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

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Charity sex claim



RAID: Police in the suspect's garage.

by Joe Gerrard

A 63-YEAR-OLD NGO chief, who stands accused of offering to exchange sex for food with people in need, has been held in Almeria.

The Guardia Civil claimed they had identified around 30 victims of the alleged food for sex arrangement.

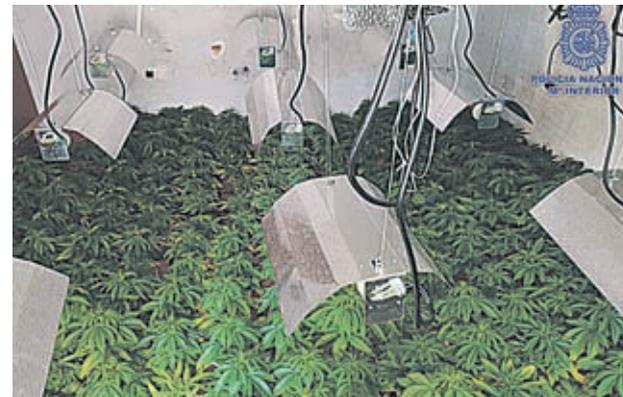
The suspect's wife and another senior member of the NGO have also been placed

under investigation in connection with the probe, police added.

The 63-year-old has been accused of misappropriation and crimes against sexual freedom and indemnity, with police detaining him in Vicar.

Guardia Civil sources said the charity which the accused headed up worked with people who were struggling financially.

Turn to page 5 »



POT LUCK: One of the greenhouses.

Up in smoke

FOUR Spanish men have been held on suspicion of drug trafficking in the wake of a five-month probe.

The suspects allegedly managed illegal greenhouses in four properties in the Pescaderia neighbourhood of Almeria City.

Investigators swooped to seize 343 cannabis plants weighing 26 kilograms in total, 1.1 kilogrammes of dried marihuana buds ready for sale, a range of electrical equipment

and €1,600 in cash.

Detectives became aware of the racket after seizing drugs from clients, who led them to the source.

The suspects illegally tapped into the national energy grid to power the plantation, police said in a statement.

Energy firm Endesa, which supplies electricity to the neighbourhood, cut off some of the area's supply during the enquiry.

The quartet now face trial and possible jail sentences.

A MAN found guilty of causing the death of a donkey which was left without food or water for months has been sentenced to six months in prison.

The defendant reportedly pleaded guilty to being responsible and was able to reach a deal with prosecutors who sought a one-

Animal cruelty

year sentence.

Almeria City's Criminal Court rejected an appeal to suspend the sentence and ordered the culprit to be barred from working with animals for three years.

The court heard he was keeping two donkeys at a rural property in the Cerro Galan de Felix area when the probe began.

Investigators said they found the animals 'aban-

doned' in their pen without food or water and that they appeared to have been there for 'months.'

One of the donkeys had died and was already decaying when police found it, while the other was tied up in a state of 'extreme' starvation.

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NEWS EXTRA

Cigarettes can fag off

MORE than 75 per cent of Spaniards want to outlaw smoking in cars, with 64 per cent in favour of a ban in public spaces, according to a new study by the national Society of Family and Community Medicine.

Jet say no

LOW cost Irish airline, Ryanair said in a statement by CEO Michael O’Leary that it is not expecting - but refused to rule out - new strikes or disruptions as talks for the carrier to recognise pilot trade unions continue.

Ruff strike

VIDEO footage of an animal rescue worker kicking a dog in the head during a live television interview on a local channel in A Coruña, Galicia, sent social media into meltdown and sparked outrage across Spain.

Benidorm death probe

Family blow as judge rules out meeting

By Matt Ford

A SPANISH judge probing the case of Kirsty Maxwell, the Scottish woman who plummeted from a hotel balcony while holidaying on the Costa Blanca, has refused to meet with her family.

It comes as her grieving relatives and ex-police officer, David Swindle, a private detective working on their behalf, asked for a meeting with Ana Isabel Garcia-Galbis.

But the official said she would be unable to comply with their request in order to remain impartial.

The 27-year-old newlywed from Livingston, who was in Benidorm for a hen-do, tragically fell from the 10th floor of the Apartamentos Payma complex in Benidorm last April.

It is believed the bank worker plunged from a room on the floor above her own which was occupied by five British

bodybuilders from Nottingham, who remain under investigation.

A written statement from the judge said: “It is not appropriate for investigation of the facts and the impartiality of the investigating judge to hold a private meeting with one of the parties [involved in the case] and their investigators.”

She continued that the family should “provide any evidence or information they deem appropriate to clarify the facts.”

Spanish detectives have so far been unable to track down any witnesses and are said to be working on the assumption that Kirsty slipped and fell, with a lack of new clues meaning the case could soon be closed.

The five suspects were quizzed by Spanish investigators before returning to the UK, while her clothes were controversially destroyed without proper DNA testing.

Her family are convinced her death was not an accident, and in March Scottish National Party MP Hannah Bardell raised the case in the House of Commons.

And at the beginning of

April it emerged that Kirsty may have been mistaken for another woman who has not yet been traced.

A website (www.kirstymaxwell.com) with messages from her family and details about the case was launched to mark a year passingsince she died, after her friends visited Benidorm in a new appeal for witnesses.

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FRUSTRATION GOES ON: A lack of new evidence could see the case closed.

Photo credit: Facebook/Google

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Warning over river water

LEFTIST councillors in Almeria City have made a request for stagnant water to be cleaned in the mouth of the Andarax River due to health concerns. Members of the Izquierda Unida group said bacteria, viruses, and infection-causing parasites could breed in the water following recent rainfall which created the stagnant pools.

Road death

A 42-YEAR-OLD man has died and a 26-year-old was taken to hospital after two motorcycles crashed into each other on the A-1178 road between Seron and Calar Alto last Sunday. The 26-year-old was placed in intensive care at Torrecardenas Hospital following the accident and was said to be in a critical condition.

Boat rescue

A TOTAL of 92 people in two boats were taken by coast guards to Almeria City's port after being picked up in the Alboran Sea. Around 55 people in one boat and 37 in the other, arrived at the port in good health last Monday, according to Emergency Services.

Court call

A JUDGE probing the death of an elderly man in Almeria has asked Belgian authorities to take a statement from a suspect currently serving a prison sentence in the country. Judge Soriano said it would be "impossible" to delve further into the killing if he were unable to speak to Etienne De-droog.

Port arrests

SEVEN people, including a 16-year-old, have been arrested at the Port of Almeria after allegedly being found hiding inside trucks and buses arriving from Nador in Morocco. The Guardia Civil claimed the suspects had 'put their lives in danger' in the attempted crossing, with the detainees being held by National Police.

Train delays

MORE than 140 passengers were held up by almost four hours when their train broke down while travelling between Almeria City and Madrid. The locomotive was stopped at around 7.30pm in Jaen Province, with the travellers transferred by road for the remainder of the journey on Sunday according to Renfe sources.

War on plastic

THE BIG PICTURE Nº 15

IT is among the most legendary birds in Europe, famed in folklore for bringing babies to new parents.

But this white stork has become a symbol of the world's pollution crisis after being wrapped in a plastic bag.

United States photographer John Cancalosi took it upon himself to free the unlucky creature after snapping it at a Spanish landfill.

The hard hitting image is part of a new National Geographic (NG) public awareness campaign dubbed Planet or Plastic?

It includes a series of heartbreaking images showing the hideous impact that plastic is having on wildlife and the environment, revealing how nine million tonnes are dumped into the world's oceans each year.

And experts believe it can take more than 450 years to break down.

NG subscribers will this month receive their magazine wrapped in paper for the first time ever, and the publisher has pledged to expand the move to all its issues by 2019, saving 'more than 2.5 million single-use plastic bags every month,' according to a press release.



Photo credit John Cancalosi/National Geographic

POLLUTION SOLUTION: The campaign aims to change the way consumers use plastic.

Roof fall rescue

AN elderly man had to be rescued from the rubble of his home in Almeria City after its roof collapsed while he was inside.

Firefighters were called to the house in the Plaza de Toros area of the city after receiving a call from a woman who said her neighbour's roof had caved in.

Five crew members found the 81-year-old calling for help beneath the rubble and they were able to pull him out through one of the building's windows.

He was then taken to Torrecardenas Hospital with head and leg wounds. Technicians began probing the house for structural faults afterwards.

Catch of the day

GUARDIA CIVIL officers have seized almost 270 kilograms of tuna which they claimed was caught illegally off the coast of Almeria.

Police said their patrol boat was warned about a vessel suspected of trying to catch a protected species of tuna at around 5.00pm on Monday.

Officers tracked the sports

boat to the port of Carboneras and uncovered 17 fishing rods and 16 reels after searching several vessels.

The Guardia Civil have since passed on the case to relevant authorities. The species allegedly caught by those fishing were bluefin and redfin tuna, both of which cannot be caught without a licence.

Do you have news for us?

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

102

The total number of news and features which appeared in Issue 1715 of the Euro Weekly News Costa de Almeria edition, including 63 local stories.

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 2017 Best free publication in Spain - Premios AEEPP XI edition
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 2014 Diploma of Honour - Premios AEEPP
 2011 Company of the Year - Costa del Sol Business Awards
 2010 I Love Marbella - Professionalism award
 2005 Working together with Foreigners Department Mijas Town Hall

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WED YOU KNOW IT?: Surprising relations.

Heir's the story

IT was a groundbreaking and modern Royal Wedding with nods to the new Duchess of Sussex' mixed race heritage.

But while much has been made of American actress Meghan Markle tying the knot with Prince Harry, the ancestry of his own forefathers is itself far from quintessentially British.

And perhaps the most surprising example has its roots in southern Spain.

Abu al-Qasim Muhammad ibn Abbad was the first independent Muslim ruler of Sevilla in the Al-Andalus region - which covered most of the Iberian Peninsula - until his death in 1042.

The bloodline of Zaida, a princess often said to be his grandson's daughter but most likely an outsider who gained access to the family's inner circle by marriage, reached England after she later became engaged to Alfonso VI, king of Leon-Castile.

Their descendant Isabel Perez of Castile was in the 14th century sent to Britain to marry Edmund Duke of York, son of King Edward III



of England.

And their grandson, Richard Duke of York, led the rebellion against King Henry VI which became the War of the Roses, before his second son Edward ascended to the throne in 1461.

The lineage has recently created UK tabloid headlines backed by respected sources, including Burke's Peerage, which suggest that current monarch Queen Elizabeth II is related to the Prophet Muhammad himself, and by extension other figures the supreme leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

But historians now argue that this is not the case given unanswered questions surrounding Zaida's origins and even her name, which is now thought to have come from the Arabic sayyida, the title by which all ladies of noble Muslim blood were known.

She appears to have been widowed during an attack on Cordoba in 1091, later seeking asylum at King Alonso's court before becoming his concubine, converting to Christianity and taking the name Isabel.

POLL OF THE WEEK

Will you be supporting England or Spain in this year's World Cup finals?

LAST WEEK'S POLL:

Following reports that a Spanish airport is infested with cockroaches, do you think the country's airports are unhygienic?

Yes **50%**

No **50%**

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TOP 5 stories



RYANAIR: Slashing online check in times.

- 11,716** views Ryanair slashes online check in time before flights
- 10,249** views Stranded young Scot trapped in southern Spain
- 4,878** views Brit armed robbery fugitive held on the Costa del Sol
- 4,322** views Budget airline flies new routes from Midlands to Spain
- 4,090** views Three-metre long shark alert off Costa del Sol beach

**For week 14 - 21 May 2018*

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FOR COMMENTS FROM EWN ONLINE TURN TO LETTERS PAGE

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OUR VIEW**Brit holidaymakers are truly a different breed**

THE summer silly season is truly upon us.

As holidaymakers start to descend on Spain in ever-increasing numbers, the stories of Brits behaving badly are beginning to flood, rather than trickle, in.

And it seems that no matter what new measures the Spanish authorities introduce, British revellers will find new ways of causing havoc.

Just what is it about our country?

Prank sparks blaze – page 15

Wine prices set to spike

SPAIN is the world's biggest wine exporter, so why does the country continue to sell its plonk so cheap?

The booming state of the industry should be great news for winemakers, but the industry is struggling after offloading exports for a quarter of the price of French rivals.

Many buyers associate a low price with a dip in quality, but an unlikely saviour could be at hand.

Climate change has this year ravaged Spanish vineyards, with production down to its lowest levels for 60 years.

And the result is costlier wine, with prices up by around 45 per cent in Spain since the turn of the year.

Price war sees bubble burst – page 31

Now we want to hear your views.

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Homecoming

SOLDIERS from Almeria have returned home to the province following military operations which saw them posted to Iraq.

The 350 troops from the Logics corps of the Spanish Legion's King Alfonso XIII brigade were sent to the Middle Eastern country last November.

They were there to help train Iraqi soldiers in the fight against the Islamic State as part of a contingent known as Besmayah.

The picture here captures the moment from a ceremony held the day before the Almeria Legionnaires and others were flown back to Spain.



ON PARADE: Spanish Legionnaires in Iraq.

from Front page »

Sex probe arrest

Many of them were without work or in unsteady jobs, with others looking after children and heading up single-parent families and relying on aid from charities, the church and the government.

Police raided the NGO head's garage as part of Operation Asuero, which began after the Guardia Civil received a complaint from one of the man's alleged victims. They recovered food there which they claimed was part of the charity's stocks.

Officers said the site was not the place the NGO had said it was storing the food.

Proceedings for the case are set to be sent to the Court of Instruction in Almeria this week. The suspect is also due to appear before justices.

The arrest follows separate cases that have rocked the not-for-profit sector in recent months with several allegations made against charities.

Oxfam issued an apology in February

this year over claims made in the British media of sexual misconduct on the part of staff in an attempt to cover up.

The claims were in connection with allegations that charity workers had hired prostitutes while delivering aid to Haiti in the wake of the 2011 earthquake.

In the apology in February Oxfam said measures had been put in place to prevent such cases from occurring in future.

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Seeing red!

SHE'S the Sky Sports news presenter who reportedly romped with comedian Jack Whitehall at a recent London event.

And Kirsty Gallacher, 42, put on another painful-looking display as she showed off her sunburn after slipping into a white bikini top in Ibiza.

The Scot was on the party island for a luxury fitness retreat for a week with Footballers' Wives actress pal Susie Amy, 37.

FEELING THE BURN: Kirsty Gallacher in Ibiza (inset).



Raheem's dream jet

HE'S the speedy winger who has just won the Premier League with club side Manchester City.

And Raheem Sterling, 23, showed he knows how to celebrate in style after hiring a private jet to fly to Ibiza with fiancée Paige Millian, before the pair headed to his native Jamaica.

The forward is due to join the England team as they gear up for the World Cup when he returns from his break.



CASH STERLING: From left, Raheem, Paige and pals in Ibiza.

High Gere

THEY became man and wife last month.

And Spanish publicist Alejandra Silva, 35, has revealed that new husband and Hollywood star Richard Gere, 68, left her stunned after breaking out in Spanish song during the Flamenco-style first dance at their low-key wedding. She added: "The ceremony was beautiful... it was very emotional."

Gilliam's masterpiece hits big screen at last

IT has taken 25 years, but Terry Gilliam's epic movie homage to Miguel de Cervantes' Don Quixote has finally hit the big screen.

The former Month Python member's film *The Man Who Killed Don Quixote* has been beset by funding issues, legal battles and bad luck.

Dedicated to the memory of original cast members John Hurt and Jean Rochefort, who died before it could be completed, it stars Welsh actor Jonathan Pryce and *Star Wars*' Adam Driver.

Before the world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, the director said: "I was the victim of Don



Photo credit: YouTube

TILTING AT WINDMILLS: Terry Gilliam (right) and Adam Driver filming *The Man Who Killed Don Quixote*.

Quixote, he wouldn't leave me alone. He stalked me for 24, 25 years.

"It's not the film I set out to make, it's a much better film. The film I set out (to make) was just not a patch on what this film is. It's taken all those years of marinating in my life to get there," he added.

No tears for Tyrone

CORONATION STREET actor Alan Halsall has been enjoying a booze-soaked lads' holiday in Spain after splitting from wife and co-star Lucy-Jo Hudson for the second time.

It comes after Lucy, 35, reportedly deleted all tweets to her estranged husband, who has played Tyrone Dobbs on the Manchester-based soap for 20 years.

But Alan, 35, appeared ready to drown his sorrows after posting a

snap of himself with a giant glass of beer during his break in Barcelona.

He captioned the image: "Nice small one to start with."

He and Lucy - who played Katy Harris on the show from 2002-2005 - have been married for nine years.

CORRIE BLIMEY: Alan, Lucy, and (inset) tucking into a huge beer in Spain.



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Expatriate fugitive held

Alleged fraudster tracked down

by Matt Ford

A BRITISH mum-of-three suspected of conning holidaymakers by advertising fake holiday rentals on the Costa del Sol has been held in northern Spain.

Paula Louise Neale, 44, who bragged of being a Bollywood actress in an online reality show, allegedly made thousands of Euros from the scam.

She is believed to have placed the bogus lets on Facebook under a series of aliases before taking money from her victims via Paypal.

The London-born expatriate vanished from her home in Calahonda near Marbella last year.

At the time of her arrest in Burgos she was getting into a hire car reported missing from Malaga which was carrying stolen French licence plates, before falsely identifying herself using a fake British passport.



MANHUNT OVER: The stolen hire car and (inset) Paula Louise Neale.

Investigators launched a covert surveillance operation after spotting that a rental firm sticker did not match the vehicle's brand.

The original number plates were found in the boot, police said in a statement.

She is thought to have fled to Cataluña and France where she claimed to be a hairdresser and

offered 'blow dries and eyebrow tidying.'

Neale has reportedly been bailed on account of her young children in the wake of an initial court hearing.

The Guardia Civil said it had "arrested a 44-year-old British national in Spain whose initials are PLN as part of Operation Neale."

Addiction data

A TOTAL of 1,353 people were admitted for addiction treatment in Almeria Province last year, according to an authority health spokesperson.

Jose Maria Martin, Almeria's Territorial Delegate for Health, said the province's 12

publicly-funded treatment centres needed to focus on methods including prevention, therapy and specialised care.

"The fight against addiction and the attention and support given to affected people

and their families is one of the main priorities of the Junta de Andalucia," he said.

Martin was speaking at an event to mark the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Regional Centre for Drug Addiction in Vera.

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STREET TALK

Monsters in the Med?

A THREE-METRE blue shark recently sparked panic off a Spanish beach, while bad weather has seen scores of stinging Portuguese man o'wars hit the Medterrean. But are beachgoers scared of swimming in the sea in the wake of the sightings?

• **Jill Ashfield, 65, on holiday from Shropshire**

"Yes, I'd still swim in the sea after the shark sighting. I'm sure it would be far more interested in other things than in me. But I was stung by a jellyfish once in Campomar. It was not pleasant so I'd probably avoid going for a dip with

the Portuguese man o'war around."

• **Jess Wolfsberg, 38, Swedish dad-of-two on holiday with family**

"It would not stop me. Blue sharks are not known for attacking humans. I've been coming to the Costa del Sol

for 10 years and as far as I know there are no dangerous sharks in the Med. Of course, I'd prefer not to be stung by a Portuguese man o'war. You are more likely to be hit by a car though!"

• **Sarah Page, 47, on holiday from Lincolnshire with husband Harvey**

"I knew about the shark before arriving but it didn't stop me going for a dip. I landed at lunch-time and I was in the sea by 3pm. When you're on holiday you've got to enjoy yourself. If you worried about everything you wouldn't leave the house!"

• **Tanya Mooney, 37, on holiday with friend Keily Mcalister from Derry, Northern Ireland**

"I'm more scared of the jellyfish really. If you got stung it would hurt pretty bad. I'd have a heart attack if I saw a shark though. But with the weather this bad we won't be swimming anyway."

• **Sam Church, retiree holidaying from Loughborough**

"The jellyfish wouldn't stop me. I'd

just go further on down the beach and try to avoid them. You just have to be careful and keep a lookout. I used to dive, so I know what's dangerous or not and the blue sharks are harmless."

• **Alan Hayler, 81, holiday-maker and fisherman from Kent**

"It's quite exciting really! I think the blue sharks are a beautiful animal. I actually caught one once whilst on a fishing boat in Cornwall (United Kingdom). The fisherman hung it up in the town as a sort of prize catch.

"They don't like them because they eat their catch. You'd better steer clear of the Portuguese man o'war though!"

CATCH OF THE DAY: Alan.

HAVING A SCREAM: Tanya.

READY FOR THE JELLY: Sam.

NO FEAR: Jess.

NOT WORRIED: Sarah.

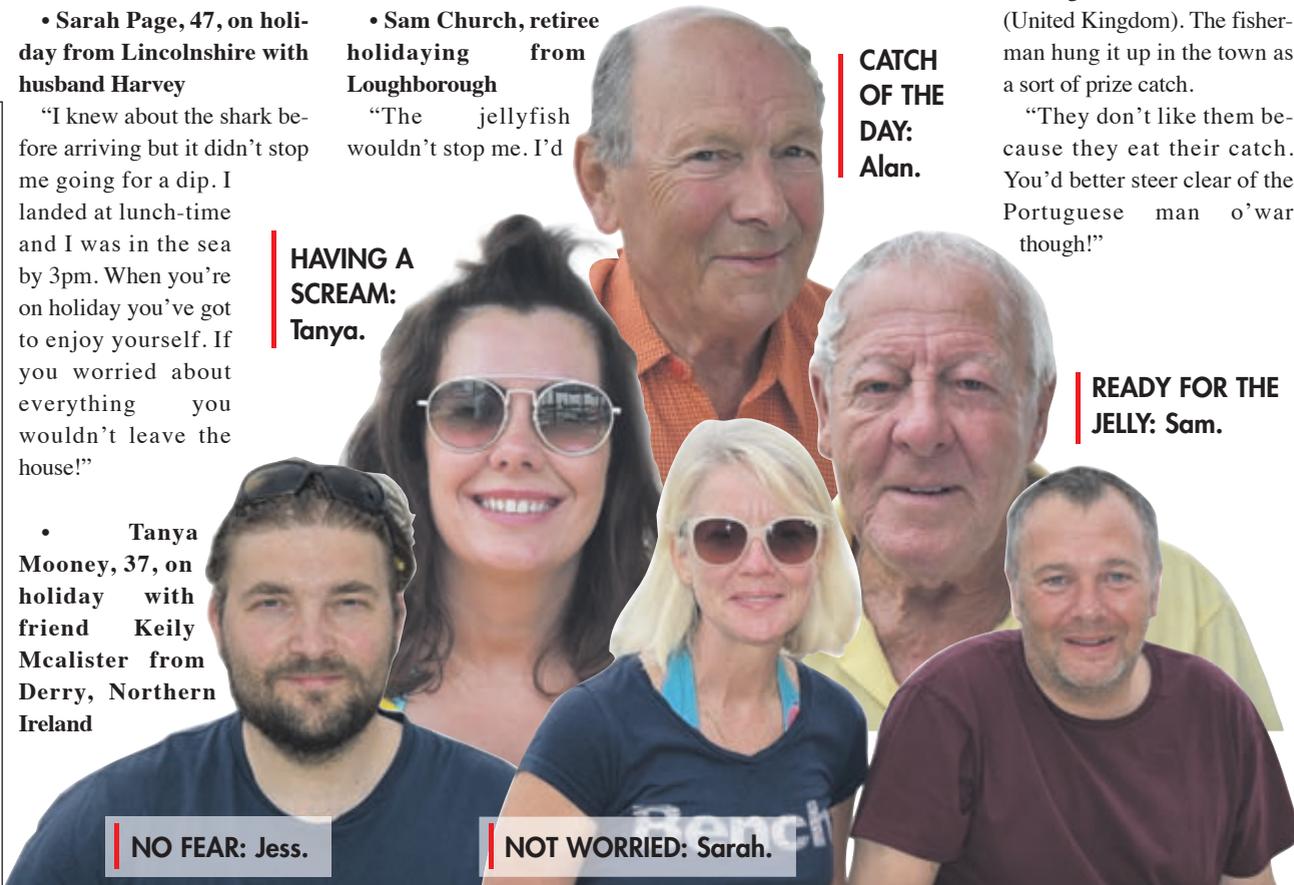


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Attention has recently focused on a potential aspect of a post-Brexit world – whether expatriate Britons receiving private pensions or insurance payments from the UK will lose access to their money.

Today, UK businesses that provide financial services to Britons living in EU countries can do so under the EU's free movement of capital rules. After Brexit, unless similar arrangements are in place, they are set to lose those rights.

For expatriates with UK personal pensions and insurance contracts – which can run into decades beyond Brexit – this means they may no longer be able to receive payments in the EU post-Brexit (the State Pension is not affected). Providers would face the dilemma of choosing between breaching contract law (by failing to honour their contracts with members) or breaking European law.

Mutual benefit in securing a solution

The problem also affects EU nationals in the UK receiving payments from EU companies. UK chancellor Philip Hammond confirmed “comprehensive plans” were being put in place to “avoid unnecessary costs and disruption on

Should you be worried about a Brexit ‘cliff-edge’ for your money?



By Gerald Turner,
Partner,
Blevins Franks

individuals and businesses as the UK leaves the EU.”

So far, the UK has offered to extend existing arrangements for EU companies operating in the UK up to 31 December 2020 (the transition period). Although the EU has not yet reciprocated, Brexit negotiations are ongoing and much depends on what is agreed. For example, in the event of a ‘softer’ Brexit – where the UK

remains in the customs union or similar arrangement – maintaining cross-border access for UK businesses would be relatively straightforward.

In any case, overseas access to UK payments is not exclusive to being within a trading bloc like the EU. Many British expatriates abroad, such as those retired in Australia and Canada, are able to legally receive their UK pensions today without problems.

Can you do anything to protect your benefits?

While there is little cause for panic if this affects you, there may be action you can take to maintain uninterrupted access to UK-based payments.

Depending on your situation, you may be able to transfer benefits into a structure that is already compliant in Spain. Transferring UK pensions into an EU/EEA-based Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme

(QROPS), for example, could unlock additional tax efficiency and currency flexibility benefits. Having the freedom to draw income in Euros or Sterling is not only convenient for expatriates living in Europe, it can reduce exchange rate risk during these volatile times. Moving your money to a QROPS or similar structure would also shelter it from future UK taxation and offer more choice in who will inherit your benefits.

Even if the potential ‘cliff-edge’ does not affect you, it is sensible to review how your pensions, investments and assets are structured for three key reasons. First, you need to make sure your financial planning suits your particular situation, including your income requirements, risk appetite and estate planning objectives.

Second, your wealth and assets should be as held as tax efficiently as possible for your life in Spain. Third,

you should take advantage of available opportunities while you can, as it is likely that some rules may change after Brexit, especially around taxation of UK pensions.

For the best results, explore your options with a locally-based, FCA-regulated financial adviser who can establish the most suitable approach for your personal situation and objectives. Act sooner rather than later to make sure you secure the best outcome for you and your family, regardless of Brexit.

Blevins Franks accepts no liability for any loss resulting from any action or inaction or omission as a result of reading this information, which is general in nature and not specific to your circumstances.

Keep up to date on the financial issues that may affect you on the Blevins Franks news page at www.blevinsfranks.com.

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Blevins Franks specialises in cross-border wealth management and can provide personalised, UK regulated pension advice, including QROPS. If you are thinking of transferring your pension out of the UK, you may wish to take action now in case the UK extends its 25% Overseas Transfer Charge post Brexit. We can help you with all your pension options, including the tax implications in Spain.

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‘Nice try you tool!’

Brit teen slammed over holiday campaign

A LANCASHIRE lad, who says he’s never been abroad, has set up a fundraising page so he can go on holiday to Spain.

Aiden Dugdale, 19, asked on his Facebook page: ‘Why can people on benefits go on all inclusive five-star hotel holidays abroad and I can barely afford a night out in Burnley???’

He then announced: ‘I have created a page so people can help pay for a holiday.’

With a target of £1,000 he has since raised more than a quarter of the money.

Roxanne Marie Nadin donated a fiver and said: ‘Proper made me smile this, good on ya I hope you raise your target???’

And an anonymous donor chipped in another £3 and wished Aiden ‘good luck.’

Amjad Ali donated £2 and said: ‘There you go... this will



get you a bus to station!’

But, after the story went viral, another anonymous person has stumped up a whopping £100 with the message: ‘Have a great time, be nice to everyone and enjoy life.’

However, the Burnley lad has come in for some stick on social media.

Fellow Lancastrian Marc Preston wrote: ‘Aiden u scrounger, save up like other people and if a holiday is that important to you fund it yourself. us people pay tax and other bills, we don’t get sh*t for free so why should you.’

‘Nice try you tool!’ added another.

And Lucas Jones posted: ‘Are u taking the p*ss - save up if u wanna go on holiday.’

COSTA BE KIDDING:
Aiden Dugdale (inset)
 wants to raise £1,000
 for a holiday to Spain.

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Save the trees

Campaigners used social media to pile pressure on the council

by Gregory Kirby

MORE than 1,000 Almeria residents have protested against the City Hall's plans to clear trees from an important square and transform it into an open space.

A total of 18,900 people signed an online petition to counter the renovation project which would also relocate the historical Los Coloraos monument.

Movement official and Old Town president Magdalena Cantero claimed the true motive behind the centre-right government's plan to renovate the square is to remove the statue.

"It's a symbol of freedom next to the City Hall, which is where it belongs," she added.



SHADY PROTEST: Residents gathered to halt plans to remove trees.

Photo credits: Twitter/laoficialmeria

The pillar commemorates the anti-monarchist 1812 constitution and was knocked down in 1943 under the orders of dictator General Franco, before being rebuilt in 1988.

"We want shade not sun shades," and "Not one tree less in Almeria," were some

of the slogans protestors chanted.

They formed part of the Plaza Vieja movement which aims to pressure the City Hall into rethinking the project.

The council - who said it wants to revive the plaza - passed the plans earlier this

month. It had the backing of centre-right parties, Ciudadanos and the Popular Party.

Left leaning officials from the Socialist party (PSOE), Izquierda Unida (IU) and Podemos joined demonstrators and had opposed the plans from the outset.

The city council devised plans "behind the backs" of residents, Cantero claimed. And there had to be consensus and flexibility in deciding the city's renovation plans, she added.

Almeria mayor Ramón Fernández-Pacheco said the plans were "flexible." But it doesn't mean the city council is going to change its mind, Fernandez Pacheco added.

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Prank sparks blaze

'Drunk' Brits held over €200,000 hotel fire



HOLIDAY INFERNO: Scenes from the dramatic incident and one of the suspected culprits after being held.

by Matt Ford

FOUR 'drunk' British holidaymakers have been held in connection with a major hotel fire in Magaluf.

The dramatic incident saw tourists running for their lives after flames ripped through two rooms at the BH Mallorca hotel.

Seven people trapped on balconies were rescued by fire-fighters using ladders as thick black smoke billowed from the building.

In video footage others can be heard screaming "Get out" as glass breaks in the background.

Investigators believe the revellers sparked the blaze after a prank with an aerosol and a lighter, with more than €200,000-worth of damages estimated to

have been caused after more than 100 guests were evacuated from two floors.

Initial reports suggest that five unnamed individuals, two women and three men, were in the room, and four of them were trying to play a practical joke on the other who had fallen asleep on the bed, but only succeeded in setting fire to the mattress.

No-one was seriously injured but several people, including three police officers, were treated for smoke inhalation.

Detectives continue to probe the circumstances surrounding the fire, which was extinguished after an hour, a statement said.

It remains unclear whether the unnamed suspects - believed to be aged

around 20 - have been re-manded in custody or appeared in front of a judge and released on bail.

British guest Hazel Bromley, from Chorley in Lancashire, tweeted: 'Literally in shock that this happened at our hotel # bhmallorca.'

The building on Avenida de las Palmeras is owned by Grupo Cursach, of which the owner and nightlife kingpin Tolo Cursach is currently being investigated for alleged bribery, extortion, threats, tax fraud, money laundering, homicide, and possession of illegal weapons, among other charges.

The hotel is popular with young sunseekers and made headlines in 2016 when a video clip of three Britons being beaten by security guards emerged online.

Forces joined

THE Spanish Navy and Army have taken part in joint training exercises to improve the coordination of their responses to security crises in the stretch from Gibraltar to Almeria.

The objective was to unify the way both forces cooperate with each other and other maritime bodies to improve maritime security on Spanish coastlines.

The drills took place between May 14 and 18.

In a statement the Navy said training allowed

the duo to improve their launch capacity based on daytime and night-time detection sensors, analyse and compare signals coming from different sources.

Navy patrols were launched on the strait of Gibraltar and Almeria coastline, while Army platoons were deployed to several strategic coastal locations.

The training marked the seventh of 12 exercises to be carried out this year under the MARSEC-18 operational framework.

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Sex and violence

'Knife-wielding prostitutes' target Brits

by Matt Ford

BRITISH holidaymakers in Mallorca are being targeted by prostitutes who are enticed with offers of cheap sex before being robbed at knife point.

The women are described as 'mostly foreign' and are believed to be singling out drunk revellers as they head back to their hotels after partying in Magaluf.

And reports suggest the gangs are luring the victims with promises of sex for €10 before they are led down dark alleyways and held up after being surrounded.

An unidentified Scottish teen alleges that he had €500 stolen, as he told UK media: "I was so drunk I didn't really know what I was doing."

"They grabbed my arm and led me down this alleyway."

"Once I was there a few of them appeared and robbed me blind."

A 24-year-old holiday rep added: "It's like running the gauntlet back to your hotel now - all the women wait at the end of the strip to pick people off."

"They're increasingly aggressive and don't take no for an answer."

Dad-of-two Michael Taylor, 28, was last year approached by a group of African women be-



WISH YOU WERE FEAR: Drunk revellers have been warned.

fore being stabbed in the leg and knocked unconscious.

He woke up in hospital with eight stitches to find that his mobile phone and €200 in cash were missing.

He said at the time: "Ten African women came out from behind some trees."

"They were trying to get me to pay for sex."

"When I refused one of them stuck a knife in my thigh. They were stronger than men and remorseless. It was terrifying."

A volunteer from charity Street Angels, a Christian organisation set up to help people in trouble on nights out, three years ago told the *Belfast Telegraph*: "There are a lot of muggings that go on in Maga-



luf, but it's usually African women who prey on drunk male tourists.

"There can be quite a lot of them and they just loiter around waiting for boys on their own and then they link arms with them and pretend they are helping them back to their hotel or whatever before mugging them."

PP corruption probe goes on

EDUARDO ZAPLANA, the former President of the Generalitat of Valencia, Spanish Labour Minister and mayor of Benidorm, has been held by the Guardia Civil.

Officers arrested the ex-conservative Partido Popular politician at his home on Carrer de Pascual i Genis in Valencia City.

He was detained on bribery and money laundering charges, according to sources close to the probe reported.

Police seized several documents connected with Zaplana's time as Valencia President between 1995 and 2002 from his home.

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World class travel

Army vet defends free holidays

By Staff Reporter

A FORMER soldier who traded in military service for travelling the world free of charge with men she doesn't know has defended her choice.

Lior Dvash, 23, is treated to all-expenses paid trips around the world, including Spain, in exchange for dating rich members of a paid dating website, but she won't tell her family.

"In Malaga I was given cash and was taken on a day of shopping, I also was bought perfume," she said. "In the army it was not a fun experience, I didn't go in hoping for a fun experience, I wanted to gain maturity and connect with my family that lives in Israel."

She added: "I wanted to travel for free. I'm a nice person, great company and was really broke after finishing my army service."

"My friends all know but my family don't know yet as it's unnecessary for them to know."

Lior was born in Israel but now lives



Photo credit Facebook



'WE ALL USE ONE ANOTHER':
Former soldier Lior Dvash.

in Brisbane, Australia, and she began her new life after two years' service in her native country's army.

And on the trips she joins men of all ages and doesn't have to spend a penny while being showered with gifts and handed a daily allowance.

But she says she has been accused of using her benefactors even though they choose freely to pay for her company and she vets each before accepting a trip.

"Some people make faces but it's because they think using somebody is a negative thing, in reality we all use one another for many reasons, this is life," she said.

"In Toronto the gentleman gave me \$800 for the city tour and in Koh Samui I received a daily allowance, a dive trip and perfume."

"I've had day-in day-out massages every single day. When we stayed in the resort as everything was paid for, they also took me shopping and things like that."

"There are a lot more benefits than cons."

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Photo credits Facebook/asociación de vecinos Collinas de Aguadulce.

WRONG WAY: Motorists were caught heading in the wrong direction.

Risky business

DANGEROUS driving has been captured on video and posted online after some motorists took extreme measures to avoid a traffic jam.

The footage shows nine drivers heading in the wrong direction down an Aguadulce slip road on the A7 motorway near Almeria. The risk-takers were trying to evade long queues caused by an accident further down.

The Colinas de Aguadulce neighbourhood

association posted the video on their Facebook page.

The association conceded infrastructure on that particular stretch of motorway needed improving but said it was "no excuse" for dangerous driving which put other people in danger, they said.

The neighbourhood group has asked for residents' cooperation to put an end to this risky behaviour.

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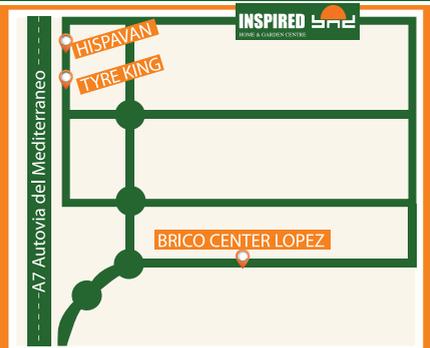
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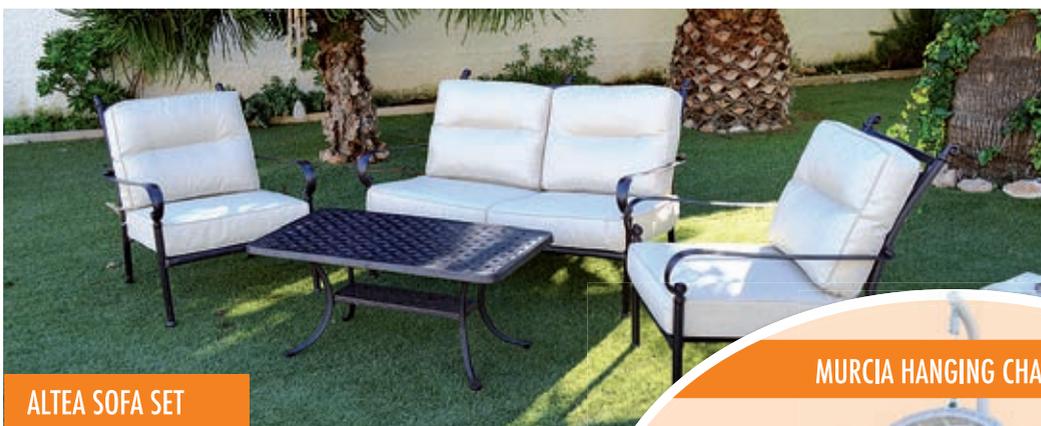


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Happy to be part of the local community

As crowds gathered on the streets of Windsor last Saturday and people across Britain and Spain got ready for their own wedding parties, so a band of British expatriates met up to celebrate in the Costa del Sol.

The British Embassy was holding a party in Madrid, but amongst those who had been invited were Michel and Steven Euesden, proprietors of EWN Media Group and publishers of *Euro Weekly News*, *RTN* and *Sol Times* who decided that it would be better to spend the money involved in travelling to Madrid on members of the local community.

That doesn't mean that *EWN* wasn't represented at the Madrid event as another senior member of staff who had also been invited made the journey.

First a location had to be found and Bob and Linda Hackshaw, owners of the Villalinda restaurant on the Mijas road, volunteered their delightful property with extensive terraces as the venue.

The event was sponsored by Currencies Direct in conjunction with media partner Spectrum FM and other local companies including Iceland, Calvin's Hairdresser, Bunches Florist, Bing Asian, Don Alfonso Restaurant, La Parra Gold and Cardland.

Two great entertainers, Antony Wolfson and One Wish Steve volunteered their services and the *EWN* staff rallied round helping to lay out the tables and chairs, hang out the bunting and balloons, preparing sandwiches and drinks and clearing up afterwards.

Representatives of the EWN Media Group visited local charities such as Age Care and Age Concern who had particular contact with the elderly and invited their clients and members who might wish to attend and in the event, some 150 people arrived to enjoy the spectacle of the wedding, having been greeted with Pimms (which flowed freely throughout the day) and to chat with friends old and new.

Nicki Burgess, General Manager of the group was a tower of strength, working behind the scenes to ensure that all went smoothly and it was she who arranged for the baking of a sensational Union Jack cake made by Pin Ups Cakes in Fuengirola.

Nicole King, presenter of *Marbella Now TV* was present to record the event and to the delight of all made a special presentation of a personalised RTV Marbella award to Michel Euesden for all that she has done for the local community which was a complete surprise that left Michel almost speechless.

All of the guests were able to enter a free prize draw which saw Janice Stanford win a brand new large screen TV.

British Ambassador Simon Manley was not to be left out and at the behest of the Group, he recorded a message which was broadcast at the event which ended in a toast to the new young Royal couple.

Thank you

What a wonderful way to celebrate the Royal Wedding and to thank the many Brits on the Costa del Sol who give so generously of their time year in and year out. Thank you *EWN*!

*Charmaine Arboutin,
British Consul Malaga*

Good on you all for organising your event.

*Simon Manley,
British Ambassador to Spain*

Can you please pass on our thanks to all the people who made the Royal Wedding party at Villalinda a great day. Myself, my husband and friends thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and appreciate all the hard work that went into making the day special. Regards,

Linda Pope

Just to say a big thank you to all the *EWN* staff that put so much into today's celebrations at Restaurant Villalinda Mijas.

Les Challen

A fantastic event and once again *Euroweekly News* led by Michel Euesden and Steven Euesden bring the community together through generosity and selflessness for the benefit of others. Two wonderful people who I am proud to call friends. xx

Antony Wolfson

An absolute pleasure to be involved and part of the day's celebrations, meeting you guys again and new people, to be doing and giving to others and appreciate what we all have and where we all are in life as we know it, so thank you.

Dean Harrison

Thank you so much, for all the effort that was put into a wonderful party had by all.

And a beautiful setting. Again, thank you.

Gilly Bareford

Proud to have shared the day and to have been chief butterer. Very special day for the people of the Costa del Sol. Well done *EWN* and *RTN*.

Sarah Hawes

I was honoured to be invited to the Ambassador's home in Madrid but more so to be with people that needed our presence to also have a memorable day! I was blown away with how hard Michel Euesden, Steven Euesden and ALL the *Euro Weekly* newspaper team (past and present) worked cooking and cleaning and serving and chauffeuring!!! Chapó.

Nicole King, Marbella Now





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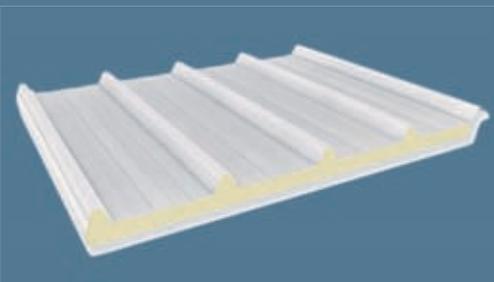
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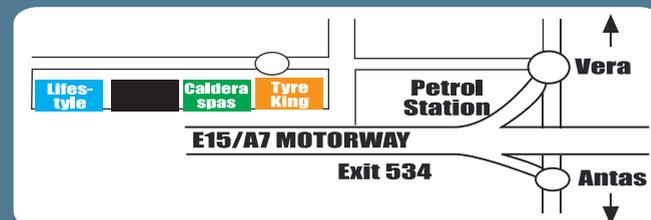


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Photo credits Google Maps

CLOSE CALL: The officers prevented a tragedy.

Mother held hostage

by **Gregory Kirby**

A MAN who was holding his mother captive in her home has injured a policeman with a pair of scissors as he tried to escape.

The suspect entrenched himself in his mother's property in the Campohermoso neighbourhood of Nijar. He was holding her captive and threatened her with the bladed weapon if she tried to escape, according to

investigation sources.

When police arrived at the scene they tried to mediate and get the man to release the victim on his own terms.

But he refused to release his mother and appeared very nervous so officers decided to action the backup plan, sources report.

Officers snuck into the house through a next-door property's window. Cornered, the suspect let go of his mother

and fled down a nearby avenue still yielding the blades.

A quick police manoeuvre stopped the nervous man in his tracks. An officer arrested him but not before slicing him in the chest and stomach.

But the injuries were not serious.

The man's state of mind prevented his imprisonment, so he was transferred to Torrecardenas hospital where he is being monitored.

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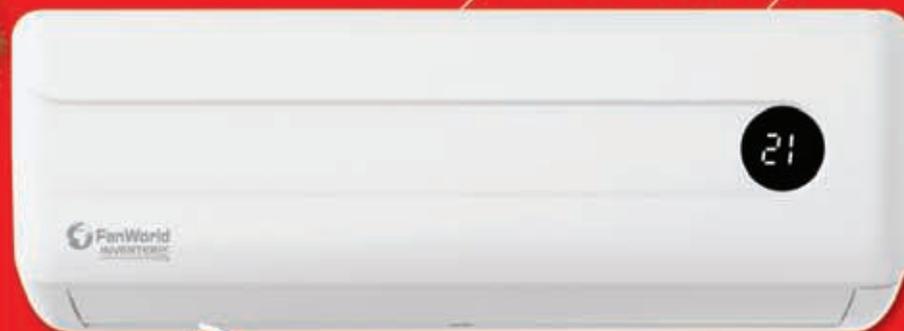
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Raising for the RBL

MOJACAR Royal British Legion recently held a Golf Tournament in conjunction with Aguilon Golf Club. Seventy-eight golfers attended the event and €1,000 was raised. They would like to thank all the businesses and individuals who very kindly made donations.

A coffee morning was also recently held at the Hostal Rural by the RBL. Over 40 guests took part in a pétanque competition, a quiz or simply socialised. The amount of €125 was raised for the Poppy Appeal.



Photo credit: Royal British Legion

BOWLED OVER: The winners of the pétanque competition.

The RBL will be organising a Fish 'n chip Quiz Night for Friday June 1 at 7.30pm at the Oasis Bar in Palomares. For tickets please contact Barbara on 622 207 774.

Act up and have fun

THE Indalo Players will be hosting an Act Up And Have Fun Day together with their good friends at the Roof Garden located at the top of the Parque Comercial in Mojacar. They hope to encourage potential new members to go along and meet the cast and crew. The event will take place from 2pm on Friday June 1. Entrance is only €7 and includes fish and chips.

Following the meal, the actors will perform a few sketches. If you want to join the Indalo Players on the day, the annual membership is only €10. As an incentive, you will receive a €3 discount off your fish and chips.

Don't forget, in addition to actors, they are looking for many other skills, from carpenters to electricians, back stage crew and props, and wardrobe and make-up. If you want to join, they'll have a job for you to do! To confirm your attendance please contact Linda on 674 113 218.

A dames' tale

THE Dames in Turre will be holding their next meeting on Monday at the Hostel Rural in Turre at 11am. Their guest speaker will be Christine Smith. Christine is the author of 'A Tale of Two Villages' and her presentation promises to be very interesting.

The Dames shall also be presenting cheques to worthy local charities. All are welcome. For more information please contact Eileen McGill on 652 208 072 or Lesley Barlow on 661 085 551.

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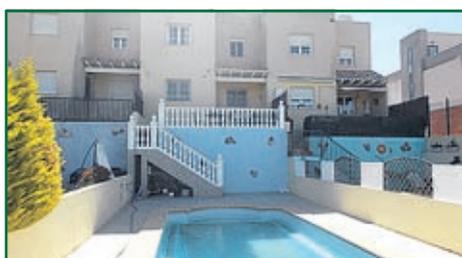
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DENMARK**STI-up**

DANES are catching a growing number of sexually transmitted diseases including chlamydia, syphilis and gonorrhoea and is part of a four-year upward trend which is hitting young city dwellers especially hard, doctors said.

Summer spring

NATIONALS are revelling in hotter-than-usual spring weather and are set for another summery spell this week as temperatures could reach 27 degrees Celsius, the Danish Meteorological Institute reports.

Pull out

DANISH special forces will be withdrawn from Iraq after the Islamic State - which it was fighting - are no longer in control of large parts of the country, for-



PULLING OUT: Shipping giant Maersk backs Trump and abandons Iran.

eign minister Anders Samuelsen announced.

OK Donald

THE world's largest container

ship operator, Maersk, has announced it is pulling out of trading operations with Iran following Donald Trump's decision to abandon the landmark nuclear deal.

GERMANY**DNA cops**

A TOTAL of 30,000 demonstrators marched on the capital's streets to protest a controversial new law which allows Bavarian police to use DNA to predict what suspects might look like.

Photo fury

TWO German premier league footballers with family links to Turkey

have reignited a debate over dual citizenship in the country after posing for photos with Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan, media report.

Drug guns

SIX ex-employees of German gunsmith Heckler & Koch are being charged in Stuttgart on suspicion of illegally sending guns to parts of

Mexico infested with gang warfare, according to sources.

'Bad' brewery

THE Leutkircher brewery has been banned from labelling its beer as 'wholesome' because it gives drinkers the impression the beverage is healthy, which is against EU law, a high court ruled.

NETHERLANDS**'Kid-snatched'**

DUTCH child abductions have increased for the third year running with 288 cases in 2017 and abduction threats also increased, according to the IKO centre which records the crimes.

Beetle blues

SCIENTIFIC research showed a 54 per cent decline in ground beetles, matching the trend in other European studies and is bad news for nature's life cycle, experts said.

False alarm

A BOMB threat led police to evacuate Breda Central station on Tuesday but experts and sniffer dogs police did not find any explosives after a search, police said.

Tourist trouble

A COALITION of ruling parties has agreed to curb tourism by limiting Airbnb rentals to one month per year after claiming holidaymakers cause a 'nuisance' and make areas less liveable, according to sources.

BELGIUM**No way**

FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND pensioners have marched in Brussels protesting the centre-right government's plans to bring in a points-based pension system and to increase the retirement age from 65 to 67, according to police.

Clown off

A FAMOUS clown, who allegedly murdered his ex-girlfriend, recorded a live video of himself firing a weapon in a standoff with police in Bedene before handing himself in, according to sources.

Deadly force

THE prime minister said Israeli soldiers used disproportionate force in a border clash which left dozens of Palestinians dead and has asked for a UN probe, media reports.

Brussels blast

POLICE were unsure if anyone was hurt after onlookers reported a massive explosion followed by a fire which tore through several buildings in Brussels' Molenbeek suburb.

SWEDEN**Fre-e-bikes**

THE environment agency are subsidising e-bikes worth up to €1,000, but with over 2,000 weekly applications its €34 million budget could run out before the end of the year, an official said.

Sense-sored

YOUTUBE has pulled a video from its site by the country's new anti-Islamic 'Alternative for Sweden' party accusing it of 'inciting hatred' and threatened to delete its account altogether, sources said.

Worker war

A TOP economist fears a forecasted 207,000 extra labourers by 2025 will not be enough to fill public posts, predicting a war over workers within the private sector, media reports.

Don't forget

THE culture minister has announced plans to send as many young Swedes as possible to visit holocaust memorial sites in a move to combat anti-Semitism and has pledged €1.4 million for the trips.

FRANCE**Lechery ban**

WOLF-WHISTLERS and those who make sexual slurs could face a €750 on-the-spot fine after legislators passed a new law to ensure "women are not afraid to be outside," President Emmanuel Macron said.

Gays hit

PHYSICAL attacks on gay people in France have increased in 2017 for the second year running, raising fears that prejudice against the LGBT community is taking root, the SOS homophobia charity said.

Facebook France

PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron is set to meet with Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg as well as other tech giant bosses to discuss plans to 'transform' France into a start-up nation, sources report.

'Peado' law

PARLIAMENT has failed to set a legal age of sexual consent but passed a law to land child rapists with harsher punishments, in a move sparked by a controversial unprosecuted scandal, media reports.

NORWAY**Cuts coming**

THE government is planning a €580 million spending chop - which accounts for a 2.9 per cent cut - but still expects the economy to grow by 2.5 per cent, the finance minister said.

Flying fins

FINNAIR airline is expanding its presence in the country by boosting cooperation with Norway's Wideroe - northern Europe's largest regional carrier - and adding nine more destinations, media reports.

New look

STATOIL, the country's largest oil company, revealed its new name will be 'Equinor' combining 'equi' for equilibrium and 'nor' for Norway, as part of a re-branding scheme ahead of a shift to renewables.

Sad salmon

FISH farms must reduce annual salmon deaths - which currently stand at 15 to 20 per cent - to boost animal welfare and their own reputations, the fishery minister said.



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STAT OF WEEK**€17bn**

The amount that unemployment benefits will cost the Spanish state this year, around half that paid out annually between 2009 and 2013, according to the Ministry of Employment.

€43bn weapons sales set record

SPAIN has beaten its own record for weapons exports for the second year in a row.

It comes after the country sold €4.3 billion-worth of military equipment last year, a year-on-year rise of 7.3 per cent.

It was the world's seventh-largest supplier in 2016, according to a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, with Saudi Arabia the biggest client outside the European Union, which accounted for 72.6 per cent of sales.

Spanish exports plummet

THE export of Spanish goods to the UK has ground to a halt after five consecutive years of growth.

A report by the Bank of Spain claims that sales plummeted by 6 per cent last year, with uncertainty over Brexit blamed as the value of the pound plunged.

And exports to the European Union rose by 8 per cent during the same period, suggesting that the UK's looming withdrawal from the bloc is negatively affecting Spain's foreign trade.

Data from the Office of the State

by Matt Ford

Secretary of Commerce shows that 7 per cent of all Spanish exporting companies trade with the UK, and their growth dropped by 0.8 per cent in 2017.

"This drop has been higher than what we have seen for other destinations," the bank's study said.

But while 85 per cent of firms doing business in Britain are classed as small-to-medium-sized, the vast majority of sales are made by large companies which are "on average bigger, more productive and more geographi-

cally diversified than those which export to the main countries within the monetary union," therefore limiting the potential Brexit effect.

The UK is Spain's fifth-biggest trading partner, accounting for 7 per cent of all exports and 4 per cent of imports.

But while Britain's gross domestic product increased by 0.6 per cent last year, the European Commission has forecast that growth will slow down due to low rates of savings and salaries remaining below the inflation rate.

Repsol pledge to walk on sunshine

SPANISH oil firm Repsol is refocusing its strategy towards renewable energies.

President Antonio Brufau announced during a general meeting of shareholders that the multinational is ready to join the fight against climate change.

"The group is analysing alternatives to fight the increase in global temperature, betting on an effective strategy with the lowest possible cost for citizens," the company said in a statement.

Other energy providers to recently express similar commitments include Shell, Total and Eni.



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Ryanair profits soar despite flights farce

STILL FLYING: Ryanair and (inset) CEO Michael O'Leary.

BUDGET airline Ryanair, Europe's biggest low-cost carrier, has racked up record returns despite grounding almost 40,000 flights.

The Irish company saw profits soar by 10 per cent to €1.45 billion over the last financial year, while the number of passengers leapt by 9 per cent to 130 million, with Spain, Italy and Germany the three largest growth markets.

CEO Michael O'Leary said

in a statement: "We are pleased to report a 10 per cent increase in profits, with an unchanged net margin of 20 per cent, despite a 3 per cent cut in air fares, during a year of overcapacity in Europe."

He added that the boost had come in the face of rising fuel prices and compensation payments after 700,000 customers were disrupted by cancelled flights last September and October.

» BUSINESS EXTRA**Hive got a bad feeling**

A WAVE of beehive thefts across eastern Spain saw profits in the honey sector plummet by around €140,000 in 2017 and sparked calls to ramp up security, according to a report by the Spanish Beekeeping Association.

War of words

THE foreign ministers of Spain and China say they want free trade and will battle import duties amid disputes with the United States over potential tariffs, after Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Madrid for talks.

Pump it up

OIL prices have risen to a four-year high due to tensions in Iran and Saudi Arabia, and motorists are suffering the consequences with petrol now costing more than €1.30 per litre in many Spanish provinces, RAC Spain said.

Hotel prices hit margins

TRAVEL company Thomas Cook has warned that soaring Spanish hotel costs are harming profits.

The operator has been forced to shift its focus elsewhere, with an 80 per cent boost in bookings to Turkey, with demand for Greece and Egypt also strong.

But Spain remains its biggest market, attracting 1.3 million customers in the six months to March 31.

The group also revealed that its airlines are performing well after several rival carriers collapsed last year, with profits rising 7.8 per cent to almost €3.7 billion over the period.

Chief executive Peter Fankhauser said: "The work we've done in the past two years to improve customers' experience of our flights and our holidays is bearing fruit."

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LONDON - FTSE 100

CLOSING PRICES MAY 21

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Anglo American	1,809.50	-50.50	-2.72	26,467.72
Associated British Foods	2,580.00	-170.00	-6.18	21,668.12
Admiral Group	1,973.50	46.00	2.39	5,596.57
Ashtead Group	2,265.00	-32.00	-1.39	11,266.77
Antofagasta	1,064.50	-19.00	-1.75	10,662.04
Aviva	547.00	-3.00	-0.55	21,941.27
AstraZeneca	5,175.00	-66.00	-1.26	67,700.50
BAE Systems	636.00	-12.40	-1.91	20,535.33
Barclays	210.48	2.98	1.44	35,752.98
British American Tobacco	3,797.50	-2.50	-0.07	87,502.85
Barratt Developments	518.20	-38.20	-6.87	5,668.23
Berkeley Group Holdings (The)	4,156.50	-29.50	-0.70	5,607.75
British Land Co	692.00	-1.00	-0.14	6,850.51
BHP Billiton	1,705.00	-33.00	-1.90	36,952.81
Bunzl	2,634.00	364.00	16.04	7,542.21
BP	584.00	-2.30	-0.39	116,482.89
Burberry Group	1,930.00	-2.00	-0.10	8,064.43
BT Group	205.50	2.25	1.11	20,305.17
Coca-Cola HBC	2,602.00	18.00	0.70	9,470.27
Carnival	5,080.00	157.00	3.19	10,203.12
Centrica	145.90	1.25	0.86	8,071.24
Compass Group	1,578.00	-13.00	-0.82	24,910.35
Croda International	4,615.00	-30.00	-0.65	6,089.81
CRH	3,010.00	223.00	8.00	23,011.85
DCC	7,375.00	0.00	0.00	6,647.03
Diageo	2,709.00	10.00	0.37	66,702.63
Direct Line Insurance Group	375.90	4.10	1.10	5,153.50
Evrax	467.50	-34.70	-6.91	7,226.14
Experian	1,701.00	-118.50	-6.51	16,559.63
easyJet	1,740.00	-4.50	-0.26	6,957.10
Ferguson	5,738.00	-6.50	-0.11	13,979.59
Fresnillo	1,239.50	-35.00	-2.75	9,369.60
G4S	266.00	-1.50	-0.56	4,127.24
Glencore	379.50	-0.85	-0.22	57,388.83
GlaxoSmithKline	1,474.50	-13.70	-0.92	73,913.45
Hargreaves Lansdown	1,901.00	-49.00	-2.51	9,206.53
Halma	1,295.00	-15.00	-1.15	4,988.49
HSBC Holdings	723.50	-9.40	-1.28	146,552.82
International Consoltd Airs Grp	688.70	6.10	0.89	14,078.99
InterContinental Hotels Grp	3,943.00	-861.00	-17.92	9,112.12
3i Group	957.70	-31.30	-3.16	9,499.42
Imperial Brands	2,757.00	-15.00	-0.54	26,299.30
Informa	765.80	0.00	0.00	6,297.05
Intertek Group	5,142.00	0.00	0.00	8,237.51
ITV	173.65	4.05	2.39	6,817.03
Just Eat	820.00	-13.00	-1.56	5,610.27
Johnson Matthey	3,507.00	27.00	0.78	6,856.89
Kingfisher	299.90	6.00	2.04	6,324.27
Land Securities Group	955.00	-2.50	-0.26	7,067.60
Legal & General Group	281.00	-2.60	-0.92	16,869.42

COMPANY	PRICE(P)	CHANGE(P)	% CHG.	NET VOL
Lloyds Banking Group ORD	66.15	0.12	0.18	47,606.69
London Stock Exchange Grp	4,528.00	0.00	0.00	15,652.44
Micro Focus International	1,305.00	-58.00	-4.26	5,885.28
Mediclinic International	704.50	40.10	6.04	4,946.91
Marks & Spencer Group	290.00	-1.70	-0.58	4,830.42
Mondi	1,975.00	-101.00	-4.87	7,583.52
Melrose	218.45	-18.35	-7.75	10,986.18
Morrison (Wm) Supermarkets	235.50	-19.00	-7.47	5,998.05
National Grid	860.50	-21.60	-2.45	29,000.59
NMC Health	3,704.00	4.00	0.11	7,647.89
Next	5,784.00	16.00	0.28	8,196.18
Old Mutual Group	218.20	-27.80	-11.30	12,317.14
Paddy Power Betfair	7,612.50	-987.50	-11.48	7,115.08
Prudential	1,908.50	-25.50	-1.32	49,787.68
Persimmon	2,850.00	37.00	1.32	8,710.34
Pearson	882.50	-27.50	-3.02	7,189.96
Reckitt Benckiser Group	5,850.00	-100.00	-1.68	41,590.17
Royal Bank of Scotland Group	285.75	-4.35	-1.50	35,417.67
Royal Dutch Shell	2,687.50	-28.50	-1.05	125,501.81
RELX	1,477.50	-142.00	-8.77	16,775.48
Rio Tinto	4,332.00	-8.00	-0.18	58,004.57
Royal Mail	584.50	38.90	7.13	5,550.00
Rolls-Royce Group	856.50	-0.70	-0.08	15,615.29
Randgold Resources	5,803.00	-11.00	-0.19	5,461.98
RSA Insurance Group	659.00	-0.52	-0.08	6,747.88
Rentokil Initial	327.80	-0.05	-0.02	5,990.83
Sainsbury (J)	256.20	-49.30	-16.14	6,752.82
Schroders	3,575.50	133.50	3.88	7,795.51
Sage Group (The)	632.50	-37.90	-5.65	7,248.48
Segro	627.00	-16.60	-2.58	6,510.15
Shire	4,165.25	-33.75	-0.80	38,546.57
Smurfit Kappa Group	2,955.00	-13.00	-0.44	7,035.28
Sky	1,320.00	-35.00	-2.58	23,464.59
Standard Life Aberdeen	371.45	2.45	0.66	10,943.28
Smith (DS)	544.80	-9.80	-1.77	5,838.95
Smiths Group	1,556.00	-144.00	-8.47	6,686.31
Scottish Mortgage Invstmnt Trst	530.00	23.00	4.54	7,191.37
Smith & Nephew	1,370.00	47.50	3.59	11,620.84
SSE	1,400.00	-17.00	-1.20	14,308.80
Standard Chartered	750.00	-0.30	-0.04	24,944.85
St James's Place	1,217.25	12.75	1.06	6,317.78
Severn Trent	1,915.50	-113.50	-5.59	4,798.31
Tesco	241.75	-4.05	-1.65	24,223.99
TUI AG	1,689.50	-99.50	-5.56	10,593.52
Taylor Wimpey	204.00	0.50	0.25	6,628.36
Unilever	4,112.50	-25.50	-0.62	50,317.54
United Utilities Group	929.50	141.10	17.90	5,362.37
Vodafone Group	194.24	1.06	0.55	52,295.92
WPP Group	1,232.00	-93.00	-7.02	16,744.24
Whitbread	4,135.00	-24.00	-0.58	7,659.09

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DOW JONES

CLOSING PRICES MAY 21

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE%	CHANGE	VOLUME(M)
3M	198,960	-0.70%	-1,400	118,132,89
AMERICAN EXPRESS	100,990	-0.23%	-0,230	86,879,38
APPLE	186,310	-0.36%	-0,680	915,739,36
BOEING CO	351,230	+2.06%	7,090	204,662,15
CATERPILLAR	155,710	+1.31%	2,020	93,148,61
CHEVRON	127,86	-1.24%	-1,60	244,354,45
CISCO SYSTEMS	43,210	-0.58%	-0,250	208,164,91
COCA-COLA	42,18	-0.28%	-0,12	179,572,08
DOWDUPONT	67,57	-0.87%	-0,59	156,832,96
EXXON MOBIL	81,30	-0.71%	-0,58	344,401,26
GENERAL ELECTRIC	14,970	-0.40%	-0,060	130,236,64
GOLDMAN SACHS	237,00	-0.88%	-2,10	89,519,19
HOME DEPOT	187,420	+1.13%	2,090	216,007,62
IBM	144,08	-0.29%	-0,42	132,329,72
INTEL CORP	53,500	-2.39%	-1,310	249,691,32
J.P.MORGAN CHASE	111,130	-1.62%	-1,830	378,577,15
JOHNSON & JOHNSON	124,240	+0.31%	0,390	333,552,17
MC DONALD'S CORP	160,980	-0.20%	-0,330	126,444,97
MERCK AND CO. NEW	59,14	+0.12%	0,07	159,091,12
MICROSOFT	96,360	+0.19%	0,180	741,952,05
NIKE	71,32	+0.54%	0,38	91,520,19
PFIZER	35,640	-0.20%	-0,070	208,712,69
PROCTER AND GAMBLE	73,450	-0.69%	-0,510	184,760,20
TRAVELERS CIES	129,85	-0.67%	-0,87	35,115,05
UNITED TECHNOLOGIE	125,19	+0.47%	0,58	100,207,45
UNITEDHEALTH GROUP	244,64	+0.69%	1,68	235,171,33
VERIZON COMMS	47,74	-0.23%	-0,11	197,381,11
VISA	129,93	+0.00%	0,00	232,147,71
WAL-MART STORES	83,640	-1.01%	-0,850	246,812,44
WALT DISNEY CO	103,930	-0.39%	-0,410	154,992,07

M - MILLION DOLLARS

NASDAQ

CLOSING PRICES MAY 21

COMPANY	PRICE	CHANGE NET / %
Most Advanced		
Quotient Limited	\$ 6.05	1.36 ▲ 29.00%
Mannatech, Incorporated	\$ 19.50	3.60 ▲ 22.64%
Evolus, Inc.	\$ 15.38	2.44 ▲ 18.86%
T2 Biosystems, Inc.	\$ 8.20	1 ▲ 13.89%
Alpine Immune Sciences, Inc.	\$ 9.95	1.14 ▲ 12.94%
Westport Fuel Systems Inc	\$ 2.99	0.27 ▲ 9.93%
Tandem Diabetes Care, Inc.	\$ 12.83	1.14 ▲ 9.75%
TransGlobe Energy Corporation	\$ 2.23	0.19 ▲ 9.31%
LexinFintech Holdings Ltd.	\$ 18.23	1.54 ▲ 9.23%
GDS Holdings Limited	\$ 37.77	3 ▲ 8.63%
Calyxt, Inc.	\$ 16.50	1.28 ▲ 8.41%
Most Declined		
Opko Health, Inc.	\$ 3.99	0.89 ▼ 18.24%
Eiger BioPharmaceuticals, Inc.	\$ 13.90	2.90 ▼ 17.26%
Ultra Petroleum Corp.	\$ 2.125	0.275 ▼ 11.46%
Baidu, Inc.	\$ 253.01	26.67 ▼ 9.54%
GoPro, Inc.	\$ 5.42	0.57 ▼ 9.52%
Raven Industries, Inc.	\$ 38.15	4 ▼ 9.49%
SMART Global Holdings, Inc.	\$ 42.83	4.32 ▼ 9.16%
Ichor Holdings	\$ 24.32	2.25 ▼ 8.47%
DAVIDsTEA Inc.	\$ 3.30	0.30 ▼ 8.33%
Applied Materials, Inc.	\$ 49.51	4.45 ▼ 8.25%
Editas Medicine, Inc.	\$ 34.85	3.13 ▼ 8.24%

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PRICE MOVEMENT

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Multi Asset Conservative B EUR

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Multi Asset Balanced B EUR

Multi Asset Growth B GBP

Multi Asset Growth B EUR

DEALING PRICE

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PRICE MOVEMENT

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£1.0629

£0.0014

£1.3318

£0.0089

£1.2156

£0.0078

£1.5015

£0.0173

£1.3780

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Prices correct as at 16/05/2018

Price war sees bubble burst

WINE MAKERS STRIVE TO POP CORK ON CAVA SALES

PRODUCERS of cava, Spain's sparkling wine, are planning to boost its image to improve disappointing sales.

"The problem with cava is perception, not quality," says Josep Puig, CEO of Sumarroca winery in Catalunya, where 95 per cent of the country's fizz is made.

It comes after the UK sparkling wine market grew by 37 per cent between 2012 and 2016, but in the latter year it bought only two million cases of cava compared to seven million of Italian rival prosecco.

And a survey of Brits revealed that 64 per cent chose Champagne, 22 per cent prosecco and only 14 per cent cava when it came to quality.

Winemakers believe that the tendency for large cava houses to sell their product cheap is the issue, and some have now broken away, calling their drink 'classic penedes.'

Josep Maria Albet i Noya is among them and stopped producing cava four years ago, when he says you could pick up a bottle in the su-



BARGAIN BUBBLY: Producers believe cava has been sold too cheap.

permarket for less than €1.

"Cava's image doesn't allow us to earn any money. It's OK for the big producers but it's impossible for the smaller wineries to compete at such low prices," he told the BBC.

"You can't earn anything with that, when your margins are so

small you have to squeeze everybody. Your product will reflect this in low quality - I don't think that's the way forward," he added.

In April six other producers formed a second splinter group and are calling their sparkling wine cospinnat.

Albert Puig is a cava expert from the wine-producing Penedes region near Barcelona, and he said: "If you do good things you can have the high price - but if you compete on quantity then you're lost."

Pere Bonet from Freixenet, the biggest cava house, agreed as he added: "For the brands, the low cost is dead... our objective now is to have a better image."

To do so, the company has introduced a new premium category called cava de paraje calificado, for which strict guidelines include the use of vines at least 10 years old from a specific vineyard, at least three years of ageing and restrictions on grape yields.

But Josep Puig thinks marketing is the key.

"If you promote something you'll find young people start thinking cava is something strange and they'll go for prosecco instead," he concluded.

"You need a unique selling proposition; and you need money to have a unique selling proposition."

TV bosses face likely legal rap amid ad claims

A SPANISH government watchdog is probing the country's two biggest television networks.

The Comision Nacional de los Mercados y la Competencia (CNMC), an agency investigating unfair business practices, has revealed it has launched an enquiry into alleged anti-competitive advertising deals signed by Mediaset and Atresmedia.

Media and advertising agencies claim they were forced to invest in the pair's less popular products in order to advertise on their mainstream channels which include Telecinco, Antena 3 and La Sexta.

But such quotas and joint commercialisation of advertising packages are illegal since they restrict free competition, according to reports.

The two companies control around 83 per cent of the television advertising market in Spain, according to the latest CNMC figures.



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Ramadan and Labour Live

LEAPY LEE SAYS IT

OTHERS THINK IT



TEN years ago, your average Brit in the street wouldn't have had a clue as to the meaning or origins of Ramadan.

This year you would have to be a recluse in a moon cave to miss out on what is actually the most important Muslim celebration of the year. In fact, it now comes in as the UK's third biggest religious event after Christmas and Easter.

Apparently some four million Muslims will be fasting this month, and consequently the news has been carried on just about every media outlet you care to mention.

There has been a positive deluge of programmes on TV, explaining the custom and how it affects its followers. Programmes have shown special diets. Times to eat and sleep, and even a series of exercises designed to help the followers get through, what can obviously be an extremely taxing period.

I did slightly twitch at one exchange however when the interviewee suggested it would be thoughtful if non-Muslims could try and avoid eating openly in front of anyone close by who



'LABOUR LIVE': Jeremy Corbyn at last year's Glastonbury Festival.

was obviously Muslim! Well I'm afraid I draw the line there. The idea of hiding yer actual ice creams or fish and chips, because you may 'offend' someone who is fasting, is just a step too far. Sorry about that. I actually spent eight years in a Muslim country, and consequently saw the festival completely close up as it were.

I do remember one fellow Brit walking through

a supermarket in the day during Ramadan, scoffing bananas and telling me he couldn't care less because he wasn't actually a Muslim himself. I did feel this somewhat disrespectful, as we were guests in their country, but frankly being asked to refrain from eating openly in my own country because it may offend someone, is, in my opinion, a total liberty and is the sort of inflammatory re-

mark that does nothing to improve understanding and acceptance of other people's beliefs whatsoever.

Incidentally, I do remember, during my experience of those far off Saudi days, the whole month being great fun for those of the privileged elite (which meant most of them) who would simply party it up all night and sleep all day. Nice work if you can get it!

Despite being on sale for two months, I see the 'Labour Live' leftie Glastonbury Festival has only sold 1,800 tickets out of 20,000 available.

Labour is set to lose 600,000 sterling. Ah well that's what you get when arrogant politicians seek to become self-appointed gurus endeavouring to ensnare the young, who, it appears, are not quite so gullible as they previously thought.

I also see that Corbyn announced he would not have time to watch the Royal betrothal because he was attending a 'state of the economy' conference organised by Labour on the day of the wedding.

Well I wasn't too interested either, but a 'state of the economy' conference? When practically the whole country was celebrating and enjoying themselves? Come on. Does anyone really want this miserable party of gloomy incompetents leading us into their idea of any future whatsoever? No thanks.

Keep the Faith,

leapylee2002@gmail.com

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

Advertising Feature

Neater Heater want 'squirrels' as customers

RICHARD and Tony from Neater Heater are urging all readers to start preparing for next winter now. "We really want people to imitate squirrels," said Tony "as we know, all the other woodland creatures just laze about in the summer, relaxing.

"So when the winter comes they have to furiously compete with each other for the scraps left over or hide away and hibernate, waiting for next summer. But not the squirrels!

Squirrels plan for the winter by hoarding nuts, berries and seeds in the summer, so when winter comes they are well prepared for it, and are able to enjoy themselves on those nice bright winter days when the sun does come out. They are obviously the wisest creatures in the wood. And that is what we want our customers to be."

"What Tony is trying to say," interjected Richard, "is that when winter finally arrives in Spain, northern Europe has been cold for months. This means that chilly Czechs, frozen Fins and shivering Swedes have been stripping the shelves for months.

"Every year we have panicking customers calling us in December, desperate to have heaters supplied and fitted by



Christmas.

"Frequently these customers have to compromise on their choice, or be put at the back of a long queue. Every year we

think to ourselves - 'It's a shame you didn't order them in the summer when we had loads of them in stock and, equally as important, the time to process the orders'."

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TECH FOR THE TIMID



Smart for a phone

Terence Kennedy argues for a cell-by date for seniors

THESE days the only reason some of us still have a landline phone is so we can find our mobiles by calling them.

Remember when the phone was a black bakelite lump with a frayed cable, squatting solidly atop a pile of well-thumbed directories on its own sacred telephone table?

The subsequent march of the mobile has been unprecedented in human history: from the first portable call back in the mists of history (1973), to the first true smartphone just 17 years ago, to nearly five billion mobiles today and rising. Now just about everyone has a smartphone. Except my gran.

Why would she possibly need one? That's exactly what she said when we gave her a gran-proof Nokia 110 for Christmas. She was expecting bath products.

Given that she's never understood why new-fangled cash-dispensing contraptions won't give her exactly the amount she wants (precisely 28 euros and 50

cents last time she tried and failed), persuading her that a smartphone could enrich her life is about as hopeful as convincing her that the royals are alien lizards or Charles put out a hit on Diana.

If this rings (or buzzes) true in your own family, there are in fact a few of what marketers like to call USPs - unique selling points - you might use to drag any ageing techno-luddite into this brave new world.

Always having a camera in your pocket, for one. Indispensable for snapping those precious pix of the grand-sprog's first steps, second steps, third steps and on in-

to an infinity of hell for anyone forced to view them.

Not having to stay at home specifically to catch The Archers when the latest episode is always on tap as a podcast in your pocket or handbag. Not having to get lost downtown (or four doors down...) thanks to Google Maps (assuming you've got your glasses).

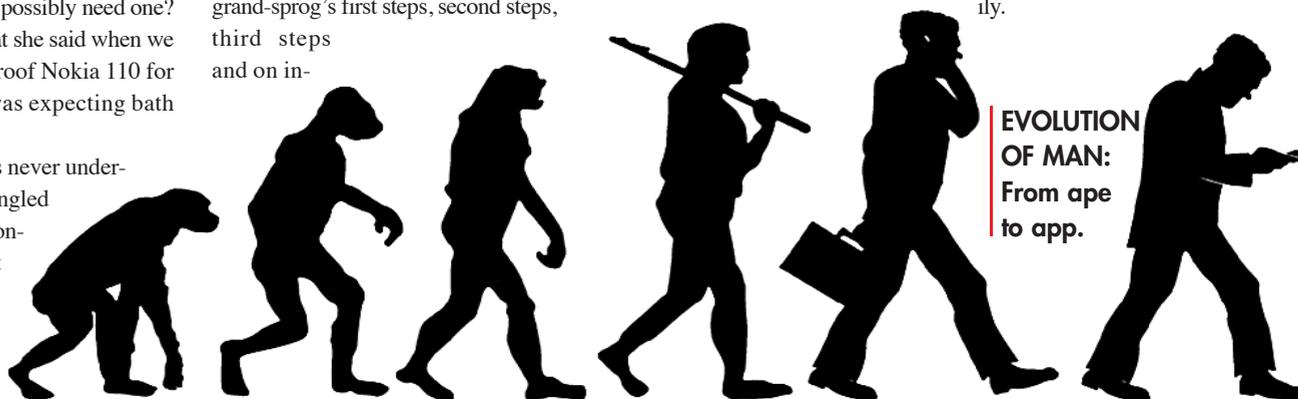
There's Facebook for family news - what we used to call 'Hatched, Matched and Dispatched' in the newspaper business.

Voice dialling and text readers are

two more innovations invaluable to less dexterous users.

And the games, all those games with no need to colonise the entire dining-room table for a 5,000-piece jigsaw of Harry and Meghan. From Candy Crush to Angry Birds, it's now the so-called 'silver surfers' becoming so happily addicted to online games on computers and phones.

Then here's the clincher for all of us nearing our best-by dates: the instant ability to look up today's latest ailment. AND the ability to email or text it for the full enjoyment of all the family.



Senior cell-ulitis

THE world's smallest cell-phone is barely bigger than a matchbox. It's exactly what most older folks don't need.

Search 'cellphones for seniors' and you'll be inundated with large, chunky mobiles, usually sporting big keyboards and uncluttered screens.

But smartphones at their simplest make even those concessions unnecessary. Almost all let you pump up the on-screen text size, in much the same way as e-readers have become an absolute boon for those with less-than-perfect peepers.

If on-screen keypads are still too fiddly, a couple of euros buys a stylus to tap any touchscreen.

And of course there are those indispensable and unlimited alarms, just the thing to remind us to take our next tranche of tablets. But was it the green or the blue ones?



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Nick Horne *The Rich Pick*

Freelance correspondent, London, England



The most serene island in Europe

EMERGING like a dream from the mist the ancient Republic of Venice was known as La Serenissima (the most serene).

A city some thought to float on mist and water is an archipelago of islands set in a lagoon close by the Adriatic Sea on the Italian coast. Today, one island is entirely given over to relaxation and luxury.

The Isola San Clemente, a private island in the heart of the Venetian lagoon is the home of the San Clemente Palace Kempinski, a luxurious Venetian retreat just 10 minutes aboard the Palace Hotel's swift water taxi to the iconic Piazza San Marco, the Doge's Palace, Venice's cathedral and the Grand Canal. This many-starred luxury resort is the perfect hideaway to relax and pamper yourself and your companion.

Set among gorgeous parks and gardens, an oasis of peace and tranquillity; for several centuries the home of a secluded monastery, the island is now the setting of the San Clemente Palace, a hotel with just 190 select rooms and romantic suites.

Generous public spaces, a mix of traditional elegance and modern conveniences conspire to encourage guests to kick back in the embrace of their private refuge. The Palace is created by an assemblage of buildings, some dating back to the Middle

**ROOM WITH A VIEW:** The Al Bacaro Garden Bar.

Ages, all carefully maintained and set in the long-established beauty of the island's park as a backdrop, this resort offers endless opportunities to relax.

Of course there is a pool to swim in and laze beside, even a three-hole golf course so you could practise your putts and swing.

Though naturally the spa is part of the scenery too aptly named the Merchant of

Venice, incorporating an even more secluded private suite for a totally discreet pamper within the more than 380sqm spa. Make your selection from a full menu of hyper-luxury experiences that are crowned by the Gold Mask treatment, a 24-carat gilded facial massage.

Three restaurants - including the signature Acquerello whose terrace overlooks Venice's skyline and lagoon - offer Venet-

ian and international cuisine with superlative service. Discover breakfast within the Insieme Restaurant, with walls decorated with tapestries and in summer take your breakfast in a 15th century monastic courtyard.

Arrive at Marco Polo airport and skim across the lagoon by fast water taxi to the San Clemente Palace as a newly-wed or in your comfortable middle years and find serenity.

**PURE LUXURY:** The San Clemente Palace Kempinski.**SWIFT:** Water taxi to the palace.

A British wedding, an affair and a Handmaid's Tale

**TV COUCH CRITIC**

by Adam Whalley-Lewis

I PROMISE not to dwell on the numbers, but it seems a lot of us tuned in to watch the BBC and ITV coverage of the *Royal Wedding* last week.

I was in a take it or leave it place right up until Harry and William arrived at the Chapel, but once they did, those flags from last week came out and we raised a glass or two watching the sunshine in Windsor.

I really don't understand the swipes about the dress not fitting properly or Fergie arriving with only one glove. I do understand two people in love and thought it was lovely. Just a final wedding thought, the gift bags given to people invited to be in the castle grounds selling for £20K at an online auction, really...

The second offering of *The Handmaid's Tale* started on Channel 4 on Sunday and it wasn't an easy watch. Series one was framed around the



Photo credit The Royal Family/Twitter/Channel 4

THE ROYAL WEDDING: 'They had me at the uniforms.'

novel of the same name by Margaret Atwood. The story is set in a future society where women are forced to have children for a ruling class who are anything but Christian, despite what they might profess.

Elizabeth Moss is back playing the lead amongst a cast of stellar performers for season two. The first episode showed us more of how we arrived at the present, with a series of flashbacks which are adding even more depth to the storyline, even if some of the lines

are uncomfortable to hear. Ann Dowd returns as Aunt Lydia and if the opener this time around is anything to go by, will give Elizabeth a run for her money in the acting stakes.

Praise hasn't been universal and if you haven't seen season one, you might want to find it on catch up before you delve in, but as dark as it is, I will be watching this time around just as intently as I did for season one.

If you did see the first episode last week, could you help me with a cou-

ple of (literally) burning questions - firstly, when Offred burned her clothes and her hair in that disused factory, just how long did they keep burning? It seemed an age, and second, did you realise Joseph Fiennes plays Commander Waterford? I missed that one, too focused on the burning red dress.

A very *English Scandal* started a three part run on BBC1, Sunday and charts the rise and fall of Jeremy Thorpe in the 60's and 70's. Hugh Grant plays Jeremy and Ben Whishaw is

**NOT AN EASY WATCH:** Elisabeth Moss (right) as Offred in *The Handmaid's Tale*.

Norman Scott. We probably all know the story and how it pans out, but Hugh Grant's acting is the stuff of BAFTAs and Ben should be on the awards radar too. Amongst the serious story line there is some humour, delivered expertly. You can catch the first episode on BBC iPlayer now.

Looking ahead, BBC2 has extensive cover of the *Chelsea Flower Show* this week; for an easy to watch movie, *Identity Thief* is the Saturday night Film on Channel 4 and Bradley Walsh shows us some backstage secrets from *The London Palladium* this weekend (Sunday evening, ITV).

Happy viewing!



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Politicians in the dock!

Scandal!

From faking qualifications to taking backhanders, Spain's government officials have been caught up in countless political scandals in recent years. David Noon takes a look at the dishonourable deeds of the past and present that have caught politicians in their tracks

THE brown envelope is as synonymous with Spanish politicians as the beach is to the Costa del Sol.

Be it for housing projects, policy proposals or tax dodging purposes, Spain's government (local and national) just can't seem to keep itself out of trouble.

The latest scandal to rear its ugly head has seen Madrid regional premier Cristina Cifuentes dragged through the mud for faking qualifications.

Cifuentes - alongside congressman and deputy secretary of communication for the PP Pablo Casado - were disgraced after national newspaper *El Diario* revealed that the pair had obtained faked Masters degrees in order to progress their political careers.

The fall from grace for Cifuentes could not have been more dramatic.

A thriving politician within the PP party, Cifuentes' 30-year political career had seen her tipped as the favourite to succeed Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy when he decides to step away from the hot seat.

In the space of three decades, Cifuentes rose through the ranks from regional deputy, to government delegate, to premier of Madrid.

Now, however, Cifuentes' career will be remembered as nothing more than a scandal, and a disgrace, after she fraudulently obtained a master's degree from Madrid's King Juan Carlos University in 2012.

Clinging on to her position for weeks following the *El Diario* article, Cifuentes refused to budge and was left defiantly - and undignifiedly - spitting in the face of what appeared to be defeat when many were calling for her head.

Unwilling to accept she'd been caught out - like so many politicians before her - Cifuentes held onto her political seat for as long as she possibly could.

However, an old video leaked to *OK Diario* (heavily linked with the PP), proved to be the final straw.

In the video, dating back to 2011, Cifuentes was seen shoplifting from

her local supermarket, and that proved enough for the Madrilenos to finally admit defeat.

Pocketing a jar of face cream from her local Eroski, the only thing left on Cifuentes mug at the end of this saga: egg.

But the actions of Cifuentes are not the only cause for concern.

As the saying goes 'the fish rots

from the head' and Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's silence throughout the whole scandal speaks volumes for itself.

Of course, the PP leader has faced - and continues to face - his fair share of political scandal. It remains to be seen how the country's leader will emerge from the ongoing Gurtel

proceedings (see rap sheet), but his name has been sullied more than once during criminal investigations into the underhand dealings of the ruling party.

Yet while Rajoy remained tight-lipped over Cifuentes' actions his peers did not. The parade of support and acclaim from PP senior officials for Cifuentes at the party's recent convention in Sevilla - just hours before her resignation - demonstrates a new low for the country's ruling elite.

Likewise, the complicity of university professors to falsify the documents then openly lie to defend Cifuentes demonstrates that the stain of corruption runs throughout Spanish institutions - even those which are supposed to hold the government to account.

And finally, the way in which Cifuentes was disposed of wrecks of underhand tactics.

Conveniently dredging up and leaking an incriminating video from 2011, implies that Spain's political parties are sitting on all kinds of dirt, waiting to air it as a political missile when it suits their agenda to do so.

Madrid's branch of the PP is now perhaps only rivalled by its colleagues in Valencia as the most rotten and corrupt in the country.

For while Valencia continues to be hit by the kickbacks-for-contracts Gurtel case, this is just the latest scandal to be laid

THE list of political scandals currently making their way through the legal system is as long as it is worrying.

Here are just some of the most compelling cases currently ongoing:

ERE

The ERE investigation has put the PSOE Junta de Andalucía under the microscope. Accused of corrupt practices and embezzlement of funds between 2001 and 2010, the accused include former Junta presidents Manuel Chaves and Jose Antonio Grinan. As many as 20 former officials including six ex-ministers are caught up in the scandal that is currently making its way through the court system.

Brugal

Some 12 years after the Brugal investigation got underway and its main defendants are finally in the dock. Deliberations started in February into alleged bribes to public officials worth millions of euros over waste contracts in Orihuela, Alicante.

Millionaire businessman Angel Fenoll is facing 37 years in prison for his role in the scandal, while former PP mayors Jose Manuel Medina and Monica Lorente are staring at 12 years jail terms if found guilty.

Gurtel

The Gurtel case has the potential to bring the PP toppling down from the top. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has already appeared as a witness in the kickbacks-for-contracts case, and in doing so he became the first sitting PM to appear in Spanish court.

Rap sheet

Centred around businessman Francisco Correa, the Gurtel case looks at alleged bribes worth € 350 million to party officials between 1999 and 2006 in exchange for public contracts. In total 37 politicians and business people face prosecution with everyone pointing the finger at someone else in a bid to drag the whole system down with them.

Cursach

One of Spain's most high-profile scandals, the Cursach case saw Mallorca's nightclub owner Bartolome 'Tolo' Cursach sentenced to 33 years for 16 charges relating to bribing, threatening and coercing public officials. However, Tolo's sentencing is far from the end of this saga with a number of public officials allegedly paid off to turn a blind eye to dubious goings-on at a number of his 30 nightclubs, including alleged illegal prostitution. A number of the public officials themselves were paid off in the form of free attendance to illegal sex parties at the nightclubs making the Cursach case one of Spain's seediest scandals.



BELT TIGHTENING: Correa is at the heart of the Gurtel case.



ERE.

BRUGAL.

GURTEL.

CURSACH.



HANDS UP: Cifuentes' past catches up with her.



KING OF THIEVES: Juan Carlos was slammed for hunting trip.

A right, royal, ruckus

WHILE Spain's politicians are held to account for their bent practices, the country's monarchy hasn't been behaving much better.

In a case that was anything but regal, Princess Cristina found herself in the dock on charges of tax evasion, fraud and bribery.

The King's sister was acquitted and spared an eight-year jail term, however her husband Inaki Urdangarin was given a six-year sentence for his role in the infamous Noos scandal.

The first royal to face prosecution since the monarchy was reinstated in 1975, Cristina was forced to pay €265,000 in 'civic responsibilities' for benefiting from the crimes of her husband and his associates.

The royal couple were among 18 defendants tried on a whopping 89 charges ranging from money laundering to trafficking of influences.

Former Olympic handball star Urdangarin was in fact found guilty of using his position within the royal echelons to win inflated contracts to host sporting events before siphoning off the proceeds to fund a lavish lifestyle.

In total Urdangarin and his former business partner in

crime Diego Torres were found guilty of embezzling a cool €6 million in public money.

And while Cristina was acquitted her reputation has been knocked from pillar to post. During the trial itself she responded 'I don't know' 188 times and added 'I don't remember' a further 55 times (make what you will of that).

The royal family itself was rocked during the course of the six-year investigation. The royal cause was done no favours when King Juan Carlos came up against a public backlash for partaking in an expensive hunting trip to Botswana in the middle of Spain's financial crisis.

Juan Carlos paid the price and abdicated the throne and despite being found innocent in court, Cristina has too faced the consequences of her misjudgement.

Absent during King Felipe's ascension to the throne, Cristina has subsequently been stripped off her royal duties as the new King attempts to repair the damage caused by his father and sister.

If this were Denmark, we would say there was something very rotten indeed.

The denials and attempts to hide the mess under the carpet is in keeping with a political landscape that cheats and then buries its head in the sand when it is caught out.

The institutional acceptance and support for this form of political behaviour adds a whole new level of corruption that must be stamped out.

Cifuentes' demise comes at a crucial time for the PP which is emblazoned in political scandal from top to bottom and risks losing its 23-year grip on the country when the regional elections get underway next year.

Change must come from the top and if this latest scandal is not enough to change the minds and actions of Spain's politicians then little will.

Yet with each new scandal, the loss of respect for the country's policymakers will one day be too much to ignore.

at the door of Madrid's local government branch.

The most notable case of political wrongdoing in Madrid's PP branch is the Púnica case - a bid-rigging scheme that involved at least €250 million in public contracts.

That scandal led to the imprisonment of Madrid's regional premier Ignacio González and the former PP secretary general Francisco Granados.

The disgracing of Cifuentes is unfortunate but not unsurprising.



ROTTING FROM THE HEAD?: Rajoy's PP party is embroiled in scandal at all levels.

Corruption charter

SPAIN claimed the 41st position on the latest instalment of the Corruption Perception Index (CPI).

The recognised authority on global corruption, the CPI total Spain's corruption cost to the public coffers at €203 billion.

With a score of 58 (0 being highly corruptible and 100 being squeaky clean), Spain's is tied with Brunei and Costa Rica when it comes to corruption levels.

It is in fact the worst-ever outcome for Spain who has fallen from being the 20th

most corrupt-free national to the 41st in the space of two decades.

Denmark and New Zealand both scored 90 to top the list, followed closely by Finland and Sweden, which scored 89 and 88 respectively.

At the other end of the scale Somalia claimed the unwanted title of the world's most corrupt nation for the 10th year in a row, with a score of just 10.

Meanwhile, the UK came in as the eighth least corrupt country in the world.

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THURSDAY	BBC one	BBC TWO	itv	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	sky sports main event						
24 MAY	5:30pm	Hardball	6:15pm	Antiques Road Trip	6:00pm	The Chase	6:30pm	Buy it Now	7:00pm	Home and Away	9:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
	6:15pm	Pointless	7:00pm	Eggheads	7:00pm	ITV News London	7:00pm	The Simpsons	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	10:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	7:30pm	Great British Railway Journeys	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	8:00pm	Cricket on 5: England v Pakistan	11:00am	Cricket
	7:30pm	BBC London News	8:00pm	Back to the Land with Kate Humble	8:00pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	8:00pm	Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords	8:30pm	Cricket
	8:00pm	The One Show	9:00pm	Rhs Chelsea Flower Show 2018	8:30pm	Tonight	8:55pm	The Political Slot	9:00pm	The Trouble with M&S	11:30pm	Live Super League
	8:30pm	EastEnders	10:00pm	Million Pound Menu	9:00pm	Emmerdale	9:00pm	Kirstie and Phil's Love it or List it	10:00pm	Murdered by My Daughter	1:00am	European tour Highlights
	9:00pm	Britain's Best Home Cook	11:00pm	The League of Gentlemen	9:30pm	Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs	9:30pm	Humans	11:00pm	Murdering the Mother-in-Law	2:00am	Sky Sports News
	10:00pm	Ambulance			10:00pm	A&E Live	10:00pm	First Dates			3:00am	Sky Sports News
	11:00pm	BBC News at Ten			11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	11:00pm	Mo Salah: A Football Fairy Tale	12:05am			
	11:30pm	BBC London News						Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	1:05am			
11:45pm	Question Time											
FRIDAY 25 MAY	5:30pm	Hardball	7:30pm	Great British Railway Journeys	5:00pm	Tipping Point	4:00pm	A Place in the Sun	6:00pm	5 News at 5	9:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
	6:15pm	Pointless	8:00pm	Wild Escapes	6:00pm	The Chase	5:00pm	The £100k Drop	6:30pm	Neighbours	9:30am	Cricket
	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	8:30pm	Extreme Wales with Richard Parks	7:00pm	ITV News London	7:00pm	Four in a Bed	7:00pm	Home and Away	11:30am	Rugby Union
	7:30pm	BBC London News	9:00pm	RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2018	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	7:30pm	Buy it Now	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	8:00pm	Cricket
	8:00pm	The One Show	10:00pm	The Bridge	8:00pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	The Simpsons	8:00pm	Cricket on 5: England v Pakistan	8:30pm	Live Super League
	8:30pm	RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2018	11:00pm	Frankie Boyle's New World Order	8:30pm	Coronation Street	8:30pm	Hollyoaks	9:00pm	Kilimanjaro: Wonder of the World	1:00am	European tour Highlights
	9:00pm	EastEnders	11:30pm	Newsnight	9:00pm	Countrywise	9:00pm	Channel 4 News	10:00pm	The Cliff Richard Story	2:00am	Sky Sports News
	9:30pm	The Button			9:30pm	Coronation Street	9:30pm	Unreported World	11:30pm	An Audience with Cliff Richard	3:00am	Sky Sports News
	10:00pm	Have I Got News for You			10:00pm	Lethal Weapon	10:00pm	How to Get Fit Fast				
					11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	11:00pm	Natural World				
							Friday Night Dinner					
SATURDAY 26 MAY	6:05pm	Ready or Not	7:00pm	Golf	7:00pm	ITV Evening News	1:55pm	Formula 1	6:05pm	5 News	11:15am	Cricket
	6:35pm	BBC News	7:45pm	RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2018	7:15pm	Regional News and Weather	4:45pm	Car S.O.S	6:10pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	2:00pm	Live Monaco F1 GP: Quali Pre-Show
	6:45pm	Regional News	8:45pm	Emeli Sande and Clean Bandit at the Biggest Weekend	7:30pm	Ninja Warrior UK	5:45pm	A Place in the Sun	7:05pm	Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!	2:55pm	Live Monaco F1 GP: Qualifying
	6:50pm	Weather	10:00pm	Sam Smith at the Biggest Weekend	8:30pm	Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule	6:30pm	The Secret Life of the Zoo	8:00pm	Cricket on 5	4:45pm	The F1 Show
	6:55pm	Pointless	11:00pm	Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds at the Biggest Weekend	9:00pm	Britain's Got Talent	7:30pm	Channel 4 News	8:55pm	What Happened Next	5:05pm	To be Announced
	7:45pm	Ed Sheeran at the Biggest Weekend			10:15pm	The Keith and Paddy Picture Show	8:00pm	Grand Designs	10:15pm	Queen Victoria and Her Tragic Family	8:30pm	Live Pro 14: Final
	8:45pm	Who Dares Wins			10:45pm	The Keith and Paddy Picture Show	9:00pm	The Queen's Lost Cousin	11:15pm	Elizabeth I	9:30pm	Live PGA Tour Golf European tour Highlights
	9:25pm	Casualty					10:00pm	Identity Thief			12:00am	
	10:15pm	All Round to Mrs Brown's					12:15am	Bad Neighbours				
	11:15pm	BBC News										
SUNDAY 27 MAY	5:10pm	Points of View	3:00pm	The Sinking of the Laconia	6:00pm	The Chase: Celebrity Special	2:45pm	Formula 1	12:50pm	Police Interceptors	11:00am	Cricket
	5:25pm	Songs of Praise	4:30pm	Biggest Weekend Live	7:00pm	Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule	5:30pm	Grand Designs	1:50pm	Five Children and It	3:05pm	Live Monaco F1 Grand Prix
	6:05pm	The Coronation	7:00pm	Million Pound Menu	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	6:30pm	Channel 4 News	3:35pm	The Parent Trap	5:30pm	Live European Tour Golf Final Rnd
	7:05pm	BBC News	8:00pm	Steve Backshall v the Monster Mountain	7:45pm	Regional News and Weather	7:30pm	Escape to the Chateau	5:25pm	5 News	7:00pm	Indian Premier League Final
	7:20pm	Regional News	10:00pm	Florence + the Machine at the Biggest Weekend	8:00pm	Little Big Shots	8:00pm	Bake Off: The Professionals	7:55pm	Cricket on 5	9:00pm	Info not available
	7:25pm	Weather	11:00pm	Liam Gallagher at the Biggest Weekend	9:00pm	Info not available	9:00pm	The Handmaid's Tale	9:00pm	Agatha Christie's Crooked House	10:00pm	Live PGA Tour Golf European Tour Highlights
	7:30pm	Countryfile Royal Special			11:00pm	ITV News	10:00pm	The Hunger Games: Catching Fire	11:05pm	Top of the Box 1989	12:00am	
	8:30pm	Taylor Swift and Paloma Faith at the Biggest Weekend			11:20pm	Peston on Sunday	11:10pm	The Family	12:50am	The 80s: The Best of Bad TV	1:00am	Sky Sports News
	10:00pm	A Very English Scandal					1:55am					
	11:00pm	BBC News										
MONDAY 28 MAY	6:15pm	Pointless	5:30pm	Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	7:30pm	ITV News London	7:00pm	The Simpsons	6:00pm	Home and Away	10:00am	Cricket
	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	6:15pm	Antiques Road Trip	7:45pm	ITV Evening News	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	6:30pm	Neighbours	11:00am	Cricket
	7:15pm	BBC London News	7:00pm	Richard Osman's House of Games	8:00pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	7:00pm	Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights	11:30am	Cricket
	7:30pm	The One Show	7:30pm	Curious Creatures	8:30pm	Britain's Got Talent Live Show	8:30pm	Travel Man	8:00pm	Cricket on 5: England v Pakistan	3:30pm	Info not available
	8:00pm	RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2018	8:00pm	Eric and Ernie's Home Movies	10:00pm	Coronation Street	9:00pm	Jamie's Quick and Easy Food	8:00pm	Police Interceptors	6:30pm	Info not available
	9:00pm	EastEnders	9:00pm	Springwatch	10:30pm	Britain's Got Talent Results	9:30pm	Tricks of the Restaurant Trade	9:00pm	Paddington Station: Windsor Wedding Special	7:30pm	Live Netball Superleague
	9:30pm	Antiques Roadshow	10:30pm	King Lear	11:00pm	ITV News	10:00pm	24 Hours in Police Custody	10:00pm	Most Shocking Talent Show Moments	9:45pm	My Icon
	10:30pm	Peter Kay's Car Share	12:25am	Brideshead Revisited	11:20pm	Rush Hour	10:00pm	Gogglebox	11:00pm		10:00pm	Sky Sports Tonight
	11:30pm	BBC News at Ten			1:05am	Jackpot247	11:00pm				11:00pm	Sky Sports News at Ten
											12:00am	Sky Sports News
TUESDAY 29 MAY	4:00pm	Flog It!	6:15pm	Antiques Road Trip	3:00pm	Judge Rinder	4:00pm	A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun	6:00pm	5 News at 5	10:00am	Good Morning Sports Fans
	4:45pm	Garden Rescue	7:00pm	Richard Osman's House of Games	4:00pm	Dickinson's Real Deal	5:00pm	The £100k Drop	6:30pm	Neighbours	11:00am	Premier League Daily
	5:30pm	Hardball	7:30pm	Curious Creatures	5:00pm	Tipping Point	6:00pm	Come Dine with Me	7:00pm	Home and Away	12:00pm	Sky Sports Daily
	6:15pm	Pointless	8:00pm	Mexico: Earth's Festival of Life	6:00pm	The Chase	7:00pm	The Simpsons	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	1:00pm	Sky Sports News
	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	9:00pm	Springwatch	7:00pm	ITV News London	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	8:00pm	Britain by Bike with Larry and George Lamb	2:00pm	Sky Sports News
	7:30pm	BBC London News	10:00pm	Grammar Schools	8:00pm	ITV Evening News	7:30pm	Channel 4 News	9:00pm	The Yorkshire Vet	3:00pm	Live RL One Day Cup
	8:00pm	The One Show	11:00pm	Later Live... with Jools Holland	8:30pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	Food Unwrapped	10:00pm	All New Traffic Cops: Drug Bust Special	11:00pm	Sky Sports News at Ten
	8:30pm	EastEnders			10:00pm	Britain's Got Talent Live Show	9:00pm	The Battle for Britain's Heroes	11:00pm	Most Shocking Moments in Sport	12:00am	Sky Sports News
	9:00pm	Holby City			10:30pm	Britain's Got Talent Results	12:00am				2:00am	Live WWE Late Night
	10:00pm	The Split										
11:00pm	BBC News at Ten											
WEDNESDAY 30 MAY	4:45pm	Garden Rescue	5:30pm	Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is	5:00pm	Tipping Point	5:00pm	The £100k Drop	3:15pm	Celebrity Five Go Barging	11:15am	To be Announced
	5:30pm	Hardball	6:15pm	Antiques Road Trip	6:00pm	The Chase	6:00pm	Come Dine with Me	4:15pm	My Husband is Missing	11:30am	Premier League Daily
	6:15pm	Pointless	7:00pm	Richard Osman's House of Games	7:00pm	ITV News London	7:00pm	The Simpsons	6:00pm	5 News at 5	12:00pm	Sky Sports Daily
	7:00pm	BBC News at Six	7:30pm	Curious Creatures	7:30pm	ITV Evening News	7:30pm	Hollyoaks	6:30pm	Neighbours	1:00pm	Sky Sports News
	7:30pm	BBC London News	8:00pm	Mexico: Earth's Festival of Life	8:00pm	Emmerdale	8:00pm	Channel 4 News	7:00pm	Home and Away	2:00pm	Sky Sports News
	8:00pm	The One Show	9:00pm	Springwatch	8:30pm	Britain's Got Talent Live Show	9:00pm	The Secret Life of the Zoo	7:30pm	5 News Tonight	3:00pm	Live RL One Day Cup
	8:30pm	Panorama	10:00pm	Love in the Countryside	10:00pm	Coronation Street	10:00pm	24 Hours in A and E	8:00pm	Police Interceptors	3:00pm	Live RL One Day Cup
	9:00pm	The Big Crash Diet Experiment	10:00pm	Detectorists	10:30pm	Britain's Got Talent Results	11:00pm	Carry on Brussels	9:00pm	GPs: Behind Closed Doors	11:00pm	Sky Sports News at Ten
	10:00pm	The Doctor Who Gave Up Drugs			11:00pm	ITV News at Ten and Weather	11:00pm	Gogglebox	10:00pm	Pompeii's Final Hours: New Evidence	12:00am	Sky Sports News
	11:00pm	BBC News at Ten						Friday Night Dinner	11:00pm	Inglorious Basterds	1:00am	Sky Sports News

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We are back from A Place in the Sun Live - Olympia London 2018 Thank you to all the staff and support at the show. It was excellent and a fantastic turnout.

Friday 2,001
Saturday 3,600
Sunday 2,900
Total - 8,500 people

We have booked a lot of appointments and lots of lovely people are coming to visit the area for their first time. What we have learnt is the average coastal apartment budget is 150,000 GBP, Townhouse 200,000 GBP and Villa 400,000 GBP, there is a large demand for Inland Villas around Arboleas for 185,000 GBP. If you are considering selling, please contact VIP Almeria.

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Mixed reviews for TripAdvisor's coverage of Britain's top spots

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



THERE'S just no pleasing some people. The UK's got World Heritage Sites, a vibrant and cultured capital city and great landscapes. But not all visitors are impressed. As some recent less-than-glowing TripAdvisor reviews reveal.

Take Stonehenge for instance. An acknowledged wonder of the ancient world and Unesco heritage site? Not so for one reviewer: 'Just a bunch of rocks.' For another: 'The definition of a tourist trap. Miles and miles of travelling to arrive at a park where you are given an audio guide to some really uninteresting rocks.'

Surely the white cliffs of Dover, the first glimpse of Britain for many visitors, would fare better? Not exactly: 'Except for the historical significance, there isn't anything exciting about the cliffs as they are today. Glistening white? They're



STONEHENGE: 'Just a bunch of rocks' for one disgruntled visitor.

more like a dingy brown.'

Maybe the other end of the country - Land's End, Cornwall - would cut it? Hardly! 'Went out of our way to visit while camping in Cornwall and wished we hadn't bothered. The landmark has all the charm of a really bad service station, everything seemed overly commercialised and overpriced. We left after half an hour.'

London wouldn't come in for so much stick, eh? Wrong! Trafalgar Square's 'too noisy' and Leicester Square's 'hell on a stick. Bars rammed full of tourists and the square full of

kids trying to nick fags off you.'

What about the prestigious British Museum? Well, for one reviewer it's 'coma inducing.' For another: 'We really tried to like the exhibits but it was just so utterly boring.'

And Scotland? Forget it! Ben Nevis is 'too steep and too high' and Loch Ness ('just a regular lake') is hardly worth the trip.

TripAdvisor - by the people, for the people - is a site that encapsulates the internet conundrum. Its benefits to the paying public are obvious but its misuse can be devastating. Undoubtedly a useful tool, it's obviously only as good as the reviewers. Aim to get corroborating information from other travel sites... or, better still for this year's holidays, simply use your own judgement.

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

Is CGT plusvalia?

Q. You wrote in the May 3-9 issue that if one is over 65 and tax resident in Spain for three years, one will not be obliged to pay Capital Gains Tax (plusvalia). This is misleading as everyone, regardless of age, must pay the municipal plusvalia tax to the town hall where your property is located. It is the main government plusvalia that one avoids after the age of 65. I am over 65 and I sold my main residence in Benalmadena last year and I was obliged to pay nearly €10,000 to the town hall. I feel the article is confusing.

LH (Costa del Sol)

A. *GOOD point. There are two taxes the seller pays.*

- *Capital Gains Tax, charged on the profit from the sale. This is a national Tax Agency tax.*
- *The 'plusvalia' is a municipal tax based on the rateable value (IBI) of the property and the time that has passed since it last changed hands.*

It is indeed confusing. In your question you combine the two. Don't do that. They are similar but not the same. CGT is national and plusvalia is municipal.

David Searl
You and the Law in Spain



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

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Political correctness

Mike Senker
In my opinion



Views of a Grumpy Old Man

OK so I try and be grumpy about something different every week but this week's a bit of a continuation of last week's rantings. That was basically about all the blithering idiots that tell me what is allowable or offensive and the 'PC' thing to do.

The two that have done my nut in this week are firstly, the Eurovision Song Contest, which by the way I don't watch for many reasons. That was on Saturday night and was won by Israel which, if I'm not mistaken is in the Middle East, not Europe. Anyway Israel won and that should be it - well done, let's forget about it for another year.

But no, all of a sudden I start hearing and seeing stuff about the winner. Not anything about the song or the quality of it but what the singer was wearing. The singer wore her take on a traditional kimono dress with her hair up in two buns and performed in front of two walls of Japanese maneki-neko cat figurines and therefore was apparently guilty of appropriating Japanese culture with her performance. So who was complaining? Japan, as a country? Japanese people around the world? No, of course not. It

was some bloody PC idiot that I'm sure is just seeking publicity.

This has got to stop. What next? Should we ban the Village People because of they are appropriating cowboys, red Indians, policemen, builders etc all in one go?

Then I just saw the most ridiculous thing ever. Are you ready for this? Some nutter is saying that parents should seek their baby's consent before they change their nappy as it teaches how to set up a culture of consent in their homes. Obviously, the baby can't answer the question - 'I'm going to change your dirty nappy, is that ok?' So the advice is to wait a moment and look for some sign of consent (whatever that might be).

OK, so you wait and you don't see one. What do you do? Do you leave the baby in the dirty nappy and how do you ask the baby in the first place? In an adult, consenting, sort of way like, 'Would you like a nice cup of tea?' or the cutie, wooty voice you use when talking to your baby? Where does it stop? Can I bath you? Can I cuddle you? Can I lie on the bed and just stare at the miracle that you are?

Here's the deal you bunch of crazy lunatics (not you my lovely readers) - our babies do not need to give us their consent because, do you know what, 99.99999 per cent of all parents would never do anything ever, ever that would harm their child. In fact, it's the total opposite. IDIOTS!!

mikesenker@gmail.com

SUPINBOX

SUMINISTROS DE PINTURA Y DECORACIÓN



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Be careful as there are thieves everywhere

HAVE just read your article on thieves targeting drivers - I had my tyres slashed while stopped to get directions in Valencia. Followed up with offers to help to change it. Although we did not realise this was a scam, luckily we had breakdown cover so did not fall victim.

The Spanish lady I was speaking to saw the young man do it and screamed for the police. As in your article, the police said it happens thousands of times!

However a week later at a large supermarket in Estepona I was targeted and followed back to my car and while unloading, my handbag was stolen from the boot as I turned my back to pick up the shopping, they were so close to me!

Since then other tactics have been tried by often foreign gangs and despite taking all precautions, I have been robbed again just walking along the port at Cabopino and my broad Glaswegian husband was with me and did not notice their technique!

Anne Geddes, Costa del Sol

Boozy flights

TOTALLY agree with no alcohol on flights! Our outbound flight to Malaga

Not so much just beachy as simply beastly

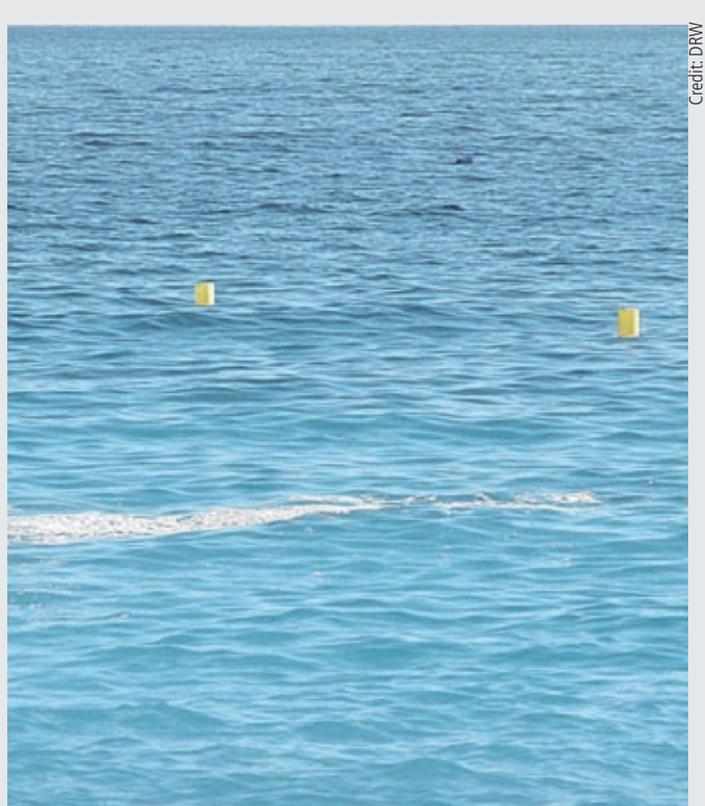
SPAIN deservedly wins a number of accolades, but I read the latest with incredulity ('Just beachy,' front page, *Issue 1714*).

Spain may have 'the most blue flags on the planet' according to ADEAC, but are any of its representatives familiar with the beautiful but sometimes filthy coastline from Marbella to Nerja?

We are all too aware of the slicks of sewage floating close to our beaches as it continues to be pumped untreated into the sea.

With this in mind the 590 strips of clean beaches, wherever they are in Spain, seem an irrelevance to the Costa del Sol and Axarquía.

David R Worboys,
El Capistrano Village



Credit: DRW

UNPLEASANT: The polluted sea off Nerja.

was at 5.45am and there were groups of golfers and hen parties who were obviously out to have a good time, but really do they (a) need to drink that early and (b) inflict their raucous behaviour on fellow passengers? Save it till you land and behave badly in your own hotel or bar, then people have a choice to avoid you, not be trapped in a plane with you!

Corinne, Malaga Province

iRate

LAST week I purchased an iPhone 8 costing €800.

I had previously had an iPhone 5 and was extremely pleased with it. On arriving home and setting it up I suspected a microphone problem as people were unable to understand my conversation.

I returned to the shop with the phone only to be told that they don't exchange faulty phones, instead I had to go to the Apple shop in Palma where they would send it off for repair.

Apparently there are many problems with the iPhone 8. I was led to believe that by law, you had up to 15 days to return faulty goods and be given a replacement. So I'm very disappointed.

Jenifer Parkhouse, Son Xotano

HAVE YOUR SAY

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

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

Outrage after men mistreat sick bull

Disgusting.

I don't understand how this still goes on... Harming/killing animals for entertainment = animal abuse... which is a crime. I just don't understand why if Joe blogs kills a dog for fun he goes to jail (albeit a pathetic sentence, but that's another topic)... yet when a bull is killed in the ring for fun it is OK.

I don't understand and I never will.

Zara Mária

This is a disgusting and barbaric practice, Spain needs to hang its head in shame time to stop it.

Pat Ward

EU threatens action over protected bird hunting

Wild birds in captivity should be illegal. Like gold finches in very small cages just to sing!!!!

Rob Whaley

Birds need a lot more protection, the laws are there, they just need enforcing. A lot of evil practices going on that will rob us all of these beautiful creatures in the near future.

Marcus Tipa

Comments from EWN online

About time too! It makes me want to weep seeing these macho men hiding in the bushes and trapping these beautiful souls.

Sandra Russell

Scandalous this still goes on in Santa Pola. Evil practice.

Peter Rice

Youth sets up fundraising page to pay for holiday

Well, mate, what you have to do, is grow a pair, work at least two jobs if not more, as I did, because if you want to do anything in life or get anywhere you have to work for it - not beg for it! So get on with it!! Stop begging!!

Mary Naismith

If people knew what they were paying for... Well done mate

Sharmain Marie Wadsworth

Call for tourist carriage ban after horse death

I have had horses all my life, the problem is the time they work with no food or water. If the horses worked a morning/afternoon/evening rota then people could still enjoy the horses and the horses would not suffer.

They must have water at their waiting stations all the time and then fed before work and after work. The reason they do not give them water and food is to stop then weeing and messing in the streets. It's all about horse management.

Sean Sharon Applin

Stop it, they are not cared for properly, left to stand in boiling heat. The owners of these horses do not care about welfare, just cash. Tourists should stop using them.

Pat Ward

Such cruelty to these beautiful horses. It is outdated and barbaric. Yes, it's time to stop this now.

Jan Andersen-Page

Motorhomes debate

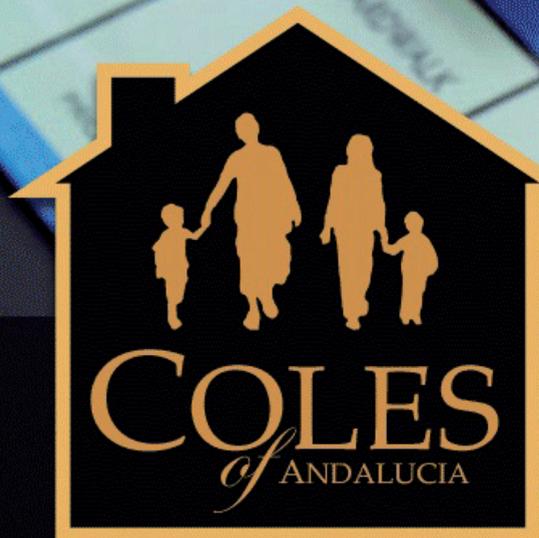
A FEW weeks ago Messrs May wrote concerning the number of motorhomes wild camping in La Marina, a subject I also wrote to *Euro Weekly News* about last year as I am a motorhome owner and also a property owner.

Last week, Dave from Turre, a motorhome owner, wrote to express his annoyance at the letter stating that visitors to Spain don't have to pay for rubbish clearance or water. I think he'll find that visitors paying to stay in hotels, apartments, or campsites, will have this cost factored into their charges. As a property owner, I'd also like to remind him that water bills in Spain are high and we all pay for rubbish removal.

There are some countries where wild camping is permitted for a few days ie Portugal and even Scotland. In residential areas of Spain, it isn't. Perhaps when I return to the UK in my motorhome I should park up for a few days outside his home, empty my water tank, put up my TV satellite, fill my tank from his water supply, put my rubbish in his bin.

If by some miracle the weather is warm, I'll set up my chairs on the pavement outside the motorhome to read my paper whilst my washing is drying on the rack! That should be OK providing I nip to the local shops for my supplies.

B Metcalfe, Pinar de Campoverde



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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 CAB3V10



Impressive villa with commanding views in Sierra Cabrera. The villa measures 120m² on a plot of 1,250m² with the main house featuring 2 bedrooms & 1 bathroom and a separate annex providing the additional bedroom & bathroom.

Cabrera

€249,950

REF HUE3CU01



Fully reformed cortijo in Urcal on plot of over 12,000m² with fly-free enclosure & above ground pool. This stunning property sits in a superb position with open country & mountain views, established mature gardens and plenty of privacy, yet just a 15 minute walk into Urcal village.

Huerca Overa

€194,950

REF VER5V02



Stunning 5 bedroom 5 bathroom villa measuring approximately 310m² which sits within a plot of 10,000m² with elevated mountain & sea views, detached garage groomed gardens with a 10 x 5m kidney-shaped pool & water fall feature, olive grove and much more.

Vera

€499,950

REF CAB1A01



This studio apartment is an ideal bolthole for anyone wanting a taste of rural Spain, offering stunning views and peace & tranquillity. The apartment comprises a lounge/bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, store cupboard and a lovely terrace with superb views of mountains and the valley below.

Cabrera

€36,950

REF CAN3VA02



This 3 bedroom 3 bathroom traditional style villa enjoys excellent open country views, an 8 x 4m swimming pool with large terrace & A/C throughout. Main 2 bedroom 2 bathroom villa and a spacious separate 1 bedroom 1 bathroom annex.

Arboleas

€179,950

REF GAR3A01



Superbly located in the heart of Garrucha and just 250m from the beach, this spacious 3 bedroom 2 bathroom first floor apartment, measuring 112m² enjoys two private terraces and access to enormous communal roof solariums with wonderful sea, town & mountain views.

Garrucha

€109,950

REF CHV3VB01



JUST REDUCED! A stunning 3 bed 2 bath detached villa of 123m² in Chirivel with the most amazing views. Plot size 702m², private pool, huge garage, elevated terraces, central heating and a conservatory / day room.

Chirivel

€164,950

REF ARB3VT21



Fantastic 3 bed 2 bath detached villa in Arboleas with private 10 x 4m pool, great views, air-con, fully fitted kitchen and open plan lounge. Recently repainted internally and superb value.

Arboleas

€142,500

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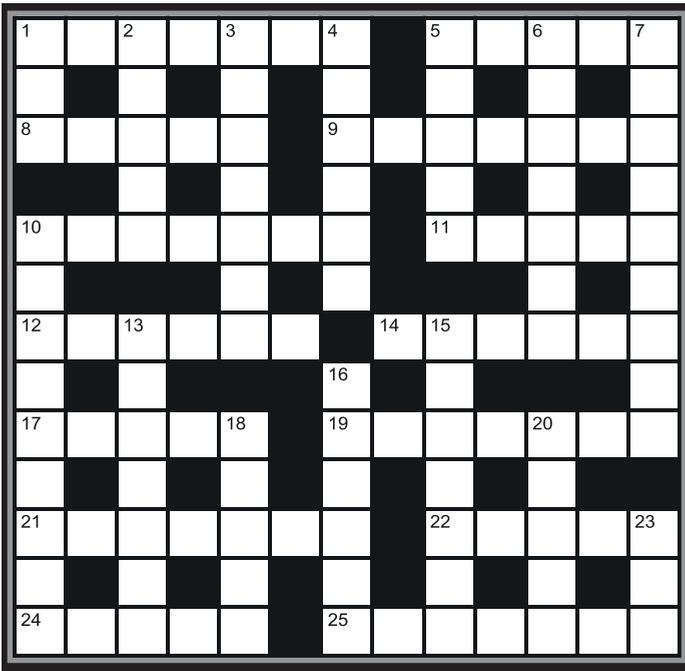
Cryptic

Across

- 1 Some exotic horizontal sausage (7)
- 5 Suppose guests lose time (5)
- 8 A criminal I got surrounded by the force's leader (5)
- 9 Wishes of French parents (7)
- 10 A slip, perhaps, if backing into tree (7)
- 11 Nothing evil about Popeye's girlfriend (5)
- 12 A baler is destroyed to make the land ready for cultivation (6)
- 14 Released and spread around (6)
- 17 Scruffy togas for Capricorns (5)
- 19 Escort a damaged ship (7)
- 21 Greed displayed by girl taking pudding (7)
- 22 Saint gets everything to come to a standstill (5)
- 24 A point to a story, kept too long (5)
- 25 Its diet is unusual but most neat (7)

Down

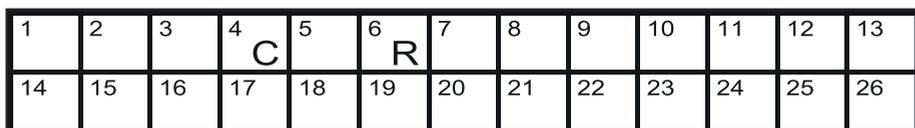
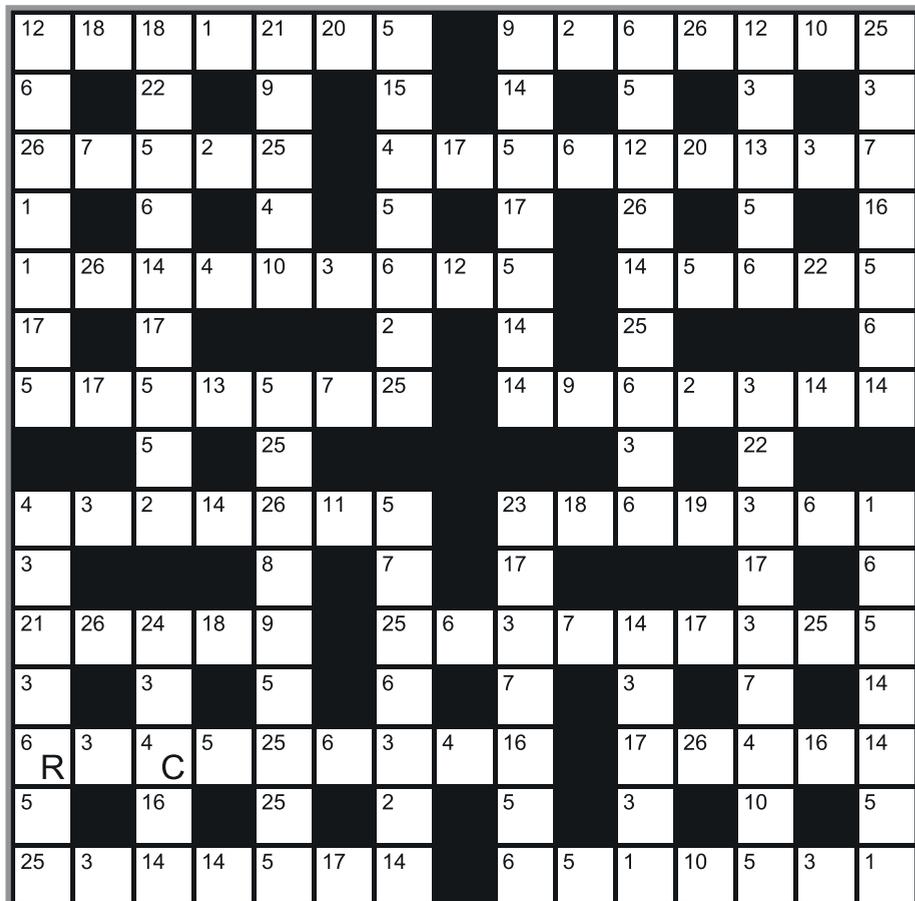
- 1 Stop filming a share of the profits (3)
- 2 Cop in estate car traps suspect (5)
- 3 Non-believer at home gets filed away (7)
- 4 Official instructions for religious groups (6)
- 5 In August one has enthusiasm (5)
- 6 Nobleman, one with the Queen previously (7)



- 7 Sure, spend liberally for an elastic strap (9)
- 10 Hybrid language or slang with fair translation (9)
- 13 State in which a Buddhist priest entertains a bishop (7)
- 15 Penny's up to be commended (7)
- 16 A Canadian's first coin, in a manner of speaking (6)
- 18 Turbulent times for pound (5)
- 20 Calling the exchange (5)
- 23 Agree to a court decision (3)

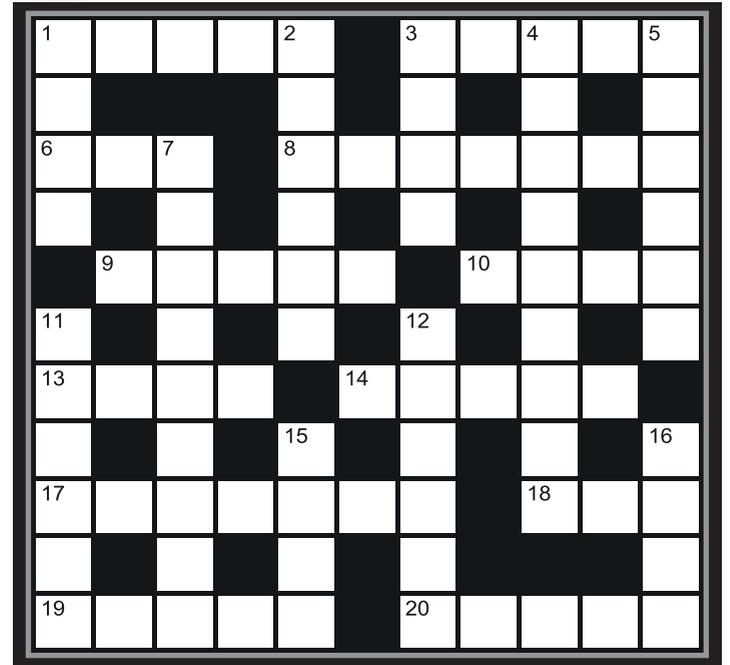
Code Breaker

Each number in the Code Breaker grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. In this week's puzzle, 4 represents C and 6 represents R, so fill in C every time the figure 4 appears and R every time the figure 6 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

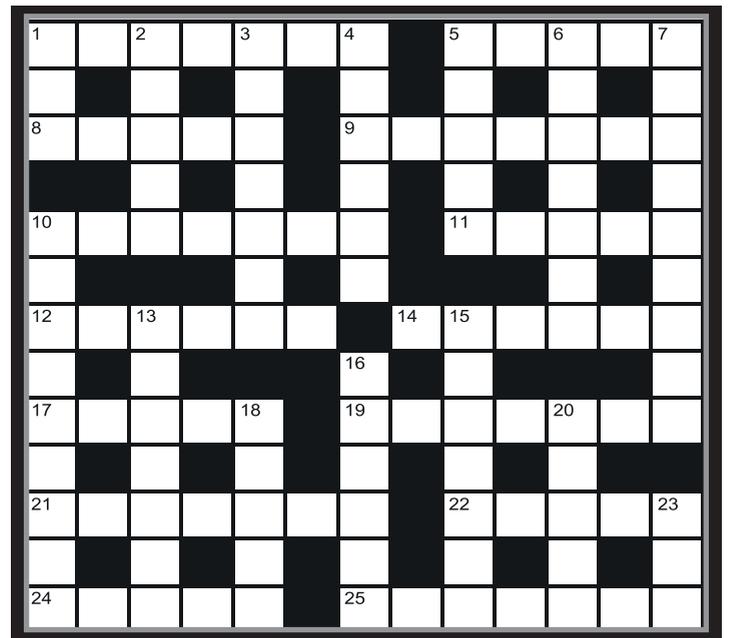
- 1 Collection of maps in book form (5)
- 3 Moderately warm (5)
- 6/18 Weapon that fires pellets (3,3)
- 8 Not strict (7)
- 9 Group of eight performers (5)
- 10 Honey producing insects (4)
- 13 Unpleasantly cool and humid (4)
- 14 Start (5)
- 17 Portending evil (7)
- 18 See 6
- 19 Sugary (5)
- 20 Soft or heavy with water (5)

Down

- 1 Partly open (4)
- 2 Soft white precious metal (6)
- 3 Heavily armoured fighting vehicle (4)
- 4 Existing or coming before (9)
- 5 Dislike intensely (6)
- 7 Restore friendly relations between (9)
- 11 Unequivocally detestable (6)
- 12 Playing in opposition to (6)
- 15 Young male horse under the age of four (4)
- 16 Covetousness (4)

English - Spanish

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



Across

- 1 Nothing else (4,3)
- 5 Prensa (5)
- 8 Sustantivos (5)
- 9 To repeat (7)
- 10 Fourteen (7)
- 11 To ring (telephone) (5)
- 12 Against (6)
- 14 Cebollas (6)
- 17 Behind (at the back) (5)
- 19 Atrasos (financiero) (7)
- 21 To shave (7)
- 22 Cuellos (5)
- 24 Nickname (5)
- 25 Poppy (7)

Down

- 1 Monja (3)
- 2 Duda (5)
- 3 To show (7)
- 4 Pantalla (cine) (6)
- 5 Tuberías (5)
- 6 Tobacconist's shop (7)
- 7 Sorpresas (9)
- 10 Spoonful (9)
- 13 Norwegian (7)
- 15 Orange (7)
- 16 Homeland (6)
- 18 Place (5)
- 20 Wide (street, river, trousers) (5)
- 23 Mar (3)

CROSSWORD PAGE

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MADDOCKS' VIEW ON LIFE



' THAT'S THEM ON HONEYMOON - THE TASTIEST COUPLE ON THE PLANET! '

Kakuro

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



Nonagram

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



TARGET:

- Average: 10
- Very good: 20
- Good: 14
- Excellent: 25

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

cert coot cote curt cute foot fort fret root rort rote rotu tofu torc tore torr tour tref true turf court croft cruet cutter eruct fetor forte outer recto retro rotor route truce truer curter footer rector rooter router torero tourer crofter FORECOURT

Sudoku

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

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

3	8	4	7	6	1	2	5	9
5	6	1	3	2	9	4	7	8
2	9	7	5	4	8	3	1	6
6	4	3	2	8	5	1	9	7
9	5	2	1	3	7	6	8	4
1	7	8	6	9	4	5	3	2
7	2	6	9	5	3	8	4	1
8	3	9	4	1	6	7	2	5
4	1	5	8	7	2	9	6	3

7	5			2				
	4	3						
					5	6	9	
	3	9	1	5		2		
					7	1		
		8				9		
3		7		6	2			
			7					3
				4		1		

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

ENGLISH-SPANISH

Across:

- 1 Bolsa, 4 Sitting, 8 Singers, 9 Pipes, 10 Upstairs, 11 Topo, 13 Acabar, 15 Cadena, 18 Soap, 19 Jubilado, 22 Large, 23 Pulgada, 24 Surname, 25 Santo.

Down:

- 1 Báscula, 2 Lunes, 3 Amenazar, 4 Sastre, 5 Tipo, 6 Improve, 7 Gusto, 12 Palillos, 14 Agarrar, 16 Avocado, 17 Purple, 18 Sells, 20 Again, 21 Leña.

CRYPTIC

Across:

- 1 Recant, 4 Regain, 9 Elusive, 10 Yacht, 11 Ewes, 12 Contrive, 14 Impel, 16 Gaunt, 20 Observer, 21 Teal, 24 Abide, 25 Emerged, 26 Overdo, 27 Allege.

Down:

- 1 Reeled, 2 Crude, 3 Nail, 5 Egyptian, 6 Auction, 7 Nutmeg, 8 Venom, 13 Befriend, 15 Massive, 17 Potato, 18 Defer, 19 Pledge, 22 Eagle, 23 Heel.

QUICK

Across:

- 1 Choose, 4 Cede, 8 Cormorant, 9 Earl, 10 Unless, 13 Totter, 15 Fair, 18 Stalemate, 19 Boss, 20 Cactus.

Down:

- 1 Comment, 2 Occur, 3 Sure, 5 Evade, 6 Eat, 7 Found, 11 Surplus, 12 Beret, 14 Traps, 16 Alert, 17 Data, 18 Sob.

CODE BREAKER

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

KAKURO

2	4		2	1
6	7		4	2
5	1	2	3	7
3	2	1	6	4
4	5		5	6
1	3		1	3

LOTTERY

UK NATIONAL LOTTERY
Saturday May 19



IRISH LOTTO
Saturday May 19



EURO MILLIONS
Tuesday May 15



Friday May 18



EL MILLON: CSB02014

LA PRIMITIVA
Thursday May 17



JOKER: 1 540 969

Saturday May 19



JOKER: 2 099 547

EL GORDO DE LA PRIMITIVA
Sunday May 20



YOUR STARS FOR NEXT 7 DAYS



AQUARIUS
(January 21 - February 19)

Is someone trying to sidetrack you by casting doubt on a relationship or plan? Something is going on so make sure that you have all the facts. It would be gullible of you to take everything at face value. You have good supportive colleagues and may seek their advice. Be optimistic as the weekend comes and remember your sense of humour.



PISCES
(February 20 - March 20)

Showing confidence means others see you as being very much in control. They need to see that you can be trusted. If a plan is not going in the right direction, be prepared to change tack. Changes should not be made to financial plans until you are sure of your ground. Romantically, you are being admired.



ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)

It is all go for you at the moment. Not only will you be particularly clear-thinking but your intellect will be sharp as a knife. Your enthusiasm spills over from your business life to personal matters, leading to a hectic and eventful time all week. When it comes to romance, a positive and dynamic approach stands you in good stead.



TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)

It is now important that you are clear about the person you wish to spend your time with because you may have more than one option. Plans that you started last week are now showing progress. Keeping the pace growing is essential to beat rivals. It is not an easy week by any means but it should not be boring.



GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)

A tendency to be emotional because of a setback should be avoided. When you feel the pressure rising, remember that nothing is worth risking your health for. Sound out friends and colleagues to avoid over-reacting. It is a week when you realise how someone close is able to be a great help. The question is, can you accept it?



CANCER
(June 22 - July 23)

There is sensitivity in your chart. It is possible to overlook someone who needs your time and consideration.

You are not a mind-reader and they may not directly seek your help. Be aware, then, of how others are faring.



LEO
(July 24 - August 23)

When someone asks you this week where you are going, will you know the answer? You will make progress if you do. If you're not sure, then there is no point in going full steam ahead. This is a week to consider your options on all fronts, particularly in business.



VIRGO
(August 24 - September 23)

A personal decision needs to be made. No major changes are necessary so long as you have a firm plan. It is not so much that caution is required, rather more that you should give yourself time to consider. In the longer term, you may see this week as a turning point.



LIBRA
(September 24 - October 23)

This is a week of planning and making changes. Some things click into place and you realise that you are on your way to completing an ambition. The trick is to manage it without upsetting people on the home front.



SCORPIO
(October 24 - November 22)

Are you putting off a decision affecting others? This is a good time to take the bull by the horns. Keep an eye on finances involving younger people. Sometimes, you are better able to help in other ways, perhaps by giving encouragement or advice.



SAGITTARIUS
(November 23 - December 21)

Your activities this week may seem to be ones best done alone. To a certain extent this is true. However, if you wish to make others feel important and gain their support in the future, you should involve them. You don't have to take advice which is given but be diplomatic when not acting on it.



CAPRICORN
(December 22 - January 20)

Are you feeling less positive than usual? We all do at times. If energy is low get out for a long walk in a relaxing place. Perhaps watch a film that raises your spirits. There is about you a kind of regret and fondness for the past, but there is nothing wrong with sentimentality so long as it does not cloud your picture of the future. That can be bright indeed.

QUIZ: TV QUIZ SHOWS AND PANEL GAMES

- Which quiz show that originally ran from October 1971 to November 1983, billed itself as 'live from Norwich - the quiz of the week'?
- Which former tennis star is the current host of BBC's A Question of Sport?
- What was the title of the bizarre BBC2 quiz show with two teams of celebrities who were asked, often nonsensical, questions by hosts Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer?
- Michael Barrymore's long-running quiz Strike It Lucky was renamed what in December 1996?
- Who was the original host of BBC1's Ask The Family?
- What did all the losing contestants receive as a prize in Blankety Blank?

- With which quiz show would you principally associate the phrase: 'I'll have a P please Bob'?
- In which panel game did two teams of three celebrities try to hoodwink each other over the meaning of bizarre words from the dictionary?
- In which quiz show did the unsuccessful contestants receive a 'bendy Bully'?
- In Big Break, which snooker player was presenter Jim Davidson's assistant?

Not a lot of people know that... Countdown was the first programme ever broadcast on Channel 4, and Richard Whiteley was the first face to be seen.

Answers:

- SALE OF THE CENTURY.
- SUE BARKER.
- SHOOTING STARS.
- MICHAEL BARRYMORE'S STRIKE IT RICH!
- (accept STRIKE IT RICH).
- ROBERT ROBINSON - it was revived 1999 hosted by Alan Titchmarsh.
- BLANKETTY BLANKET AND PEN statuettes.
- BLOCKBUSTERS.
- CALL MY BUZZ.
- BULLSEYE.
- JOHN VIRGO.

Facebook steals the 'life' out of living in Spain!

Ric Polansky



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

I AM chagrined. Deeply more than just annoyed. The daily technological bleep (Facebook) concerning what's happening in our fair town depresses me more than I can tolerate.

One learns from living here patience and instantaneously adoptive procedures concerning the constant ad hoc solutions that must be applied to solve the ongoing process of life here.

In a land ruled by passions, stop and go lights are but indicators for what's happening that day and not necessarily guidelines for tomorrow.

Of course, you will have had to live here a good few years to come up with such a precise analysis from wisdom inside a wine glass. But the situation is being made worse by the constant in-



POWER DRAINING: Social media leaves nothing to chance.

termingle of questions concerning what to do if such-and-such happens.

Before I get out of bed I am blessed with 300 different photos by people hoping to make history by announcing to the world what the morning sky looks like, as if duly recorded and sent out to alert the masses. "That's it", I

now can shout out to the wife; "a damn cloud in the distant sky, make my coffee with a shot of brandy".

There, situation noted, confronted and adjusted. That's truly Spanish life. Every day in every way more new adventures and adjustments. My life thrives on such perplexity. It is never

dull and often opens new avenues of thought never considered before. I believe that it is good especially as it teaches one to renovate old dogmas of thought, frequently.

But no, those Facebook followers want it all packaged and securely tied with a blue bow. Some even go so far

as to have others with more time than common sense help them plan their reckless outings in this strange place.

They announce they want to go shopping for clothes pins, where can they be purchased? The exact address, price and colours? Then, just in case they should have a flat while driving, who might come and repair it? And how long will that take as they might just have other things to do.

Then they enquire about Chinese spring rolls. Where can they be bought? Not too spicy but tender and crispy yet under the price of €2 for two of them. Oh, and how big are they?

Let's not leave anything to chance, variation or anomalies. Life is too precious not to proceed dot-to-dot and then get back to the original square starting place alive and full of vigour and just reeling to recount the day's activities to anyone who would listen.

A life well accounted for and severely remembered like last Tuesday's a heartbeat just before noon. Remember?

Advertising Feature

A right royal treat is out there

Christina Sharp

GLOBELINK INTERNATIONAL
christina@globelink.co.uk



IN a week where Prince Harry and Meghan tied the knot, why not maintain a royal theme and explore some of Spain's very own perfect matches?

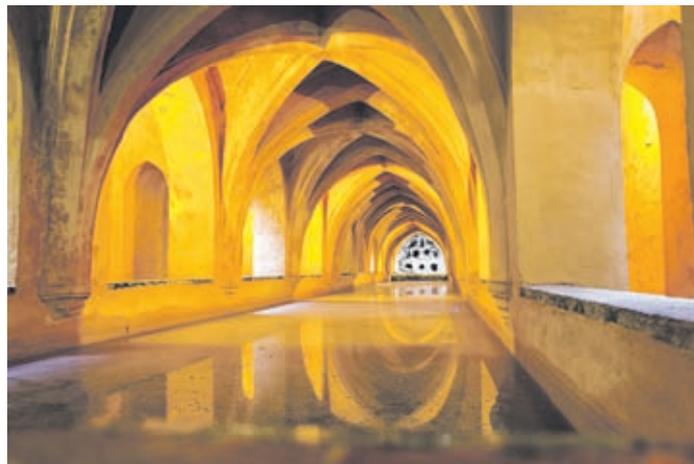
The royal palaces of Alhambra, Granada and Alcazar in Sevilla, each display a magnificent marriage of architectural prowess from bygone ages. If you've yet to visit these UNESCO World Heritage sites, it's a good time to go and avoid peak season crowds and temperatures.

Did you know that the Royal Alcazar in Sevilla, is the oldest royal palace still in use in the whole of Europe? Originally a Moorish fort built in the 10th

century by the first Caliph of Andalucia, it's a breathtaking blend of Christian and Mudejar architecture.

Since 913, it's undergone 11 centuries of home improvements, all of which have left their mark, including Islamic, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque features. Perhaps the most extravagant were by King Pedro, in the 14th century, who added the lavish Palacio de Don Pedro. Alcazar remains in the royal limelight and featured in the fantasy epic, *Game of Thrones*, TV series.

The Alhambra, with its renowned red hue, framed by the dramatic Sierra Nevada peaks, offers a majestically elaborate display of Moorish architecture. It's the only preserved palatine city from the Islamic period and is a fortress, palace and walled-city rolled into one. Famous for being the opulent seat of Grana-



ROYAL PALACES: Lots to explore in Spain.

da's Nasrid emirs, it's among the finest Islamic buildings in Europe.

With its origins first referenced in the 9th century it offers a unique window into Spain's rich history spanning from the Nasrid dynasty to Charles V. The Alhambra Park even incorporates a dense wood of English

elms planted by the Duke of Wellington in 1812.

If you fancy a peek at a palace further afield, our favourites include the spectacular renaissance architecture of Chateau de Chambord, in France <https://www.chambord.org/en/>, the Royal Palace, Stockholm, <https://www.kungahuset.se>, or Palazzo Pitti in delightful Florence

<https://www.ufnbfizi.it/en/pittipalace>.

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Bedroom entertainment

FEELING drained isn't the only consequence of failing to get a proper night's kip.

Research has shown that sleep deprivation is linked to depression and bipolar disorder, among other things. So to keep your body's natural sleep rhythm in harmony, incorporate these few suggestions into your bedtime routine.

For a start, stop staring at your mobile phone, or laptop in bed. In fact, get rid of them from your bedroom altogether, including the TV. Staring at the screen for endless hours will stop you from falling asleep, unless through sheer exhaustion.

This is because the screens on these devices emit a blue light that blocks the release of melatonin into your system, the very thing that tells your

body to go to sleep.

In fact, research has suggested that it is best to switch off all electronic devices at least 90 minutes before going to bed.

However, if you simply can't live without your bedtime fix then decrease the light on your screen or use the night light option, if your device has one.

Create a routine as night-time approaches which is conducive to sleep. Begin to darken your surroundings by dimming lights or using lamps around the house.

And why not entertain yourself by getting back into the habit of listening to the radio, reading a book or having a bath? Such pre-sleep habits will allow you to mentally unwind and prepare for a good night's rest.

WINDING DOWN: Have a bath before bedtime to get a good night's sleep.



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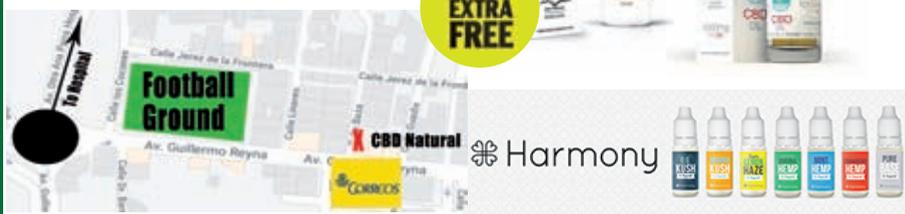
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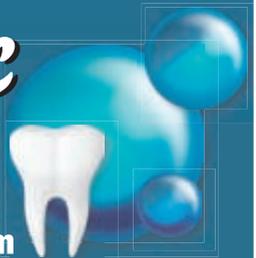
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Solution to cellulite

ONE of the biggest concerns for many women is cellulite. It not only affects health, causing intense pain and other symptoms, but it's the reason why many women feel too self-conscious to reveal their legs.

In fact, according to a recent survey by MB Consultores, the presence of dimples across the thighs and buttocks worries 57.3 per cent of the female population. Exceeding the importance women give to wrinkles (46 per cent).

And with nine out of 10 women having some degree of cellulite, huge amounts of money are spent investing in creams to eliminate the problem.

However, analysis has shown that even the most effective cream only reduces the contour of the thigh by up to 3mm after one month of use, meaning that the claims made by firms to eliminate cellulite are simply exaggerated.

Yet, there is new technology available which can penetrate and firm up to 10mm of the skin. LED cellulite massagers are handheld devices that can be used at home. They operate using HT (home tightening) technology which combines bipolar radio frequency energy to firm the deeper layers of the skin, LED light energy to rejuvenate the skin, and infrared heat technology to improve the texture. Not only have these technologies been proven to be more effective than creams, but at about €100 for a device you'll be saving a pretty penny too.

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Sparkling in spectacles

AUSTRALIAN pop star Kylie Minogue has launched her second collection of glasses.

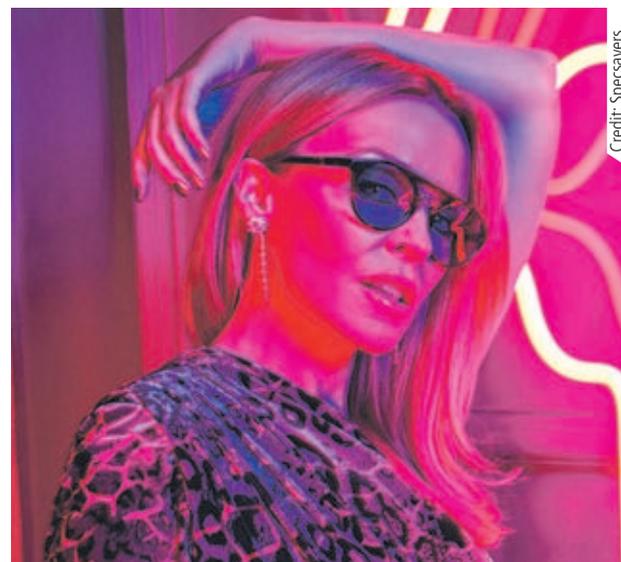
And for a woman about to blow out 50 candles this Monday she looks as sexy as ever.

Each new pair in the Kylie Minogue eyewear collection takes its name from one of her classic tracks, including *All The Lovers* and *Spinning Around*.

According to Kylie, the collection can be defined as 'reinterpreted retro.'

It features a chic mix of rose gold, soft pastels and classic monochrome, adorned with delicate Swarovski crystals - and her unmistakable 'K' tag.

Kylie says she introduced the sparkle detail so the glasses can easily switch from 'daytime wear to nighttime' or vice-versa, so you



Credit: Spec Savers

SPINNING AROUND: Kylie's new collection can go from night-time to daywear.

won't have to return home to change once the sun starts to rise!

Her collection of six new styles are exclusively avail-

able now in British firm Spec Savers Opticas stores in Spain.

So, why not indulge yourself and dare to look like a diva!

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Steady does it

EYELINER is a very subtle way to draw attention to your eyes. Not only can it make them look vibrant, it can make you look more awake.

However, not everyone has a steady hand to achieve their desired look. So, to avoid that just-out-of-bed-look this spring, try and absorb the following advice.

The three basic types of eyeliner are pencils, gels and liquids. The most common and the easiest to apply is the pencil. Before you let it near your eye, be sure that you've sharpened the eyeliner pencil. This will allow you to create a line as close to your lash line as possible.

Blunt points are ideal for shading but are simply not defined enough to achieve a sharp look.

For more control in your application, hold your eye. Use your fingers to pull the skin above your eye taut for a smoother, more precise line. And instead of chancing it, steady your elbow against the table to keep your hand firm.

El Ejido Theatre Festival

THE El Ejido Theatre Festival has now lifted the curtain and will run until June 16.

The festival provides a platform to showcase some of the best and most varied artists and performances which are currently doing the rounds on the national and international stage.

Over these next few weeks, this culturally rich event will present a wide variety of actors, dancers and musicians.

Many well-known names have returned to the festival this year to perform a mosaic of contemporary and avant-garde performances.

The El Ejido Theatre Festival takes place at the El Ejido Theatre. For more information call 950 541 006 or email cultura@elejido.org. Alternatively, visit the festival's website at www.elejido.es/vive.



Credit: ELE/Gus Alves

NEW ALBUM: ELE knows how to excite an audience.

Spanish soul singer releases new album after four years

ELENA ITURRIETA from Madrid who performs under her stage name ELE, is a singer, composer and pianist who is about to undertake a tour of Spain.

She released her first album, Summer Rain in October 2014 and is now touring her second release, What

Night Hides having been described by Rolling Stone Spain as being in the forefront of Spanish soul.

Her new album, which was recorded at the legendary Abbey Road Studios in London sees her perform 12 songs which she has composed and the subsequent tour

promises to see her live up to her well-deserved reputation.

She and her band will appear at the Castillo de San Andres in Carboneras on Thursday August 23.

Tickets cost just €7 but if purchased in advance through www.giglon.com they will be discounted to €5.

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Let's get ready to Rumba!

FOLLOWING the success of their sold-out run of shows at the Rialto Theatre along the Gran Vía in Madrid, Mayumana start their 'Rumba' tour across more than 30 cities throughout Spain.

Mayumana is a percussion and rhythm group who have entertained audiences around the world with their unique style of music and dance. They have been watched by more than eight million viewers and entertained up to 100,000 spectators during their recent performances in Madrid alone.

For their new show, 'Rumba!' they have chosen to use music by the Spanish rock/rumba duo, Estopa. This music weaves its way throughout the whole performance and guides the narrative as an extraordinary cast of performers sing, dance and play instruments. The result is a show that brims with rhythm and visual delights. Something that makes Mayumana's performances different from all others.

'Rumba!' is a co-production between Mayumana and SOM, which is the leading musical production company of large shows such as Priscilla and Billy Elliot.

Mayumana will be performed at the Auditorium in Plaza Teniente Arturo Muñoz from tomorrow until Sunday.



RUMBA RIOT: Mayumana's shows brim with rhythm and visual delights.

Tapa Solidaria Almeria

FROM tomorrow until Sunday June 24, you can savour the delights of Tapa Solidaria throughout Almeria and its surrounding towns.

You can enjoy a rich variety of tapas in a range of different bars and restaurants which are all working together to support the ARGAR children with cancer charity. This support will allow this charity to continue to strengthen and develop its activities in Almeria.

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**Eat Well
to Live Well**
by Andrew Harding



EVERY chef or cook has a signature dish and this is mine.

It was originally a Rick Stein recipe but, I modified it to my taste. The original one is featured here with my changes detailed in the tips.

I like them both, the changes are for the sauce only.

Seared Tuna with Salsa Verde

Serves Two

For the Salsa Verde:

3 tablespoons parsley, washed and chopped

1 tablespoon mint, washed and chopped

1 tablespoon capers

6 whole anchovy fillets

1 whole garlic clove, finely chopped

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

1 whole lemon juice

Tip: This is 'my' salsa verde:

3 tablespoons coriander, washed and chopped

1 tablespoon chives, washed and chopped

1 tablespoon capers

6 whole anchovy fillets

2 whole garlic cloves, finely chopped

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

1 whole lemon juice and grated zest

200ml olive oil

Eat well to live well!



GREEN STUFF: There is more than one way to make a salsa verde.

200ml olive oil

1 teaspoon salt

For the Tuna:

1 Tablespoon of olive oil

Two tuna steaks, about 125 grams each

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

An accompaniment

12 ounces mixed salad greens and baby tomatoes

Drizzle of olive oil

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

1. First make the Salsa Verde. Put all the ingredients into a food processor and blend until liquidised. Spoon into a bowl and set aside.

2. Brush the tuna steaks on both sides with a little olive oil and season. Heat a ridged cast iron griddle (or a heavy base frying pan) over a high heat. Drizzle a little oil on to it, add the tuna steaks and sear for 1-2 minutes on the first side. Turn them over and cook for a further two minutes. This will leave the middle of the steaks almost raw; cook for longer if you prefer

3. Place the tuna steaks on four warmed plates and spoon some of the salsa on to each steak. Toss the salad leaves and tomatoes with a little olive oil, salt and pepper and pile them alongside the tuna.

1 teaspoon salt

Put all the ingredients into a food processor and blend until well mixed together. Spoon into a bowl and set aside.

Tip: Look at the middle of the tuna steak from the side to check if it is cooked to your taste.

Tip: The Salsa Verde freezes well and does not deteriorate even when defrosted more than once. More than three times I would not recommend!

Tip: Use extra virgin olive oil for a better taste and consistency.

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Giant skull found

by Gregory Kirby

A VALENCIAN man has discovered a four million-year-old skull which could belong to a new species of whale.

The cranium measures 1.5 metres in length and would have belonged to a sea creature about 7.5 metres long.

Joaquin Ricardo Sendra - a palaeontologist - also found a collection of bones from whales and other marine animals including ancient manatees.

The fossils "belong to four of five examples of miniature whales which could belong to a new species," Sendra said.

But "until we conduct relevant tests we will not be able to properly confirm the new discovery," he added.

Sendra is the excavation director at the marine project's dig site in Cuevas de Almanzora in Almeria, where he has been digging alongside a team of masters students from the University of Valencia since April.



Photo credit: Blogspot/vq1998

GOTCHA: Joaquin Sendra shows bone find to councillors.

The spot is said to be the only place in Europe where marine remains of this sort have been found.

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PROBE: The Guardia Civil are investigating the deaths.

Dog deaths probed

GUARDIA CIVIL officers have launched an investigation after finding the bodies of four dogs believed to have been poisoned in Albox.

Police said they have also probed the owner of a farm in the area after finding 28 kilograms of crop spray in a warehouse belonging to him.

Fumes from the chemicals are suspected by some as being responsible for the deaths, and traps reportedly

found near the site where the dogs died.

The investigation comes under a wider police operation known as Antidote, which seeks to trace potentially harmful chemicals being used in the area. The probe is also seeking to monitor the activities of poachers and hunters.

The investigation comes as a councillor in Almeria City called on local authorities to find out whether such

chemicals posed a risk to humans.

Ines Plaza, of the left-leaning Partido Socialista (PSOE), said the ruling conservative Partido Popular (PP) administration should take "all necessary measures" to get to the bottom of the deaths.

"Almeria pet owners love their dogs and are extremely worried something like this could happen to them," she said.

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Advertising Feature

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BASED on the concept of a UK DIY store, Aldesur has been designed in a manner which makes it easy for customers to find what they need quickly and easily.

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The staff, some of whom can boast 20 years of work within the section, are well trained and in many cases bilingual so that they can give unbiased advice in English or Spanish to help retail and trade customers to obtain the right product for their particular project.

With plenty of free parking, it is easy to get to the Aldesur store and the owner has spent a considerable amount of time in ensuring that those who visit will not only receive a top



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class and knowledgeable service but will also enjoy the pleasant shopping experience.

With more than 1,500 metres of space, this DIY centre is able to stock a huge amount of both the latest products and trade innovations but also the whole range of older tried and

trusted items, so necessary when undertaking building work.

Added to the choice of product, there is no doubt that a combination of quality and price ensure the best possible deal in the area and what's more there are regular special offers in each department.



Aldesur believe that they are able to offer the very best choice of heating products including boilers, chimneys and stoves in the entire area but also their other departments are guaranteed to offer everything that may be needed.

They have a wide range of different paints and if a client needs a specific colour, then they are more than happy to produce exactly the shade and tone required.

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tric tools from Germany (with easy to read instructions), there is also a huge selection of plumbing, heating and building material as well as all that you might need for the garden or pool.

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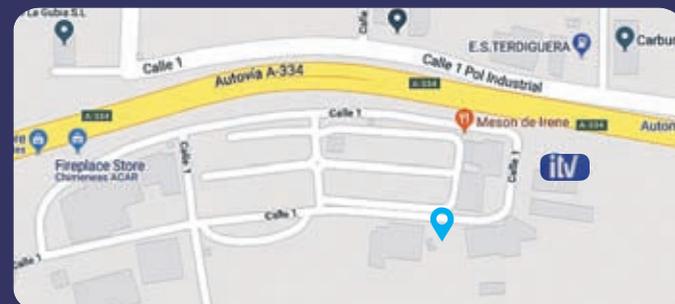
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Stunning country house near Taberno

CORTIJO HERRERO (APF3441) is a fully renovated six bedroom country house with a large detached garage.

With a generous build size of 339m², this impressive two-storey house is set in land of 8,280m² with fantastic far reaching views, on a clear day, you can see as far as the coast!

It is situated in a beautiful rural area only a five-minute drive from the town of Taberno which offers all amenities for daily living. The large town of Huerca-Overa can be reached in around 20 minutes and the coast is only 40 minutes away.

The house is full of character and has been renovated to a high standard whilst maintaining traditional features.

To the front is a covered, arched porch which spans the full width of the house, offering a lovely area to sit and enjoy the stunning views. To one end of the porch is a fly screen en-

**COUNTRY HOUSE: Well worth a viewing!**

closed area with a door leading into the kitchen, ideal for al fresco dining.

From the covered porch, the front door opens into a sitting / reception room with a wood burner and an archway leading through to a cosy

lounge with a feature fireplace housing a second wood burner. Stairs from the sitting room lead up to an open landing which makes a fabulous study area.

A door from the sitting room leads

through to a hallway which gives access to a huge kitchen fitted with an array of base units and a gas hob with extractor above and electric oven below. There is ample space for a breakfast table and chairs and to one end of the room is a walk-in pantry as well as a separate utility room.

The hallway also gives access to a separate dining room, along with a cloakroom with wc and basin.

On the ground floor are two adjoining double bedrooms, one of which has an en-suite bathroom comprising of a full size bath, separate shower, wc, bidet and pedestal basin. This area makes an excellent master bedroom suite, with one of the bedrooms currently being used as a dressing room.

From the hall, a second set of stairs leads up to the first floor where, along with the study, there are three double bedrooms, a single bedroom, and a family bathroom comprising a bath with shower

over, wc, bidet and basin.

The single bedroom would be ideal for conversion to an en-suite bathroom. Also on the first floor is a lovely bright lounge with patio doors leading out to a covered terrace with spectacular views.

The detached garage has a build size of 36.5m² including a store room and a cloakroom with wc and basin, it would be ideal for conversion to self-contained guest accommodation.

A large area of flat land around the house is gated and has been laid to gravel with mature palm trees and raised beds with colourful flowering plants and shrubs. Outside of the gated area is some hillside land with a further area of flat land at a lower level.

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Capital joins backlash against tourist rentals

SPAIN'S growing list of cities that are cracking down on Airbnb-style holiday rentals can now add Madrid to the group.

New legislation in the capital wants to place strict new rules on home rentals - especially in the city's historic centre - in a bid to tackle mass tourism.

As in many parts of the country, locals in Madrid feel they are being priced out of rental accommodation due to short holiday lets that travellers are booking through websites and apps.

However, new rules could ban 95 per cent of the listings from the city, with the central government's Minister for Sustainable Urban Planning calling for a move towards 'responsible tourism.'

Plans also include preserving the residential use of buildings, and changing permanent tourist lets to temporary ones.

An annual 90-day limit has been proposed for tourist flats,

**TOURIST TRAPPED: Many locals will welcome the changes in Madrid.**

with selected entire apartment blocks being prevented from being exclusively tourist orientated.

In Madrid's central zone, holiday rentals on Airbnb and other websites will require a specific street entrance for tourists, and a separate one for permanent residents of the building.

A spokesman for Airbnb said in a statement:

"Home sharing on Airbnb is helping local families across Madrid afford their homes and

rising living costs, while boosting the local economy.

"It is part of the solution to local housing concerns in the city, and is helping to put tourism euros in the pockets of local families, not just wealthy hotel groups."

The plans for Madrid have come hot on the heels of Valencia's own proposed restrictions on Airbnb, while last month Palma de Mallorca also announced it would impose an outright ban on holiday rentals.

Leftist leader's

€600,000 pad

THE leader of a far-left political party has come under fire after it emerged he bought a €600,000 home despite criticising other politicians for buying similarly-priced properties.

Pablo Iglesias, leader of the Podemos party and a representative for Madrid in Spain's Parliament, will move into the 250 square-metre home with his partner and colleague Irene Montero.

The couple reportedly took out a €540,000 mortgage between them. They will pay back €270,000 each over the next 30 years in around €1,600 a month instalments.

The home sits on a 2,000 square-metre plot and features a swimming pool. It is in Galapagar, a town northwest of Madrid which was reportedly chosen because it is near a school known for its alternative learning methods.

Iglesias and Montero announced they were expected twins on March 31. The couple also have three dogs and said they wanted a family home with a garden.

**UNDER FIRE: Pablo Iglesias leads the far-left Podemos party.**

The purchase has caused controversy due to Iglesias' comments criticising former economy minister Luis de Guindos for buying a €600,000 penthouse in August 2012.

Podemos sources said the cases could not be compared because Guindos bought the home as an investment.

A video from 2015 of Iglesias criticising politicians who 'isolate' themselves in their homes has also resurfaced online.

Montero wrote on Facebook that their salaries as public servants had enabled them to buy the house.

"We know that many Spanish families cannot afford a mortgage like this and that is why we understand it is so important to defend decent wages for everyone," she said.

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GARDENS make a great ambience to feel relaxed.

The greenery alone is enough to put you at greater ease but there is also the scent, colours, fascinating forms and structures of flowers or the useful production of plants for the kitchen and potpourri that can be very rewarding.

It is always great to enhance the garden with at least a few special flowers that will add something more to a garden. This year I have chosen marigolds to brighten up my vegetable garden.

Some friends eagerly helped me to plant out rows of tomatoes, capsicum, various types of colourful specialty lettuce, onions interplanted to deter some pests, aubergines, beets, beans, various herbs throughout and many more vegetables.

It looked fantastic to see all the plants I had grow from seed finally in the soil surrounded by various other plants from the local nurseries. The nice neat rows were all weed free from tilling the soil and with the unseasonal quantity of rain in the warm May weather everything is thriving.

The one thing missing was enough colour. I had planted some mystic roses to help keep the tomatoes healthier but they were not in flower yet. It needed

Cheering up your garden space with marigolds

The happy flower with a heart of gold

something more.

That is when I saw the marigolds at a Sunday market stall. Perfect. I bought only half a dozen and took them home.

Next morning I took them to the veg garden and just put one in each of the centre rows. The effect was stunning as the marigold in flower contrasted so brightly with the rest of the garden. They caught the eye even just approaching the garden. Just these few plants brought the veg garden to a new height of attraction.

They are very easy to grow and flower over most of summer. Being in the vegetable garden with its enriched soil and regular watering meant that there was little additional work to grow them. They are also attributed to be beneficial in repelling many garden pests including soil-born nematodes, slugs and some flying insects.

Marigolds come in a small

range of colours from bright yellows to golden bronze and coppery colours. I chose three different shades to add variety as all are attractive. There are also a few different varieties.

The African marigold is the taller one I used in the veg garden as they will grow up tall with the tomatoes and capsicum and the flowers are generally larger and brighter whilst the French marigold is shorter and perfect for borders and containers such as window boxes. They are prolific at flowering if given plenty of nutrients other than too much nitrogen. Nitrogen will give good growth but fewer flowers.

There is also the signet marigold that has a simpler flower and is often used in



MARIGOLDS: Can brighten up your life.

rockeries as it is very hardy. Some people use the flowers from this to add to salads and as decoration on food plates as it is edible.

Whatever way you chose to grow marigolds you can be sure that they will brighten up your growing space.

Practising permaculture

AS people become more conscious of the part they play in caring for the planet and using resources more wisely a certain approach to gardening is becoming increasingly popular.

Permaculture is an approach to producing food without destroying, polluting or depleting natural resources. Its philosophy aims to create a sustainable system, which is ecologically healthy and economically viable.

Its origins lie in Australia in the mid-70's with two men who combined traditional knowledge with the sciences of ecology, agronomy, economics, sustainable development, engi-

neering and architecture, among others.

A very simple example is the indigenous practice of planting corn, beans and squash together.

Corn requires very fertile soil and depletes nutrients during its growth. Beans add nitrogen to the soil, thus feeding the corn and feeding nutrients into the soil. However, beans require a structure to grow against, and this is provided by the corn stem. Both benefit from the pumpkin that covers the soil, conserving moisture and preventing the growth of weeds.

This is how permaculture

design is mutually beneficial. It takes advantage of the maximum space available to achieve high production, whilst protecting and promoting diversity.

If you want to try your hand

at permaculture, start with a small (sustainable) project which requires less time and effort. As you become more confident with this approach you can expand it and eventually reap the rewards.



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RHS Chelsea Flower Show



WATER ILLUSION: Designer Steve Dimmock's Drought Garden.

THE world's most prestigious flower show is presently in full swing in the UK. The Chelsea Flower Show began on Tuesday and will close on Saturday. Each year, the event attracts over 150,000 visitors who come to see some fabulous gardens and take some ideas home.

In case you can't attend this year's event, here are a few design ideas offered by the show's garden designers for those with a petite garden.

If planting space is tight, consider laying chunky wooden planks, such as railway sleepers, on the ground to create a raised planting area, as demonstrated in Fancy a Brew? Take a Pew. Remember, these raised beds can double up as seating when required.

And when the flower beds are full, consider using walls and other raised areas to house yet more plants. The low rendered wall in Youth Workz Garden was built with a shallow planting trough inset along the top.

You can also give the impression of bringing water into the garden without actually needing to install pumps and liners. In The Drought Garden, designer Steve Dimmock used smooth cobbles within a curved channel, lined with rough stone to define the dry stream bed.

So don't be restricted by your small space. For more information and ideas about the gardens, or even to book last minute tickets for the show, visit www.rhs.org.uk.



FLUSHING MONEY AWAY: Adopt some water-saving habits at home to save money.

Tips to save water

WITH the recent news that in just over 10 years almost 50 per cent of the world's population will live in areas at risk of drought, there is increasing concern in Spain that regulations might eventually be introduced to further curb water usage, particularly during the driest seasons.

With this in mind, why not change some of your habits now to save water at home and do your bit for the planet.

Get into the habit of turning off the tap when you're not ac-

tually using the water. Those few drops whilst you lather yourself, brush your teeth or wash the dishes all add up.

Also, if you don't already do so, begin to shower instead of taking a bath, as showering uses about 50 per cent less water than a bath. In addition, install an aerator onto your taps and shower heads as these gadgets considerably reduce water usage.

A further useful habit is to collect and reuse the cold water that runs out of your taps

whilst you're waiting for hot water to flow through. This water can be used for watering your plants.

When appropriate, use the short flush option on the toilet and don't use your washing machine or dishwasher until they are completely full.

Remember, cutting down on the volume of water you consume is not only good for the environment, your efforts will also pay off when your water bill arrives at the end of the month.

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Clicker training

AS we looked at last week, the primary means of controlling dog behaviour has been with a collar and lead, even though most pet dog owners do not have the strength and skill required for proper control.

However, there is another form of dog training based on the system used by Karen Pryor, pioneer marine mammal trainer who developed the 'Clicker' for dolphins and whales. The training of dolphins is based on positive reinforcement - a reward for doing what is required, usually a bucket of fish.

Pryor's experiences planted seeds in the minds of many dog trainers and behaviourists. They figured out if marine mammal trainers can control 600-pound sea lions without shouting and force, then why couldn't they adopt a similar technique for dog training?

Marine mammal trainers use whistles and clickers because before they can even say the word 'Good' the mammal has

disappeared under the water or jumped 30 feet into the air. As soon as a mammal reaches the highest part of a jump, it knows that unless it hears a click it will get no fish.

The mammal has learnt that if it obeys a command, it hears a click and gets a food reward. No click, no reward.

I believe the more we talk to our pets in training the less they understand. It is important to try and shorten praise words to one word like 'Good' rather than 'Now that's a clever boy'.

With a clicker, there are no words. Good behaviour is rewarded with a click, then a treat. If any dog knows you have a treat it will sit. When it does so, click and treat. When the dog is getting up, say 'Up', click and treat.

If the dog lies down, just as it does so, say 'Down', then click and treat. When the dog comes to you, then say 'Come', then click and treat.

You will be amazed at how quickly the dog will understand simple one-word commands

followed by the click and treat. Remember the dog only gets the click after it has carried out the required command.

The American behaviourists Karen Pryor and Gary Wilkes have popularised this method with dog trainers using a small box clicker as a bridge. The click is always followed by a reward. The reward can be anything the dog desires although it is usually food, a treat or toy.

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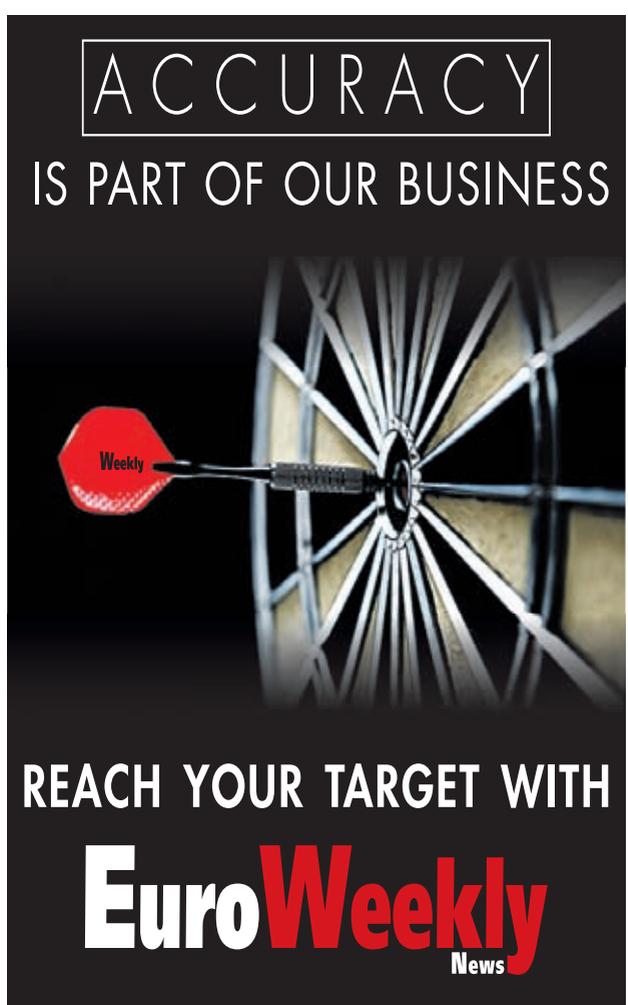
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The most expensive speeding ticket ever cost €1,000,000, issued to a Swedish driver who was clocked driving his Ferrari at 290kph.

BMW has revealed that its X8 SUV is likely to be its most pricey model when it is launched around 2020.

It is reportedly being designed to rival the Range Rover and upcoming Audi Q8, and when kitted out with extras could tussle with the Bentley Bentayga, Lamborghini Urus and Rolls-Royce Cullinan.

The German carmaker's head of development, Klaus Fröhlich, confirmed that the firm's most expensive model was under consideration.

"The sector is growing fast, so there will be opportunity," he said. "It is early to talk about the X8, but one of the first decisions I made when I worked on product strategy was to take the X5 and make the X6.

"Everyone said it was not necessary, but it worked. Now we have the X2, X4 and X6. They are emotional and sporty

Dream beamer

X8 takes aim at high-end market



X-TRAVAGANT: The BMW X8.

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"There is room for X8 - especially in markets like China - but there are no decisions yet. Each car must have a distinct character, and these are the sort of areas that take time to evaluate."

Talks are reportedly centred on whether the new model should be a coupe version of the X7, which is set to go on sale later this year, or a long-wheelbase version.

It is likely to have the option of four or five seats in two rows, rather than the X7's seven seats across three configuration, with emphasis on luxurious rear-seat travel, since many owners will be chauffeur-driven.

The sales focus is likely to be China, Russia and the Middle East, meaning a V-12 engine version powered by the 592bhp, 590lb ft, 6.6-litre unit found in the 7 Series is strongly possible.

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Audi Avant RS4

ROAD TEST

by Nick Fletcher

IT is hard to think of a better blend of power and practicality than the Audi Avant RS4, a sporty estate model which can

transport a chest of drawers while showing you what G-force you are experiencing!

Elegantly styled and beautifully built, the Avant RS4 can lay claim to being the best estate car in its class, embracing everyday domestic or business use with near-

supercar performance.

The RS4's heart is a superb 2.9-litre six-cylinder petrol unit with twin turbochargers delivering a hefty 444hp. The 0-100kph time is just 4.1 seconds, top speed limited to 250kph (155mph). Fuel economy is

11.3kpl

(32.1mpg) combined and emissions 200g/km.

Power delivery is via a smooth eight-speed tiptronic gearbox, with permanent four-wheel drive.

The RS4 Avant is laden with too much equipment to even shortlist, and prices start at €70,573 (£62,175). There are plenty of options too - my test model included larger alloy wheels, leather interior with heated front and rear seats, carbon

STATS PANEL

- **Model:** Audi Avant RS4
- **Engine:** 2.9-litre turbo-petrol
- **Transmission:** 8-speed tiptronic
- **Performance:** 0-100kph 4.1 seconds, top speed 250kph (155mph)
- **Economy:** 11.3kpl (32.1mpg)
- **Emissions:** 200g/km

Model tested was UK-specification and equipment levels and prices may vary in other markets.



G-FORCE POWER: The Audi Avant RS4 offers near-supercar performance.

inlays, upgraded technology features including a G-force indicator and a Dynamic Package which boosts top speed to 174 mph. All that took the price to €79,233 (£69,810).

The exterior of the Avant RS4 has subtle styling which still shows enough potent aspects to ensure its performance pedigree is evident - the vast air intakes and huge twin exhaust outlets for instance.

Underway, it feels eagerly fast and flexible, with a sporty undertone to refined urban driving and relaxing motorway cruising. Handling is beyond reproach, well-planted on twisty roads yet in city driving modes quiet and docile.

The premium cabin is superbly crafted with controls thoughtfully designed and located. Seating five adults with ease, the Avant has one of the largest boots in the sector, 505 litres, and with seats folded offers 1,500 litres of space. The tailgate is powered and has a low lip for easy loading.

This Audi has rivals, most

notably from other German marques, but the RS 4 Avant's blend of blistering power and practicality, plus Audi's indefinable ultra-cool image puts it at the head of the pack.

Model tested is UK-specification and equipment levels and prices may vary in other markets.

A class above

GERMAN carmaker Mercedes-Benz has launched a new sportier version of its V-Class people carrier.

The 'Night Edition,' set to retail at €55,260 and so far confirmed only for the German market, features AMG front and rear aprons, black mirrors, high-gloss

black louvres in the grill, and 19in AMG seven-spoke light alloy wheels.

Inside, special 'comfort' black leather seats are complemented by a leather-look dashboard, while additional tech includes parking assist and a 360-degree camera.

The engine is a 2.1-litre, four-cylinder



Photo credit: Mercedes

VAN-TASTIC: The new V-Class Night Edition.

diesel with 187bhp and a 0-100kph time of 9.2 seconds.

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'STANG IN THE TAIL:
The Sutton GT500CS.

Pumped up muscle car

BRITISH supercar dealer and tuner Clive Sutton has unveiled his brutal reimagining of the 1967 Mustang Fastback, and it costs almost €300,000.

The Sutton GT500CS Mustang was revealed at the London Motor Show, and is based on an original chassis with contemporary bodywork and a modern paint job using colours from Ford's 2018 range.

Almost every component is restored or modified, with brand new body panels and chrome parts treated with a powder-coated satin-black finish.

LED lighting and 18-inch alloy wheels complete the resto-mod look.

Under the bonnet the original 320bhp V8 has been replaced with a fire-breathing 512bhp 5.4-litre V8 with customised racing pistons, eight-port fuel injection and a high performance camshaft driven by a five-speed manual gearbox with a limited slip differential.

The builders have also added power steering and disc brakes for a more modern handling experience.

Inside, the car has period dials modified with LED lights, carbon-fibre dash-

board and console finished with Nappa leather and a touchscreen satnav with Apple CarPlay.

A pair of Recaro buckets seats and a custom Mota-Lita steering wheel add a racy feel, while features from the modern Mustang range include (lazy) traction control, a line-lock burnout feature, and air conditioning.

Sutton says this car was commissioned by a private buyer last year, and each model takes around 10 months to complete with a cost from €215,000 - €340,000 depending on spec.

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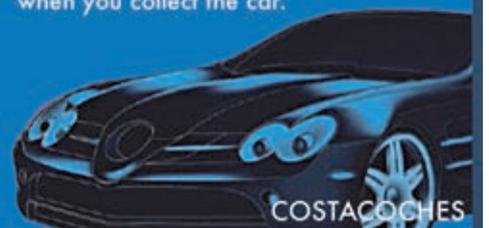
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COSTACOCHEs

World Cup 2018

by Staff Reporter

SPAIN have announced their 23-man World Cup squad, and there is no place for Chelsea striker Alvaro Morata.

Teammates Cesc Fabregas and Marcos Alonso, plus Arsenal defender Hector Bellerin have also been left out, but Premier League stars David De Gea, David Silva, Cesar Azpilicueta and Nacho Monreal all get the nod from coach Julen Lopetegui.

Barcelona legend Andres Iniesta is included after his emotional farewell at the Nou Camp, while fellow stalwarts Gerard Pique, captain Sergio Ramos, Jordi Alba and Sergio Busquets also made the cut, and Diego Costa sealed his comeback with a spot on the plane.

Former Liverpool striker Iago Iaspas and Valencia's Rodrigo Moreno are the other strikers.

But 25-year-old Morata has been axed after an underwhelming season at Stamford Bridge since joining from Real Madrid for around €65 million last summer.

After the squad was announced he tweeted: "Lots of luck in the World Cup! As of now I'll be supporting and encouraging until the end as always!"

Speaking at the squad announcement in Madrid, Lopetegui said: "This is the best and most beautiful competition in the world but at the same time

No Spain no gain

No Chelsea hitman axed from squad



Photo credit Seleccion Española de Futbol/Twitter

MOR'S THE PITY: Blues striker Alvaro Morata has not been included in the Spanish squad.

Spain squad

Keepers: De Gea, Kepa and Reina

Defenders: Carvajal, Odriozola, Pique, Ramos, Nacho, Azpilicueta, Alba, Monreal

Midfielders: Busquets, Saul, Iniesta, Thiago, Koke, Silva

Forwards: Isco, Asensio, Lucas Vazquez, Diego Costa, Rodrigo, Aspas

Kane is able

STRIKER Harry Kane will captain England at the World Cup finals after manager Gareth Southgate paid tribute to his 'outstanding personal qualities.'

The Tottenham Hotspur star, 24, netted 41 goals in all competitions last season and has 12 goals in 23 caps for the Three Lions.

He first captained the national side during a 2-2 World Cup qualifying draw with Scotland, when he equalised in stoppage time, and has since worn the armband on a further three occasions.

"I'm so excited for the World Cup, I can't wait to be there and experience it," he said.

"To lead the lads out, it's going to be special."

Kane's club teammate Eric Dier and Liverpool midfielder Jordan Henderson have also skippered the team recently.

the most difficult as you only have three initial games to prove yourself.

"We've chosen the players we think are the best and feel that we have the ingredients to challenge for the title."

The 2010 winners will start the competition in Group B alongside European champions Portugal, Iran and Morocco, four years after they crashed out at the group stage but in the wake of a flawless qualifying campaign.

Spain, Germany and Brazil are the current favourites to win this summer's tournament in Russia.

Gossip column

WITH the English and Spanish football leagues now wrapped up, this new weekly column will look at who is in, who is out, and who is most wanted at clubs in both countries.

Paris St-Germain's Brazilian striker Neymar, 26, has told the board he wants to move to Real Madrid this summer, just a year after joining the French champions. (*Goal*)

Barcelona are plotting a summer move for Spurs' 17-year-old English forward Reo Griffiths, with midfielder Riqui Puig, 18, set to move in the opposite direction. (*Star*)

Manchester United have struck a €40 million deal with Atletico Madrid for Croatian right back Sime Vrsaljko, 26. (*Calciomercato*)

Spanish coach Unai Emery is set to take over at Arsenal after leaving Paris St-Germain. (*BBC*)

Chelsea have made Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski, 29, their top summer target, with the Polish forward set to cost the Blues more than €110 million. (*Sun*)

Manchester City have reignited their interest in Leicester winger Riyad Mahrez, 27, after missing out on the Algeria international in January. (*Manchester Evening News*)

Chelsea flop Alvaro Morata could be heading back to Italian champions Juventus after manager Massimiliano Allegri expressed an interest in the Spanish striker. (*Gazzetta dello Sport*)

French forward Antoine Griezmann moved a step closer to Barcelona after being booed by a section of Atletico Madrid fans in last weekend's final league game. (*Marca*)

Rumoured Liverpool target Max Meyer, 22, has reportedly agreed to stay in Germany with Hoffenheim after leaving Schalke 04 on a free transfer this summer. (*Leipziger Volkszeitung*)

Fitting finale

THE final weekend of La Liga brought emotional tributes to two of its most-celebrated stars.

Barcelona legend Andres Iniesta said goodbye after a 1-0 home win against Real Sociedad, with the midfielder lifting his ninth league title in the wake of a glittering 16-year, 669-game, 32-trophy career.

The 34-year-old was left in tears by the outpouring of gratitude by fans and players alike, and was later pictured sitting in his kit in the centre of the pitch until lam.

In the capital, Fernando Torres brought the curtain down on his Atletico Madrid career by scoring two goals in a 2-2 draw with Eibar before breaking down during a farewell speech.

It comes in the wake of last week's Europa League victory over French club Marseille which saw the 34-year-old win his first trophy with his boyhood club.

Atletico finished the season in second place as Real Madrid and Valencia occupied the other Champions League places.

Villarreal and Real Betis will play in next season's Europa League, while Deportivo La Coruña, Las Palmas and Malaga were relegated.



Credit: Twitter

LEGENDS: Andres Iniesta, above, and Fernando Torres.



SPANISH LA LIGA 2017/18 TABLE

TEAM	Pts	PI	W	D	L	F	A
1 • Barcelona	93	38	28	9	1	99	29
2 • Atlético	79	38	23	10	5	58	22
3 • Real Madrid	76	38	22	10	6	94	44
4 • Valencia	73	38	22	7	9	65	38
5 • Villarreal	61	38	18	7	13	57	50
6 • Betis	60	38	18	6	14	60	61
7 • Sevilla	58	38	17	7	14	49	58
8 • Getafe	55	38	15	10	13	42	33
9 • Eibar	51	38	14	9	15	44	50
10 • Girona	51	38	14	9	15	50	59
11 • Espanyol	49	38	12	13	13	36	42
12 • R. Sociedad	49	38	14	7	17	66	59
13 • Celta	49	38	13	10	15	59	60
14 • Alavés	47	38	15	2	21	40	50
15 • Levante	46	38	11	13	14	44	58
16 • Athletic	43	38	10	13	15	41	49
17 • Leganés	43	38	12	7	19	34	51
19 • Deportivo	29	38	6	11	21	38	76
19 • Las Palmas	22	38	5	7	26	24	74
20 • Málaga	20	38	5	5	28	24	61

Champions L.

Europa L.

Relegation





LIONEL MESSI has won the European Golden Show winner for a fifth time after scoring 34 league goals for Barcelona, beating Liverpool's Mohamed Salah with 32 and Tottenham Hotspur's Harry Kane, who netted 30.

TO READ MORE

Costa de Almería's best guide to local sport

SPAIN'S Adrian Otaegui is aiming for a Ryder Cup debut after winning his second European Tour title.

It comes after the 25-year-old saw off France's Benjamin Hebert in the final of the inaugural Belgian Knockout in Antwerp.

The Basque birdied four of the last six holes to beat his rival by two shots at the Rinkven International Golf Club, to add to his victory in last year's Paul Lawrie Match Play event in Germany.

"I'm very happy, very relaxed now after those last nine holes against Ben that were very tight," Otaegui told Sky Sports. "I think we both played very good golf and I'm just very proud about my week.

Otaegui targets Ryder Cup spot

And when asked about his chances of qualifying for the European Ryder Cup team, which will be captained by Dane Thomas Bjørn in Paris, Otaegui quipped: "Thomas, if you're looking at me, I like

match play!

"There's still a lot of season to go, obviously the good events coming now with the Rolex Series and lots of points. The season is still very long but yeah, I'm looking for the Ryder Cup in a few months."



EYE ON THE PRIZE: Adrian with his Belgian trophy.

Marc leads

SPANIARD Marc Marquez won a third race on the trot after claiming victory in the French MotoGP at Le Mans.

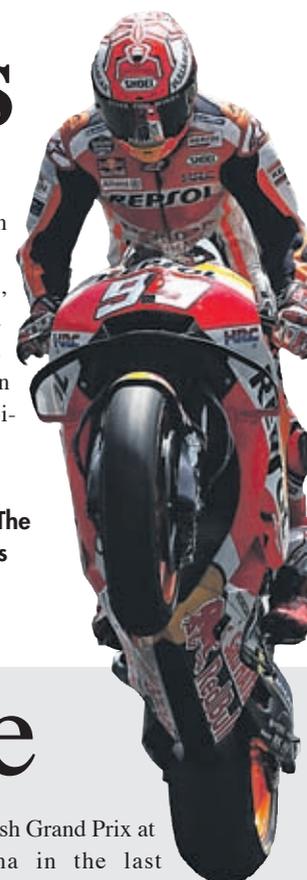
The 25-year-old Catalan rider extended his lead to 36 points at the top of the championship table as he chases a fifth world title.

"The race was tough because the pace of everyone was close. This victory is important," said the Honda rider, after Italians Danilo Petrucci and Valentino Rossi finished

second and third.

Home favourite Johann Zarco slid out on lap seven after starting on pole, while Britain's Carl Crutchlow finished eighth after a crash in qualifying saw him hospitalised.

DEFENDING CHAMP: The Honda star claimed his third straight victory.



Full Monte

MERCEDES expect to trail behind Red Bull and Ferrari in this weekend's Monaco Grand Prix.

Defending Formula 1 champion Lewis Hamilton - who is currently 17 points ahead of his rivals - last season finished seventh at the iconic street circuit.

And the British driver stormed to victory in

the Spanish Grand Prix at Barcelona in the last round.

But Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff said: "We don't head into the weekend as favourites.

"Red Bull are strong in the slow-speed corners and where straight-line speed is less important, while Ferrari dominated last year."

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