



THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER



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

Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the October 2022 edition. Issue No.180

Fortunately the high **temperatures have eased** a little locally, as has the humidity.

Whereas parts of Spain have been getting a real hammering with heavy rainfall capable of shunting cars along, our local area has escaped it all, although some rain is expected during the last week of September. The real issue will be the arrival of any 'Gota Frias' (Cold Drops) which can be very damaging. Our weather here is changing, see Page 15.

Very difficult to find anything in the media about Covid infections locally. Although there are some cases in the hospital beds, intensive care cases for the virus are mercifully rare now.

Now post pandemic, there are **600 fewer businesses** than before in the province.

Construction is the only business sector with better figures than in the pre-pandemic time.

The fourth vaccine jab in Spain is likely to be rolled out about now for over 80-year-olds and residents of care homes. Then of course it will be the flu jabs!

Just as local businesses (and of course residents) are recovering from Covid, we now face **inflation and rocketing energy bills**, the

latter doubling and quadrupling. Many families and businesses will not be able to absorb the new costs. Three cafe/bars have already closed in and around Dream Hills.

Although the local beaches have been busy during September, the municipal councils of Torrevieja and Orihuela decided to **terminate the beach lifeguard contracts on September 15!** This is nothing less than criminal and has resulted in some needless fatalities locally.

The European Commission has 'urged' the Alicante City Council to promote solutions to **end homelessness** before 2030. Controversial begging laws introduced in the city during March have attracted condemnation. PP, Ciudadanos and Vox approved the ordinance against begging amid criticism from the left for turning Alicante into a "cruel and inhuman" city.

Thanks to Steve P for updates on the Airport/Torrevieja bus runs.

Thanks also to George, Steve H, Gary G, Jane & Gary R, for their generous donations.

Keep safe and well,

Mick, Tid and the Dream Scene Team.

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LOCAL



"Yeah? Well, if people look like their pets, why don't you go home and look after your gorilla?"

I sent a photo of myself to a lonely hearts club.
They sent it back saying that they're not that lonely.

The local government board of Orihuela has approved **the return** of an advance payment of €86,800 to the Ministry of Equality and Inclusive Policies as a subsidy that the Generalitat granted to the local administration in 2021. This was part of an aid package of **€124,000 for people with chronic mental illness**. However the City Council in 2021 did nothing so the funds have to be returned. The PSOE mayor of Orihuela, now responsible for the area of Social Welfare, Carolina Gracia, has stated that it is "a clear incompetence and carelessness of the former councillor [Almudena Baldó] and the former PP mayor [Emilio Bascañana], unable to launch this important service throughout 2021 and with no forecast for 2022". Basically, although the funds came from the regional government, the then municipal government couldn't come up with an action plan to allocate the funding!

The more mobile amongst you may be aware of the part of the tree-lined roadway connecting the N-332 to the Villamartin area, see photo. This piece of roadway belongs to the company Urbanizadora Villamartin SA, and occupies 11,832 sq.metres of surface. It has been used as a public road for more than four decades. The council now wants to adopt the road. The company wants a payment of €2.2 million but the council auditors say that a **payment of €1.1 million is fairer** as the road cannot be built on.

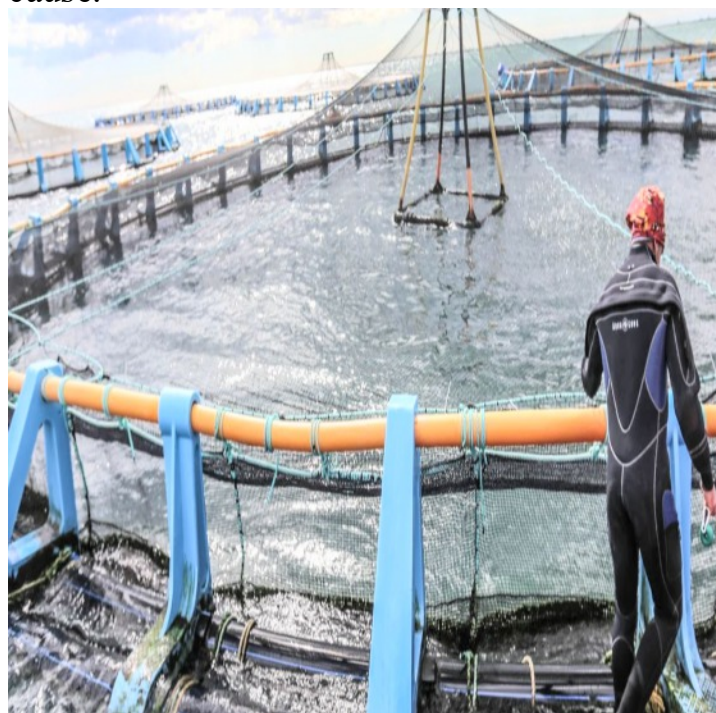


At around 1pm on Monday, Sept' 19, a **Dutch couple drowned** at a La Mata beach.

The deceased were a 56-year-old man and a 55-year-old woman. Although there were many on

beach and in the sea, Torrevieja beaches have **not had a lifeguard service since September 15!** Although the coastal beaches are still busy, the lack of lifeguard coverage by both councils, Torrevieja and Orihuela, **is criminal**.

The general director of Quality and Environmental Education, Joan Piquer, of the Ministry of Ecological Transition, has approved the **first fish farm in Torrevieja**. The Gramabasa company, of the Culmarex group, which contemplates an investment of 9.4 million euros and foresees the annual production of 8,000 tons of sea bream and sea bass. If it goes ahead, it will occupy about 2.2 million sq. Metres of marine area, the space equivalent of 220 soccer pitches. There will be 84 cages (photo of similar) of 38.20 meters in diameter. Although the proposal began to be processed in July 2019, there has, and will be many objections relating to the environmental damage such a facility might cause.



Following a report in a previous issue concerning the Policia Local, the Provincial Court in Elche has sentenced to five years and three years and six months in prison to **two local police officers from Torrevieja**. They have been found guilty by a jury of asking for money from commercial establishments in Torrevieja in exchange for protection so as not to be fined for infringements. A Serbian citizen was also sentenced to three years in prison as a collaborator for the extortion.

The Beauty Lounge

Unisex Hair & Beauty



The Beauty Lounge - Via Park 111

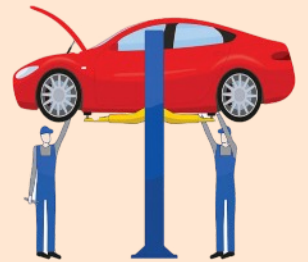
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"Mummy, mummy do au pair girls come apart?"

"No, why do you ask?"

"I just heard daddy tell his mate he screwed the arse off ours"

From the Yorkshire Herald Newspaper -
allegedly.

Buttock Tattoo Terror Lands Rotherham Pair In Hospital

A furious row has broken out between a local tattoo artist and his client after what started out as a routine inking session left both of them requiring emergency hospital treatment.

Furious film fan and part-time plus-size XXXL model Tracey Munter (23), had visited the Ink It Good Tattoo Emporium in Wellgate, Yorkshire last week, to have the finishing touches applied to a double buttock representation of the chariot race scene from the iconic 1959 film, Ben Hur.

Tattooist Jason Burns takes up the story.

"It was a big job in more ways than one", he told us "I'd just lit a roll-up and was finishing off a centurions helmet. It's delicate, close up work.

Next thing is, I sense a slight ripple in the buttock cleavage area just around Charlton Heston's whip, and a hissing sound – more of a whoosh than a rasp – and before I know what's happening, there's a flame shooting from her arse to my fag and my beards gone up like an Aussie bush fire."

Jason says he rushed to the studio sink to quell the flames, only to turn round and see Tracey frantically fanning her buttock area with a damp towel.

The flames had travelled down the gas cloud and set fire to her thong which was smoking like a cheap firework.

"To be honest", said Jason, "I didn't even realize she was wearing one. You'd need a sodding mining licence and a torch to find out for sure.

She could have had a complete wardrobe in there and I'd have been none the wiser."

Jason and Tracey were taken to Rotherham District Hospital accident and emergency department where they were treated for minor burns and shock.

Both are adamant that the other is to blame.

"I'm furious" said Jason, "I've got a face like a mange-ridden dog and my left eyebrow's not

there any more.

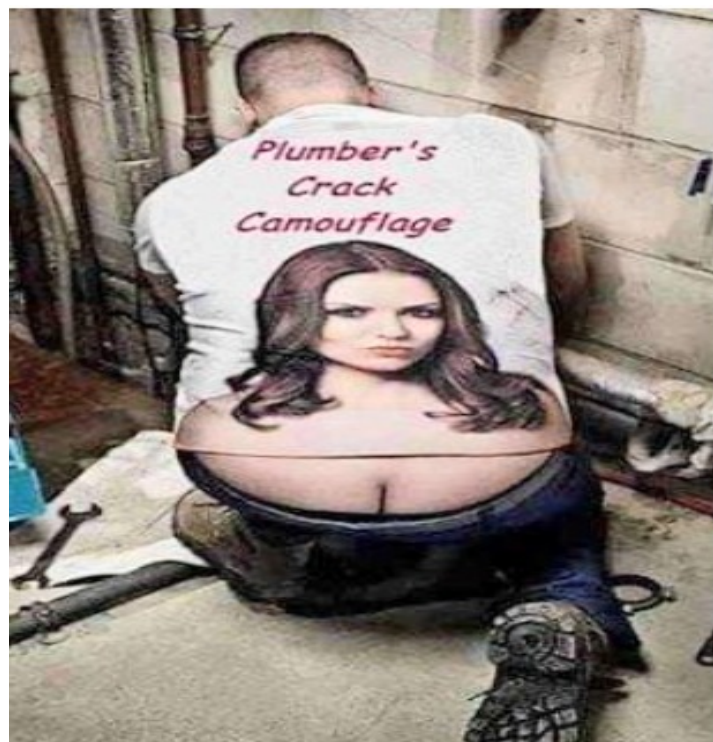
I don't know about Ben Hur – Gone With The Wind would be more appropriate. You don't just let rip in someone's face like that. It's dangerous."

But Tracey remains both angry and unrepentant. "I'm still in agony," she said, "and Charlton Heston looks more like Sidney bloody Poitier now. Jason shouldn't have had a fag on the go when he's doing close up work, there's no way I'd guff on purpose. He'd had me on all fours for nearly an hour. I can only put up with that for so long before nature takes its course, my Kev knows that I give him my five-second warning, and I'd have done the same for Jason, but I didn't get chance – it just quietly crept out."

Ted Walters from the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue service wasn't surprised when we asked him to comment on what had happened.

"People just don't appreciate the dangers," he told us. "We get more call outs to flatulence ignition incidents than kitchen fires these days now that people have moved over to oven chips. We have a slogan 'Flame 'n fart – keep 'em apart'. Anyone engaging in an arse-inking scenario would do well to bear that in mind in the future.

On behalf of the entire Fire and Rescue service, we wish them both a swift recovery."



As you will have seen in the September edition, **Spain's contribution in military hardware to the Ukraine** has been very poor; the battle tanks promised were basically junk! Since PM Sánchez's visit to Kiev, in which several promises were made to deliver war material that were later not fulfilled, President Zelenski has not stopped letting his team know his disappointment with Spain's role. Sources from his Ministry of Defence assured the El Mundo newspaper that the president did not want to make his complaints public, but he did not stop doing it in private so that others could send the message.

Meanwhile, the shipment of weapons promised on Ukraine's Independence Day (August 24) has at last begun to arrive in Ukraine, with 20 M113 armoured vehicles, the Aspide anti-aircraft battery and tons of artillery shells and shelter material. Spain's military will also begin to train the Ukrainian soldiers (particularly in mine-clearance) although some wags have asked "Who will train the Spanish soldiers?"

It is worth noting that at least **600 wounded Ukrainian soldiers** have already arrived in Zaragoza to be operated on by Spanish surgeons or to recover from wounds suffered in combat.

A British gang has been arrested on Ibiza after the Guardia Civil made Spain's biggest-ever 'pink cocaine' swoop with 13.25 kilos seized plus over €500,000 in cash. **12 Brits have been detained along with two women in Columbia** who travelled there to negotiate a fresh supply of drugs.

One night a man and a woman are both at a bar knocking back a few beers. They start talking and come to realize that they're both doctors. After about an hour, the man says to the woman, "Hey. How about if we sleep together tonight. No strings attached. It'll just be one night of fun." The woman doctor agrees to it. So they go back to her place and he goes in the bedroom. She goes in the bathroom and starts scrubbing up like she's about to go into the operating room. She scrubs for a good 10 minutes.

Finally she goes in the bedroom and they have sex for an hour or so. Afterwards, the man says to the woman, "You're a surgeon, aren't you?" "Yeah, how did you know?"

The man says, "I could tell by the way you scrubbed up before we started."

"Oh, that makes sense", says the woman. "You're an anaesthesiologist aren't you?"

"Yeah", says the man, a bit surprised. "How did you know?"

The woman answers, "Because I didn't feel a thing."

Since September 2020, the price of **butane gas cylinders**, commonly known as 'bombonas' and used to power millions of homes in Spain each winter, has increased by 6% every two months. From October, the maximum limit for the sale price of these gas canisters is set at 19.55 euros until the end of 2022. Even with the savings, this is still more than 4 euros above what people were paying for bottled gas this time last year. VAT on gas will drop from 21% to 5% between October and December, a measure which may be extended into the new year.

"From now on," said Spain's equality minister Irene Montero last week, "**no woman will have to prove violence or intimidation** was used for it to be recognised for what it is". She was celebrating the passing of the so-called "**only yes means yes**" bill, a new sexual consent law which states that consent must be affirmative, or explicitly expressed, rather than assumed in a victim's silence or passivity.

It was drawn up in response to the outcry caused by the lenient sentencing of the five men involved in the notorious "**wolf pack**" gang rape of a young woman at the 2016 bull-running festival in Pamplona. The men had argued that video footage on their phones showing the girl silent and immobile was proof of her consent; so instead of getting 15 years for rape, they were initially given nine years for the lesser crime of sexual abuse.

Spanish law requires **a massive overhauling and updating**. There is a typical example of one of the many problems outlined at the end of the report on Page 29.



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A man said to his wife one day, "I don't know how you can be so stupid
and so beautiful all at the same time."

The wife responded, "Let me to explain. God made me beautiful so you would be attracted to me;
God made me stupid so I would be attracted to you!"

The Randy Rupert

A new Army Captain was assigned to an outfit in a remote post in the African Desert. During his first inspection of the outfit, he noticed a camel hitched up behind the mess tent.

He asks the Sergeant why the camel is kept there.

The nervous sergeant said, "Well sir, as you know, there are 250 men here on the post and no women. And sir, sometimes the men have "urges". That's why we have the camel."

The Captain says, "I can't say that I condone this, but I understand about "urges", so the camel can stay."

About a month later, the Captain starts having his own "urges". Crazy with passion, he asks the Sergeant to bring the camel to his tent.

Putting a ladder behind the camel, the Captain stands on the ladder, pulls his pants down and does the unspeakable with the camel.

When he's done, he asks the Sergeant, "Is that how the men do it?",

No. Not really, sir... They usually just ride the camel into town where the girls are."

On August 25th, the Spanish Congress of Deputies approved a change of rules for the country's insolvency laws.

The approved reform seeks to streamline the bankruptcy process for small businesses and self-employed workers in Spain, detect potential bankruptcy earlier and offer alternatives to the liquidation of companies. The government also wants the requirements to be in line with the rest of the European Union's rules.

In essence, when a company in Spain is experiencing financial difficulties, even if there is no immediate risk of insolvency, it may request an early restructuring in order to avoid a progressive deterioration of its assets, and its creditors will not be able to file for bankruptcy.

The changes, which will enter into force 20 days after its publication in the Official State Gazette (in mid September), likely came too late to stop a flurry of bankruptcy applications as Spain's Covid bankruptcy moratorium ended two months ago.

Migrant Workers Law Set for Approval

Spain has amended its immigration laws to make it easier for non-EU citizens (UK nationals, Americans etc) to work in the country in a bid to address some of its most pressing labour shortages.

The changes will, the government hopes, come into force from this September and help resolve some of the bureaucratic obstacles which often prevent Spain from using its migrant population to cover labour shortages.

There are three main changes:

- Undocumented third-country nationals who have lived in Spain for two years or more can seek temporary residency papers.
- Non-EU students will be able to work up to 30 hours a week while studying, and to start work in Spain at the end of their studies.
- Non-EU nationals will be able to obtain a work visa to come to Spain more easily and take up jobs in areas facing labour shortages i.e. tourism, construction, agriculture.

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My wife and my in-laws fell out on holiday.
But the rest of the balloon ride was very peaceful.



JJ's
Café Bar

VIA PARK V.

Rob and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our amazing friends and customers for all of your continued support over the last 14 years, from the days of Belushi's and JJ's, We have had 'a blast' but it's now time to take some time out for ourselves to relax! We will take with us many happy memories along the way!

We hope you will continue to give Helen your support. We wish her every success with this great little bar.

So this is our last post. But not Goodbye!

We hope to see you the other side of the bar!

(I'm finally hanging up my mop! LOL!

If you know, you know!) Ha! Ha!

Have a Great Christmas

& New Year!

Cheers!

JJ & Rob





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MONKEYPOX & ANIMALS

A dog in Paris has caught monkeypox from one of its owners, both of whom were infected with the virus, according to a scientific paper published on Aug. 10, 2022. This is the first case of a dog contracting the monkeypox virus through direct contact with skin lesions on a human.

If monkeypox spreads to wildlife species in the U.S. and Europe, the virus could become endemic in these places – where it has historically been absent – resulting in more frequent outbreaks. The report of the infected dog shows that there is a decent chance these fears could become a reality.

Monkeypox is a poxvirus in the same family as variola – the virus that causes smallpox – and cowpox viruses and likely evolved in animals before jumping to humans. Monkeypox causes painful lesions in both humans and animals and, in rare cases, can be deadly. Researchers have found the monkeypox virus in several species of

wild rodents, squirrels and primates in Africa, where the virus is endemic. Monkeypox does not need to mutate or evolve at all to be able to infect many different species. It can easily spread from animals to people and back again. One of the key reasons that the World Health Organization was able to eradicate smallpox is that it only infects people, so there were no animal reservoirs that could re-introduce the virus to human populations.

Monkeypox is zoonotic and already has several animal reservoirs, though these are currently limited to Africa. But if monkeypox escapes into wild animal populations in the U.S., Europe or other locations, there will be always be potential for animals to spread it back to humans.

As with any infectious disease, be informed about the signs and symptoms of monkeypox and how it is transmitted. If you suspect you have the virus, contact a doctor and isolate from other people.



With the pandemic now not at the forefront of our minds, HELP Vega Baja is back planning events to not only raise much needed funds, but also to encourage people within the community to get out and about making new friends.

Monthly lunches are very popular and different venues are chosen each month. These lunches have brought together many people who are building new friendships. With various towns and villages throughout the Vega Baja area being chosen, the charity is confident that people are attending who may otherwise not get out and about.

All services offered by HELP Vega Baja are completely FREE. Events and sales from their charity shop in San Miguel, raffles and car boot at Las Filipinas near Villa Martin bring in funds that help the charity being able to support people who are struggling for all sorts of reasons. A full list of events etc proposed for the remainder of 2022 is listed below.

To find out more information about any of these events or how you can volunteer with this forward-thinking charity, contact Richard Garland (Charity Secretary) on 966 723 733, email office@helpvegabaja.com or visit the HELP Vega Baja Facebook page

Monthly Lunches (4th Wednesday of the month):

October 26th - El Prado, San Miguel

November 23rd - Venue to be advised

December 14th - Christmas Lunch, Royal Oak

Ladies' Afternoon Tea October 6th,

Laguna Tavern, Entre Naranjos

A pensioner drove his brand new BMW to 100 mph, looking in his rear view mirror, he saw a police car behind him. He floored it to 140 , then 150, ... then 155, ...

Suddenly he thought, "I'm too old for this nonsense !" So he pulled over to the side of the road and waited for the police car to catch up with him.

The officer walked up to him, looked at his watch and said, "Sir, my shift ends in ten minutes. Today is Friday and I'm taking off for the weekend with my family. If you can give me a good reason that I've never heard before, why you were speeding... I'll let you go."

The Man looked very seriously at the police man, and replied :- "Years ago, my wife ran off with a policeman, I thought you were bringing her back." !!!

The Cop left saying, " Have a good day, Sir "...

The Fatalities.

The Carlos III Health Institute in Madrid has estimated that, so far this year, there have been 30,861 more deaths than expected in Spain, and a staggering 3,833 of these have been attributed to the sweltering heat waves that Spain has endured throughout July and August.

What's most striking is that this number of fatalities is three times the figure registered during the same period last year, when 1,356 people succumbed to the heat. The worst affected month of summer 2022 was July, which claimed the lives of 2,223 people followed by August, with another 1,610 temperature-related deaths.

By region, Spain's capital was hardest hit, reporting a 224% increase in fatalities between January and September, **with 1,301 deaths blamed on the heat.** Madrid is followed by the Balearic Islands, with 1,195 deaths (746 in 2021) and Catalonia, with 711 (compared to just 100 last year).

The data for the Valencian Community this year also exceed the national average, which stands at 304 deaths from these causes. 361 people have lost their lives due to excessive heat in this community to date. This figure does not just refer to deaths caused only by heat stroke, but also counts the death of people with **previous pathologies that have been aggravated by high temperatures.**

The Future?

The director of the Climatology Laboratory of the University of Alicante, Professor of Regional Geographic Analysis Jorge Olcina, "it is not surprising that such a high number of victims is occurring because, as the State Meteorological Agency itself has recognized, this is the hottest summer on record and **we have had seven waves of Saharan air from June to the end of August**" and considers that these conditions especially affect people with some ailment or disease, as well as to those of advanced age.

The professor recalls that these last few months have been especially hot since they have presented high temperatures practically

continuously, with numerous equatorial nights that, according to UA data, are going to break a new record: 90 nights above 25° between May and end of August.

In addition, the excess of temperatures has also been noted in the sea: the accumulated heat of the Mediterranean has also set a record, exceeding 30° on some days in August.

For Fernando Maestre, director of the UA's Arid Zones and Global Change Laboratory, "what we have experienced so far has been the trailer for the film and the climate of the future that we already have here." The researcher believes that **"what we have to do is start preparing and adapting to the new climate"**

that we are going to have in the coming years. To do this, a key aspect that "must be taken into account from now on, especially by municipalities" is to provide cities with more shade. Maestre affirms that "hard" public spaces and squares have proliferated, **with practically no vegetation**, which have become impracticable and defends that "one of the main measures to lower temperatures is to put more trees, which also help to have a better quality of air and have numerous positive effects on our health."

The researcher maintains that "from now on there will be certain jobs that cannot be done at certain times of the day", especially those that require physical effort, and recommends taking more into account the usual summer recommendations, such as going out as little as possible at times of maximum temperatures, especially the highest risk groups.

"Heat kills"- A reality that for Maestre "represents a problem that we have to take very seriously" and implement measures to adapt to **"the climate of the future"** which, in the researcher's opinion, **"unfortunately we already have it here."**

(Of course what this article does not refer to is the significant damage caused to the various crops of fruit and veg' by the extreme heat and drought.)

Barry & Sue
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 from the

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 towards the sea**

- Av de Las Olas -

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 lovely charity shop
 on the lower ground floor
 in Via Park 5.**

**Lots of lovely bargains including new
 and nearly new clothes
 at very reasonable prices**

Mass brawl at my Slimming World group
 today.

Started off as an argument then everyone
 weighed in.

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17:00 19:00 21:00

**There may be adjustments
 for the winter period.**

Kurt, a German chap, walks into a brothel and tells the madame about his fantasy. She tells him to go and see Julia as she's always up for something different.

So up he goes, knocks on her door and tells her about what he want to do. So she lets him in.

He opens his bag and takes out a pair of gloves with big springs on them. Then he takes out a pair of knee pads also with springs and puts them on her.

He gets her on all fours and slides in. After about 5 minutes of banging away, he asks her to make quacking noises.

A bit later, they both collapse on the floor in ecstasy.

Julia turns to Kurt and says to him "that's the best sex ever, how did you do that".

To which Kurt replies.....

"It's my four sprung duck technique".

(GROAN!)

Keeping Your Electricity Price Down! ¹⁷

The volatility of energy markets in recent months means that there are huge differences in the price of electricity depending on the time of day that you use it in Spain.

According to data from Red Eléctrica, the partly state-owned corporation which operates Spain's national grid, the differences in **the price of kilowatt hour (kWh) can be up to 20 cents more expensive** depending on when exactly you use it.

From Monday to Friday, the cheapest time to use the washing machine is during the flat and off-peak slots. It may not be ideal, but by putting the washing machine on during the night, from 00:00 to 8:00 (off-peak), or in the morning, from 8:00 to 10:00 (flat), the kWh price can be significantly lower than during peak hour.

Similarly, another good time to use the washing machine, and perhaps the most convenient without being too costly, is after lunch from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m during another flat-rate session.

Fortunately, weekends and holidays correspond uninterruptedly with the off-peak time slot and there is, as a result, very little variation in prices depending on the time of day you use the machine, so you can wash your clothes at the weekend with worrying about racking up a huge bill.

The three energy periods, which you can also use to calculate usage for other electrical products, not just the washing machine:

Horas punta – **peak hours** (most expensive): 10-14:00h and 18-22:00h on weekdays.

Horas valle – **off-peak** (cheapest): 00-8:00h on weekdays; 24h on weekends and national holidays.

Horas llana - **flat rate** (intermediate tariff): From 8-10h, 14-18h and 22-24h on weekdays.

**HERE'S A PHOTO OF ME
HAVING FUN AT THE GYM.**

**YEAH...I COULDN'T
PICTURE THAT SHIT EITHER**

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*The condition of the man who was mauled at the teddy bear's picnic is said to be improving.
But he's not yet out of the woods.*



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DOMESTIC CLEANERS AND CARERS TO GET MORE RIGHTS

The Spanish government have now approved a bill to give hundreds of thousands of domestic cleaners and carers the right to unemployment benefits and other job protection measures for the first time.

The country's Labour Minister Yolanda Díaz said the law would benefit more than 370,000 people, of which 95% are estimated to be women. Díaz said the bill was intended to end discrimination against workers whose jobs have been undervalued for too long. She said that this is one of the new regulations in Spain that she finds most satisfying, and it comes after the European Court of Justice decreed that Spanish law was discriminatory because it did not recognise the right to unemployment benefit for domestic workers. 'If there is a job in our lives that is important, it is that of caring and cleaning, and for that reason I think today the country is better off,' she said. The new regulations will mean these workers can no longer be dismissed without good reason. Until now, employers could dismiss domestic workers without having to give a reason, with just 20 days' notice if they had been employed for more than a year and seven days' notice if they had been working for less time. The compensation was also extremely low: the equivalent of 12 days' pay for every year worked, up to a maximum of six months' salary. The new law is expected to take effect in October.



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I've just left the dentist with a sore and bleeding mouth this morning.
Well.....he had it coming to him.



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FOR WINTER THURSDAY LEAGUE*

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WiFi

When asked what body wash they prefer to use in the shower,
8 out of 10 women said: "How the hell did you get in here?"

CARREFOUR STEPPING IN

Supermarket chain Carrefour in Spain is to offer consumers a basket of 30 basic goods for €30, the company has said, days after the Spanish government said that it was considering asking big retailers to offer special price packages to mitigate inflation.

French retailer Carrefour – the second-largest grocery chain in Spain after Mercadona – said that it hoped to bolster the purchasing power of Spanish families.

The exclusive basket offer will include tinned food, pasta, oil and coffee among other products.

The Spanish government has already committed 30 billion euros to measures aimed at high energy costs, such as fuel rebates and VAT reductions for gas and electricity.

In June, Spain capped the price of gas used to produce electricity, a move now being studied for the rest of the EU's countries.

Another popular measure has been the launch of free rail passes (on repeat trips for commuters etc., not helpful for tourists) and discounts on public transport in cities.

Shortly after a British Airways flight had reached its cruising altitude, the captain announced:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, this is your captain. Welcome to Flight 293, non-stop from London Heathrow to New York. The weather ahead is good, so we should have an uneventful flight. So, sit back, relax, and... OH...MY GOD!"

Silence followed..... complete silence!.....

Some moments later, the captain came back on the intercom.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm sorry if I scared you. While I was talking to you, a flight attendant accidentally spilled coffee in my lap. You should see the front of my pants!"

From the back of the plane, an Irish passenger yelled "For the luvva Jaysus, you should see the back of mine!"

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I asked a Chinese friend what life is like in his country. He said, "I can't complain."

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.

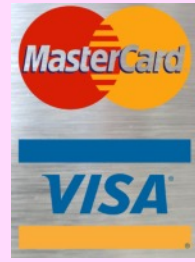
The registration requirements plus insurance means that I am always up to date with latest changes in UK social care & welfare law and my practice is fully indemnified.

This means that if things do not go as expected or planned, you have professional and financial protection. Reassuring for you and costly for me.

Can any other social care advisor offer you the same???

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and Spanish welfare support



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I interviewed a guy for a job last week. I asked him if he could perform under pressure.
He said, he couldn't, but he'd have a bash at Bohemian Rhapsody.



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A male whale, somewhat frustrated, is swimming around a female whale, saying:
"So many countries, hundreds of environmental groups, influential political leaders,
millions of people are fighting to ensure the survival of our species,
But you - you have a headache!"



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ask staff
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New Year's Eve to be announced



A woman takes her cat to the vet and explains he's been tired and listless for the last day or so.

The vet puts his stethoscope to the cats chest and after a moment says "Say aaahhh".

The woman says "How can a cat say aaahhh?"

The vet says "I was talking to you, the cat's dead"

Spain has extended its entry restrictions for visitors from non-EU countries including the UK until at least November 15th, meaning there are still several documents you need to show before being able to enter.

The extension was published in Spain's Official State Gazette (BOE) on Thursday September 15th.

This means that travellers from non-EU countries such as the UK, the US and Australia, who don't live in Spain will still have to **show one of three documents** to be able to enter the country. These are:

- A Covid-19 vaccination certificate – Your vaccination status must meet the Spanish authorities' validity period requirements. If more than 270 days have passed since your initial vaccination, you need to show proof of a booster shot.
- A negative Covid-19 test – This should be either a PCR taken within 72 hours prior to departure or an antigen test, taken within 24 hours prior to departure.
- A recovery certificate – This must be dated within the last six months. You can use a medical certificate or recovery record to prove your Covid-19 status.

You can prove this by showing a digital or paper certificate issued by the relevant authorities of your country. So far, 48 non-EU

countries (and territories) have joined the EU Digital COVID Certificate equivalence system. If the country where you were issued a vaccination, testing or recovery certificate isn't on the list, then you will have to fill in Spain's health control form before travelling to Spain.

The UK is on the list, so there's no need for Brits to fill in the form, however, those coming from the US, Canada and Australia still have to. **None of the above requirements apply to children under the age of 12.** This means that the restrictions will remain in place for the **October half-term break in the UK**, a time when many Brits will be planning holidays to Spain. Despite Brexit, Spain has remained the top holiday destination for Brits in 2022. During the first seven months of the year, 8.4 million Brits visited Spain, according to the latest data available from Spain's National Statistics Institute (INE).

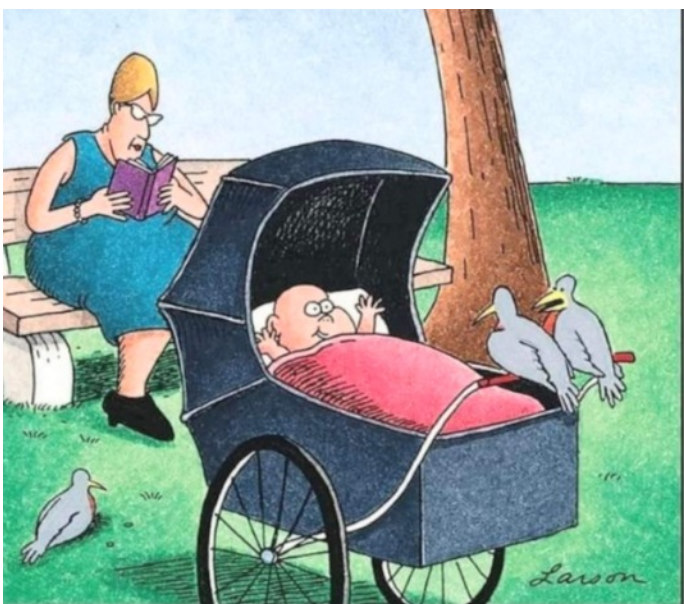
All Covid-19 restrictions within Spain have ended, with the exception of having to wear a mask on public transport, in pharmacies, hospitals and care homes.

HOW MUCH?

A man was driving home one evening and realized that it was his daughter's birthday and he hadn't bought her a present. He drove to the mall and ran to the toy store and he asked the store manager; "How much is that new Barbie in the window?"

The Manager replied; "Which one? We have 'Barbie goes to the gym' for \$19.95, 'Barbie goes to the Ball' for \$19.95, 'Barbie goes shopping' for \$19.95, 'Barbie goes to the beach' for \$19.95, 'Barbie goes to the Nightclub' for \$19.95 and 'Divorced Barbie' for \$375.00"

"Why is the Divorced Barbie \$375.00 when all the others are \$19.95 the father asked. The store manager replied; "Divorced Barbie comes with Ken's car, Ken's house, Ken's boat, Ken's dog, Ken's cat, Ken's furniture and all of Ken's savings."



It's still hungry ... and I've been stuffing worms into it all day."



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THE NEW WINE TASTER

At a wine merchant's warehouse the regular taster died, and the director started looking for a new one to hire.

An old Submarine Sailor, drunk and with a ragged dirty look, came to apply for the position. The director wondered how to send him away.

They gave him a glass of wine to taste. The old Sailor tried it and said, "It's a Muscat three years old, grown on a north slope, matured in steel containers. Low grade but acceptable."

"That's correct," said the boss. "Another glass, please."

"It's a cabernet, eight years old, south-western slope, oak barrels, matured at fifty eight degrees. Requires three more years for finest results."

"Absolutely correct. Now a third glass."

"It's a pinot blanc champagne, high grade and exclusive," calmly said the drunk sailor.

The director was astonished and "winked" at his secretary to suggest something. She left the room and came back in with a glass of urine.

The old Submarine Sailor tried it.

"It's a blonde, 26 years old, three months pregnant, and if I don't get the job, I'll name the father."

TAX ON SWIMMING POOLS?

French tax authorities have been using artificial intelligence to locate a hidden asset that has proved to be a major source of tax evasion: the unregistered private pool. Swimming pools increase tax liability because they boost the value of a property, and France has an awful lot of them – around 3.2 million – more per capita than any other nation bar the US. Last year, a scheme to cross-check aerial images with land-registry databases (using software developed by Google) was trialled across nine departments: it uncovered more than 20,000 undeclared pools worth about €10m to the tax authorities. The scheme is now to be extended across the country. But as France grapples with its worst ever recorded drought, some Green party politicians are calling for a ban on building any more pools. More than 100 municipalities have been left short of drinking water, and crop production has been severely hampered across the country.

Now I wonder what the Spanish government will be thinking after they get wind of this? Forever hungry to boost the tax revenues, I would be surprised if they could resist the temptation. I am also surprised that with much of the country suffering regular periods of drought, there appears to be no restrictions on the building of new swimming pools while other countries have hose-pipe bans etc.

A 15-year-old boy, we will call X, who lives in Elche with his family, has been having some very poor grades at school due to distractions from video games and lots of social media usage. His parents regularly restricted his usage of these activities in an effort to help him improve his studies.

On February 8 this year, X approached his mother in the kitchen to tell her that he had failed a further two subjects at school, to now bringing his subject failures to seven out of nine. His mother took it badly, calling him a "liar and lazy", punishing him without television or computer and banned to his room. X then went to a cupboard and took his grandfather's shot gun, loaded it, went to the kitchen and shot his mother three times.

Alerted by the noise, X's 10-year-old brother rushed into the kitchen. After seeing his mother on the kitchen floor he started to run away but X shot him in the back.

After cleaning the floors and dragging his mother and brother to a storage room outside the house, X sat on a chair ten feet from the front door and waited for his father, an electrician, to return from work.

As soon as his father opened the front door, X shot him in the mouth, but did not kill him. His father, badly wounded, managed to snatch the gun from him and threw it to the floor, but while he went to the bathroom and told him to call the emergency room, X again loaded the shotgun and shot his father again.

Despite being shot twice, his father was still alive. X then shot his father a third time, "so that he would not suffer."

After dragging his father's body next to his mother and brother in the storage room, the teenager cleaned up the crime scene, took a shower, and then calmly ate a fried egg for dinner.

When he finished, he went online to play some computer games with his friends. Later, on several occasions, he sent several WhatsApp messages impersonating his parents saying they had Covid. It was not until three days later when some aunts visited the house did the horror become apparent.

Although the trial has not been held yet, all the above details, and more, have been provided by the killer himself.

The psychiatric report on X revealed that he knows perfectly well how to differentiate between good and evil. After ruling out that he suffers from any type of mental disorder, the specialists remark in their report that the minor presents traits of an "incipient psychopathic personality and that he has a low tolerance for frustration." Poor Dear!

But the horror story continues! For the three murders, the Prosecutor's Office can only request up to six years of internment in a closed regime centre, **the maximum penalty allowed by the Minors' Law**, even given the seriousness of the facts. If he had committed the same acts when he was of legal age, he could have been given a reviewable permanent prison sentence. As it is, he could just spend up to a maximum of five years in a centre for minors in a closed regime, plus another three years of probation.

So, as X is 16 years now, he could be free before he is 22. He might even become friends with your grandchildren!

*My old man was so dumb he picked a
guy's pocket on an airplane
and tried to make a run for it.
Rodney Dangerfield*

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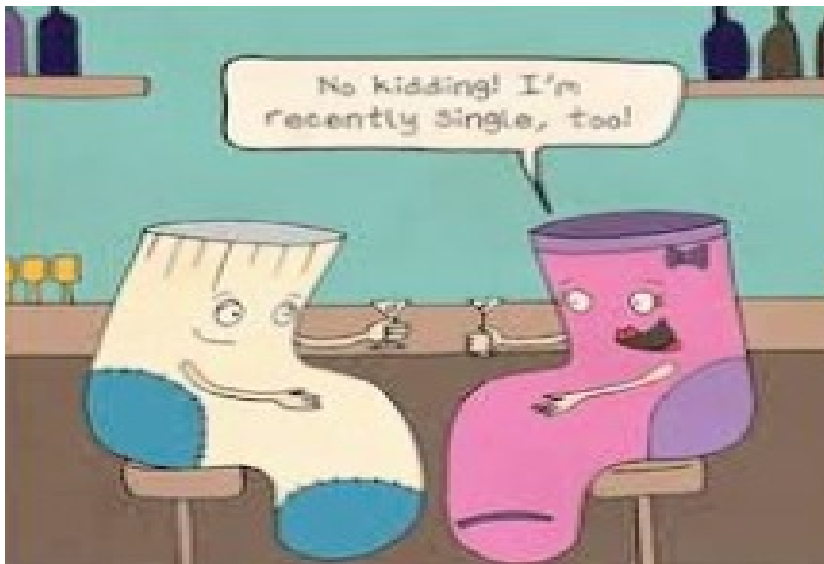


607 493 118

Antonio
LOCAL

(Cut out & keep.)





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.

A businessman was interviewing applicants for the position of divisional manager. He devised a simple test to select the most suitable person for the job. He asked each applicant the question, "What is two and two?"

The first interviewee was a journalist. His answer was "Twenty-two."

The second applicant was an engineer. He pulled out a slide rule and showed the answer to be between 3.999 and 4.001.

The next person was a lawyer. He stated that in the case of Jenkins v Commissioner of Stamp Duties, two and two was proven to be four.

The last applicant was an accountant. The businessman asked him, "How much is two and two?"

The accountant got up from his chair, went over to the door and closed it then came back and sat down.

He leaned across the desk and said in a low voice "How much do you want it to be?"

He got the job.



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Japan’s government has a novel plan to arrest a slide in tax revenues: **encouraging young people to drink more alcohol**. Its tax authority has launched a campaign dubbed “Sake Viva!”, a nationwide competition calling for “products and designs” to promote drinking. Alcohol made up 5% of Japan’s tax revenue in 1980, but that figure fell to 1.7% in 2020; on average, Japanese adults drink 75 litres of booze a year, down from 100 litres in 1995. The health ministry said it hoped the campaign would remind people to drink only the “appropriate amount”.

An Australian woman took revenge on her unfaithful partner – by taking out a **full-page advert** in her local newspaper. The advert, in the Mackay & Whitsunday Life, read: “Dear Steve, I hope you’re happy with her. Now the whole town will know what a filthy cheater you are. From Jenny. P.S.,” she added, “I bought this ad using your credit card.”

An intoxicated brown bear was rescued in



Turkey, after apparently gobbling up excessive amounts of what locals dub **“mad honey”**.

The young animal was “lethargic” but “ecstatic” when it was found by a forester in

woodland about 130 miles east of Istanbul, authorities said. The animal appeared to have gorged on a form of honey the locals call “deli bal”, which is the product of bees feeding on the pollen of rhododendrons, and can have a hallucinogenic effect if consumed. The bear was taken to a vet and will soon be returned to the wild. “Yea, Man!”

Southend Football Club was taken to task on social media last week, after seeming to name

part of its stadium after a serial killer. The club had struck a sponsorship deal with a local estate agents – Gilbert & Rose – which involved awarding it naming rights over the West stand. As a result, this became the **Gilbert & Rose West Stand**. The club seems to have been oblivious to the problem, until fans pointed it out. “I don’t think they thought this one through,” tweeted journalist Iain Macintosh on Twitter. “Have to say, this leaves Manchester City’s legendary Bell End in the shade,” wrote another Twitter user.

A Mexican grandmother was granted her dying wish, when a **5½ft-tall penis** was erected on top of her gravestone.



Catarina Orduña Pérez’s family said she had a fascination with the male anatomy, and had long ago specified that she wanted a penis statue on her grave. So when she died, aged 99, in January they “decided to make her dream come true”, said her grandson. It was unusual, he admitted. But his grandmother had always been “very avant-garde, very forward-thinking”.

A goalkeeper was sent off in an English FA Cup qualifying match – for **relieving himself in a hedge** in the 76th minute. Nature called for Connor Maseko during his side Blackfield & Langley’s goalless draw with Shepton Mallet. But when Maseko took advantage of a lull in play to make his way to the side of the pitch, opposing players alerted the referee – who showed the keeper a red card. The decision left Maseko’s manager, Conor McCarthy, “gobsmacked”. “He protected himself,” said McCarthy. “He was inside the hedge. Sometimes when you have to go, you have to go.”

Being President is like running a cemetery: you’ve got a lot of people under you and nobody’s listening. Bill Clinton



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I think you're the biggest moron I've met in my life.
And living round here, that's really saying something.
Ian Beale, *Eastenders*

ERE stands for ‘Expediente de Regulacion de Empleo’, and is a procedure which allows companies facing bankruptcy to fire workers and receive public funding to underwrite severance and early retirement packages. In this particular case it is the region of Andalucia that received hundreds of millions of euros from Madrid for the purpose of stimulating employment and aiding ailing companies. But in reality, the funds (reptile fund) were siphoned-off to pay friends, relatives, lawyers, accountants, the trade unions and the politicians themselves.

This particular case just refers to a portion of the funds provided, €680 million, for the period between 2000 and 2009 only. Several other years have to be investigated yet and maybe never will be. Most of the payments were made off the books and without any form of public scrutiny and, so far, 500 people have been probed since investigations began in 2010. Involving seven judges, the tentacles of the scandal are buried so deep that the case had to be broken into 146 different probes.

The then Andalusian Government, governed by the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party of Andalusia (PSOE-A) ruled from 1980, but were kicked-out during 2018 after the fraud details started to emerge.

The ERE scandal investigation began when campaigning judge

Mercedes Alaya, photo, launched a probe into irregularities in the municipal company Mercasevilla. It came after two former directors (who had received €900,000 in a grant)

attempted to bribe a pair of hotel owners, offering them the concession for a hospitality training school for €450,000. Unluckily for them, the hotel businessmen recorded the meetings and handed the tapes over to Madrid’s Ministry of



Employment, which sent them to the prosecutor’s office. While the Junta’s then Employment Minister Francisco Javier Guerrero brushed the complaint off saying that the fund was merely to help businesses breath, Judge Alaya smelt a rat and dug deeper, paying special attention to the funding of training courses for the unemployed in Andalucia, 2,896.48 million euros corresponding to aid distributed between 2002 and 2012. (More on Guerrero later.)

Once Alaya started to look at the training subsidies all hell broke loose. Both the ruling socialists in the region and the right-wing PP politicians objected strongly to Alaya, a crusading judge. Although you would have expected the PP to support Alaya and any of her findings, it is now believed that the PP either received some of the funding or were afraid of a similar investigation in the regions they controlled. The politicians interfered and the Superior de Justicia de Andalucía, Ceuta y Melilla duly removed Alaya from the training course section of the fraud and had a passive judge, María de los Ángeles Núñez Bolaños, put in her place. Alaya confirmed that the politicians were manipulating the judiciary.

The Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office denounced the new judge, Núñez Bolaños, before the General Council of the Judiciary (CGPJ) for delaying the investigations. At the same time, her husband, the forensic doctor Julio Guija Villa, acceded to a leadership position in the Junta to direct the Institute of Legal Medicine of Seville (which he himself suggested creating) with a substantial salary increase.

On October 11, 2016, Judge Núñez Bolaños agreed to dismiss the "Training case" and on January 23, 2017 returned all the documentation—18,023 files amounting to 2,896.48 million euros corresponding to aid distributed between 2002 and 2012—to the Junta de Andalucía, however, in July 2019 the Provincial Court of Seville ordered the case to be reopened. In June 2019, Judge Núñez Bolaños resigned for personal reasons.

THE ERE FRAUD, PART 2.

So let's just have a brief look at what a small selection of the fraudsters.

The then Employment Minister Francisco Javier Guerrero was a particular 'colourful' character, photo. He handed out cash from



the fund at will, and literally dozens of friends and neighbours benefited. They included pal Jose Llorente, who received a severance package from cork production company Aglomerados Morel – despite never having worked there!

He later told investigators he thought the money arriving into his account was 'a gift from God'.

Another neighbour was 'fired' from a bogus company that he never worked for, earning himself a €1,100 a month severance package from 2003 until 2013.

Playing the role of Robin Hood in his home town, he garnered the nickname, 'the Marques' and showered residents with millions of euros.

He handed out countless early retirement packages for locals who had supposedly worked in the nearby Alquife mine – despite them never having set foot in them. The truth is, almost no-one had. The tiny village of 2,000 citizens had only a distillery and a cork extraction plant to rely on for employment.

But that was all to change, on paper at least, when PSOE councillors Jose Rosendo and Jose Sayago set up a fake network of companies listing dozens of local residents taking early retirement.

In total, the group was paid around €60 million over five years to do nothing.

Regionally, the reptile fund handed out money in a similar way to hundreds of businesses in hundreds of towns and villages.

So brisk was the trade that a separate company was set up in Sevilla to furnish these 'firms' with computers, desks and filing cabinets... and even personnel, if none could be found locally on the day the inspectors came to visit.

For that was the deal: you could get a fund of up to €450,000 per firm, which would be

delivered a few days after an official inspection from the Junta. A truck would arrive with the necessary number of desks and computers a day before the inspection and then return a day later to pack them away.

Guerrero and his chauffeur did not skimp on themselves. Driver Juan Trujillo admitted to judges how he spent at least €900,000 of public cash on cocaine, booze and 'partying' at brothels with his boss. He admitted taking €1.4 million in public aid for business projects which never materialised.

Juan Lanzas, a leading trade unionist allegedly pocketed up to €13 million in commissions for admitting companies into the corrupt network. His mother once boasted to locals in their hometown of Albanchez de Magina, in Jaen: "*Mi hijo tiene dinero para asar una vaca*" (my son has enough money to roast a cow... basically, he had money to burn).

And she wasn't wrong, given this true socialist from the UGT union bought 16 properties with his loot and police found €80,000 in cash stashed inside a mattress.

But at least one 'biggy' has escaped the courts and cells. Eduardo Pascual Arxe, a former Catalan banker who helped commission the fraudulent EREs, fled to Africa in July 2015 and is yet to be found. The slippery money man was once the president of Eurobank, which he fraudulently bankrupted and enriched himself to the tune of €12 million some 15 years ago. Arxe skipped to Burkina Faso but had an escape planned for years. Back in 2005, after investigations had begun, he married a Bolivian woman 25 years his senior. He used his marriage to acquire Bolivian nationality and changed his name. He is now believed to be in Benin.

To date, 19 people, including two former presidents of Andalucia, have received jail sentences. Spanish PM Sanchez has hinted that he might pardon one of the former Andalusian presidents, Grinan. As he had already pardoned the Catalan separatists, this would make a mockery of the Spanish judicial system, but nothing would surprise me!



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CANNY LASS!

An 85-year-old lady is waiting for her husband at the bar in Harpoon Harry's.

Suddenly, a very handsome man enters and sits down a few seats away. The man is so attractive she cannot keep her eyes off him. After a short time, the man notices her staring and approaches her. Before the lady has time to apologize, the man looks deep into her eyes and says in a sultry tone, "I'll do anything you'd like. Anything you can imagine in your wildest dreams. I doesn't matter how extreme or unusual it is, I will do it. For this I want €100 cash. But, there's another condition."

Completely stunned by this turn of events, the lady asks him what the condition is.

"You have to tell me what you want me to do in just three words."

The lady takes a moment to consider the offer from the handsome man. She reaches into her handbag and puts €100 in his hand. She then smiles, looks him square in the eyes, and slowly, but clearly says, - "Paint my house."

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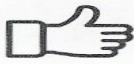
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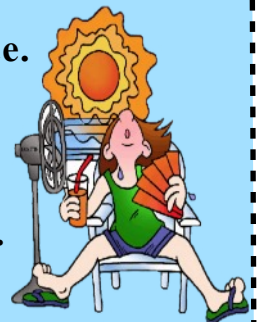


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Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

At the monthly meeting I warned everybody that next month is the AGM and we are looking for volunteers for the various posts. There was a lot of movement.... Backwards!

At the meeting, Antique Man was chatting about having a good day at El Bosquet. I told him that I had caught my PB on the same day (10.35 lbs). When questioned on how he had got on, it turned out that he had landed a 6.88 kilo carp (witnessed by Jeff). In old money, that equates to over 15 lbs. When asked why he hadn't taken a photo or listed it as the biggest carp this year on the notice board, he said "Oh, can I?" As he didn't take a photo you can see my tiddler!



The last match of the summer league decided who went into the final, with Fagash & Sweeney fighting for the last place. It was fished at El Bosquet on a pleasant day, not too hot and not raining!

Unfortunately, everybody struggled to catch except 1 angler. Most of us could not find the carp let alone get them feeding, with only small mullet coming to the net. However, at the off, it took less than 1 minute for the Cat's corn hand grenade to connect to his 1st fish, and he carried on from there. Several of us had tried to copy his method but failed miserably. I blame Sweeney and myself for drawing him into the infamous peg 26!

The Cat finished with over 30 fish (again) for 28 kilos which earned him 1st place and a record maximum 80 league points. Well done sir. Fagash (who was at the opposite end to the Cat in peg 40) was 2nd with 5 kilos (this got him into the final) beating 3rd place Sweeney's 4 kilos, who had

to suffer sitting next to his nemesis (the Cat) watching him land fish after fish. Unlucky mate, missed the final by 1 point.

The other 4 finalists are Ghost, Old Bill, 3 Rods & BFC.

The final is being held after this report is sent in, so more on that next month.

The next meeting bun fight is the AGM at The Lime Bar on Tuesday 4th October.

Stay safe
Fishy fingers!
The Ghost

Mary's Problem

Mary was confiding in her mate,

"Julie, you know what? I can't get any guy to sleep with me and it's all because my fanny smells of onions."

"Don't worry", her mate says, "I know a guy who had Covid and has no sense of smell now, he will sleep with you."

Half way through the couples lovemaking, he says to her, "Ere, your fanny reeks of onions."

"How would you know?" she says, "you have no sense of smell what so ever."

He says, "Yeah, I know, but I can't stop crying."

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ANDALUCIA TAKES THE LEAD IN TAX REDUCTIONS.

The regional governments in Spain are allowed to increase or decrease some of their taxes. A couple of years ago the Andalucian Government decided to virtually remove the dreaded Inheritance Tax by reducing the tax payable to only assets in excess of one million euros.

They have now decided to take a further step by abolishing the 'Impuesto de Patrimonio' Wealth Tax in the autonomous community. This means that second home owners will no longer have to pay this tax in that region. Andalusia is the second community after Madrid to subsidise 100% of this tax, and Juanma Moreno, president of the community, has explicitly based his next move on the perceived success of the Spanish capital: "I believe that the Madrid model has worked and is a successful model. In a global and competitive world, communities with less tax pressure are more attractive to investment," he said.

Other fiscal measures he announced include the abolition of the water tax, lowering the IRPF personal income tax for the lowest-income earners and an increase in the level of how much money is exempt from personal income tax.

Andalucia is run by the conservative party in Spain, the PP, which is being criticised for its unilateral move to lower taxes by Spain's central government, run by the Socialist PSOE party, who claim that they need those taxes in order to fund such social projects as free train travel, the 20-cents-per-litre reduction on fuel and the proposed cap on basic food items in supermarkets.

Thus, in response to the decision by right-wing-led autonomous communities, the government has said it will "harmonise" taxes, effectively taking away power from the communities to decide their own fiscal affairs and make tax rates equal across the board.... at a higher rate than they are now, naturally.

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

A man asked a waiter to take a bottle of Merlot to an unusually attractive woman sitting alone at a table in a cozy little restaurant. So the waiter took the Merlot to the woman and said, 'This is from the gentleman seated over there'..... and indicated the sender with a nod of his head. She stared at the wine coolly for a few seconds, not looking at the man, then decided to send a reply to him by a note. The waiter, who was lingering nearby for a response, took the note from her and conveyed it to the gentleman. The note read: 'For me to accept this bottle, you need to have a Mercedes in your garage, a million dollars in the bank and 7 inches in your pants'. After reading the note, the man decided to compose one of his own in return. He folded his note, handed it to the waiter and asked him to deliver it to the lady. It read: 'Just to let you know things aren't always what they appear to be. I have a Ferrari Maranello, a BMW Z8, a Mercedes CL600, and a Porsche Turbo in my several garages. I have beautiful homes in Kirby and Miami, and a 10,000 acre ranch in Louisiana. And there is over twenty million dollars in my bank accounts and portfolio. But, not even for a woman as beautiful as you, would I cut off three inches. Just send the wine back.'



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