harmonisation' in the European Union to clamp down on tax havens and unfair competition between member states.

It comes as French Minister of European Affairs, Nathalie Loiseau, and Spanish Secretary of State for European Affairs, Jorge Toledo, attended a debate organised by the Faculty of Law at Madrid's Complutense University.

Both officials also insisted that 'Euroscepticism must be fought against,' with citizens becoming 'more invested in the European project'.

Norwegian rejects IAG bids

by Matt Ford

LONG-HAUL budget airline Norwegian Air Shuttle (NAS) says it has unanimously rejected two takeover offers from the owner of British Airways.

International Airlines Group (IAG), which owns 4.6 per cent of Norwegian, is reportedly aiming to increase its share of the market amid fears of competition from low-cost rivals.

But the NAS board said in a statement that it had rejected IAG's 'conditional proposals' because they 'undervalued NAS and its prospects.'

The rapidly-expanding carrier

added that the board 'would remain fully committed to delivering on its stated strategy.'

Shares in the airline plummeted by up to 10 per cent in the wake of the failed bid before a slight recovery.

IAG last month announced that it had acquired a minor stake in NAS 'intended to establish a position from which to initiate discussion, including the possibility of a full offer for the firm.'

But in an analyst presentation the company confirmed it had failed to

strike a full takeover deal as it said: "IAG confirms that it has had contact with the Norwegian board regarding a possible offer, without reaching an agreement."

"IAG is currently considering its options in relation to Norwegian."

The company - which also owns Spanish flag-carrier Iberia - also revealed a jump in operating profits in the first quarter of 2018, with underlying earnings before exceptional items up to €280 million compared to €160 million over the same period last year.

Economy cheer as hike goes on

THE General Council of Economists has revised its growth forecasts for Spain.

According to the national body, gross domestic product is expected to rise by 2.6 per cent in 2018 and 2.4 per cent in 2019.

The figure represents an increase of one 10th compared to earlier predictions.

It comes after the country's economy expanded by 0.7 per cent from January to March.

And it is expected to shoot up by a further 0.7 per cent over the next three months.



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€60m VAT conmen held in clampdown



Photo credit: Policia Nacional

VAT'S UNBELIEVABLE: The gang reportedly laundered money via luxury car dealers.

THE Spanish tax agency, National Police and Europol have busted the country's biggest VAT fraud scheme, with the culprits accused of cheating the state out of at least €60 million.

Raids across the country saw 58 people held in Madrid, Elche, Malaga, Cordoba, Murcia, the Basque Country and Navarra, with €400,000 in cash and 52 high-end sports cars seized.

It comes in the wake of a three-year probe during which the gang's ringleaders, two men of Indian ori-

gin holding Spanish passports, were found to have built an elaborate racket after setting up 100 bogus companies.

The pair reportedly fled to the United States after realising that the authorities were investigating them, from where they continued to direct the scam.

Detectives said that the group specialised in the import and sale of undeclared electronic goods before laundering much of the proceeds via luxury car dealerships in Galicia.

» BUSINESS EXTRA

€2.1bn tech tax scheme

SPAIN hopes to raise €2.1 billion by 2019 by slapping 'certain electronic transactions' with a new digital tax and using the cash to boost state pension hikes, Economy Minister Ramon Escolano has revealed.

Good job

THE Spanish Ministry of Employment has revealed that the number of jobless people across the country fell by 86,683 in April with more than 18.6 million now in paid work, the most for almost a decade.

Fuel's gold

MADRID-BASED global energy firm Repsol has announced an 8 per cent year-on-year increase in adjusted first-quarter profit after higher oil and gas prices helped the company rake in €616 million in January-March this year.

Uranium miner's list plan

LONDON-BASED mining firm Berkeley Energia has announced it is to apply for admission to the main board of the London Stock Exchange (LSE) and its Spanish equivalents in Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao and Valencia.

The company - currently listed on the Alternative Investment sub-market of the LSE - owns a controversial uranium mine in Salamanca.

Managing Director Paul Atherle said the

move "represents a major strategic move forward."

"It will allow us to build support amongst European institutional investors whilst we advance activities on site," he added.

Last summer, Berkeley received €100 million from Oman's sovereign wealth fund to help finish construction of the Spanish mine, with production set to start in early 2019.

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Admiral Group	1,988.25	0.00	0.00	5,698.71
Ashtead Group	2,050.00	-37.00	-1.77	10,080.97
Antofagasta	971.50	-24.50	-2.46	9,696.89
Aviva	538.00	1.00	0.19	21,504.89
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BAE Systems	615.50	2.10	0.34	19,571.14
Barclays	208.90	3.30	1.61	34,675.26
British American Tobacco	3,925.00	37.00	0.95	89,406.59
Barratt Developments	557.00	-4.60	-0.82	5,684.43
Berkeley Group Holdings (The)	4,063.00	-13.00	-0.32	5,531.28
British Land Co	676.00	4.00	0.60	6,602.83
BHP Billiton	1,575.00	-26.40	-1.65	32,906.08
Bunzl	2,583.50	416.50	19.22	7,246.57
BP	550.50	-7.60	-1.36	108,540.69
Burberry Group	1,851.00	-24.00	-1.28	7,669.15
BT Group	236.50	1.60	0.68	23,033.70
Coca-Cola HBC	2,474.50	24.50	1.00	9,012.85
Carnival	4,735.00	-19.00	-0.40	9,693.58
Centrica	146.75	-7.90	-5.11	8,646.15
Compass Group	1,580.00	20.00	1.28	24,680.73
Croda International	4,468.50	0.00	0.00	5,867.33
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DCC	7,542.50	237.50	3.25	6,517.66
Diageo	2,624.00	-39.00	-1.46	64,131.46
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Evrax	475.80	-5.80	-1.20	7,017.06
Experian	1,700.50	-4.50	-0.26	15,499.71
easyJet	1,616.00	-25.00	-1.52	6,406.97
Ferguson	5,575.00	5.00	0.09	13,714.72
Fresnillo	1,281.00	-28.00	-2.14	9,553.83
G4S	230.35	-30.15	-11.57	4,012.42
Glencore	363.50	3.50	0.97	51,828.09
GlaxoSmithKline	1,458.00	-11.20	-0.76	72,038.83
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,784.50	-11.50	-0.64	8,504.53
Halma	1,248.50	0.00	0.00	4,711.35
HSBC Holdings	712.50	-1.90	-0.27	144,929.18
International Consolidated Air Grp	649.00	-29.00	-4.28	13,126.71
InterContinental Hotels Grp	4,645.00	-22.00	-0.47	8,808.95
3i Group	945.50	0.50	0.05	9,133.61
Imperial Brands	2,575.00	-25.00	-0.96	24,749.47
Informa	757.00	2.30	0.30	6,234.42
Intertek Group	4,990.00	-20.00	-0.40	8,045.45
ITV	154.95	3.70	2.45	6,042.14
Just Eat	791.00	-3.80	-0.48	5,419.76
Johnson Matthey	3,310.00	-6.00	-0.18	6,332.41
Kingfisher	292.50	11.30	4.02	5,996.98
Land Securities Group	986.25	6.25	0.64	7,287.07
Legal & General Group	270.50	-2.10	-0.77	16,285.22

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	65.26	-0.12	-0.18	46,557.66
London Stock Exchange Grp	4,363.00	33.00	0.76	14,899.28
Micro Focus International	1,305.50	45.50	3.61	5,449.01
Medilinic International	696.40	2.40	0.35	5,042.75
Marks & Spencer Group	287.50	-1.40	-0.48	4,635.45
Mondi	1,975.50	40.00	2.07	6,957.38
Melrose	219.00	-12.50	-5.40	10,190.75
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	244.00	-2.00	-0.81	5,715.35
National Grid	845.00	-6.00	-0.71	28,386.41
NMC Health	3,514.00	-30.00	-0.85	7,310.67
Next	5,175.00	31.00	0.60	7,327.62
Old Mutual Group	245.50	-5.70	-2.27	12,322.08
Paddy Power Betfair	6,735.00	-115.00	-1.68	5,802.96
Prudential	1,888.50	-5.00	-0.26	48,815.77
Persimmon	2,825.00	95.00	3.48	8,504.61
Pearson	868.50	-25.10	-2.81	6,479.55
Reckitt Benckiser Group	5,650.00	-77.00	-1.34	39,173.53
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	267.50	-4.70	-1.73	32,290.81
Royal Dutch Shell	2,540.00	-38.00	-1.47	116,905.17
RELX	1,564.50	-8.00	-0.51	16,363.85
Rio Tinto	4,001.00	-74.00	-1.82	53,349.50
Royal Mail	529.70	-69.10	-11.54	5,934.00
Rolls-Royce Group	832.70	-3.10	-0.37	15,436.74
Randgold Resources	6,070.00	20.00	0.33	5,763.32
RSA Insurance Group	652.00	14.80	2.32	6,553.82
Rentokil Initial	265.50	-51.90	-16.35	5,799.13
Sainsbury (J)	255.55	-45.75	-15.18	6,628.83
Schroders	3,352.50	7.50	0.22	7,526.55
Sage Group (The)	651.40	3.40	0.52	6,864.93
Segro	639.90	0.00	0.00	6,400.70
Shire	3,850.00	-6.00	-0.16	35,108.13
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,955.00	-93.00	-3.05	7,168.11
Sky	1,322.50	-50.00	-3.64	23,481.78
Standard Life Aberdeen	373.45	11.15	3.08	10,954.67
Smith (DS)	535.60	3.80	0.71	5,677.77
Smiths Group	1,632.50	-4.50	-0.27	6,442.92
Scottish Mortgage Invstmnt Trst	495.00	8.00	1.64	6,745.99
Smith & Nephew	1,373.75	75.75	5.84	11,395.58
SSE	1,387.50	-8.00	-0.57	14,070.24
Standard Chartered	738.65	-9.35	-1.25	24,514.24
St James's Place	1,105.50	-53.50	-4.62	6,090.25
Severn Trent	1,948.00	-56.00	-2.79	4,749.11
Tesco	239.25	-1.45	-0.60	23,351.24
TUI AG	1,730.00	0.00	0.00	10,120.68
Taylor Wimpey	197.60	4.60	2.38	6,320.37
Unilever	3,970.00	-11.00	-0.28	48,716.39
United Utilities Group	773.00	4.00	0.52	5,250.54
Vodafone Group	210.00	-0.50	-0.24	55,739.81
WPP Group	1,280.00	-1.00	-0.08	16,130.25
Whitbread	4,325.00	85.00	2.00	7,745.38

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THE ABOVE TABLE USES THE CURRENT INTERBANK EXCHANGE RATES, WHICH AREN'T REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RATE WE OFFER

DOW JONES

CLOSING PRICES MAY 7

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE%	CHANGE	VOLUME(M)
3M	199,360	+1.88%	3,680	118,352,56
AMERICAN EXPRESS	98,3500	+1.25%	1,2100	84,616,62
APPLE	183,830	+3.92%	6,940	933,161,73
BOEING CO	334,430	+1.13%	3,740	194,745,17
CATERPILLAR	146,370	+1.80%	2,590	87,521,91
CHEVRON	125,53	-0.38%	-0,48	239,806,37
CISCO SYSTEMS	45,300	+1.94%	0,860	218,185,34
COCA-COLA	42,36	+1.12%	0,47	180,338,03
DOWDUPONT	64,47	+1.58%	1,00	149,953,69
EXXON MOBIL	76,90	+0.47%	0,36	325,679,28
GENERAL ELECTRIC	14,1000	+1.22%	0,1700	122,463,27
GOLDMAN SACHS	234,94	+0.66%	1,53	91,058,87
HOME DEPOT	185,0300	+1.00%	1,8400	213,194,99
IBM	143,91	+1.35%	1,92	132,095,64
INTEL CORP	52,7800	+0.96%	0,5000	246,377,04
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	108,4300	+1.11%	1,1900	369,080,32
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	124,1900	+0.94%	1,1600	333,237,50
MC DONALD'S CORP	165,0300	+3.09%	4,9500	129,767,33
MERCK AND CO. NEW	57,75	+0.38%	0,22	155,517,74
MICROSOFT	95,160	+1.16%	1,090	732,558,31
NIKE	68,10	+1.79%	1,20	87,396,33
PFIZER	34,8400	+0.23%	0,0800	207,278,48
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	72,430	+1.50%	1,070	182,157,59
TRAVELERS CIES	129,71	+1.89%	2,40	35,047,48
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	119,51	+1.54%	1,81	95,679,11
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	235,90	+0.75%	1,75	226,689,19
VERIZON COMMS	48,19	+0.73%	0,35	199,116,09
VISA	128,16	+0.77%	0,98	228,910,46
WAL-MART STORES	87,5300	+1.51%	1,3000	258,489,50
WALT DISNEY CO	101,1500	+2.42%	2,3900	152,021,59

M - MILLION DOLLARS

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES MAY 7

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Commercial Vehicle Group, Inc.	\$ 8.75	1.96 ▲ 28.87%
Portola Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 42.44	8.66 ▲ 25.64%
Super Micro Computer, Inc.	\$ 21.25	3.20 ▲ 17.73%
Solid Biosciences Inc.	\$ 18.87	2.77 ▲ 17.20%
Sarepta Therapeutics, Inc.	\$ 89.75	11.58 ▲ 14.81%
Kona Grill, Inc.	\$ 2.05	0.25 ▲ 13.89%
Johnson Outdoors Inc.	\$ 73.66	8.75 ▲ 13.48%
TPI Composites, Inc.	\$ 26.02	3.06 ▲ 13.33%
Benefitfocus, Inc.	\$ 34.45	4.05 ▲ 13.32%
Control4 Corporation	\$ 23.69	2.74 ▲ 13.08%
Stein Mart, Inc.	\$ 2.60	0.29 ▲ 12.55%
Most Declined		
Universal Electronics Inc.	\$ 29.025	16.425 ▼ 36.14%
Adverum Biotechnologies, Inc.	\$ 5.325	1.025 ▼ 16.14%
Performant Financial Corporation	\$ 2.66	0.43 ▼ 13.92%
Gogo Inc.	\$ 8.33	1.26 ▼ 13.14%
Xperi Corporation	\$ 20.15	2.90 ▼ 12.58%
Century Aluminum Company	\$ 14.76	1.64 ▼ 10%
Xcel Brands, Inc	\$ 2.80	0.30 ▼ 9.68%
Web.com Group, Inc.	\$ 17.45	1.85 ▼ 9.59%
Harvard Bioscience, Inc.	\$ 5	0.50 ▼ 9.09%
Appian Corporation	\$ 26.25	2.57 ▼ 8.92%
Lantheus Holdings, Inc.	\$ 16.425	1.475 ▼ 8.24%

Kleinwort Hambros Elite PCC Limited

Distributing Funds

Sterling Fixed Income B

DEALING PRICE

£0.9096

PRICE MOVEMENT

£0.0029

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

£1.1462

PRICE MOVEMENT

£0.0101

€1.0585

€0.0090

£1.3148

£0.0197

€1.2007

€0.0177

£1.4706

£0.0323

€1.3504

€0.0292

Remaining Elite Fund prices available on request

Prices correct as at 02/05/2018

New scheme just the ticket

EUROPEAN AIRLINES TO AXE CREDIT CARD CHARGES

THE global airline industry is set to wage war against credit card firms.

Working with German financial services company Deutsche Bank, carriers aim to save billions of Euros in transaction fees using a new electronic real-time payment system for web-based ticket sales.

The scheme, which does not yet have a brand name, is earmarked to be trialled in Germany before being rolled out across Europe by the end of 2018. Spaniard Javier Orejas, senior banking manager for the International Air Transport Association (IATA) in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas, said: "We are developing an industry-wide payment solution that is an alternative to credit cards."

According to IATA, credit card payment processing costs the industry up to €6.7 billion per year, with credit card companies including Visa and Mastercard charging between 1 and 3 per cent for each transaction.

But the new system will employ a fixed rate which will be "a matter of cents," Orejas added.

It has been made possible by a new



FARE ENOUGH: The new scheme will be trialled in Germany and has already gained the support of the country's biggest carrier Lufthansa.

European Union ruling that forces banks to hand third parties access to customer data and trigger payments.

Customers will enter their bank account details before Deutsche checks their balance in real time, collecting

the fees and transferring the money to the relevant airline once it sees that sufficient funds are available.

"Most banks view this in a defensive manner and only reluctantly open their data," said Shahrokh Moinian,

global head of cash products at Deutsche. "For us, it's an opportunity for change. We have asked ourselves: why can't we behave like a tech company?"

But introducing new payments systems can be tricky, because companies will only buy into schemes that their clients are willing to use, and vice versa.

IATA and Deutsche believe that convincing Europe's biggest airlines to adopt the system will see them break through this barrier.

"We are currently in talks with large carriers," Orejas told the *Financial Times*, noting that there is "a lot of appetite among airlines."

Meanwhile, travellers will be lured in with offers of flight discounts or extra loyalty miles.

Germany's largest carrier Lufthansa said in a statement that it is in favour of modern payment initiatives, adding: "We believe that competition in payment and distribution systems is a basic factor for decreasing cost while improving customer experience."

Tourists splash record amount in first quarter

MORE than 13.7 foreign tourists spent almost €14.4 million in Spain during the first quarter of 2018, according to the National Institute of Statistics.

The record figures represent increases of 6 and 7.7 per cent on the same period in 2017, respectively.

In March alone more than 5.4 million holidaymakers flocked to the country as visitor numbers soared by 9.6 per cent compared to last year.

The average tourist stayed for 7.5 days and spent €1,064, with Britons (2.8 million), Germans (1.85 million) and French (1.69 million) travellers topping the rankings in terms of numbers.

And the destinations raking in the most cash were the Canary Islands (€4.5 million), Cataluña (€3.1 million) and Andalucía (€2.2 million).



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Pat

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LEAPY LEE SAYS IT

OTHERS THINK IT



SO, there he stood.

Rick the Roo Boy, 6.30am, outside my hotel room, dangling some bewhiskered rodent up to the spy hole and asking 'if I was ready?'

For those who missed last week's introduction to this Australian saga, I was touring the great 'down under' and while appearing in Melbourne had recently mentioned in a radio interview that I had 'yet to see a kangaroo.' A local character had phoned in and offered to 'show me all the kangaroos I wanted.'

I had completely forgotten the incident and suddenly here he was, at my hotel room, raring to go, about 10 minutes after I personally had actually staggered into bed! His broad Australian 'rasp' once more penetrated my befuddled senses.

"Come on Leapy," he shouted through the door, "don't wanna be late.

"Freddy the ferret here wants to get him a few rabbits." What!?! Having very little choice I fumbled with the door and as he burst in I turned and moved hastily to the bedroom, calling over my shoulder for him to take a seat and that 'I wouldn't be a minute'.



AUSSIE RULES: Nurses, 'uppers' and bunny bashing.

I shut the bedroom door and flopped down onto the bed. Oh my God, I thought, what am I going to do? Well one thing was for sure, if I was going 'kangaroo hunting' I wasn't going on my own. Quickly downing a couple of 'wake up' pills, kindly donated by a couple of thoughtful young nurses, (who had only actually left around half an hour before!) I lifted the phone and began to ring

around the group.

The first member, my drummer, didn't answer at all. The next two mumbling musos blearily uttered hardly discernible 'no ways,' even under the threats of getting an early flight back to Blighty.

Mike, my guitarist was next. Mike was just a big old softy really and after extreme begging and pleading, plus the promise of a couple of 'uppers,'

he finally, very reluctantly, agreed to accompany me on the 'hunt.'

One hour later Mike, me, Rick the Roo Boy and Freddy the ferret were bouncing across the Australian outback in a jeep. We pulled up in the middle of nowhere. Rick leapt from the vehicle, clutching the wriggling Freddy in a sack and gleefully exclaiming that first, we were going to catch us a few rabbits for supper.

"Take these two clubs," he enthused, "and go over and stand on that hillock. I'll put Freddy down these burrows and when the rabbits pop out over there just hit 'em over the head!"

Oh really! Mick and I, both utterly 60's peace and love, further enhanced by the effects of the 'uppers' wandered reluctantly over to the distant, rabbit-holed mound, and just stood there, looking at each other. At that point those Australian rabbits were the safest animals on earth. There was no way in the world that either of us could have bashed their heads in as they emerged from the ground on that sunny morning. So, there we stood and waited... And I'm afraid that's what all of us will have to do 'til I round it all off next week. Back to my old 'telling it all as I see it' soon. Promise.

*Keep the Faith,
Love Leapy*

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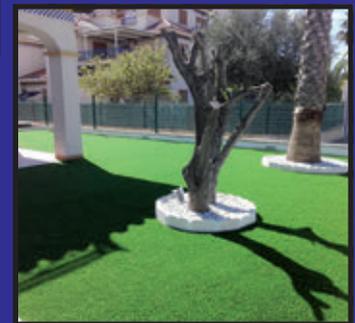
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Take back (digital) control

The week after next, Terence Kennedy will insist that Facebook deletes his digital indiscretions

TECH FOR THE TIMID



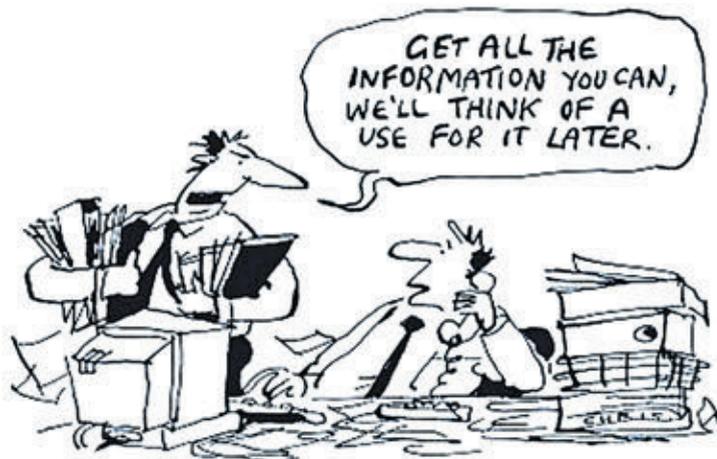
SOON the world's digital overlords will apparently hold 40 zettabytes of information on us.

No I don't know what that means either, but when a colleague recently asked Facebook for all the information it held on him, he got nearly a gigabyte back.

That's the equivalent of 200 copies of the Bible in plain text, if you're interested. Or not, if you're an atheist.

Most alarming of all was that it listed every call he had ever made and every message he had ever sent. The good news is that this changes in a fortnight. At least it does for we Europeans, thanks to the acronym of the moment: GDPR.

From May 25 the General Data Protection Regulation means that organisations may no longer treat us unilaterally as just so much advertising fodder, to be milked of every possible bit of personal information for



GDPR: Keep calm and comply.

their nefarious or even non-nefarious purposes. If they do, it's goodbye €20 million or more in fines.

The likes of Facebook, Amazon, Google or that popular anatomical research site Pornhub may not harvest our personal data without asking us, may not hit us with 40 screens of terms and conditions we cannot understand as an excuse, may not refuse to tell us what they know about us,

and must delete it if we insist. I certainly do.

If they get hacked they have to 'fess up' within 72 hours.

Not only may they merely store our details for a 'reasonable' time, but we will have the hitherto denied 'right to be forgotten' if we want to opt-out of any part of our brave new digital world.

It's not just our direct personal data

which is affected. Anything which could be identified directly back to us may not be collected without our explicit consent. That includes the 'IP address' which pinpoints your specific computer or phone even if you think you operate online anonymously.

The good news for non-Europeans is also that the GDPR will reverberate far beyond the old world's borders. Any company has to comply when doing business with Europe (here's lookin' at you Facebook and Google).

So: The Empire Fights Back? Will it all make a difference where online privacy has devalued more than a Zimbabwean dollar?

A recent survey revealed that 32 per cent of the respondents intend to ask at least one organisation exactly what information it holds on them.

I will certainly be asking Google to delete details of all those searches I did back then on performance-enhancing substances undetectable by local Scrabble clubs. Purely for scientific purposes, you understand.

Trackdown

WE'VE all seen those ads which mysteriously track us right across the internet - irritatingly offering to sell us the very item we just bought.

But it's not just GCHQ, the NSA or even the former KGB who'd like to track us physically too. Soon we might pass the supermarket and our phone might entreat us to buy today's special on biodegradable crumpets.

The GDPR doesn't (yet) tackle the thorny issue of surveillance, but it's coming. Proposed legislation hopes to take the next step: banning surveillance unless you agree.

Would anyone, other than 'helicopter' parents obsessing where their children are 24/7? Or a nurse keeping tabs on someone like my granddad, whose 105th birthday we celebrated this week? (Though sadly he died at 62).

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API-M0146 150,000€

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Fully furnished
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Outdoor & indoor pool, Jacuzzi
Lift with panoramic views



API-V0358 110,000€

VERA PLAYA

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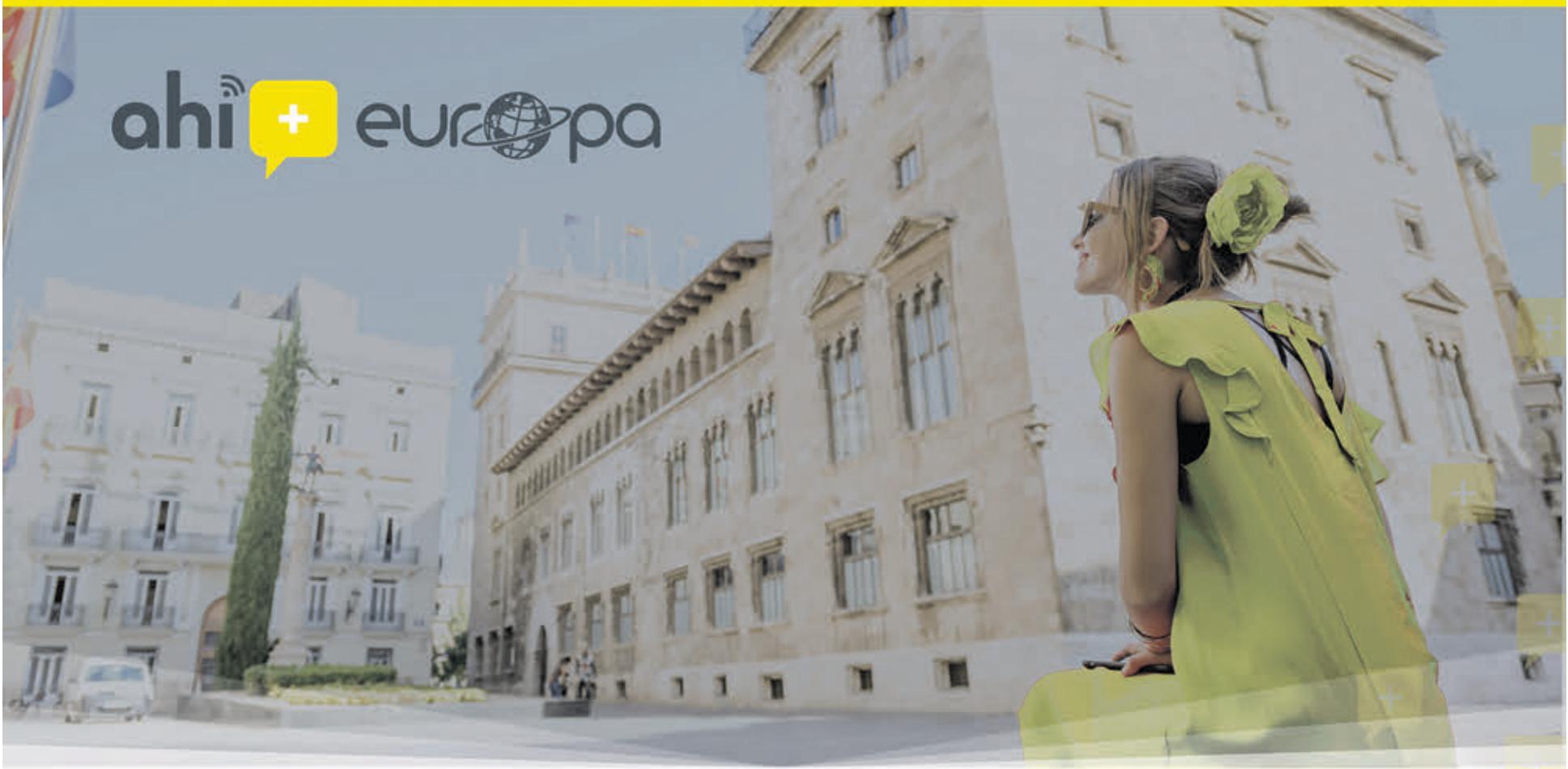
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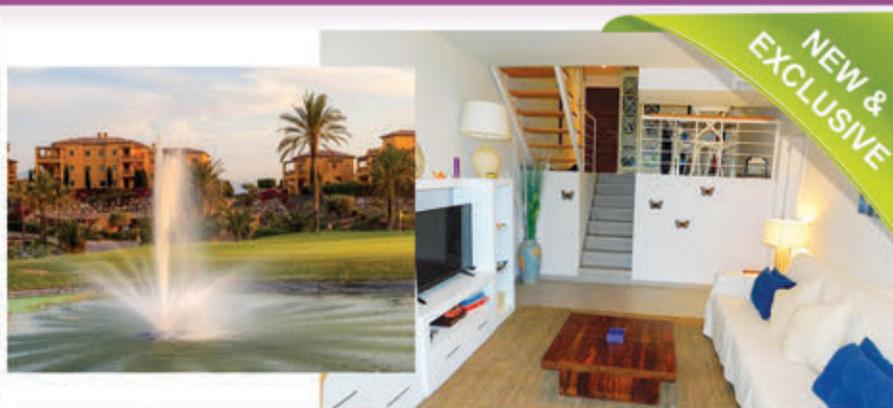
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NEW & EXCLUSIVE



REF:A922 LOCATED IN ARBOLEAS 159,950€

Located in a small much sought after urbanisation that is within walking distance of the local village centre which has all of the amenities that you will need for day to day living. This lovely family sized villa has many extras included in the asking price. The property has 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, landscaped gardens, air con, private parking and is located in a cul de sac of just 12 other detached villas which comes with lovely views of the surrounding mountains & valley. The villa has been very well maintained both inside and out by the current owners. A must see villa!



NEW & EXCLUSIVE



REF:A905 LOCATED IN CANTORIA 169,995€

This is an immaculate, single-storey, detached villa with garage and private swimming pool, with fantastic views of the mountains, located within walking distance from the traditional Spanish village of Cantoria, which offers a number of amenities, including numerous bars, shops and more, as well as being within a 10 minute drive of other villages and towns like Albox. The property is also within a 45-minute drive of the coast. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garage, easily maintained gardens with lots of paved areas and a mix of fruit trees and shrubs. Priced to sell!



Avenida Lepanto 15, Albox.
Tel. 950 615 388 or 653 722 290



The Garner family of Channel 4 Sun Sea and Selling Houses Look out for Series 2 coming soon.



FEATURED
PROPERTY



Ref:A861 Villa - Huerca Overa 214,950€
4 bed, 3 bath, private pool. A must see!

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Ref:A569 Los Higuerales 167,750€
3 bed, 2 bath Villa. EPC F

EXCLUSIVE
TO SPC



Ref:A859 Oria 239,950€
6 bed, 6 bath Cortijo. EPC E

FEATURED
LISTING



Ref:B1114 Vera 315,000€
5 bed, 3 bath Villa EPC E

EXCLUSIVE
TO SPC



Ref:B1005 S/Cabrera 149,950€
3 bed, 2 bath Villa. EPC F-E

EXCLUSIVE
TO SPC



Ref:B992 Mojacar 160,000€
3 bed, 2 bath Duplex. EPC F

EXCLUSIVE
TO SPC



Ref:B948 V/D/Este 119,995€
3 bed, 2 bath Apartment. EPC E

FEATURED
LISTING



Ref:B1213 Aguadulce 43,000€
1 bed, 1 bath Apartment EPC E

EXCLUSIVE
TO SPC



Ref:B1209 V7D/ESTE 159,950€
3 bed, 2 bath Townhouse. EPC E

EXCLUSIVE
TO SPC



Ref:A726 P/Lumbreras 309,950€
4 bed, 2 bath Luxury Villa. EPC F



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Travel

Nerja: Axarquia's rising star

FOLLOWING its recognition as Spain's best emerging travel destination, Nerja is likely to see waves of extra tourists flock to its idyllic beaches this summer.

The coastal Axarquia destination was ranked fourth in TripAdvisor's 'Top Destinations on the Rise - Europe 2018.'

And the town also finished ninth worldwide in the website's Travellers' Choice rankings.

With the awards reportedly judged on the increases in positive reviews, searches and booking interests, they merely demonstrate the growth of the town's appeal, not how wonderful a destination it is.

Nerja is moving from niche to mainstream, in other words.

What is undoubtedly mainstream, is the town's beaches. Much like the rest of the Spanish south coast, sandy beaches and sun make for a winning combination. But there is more to the town than beaches.

Situated about 50km east of Malaga, Nerja has Muslim routes, indeed, its name is thought to stem from what the previous rulers called it: 'Narixa', which means 'abundant source.'

But its history stretches far further back. Primitive paintings, discovered in 2012, line



CAVE RAVE: Concerts are sometimes put on in the popular attraction.

the walls of one of its best attractions, the spectacular caves of Nerja. The find was significant as it is thought to be the first Neanderthal cave paintings discovered in the country.

The caves themselves boast impressive stalactites and stalagmites and interesting historical displays. The near 5km caverns are divided into two main parts, though one is not open to visitors.

Occasionally, concerts are put on for the public, and, given the stunning setting and amphitheatre dynamics, it is a spectacle not to be missed.

Another attraction for non-beach fanatics is the Balcon de Europa, which provides spectacular views of the coast and a pretty spot for a stroll.

At night, street artists give the pedestrianised

area a lively atmosphere. The sunsets can also be stunning.

During the day, a walk up the riverbed of the river Chillar can make for a refreshing day trip.

Pretty geology, a lack of crowds, crisp water and greenery make it a winner with most who are willing to try it. And revellers also have time for a quick dip in the river's waterfalls.

Noting the array of attractions near the destination, TripAdvisor write: "Positioned at the eastern tip of the Costa del Sol, Nerja boasts nearly 10 miles of powdery beaches featuring activities like water skiing, scuba diving and sailing. Although tourist-oriented, it hasn't been overtaken by high-rises, and its huge promenade delivers panoramic Mediterranean views."

In 2009, the 33-square-mile community had a reported total population of 22,000. The town's permanent residents retain some Spanish authenticity in the town itself, according to some visitors.

Even if the TripAdvisor gang do arrive in their droves, Nerja is likely to retain its charm for years to come, especially away from the beaches. Let's just hope it does not rise too high in the tourist destination stakes.

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Advertising Feature

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- Sun roof & underbuild
- Walk to amenities in La Alfoquia

VH1288 €169,950 CEE TBC



- 3 bed, 2 bath Villa
- 8m x 4m swimming pool
- Walk to bar / restaurant
- Zurgena area

VH847 €164,950 CEE F75 57



- 4 bed, 4 bath Country House
- Incl 1 bed s/c apartment
- Pool & 877m2 garden
- 12 mins drive to Huercal-Overa



TV COUCH CRITIC

by Adam Whalley-Lewis

THERE are an increasing band of TV celebrities who have a fan base so loyal (or sheep-like, you choose) that with the protection of social media have become somehow un-touchable.

Do I dare share some thoughts? Of course! Piers Morgan, Jane McDonald, and Jeremy Clarkson to name just three.

So with the return of *Who Wants to be a Millionaire* this week (ITVI, until May 11) I paused before deciding if I should include something, or not, but here goes.

The show is celebrating 20 years with a run of seven shows with Mr Clarkson trying, oh he is trying so hard, to fill



WELCOME RETURN: *Friday Night Dinner*.

Photo credit ITV/Channel 4

TRYING SO HARD: Jeremy Clarkson on Who Wants To Be A Millionaire.

Chris Tarrant's shoes.

ITV has introduced a new 'Ask the Host' option for contestants, that's useful if there is a question about cars or having a temper and taking it out on your co-workers.

Jeremy started out by making an obviously scripted off the cuff remark about winners being able to live like The Queen, with an old Greek upstairs, which Clarkson fans loved and fans of the show probably thought didn't need to be there.

Jeremy hasn't (yet) been overly

supportive to contestants who struggle with the earlier/easier questions, but the viewing figures aren't too bad, after all you can get Top Gear on catch up.

My view, if you like Jeremy you will love it, if you like the show, you will probably put up with the new host, while most of us will dip in and out as the feeling takes us.

Thankfully Jeremy wasn't invited to dine with the Goodmans when *Friday Night Dinner* returned to Channel 4 last Friday and a good job too. Jackie and Martin have bought a hot tub so there would have been a risk of Mr Clarkson in budgie smugglers, think I will leave that one there.

This is series 5 so there is a risk that Adam and Jonny turning up for dinner on Friday and something going wrong will start to look stale. The first episode of the new series shouldn't have disappointed fans of the show, Jim and Wilson are back and the 'nippy-nippy' sequence surely had anyone watching with a family member squirming in their seat.

Jackie's mum returns later in the

run, so that should keep things bumping along nicely and what did you make of Jim's potential new girlfriend, more this week?

I'm really not trying to keep the image of Jeremy in swimming trunks alive, but thankfully he didn't make it to the Levante beach (hi to all our readers in the Costa Blanca) for the final episode of *Benidorm* last week. Most of us probably agree that the show has gone off the boil recently, but I will miss the antics around the pool in this smashing part of Spain.

There was a nice guest appearance for the creator of the show when Derren Litten launched a possible takeover bid as Elvis from Skegness and Claire Sweeney, Bobby Ball and Holly Johnson all pitched in to push the show to a conclusion. I think I will be a little bit sad not to have the cast doing their thing anymore.

It's the *Eurovision Song Contest* this Saturday (BBC1, for over three hours). Watch out for Cyprus, but Israel, Spain and the UK are not expected to make the top 10.

Happy viewing.

Bentley Continental GT inspires kitchen

Nick Horne *The Rich Pick*

Freelance correspondent, London, England



SALON INTERNATIONAL DEL MOBILE, Milan April 2018. The centrepiece of the Bentley Home collection presented at the salon was the kitchen. An idealised expression of the focal point of modern family living.

Designed by architect Carlo Colombo the Bentley Home draws together the materials and finishes of the luxury British carmaker.

Elegance, combined with luxury and contemporary design are the hallmarks of the Bentley Home collection. A line of furniture and accessories embodies a superb representation of the Bentley Car's design language further enhanced by Italian flair and manufacture.

The design of the collection focuses on proportion and shape rich in detail, with new patterns and sinuous geometries emphasised by metal details drawn from the interiors of the new Bentley Continental GT, as with the new Bampton sofa whose shape is highlighted by a



Photo credit Bentley Home Collection



SUPERCAR EFFECT: The Bampton Sofa is inspired by the interior of the Bentley Continental GT.

metallic profile.

The Buxton kitchen is defined by linear design enhanced by the richness of the finish. A central island made of larch, houses the Calacatta

steel under top and hi-tech cooking module. The absence of handles in the doors and the recessed opening emphasises the sophistication and cleanliness of the shapes.

The Bentley design language and style is reflected in the materials, the new larch wood, with its warm shades and dark veins is modelled to embellish sofa and seat frames or combining it with leather in table and coffee table surfaces.

Upholstery fabrics of soft velvets in silk and cotton, high performance chenille and Alcantara fabrics worked with a chevron motif in colour patterns of delicate and pastel shades. Stone grey and quartz grey tones combined with natural shades define a collection of a distinctive contemporary character.

Elements of the Bentley kitchen may be acquired selectively to enhance the ambiance at the heart of your home. A Bentley Home Matlock coffee table, combines elements, two curved modules create the structure on which the top made of new larch wood is fitted.

The leather outer cover is framed by a metal profile which is the motif of the collection, at €5,300, or the Bampton sofa - a design inspired by the dashboard of Bentley cars - at €19,030. Prices are excluding local taxes.

LUXURY: The Buxton kitchen revealed.
STYLISH: The leather outer cover is framed by a metal profile, a motif of the collection.

Gold marble top flared at the corners and characterised by a perimeter groove. The dynamic surface creates a movement effect while manual sliding panels create an elegant snack top and at the same time reveals a



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THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky sports main event						
10 MAY	4:00pm	Escape to the Country	6:15pm	Money for Nothing	7:00pm	ITV News London	3:10pm	Countdown	6:30pm	Neighbours	11:00am	Premier League Daily
	4:45pm	Flipping Profit	7:00pm	Eggheads	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	4:00pm	A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun	7:00pm	Home and Away	12:00pm	Live ATP 1000: Madrid
	5:30pm	Flog It!	7:30pm	Great British Railway Journeys	8:00pm	Emmerdale	5:00pm	The £100k Drop	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	1:30pm	Live the Players
	6:15pm	Pointless	8:00pm	Back to the Land with Kate Humble	8:30pm	Tonight	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	8:00pm	The Nightmare	4:00pm	Indian Premier League
	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	9:00pm	World's Most Extraordinary Homes	9:00pm	Emmerdale	6:30pm	Buy it Now	9:00pm	Neighbour Next Door	8:30pm	Football
	7:30pm	BBC London News	10:00pm	Red Ape: Saving the Orangutan	9:30pm	Paul O'grady: For the Love of Dogs	7:00pm	The Simpsons	11:00pm	Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords	11:00pm	Live the Players Championship
	8:00pm	The One Show	11:00pm	Qi	10:00pm	Who Wants to be a Millionaire?	7:30pm	Hollyoaks		Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!		
	8:30pm	EastEnders			11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	8:00pm	Channel 4 News		Undercover: Nailing the Fraudsters		
	9:00pm	Britain's Best Home Cook					9:00pm	Food Unwrapped				
	10:00pm	Ambulance					10:00pm	999: What's Your Emergency?				
11:00pm	BBC News at Ten					11:00pm	Riot Girls					
FRIDAY 11 MAY	5:30pm	Flog It!	3:30pm	Going Back Giving Back	4:00pm	Tenable	3:10pm	Countdown	6:30pm	Neighbours	11:55am	Cricket
	6:15pm	Pointless	4:15pm	Digging for Britain	5:00pm	Tipping Point	4:00pm	A Place in the Sun	7:00pm	Home and Away	4:00pm	Indian Premier League
	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	5:15pm	Tudor Monastery Farm	6:00pm	The Chase	5:00pm	The £100k Drop	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	8:30pm	Live EFL Play-Off Semi-Final
	7:30pm	BBC London News	6:15pm	Money for Nothing	7:00pm	ITV News London	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	8:00pm	The Gadget Show	11:00pm	Live the Players Championship
	8:00pm	The One Show	7:00pm	Eggheads	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	6:30pm	Buy it Now	9:00pm	Britain's Great Cathedrals, with Tony Robinson	1:00am	Sky Sports News
	9:00pm	EastEnders	7:30pm	Great British Railway Journeys	8:00pm	Emmerdale	7:00pm	The Simpsons	10:00pm	Portillo's Hidden History of Britain	2:00am	Sky Sports News
	9:30pm	The Button	8:00pm	Back to the Land with Kate Humble	8:30pm	Coronation Street	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	11:00pm	The Great Rameses: New Evidence Revealed	3:00am	Sky Sports News
	10:00pm	Have I Got News for You	9:00pm	Gardeners' World	9:30pm	Love Your Garden	8:00pm	Channel 4 News			4:00am	Sky Sports News
	10:30pm	Home from Home	10:00pm	The Bridge	10:00pm	Coronation Street	8:30pm	Unreported World				
	11:00pm	BBC News at Ten				Who Wants to be a Millionaire?	9:00pm	Our Wildest Dreams				
11:25pm	BBC London News					10:00pm	Gogglebox					
SATURDAY 12 MAY	5:30pm	Doodlebugs	5:30pm	Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge	6:00pm	The Chase	4:00pm	A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun	7:10pm	Rich House, Poor House	3:45pm	Live EFL Play-Off Semi-Final
	5:45pm	Big Hero 6	6:30pm	Love in the countryside	7:00pm	ITV Evening News	5:00pm	Location, Location, Location	8:00pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	6:00pm	Live EFL Play-Off Semi-Final
	7:20pm	Ready or Not	7:30pm	The Forest	7:15pm	Regional News and Weather	6:00pm	Formula 1	9:00pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	8:15pm	Live the Players Championship
	7:50pm	BBC News	8:00pm	World's Most Extraordinary Homes	7:30pm	Ninja Warrior UK	7:30pm	Channel 4 News	9:55pm	5 News	11:00pm	European Rugby Champions Cup Final Highlights
	8:00pm	Regional News	9:00pm	Coast Lives	8:30pm	Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule	8:00pm	When Harry Met Meghan: A Royal Romance	10:00pm	Live Boxing: Fury v Sexton	1:00am	
	8:05pm	Weather	9:30pm	Dad's Army	9:00pm	Britain's Got Talent	9:00pm	Britain's Most Historic Towns	12:15am	When Eurovision Goes Horribly Wrong	2:00am	
	8:10pm	Pointless	10:00pm	The Private Life of the Royal Academy	10:15pm	The Keith and Paddy Picture Show	10:00pm	Cowboys and Aliens	2:55am	Super Casino		
	9:00pm	Eurovision Song Contest 2018	11:20pm	My Old Lady	10:45pm	ITV News						
	12:35am	BBC News										
	12:50am	Weather										
SUNDAY 13 MAY	5:20pm	Final Score	2:00pm	Triathlon World Series	6:00pm	The Chase: Celebrity Special	1:30pm	Bake Off: The Professionals	3:50pm	Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls	12:00pm	Soccer Special Pre-Match
	6:30pm	BBC News	4:00pm	Rugby League Challenge Cup	7:00pm	Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule	2:30pm	The Simpsons	5:40pm	Garfield	1:00pm	Football
	6:45pm	Regional News	6:30pm	Flog It!	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	3:00pm	The Simpsons	7:10pm	Kittens Make You Laugh Out Loud	3:55pm	Live Nissan Super Sunday
	6:55pm	Weather	7:00pm	Tomorrowland	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	3:30pm	Cheaper by the Dozen	8:00pm	Kitten's Got Talent	6:00pm	Live EFL Play-Off Semi-Final
	7:00pm	The a-Z of the Rhs Chelsea Flower Show	9:00pm	Neanderthals - Meet Your Ancestors	7:45pm	Regional News and Weather	6:30pm	Channel 4 News	9:00pm	Psycho Pussies: When Cats Attack	8:00pm	Live the Players Championship
	8:00pm	Countryfile	10:00pm	Burma with Simon Reeve	8:00pm	Little Big Shots	7:00pm	Formula 1	9:55pm	5 News	1:00am	Sky Sports News
	9:00pm	British Academy Television Awards 2018	11:00pm	Atlanta	9:00pm	Midsomer Murders	9:00pm	Bake Off: The Professionals	10:00pm	Kylie at 50: Especially for You	2:00am	Sky Sports News
	11:00pm	BBC News	11:25pm	Atlanta	11:00pm	ITV News	10:00pm	Eddie the Eagle	11:35pm	Muriel's Wedding		
	11:20pm	Regional News			11:20pm	Peston on Sunday	12:05am	8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown				
	MONDAY 14 MAY	5:30pm	Hardball	5:30pm	Street Auction	6:00pm	The Chase	6:30pm	Buy it Now	4:20pm	Murder, She Baked: A Peach Cobbler Mystery	9:00am
6:15pm		Pointless	6:15pm	Antiques Road Trip	7:00pm	Regional News and Weather	7:00pm	The Simpsons	6:00pm	5 News	10:00am	Total Goals
7:00pm		BBC News	7:00pm	Eggheads	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	6:30pm	Neighbours	11:00am	Live ATP 1000: Rome
7:30pm		Regional News	7:30pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys	8:00pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	7:00pm	Home and Away	4:00pm	Indian Premier League
8:00pm		The One Show	8:00pm	Back to the Land with Kate Humble	8:30pm	Coronation Street	8:55pm	The Political Slot	7:30pm	5 News	8:30pm	Live EFL Play-Off Semi-Final
8:30pm		Fake Britain	9:00pm	Inside the Factory	9:00pm	Give it a Year	9:00pm	Holidays Unpacked	8:00pm	World's Fastest Train	11:00pm	Sky Sports News at Ten
9:00pm		EastEnders	10:00pm	Heart Transplant: A Chance to Live	9:30pm	Coronation Street	9:30pm	Tricks of the Restaurant Trade	9:00pm	Police Interceptors	12:00am	Sky Sports News
9:30pm		Panorama	11:30pm	Newsnight	10:00pm	Innocent	10:00pm	Catching a Killer	10:00pm	Paddington Station 24/7	1:00am	Sky Sports News
10:00pm		Peter Kay's Car Share			11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	11:20pm	Myanmar's Killing Fields	11:00pm	Cocaine: Addicted Britain	2:00am	Live WWE Late Night Raw
10:30pm		Mrs. Brown's Boys										
11:00pm	BBC News											
TUESDAY 15 MAY	4:15pm	Escape to the Country	7:00pm	Eggheads	4:00pm	Dickinson's Real Deal	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	6:00pm	5 News	7:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans Bitesize
	4:45pm	Royal Recipes	7:30pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys	5:00pm	Tipping Point	6:30pm	Buy it Now	6:30pm	Neighbours	7:30am	World Cup of Pool
	5:30pm	Hardball	8:00pm	Back to the Land with Kate Humble	6:00pm	The Chase	7:00pm	The Simpsons	7:00pm	Home and Away	11:30am	Live ATP 1000: Rome
	6:15pm	Pointless	9:00pm	Pangolins - The World's Most Wanted Animal	7:00pm	Regional News and Weather	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	7:30pm	5 News	4:00pm	Indian Premier League
	7:00pm	BBC News	10:00pm	Nigeria's Stolen Daughters	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	8:00pm	Britain by Bike with Larry and George Lamb	8:30pm	Live EFL Play-Off Semi-Final
	7:30pm	Regional News	11:00pm	Later Live... with Jools Holland	8:00pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	The Secret Life of 5 Year Olds	9:00pm	The Yorkshire Vet	11:00pm	Sky Sports News at Ten
	8:00pm	The One Show			8:30pm	Coronation Street	9:00pm	The Windsors Royal Wedding Special	10:00pm	Intercity 125: The Train That Saved Britain's Railways	12:00am	Sky Sports News
	8:30pm	EastEnders			9:00pm	Devon and Cornwall Cops	10:00pm	Meet the Markles		In Their Own Words		
	9:00pm	Holby City			11:00pm	This Time Next Year	11:00pm	First Dates				
	10:00pm	The Split				Innocent	12:00am					
11:00pm	BBC News				ITV News at Ten and Weather							
WEDNESDAY 16 MAY	4:15pm	Escape to the Country	5:30pm	Street Auction	6:00pm	The Chase	4:00pm	A Place in the Sun	4:15pm	Manic Mom	11:30am	Premier League Daily
	4:45pm	Royal Recipes	6:15pm	Antiques Road Trip	7:00pm	Local News and Weather	5:00pm	The £100k Drop	6:00pm	5 News at 5	12:00pm	Live ATP 1000: Rome
	5:30pm	Hardball	7:00pm	Eggheads	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	6:00pm	Four in a Bed	6:30pm	Neighbours	4:00pm	Indian Premier League
	6:15pm	Pointless	7:30pm	Great Continental Railway Journeys	8:00pm	Emmerdale	6:30pm	Buy it Now	7:00pm	Home and Away	8:30pm	Live EFL Play-Off Semi-Final
	7:00pm	BBC News	8:00pm	Back to the Land with Kate Humble	8:30pm	Coronation Street	7:00pm	The Simpsons	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	11:00pm	Sky Sports News at Ten
	7:30pm	Regional News	9:00pm	World's Most Extraordinary Homes	9:00pm	Britain's Busiest Airport - Heathrow	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	8:00pm	Police Interceptors	12:00am	Sky Sports News
	8:00pm	The One Show	10:00pm	Love in the Countryside	9:30pm	Coronation Street	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	9:00pm	GP's: Behind Closed Doors	1:00am	Sky Sports News
	8:30pm	EastEnders	11:00pm	Detectorists	10:00pm	Innocent	8:55pm	The Political Slot	10:00pm	Rich House, Poor House	1:00am	
	9:00pm	Watchdog Live	11:30pm	Newsnight	11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	9:00pm	The Secret Life of the Zoo	11:00pm	When Kids TV Goes Horribly Wrong		
	10:00pm	Panorama					10:00pm	24 Hours in a and e				
11:00pm	BBC News					11:00pm	What Makes a Woman?					
11:30pm	Regional News					12:05am	Gogglebox					
11:40pm	Weather											

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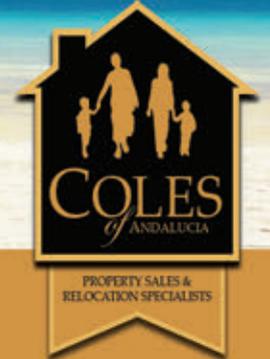


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We are experiencing a very strong demand for villas that are within walking distance of village amenities. Please contact us if you have this type of property for sale.

REF VAL2ALO08



This 2 bedroom 1 bathroom apartment is located on the first floor with a terrace overlooking the communal pool & gardens. The property comes with a fully fitted kitchen including all white goods, ceiling fans and fitted wardrobes. The apartment measuring 58m² also boasts an allocated & secure parking space and use of the lovely communal pool & gardens.

Valle Del Este €72,950

REF ARB3VCH16



A stunning detached 4 bedroom 2 bathroom villa with 8 x 4m private pool, garage, workshop, storeroom, dayroom and summer kitchen located in the El Chopo area of Arboleas. The villa has been extended in many ways with some thoughtful lifestyle-enhancing modifications and many extras. Must be viewed to be fully appreciated.

Arboleas €249,950

REF CGR2T07



This is a beautiful & completely reformed 2 bedroom 2 bathroom village house in Cortijo Grande near Turre with spacious terraces and superb mountain views. The property is a mixture of modern comforts and rustic charm and has been fully reformed with electric rewiring, new floors & internal doors as well as newly installed bathrooms and kitchen

Cortijo Grande €119,950

REF TUR2A54



A modern & well-presented 2 bedroom 1 bathroom top floor apartment located on the outskirts of Turre with communal roof solarium & pool. A/C throughout, underground parking and storeroom. The development boasts a spacious communal solarium complete with swimming pool and this roof terrace offers fantastic views of the surrounding area and is an ideal spot for relaxing and sunbathing.

Turre €64,950

REF GOR3V05



This superb 3 bedroom 2 bathroom detached villa in the Cerro Gordo area of Partalao is new to the market and offers fantastic value for money! The villa measures 127m² and sits on a completely walled plot of 580m² which boasts an 8 x 4m swimming pool in a private courtyard area, along with a workshop with separate garage in one corner of the plot.

Partalao €159,950

REF LOB2A08



A first floor 2 bed 2 bath apartment with a spacious front terrace overlooking the communal pool, a bright and airy open plan layout, air conditioning, and just a 7 minute drive to San Juan beaches. Above the apartment is a communal roof solarium with striking mountain views. There is also spacious underground parking space and furniture can also be included in the sale, subject to negotiation

Los Lobos €69,950

REF TUR2V08



Here we have a superb 2 bedroom 2 bathroom detached villa in Turre with a private 8 x 4m pool, large terraces, private roof solarium with stunning views of the Sierra Cabrera mountain range, off-road parking and a huge storeroom. Air conditioning throughout and a short walk to Turre town centre.

Turre €169,995

REF CUE3T03



This is a traditional semi-detached property in a small farming village just a 5 minute drive from the beaches of Villaricos. The property benefits from large terraces, a plunge pool with Jacuzzi jets, excellent mountain views, fly-free dining area, internal patio, dining room, modern kitchen and two internal sitting areas.

Cuevas del Almanzora €99,950

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Trigger-happy 'generation snowflake' forever in Neverland

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

AN over-praised and narcissistic generation of university students is persistently trying to negotiate better grades - or 'grade grubbing' as it's called - academics recently reported.

When university education was free, most students were grateful for what they got and wouldn't have considered complaining. But now students have to pay high fees, they're the customer and, understandably, expect to receive good grades in return for their financial investment.

But they argue frequently and aggressively about low grades, even when some of them haven't attended lectures, aren't particularly clever or just plain lazy.

Universities are scared stiff of getting low Student Satisfaction scores, which would lead to a lower student intake the following year and therefore loss of income. So, fundamentally students can do almost anything



SNOWFLAKES: Over-praised and narcissistic university students.

they please and they know this.

Basically, too much 'Aren't you clever, darling' and not enough 'naughty step!' from their parents?

Newsflash: 'The University of Neverland' acknowledges that law students are required to study topics in the criminal law module that may distress them, specifically murder, manslaughter, assault, rape and other sexual offences. At the start of lectures, relevant trigger warnings will be given and any student needing to leave may do so then.

'If an appeal is made without delay to the university indicating which parts of the course cause discomfort or anxiety, examination questions on these topics will be replaced with substitute questions on fraud, theft, corporate liability or other non-trigger topics.'

I made this up but you get the idea. Heck! I need trigger warnings for stories like this because my blood pressure spikes whenever I read about what a collection of girl's blouses young people have become.

Whatever next? A trigger warning at the beginning of a crime novel that someone, maybe even another person, will be dead by the close? Phew! As the author of crime thrillers perhaps I'd better shift gears and focus solely on fairy tales... set in Neverland!

Nora Johnson's 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) from Amazon in paperback/eBook (€0.99; £0.99) and iBookstore. All profits to Costa del Sol Cudeca charity.

columnists@euroweeklynews.com

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Do they need a tax adviser?

Q. My partner and I have lived in Spain for seven years. We have lifetime residency and NIE. We live on our pensions and do not pay tax in the UK, as we do not earn enough.

Some people tell us we must register for tax in Spain and some tell us we don't have to. A website tells us that if we earn less than €22,000 per year, we do not have to register in Spain. We are now confused.

I have recently begun earning from buying shares in properties with a Spanish company, and so I agree I must now register. Can you please clear up the matter?

N K (Costa Blanca)

A. YES you must declare for Spanish tax. Here is a simple rule: if you reside officially in Spain, your worldwide income is subject to Spanish tax.

In your case, you want to find a Spanish tax consultant who speaks English so you can understand. Ask your friends. The limit of €22,000 applies only when the income received has been subject to Spanish withholding tax during the year. Clearly, this does not apply to a UK pension.

David Searl

You and the Law in Spain



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



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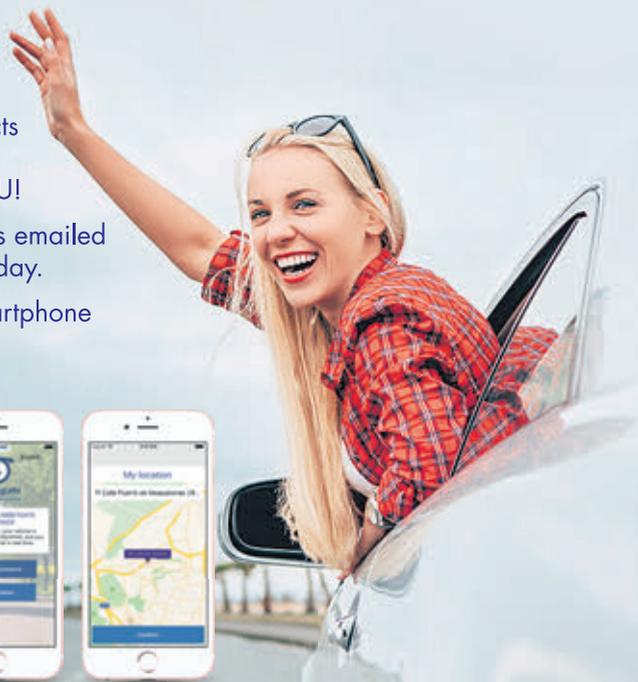
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Mike Senker

In my opinion

Views of a Grumpy Old Man



I'VE been reading lately that shopping online is killing high street, bricks and mortar, shopping. This in my opinion is due to many reasons. Of course, the biggest one is the convenience - you don't have to get off your backside; you just click a couple of buttons.

Another is the massive shopping centres like Westfield. I've just got back from a few days in the UK and the thing is the high streets just haven't moved with the times. I was staying in Borehamwood. It has a nice high street but most of the shops are eateries - you can buy every type of food you want.

There is an abundance of nail places and estate agents but no 'shop' shops. At the back of the high street there is a mini shopping park where there are some of the big name stores but they are all closed up by 6pm.

Why? I remember when I had my first shop, we opened at 9.30am and closed at 5.30pm and had half-day closing on a Thursday. Remember those days?

This was 1980 and I had just opened my first video rental shop. After the first few weeks I realised that this couldn't work be-

cause the only customers I was getting were people who didn't work those hours or local workers who nipped in during their lunch break, so I changed my hours to be open 10am-7pm and no half-days and I opened Sundays too.

Business boomed, even though I had to fight the council tooth and nail not to be fined. Back to Borehamwood - I wanted to buy a pair of shoes. I got to the shop at 6.02pm and everything was locked up and gone. I'm sure if everyone opened later they would have a better chance of survival.

Of course they won't because you can't cover those opening hours with one shift. For us living here in Spain we are spoilt - we can shop from 10am till 10pm.

Sure we have some stores that still take a siesta but you don't half miss the longer hours when you are in the UK. Plus, here we still have thriving high streets with a great selection of independent retailers.

OK stand up Jet2 and take a bow. I used them for the first time this trip and they are head and shoulders above Ryanair. Their staff were so helpful and it's the little things like having a pocket on the back of the seat to put a paper and more legroom - give them a try.

So there you go I was temporarily happy this week.

mikesenker@gmail.com

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If only someone could come up with a solution

MOST of us retirees enjoy a wonderful life here in Spain - the weather's amazing, the lifestyle is great, the people are friendly, our pensions go further etc.

However, the nagging thing that is always there in the background, and spoils it is we are all inevitably 'getting older' and what this may entail. Who will look after us?... especially if we lose our 'other halves.' It isn't fair to just plonk yourself on your family, or near, unless they want you of course. Perhaps you do not have any family...?

So many decide, reluctantly, they will have to go back to the UK as there are Retirement Homes, Warden Controlled Homes, Independent Living Villages etc to choose from. Most do not want to but feel there is no alternative.

Why can't we have Warden Controlled Homes, Independent Living Villages, Retirement Homes here with an in-house warden or nurse or both (hopefully who speak English as so many of us just cannot master Spanish). Maybe a DIY man on call, a gardener, a weekly driver to run us to Gibraltar, Sabinillas, Estepona or wherever.

Check the rates when changing cash

I WAS very interested to read the letter from Helen Stretch regarding unfair exchange rates in Benidorm. A similar thing happened to me in January this year at an exchange shop in the Old Town area. Again there was a large sign outside the shop offering the daily rate on a variety of currencies with no mention of minimum amounts for the rate shown.

I fortunately went into the shop with my husband and, as there was already a customer at the counter, was able to see his transaction. He was changing £100 and the woman behind the counter started to count out some coins but the rate advertised outside would have only needed notes. I would point out that I did change my money with an exchange shop on the main road in Benidorm and received the correct amount for my pounds. The moral of this is check before you hand over any money!!

Sylvia Stevens, Torrevieja



Credit: Nomading Shutterstock

EXCHANGE: Read the small print first.

More on motorhomes

I READ with annoyance Messrs May (La Marina), article regarding motorhome freeloaders.

Obviously they have annual problems in their small village with the convergence of motorhomes. Unfortunately, there are always bad apples in any basket. It is stated photos have been taken with motor homers emptying their sewage in and around the parkland.

If this is true, why were the local authorities not notified, and action taken? How do Messrs May think motor homers stock up with food and drink, if they do not contribute to the economy? Visitors to Spain do not pay taxes for emptying their rubbish, or the refilling of water, however, we do patronise local businesses. All items are taxed!

You are tarring us all with the same brush, and I object! If people abuse the law, then they should expect to be dealt with (including the Spanish). We are NOT all free loaders, because we choose to avoid campsites (another Issue)!

Dave Turre, on the road

This is what we need, a solution to the problem and then... WE CAN ALL STAY HERE!!

Sandy Avis, Marina de Casares
Editor's note. Thank you Sandy and there are already homes just like this

who advertise with us in Costa Blanca so your idea could hopefully become reality across Spain.

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.euoweeklynews.com.

RAILWAY RACE ROW: Asian teen appeals for help

I find it unbelievable that no-one on the train stood up for this poor girl during what is, without doubt, a racist attack. Had I been on that train I would have spoken out vociferously. All it takes for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing!

Suzanne

Notice all those people standing by and doing nothing. Shame on them all. Poor innocent defenceless girl on her own. Shocking!

Anne Nancy Traynor

Where was the security guard?

Janette McEwan

WATCH: 'Reckless' driver of Brit-plated car strikes wrong chord with police in Spain

He shouldn't worry. Their courts recently gave an American who was over the limit a one-year suspended sentence after he ran down and killed a 46-year-old British father of three. I guess the young American hot footed it out of Spain and will never return.

Saya Sendiri

Drivers like this add to our insurance costs, and, more importantly, they add to the carnage on the roads.

Ron Curtis

Comments from EWN online

Another Brit car not taxed, mot'd and then that makes insurance if they had any void... Crush them all...

Samantha Bartlett

BnB website for naturists launches with holiday listings in Spain

These beaches attract all the old recycled teenagers! Puke! Brighton, England. I don't want my kids to see these unsightly crews on the beach. If that is what they want then put up 10-foot screens and keep them inside and charge them an indecency fee!

Anne Nancy Traynor

I used to be a beach seller in the south of France which I did in summer and went on to the nudist beach to sell and they weren't all old but seemed weird. No-where to keep their money haha!

Caroline Baldwin

Who the hell wants to see anyone's bits out ... honestly the older the him and hers gets, the more gross it looks.

Marje Turner

The Germans are most prolific nudists. You can walk around there in a mixed sauna in your birthday suit but you can't mow your lawn on a Sunday.

Michael Hearne

UNMASKED: 'Hot cop' police officer at centre of Twitter meltdown in Spain identified

Have to say most of the police in Spain are hot lol.

Mary Teresa Mc Donnell-Keogh

Vet arrested in Spain for trafficking drugs inside puppies to stand trial

Disgusting thing for a vet to do, unbelievable. x

Pam Hooker

Defies belief, just pure greed, I trust he'll be struck off!

Susan Poole

That's awful how low can some people go makes me sick

Myra Craven

Gran's tips

CLEANING out some cupboards, I came across old tubes of glue, super-glue, shoe polish and such.

The tops were completely stuck and the glue as hard as hell. I remembered my grandmother telling us to put these items in boiling water, leave for a few minutes and hey presto. The glue still has a life and also the shoe polish. I believe it also works on paint lids stuck.

Anyone got other handy old fashioned tips for 'green' remedies?

Thanks for the crosswords and other letters.... love 'em.

Ena Amengual, Calvia, Mallorca

We all agree

Hi Leapy

Many thanks for your splendid article 'How many...' You may be 'awaiting slings and arrows' but you won't be getting any from me. I brought your article back to the UK with me and distributed it to my many UKIP friends: they all agree with you.

Russ Smith, Cabo Roig and Bournemouth

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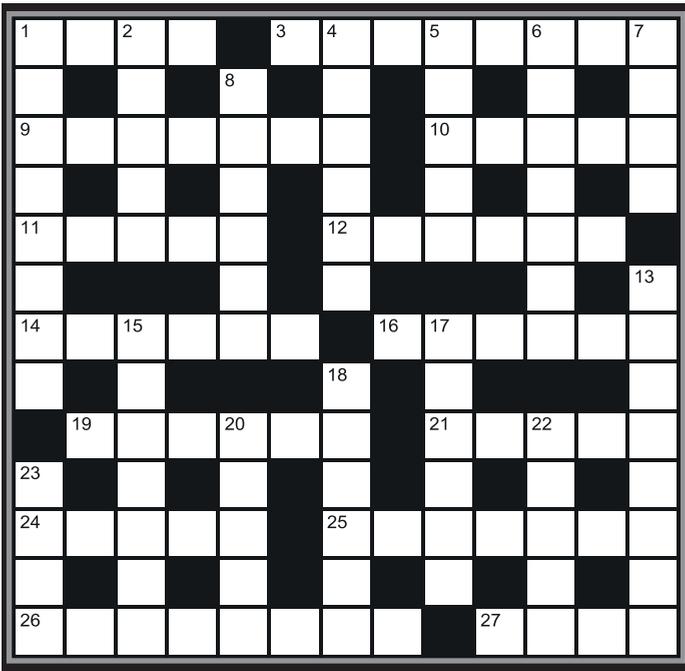


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Cryptic

Across

- 1 Lady before time produced fat (4)
- 3 Prepared props etc to search for gold (8)
- 9 Unusual icon in urn depicting legendary beast (7)
- 10 Escapes from parasites, one hears (5)
- 11 Amber cooked a fish (5)
- 12 Paint two women (6)
- 14 Arrange roster for holiday location (6)
- 16 Hate a hotel that's disorganised (6)
- 19 Hardy companion in bush (6)
- 21 Discredit fake Earl (5)
- 24 Loosen international organisation's neckwear (5)
- 25 Can eels somehow purify? (7)
- 26 Being defeated must be a change for harsh Ted (8)
- 27 Before exercises we cried (4)

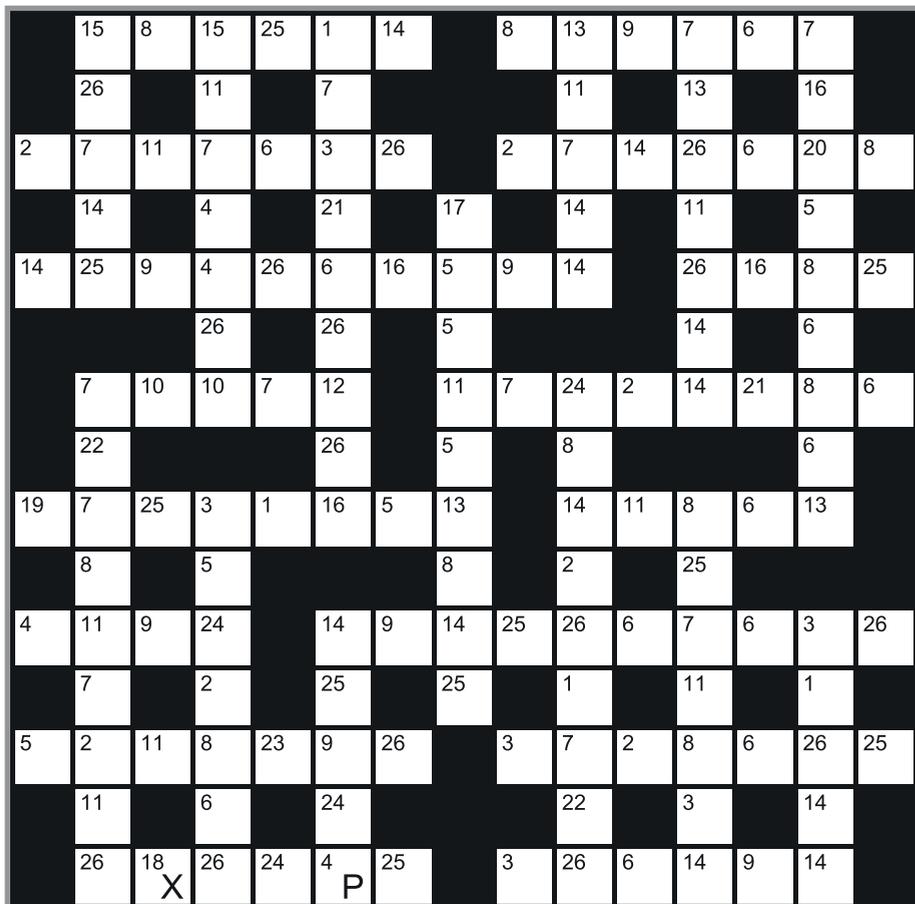


Down

- 1 Counterfoil delivered is inflexible (8)
- 2 Former international the French deport (5)
- 4 A forged tenner for curdled milk (6)
- 5 Capital I invested in settee (5)
- 6 Pele mentioned part of kettle (7)
- 7 One may win it by a head (4)
- 8 Ex producer (6)
- 13 Most serious Sherpas start on mountain (8)
- 15 Crush the star characters (7)
- 17 Evicted, but used to moving (6)
- 18 Protection for plants? That's old hat (6)
- 20 Revolvers smuggled in somewhere else (5)
- 22 Making a comeback in White Horse Inn, a musical heroine (5)
- 23 Mouldiness is a requirement (4)

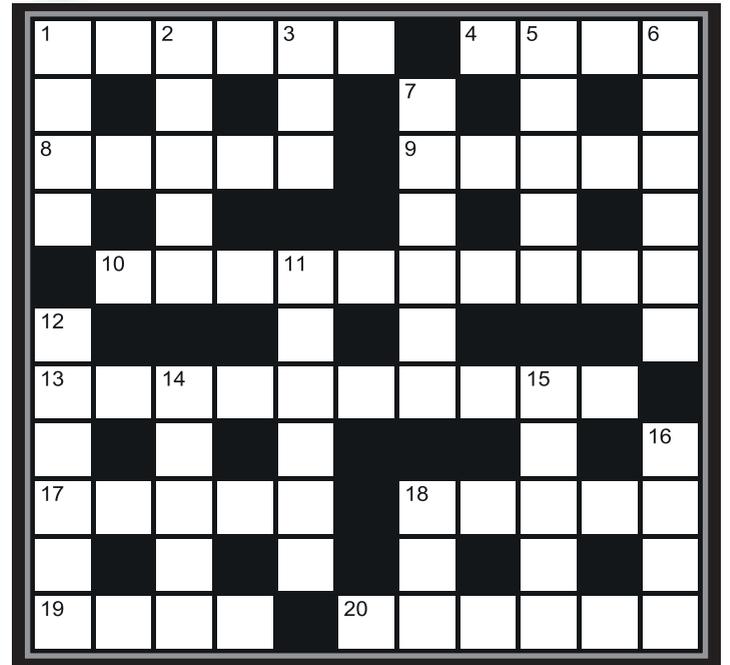
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 4 represents P and 18 represents X, so fill in P every time the figure 4 appears and X every time the figure 18 appears. Now, using your knowledge of the English language, work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you discover the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and the control grid.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION FACING PAGE

Quick



Across

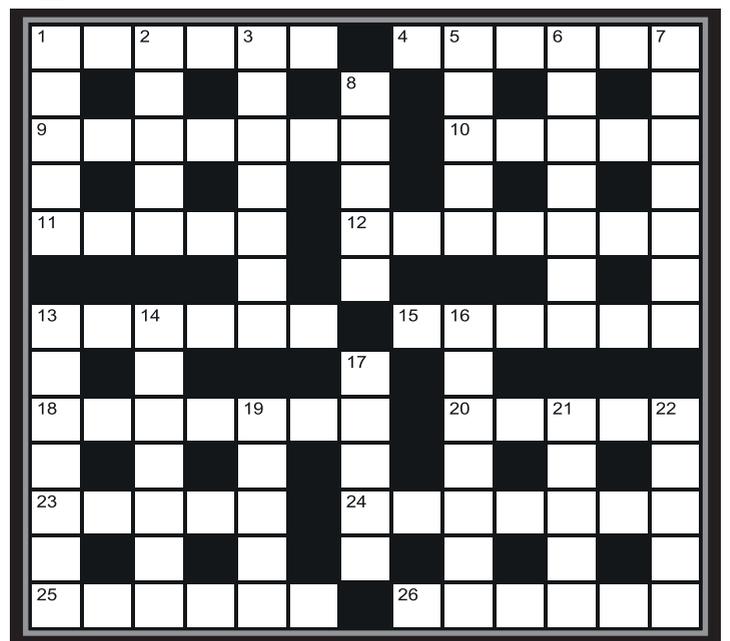
- 1 Thinly scattered (6)
- 4 Cut into pieces (4)
- 8 Moving quickly and lightly (5)
- 9 Motionless (5)
- 10 Disperse widely (10)
- 13 Lacking orderly continuity (10)
- 17 Courageous (5)
- 18 Have sovereign power (5)
- 19 Not difficult (4)
- 20 Stick fast to (6)
- 2 Plea in a criminal charge of having been elsewhere at the relevant time (5)
- 3/18 Become angry (3,3)
- 5 Japanese poetry form (5)
- 6 Steal in small quantities (6)
- 7 Allocate a task to a person (6)
- 11 Gardener's tool (6)
- 12 Suitable for use as food (6)
- 14 Complete duration of something (5)
- 15 Group or class of persons enjoying superior intellectual or social or economic status (5)

Down

- 1 Counterfeit or pretence (4)
- 16 Joint between the thigh and shin bones (4)
- 18 See 3

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Cubo (balde) (6)
- 4 Alicates (6)
- 9 To bet (gamble) (7)
- 10 Daughter-in-law (5)
- 11 Sábana (de cama) (5)
- 12 Witness (7)
- 13 Keys (typewriter/piano) (6)
- 15 Delantales (6)
- 18 Moth (7)
- 20 Parrots (5)
- 23 Granddaughter (5)
- 24 Limpiadora (persona) (7)
- 25 Asustado (6)
- 26 Teller (in a bank) (6)
- 1 Latón (metal) (5)
- 2 Cerrar (5)
- 3 Statue (7)
- 5 Pulmones (5)
- 6 Elected (7)
- 7 Estaciones (partes del año) (7)
- 8 Verdad (5)
- 13 Plugs (in bath, basin, barrel, for leak) (7)
- 14 Beehive (7)
- 16 Bracelet (7)
- 17 Salsa (5)
- 19 Irse de (5)
- 21 Enjuagar (de ropa) (5)
- 22 Deaf (5)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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Pampered pleasures

SOMETIMES we need to retreat from the world and pamper ourselves a bit. And surely there is no better way than to escape for a few hours into the secluded world of a spa.

Heading to a spa for the day or even a few hours lets us disengage from work, family and friends. The experience allows us to slow down and re-generate the body. The waters improve our blood circulation which sends more oxygen and nutrients through the body.

Time at a spa, can include more than just lounging in a range of bubbling waters of differing temperatures. There are often a range of therapeutic therapies available to relax and relieve chronic pain, such as arthritis or sciatica.

Such therapies can also cause serotonin to be released by the body creating a 'feel good' factor. Certain massages can stimulate the lymphatic system which helps the body to get rid of toxins. Other treatments such as body exfoliation can cleanse the skin, refining pores and offering much-needed relief.

The investment isn't just for the day either. These benefits remain even after the spa. With a body renewed and recharged with nutrients and elements, the mind too will feel rejuvenated and relaxed for days to follow. If the price of a spa visit is too prohibitive for you, don't fret. There are other options out there to have a near-spa experience.

Spain has some of the most beautiful outdoor hot natural springs on the planet. Apart from the natural beauty of these outdoor springs, their real beauty is that they are free.

And many of them offer more than just piping-hot, mineral-rich thermal waters. The natural mud residue that lines many of these natural spas is just the thing that your body is aching for.

Gorgeous granny

WITH the headline news that a glamorous 47-year-old granny is due to compete in Miss Maxim Australia, many grannies have been left asking themselves what they can do to achieve this sexy look.

A single mum-of-four and granny-of-one, Gina Stewart looks less than half her age. So just how does this granny look so hot?

Gina recently spoke of her top tips to stay healthy and remain looking youthful. She recommends drinking at least two litres of (alkaline) water each day and limiting your intake of coffee, soft drinks and alcohol.

She avoids packaged and processed foods and eats as much natural food as possible. She never eats or drinks products which are packaged in plastic. She uses organic rosehip and coconut oil on



Credit: Instagram/GinaStewart

BOMBSHELL BEAUTY: 47-year-old Gina Stewart shares her top tips.

her face, body and hair to maintain her healthy complexion and keep everything soft and supple. And only uses all-natural toothpaste, deodorant and skincare products. She advises people to cut down on the use of heavy medications and find natural

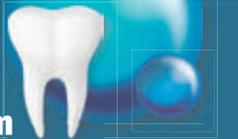
alternatives. Incredibly, Gina has said if she wins the \$10,000 Miss Maxim Australia prize, she will donate it all to her friend who has recently had a stroke. Perhaps, after all, the biggest secret to remaining youthful is to have a good heart.

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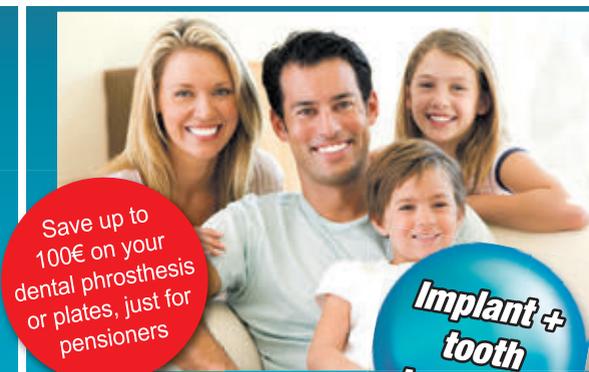
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Brits prefer blondes

RECENT research from Mintel reveals that blonde is the nation's most popular dyed hair colour of choice. So why not keep the nation happy and freshen up your locks. But don't be restricted in your choice.

Even though blondes are said to have more fun, other colours can offer their own delights. According to the research, 42 per cent of Brits choose to go blonde, hot on the heels of trendsetters such as Kim Kardashian and Cara Delevingne.

However, why not break the mould and be a bit more adventurous.

Of those who coloured their hair, a courageous 25 per cent were bold enough to go for non-natural choice, such as pastels and bright colours.

Nor is this advice just for women. As many as one in five men have dyed their hair in the comfort of their own home. This peaks at 38 per cent for 16-24 year olds. And once they start, they just can't stop. A staggering 57 per cent of men who reach for the bottle do so once a month or more, compared to just 28 per cent of women. If variety is the spice of your life then opt for a temporary hair colour or have extensions put in.

Temporary hair colouring products have seen a boom in sales of 48% in the

last year alone. And if you decide you don't like it - or it doesn't match your new weekend outfit - then just wait a week and after a few washes you'll be back to your natural self again.

Alternatively, choose an option which will allow you to both experiment with colour and add length to your locks. Hair extensions are additional synthetic or natural locks of hair which are usually clipped, glued or sewed onto your own natural hair.

The great thing about hair extensions, particularly synthetic ones, is the scope you have to change your look. Because of their synthetic nature, these additional locks allow you to have straight and silky hair or a deep wave look. You can be a buxom brunette one night, and a bubbly blonde the next.

BLONDE, BOUNCING AND BUBBLY: Even Kim prefers blondes.



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by Andrew Harding



THAI THIS AT HOME: Red curry is a quick and easy meal.

Thai Red Chicken Curry serves 2

- 400 grams chicken breasts, cubed
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 4 whole garlic clove, skinned and chopped
- 1 whole onion, chopped
- 1 Packet Thai Red Curry Paste
- 1 cube of ginger chopped (optional)

- 1 (or more) sliced and seeded red or green chillis
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 can of coconut milk
- 1 chicken stock cube, crumbled
- 2 tablespoons fish sauce
- 1 whole aubergine, cubed
- 1 whole red bell pepper, sliced
- 2 teaspoons chopped Thai basil leaves

Fry the chicken, onion and garlic until chicken sealed and garlic and onion have become transparent.

Add the Thai red curry paste and fry for two more minutes.

Add all remaining ingredients, except for the basil and simmer until chicken cooked through and aubergine and red pepper are soft, add the basil and serve with boiled rice or noodles.

ANOTHER exotic but very easy and cost-effective recipe this week.

Thai red curry paste can be bought in most of the supermarkets in Spain, Mercadona have a good one for €1.

My jar of Thai basil was bought in the UK and frozen, but Italian basil is a perfectly good alternative, or coriander can be used if the taste of basil is not to your liking.

Ginger and chilli are optional and add heat to the curry, the former to a much lesser extent than the latter.

Tip: Choose chillis wisely, some are extremely spicy and contact lens wearers should get someone else to chop them otherwise bedtime will be a very painful experience! Wearing rubber gloves to chop them is always a good idea. Hand washing will not remove all the traces of the capsaicinoids that give the chillis their heat.

Tip: If as a family or couple, one or more like a hot curry and others don't, use green chillis that are not too finely chopped so they can be easily identified in contrast to the red pepper and removed from individual plates.

Tip: Any vegetable oil can be used but not olive oil. Ideally choose peanut or coconut, but rapeseed or sunflower also work well in this dish.

Tip: A cheap cut of beef can be used instead of chicken, it would need cooking slowly for about three to four hours (a slow cooker would be ideal) just add the aubergine and red pepper when the beef is tender. Prawns or fish can also be used and added just before serving so they are not overcooked. Use beef or fish stock instead of the chicken.

Cannes, highlighting more than just films as women strive for recognition

ONE of the world's most important film festivals, the 71st Cannes Festival is underway and will run until May 19.

With all of the publicity given to the excesses of certain movie moguls, directors and actors, this will be an important pointer to how the film industry is actually trying to change for the better.

Although the jury which is chaired by Australian Oscar winner Cate Blanchett and includes actress Kristen Stewart as well as three other women, female directors are not greatly represented in the competition.

There are just three films out of 21 directed by women and they are France's Eva Husson, Alice Rohrwacher from Italy and Lebanon's Nadine Labaki and this year, Netflix is absent from the judging as it has refused to guarantee that their films will be screened in French cinemas.



Photo credit: StarWars.com

IN ACTION: The new Hans and Chewbacca.

One major change will be the instruction that those on the red carpet will not be permitted to take selfies and if they do, they run the risk of being refused entry to the screenings as this activity is considered vulgar.

May 15 is an important date in many Science Fiction fans diaries as the first showing of Solo: A Star Wars Story, starring Alden Ehrenreich and directed by Ron Howard will take place in Cannes.

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Madchester Mayhem

THERE is going to be a mixture of rock, reggae, flamenco, jazz and mayhem when Astola and Raton appear at the Sala Madchester in Almería City tomorrow (Friday).

Diego el Raton, the former member of Los Delinquentes has teamed up with guitarist Alejandro Astola who used to be in Fondo Flamenco to release their own album El Hombre Caracol (Snail Man) with support from the Astola band of which Raton is also a member.

This is a very close-knit relationship as Diego had previously produced the last Astola album and as the pair get on so well, it seemed logical that they should record together.

A number of Spanish bands and musicians have guested on the album and the appearance by the pair in Almería is the last date of a short tour of Spain to support the album.



Photo credit: Astola Facebook

ON TOUR: Performing numbers from the new album.



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Short Film Festival

THE town of Vera has been hosting its first Festival of Short Film which will continue until Sunday.

According to the local council, which has been involved in the organisation, it has attracted a large number of entries not just from within Spain but from a number of different countries around the world and will hopefully become an annual event incorporated into the Vera Arts Festival.

With 600 different films submitted to the festival, this has been an undoubted success which helps to establish Vera on the movie landscape and from today (Thursday) there will be an added attraction.

A completely new short, shot entirely in the town will be prepared and edited over just 48 hours with the final result to be viewed at the closing ceremony in the Municipal Auditorium on Sunday.

What's on!

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Playing with fire a crackling tradition

LETTERS FROM CANARIES

By Barbara Belt
barbarabelt@gmail.com

DOWN here on the small Canary Island of La Gomera, we've been selflessly risking life and limb again for the greater good, making sure lots of babies are born and crops prosper.

Every April 24, on St Mark's Eve: "The town fills with the smell of juniper wood bonfires, which are lit and leapt over by neighbours and visitors, either for fun, or in the hope of securing good luck for future ventures" (Island Cabildo).

For mysterious reasons, the ancient practice of spring fire-jumping has survived in Agulo, La Gomera, on this date. We don't know why. Mark's story in the gospels includes: a questionable martyrdom announced four centuries after his death; a lion; a connection with public notaries, of whom he is patron saint and no mention whatsoever of fire, or of jumping over it fuelled by vino del país on a small Atlantic island off the coast of Africa, though he was supposedly born in Africa.

The date of his feast day is probably the reason. Spring fire celebrations and rituals marking



BLAZING SADDLES: The village of Agulo, with Tenerife in the background is among the few places where spring fire-jumping still happens.

the end of dead winter and the start of the fertile year were once common. They symbolised the death of winter and ensured fertility and the return of the sun.

It's likely that the locals were still jumping over spring fires in Agulo when the Catholic Church arrived, en route for the New World to save it from sin. Did priests troubled by the islanders' refusal to stop this pagan fire-leaping

nonsense sensibly absorb it into a St Mark's celebration to avoid conflict?

The only other surviving fire-jumping festival I know of is far away in Azerbaijan, where the Novruz Spring celebrations are still going strong, with bonfires in the streets. Azerbaijani adults, however, content themselves with dancing some lively pieces whilst their children do the leaping.

Hardcore Gomeros jump and dance lively pieces. As darkness falls and Mass finishes, there's an explosion of sound. Bells clang, chacarra and tambor (Canarian castanets and drum) music vibrates, San Marcos gets paraded and youths held back at the top of the cobbled street start chanting 'Fuego! Fuego!' straining for the off.

Bonfires are lit, flames leap, sparks fly... and away they go. This wonderful health and safety nightmare has an incredible atmosphere. Jeopardising important reproductive tackle, the participants leap through flames to ensure virility. When the fires are slightly lower, off go the young women, hair tied back (I proudly cheer my daughters on. Am I normal?).

Then the more cautious and elderly jump. Kids leap, too, with the tiniest on parents' shoulders. Couples holding hands hop. They all jump down the line of fires, between smoky, ash-flecked spectators, then walk back up and do it again, and again, until the fires die down, the band strikes up and dancing starts.

As the bonfires cool, people collect ash for good luck and head home on the island's winding roads, sooty, smelling of smoke and smiling.

It's a great fiesta, all the better for its mixed origins. ¡Viva San Marcos!

A video of the 2017 fiesta can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glOUH56mh1c>

Cassandra Nash

A weekly look

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

HOW dare they! No, not the tribunal - one of them a woman - who decided in Pamplona that the gang rape of an 18-year-old by five men during the San Fermin fiestas in 2016 wasn't rape but sexual abuse.

No, how dare the public and a minister or two, including Justice Minister Rafael Catala, criticise the verdict, thundered Spain's judiciary.

Inevitably they closed ranks once criticism rained down on three judges' bizarre insistence that rape is rape only where violence and intimidation are present.

They had analysed the evidence, interpreted existing laws and there was nothing more to be said, insisted judges and fiscales of all shapes, sizes and persuasions. No violence, no intimidation, no rape.

So being corralled in a dark deserted doorway by five men with their trousers down isn't intimidating? And obliging a young girl to allow herself to be used in every conceivable sexual manner isn't violence in itself?

No, a woman presumably has to put up resistance and allow herself to be beaten to a pulp before she can hope for justice in this country. And as more than one person has pointed out, this isn't a case of 'No means no' because only 'Yes' ever means yes.

Only yes means yes



THE WOLF PACK: The five men found guilty of sexual abuse.

Olay was her undoing

AFTER weeks of clinging to the wreckage of her political career, Cristina Cifuentes, regional president of the Madrid community resigned.

She was game to any of the opposition parties because that's what they're there for. But the ex-president had enemies in her own Partido Popular who watched gleefully as she painted herself into a corner over a Master's degree in Au-

Vote catcher

THE PSOE is the only party not affected by a fall-off in women voters.

Fifty-six per cent vote for the PSOE, compared with 51 per cent for Podemos, 46 per cent for the PP and 1 per cent for Ciudadanos. Which must mean that Spanish females are committed socialists. Or, perish the thought, they prefer tall, dark and handsome Pedro Sanchez to Mariano Rajoy, Pablo Iglesias or Albert Rivera.

tonomous Law to which she may or may not have been entitled. Then CCTV footage emerged, showing her apparently detained for shoplifting two pots of face cream in 2011.

She took the only viable option of jumping before she was pushed but even Podemos supremo Pablo Iglesias said the rising star was the victim of a vendetta inside her own party, an opinion shared by Cifuentes herself.

Apparently Cifuentes' undoing was two pots of Olay. Olay! If it had been Crème de la Mer it still wouldn't have been worth it. Not when other politicians, many of them from her own party, have been getting away with millions.

Jobs take priority

CATALANS worry more about unemployment than independence, a Centre for Sociological Investigation (CIS) study found.

Jobs were their greatest preoccupation, said 43 per cent of the population, followed by the economy (37.7 per cent) and health-care (34.1 per cent). Independence was cited by only 26.1 per cent. No surprises there: former Regional President Carles Puigdemont increasingly reveals that his main interest is Carles Puigdemont, not independence.

Almeria has worst pensions



NOT ENOUGH: Pensioners demanding 'dignified' and 'sustainable' public pensions.

SPANISH pensioners are set to force a 1.6 per cent state increase in pensions surpassing the 0.25 per cent initially budgeted earlier in the year.

Despite the likely victory, Almeria - alongside Lugo and Ourense - still offers pensioners the lowest incomes in the country.

On January 1, the average pension in the province was €759.26 per month, paid in 14 installments. Two booster payments are made in sum-

mer and winter.

The highest pension which Almeria retirees can receive only slightly breaks the €1,000 per month barrier.

And the lowest average pensions in the province don't even reach €500 in Paroloa and Bedar, in the Levante and Almanzora regions.

There are more than 100,000 people who depend on pension income in Almeria. They make up 15 per

cent of the 700,000 population.

This compares to 286,594 social security contributors.

The comparison at a provincial level is somewhat misleading because pensions come from a national pot.

But it does paint a picture that Almeria, with one of the country's most active working populations, probably puts more into the pension pot than it gets back, local media reports.

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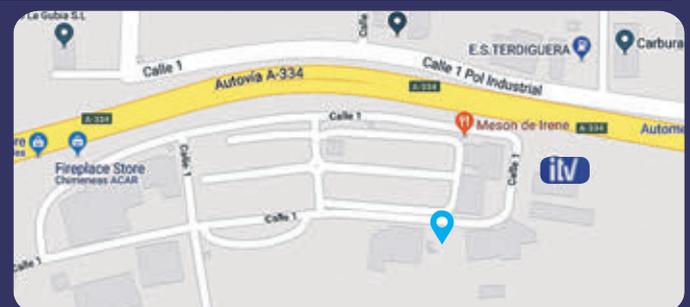
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Cheque mates raise cash



CHESS MATES: Schoolchildren at the Reyes Catolicos infant and primary school in Vera helped raise €4,500 for leukaemia.

A SCHOOL in Vera, Almeria has raised €4,500 for leukaemia research in a charity chess tournament.

The Reyes Catolicos infant and primary school raised the cash from tournament inscriptions, individual donations and company sponsors.

Money will fund bone marrow donations carried out at Josep Carreras Leukaemia Foundation, as well as research into the cancerous disease.

One of the infant school's priorities is to

help build a sense of 'solidarity and empathy' in its students, according to a school statement.

The regional government's education representative, Francisca Fernandez said the event allowed families and students to 'feel the magic of chess' from close up.

The tournament comes as a part of the AulaDjaque and Profundiza educational projects.

Nearly 11,000 schoolchildren participated in related events to stimulate extracurricular learning.

Cheek bite brawl

A MAN could spend four years in jail for biting a chunk off someone's cheek during a swimming pool bar brawl.

The biting happened when the accused went to separate a fight between members of opposing friendship groups at the Higuera municipal swimming pool bar.

But a fight then ensued between the two men.

They grabbed each other by the neck and fell to the floor where they began to wrestle.

As they struggled one of the suspects bit the man's left cheek as the other continued to squeeze his neck.

The bite took a chunk of flesh from the man's cheek leading to a surgical operation which took 21 days to cure.

The victim has been left with scars.

The other suspect faces a €600 fine for his role in the attack.

He suffered several superficial injuries but only needed first aid to treat them.

The case will be heard before the Albacete provincial court today (Thursday).

Petition against office closure

CANTORIA'S council has begun collecting signatures for a petition against the closure of the Diputacion de Almeria's Technical Unit for Attention to Municipalities.

The council has also asked the residents of other towns affected by the closure to put their names to the petition. They plan to file it with the Andalusian Ombudsman as part of an official complaint, according to reports.

Puri Sanchez, Cantoria's mayor and a member of the left-leaning Partido Socialista (PSOE), said authorities had a responsibility to give citizens the chance to take part in issues that affect them.

"This closure shows once again signs of the PP wanting to make cuts to anyone or anything that does not conform to the way they think," the mayor said.

Antonio Torres, Almeria's Deputy of Municipal Assistance, said Sanchez and other PSOE members were being opportunistic with their criticism.

"The move is to improve services," he said.

The technical unit is above local authorities in the institutional hierarchy. Part of its role is to help hold councils and other similar bodies to account.

Albox, Arboleas, Lijar and Purchena all reportedly stand to be affected by the closure of the office.

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Act up and have fun



Credit: Indalo Players

STICK 'EM UP: Some of the actors from The Speakeasy Murder.

THE Indalo Players will be staging the final performance this season of their successful The Speakeasy Murder on Wednesday May 30 in the ever-popular Legends bar in Albox.

There will be prizes on the night for guessing who did it and, for those who want to dress for the occasion, there will be a prize for best dressed gangster and gun moll.

The €15 entrance fee includes the show and a meal.

Tickets will go on sale soon. Please contact the venue directly to make your reservation.

The Indalo Players are always on the lookout for new acting members and back stage support. With this mind, they are also delighted to announce an 'Act Up And Have Fun Day' on Friday June 1 in The Roof Garden bar, which is atop the Parque Comercial.

After a €7 lunch, there will be a Q and A session and the

opportunity to take part in a couple of impromptu sketches.

As a special offer, if you take out annual membership on the day at a cost of €10, Indalo Players will contribute €3 towards your lunch.

If you wish to attend the event, please arrive by 2pm as lunch will be served at 2.30pm. Places are filling up fast. To make your reservation please contact Linda on 674 113 218.



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Rental revolution hits the Continent

A RECENT report from the Resolution Foundation has suggested that up to a third of young people in the UK face living in private rented accommodation all their lives.

The think tank said that 'generation rent' needs more help, with more affordable homes and better protection.

At this point it may be worth taking a look at other European countries to see how they compare:

Spain

Spain has historically had a high rate of home ownership, reaching 80 per cent in 2008 before the financial bubble burst and the building boom ended.

The figure has slipped to 78 per cent but is likely to decline further with unemployment remaining high and mortgages difficult to obtain.

As a result, demand for rentals has risen, boosting Airbnb and other platforms, while pushing up prices.

According to online real estate agency Idealista, rents in Barcelona have risen 55 per cent since 2012, and 23 per cent in



BUILDING BARCA: New apartment blocks are springing up across Cataluña.

Madrid over the same period.

Rental contracts tend to be for one or three years, after which they may be terminated, or renewed and the rent renegotiated.

Increasingly landlords in tourist areas are demanding excessive rents to force tenants out, so that they can turn apartments into lucrative holiday rentals.

Eviction also continues to be a serious problem, with lenders reluctant to negotiate terms.

France

French tenants benefit from

much stricter rules on landlords, with rents on unfurnished dwellings only allowed to be increased by an index, called the IRL.

The rise was close to zero for much of 2016 and 2017, with an increase of 0.51 per cent permitted for this year.

Those renting an unfurnished property as their main residence are given a minimum three-year tenancy with an automatic right of renewal after three years.

If the landlord wants the ten-

ant to leave, they must warn them six months in advance, (tenants only have to give three months' notice).

Landlords must also give the tenant a first right of refusal if they wish to sell, while evictions are forbidden in the winter months.

Germany

Only 46 per cent of Germans own their own homes, the lowest figure in Europe.

However, culturally there is nothing like the drive to want to own as there is in other European countries, with many downsizing once the children leave and wage-related pensions covering monthly payments.

Wartime bombing destroyed about 20 per cent of residential areas in towns and cities, and many refugees arrived in the country who had lost everything.

Banks do not help by demanding deposits that are a fifth of the purchase price, while estate agent fees and stamp duty charges do little to help those dreaming of their own home.

Sunny Spain is best for British

NEW figures from the Office for National Statistics reveal that Spain is still the number one choice for British retirees in Europe.

The data confirms Spain as their 'most desirable location,' with Brits drawn in by sun, sea, leisure activities and tasty Mediterranean cuisine.

Three-quarters of a million British citizens live on the continent, and 37 per cent of them have made Spain their home, making it comfortably the most popular destination.

While two thirds of Brits living in the EU fall between the ages of 15 and 64, Spain is well-known for attracting an older demographic with some 41 per cent of British expats aged 65 and above.

Swimming and golf are believed to be the favourite activities for those living in warmer nations, which will come as no surprise.

Moreover, a recent study carried out by the University of California indicated that the elderly who regularly walk longer distances suffer 50 per cent less cognitive impairment than those who are less active.

Sales and Marketing Director of Taylor Wimpey España, Marc Pritchard, said:

"The Mediterranean climate and diet are well suited to those looking for a healthy lifestyle, while the medical system here is also superb.

"As Spain remains the top choice in Europe for Brits living overseas, it's important to provide accommodation that suits their preferences and budgets."

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Gardeners get going - it's spring

GRAEME TYRRELL

THE spring growth is a great opportunity to gain a wonderful garden.

It is a very busy time for gardeners with the warmer temperatures and longer days creating an explosion of growth which needs to be managed to make the most of the season. To get them off to a quick start, it is the perfect time to plant your summer annual flowers and vegetables.

Established plants will also start growing rapidly now and the new growth will make them look wonderfully healthier than usual.

Of course weeds and excess growth of even your favourite plant will need attention to keep the garden in the way you prefer it. Fortunately it is so good to be able to get out into the garden, with the beautiful spring sunshine making it one of the best times of the year for the avid gardener.

Annual summer flowers can provide a beautiful display. Many favourite annuals from northern European regions require a lot of water to do well though. I usually plant a small number of summer annuals in planter boxes with trays to catch any excess water from being lost and use a good potting mix that retains water well.

The Mediterranean climate with long, dry, hot



Credit: Blackzheep Shutterstock

SPRING: A time of rapid growth.

summers is not ideal for large plantings of cooler climate summer annuals in the garden. If you have a balcony or terrace with planter pots or window boxes, annuals can be a really good way to brighten them up.

If you are planting a vegetable garden, make sure that you enrich the soil with plenty of moisture-holding compost to reduce watering needs in

summer. After planting your tomatoes, capsicum, summer squash and other summer varieties ensure that you mulch the garden with coarse compost, straw or any other suitable material which will reduce evaporation and keep soil temperatures cooler.

Keeping the soil temperature lower is important in summer as plant growth will slow when

the roots get too hot. Insulating with mulch keeps soil temperatures closer to spring conditions so growth will continue to thrive for longer.

There is the inevitable weed growth which always seem to grow faster than anything else in spring. It is a good idea to learn more about these spontaneous plants as many do have attractive flowers. If the garden is not a formal design, many weeds can be left to flower and then be removed.

Even in my vegetable garden I allow certain plants normally classed as weeds, such as poppies and borage, to add colour to the garden with no extra work.

Many people are also finding that there are many weeds which are actually edible and even the flowers can be added to salads and in cooking. Many of these wild plants were actually a normal part of the diet before explorers centuries ago brought back vegetable varieties from around the world to replace the native food sources of the Mediterranean.

The shrubs and perennials which are normally planted in autumn (so they establish their roots over winter) start to grow with the warmer spring weather. It is a good idea to lightly trim the ones that you want to grow thick and bushy now while growth is active and before the sun becomes too intense for pruning.

Hot under the collar

WITH rising temperatures, you might feel the heat is on to finally install a central air conditioning system. However, if your budget is already stretched, there are other less expensive options to keep you cool under the collar at home.

The three most popular are portable units, window units and traditional fans.

Portable or window units can be cheap and easy to install. Both systems allow you to cool a specific room, rather than waste energy and money cooling your entire home.

The benefit of a portable

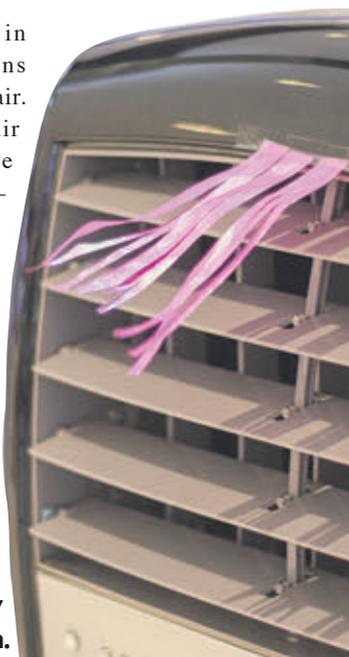
unit is that it can be moved easily from room to room. This is different to a window unit which is fixed to a window, or through the wall. Of the two, portable units are more expensive to buy and tend to use a lot more energy. Whereas window units are extremely energy efficient and don't take up any valuable floor space.

However, if you want to keep expenses to a minimum, the traditional air fan is always a trusted option. Installation is easy - you simply plug it in - and it can be moved from room to room with ease.

Of course, do bear in mind that most air fans don't actually 'cool' the air. They simply circulate air around you, giving the sensation that you are being cooled off.

These fans might provide some much-needed instant relief from the heat, but if your budget can stretch that far, opt for a portable or window unit to keep your home comfortable over the months ahead.

COOLING DOWN:
Portable fans can easily be moved from room to room.



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How to create harmony at home

WITH the spring clean done and your home decluttered, now is the perfect time to look at your surroundings and introduce a bit of positive energy.

To achieve this, many people adopt the principles of feng shui. The practice originates in China and literally translates as 'wind-water' in English, with wind scattering energy and water holding it.

The practice attempts to use energy forces to achieve balance in your living space and maximise your potential for happiness.

If you want to bring a bit of Oriental philosophy into your life then why not take heed of some of the following suggestions for your home.

Your front door represents wealth and should be in per-

fect condition. To draw energy to your front door, place a vibrant plant and some lighting at either side.

Once inside, the next place to focus on is your hall. Even if this space is small, it should be cosy. Effective lighting can help you to achieve that effect.

This is also the perfect place to hang a mirror, but be sure not to place this in front of the front door. Feng shui principles dictate that the energy will bounce off and leave the house.

Moving onto the living room, according to feng shui, your sofa should be against the largest and most solid wall of the room. If you have several sofas or chairs, place them in an L or U shape to help the conversation flow. To activate wealth energy, place a lamp in

the corner of the room (diagonally opposite the room door).

Your kitchen represents nourishment and relationship harmony. To enhance the energy in this room it is good to always have fresh ingredients, such as vegetables and fruits and also those that symbolise life, such as seeds.

In the bedroom, the most important piece of furniture is the bed. The head should be supported on a wall without windows and it is important that the feet do not point to the door. Place curvy lamps and lightly fragranced candles on the bedside table to introduce some romantic energy

Finally, the often neglected bathroom is actually one of the most important spaces for feng shui. It is necessary in this space to transmit cleanli-

ness, calmness and comfort, so try to always be orderly with as little clutter as possible.

However, you can leave beautiful decorations on display, such as perfume jars or creams and also plants. Be sure to always leave the toilet lid down and the door closed to stop the energy and wealth you've now accumulated from being flushed down the drain.



HARMONY AT HOME: Feng shui can bring positive energy into your home.

Keeping your plants alive

YOU might not have green fingers but there's no excuse not to have a few plants around the house to bring a bit of colour to your home.

Even if you feel your mere touch causes plants to wither away and die, here are a few foolproof suggestions to keep your plants alive this summer.

Most newbie plant owners worry that their plants are thirsty. The truth is that most people often overwater plants and drown them.

Dip your finger into the soil, if it's damp then there's no need to water it.

However, do mist your plants regularly to increase air humidity as air conditioning systems can make the air very dry.

Plants like to be together and will actually grow better if they're not left alone.

And as your plants grow, they will need to be repotted. So do some research for each plant to be sure you don't shock or damage it during this process.

Do remember to choose your plants wisely. Regardless of how much tender loving care you show to your plants some need certain conditions to thrive, or even simply to survive.

It is simply a lost cause to keep an exotic plant in a cold, damp flat or hide a sun-loving plant in the corner of a darkened room. So do some research and reap the rewards.

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THE Dogman



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Bringing the baby home

MOST people treat their dog like a baby and often problems will occur when a real baby is brought home. You must plan for the new baby's arrival.

Acquaint the dog with a friend's children. Let them feed it some of its favourite treats. Stay calm and keep the dog on a lead. If at this stage the dog is showing any signs of aggression, then professional help is needed.

If the dog is used to sleeping in a bedroom, place the dog bed outside the room in its basket or on its blanket. If necessary, put the dog on a lead and restrict it to an area.

Consider walking around with a stuffed doll. Even talk to it in a baby voice as if it is a real baby. When changing the baby's nappy - both the real one and the toy one - always put your dog in the Sit-Stay command.

Let it sniff and watch, for

this is the time to accustom it to baby sounds and praise it for being good. Use different phrases and voices for the dog and the baby.

For safety reasons and hygiene, dogs must not be allowed on the furniture near the new baby. Start the new house rules by taking the dog by the collar and lead and taking it to its bed. Move the bed around the home to every room (except bedrooms) in the house. The dog must learn to stay where it is put.

Start getting a little more removed from the dog in three 20-minute intervals. First, go into another room for 20 minutes. Close the door behind you so that it cannot follow you. Then come out for 20 minutes before returning for another 20 minutes. Stop all tug-of-war games, wrestling and all games involving chasing.

Babies have to be fed several times a day so, to prevent jeal-



HEALTHY BOUNDARIES: You must train your dog around the new baby.

ousy, give the dog four very small meals a day... the same amount split into four.

Toys are a big headache. You don't want a dropped toy to be licked. No more shoes, socks,

slippers, and plastic or stuffed toys for the dog. Now is the time to take away all its toys from the floor. Train it to play with one at a time. Paint the others with a mouthwash

which dogs do not like. If your dog goes for it, pick up the toy and shout at the toy. Very soon the dog will keep away from anything smelling of mouthwash.

Babies like to grab and pull but dogs don't like it at all. Start getting the dog used to this treatment by gently pulling it and grabbing its tail and then, within three seconds, hug it and give plenty of praise.

When the baby is born, ask a maternity home nurse for some bed sheets from the baby's nursery. Have these put in the new nursery at home and around the area of the home where the baby will be nursed. Let the dog sniff around the house at the new smells and praise it.

Plan your homecoming and let the dog welcome the baby by sniffing while on a lead.

Keep the lead trailing on the floor for the first week so that it can be used to correct all mouthing and jumping. Praise when the dog does not jump or mouth.

Your dog should now accept the new house rules and the new arrival.

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Cats, kittens and claws

IF you are tired of your cat destroying your furniture, there are a few things you can do to prevent your feline friend from tearing your home to pieces.

And the solution is as simple as introducing a comparable alternative into your shared surroundings.

Cats scratch to get rid of the dead layers of tissue from their nails and keep their claws in top shape.

They also do it to mark their territory and as a means to stretch and release stress.

Put simply, all cats need



KITTY CLAWS:
Introducing a scratcher should save your sofa.

Easily identify your pet

AS we move towards biometric passports and ever-increasing regulations on humans, so too is there increasing momentum to be able to easily identify all pets.

One of the most widely adopted means for pet identification is tagging them with a microchip.

This is an electronic device which is applied beneath the skin and is the size of a grain of rice.

A scanner emitting low frequency radio waves can then read and display the information contained in the microchip.

This information usually includes the animal's identification number and all the data pertaining to the owner and the pet.

The advantage of micro-chipping is that it is quick and easy to insert, with very little pain for your pet.

The number assigned to your pet is unique and it cannot be changed. This helps with follow-up vaccination schemes and deworming, and ensures that information for your pet is always up to date.

Of course, one of its most useful purposes is the role it plays in case your beloved pet is lost or stolen.

If you decide to microchip your pet, please remember that this procedure must be carried out by a professional.

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to scratch. It is an instinctive aspect of their natural behaviour.

The best compromise for you both, is to introduce one or two scratchers into your home.

Before you do so, however, observe your four-legged friend to identify where and how they like to scratch.

Then, place a scratcher beside the object that you want the cat to leave alone. Remember to replace it with a material that offers a comparable experience for the cat.

So, if the cat likes to scratch the hard vertical side of your sofa in the living room, then simply place

a vertical scratcher of a hard material beside it.

Your cat will soon move its attention away from your prized furniture and towards the scratcher.

Once this has been achieved, move the scratcher away from the furniture, little by little, to the more desirable location.

Stop dogs pining while you're away

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MOTORING FACT

“ American inventor Ralph Teetor, who in 1945 invented cruise control aged 55, had been blind since an accident he suffered at five years old.

BRITISH carmaker Aston Martin has unveiled its latest €4.5 million luxury vehicle, but it doesn't have any wheels.

A joint project with underwater specialist Triton, the bizarre-looking James Bond-style pod is a submarine code-named Project Neptune, and it made its debut at this week's LYBRA Superyacht Show in Barcelona.

Initial images of the futuristic machine emerged last year, but now the manufacturers have released new photos with details of the 'exclusive, strictly limited edition'

Live and let dive

Aston Martin unveils €4.5m sub

vehicle's specifications.

Featuring a three-seat design offering near 360-degree visibility, it can dive to 500 metres below the surface and accelerate to just over five knots (9.6kph), four times faster than Triton's 'flagship' 3300/3 submersible.

One of the positions is designed to be occupied by a trained and qualified pilot, who will control the craft using a special joystick, although owners are able to sign up for a month-long training course during which they will also learn how to launch and

bring it back to deck using a crane which is sold separately.

The incredible gadget can stay underwater for up to 10 hours and has powerful LED headlights to navigate in the murky depths.

Aston Martin has said that Project Neptune is heavily-influenced by its upcoming €2.8 million Valkyrie track car.

And chief creative officer Marek Reichman said that the interior design was a greater challenge than that of the 200mph behemoth.

"Unlike a sports car where the interiors are installed into an open-sided cabin before the doors are fitted, everything you see inside will be lowered through the upper-hatch and assembled within the completed sphere of the hull," he said.

John Ramsay, chief technical officer at Triton Submarines, added: "The prototypes look incredible, being simultaneously functional and beautiful.

"The interior is quintessentially Aston Martin - a luxurious mix of hand-stitched leather and high-performance carbon fibre, assembled without obstructing the panoramic sight lines that Triton submersibles are famous for."

A range of colours and trims plus personalised extras will also be available.



ASTON-ISHING: The submarine can descend to a depth of 500 metres.

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ITALIAN artisan hypercar maker Pagani has stopped production of its Huayra coupe after the 100th rolled off the production line.

But the manufacturer bowed out in style with a Lewis Hamilton-inspired special it is calling 'L' Ultimo.

It includes certain ele-

ments taken from other Huayra models including the Tempesta's carbon front splitter, panels, downforce-inducing skirts and rear diffuser plus a hood scoop

similar to that seen on the BC and Cinque.

And it is all finished in carbon fibre with Petronas green highlights and stunning turquoise and white

leather interior, in addition to a pricey Sonus Faber 1,200w sound system.

Introduced in 2012, the Huayra was the successor to the iconic Zonda.

Hammer time!

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La Liga Preview

Barca are the Real deal

BARCELONA maintained their incredible undefeated run in La Liga this season despite having a man sent off in a spiky 2-2 draw with Real Madrid on Sunday.

Luis Suarez volleyed Barca into the lead after 10 minutes, only for Cristiano Ronaldo to quickly bundle in an equaliser.

Sergi Roberto was shown a straight red card at the end of the first half for catching Marcelo around the face, before a clinical Lionel Messi finish and a sublime Gareth Bale curler left honours even in the contest.

Barca will travel to Levante on Sunday and it will require something special to end their 13-month unbeaten league record, while Real Madrid will host Celta Vigo on Saturday.

Villarreal moved to within touching distance of qualifying for the Europa league after Mario Gaspar headed a



MARCHING ORDERS: Sergi Roberto received a red card in an ill-tempered El Clasico.

late winner at Estadio de la Ceramica to edge rivals Valencia 1-0.

They will travel to relegated Deportivo La Coruna on Saturday, while Valencia will head to mid-table Girona.

Girona were comprehensively thrashed 4-1 by

Eibar, who themselves are aiming for a top-half finish.

Real Betis saw their eight-match undefeated league run end in a 2-0 defeat at Athletic Bilbao on Saturday, ensuring a top-four spot for Valencia.

Bilbao will be heading to Alaves on Saturday, who

dispatched bottom placed Malaga 3-0.

Other fixtures this weekend will see Atletico Madrid travel to Getafe, Real Sociedad entertain Leganes and Eibar host Las Palmas on Saturday, while Malaga heads to Espanyol on Sunday.

Premier League preview

Blues stay in Champions League

OLIVIER GIROUD was the match-winner as Chelsea kept their top-four hopes alive with a 1-0 victory over Liverpool at Stamford Bridge.

The Frenchman expertly headed in Victor Moses' cross in the first-half after the visitors had dominated possession and failed to capitalise.

Chelsea have now moved to within two points of Tottenham in fourth and just three behind third-placed Liverpool with two games remaining.

Manager Antonio Conte said Chelsea were "putting pressure" on their rivals, and as things stand Liverpool need to beat Brighton at home next Sunday to guarantee Champions League football.

Chelsea themselves will host Huddersfield Town on Wednesday, before travelling to Newcastle for their season finale on Sunday.

Newcastle slipped to a third successive defeat at Watford on Saturday, with the Hornets securing Premier League survival in a 2-1 win thanks to first-half goals from Roberto Pereyra and Andre Gray.

According to manager Rafael Benitez, Newcastle's players looked like they were already "on holiday," while goalscorer Ayoze Perez described it as "embarrassing."

Elsewhere, Jake Livermore's last-gasp goal handed West Brom a 1-0 victory over Tottenham, keeping their slim hopes of survival alive.

Just hours later, the Baggies were seconds from relegation when Southampton were denied victory over Everton by a 96th minute Tom Davies equaliser.

The Saints moved out of the bottom three and above Swansea despite conceding a heart-breaking stoppage time goal to make it 1-1.



FRENCH FLAIR: Giroud's deft header means the top-four battle will go to the wire.

Everton, who stay eighth in the table, were booed at the final whistle of their final home game of the season, and the result means they can no longer overhaul seventh-placed Burnley who have qualified for the Europa League.

Swansea's 1-0 loss at Bournemouth leaves them in real danger, and winless in seven games, while Stoke's 2-1 defeat by Crystal Palace ended their 10-year stay in the top flight.

Arsene Wenger said his farewell to the Emirates Stadium with a 5-0 thrashing of Burnley, before being treated to a guard of honour from Arsenal and Burnley players alike.

Other fixtures this weekend will see Swansea host Stoke, Arsenal travel to Huddersfield and Crystal Palace entertain West Brom on Sunday.

SPANISH LA LIGA 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	Pts	PI	W	D	L	F	A
1 • Barcelona	87	35	26	9	0	89	23
2 • Atlético	75	36	22	9	5	55	20
3 • Real Madrid	72	35	21	9	5	84	39
4 • Valencia	67	36	20	7	9	62	37
5 • Betis	59	36	18	5	13	56	56
6 • Villarreal	57	35	17	6	12	50	41
7 • Getafe	52	36	14	10	12	41	32
8 • Sevilla	51	35	15	6	14	43	54
9 • Girona	48	36	13	9	14	48	57
10 • Eibar	47	36	13	8	15	41	48
11 • R. Sociedad	46	36	13	7	16	63	56
12 • Celta	46	36	12	10	14	55	52
13 • Alavés	44	36	14	2	20	37	48
14 • Athletic	43	36	10	13	13	40	45
15 • Espanyol	43	36	10	13	13	31	41
16 • Levante	43	36	10	13	13	37	50
17 • Leganés	40	36	11	7	18	29	46
18 • Deportivo	29	36	6	11	19	35	70
19 • Las Palmas	22	36	5	7	24	23	71
20 • Málaga	20	36	5	5	26	23	56

Champions L.

Europa L.

Relegation

PREMIER LEAGUE 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	Pts	PI	W	D	L	F	A
1 • M. City	94	36	30	4	2	102	26
2 • M. United	77	36	24	5	7	67	28
3 • Liverpool	72	37	20	12	5	80	38
4 • Tottenham H.	71	36	21	8	7	68	32
5 • Chelsea	69	36	21	6	9	61	34
6 • Arsenal	60	36	18	6	12	72	48
7 • Burnley	54	37	14	12	11	35	37
8 • Everton	49	37	13	10	14	43	55
9 • Leicester City	44	36	11	11	14	49	54
10 • Newcastle United	41	36	11	8	17	36	46
11 • Crystal Palace	41	37	10	11	16	43	55
12 • Bournemouth	41	37	10	11	16	43	60
13 • Watford	41	37	11	8	18	44	63
14 • Brighton	40	36	9	13	14	33	47
15 • West Ham Utd.	38	36	9	11	16	45	67
16 • Huddersfield Town	36	36	9	9	18	27	56
17 • Southampton	33	36	6	15	15	36	55
18 • Swansea City	33	36	8	9	19	27	53
19 • West Bromwich	31	37	6	13	18	31	54
20 • Stoke City	30	37	6	12	19	33	67

Fergie's battle

By Staff Reporter

TRIBUTES have been flooding in for former Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson, who remains in intensive care after undergoing emergency surgery for a brain haemorrhage.

It comes after the 76-year-old was said to be awake and 'asking about his results' in the wake of the life-threatening incident.

He was reportedly taken to Salford Royal Hospital with a police escort after falling ill at his Cheshire home over the weekend.

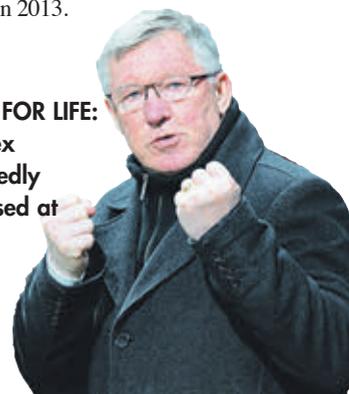
Manchester United said in a statement: "Sir Alex Ferguson has undergone emergency surgery today for a brain haemorrhage. The procedure has gone very well but he

needs a period of intensive care to optimise his recovery. His family request privacy in this matter."

The legendary Scot won 49 trophies as a manager, including 13 Premier League titles, five FA Cups and two Champions Leagues.

He retired from club football in 2013.

FIGHT FOR LIFE: Sir Alex reportedly collapsed at home.





LIONEL MESSI and Cristiano Ronaldo both scored in the drawn El Classico last weekend, and their goals mean they have hit a staggering combined total of 1,000 goals for Barcelona and Real Madrid.

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Proper champion Yorkshire in race to host Vuelta

SPAIN'S most prestigious cycling race could soon start in Yorkshire.

It comes as director of the Vuelta a España, Javier Guillen, jetted to the UK for talks with sheep farmer turned Chief Executive of the Welcome to Yorkshire tourism agency, Gary Verity.

La Vuelta, also known as the Tour of Spain, is one of the world's three most important cycling tour events alongside the Tour de France and Giro d'Italia.

It was last year won by Team

Sky cyclist Chris Froome, who became the first Briton to pick up the title after bagging his fourth Tour de France just weeks earlier.

Mr Verity led the successful campaign for the 2014 Tour de



France to start in the northern English county, when the first two stages saw the competitors race from Leeds to Harrogate and York to Sheffield.

And speaking at the start of the Tour de Yorkshire's third stage, he confirmed that discussions to bring the Spanish event to Britain are underway.

"We would love to start the Vuelta here, it's kind of Spanish weather isn't it?" he said. "It would work really well, we've got a great relationship with Javier Guillen who's the director of the Vuelta."

Yorkshire will next year host the UCI Road World Championship, the first UK venue to do so for 37 years.

TOUR DE FORCE: British cyclist Chris Froome wins stage nine on his way to victory in last year's Vuelta a España.

Locking horns in FA Cup

WITH the Premier League drifting towards its foregone conclusion, the FA Cup final on May 19 now stands as the biggest fixture left in the 2017-18 season.

It will be the 137th grand finale of the tournament, and a chance for two heavyweights of English football, Chelsea and Manchester United, to salvage something from their disappointing seasons.

It will also mark the first final between Antonio Conte and Jose Mourinho, two bitter rivals whose verbal spats this season descended into vicious personal attacks.

Eden Hazard, man of the match in Chelsea's semi-final win against Southampton and who has shone in the competition this year, can expect much closer attention from Mourinho's side.

United themselves can take much confidence from absorb-



BEST OF ENEMIES: Mourinho and Conte will not give an inch in the final.

ing Tottenham's blistering pace and pressing in the semi-final, fighting back from a goal down to claim victory.

A goal which saw Paul Pogba's perfect cross athletically converted by Alexis Sanchez was a sign of the weapons that Mourinho has at his disposal.

Chelsea are back in the final after losing to Arsenal a year ago, and winning the FA Cup might not be enough to convince either Conte or Chelsea

owner Roman Abramovich that their two-year partnership should be extended.

Meanwhile Jose Mourinho has claimed that his critics will 'kill' him if his team fail to lift the trophy.

However, victory over Chelsea would yield the fourth trophy of Mourinho's two-year reign as United manager, following last season's Europa League, League Cup and Community Shield successes.

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