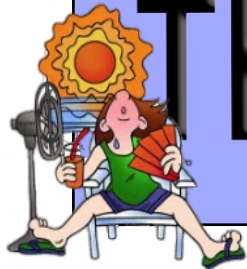


THE DREAM SCENE

NEWSLETTER

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



Bienvenido a todos and welcome to the September 2023 edition. Issue No.190

Despite the brutally hot weather and high humidity, peninsular Spain has so far, escaped the worst of the wildfires. Tenerife, however, has not been so lucky.

Interestingly, an increase in temperature globally correlates directly with increases in snakebites, fortunately not a major problem in Spain. Also increased air pollution now correlates with increased antibiotic resistance in humans. A study found the link between the two issues has become stronger on every continent.

On page 10, I've translated an article by Thomas Morena on Orihuela Costa The Worst Summer in its History. I have abridged it very slightly (not enough space) but you can find the whole article in Spanish at <https://www.informacion.es/vega-baja/2023/08/22/orihuela-costa-peor-verano-historia-91239580.html>

Andalucia is the region in Spain where more people have drowned this year between January and July 2023 with a total of 38 people losing their lives in the water, two of them minors. Of these deaths, 21 occurred at the sea, eight in swimming pools, two in rivers and eight in other aquatic spaces. The region is followed by Catalonia (37), **the Valencian Community (33)**, the Canary Islands (31), Galicia (23), Balears (15), Asturias (13) and Castilla y Leon (12). In Spain, a total of 249 people drowned during the first seven months of the year, the worst figures since 2017, when 305 people lost their lives in this way in the same time period.

The **coronavirus pandemic** probably feels like a distant nightmare to most of us at this stage but sadly, the virus is still hanging in there and it's actually made **a bit of a worrying**

comeback in Spain this summer. During the last week of July, coronavirus tests detected 75 infections per 100,000 inhabitants (the incidence rate) in Primary Care facilities, which was an increase on the 55 cases reported the previous week – that's a 36% hike. By age group, the highest incidence so far this summer has been in children under 5 years of age (119.5 cases per 100,000 people). Covid experts aren't all that surprised though given the increased social contact that naturally occurs during the summer months and the health authorities have said there's no cause for concern. Even though there are new variants being detected, these are still Omicron sublineages and thus don't generally result in serious symptoms or, in many cases, any symptoms at all. However, the authorities are keeping a close eye on a new strain called eg.5 or Eris, which is far more transmissible than the original virus and has now spread to at least 45 countries. Based on this development, microbiologists and primary care physicians recommend that at-risk people wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Take Care. Mick, Tid & Dream Scene Team.



Great result today. I sold my racing pigeon on eBay. That's the tenth time !

The newly elected Orihuela City Council has been left halfway through the year without a euro to cover some of the most essential current spending items, such as energy supply, transport and waste disposal. It seems that the previous incompetents spent all the money! Not only is the coastal area of the municipality covered with pot holes and rubbish but suppliers have not been paid. The new municipal council have now had to make credit arrangements (loans). Accordingly, the first plenary session of the council was used to approve a **loan of 12,557,701 euros**.

The Torrevieja City Council contracted the resurfacing of 200,000 square meters of roads for 5.1 million euros in its municipality. The works also contemplates improvements in 100,000 square metres in pedestrian areas and 170 accessibility points. The contract period is 12 months and it begins in September.

Torrevieja has granted a license for a new 220 apartment residential complex in **two ten-story towers** in Punta Prima, photo. The project has



an investment of 14 million euros by the promoter for the first of the plots together with the obligation to develop green areas totalling 23,000 square meters. The municipality has already deposited almost 600,000 euros in Construction and Installations Tax (ICIO) - 570,000 euros- and urban planning license fees (29,200 euros) from the promoter who plans to invest more than 14 million euros in the construction of the complex marketed as Wallonia. (Sounds like a Marx Bros movie!) The dwellings will go on the real estate market in a range that goes between 280,000 and 390,000 euros. This phase will be built on the plot located between Avenida de las Olas and Calle Mar Curizada and Mar Gruesa and will make Calle Tifón disappear. (Still more concrete for the coast.)

Torrevieja is nearing completion (October) on a €4.1 million municipal park in the La Siesta/San Luiz area. It will include large sports courts for football, petanque, hockey, padel tennis, basketball, climbing and picnic areas and much, much more.

In what could be described as a **United Nations of Violence**, a British man suffered serious injuries in a brawl at a Torrevieja house early on Saturday Morning, August 5, which saw a Dutch national die from stab wounds.

The Finnish owner of the home on Calle Diego Puerta in the Torreta III urbanisation also sustained serious injuries and along with the British man, 40, was taken to Torrevieja hospital. The Brit suffered head injuries and a stab wound to his abdomen.

The Guardia Civil and Torrevieja's Policia Local were called by neighbours at around 3.00am after hearing shouting and noise from the property. Officers arrived at the scene and saw the Dutch man, 40, lying dead and the other men needing urgent medical attention. Knives and a hammer were used in the brawl according to *Informacion*, which reported the Finnish home owner had lived at the terraced property for seven years and knew the other two men. The Guardia are trying to clarify what led to the altercation and the two people in hospital have been tested for alcohol and drugs but the results have not been made public. Some reports suggest that the Finn, 48, may have acted in self-defence when he was attacked with a knife by the Dutch man.

A car mechanic **stole at least 84 catalytic converters** from parked cars in Alicante province with precious metals from the units sold off to a German company. Vehicles were plundered in Albaterra, Catral, Crevillente and Elche with the Guardia Civil launching Operation Kataliz such was the large number of thefts being reported to them from early April. Officers discovered the thefts were carried by just one man, 46, who knew how to quickly and silently remove a converter from under a vehicle. He was looking to make money from the valuable precious metals within them like palladium, rhodium and platinum.

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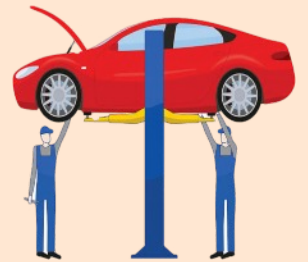
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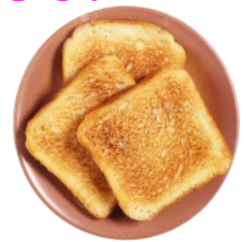
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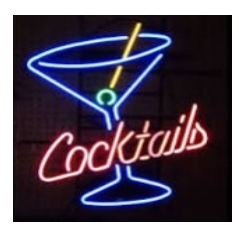


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THE LATEST ON TORREVIEJA HOSPITAL

Torrevieja Hospital and its associated health department will not return to private management according to the new Valencian Health Minister, Marciano Gomez.

The hospital was run by contractor Ribera Salud for 16 years until October 2021 when it came under Valencian Health Ministry managerial control. It won a stream of awards for being one of the best hospitals in Spain and in the world, but over the last two years there has been a stream of complaints from patients over delays for appointments and operations, coupled with protests and resignations from unhappy health staff.

Marciano Gomez, who assumed his ministerial position in July after the new Partido Popular-Vox regional government was formed, said: "We are not considering reversing health department management but we have to make effective and efficient improvements."

"Reversal would not be a good strategy in matters like personnel and working conditions- it would be difficult," he added. Despite Gomez's comments, the matter does not seem to have been closed. The Vox spokesman on Torrevieja council, Salvador Ruso, has asked the PP mayor, Eduardo Dolon, to demand the new Valencian government tender a management contract for the hospital.

"We need to recover the excellent health care that we enjoyed for years when the hospital was privately managed," said Ruso. Other Vox representatives from municipalities that are also part of the Torrevieja health department including Guardamar, Orihuela, San Miguel de Salinas, and Pilar de la Horadada have also called on the new regional administration to make changes.

Despite strongly protesting about decisions made by the former socialist-led Valencian government over Torrevieja Hospital, Eduardo Dolon has made no public comment about Ruso's request regarding a management tender. The mayor has instead laid a greater focus on improving the quality of care i.e. doing a Pontius Pilate.

CHARGING FOR HAND BAGGAGE?

Spain's Ministry of Consumer Affairs (Consumo) has opened disciplinary proceedings against several low-cost airlines for charging passengers for hand luggage that is transported in cabins.

The list of companies that face sanctions has not been made public but when Consumer Affairs minister Alberto Garzon launched an investigation earlier this year, he said the budget operators being probed had a market share of above 30%.

Penalties might involve substantial fines handed out to offending airlines. Consumo has also extended its remit beyond hand luggage to look at extra costs that airlines apply to services that used to be bundled in a ticket price like seat reservations.

Consumo has also denounced the airlines for other irregularities, such as not allowing cash payment at the airport for additional services, contrary to the provision of the regulations.

The penalties for infringements vary between €10,001 and €100,000 in the case of serious ones, and between €100,001 and €1 million in the case of very serious ones.

The ministry investigation comes after an initial complaint made by consumer association Facua in October 2021 over hand luggage charging by Spanish budget carrier Vueling.

The group has previously filed complaints against Ryanair and easyJet.

GOOD MOVE!

Spain has granted nationality to Sara Khadem, the Iranian chess player who fled to the country after competing in an international tournament

without wearing a mandatory hijab. 'In response to the exceptional circumstances concerning Mrs Sarasadat Khademalsharieh, I have just granted her Spanish nationality,' said Justice Minister Pilar Llop.

A COMMON FRAUD IN SPAIN.

A Valencia area woman has been given a two-year prison sentence and ordered to repay €135,805 to Social Security after her claiming her dead brother's pension for 24 years. She also has to pay a daily fine of €4 for seven months and will have to cover all legal costs of her trial.

Interestingly, Social Security **recovered €38,970 directly from the bank** which according to the Valencia court judgement 'did not carry out compliance with its obligation of annual verification of the survival of the pension holder'. As it is a first offence, it is unlikely the woman will go to jail, but I cannot see the amount owing ever being paid in full.

This is a common crime in Spain and not the first time a bank has had to pay for not verifying survival.



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10 Orihuela Costa, the Worst Summer in Its History by Thomas Moreno (Informacion)

As spokesperson for the Cabo Roig and Lomas de Orihuela Costa Neighbourhood Association, I am writing this article to convey the feeling of enormous disappointment and frustration felt by the residents of the coast, given the situation they are experiencing. The government team, led by the mayor Pepe Vegara (Popular Party) was constituted on June 20, with the appointment of the councillors responsible for the government areas and their 23 advisers (trustworthy personnel), with salaries that will exceed, in total, the two million euros/year. For his part, Manuel Mestre , leader of Vox , was appointed head of the Orihuela Costa Department. During these two months, the residents of the coast observe, perplexed, that practically none of the serious problems they suffer have been solved, as a consequence of the paralysis and municipal inaction, as proven by the facts that we relate below.

The beaches of Orihuela do not have, since the beginning of the year, beach bars or their associated services (hammocks, umbrellas, water sports). This has considerably decreased the number of users, who have moved to other beaches in our environment. The time it has taken to start up the toilets, which now work with a poor cleaning service, has not been unrelated to this "exodus". The new government has decided to modify the bidding system, which will delay the resumption of the beach bars, at the earliest, until the beginning of the year 2024. This is a torpedo in the waterline of coastal tourism that is going to cost us about a million euros.

The waste collection and street cleaning service continues to be enormously deficient for the needs of Orihuela Costa, both in collection vehicles and machinery, as well as in containers, which require total renovation. What are you waiting for to buy the thousand new containers that the coast needs? As a consequence of these deficiencies, the state that our streets present this summer, with overfilled containers, garbage bags on the pavement, leaching everywhere, lack of cleaning, etc., is calamitous, according to the opinion of the neighbours and can be verified on social networks.

The summer schools, so necessary for the work conciliation of parents of students from the coast, have not been launched, causing serious damage to the community. The pruning and belongings collection service is still not working properly, due to a lack of means, planning, civility and police control. Consequently, our streets present a Third World appearance, full of rubble, belongings and remains of pruning. The cleaning of a couple of rubbish dumps carried out by the City Council

recently is totally insufficient if it is not accompanied by the installation of an eco-park, something that we have been demanding for many years.

We do not see any improvement in the roads along the coast in these past two months, despite having contracted a company for their maintenance. Neither bumpy (the Villamartín road is crying out for it!), nor renewal of vertical and horizontal signage. The lack of materials is seriously hindering the benefits included in the contract. And, for the moment, it does not seem that this serious problem has a solution. What are you waiting for to buy asphalt, paving stones, paint, etc.? Meanwhile, road safety and the integrity of the vehicles that circulate through our streets continue to be seriously compromised, asking citizens how such nonsense is possible.

Our parks, gardens, trees (palm trees, etc.) and children's areas are abandoned as a result of the contract not yet being awarded by tender for their maintenance. We do not know, to this day, when this new contract, so necessary, will be operational. As long as it is not implemented, we will continue with more than 50% of the parks and gardens without adequate maintenance, un-pruned palm trees spreading their dirt on the sidewalks, thickets of about half a meter on streets and sidewalks, etc. Finally, we want to highlight that the association presented last June 29 to the councillor of Orihuela Costa, Mr. Mestre, a shock plan aimed at urgently improving basic services for the summer of 2023. It is extremely discouraging to see that practically none of the 26 actions that we proposed, has been carried out to this day. Meanwhile, there is unanimity among the residents in affirming that it is being the worst summer in the history of Orihuela Costa. And a feeling of anger, impotence, frustration and sadness is setting in among them, seeing how time passes and the only tangible thing in these past two months have been the good salaries established for the councillors and the high number of hired advisers, who, At the moment, they do not seem to serve to achieve the objectives. The citizens of the coast are tired of waiting, years and years, to have basic services and minimally decent infrastructures, as the municipalities around us have. Pepe Vegara , mayor of Orihuela , the coast is close to the collapse of its basic services and the patience of its neighbours. Do something, please, and do it soon, by publicly reporting the measures you plan to implement in the short and medium term. In the two months that have elapsed, the confidence and illusion that they had created in the citizens is diminishing. (Abridged)



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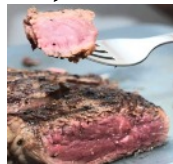
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WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

After an indecisive general election, both the PP's leader, Alberto Núñez Feijóo, and the PSOE's Sánchez are going to try to put together new governments over the coming weeks. Congress convened on 17 August and King Felipe VI met with party leaders to determine which candidate could win MPs' backing to become the next prime minister. That candidate would then take part in an investiture debate followed by a vote that requires an absolute majority in Spain's lower house (the aforementioned 176 seats). If the candidate falls short of that number, a second vote will be held 48 hours later in which a simple majority – more votes for than against – will suffice. Should that fail to happen, MPs have two months to appoint a prime minister. When those two months are up, parliament will be dissolved and new elections called for the end of the year.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jul/24/what-happened-spain-snap-general-election?>


It's also worth bearing in mind that the recent vote means that the last five Spanish general elections have resulted in hung parliaments.

A lawyer boarded a plane in Dublin with a box of frozen crabs and asked a blonde stewardess to take care of them for him. She took the box and promised to put it in the crew's refrigerator.

He advised her that he was holding her personally responsible for them staying frozen, mentioning in a very haughty manner that he was a lawyer, and proceeded to rant at her about what would happen if she let them thaw out. Needless to say, she was very annoyed by his boorish behaviour. Shortly before landing in London, she used the intercom to announce to the entire cabin, "Would the lawyer who gave me the crabs in Dublin, please raise your hand?"

Not one hand went up.... So she took them home and ate them. Two lessons here:

1. Lawyers aren't as smart as they think they are.
2. Blondes aren't as dumb as most folk think.



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DOG INSURANCE MANDATORY IN SPAIN FROM SEPTEMBER

From September, all dog owners in Spain must take out civil liability insurance for the dogs.

Specifically, article 30 of the new Animal Welfare Law states that: "in the case of dog ownership and throughout the life of the animal, the owner must contract and maintain in force a civil liability insurance for damages to third parties, which includes in its coverage to the people responsible for the animal, for an amount sufficient to cover the possible expenses derived".

Insurance cover, which was already compulsory in several communities like Madrid, is just one of many new rules which include a training course for dog owners, a ban on selling most animals in pet stores and harsher penalties for people who abuse or neglect their animals.

DOG INSURANCE - Continued

Spain is a nation of animal lovers and almost three out of every 10 households owns a dog. But between general care, food and vet bills, pets are becoming more expensive every year. So while around 9.3 million dogs currently share our homes, only 3% are covered by insurance, which is a pretty low figure compared to some of Spain's European neighbours.

In the UK, for example, 28% of the nation's 10.1 million dogs are insured. A money-saving move in the long run, considering the Royal Canine Society of Spain (RSCE) estimates about 300 euros a year is spent on the health needs of every dog.

The price of the insurance will vary according to its coverage and policies for "special handling" dogs (previously classified as dangerous breeds) will likely be more expensive. However, on average, the price ranges from around 24 euros per year for the most basic packages to 90 euros.

The coverage of these policies can reach up to 200,000 euros, and can include other benefits such as money off veterinary treatments or kennel stays if the owners has to go into hospital.

It's possible that if you have home insurance, your pets are already covered under an existing policy. In this case, you will need to speak to your provider as from September, dogs will need to be added to the coverage through their microchip number and in general, only one pet is covered per policy.

The new legislation establishes that owners who refuse to take out public liability insurance for their dogs will likely just receive a warning. In any case, non-compliance with most aspects of the law will be considered minor infractions, once it doesn't result in any harm to the animal. On the other hand, more serious cases could result in fines between 500 and 1,000 euros.

Pets must be identified with a microchip and all cats must be sterilised before six months unless officially registered for breeding.

A British man was killed by a shark while honeymooning in Australia.

Reports say he didn't suffer for too long as he had only been married for five days.

18 Changes to Spanish Licences

The UK Embassy in Madrid has reminded UK driving licence holders living in Spain since before March 16th 2023 to exchange their permits for Spanish ones or they won't be able to drive in Spain after September 16th.

“Calling all **UK driving licence holders!**” read the message posted on the Embassy's Brits in Spain group on Facebook on Wednesday morning 9/08/23. **If you lived in Spain before 16 March 2023, you can only drive on your UK licence until 16 September 2023.** If you need to keep driving here, please exchange your UK licence for a Spanish one as soon as possible.

Spain prepares to launch a new driving licence in 2024. But don't panic! The new licence will have no impact whatsoever on those who already have their Spanish driving licence. From next year, **young drivers over the age of 16 will be able to apply for B1 licences** and will be permitted to drive vehicles that don't exceed 60 kilometres per hour. The 60-kilometre-per-hour limit means that youngsters will be confined to driving various types of quadricycles and quads, which should also be good news for the environment since most of these vehicles already on the market are electric and have zero emissions. It will be interesting to see what the insurance premiums will be.

With the new licence just around the corner, car manufacturers are already developing vehicles which are DGT-compliant. Citroën, for example, has already developed its AMI model, which can be purchased new in Spain for around 7,000 euros.



“Actually, the volcano is dormant. Shall I have her call you back?”

UK Driving Licences: Over 70s Can Exchange Expired Permits

The UK Embassy in Spain has assured that **some UK licence holders with expired UK driving licences** who have encountered problems when trying to exchange their licence for a Spanish one – **primarily those over 70 years of age** – will be able to receive a special code to be able to make the exchange effectively.

In a statement they said, “We have been working to resolve this with the Spanish Government and are pleased to say that Spain's Dirección General de Tráfico [DGT] will be able to exchange expired UK licences, as long as **they expired after the individual moved to Spain.**”

This will be possible via the digital “check code” which will enable the DGT to verify that these licences are legitimate. These codes were already required to exchange any type of licence, but they will soon contain the additional information on expiration dates.

The check code, which shows that the licence has expired, will be valid for 21 days and can be attained on the Gov.uk website (<https://www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence>).

It now remains for the DVLA to update the codes to allow this additional information for expired licences to be included, and for the offices of the DGT to be informed they can now accept such licences.

Any UK national who is resident in Spain for more than six months and wishes to drive must do so by exchanging their British licence for a Spanish one.

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SUICIDES.

The number of suicides among teenagers in Spain has increased by more than 30% since 2019, according to a study carried out by Madrid's Complutense University. The worrying figures show that the number of people aged between 12 and 17 who took their own life went up by 32.35% between 2019 and 2021, when 45 people in this age group committed suicide.

And the latest research conducted by the Spanish Statistical Office (INE) reveals the situation did not improve in 2022. A total of 72 teenagers aged between 15 and 19 committed suicide last year, over 20% more than in 2021, which recorded 53 deaths.

Suicide is the main cause of death for those aged between 12 and 29 in Spain, and the increasing figures have been described by Complutense's study as 'alarming.'

In Spain, a total of 4,097 people committed suicide in 2022, almost 100 more than in 2021, when the number was 4,003.

The highest suicide rate in Europe is Lithuania with a rate of 26.1 suicides per 100,000 people and the lowest value was in Turkey: 2.4 suicides per 100,000 people. Other rates are England 10.5 per 100,000; Wales 12.7 per 100,000; Scotland 14 per 100,000. The male suicide rate for N.I. was 19.6 per 100,000!

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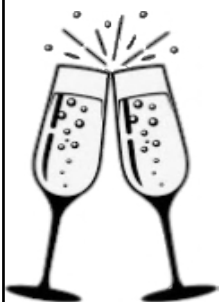
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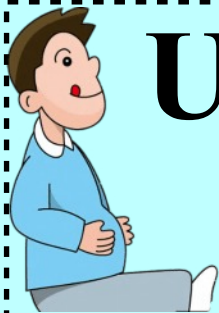
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Just got back from my mate's funeral.. He died after being hit on the head with a tennis ball. It was a lovely service.



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*For the first time in our
marriage,
my wife has apologised to me.
She said, "I'm sorry
I ever met you!"*

EMPLOYMENT IN SPAIN

Unemployment in Spain is at its lowest level since 2008, just before the financial crash, according to the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy. In July, unemployment fell by almost 11,000 people and a total of 21,945 jobs were created. This is to be expected at the start of the tourist season, of course. Many of these will drop off soon. A total of 20,869,940 people are now under the Spanish Social Security scheme, its highest number ever. The current number of unemployed in the country is 2,677,874, the lowest figures since the summer of 2008. July was the sixth consecutive month recording an increase in the number of jobs created, but this growth was the lowest since February. Hospitality and retail were once again two of the industries where more positions were created. However, health and social services were the sectors that recorded the largest number of new jobs. Meanwhile, education was the sector that experienced the worst job loss for the second consecutive month. Self-employed workers also recorded negative numbers as 6,819 ceased their activity, the worst figures since January this year. Starting a small business in Spain is not very easy!

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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. We couldnt find anyone to visit us so far inland. You certainly get what you pay for.
No such thing as a free lunch as they say. 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.



0034602465565



advocacycostablanca@gmail.com

Advocacy Costa Blanca is operated by David Minto, a UK registered Social Worker. Get in touch if you need advice or guidance related to UK and Spanish welfare support.

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 (Autonimo) social worker in Spain I am also required to provide professional liability and indemnity insurance.

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PROPERTY

40% of estate agents expect a reduction in the supply of homes for rent and 42% expect rental prices to rise following the introduction of the new Housing Law, according to a recent survey. On the same subject another study by agency Tecnocasa and Pompeu Fabra university in Barcelona found that 100,000 homes could disappear from the Spanish rental market as a result of the new law. 38% of Spanish homes have air conditioning, according to research by property portal Idealista. AC is more common in the sunny south of Spain with 72% of homes in Córdoba and 71% in Seville having AC, followed by 63% in Palma, 62% in Valencia, 60% in Madrid, and 55% in Barcelona. Homes offered for rent are more likely to have AC installed (48%) than homes for sale (36%). Spain's biggest bank CaixaBank forecasts that house prices will rise more than previously thought this year (2.9% in place of 1%), and sales fall less (500,000 in place of 480,000). Spanish house builder Aedas Homes, one of the biggest in Spain, sold one third of its homes to foreign buyers last year. It sold almost 600 homes for a total of €265 million in places like the Costa del Sol, Costa Blanca, and the Balearics to buyers from more than 50 countries led by the Dutch, Germans, Poles, Belgians and British. Home renovations are forecast to fall by 6.2% this year having grown by 3.2% last year, according to a building trade association (Andimac). Planning permission for new homes in Barcelona city crashed by just under 70% in the first half to just 240 units, largely thanks to local regulations that force developers to dedicate 30% of new projects to social housing. The new Mayor of Barcelona has said he will review this regulation after the summer.

A prostitute standing outside a motel in a small town saw a 70+-year-old man walking past. She hasn't had a customer for a while so she whistles at him and says, "Hey, would you like to have some fun time with me?" The old man said, "But I won't be able to" "C'mon man, give it a try," she says. The old man says okay. They go in. The moment they get to the bed, the old timer becomes a machine and makes passionate love to her for an hour straight. When he's done, the prostitute catches her breath, exhausted and tired she says, "But you said you won't be able to...." "...pay you," completed the old man.



"It's hard to believe you've never Put up wallpaper before."

OFF LIMITS!

The Royal Navy was assigning females to quarters in a separate private "OFF LIMITS" area on all warships and aircraft carriers.

Addressing all boat personnel at Plymouth, a senior Admiral advised: "Female sleeping quarters will be "out-of-bounds" for all males. Anyone caught breaking this rule will be fined £100 the first time".

He continued: "Anyone caught breaking this rule the second time will be fined £200.

Being caught a third time will cost you a fine of £500. Are there any questions?"

At this point, a Stoker stood up in the crowd and inquired.. "Sir, how much for a season ticket ?

WHEN IS A FLORIST NOT A FLORIST?

Cannabis sellers in Barcelona's old city have been registering as florists to overcome zoning rules, much to the actual florists annoyance.

Around 250 outlets are trading cannabis paraphernalia such as bongos, hookahs, and CBD oil. Interestingly, 118 new 'florists' have popped up in Ciutat Vella, a well favoured area for tourists, in the last 6 years.

In other areas of the city, only 21 have been registered.

The Barcelona Florists Association claims they are unaware of any boom in flower selling and that the number of florists in the city has been stable for years.

In Spain, it is legal to use non-psychoactive CBD oil, which can be used to treat chronic pain, anxiety, and other conditions.

However, these new shops are also allegedly offering items such as lollipops and brownies that contain illegal amounts, as much as 150mg of Tetrahydrocannabinol, or – THC.

THC is the element in cannabis that produces a high.

In addition to the new 'florists' arriving in the city, Barcelona also has its hands full with cannabis Clubs.

The 200 clubs are meant to follow strict rules limiting them to selling to members, growing only 150 kg of marijuana a year, and not making any profit.

And if you believe that.....



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A tramp knocks on the door of an inn called George and The Dragon at 11:30pm.

The landlady answers.

The tramp asks her "Could you give a poor man something to eat?"

"No!" yells the woman, slamming the door in his face.

A few minutes later he knocks on the door again.

"Now what do you want?" she asks. "

Tramp: "Can I have a word with George?"

WHAT A FARCE!

As you are reading this newsletter, is is highly likely that at some stage you have come up against and been frustrated by Spanish bureaucracy either at municipal, regional or national level.

No doubt the following report on **performance related bonuses in Torrevieja municipal council** will also make you chuckle.....or maybe cry!

The productivity supplement in Torrevieja, which has been included in state legislation since 1984, is intended to "compensate special performance, extraordinary activity and the interest or initiative with which the civil servant performs his work". The then regulation indicated in its introduction that this "benefit" was intended to encourage, identify, and reward extraordinary efforts, attitudes, and performances in public officials and "thus fight against old vices in the functioning of the public administration" - vices that were not specified. However, during that time, although the performance bonuses have been paid, there has been no performance evaluations.

In mid-2018, the then comptroller of the Torrevieja City Council, Mari Carmen Corral, rejected that **the local administration continued to pay for this concept of productivity without promoting any regulation that measures or regulates it**. It was one of the few occasions in which the civil service mobilized in the streets demanding that the bonuses be paid! In court, *Comisiones Obreras* managed to enforce the sentences that

recognized the right to receive productivity regardless of whether it did not meet any real productivity criteria. The payment of the productivity supplement **became an acquired right**, ratified by the courts at the request of the unions, with a periodic payment of the same monthly amount, So the payments were again paid together with any arrears. As they are now a permanent additions to the wages, a new productivity agreement has been put in place. According to the new productivity regulation, the objectives to be met will be proposed and agreed upon in each department and monitored every six months. The text clarifies that the productivity bonus is not an objective right but rather an individual benefit that cannot be granted indiscriminately. In no case will it imply - now that it will be regulated - any right to its maintenance

According to *Informacion*, the municipal payroll the Torrevieja City Council paid 1,844,084 euros in payroll in August '22 for 693 contractors and 17 professionals. This implies an annual cost in remuneration of the staff of close to 30 million euros per year in current expenses for the personnel.

OLDIES BUT GOLDIES!

Thirty politicians were visiting a conference. On the way to the conference their train derails in a huge smashup.

A farmer who witnesses it all from his fields decides to bury them all.

The next day a police officer drops by. He asks the farmer what happened to the thirty politicians. "I buried them all" he replies. "Were they all dead then?" asks the policeman. "Well, some of them said they weren't, but you know what lying bastards they are !"

I'm asking on behalf of a friend of mine who needs help!

His wife told him to go out and get some of those pills that would help him get an erection. When he came back he handed her some diet pills.

Anyway he's looking for a place to live.

LOCKSMITH

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**TINTO de VERANO
 AMSTEL
 FOSTERS
 STRONGBOW
 ON DRAFT!**

USE YOUR LOAF!

Two old guys, one 80 and the other 87, were sitting on a park bench one morning.

The 87-year-old had just finished his morning jog and wasn't even short of breath.

His 80-year-old buddy was amazed at the guy's stamina and asked him what he did to have so much energy.

The 87-year-old said, "Well, I eat rye bread every day. It keeps your energy level high and you'll have great stamina with the ladies."

So, on the way home the 80-year-old stopped at the bakery.

As he was looking around, the saleslady asked if he needed any help.

He said, "Do you have any rye bread?"

She said, "Yes, there's a whole shelf of it. Would you like some?"

He said, "I want five loaves."

She said, "My goodness, five loaves! By the time you get to the 3rd loaf, it'll be hard."

He replied, "I can't believe everybody knows about this but me!

Careful with the sprays!

A 71-year-old woman in Yecla, Murcia died accidentally after setting herself on fire.

Apparently, the woman, tried to cool down during the recent heat waves by applying rosemary alcohol to different parts of her body. Immediately afterwards, she lit a cigarette and accidentally set herself on fire.

Rosemary alcohol/oil is commonly used to relieve rheumatic or muscular pain, but among its properties, in addition to this, there is also that of providing a refreshing sensation. The woman was taken to the hospital alive but finally died after being unable to recover from her injuries, since a large part of her body had been badly burned.

The Nun's Story.

An old nun, who was living in a convent in Dublin next to a construction site, noticed the coarse language of the workers and decided to spend some time with them to correct their ways.

And so, she decided to take her lunch and sit with the workers.

She put her sandwich in a brown paper bag and walk to the spot where the workers were eating.

Sporting a big smile she walked up to the group and asked: "And, do you men know Jesus Christ?" They shook their heads and looked at each other, very confused.

One of the workers looked up into the scaffolding and yelled out "Anybody up there know Jesus Christ?"

One of the steel workers yelled down "Why?" The worker yelled back, "'Cause his ma's here with his lunch!"

National Holidays in Spain in 2023

Friday, 7th of April – Viernes Santo (Holy Friday)

Monday, 1st of May – Día del Trabajo (Labour Day)

Tuesday, 15th of August – Asunción de la virgen (Assumption of the Virgin)

Thursday, 12th of October – Día de la Hispanidad (Spain's National day)

Wednesday, 1st of November – Todos los Santos (All Saints' Day)

Wednesday, 6th of December – Día de la Constitución (Constitution Day)

Friday, 8th of December – Inmaculada Concepción (Feast of the Immaculate Conception)


Monday, 25th of December – Navidad

Valencia Regional Holidays

Valencia: 6th January (Three Kings Day)

10th April (Easter Monday)

24th June (Feast of St. John) 9th October (Valencia Day)



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The UK Ministry of Defence has launched an investigation after officials unwittingly sent emails containing classified information to a **close Russian ally** because of a typing error. A “small number” of emails intended for the Pentagon were sent to Mali because of the accidental omission of an “i” from an email address. British officials sent the messages to an address ending with the west African country’s “.ml” domain, rather than the US military’s “.mil”. The same error in the US was revealed earlier during August to have resulted in millions of military emails going to Mali. It was argued that the scale of the British mishap, first reported by The Times, paled in comparison.

In June, 11 women who work together as sanitation labourers in India pooled their money to buy the equivalent of a \$3 lottery ticket because they could not afford the cost individually. During the last week of July, they won. The jackpot was **\$1.2 million**, or more than \$700,000 after taxes — an enormous sum for workers who spend their days collecting household waste and building public toilets. Most were in debt after taking out loans for medical treatment, their children’s education, dowries or other essential expenses that they could not afford on a wage of roughly \$3 a day. “I’m swimming in debt, so this money will be a big relief,” said one of the winners, Leela K., 50, a mother of four daughters. “I will finally have peace of mind. But my tension will vanish only when the money comes into my account.”

A horror movie scene ended up being a comedy on the beach of San Juan, Alicante. The cause of this disturbance has been a **buoy**, not a shark, which apparently due to the wind that has reached 27 knots, made movements in the water that triggered alarm among bathers.

Police had to be called to a children’s park in the northern Spanish city of Valladolid on August 9, after two fathers got into a violent argument over the queue for a child’s swing. As well as throwing punches, one of the men involved used a baseball bat to beat his

adversary. Officers were able to ascertain that the row had begun **over the children’s queue for the swings**, but turned violent when one of the men punched the other in the face. The assailant left the park, pursued by the other man, until he used a baseball bat to assault him again. One of the men was left with a head wound requiring 12 staples in his crown, while the other was left with a broken nose and damage to his teeth. Both were arrested and released, with the case now in the hands of the courts.

A court in Switzerland convicted a museum cashier on Friday of stealing almost a million Swiss francs by pocketing entry fees paid by visitors at the Beyeler Foundation, a prestigious art museum outside Basel. The court heard that the 54-year-old woman — whose name was not released for privacy reasons, as is typical in Switzerland — had used a number of tricks to skim 986,000 Swiss francs, **more than \$1.1 million**, from the ticket office between 2008 and 2019, when she was caught and fired. The court sentenced the woman to three years and seven months in prison and a \$3,600 fine. She is also responsible for repaying the museum what she stole, although it is unclear to what extent that money can be recuperated. According to the Basel public attorney’s office, which analyzed the woman’s bank account history, she would take as much as \$170,000 a year. She started stealing in August 2008, the authorities believe, months after she was first hired, and continued after she was promoted to manage the museum’s cashiers in 2012.





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simply a frothy coffee with a bite to eat.



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Sundays: Wayne Stewart - 4pm - 7pm

See posters at the Bar or ask for details.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for regular updates.

Scientists have revealed that semen helps hair grow.
That explains why lots of men have hairy knuckles,
but it's got me wondering about my gran's moustache.



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The Side Effects!

Two men of a certain age, old Bill and old Dave, would often meet at the local town park where they would sit on a bench and feed the pigeons. They became friends. One day when they met, Old Bill was very happy and excited and asked Dave "Have you ever tried Viagra?"

Dave: "No."

Bill: "It's amazing. I just started taking Viagra and I haven't felt this good in some time. I feel like I am 20 years old again."

Dave: "I'll try it."

Several weeks later, they met at the park again.

Dave: "I tried that Viagra stuff and you are right. But you didn't tell me about the side effects".

Bill: "Side effects? What side effects?"

Dave: "Almost as soon as I started taking the Viagra, my wife's headaches came back".

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Me: Breathalyzer.



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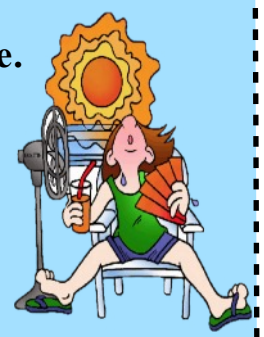


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Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

At the end of July, there was a bash to say farewell to Baz & Belinda as they returned to UK. They were choked when the Golf club said a few words, but when the Cat (our chairman) presented them with their pictures, Baz had tears in his eyes. The big softy! See photos.



They were both regulars in the Lime Bar and Baz had been a member of our club for more than 10 years. He had held the position of chairman and for a couple of years was the social sec, which is where he got his nickname "Anti Social"! You can guess why! Whenever we had a function, Baz would normally run a quiz while Belinda sold the raffle tickets,



but we had to make sure Baz didn't get hold of the mike or he would start on his karaoke routine. Whatever the future brings the pair of you, we all wish you well. Tight lines in the UK Baz.

The club is now down to 16 anglers, so if you are not a professional, anyone that wants some company on the bank, let us know. The monthly match was held yet again at El Bosquet, but as the Segura was a metre below its usual level, it was a good job we had avoided it. This match we only had 9 anglers on the bank and fished pegs 1A through to 7. Compared to the previous few weeks, the weather was relatively cool with patchy cloud and a stiff breeze. Except for BFC who caught consistently all day, everybody else struggled for fish.

All methods and baits were tried; corn, bread, luncheon meat, pellets, maggots, paste, a bit of the Cat's chicken sandwich (which landed a carp) and Antique Man's speciality "half a sausage"! While other anglers were fishing far bank, near bank, on the drop off, in the middle, BFC carried on launching his feeder with bread into the far bank where he thrashed all comers by landing over 30 fish (mainly mullet) or 24.2 kg. In the next peg, Fagash resorted to maggots and eventually started catching and ended up 2nd with 6 good carp for 10.3 kg. Whistling Sweeney (always a bad sign that he is not catching), was moaning all day to the Cat, who was in the next peg, but weighed in 4 good carp to finish 3rd with 7.03 kg. The other 7 anglers caught 25 fish between them. A frustrating day for most of us! After coming last with my 4 x tiddlers, the following week I decided to try El Bosquet again to fine tune my tactics.

Guess what. I had my best day ever, but I was using 2 rods! I landed 30 carp and 1 mullet for 125 lbs. This included my PB of 11.65 lbs, a 9, an 8, a 7.5 and 3 x 7 pounders. The chap next to me wasn't far behind either. You just can't tell. One day is crap then you have a blinder, but that's fishing! No photo of my biggy, as my usual fishing buddy (Sweeney) bottled it with "man" flu. Sweeney heard this news, so the following week, off we went to try again. This time, I only used 1 rod as I needed a rest...??. It was nowhere near as prolific, but Sweeney still had 10 for 45 lbs, beating my 18 for 43 lbs. My PB went again though! This time a 11.83 lb beauty. Unfortunately, Sweeney's middle names are NOT David Bailey. See photo.



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

Stay safe. Fishy fingers! The Ghost

A woman was sure that her husband was cheating on her, and having an affair with the maid. So she laid down a trap.

One evening she suddenly sent the maid home for the weekend and didn't tell the husband.

That night when they went to bed, the husband gave the old story: Excuse me my dear, my stomach aches, and went to the bathroom.

The wife promptly went into the maid's bed. She switched the lights off. When the door opened silently he came in and wasted no time or words but quickly got on top of her.....

When he finished and was still panting, the wife said: "You didn't expect to find me in this bed, did you?" And then she switched on the light...

"No madam," said the gardener.

Got home real late last night after a full day of golfing, drinking, and hanging out with the guys, and my wife left a message *in the kitchen*.



I think she wants me to eat more fruit, bless her heart!

*Science says the universe is made up of protons, neutrons and electrons.
They forgot to mention morons.*

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13:00	14:00
14:00	15:00
15:00	16:00
16:00	17:00
17:00	18:00
18:00	19:00
20:00	21:00
21:00	22:00

Departures & Arrivals from both locations.

Ticket price: €7

Children under 4 years free (identification required)

Pensioners: 30% discount. Accreditation is required by presenting a Social Security card. This discount only applies to pensioners residing in the Valencian community. To prove that you are a pensioner, you must be over 65 years of age and present your NIE, DNI or residence card, where you must confirm that you are a resident of the Valencian community.

Accessible for the disabled: YES

Free Wi-Fi: YES Luggage space: YES

Ticket sales in Torrevieja: Torrevieja bus station (Calle de Mar, 50) and on the same bus at the airport.

Departure and arrival (at Alicante airport):
Upper floor (departures)

(Departure times vary slightly from summer to winter.)

<https://torrevieja.com/horario-autobus-de-torrevieja-al-aeropuerto-de-alicante/>

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