

THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



Helping to keep expat's informed.....and smiling.

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the July 2022 edition. Issue No.177

Spain was gripped by its earliest **heatwave** in 40 years during mid to late June. The mercury climbed above 40°C in Seville and other parts of the south and centre of the country, and was forecast to reach 43°C, temperatures not normally seen before July. Experts blamed a cloud of hot air from North Africa for the unseasonal heat, and warned it was part of a worrying trend. “While extreme heat is not unknown in June, the fact is that heatwaves have become **five times more frequent** in the 21st century,” said a spokesman for AEMET, Spain’s national meteorological office.

During mid-June, Spain’s Health Minister Carolina Darias announced that the country’s Public Health Commission, the body responsible for advising the ministry on Spain’s Covid vaccination strategy, has said there will be a **fourth dose** offered to all of Spain’s 47 million inhabitants. What hasn’t been fully decided yet is when the rollout will begin, although Darias did hint that it’s likely to take place during the autumn. Spain’s Public Health Commission is in favour of waiting to see how the country’s epidemiological situation evolves

and for the new messenger RNA vaccines adapted to the **new variants** to be made available. These new serums are expected to be ready in October and the two pharmaceutical companies developing them, Pfizer and Moderna, have already submitted the results of their clinical trials to the European Medicines Agency.

Last year the Spanish government slashed the VAT rate on electricity from 21% to 10% to try and soften impact of rising electricity price rises on consumers facing price increases across the board. They have now decided to reduce the relevant rate to **5%**.

Rising cases of verbal and physical assaults on Torre Vieja and Orihuela Costa area health centre staff has led to calls for better security.

Unions are demanding security guards to protect workers at facilities that are open for 24 hours. They **fear incidents will rise** over the summer holiday period as the local population swells with the arrival of tourists.

Many thanks to Kevin & Anne M, and Andy & Sue R for their generous donations.

Mick, Tid and the Dream Scene Team.

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LOCAL

IT'S AN URGENT EMAIL FROM A NIGERIAN LEPRECHAUN... HE NEEDS A SAFE PLACE TO KEEP HIS POT OF GOLD AND WANTS TO KNOW THE LOCATION OF MY MINE...



I am not afraid of the monkeypox virus,
i just want to know whoo whoo whoo whoo whoo whoo started it?



The Coastal Emergency Centre (above) at La Zenia has **finally been completed**, well almost. The top floor still has to be done. The project started in 2010 but by 2012 the building firm went into liquidation. The facilities of 4,700 square metres are designed to accommodate Police, Firefighters, Ambulances, Civil Protection and forestry brigades. However, our coastal area **has neither ambulances nor fire engines**, relying on those from Torrevieja and Pilar de la Horadada. The Local Police has already moved into the building offering 24-hour attendance. Their numbers, however need to be increased. During June there were two incidents at the Cabo Roig Salud. Police were called to one to be informed that there were no officers available!

The procedures for the NIE (Foreigner Identity Number) are also being carried out through the Immigration Office of the National Police. Likewise, the Civil Guard complaints office (denuncias) will be incorporated there, and not as is in the City Hall offices in Playa Flamenca.

Historically, the Orihuela City Council has been chaotic in the **processing of building licences**. The law requests that applications should be dealt-with in about two months but there have been many applications unanswered dating back to 2019 and 2020. In just a month and a half, the new governing council in Orihuela have processed 574 licences.

The deputy mayor and councillor for Urban Planning has blamed the previous mayor, Emilio Bascuñana, stating "There was a systematic, capricious and arbitrary blockade which followed the guidelines of the previous mayor."

Bascuñana of the PP, rejects this and maintains that it is "a manoeuvre to discredit and wear him down."

It was so hot today that I took off all my clothes, went around and opened every window.

I felt great..... but all the other people on the bus called me a pervert.

An 84-year-old Brit suffered a fall at his home in San Fulgencio. The following day his friends rushed him to Torry Hospital. After having his blood pressure tested he was 'abandoned' in a wheelchair in the waiting room **for 13 hours!** As he was not seen, a friend brought him home at midnight. The following day he returned to the hospital with a letter from his doctor asking for urgent attention. He was put in a wheelchair and waited **another seven hours** without being seen. Eventually he gave up and ordered a taxi home trusting that his local GP can look after him. Without a complaint reference number, the hospital refuses to comment.

A resident friend of mine in Dream Hills 2, had to urgently go to the A&E twice, once in 2021 and again this year. During early 2021 a female doctor in A&E shouted at him "Why you come in my hospital. You not ill. You go home now. Paracetamol." Fortunately his wife complained at the clinic and an ambulance then took him directly to the hospital where he was operated on.

YOU MUST COMPLAIN OTHERWISE NOTHING IMPROVES!

This June his wife rushed him to the A&E. He was seen immediately and X-Rayed within 20 minutes. Then after a scan was sedated, treated and sent home the following afternoon. He called it **a five-star treatment!**

The new Minister of Health for Valencia,, Miguel Mínguez, intends **to also reverse** the private management of the Dénia Hospital as soon as the current contract ends on January 1, 2024. However, he wants to avoid the mistakes following the reversal of the contract in Torrevieja. He intends to form a 'working group' to anticipate and solve any problems. Here's a tip, Miguel. Pay the medical staff the same rates that are payable in Murcia or were paid when Torrevieja Hospital was run by Ribera Salud. This will help you to hold on to and get, the best skilled medical professionals. Torry Hospital now has plenty of nurses. It needs more doctors, radiologists and specialists! But, the current chaos will not attract anybody!

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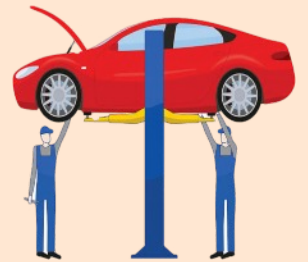
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She got her good looks from her father. He's a plastic surgeon.
Groucho Marx

Shakira has lost her appeal to dismiss charges that she defrauded Spain's tax office of €14 million and will face trial, a court has ruled. The 45-year-old singer is alleged to have failed to pay taxes on income earned between 2012 and 2014 when the tax office claims she was living in Spain. The Columbian pop star claims that she only moved permanently to Spain in 2015 and has paid tax here since then.



Five tons of hashish was intercepted by the Guardia Civil after officers stumbled upon a boat unloading the consignment at a Murcia cove. Four traffickers were arrested following a chase around the beach and the subsequent interception of their boat. A Guardia patrol on Sunday spotted a large craft with powerful engines mooring up at Puntas de Calnegre at around 6.00 am. They drove down and startled crew members

who were unloading hashish bundles for two people who were going to load



them onto a nearby truck. As the Guardia officers called for backup, they moved in and the boat fled out to sea, leaving their delivery scattered on the beach. The men picking up the stash ran off towards the cliffs but the officers chased them down on the beach. The boat crew was arrested some hours later. Besides 135 packs of hashish, photo, two trucks and a van were seized.

The popular British high street sandwich and coffee chain, Pret A Manger, is to open 70 new outlets across Spain and Portugal. Pret has entered into a franchise partnership deal with Ibersol Group which already operates over 600 restaurants on the Iberian Peninsula including brands such as Pans & Company and FrescoCo, as well as licenses for Burger King, Pizza Hut, KFC and Taco Bell.

An estimated 15,000 passengers have missed their flight connections at Madrid's Barajas airport between March and May as a result of huge queues at passport control. It's a problem affecting not only Barajas but also airports in popular tourist spots such as those in Alicante, Málaga, Tenerife or Palma de Mallorca, according to Spain's Airline Association (ALA). A spike in demand from holidaymakers, eased Covid-19 restrictions and a lack of airport staff following months of cutbacks are believed to be at the centre of the huge agglomerations in Spain and elsewhere across Europe. Another key factor is that British holidaymakers, historically the main tourism market for Spain, are no longer EU nationals and consequently passport controls are more stringent for them and are carried out by police officers.

There is no official word yet from the Spanish government on whether Britons will be able to use e-gates at Spanish airports (as they can in Portugal), which suggests Spain will not necessarily be willing to contravene EU/Schengen rules, at the very least until the new entry-exit EES system that will replace passport stamping with scanning is implemented (among other changes), most likely in early 2023. So far, Spain's Interior Ministry has "categorically" denied that the queues and delays reported by Iberia are at all "significant"!!



Today I went to the toilet without my phone.

There are 124 tiles in the bathroom.

How did you meet your husband?

I'm a pharmacist, he come in to buy condoms, asked for XXXXXL And only after we got married I realised that he stutters...



Corvera Airport

Corvera airport has opened up its last remaining routes for the summer season with flights to Oslo and Bergen in Norway, and Bilbao in Spain. This brings the total number of destinations up to 22, six routes within Spain – Bilbao, Mallorca, Menorca, the Canary Islands, Oviedo and Santander, as well as three connections with Belgium (Antwerp, Bruges/Ostend and Charleroi), two with Morocco (Casablanca and Oujda) and one with the Czech Republic (Prague).

Tourists from the United Kingdom accounted for 32% of all foreign travel to the Murcia Region in 2021, and Corvera has nine UK flight connections – Bournemouth, East Midlands, Glasgow, Bristol, London Stansted, London Luton, Birmingham, London Gatwick and Manchester, along with regular flights to Dublin in the Republic of Ireland.



Pass the Spuds!

Snack fans have been divided by a new flavour sensation: cheese and onion chocolate, packed “with real crisp pieces”. The Irish potato crisp giant, Tayto, has raised the bar in a limited edition of only 480,000, and it has become a hot commodity on eBay, where bags are selling for several times their original price. “It’s genius,” said Professor Barry Smith, taste researcher at the University of London. “The human brain likes contrast in taste and texture — this has both.” Not everyone was convinced. “It actually tasted like sick,” said one dissatisfied customer.

Split Liver Transplant.

During late May a split liver transplant was carried out at Virgen de la Arrixaca Hospital in Murcia. This allowed a piece to be transplanted to a 6-month-old baby in a Barcelona hospital and the remaining organ to a woman who was on the waiting list in Murcia.

This is not an unusual operation. Spain carried out 36 in 2021. However, for split liver transplantation, a series of requirements must be met, such as that the donor be a person under 30 years of age.

The Penance

A married bloke went into the confessional and said to the Priest, "Bless me Father for I have sinned - it has been four weeks since my last confession." "Confess your sins and be forgiven my Son," said the Priest. "I almost had an affair with another woman, Father..." he confesses. "What in God's name do you mean, almost?" cried the Priest, The bloke said, "Well, we got undressed and rubbed together, but then I stopped..." The priest said, "Rubbing together is the same as putting it in! You're not to see that woman again! For your penance, say five Hail Mary's and put £50 in the poor box." The bloke left the confessional, said his prayers, and then walked over to the poor box. He paused for a moment and then started to leave. The priest, who was watching, quickly ran over to him saying, "I saw that! You didn't put any money in the poor box at all!" The bloke replied, "Yeah, but I rubbed the £50 on the box, and according to you, that's the same as putting it in!"



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My wife and I have started role playing in the bedroom.

Her favourite is 'Sexy Librarian' where I have to sit quietly and she reads a book.

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Issued April 2022



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Senior Pet CBD	33.00 euros

CBD Vitamins

10 capsule trial pot	12.00 euros
30 capsule pot	34.49 euros

CBD Pain Cream

High Strength 25ml	40.00 euros
High Strength 50ml	70.00 euros

CBD Tea

Morning/Evening Pot	10.00 euros
Health Tea Pot	12.50 euros

Beauty Products

Lip Balm	3.50 euros
Skin Repair Oil 10ml	13.00 euros
Skin Repair Oil 50ml	39.00 euros
Vitamin Eye Oil 10ml	22.00 euros
TRU Box Set	149.00 euros
TRU Refresh/Restore	62.50 euros
TRU Calm	55.00 euros

Natural Organic Products

Aloe Vera Gel 250ml	7.50 euros
Essential Oils 10ml	4.95 euros
Hand Soap 500ml	2.99 euros
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The last time Frank Bruno fought Mike Tyson I had a bet on Frank, but I also had a bet on Elvis Presley sitting at ringside.

(J.H. Stracey)

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A drunk gets up from the bar and heads for the men's toilet. A few minutes later, a loud, blood-curdling scream is heard coming from the men's toilet.

A few minutes after that, another loud scream reverberates through the bar.

The bartender goes into the men's toilet to investigate what the drunk is screaming about.

"What's all the screaming about in there?"

"You're scaring my customers!"

The drunk said "I'm just sitting here on the toilet and every time I try to flush, something comes up and squeezes the hell out of my balls."

With that, the bartender opens the door, looks in and says, "You're sitting on the mop bucket!!!"

My neighbour complained about me groaning too loud while having sex in the morning.
If they only knew I'm just trying to put my socks on.



JJ's

Café  Bar

VIA PARK V.

Kitchen closed

BAR OPEN

TUESDAY - SATURDAY

1pm - 11pm

SUNDAY 1pm - 7pm



WEDNESDAY FUN DARTS 7pm

FRIDAY QUIZ WITH SUE 6.30pm

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JJ, Rob & Bobby

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TWEET!



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MONDAY - SATURDAY

11am - 5pm



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Snack Bar



VIA PARK V

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If he says, 'But what's my motivation?', I say, 'Your salary.'

Alfred Hitchcock



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DOG
FRIENDLY

BREATHALYSERS IN NEW CARS

A device that requires drivers to pass a breathalyser test before it will start the vehicle ignition system must be incorporated into all new cars sold in Spain from July.

The Alcolock system is connected to the ignition and requires the driver to blow into a breath testing instrument before getting behind the wheel only allowing the vehicle to start for those below the legal drink driving limit.

Despite stiff penalties of those found over the limit including fines and even prison sentences, drink driving continues to be a concern causing around 4 out of 10 deaths in road traffic accidents across Spain according to government figures.

New cars purchased from July will have the attachment pre-installed.

Drivers blow for five seconds, and can drive if the result is normal.

However, even detecting a faint trace of alcohol the device will prevent you from starting the car for one minute to repeat the test.

Afterwards if the breath alcohol level is above the limit (0.25 milligrams per litre), the car will stop for half an hour.

The device is already proving to be effective in the battle against

drink driving throughout France and Germany, where the system is already compulsory.



Don't piss off old people.

The older we get the less 'Life in Prison' is a deterrent.

Now that covid restrictions are lifted, HELP Vega Baja registered charity are now “back on the road”. Our aim is to do whatever we can to ensure that people know we are here to help them through difficult times and whenever they need a helping hand.

Social media is always useful but knowing that not everyone is comfortable using it, the charity has a team that travel around the Vega Baja area holding awareness sessions. These are proving extremely popular. Recently, Treasurer Sue Birchenough and President Michele Masson joined the Lime Bar Jubilee Street Party at Via Park III and not only signed up many new members but also provided valuable information to others which they are now following up on. As a result of the generosity of both the Lime Bar staff and their customers, the day was a complete success and raised 465 euros for the charity.



HELP VEGA BAJA

Lime Bar

Grateful thanks for the generous donation of

€465.00

from the Jubilee party, it is much appreciated

Thank You



The team have arranged regular awareness sessions in other areas including La Marina (1st Tuesday of each month at the social centre) and in the office with vecinos on the 1st Wednesday of each month in Campoverde. The charity would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to invite us to join them at a group or gathering to talk about the work we do and how we have been supporting people for over 43 years!

For more information contact Michele Masson, President on 966 723 733

or email president@helpvegabaja.com

The Woke Brigade and plant based army are now claiming that cows emit more pollution than cars. If you believe that, I'll do a deal with you.

You lock yourself in a garage overnight with the engine running, I'll do the same with a cow. We can discuss further in the morning.

I am not really sure our non-Spanish readers are very interested in Spanish politics. It fascinates me but you must remember that politics controls so much in Spain, from where your drinking water comes from, to the management of the hospitals.

LOCAL.

While the municipality of Torre Vieja continues to be governed by the right-wing Partido Popular (PP) who hold a majority on that council, there have been some changes to Orihuela, which of course includes the Orihuela Costa. Up until recently the council was led by the PP who were supported by the centrist Ciudadanos (Citizens) Party. Ciudadanos have **now switched from supporting the PP to supporting the socialists**, PSOE, who now control the council with their help! However this latest change will bring no help or relief to those of us on the Orihuela Costa. The coastal area remains the 'poor relation' of the Orihuela Council with little or no investment to improve the standard of living on the Costa. The beaches remain the main focus of the councillors while our roads are full of potholes and negligible facilities for residents. Although the long-awaited emergency centre at La Zenia has now been almost completed (first floor remains undone), there are no ambulances for the spaces allocated there! We still depend on ambulances from Torry or Pilar.

Local municipal elections are due again next May. Whoever wins I doubt they will do much to improve the lot of coastal residents. When the opposition groups complain, they do so locally, which is ignored by Orihuela. They need to go to the city of Orihuela itself and create a very, very loud noise!

REGIONAL.

We live in the autonomous community of Valencia. The Valencian Community consists of three provinces which are Castellón, Valencia and Alicante. The regional government, La Generalitat, is made up of a **coalition of left-wing parties**, which include the PSOE, and Compromís - a Valencianist party, made up of looney left-wing and

environmentalist parties. Unfortunately, it is this regional coalition that is responsible for the dreadful state of our local hospitals. One can only hope that after the regional elections next year, these incompetents get the boot and our hospitals revert to being among the best, which they once were. We might then also get a second health centre on the Costa.

However, a good guide of the political pulse in Spain came with **the regional election in Andalucía** of June 19 this year.

Andalucía is the largest autonomous region in Spain and the most populous with 8.5 million inhabitants. The socialist PSOE held control of this region for more than 30 years. However frauds relating to the massive ERE scandal and fictitious training courses led to a significant drop in support for the socialists. In a regional election in 2018 the PSOE polled the most votes but a coalition between the PP and Ciudadanos supported by the far-right Vox party managed the region for the last four years.

During the regional election this June, the PP emerged **with an absolute majority** of 58 seats out of 109 in the regional parliament. The PSOE received 30 seats and the far-right Vox took 14 seats.

The Ciudadanos Party failed to win any seats at all in this Andalusian election, falling to zero



from 21 seats won in 2018! Most now agree that this political party has now been

wiped out nationally as they continue to fare very badly in the regions.

Spain seems to be reverting to the traditional Right V Left politics with no middle ground for liberals. There will be a general election in 2023 with no doubt some upheaval.

Barry & Sue
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SAT

EVENINGS

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*My wife calls me "Computer Man"
because I've got
 a three-and-a-half-inch floppy.*

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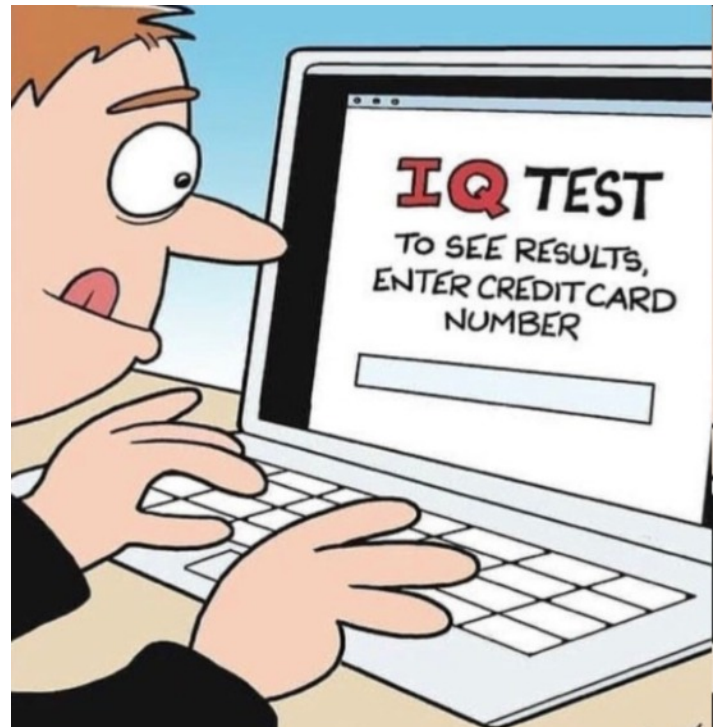
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 20:00**

Airport to Torrevieja :

**8:00 10:00 12:00 14:00 17:00 19:00
 21:00**

SAN JAVIER'S ITV TESTING STATION FRAUD

A massive scam has been uncovered at San Javier's ITV vehicle testing station in the Murcia region, with defective cars sailing through their road safety checks.

17 employees have been arrested by the Guardia Civil who visited the premises on the Los Urreas industrial estate.

The arrested group of 17 does not include the San Javier centre manager.

An extensive search saw the seizure of four computers and a server. Days before officers arrived, there was a mass deletion of computer files. (Obviously, they were tipped off.)

Computer forensic technicians however managed to restore most of the wiped 62,000 files. A large amount of documents totalling 30,000 files and inspection reports were taken away by the Guardia Civil for analysis.

The papers included details of cars that failed an ITV test but within hours, they somehow passed a re-test.

A vehicle was also impounded which apparently was used as a 'wild card' to replace vehicles which could not meet test requirements.

The workers face over 1,000 false documentation charges and 1,800 counts of computer damage.

The Guardia had previously visited the centre in November to check on alleged irregularities.

You would have thought that they would have cleaned-up their act after that visit!

DON'T PEE IN THE SEA!

Beachgoers caught short while having a swim could be landed with a fine of hundreds of euros after a local council in Galicia introduced a strict ban. The city of Vigo in the northwestern region of Galicia, Spain, wants to end the practice of urinating in the sea (or as the Spanish call it "physiological evacuation) by imposing a €750 penalty. Lord knows how they will police that! Using soap or shampoo in the sea has also been banned. More public facilities are to be introduced on the beaches that surround the city.

Vigo is not the first city to ban urinating in the sea. The resort of **San Pedro del Pinatar** in Murcia, southeastern Spain, banned it in 2017 as well as nudity, playing bat and ball and attempting to reserve a spot on the beach with a towel. Anyone refusing to cover up their private parts can face a fine of as much as €750.

Lighting a fire or a barbecue brings even more severe consequences, with fines of as much as €1,500. People hawking drinks or food without a licence can be fined as much as €3,000, according to San Pedro del Pinatar's beach code.

Other beach laws have left many Spaniards baffled. In Barcelona, Malaga and Palma de Mallorca walking along the street in a bikini (or, for men, in swimming trunks without a T-shirt) can result in a fine of up to €300.

"Waggy Tails"

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BBQ!

On Wednesday 27th July, Help Vega Baja are really excited to be holding a summer BBQ with entertainment provided by José Bolero.

This event is at the **Bell House in San Isidro** starting at 1pm. José is a fantastic performer and the expert butchers at the Bell House promise to provide a tasty BBQ.

Tickets are 14 euros and need to be paid in advance. As usual tickets are on sale at our San Miguel Office or email events@helpvegabaja.com to arrange bank transfer.

THE PHARAOH'S FINAL REQUEST WAS
TO BE BURIED WITH HIS CAT..



Cyril, a gay interior decorator, was telling his flatmate about his exciting day.

'This gorgeous woman in a Saab convertible picked me up and drove me to her apartment,' he explained. 'Then she took off all her clothes and said I could have anything I wanted.'

'How exciting! What did you do?' asked his flatmate.

'I took the car but none of her clothes fitted me,' said Cyril.



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WiFi

Now that food has replaced sex in my life, I can't even get into my own pants.

Anon

Melatonin is a hormone in your body that plays a role in sleep. The production and release of melatonin in the brain is connected to time of day, increasing when it's dark and decreasing when it's light. Melatonin production declines with age. Melatonin is also available as a supplement, typically as an oral tablet or capsule. Most melatonin supplements are made in a lab. You can buy melatonin over the counter in Spain. There is also a very good selection on amazon.es, much better than your local pharmacist. Melatonin is 'prescription only' in the UK.

People commonly use melatonin for sleep disorders, such as insomnia and jet lag. It is often taken by over 55's with sleep problems. Melatonin is not a sleeping tablet and is not habit forming. Its job is not to put us to sleep like hypnotic drugs, which cause an immediate feeling of sleep and have a significant sedative effect.

What this hormone does is trick us into making our brain feel that it's already night, and to tell the body that it's time to sleep. But it doesn't make you sleep, it helps you to sleep.

It is common for sleeping pills to cause nightmares, and in fact it is their most common side effect. But in the case of melatonin there is no evidence that this is common. Doctors use melatonin mainly to try to correct the schedules of night owls, who do not fall asleep until dawn and end up getting up very late.

Although melatonin can have side effects, it is best to check with your doctor before taking it, especially people with epilepsy and those taking blood thinners, who should be under medical supervision if they intend to take melatonin supplements.

And chaps, just because it is a hormone, it doesn't mean you are going to grow a pair of boobs!

However, if you suffer from lack of sleep issues

the oft-repeated warning that keeping mobile phones or tablets out of the bedroom is sound as sleep experts believe that keeping them in the bedroom hinders the natural production of melatonin, with the consequences that this entails for our rest.

The Doctor's Lecture.

The young country doctor thought his wife might be embarrassed if he told her that the lecture he was giving to the Young Country Women's Club was on Sex in Marriage, so he told her he would be speaking on Sailing. The following day, a bright young lady who was at the meeting stopped his wife in the street and congratulated her on the doctor's lecture. 'You're lucky having such an expert for a husband,' she said. 'An expert!' replied the doctor's wife. 'He's only done it twice. First time he got seasick and the second time blew his hat off!'

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Quite often the worst place to eat fish is beside the sea. People who catch it are not necessary the best at cooking it, just as gynaecologists are not necessarily the best lovers.

A.A. Gill

U.K. Social Welfare Information - Advocacy Costa Blanca.

Benefit Rates 2021/2022

Pension & Benefit Rates - 2021/2022

State Pension – (Full) £185.15.

Sickness Benefits (Attendance Allowance, DLA, PIP.) - High Rate - £92.40. Low Rate - £61.85



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David, you are a highly valued professional who people have come to respect and rely on. Your personal integrity and knowledge are highly valued by myself and others who endeavour to support those who have none.

SC. Royal British Legion, Orihuela Costa Branch

David visited us in Catral as we couldnt find anyone to visit us so far inland. You certainly get what you pay for. B&P W. Catral

David helped me when moving my Husband to a care home in the UK. His knowledge of the UK care system is amazing.

The amount of time he gave to us was fantastic.

We couldn't have done it without him.

GD-Torrevieja

I contacted a group for help with welfare and care They gave me some forms and advice. I didn't have the time or energy & a friend recommended David. He visited and helped me with the application & is also helping with the Spanish care. Yes he charges but his knowledge and help makes it so worth it.

MT. San Miguel.

David just helped me claim £47389 back from unpaid state pension.

All for free!!! IL- Catral.



0034 602465565



advocacycostablanca@gmail.com

Advocacy Costa Blanca is operated by David Minto, a UK registered Social Worker.

This includes UK benefit applications (Attendance Allowance/PIP) or support to return to the UK with care.

I am registered with the UK professional body for Social Work & every year must provide proof & evidence that my experience, knowledge and skills are up to date.

As a self-employed Social Worker in Spain I am required to provide Professional liability and indemnity insurance.

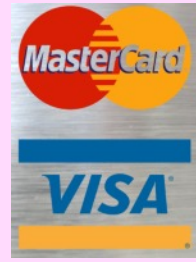
The registration requirements plus insurance means that I am always up to date with latest changes in UK social care & welfare law and my practice is fully indemnified.

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Walter Mattau to Barbara Streisand



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Paddy says to Mick, 'I'm getting circumcised tomorrow.'
Mick says, 'I've had that done when I was just a few days old.'
Paddy asks Mick, 'Does it hurt?'
Mick says, 'Well, I couldn't walk for about a year afterwards.'



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Thank God the Spice Girls reunion is over.

The only way I want to see Geri Halliwell draped in a Union Flag again is if she died in battle.

Frankie Boyle



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CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE IN ELCHE

A Criminal Court has sentenced a pathologist at Elche Hospital for negligence that prevented the early detection of cancer in a patient who died. The ruling, which is not final and against which there is an appeal before the Court, considers him responsible for a crime of homicide due to professional negligence and imposes nine months in prison and two and a half years of disqualification to practice as a doctor.

The woman began to be treated in September 2003 at a health centre in Elche for the appearance of moles on her back that were finally removed in November, same year. The samples were sent to the pathologist for a biopsy, a study that concluded that they were benign, so the patient was not subjected to any type of follow-up. Years later, in April 2009, the woman was admitted after going to the emergency room with symptoms of dizziness, vomiting and a lump under her left armpit. In the centre they found that the woman had a very widespread cancer and

ended up dying in September 2009 of that same year at the age of 42. The ruling relates that, when the melanoma was removed, the pathologist **only examined two of the three samples received**. It was the one in which he was left without analysing where the malignant cells were. "The tumour causing the metastases was a melanoma," says the resolution.

The husband and son of the woman have already been compensated by the Ministry of Health, but have decided to pursue the pathologist directly. Expert reports provided to the case indicate that with early detection and adequate treatment there was a 95% chance of healing and avoiding metastasis. Although these are events that occurred between 2003 and 2009, it is clarified that the procedure was previously followed through administrative channels, before the complaint was filed in January 2015. Even so, the criminal case has taken seven years to be heard and prosecuted but still not finished!



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BANKRUPTCIES IN ALICANTE PROVINCE

According to the latest data from the General Council of the Judiciary, between the months of January and March, 236 insolvency applications were filed in the provincial courts, 14% more than in the same period last year and the highest figure on records which dates back to 2007. But, the real increase was recorded among “non-entrepreneur natural persons,” that is, among private citizens who resort to this method to cancel their debts and avoid being persecuted for life. In total there were 128, 35% more than a year ago and much more than double that in the same months of 2020 or 2019.

As their number exceeded the applications for bankruptcy submitted by companies, which even fell slightly compared to a year ago, to the sum of 108 compared to 112 then. However, a distinction must also be made, since what was reduced were the requests from legal persons (companies) while those requested by the self-employed rose slightly (34 compared to 31 last year).

The CEO and founding partner of the firm specializing in business law Devesa & Calvo, David Devesa, attributes the increase in bankruptcy petitions from individuals to the “hangover” of the pandemic, which left many

citizens without income and caused some of them were unable to repay their loans. However, the dean of the Alicante Association of Economists, Francisco Menargues, believes that what has really spurred these figures is the greater awareness of the changes, which were introduced into Spanish legislation from 2015. **Before that date, when an individual had a debt, he was obliged to answer for it for the rest of his life, as long as he did not pay all the amounts owed!**



Why don't you write books people can read?
- Nora Joyce to her husband, James (1882-1941)

You may already know that Spain has two enclaves in North Africa. These are Melilla and Ceuta. They would originally be part of Morocco and I really don't know why the Spanish insist on holding onto them. Their principal industry is fishing. Cross-border commerce (legal or smuggled) and Spanish and European grants and wages are the other income sources.



Following the increasing influx of Algerian and Sub-Saharan irregular migrants into Ceuta and Melilla in the early 1990s, the border security has been stepped-up by the provision of large fences and extra guards. The Melilla's border with Morocco is secured by the Melilla border fence, a 6 metres (20 ft) tall double fence with watch towers. Besides the double fence in the Spanish side of the border, there is an additional 3 metres (9.8 ft) high fence entirely made of razor wire lying on the Moroccan side as well as a moat in between, yet migrants (in groups of

tens or sometimes hundreds) storm the fence and manage to cross it from time to time. More recently there was a mass crossing at Ceuta but on Friday, June 24 at 6.40am, the border at Melilla was stormed by over 2,000 sub-Saharan Africans, all young men. The Spanish Association of the Civil Guard said it was "a new extremely violent assault where those trying to pass to Europe came equipped with a radial saw to cut one of the access gates to Chinatown (Barrio Chino), Melilla, together with axes.



At least 18 migrants died and another 160 were injured during an assault. Other reports put the death toll as high as nearly 50. 140 Moroccan security force members were injured, five of them seriously. Guardia Civil had 49 injured guards. After overcoming the fence, 133 managed to reach the CETI (Centro de Estancia Temporal de Inmigrantes), where other migrants who have been housed since March, have helped many of the exhausted and injured after their jump and the clashes with security forces, both Moroccan and Spanish.

Right wing politicians in Spain have demanded that the fence on the Spanish side be electrified. The left-wing government refuses and has begun to remove all the razor wire from the fences!

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Antonio
LOCAL

(Cut out & keep.)



TIGHT!

A toilet cleaner wins the lottery and is being interviewed by the press.

"Will it change your life?" he was asked.

"Too right it will! Fifty million quid would change anyone's life, I'm retiring immediately and spend spend spend."

"Does your wife work?" he was asked.

"Yes, she cleans the ladies next door"

"Will it change her life?"

Looking amazed the guy says "Why, has she won it as well?"



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National holidays across all of Spain in 2022

Saturday, January 1st (New Year's Day)

Thursday, January 6th (Epiphany)

Friday, April 15th (Good Friday)

Monday, August 15th (Assumption of the Virgin)

Wednesday, October 12th (National Day of Spain)

Tuesday, November 1st (All Saints' Day)

Tuesday, December 6th (Spanish Constitution Day)

Thursday, December 8th (Immaculate Conception Day)

Valencian Region Holidays: March 19th, April 14th, April 18th and June 24th.

The Bad Tipper

One day a bachelor, who was a poor tipper, walked into his favourite restaurant and ordered lunch.

A new waitress served his meal and received a three cents tip.

When he came in the next day, she thanked him for his 'generosity' and she said she could tell the character of a diner by the way he tipped.

"Yeah? What can you tell about me?" he asked.

"You put three cents in a neat row," said the waitress, "and that shows you are a very tidy person.

The first cent tells me you are frugal and the second tells me that you are a bachelor."

"That's true," he agreed. "But what does the third cent tell you?"

"The third cent tells me your father was a bachelor too"

*The boy's got more plastic on him
than a Co-op bag.*

Melody Maker on Michael Jackson



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Police in southeast Texas are looking for a man who broke into a family home last month, stole from it, then **mowed the front and back lawns** before making good his escape. CCTV showed the suspect, named as Marcus Renard



Hubbard, photo, taking the lawnmower out, and filling it with petrol before performing the unusual chore.

Officers from Port Arthur Police Department arrived to find their suspect still with the lawnmower, which he pulled behind him as he tried to escape. He later abandoned it in an alleyway and ran away. The suspect is still at large.

Police are investigating how a Conservative club in County Durham came to host a wrestling “death match” in

front of an audience that included children. The fight in Seaham, advertised to families at a discount, saw two blood-soaked



wrestlers attack each other with sticks, glass lighting tubes and **even a garden strimmer**, photo, as children looked on in shock. One of the wrestlers, Ronnie Thatcher, said that he was “f***ing sick of apologising” but conceded that he and his rival, Blizzard, had gone “overboard”.

A couple in northern India are suing their son and daughter-in-law **for not providing them with a grandchild**, after six years of marriage. Sanjeev and Sadhana Prasad claim they spent their savings on their son, and now want 50m rupees (£525,000) unless a grandchild is born within a year. “Grandchildren bring joy into people’s lives, but we are being deprived of it,” Prasad said. “We are very unhappy.”

Rambo, a Limousin bull and “superstud”, who sold at auction for a world record price of **£189,000**.



Bidding for the Welsh-reared breed champion started at £5,250, but quickly escalated.

Max Mendoza enrolled at a public university in Bolivia in 1990. **32 years later**, Max, now 52, has still not got a degree despite unsuccessfully tackling a series of majors — industrial engineering, agronomy and law among them. During his time at university, he has held a series of student leadership posts and since 2018, he has been president of the University Confederation of Bolivia, the country’s top student representative, earning \$3,000 a month – 10 times the national minimum wage. Max has failed 200 subjects and obtained a mark of zero in more than 100. During late May, Max was sent to jail after a judge ordered a six-month investigation into allegations his tenure as a state-paid student leader constituted a crime.

Next stop, politics?

A jury in the US city of Portland, Oregon, has convicted a self-published romance novelist who wrote an essay titled **How to Murder Your Husband** of fatally shooting her husband. The 12-person jury found Nancy Crampton Brophy, 71, guilty of second-degree murder on Wednesday after deliberating for two days over Daniel Brophy’s death, according to reports. Brophy, a 63-year-old chef, was killed on 2 June 2018 as he prepared for work at the Oregon Culinary Institute in south-west Portland. The circuit judge Christopher Ramras had excluded the essay from the trial, noting it had been published several years ago. Jurors were not allowed to consider it in their judgment. A prosecutor, however, alluded to the essay’s themes without naming it after Crampton Brophy took the stand. She owned the same make and model of gun used to kill her husband and was seen on surveillance footage driving to and from the culinary institute.



Come down & relax on our sunny terrace or newly refurbished interior. Enjoy a cool crisp beer, a glass of wine, or simply a frothy coffee with a bite to eat from our improved snack menu!!



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Disappointing result for England against Hungary.
On the bright side, we destroyed them at kneeling.

Earlier this year, **Safe Hands**, a funeral plan provider with 46,000 customers and £71.1 million in the UK, collapsed, throwing contracts into doubt and raising concern over refunds. Being unregulated, the sector is facing an imminent overhaul, leaving many other plans in doubt.

Safe Hands, which was registered in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, was described in a Westminster debate as a “Ponzi scheme” and “house of cards”. Administrators at FRP Advisory have warned that Safe Hands’ customers may salvage no more than a fifth of their money after investments in offshore illiquid assets led to a large deficit in the trust.

From 29 July, any provider in the UK must be authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) which, from that point onwards, will give consumers far greater protection than they have at the moment. Safe Hands was one of dozens of companies operating in the currently unregulated pre-paid funeral sector. It emerged that Safe Hands had decided to stop operating when new regulations begin, as may some others. Many customers will lose some or all of the money they paid in. Industry insiders are worried that this could mean more of the 65 providers will go out of business, leaving tens of thousands of customers out of pocket. The Financial Conduct Authority announced ON June 17, that it intended to authorise 24 firms ahead of regulation from July 29, **meaning almost two thirds have not yet secured approval.**

When we first arrived in Spain some 20 years ago, two of the future financial obligations which concerned us were that of inheritance tax and funeral costs. Problems relating to the unfair inheritance taxation of non-Spaniards has since been corrected by the European Court of Justice but **funeral plans still remain unregulated in Spain.** Some funeral homes like Rocamer, have their own funeral facilities and tailored plans, funded by either a lump sum payment or smaller monthly payments. Tid and I and a large number of others locally use Rocamer, see Page 34, . Their track record is

excellent and the service is admirable. Their facilities are located close to San Miguel de Salinas.

But most of the funeral plans on the market here in Spain are through companies, which are basically like brokers who will sell a life insurance policy as a funeral plan. It’s a question of ‘Show me the money!’

If you are at the hospital with the deceased, you will be approached by a nurse asking who you want to collect the body. If you do not have a company to collect the body, the nurse will suggest one. (She will receive a payment from the funeral home for this!) If you agree to one and change your mind later, the original company will request €1,000 to release the body.

Also, many staff at the large local funeral directors are voracious. Forget the dark suits and their ‘very nice’ attitude. If you do not already have a plan, they will try to take advantage of you financially at what will be a difficult time in your life and they will be happy to sell you a €5,500+ funeral package when a €3,500 package would suffice! If you have to deal with them, think of them as having the ethics of a ‘secondhand car salesman.’ (Sorry, Keith! Not talking about you!)



RESIDENT WITH A UK DRIVING LICENCE?

After three months of worrying uncertainty, British residents in Spain with UK driving licences have received some much welcome news from Her Majesty's Ambassador Hugh Elliott – an agreement has been reached with the Spanish government that should allow Britons to once again begin exchanging their UK licence for a Spanish one by the end of July.

In case you've been living under a rock, on May 1, the last extension ran out and, as a result of Brexit, Brits who had failed to exchange their licence on time were no longer permitted to drive. If they wanted to do so, they were forced to begin the laborious (and very expensive) process of applying for and sitting a theory test and practical driving test.

As this is an international treaty of some import, Mr Elliott explained that certain red tape can't be avoided, hence the long delay; however, he added that the "best estimate is that we're looking at a date of having you back on the road around **the end of July**. So hopefully, by the end of next month, UK residents will be able to simply exchange their driving licence for a Spanish one without having to take a test. (MurciaToday)



"Oh ... still putting on your makeup?"



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Confession.

Clark Kent was lying in his death bed with his wife Lois Lane beside him.

After some time, Lois said, "Darling, I have to confess something. Years ago, I had an affair with Superman. It was only one night, but I've regretted it ever since. I hope you can forgive me."

"You don't need to worry about that because," Clark said as he took off his glasses, "I am Superman! Even if you didn't know it was me, in my eyes you were always faithful."

"Oh, thank God!?" said Lois. "I can't tell you what a weight that is off my chest."

"Glad we cleared that up," said Clark.

"So," Lois says, "I guess this means you were Batman too?"

Q. Why is sleeping with a man like a soap opera?

A. Just when it's getting interesting, they're finished until next time.

SAMARITANS IN SPAIN

Samaritans in Spain provides a confidential listening service to ALL English speakers, of any age in mainland Spain and the Islands totally FREE of charge. We do this because we believe in the importance of having the opportunity to explore difficult feelings and in doing so, alleviate the despair that can lead to suicidal thoughts. More than this though, we want everyone to feel empowered to take back some control by being able to call us and speak freely. All too often and very understandably, friends and family want to solve our problems, when really, all we need in that moment is to get whatever is concerning us out of our heads and into the 'open'. This is where Samaritans in Spain can help.

During our operational hours of 10am to 10pm, 365 days a year, there is someone waiting to take your call and genuinely listen without judgement or prejudice. We feel that it is important that people understand that they do not need to be feeling suicidal in order to call us. We truly believe in the power of talking about feelings openly and honestly and that by offering a way to do that, we can help to improve emotional health and reduce incidence of suicide; our ultimate vision.

As a self-funded charity run entirely by volunteers, we rely on donations from businesses and the general public in order to maintain this invaluable service. It costs us an average of €16 per each call taken or to put it another way, to enable us to hear the words 'I am feeling much better about things now'.

We are available on FREEPHONE 900 525 100 as well as via email to pat@samaritansinspain.com. Further information about Samaritans in Spain and how to support us or make a donation is available at www.samaritansinspain.com

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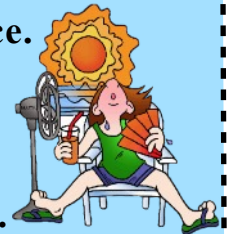


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Lime Bar ~~Fishing~~ SUNBATHING Club

Another quiet month but at least the weather has started to warm up!

The Rio Segura has still not recovered from the rain. This year we have seen hardly any fry swimming in the margins, which does not bode well for next year. If you can find a spot where the carp are shoaled up then you can have a good day's fishing. An example of this is at the beginning of the month, 5 anglers tried the Eden 2 "goat field" on the Segura. 1 x blank, 1 x fish, 4 x fish, 2 x tiddlers & 3 rods was on the end and had 18! I caught a tiny blue legged crab that was making mince meat of a 6" crayfish. To start with, the crayfish was probably bigger than the crab, but the crab was still shredding the crayfish's body as I swung it to the bank. By the time I got it unhooked, the crayfish was gone. I don't think the crabs have got as far upriver as Bigastro, but they are certainly not helping matters nearer the coast.

Because the river is not fishing well and Pedrera access is a bit iffy, we decided to fish the monthly match at El Bosquet. We fished pegs 1 to 16 and had a cracking day.

11 of us fished the match plus we had a guest appearance of Anti-Social Baz & Jim Prigmore (a former stalwart of the club who is on holiday from UK). Great to see you on the bank again



Baz. As a club, we had our best result ever with no blanks and over 125 kg between us. The best weights came from pegs 8 to 16 which included the catches of the Cat & BFC who had 50 kg between them, but did not include Just John's fish as he did not weigh in and left early.

The fish here are feeding on absolutely anything.

Although several of us still had a couple of stagnant 1 hour patches where you could not buy a bite..... then all of a sudden, the fish were back feeding like mad.

Weird!

The Cat only used corn & had 26 kg (inc 2 over 3 kg), BFC only used bread for 24 kg, I only used paste and had 19 kg, Sweeney only used luncheon meat and had 11 kg and just to show they were not fussy, Yorkshire Mick had 6.5 kg on boilies! What a day!

Well done everyone.

*For some it means escape from
the noise and turmoil of
everyday life*

Sweeney & I had had such a good day, we went back the following week. We both used the same tactics but we both struggled. The 44°C on the bank may have been a factor!!!!

We now have 3 vacancies in the club, so if you fancy a spot of sunbathing and want more info, pop up the Lime Bar and ask where the fishermen are sitting. A couple of stipulations though: you must like the sun, you are not allowed to be a good angler and you must be resident in Spain. We fish because we enjoy a day away from the turmoil of her indoors!

If you are a serious / competition angler there are 3 other "professional" clubs in the area. They fish every week and run pools for each section winner.

Late news. A small catfish has been caught in the Pedrera reservoir this week! Well done Arold.

The next ~~meeting~~ bun fight is at The Lime Bar on Tuesday 5th July.

Stay safe
Fishy fingers!
The Ghost

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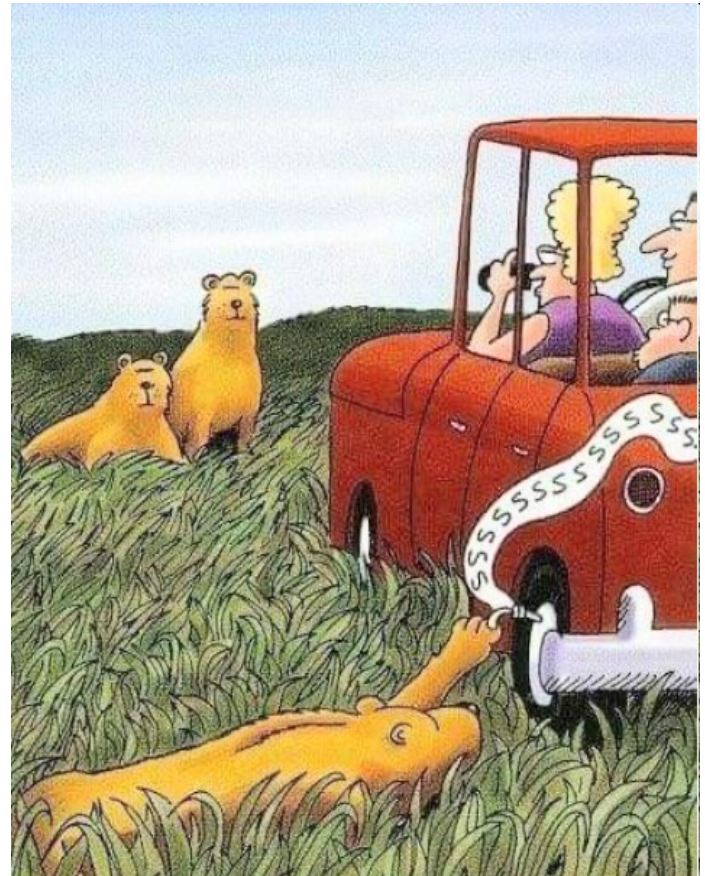
A magistrate from Alicante has accused the leadership of Hércules CF (an Alicante football club) and the Hércules Foundation of an alleged unreported rise in assets of two million euros, following the transfer to FC Barcelona of Moroccan footballer Abdessamad Ezzalzouli, known as Abde, photo.



It seems the two million euros was split up into 64 cheques and paid into.....well, no one is quite sure!

Also the Tax Agency is complaining that it has not received any of the 3,500,000 euros it was due to receive following the bankruptcy of the club's creditors in the year 2011.

Seven members of the Hércules Board of Directors are being investigated.



A homeless guy asked me if I could spare a couple of fag papers.

"I don't indulge mate," I said "but I'll nip into the newsagents and get you some."

I got him copies of Attitude, Diva and Gay Times.

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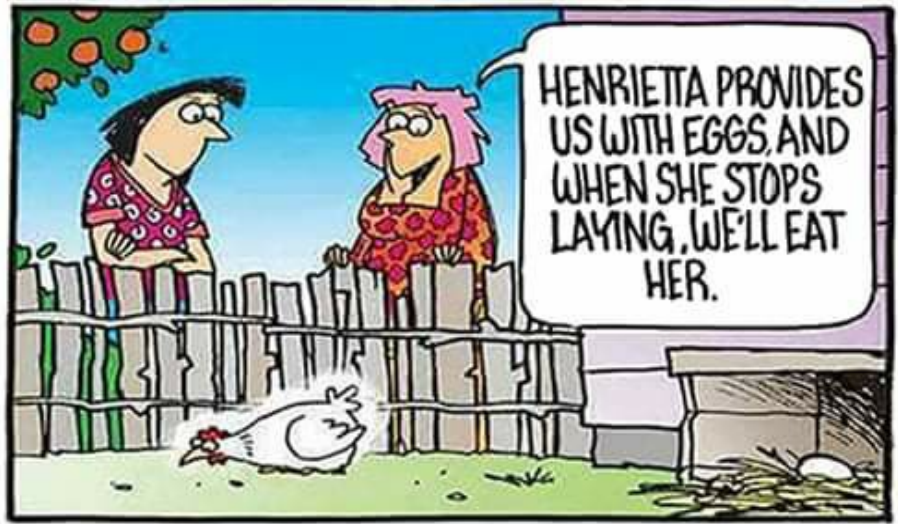
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The editor, Mick, can be contacted at mick.dreamscene@gmail.com (Or in some Bar!)



... and that is **WHY** the
chicken crossed the road.

*Sunburn is very becoming
- but only when it is even - one must be
careful not to look like a mixed grill.*

Noel Coward

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