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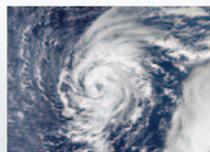
Premier Money Exchange Los Cristianos

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Facing Summerland, just off the roundabout at the Language School



CLIMATE CHANGE?



Tropical storms warning

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SOLO ON SET



Filming in Fuerteventura

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WAR VICTIMS



The well of death

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OCEAN SAFETY



Seeing red

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BILINGUAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The Canarian Government wants you!

The Canary Islands Government is working to involve the English colony residing in the Canary Islands in its bilingual education programme.

President Fernando Clavijo says that the programme aims to extend the teaching of English outside the classroom, and he wants to analyse how to achieve this.

According to the President, "it is a question of opening a social debate to see how we can contribute, among all of us, to improving the knowledge of the language in the Canary Islands with a plan that will develop in different directions with the participation of the English-speaking community, public administrations, public and private schools and academies".

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→ President Clavijo wants to involve the English colony

ENDING ISOLATION IN OLD AGE

Longevity and loneliness

Thanks to modern medicine, more people are living to an old age and for longer, but often that extended life comes hand in hand with loneliness.

The disintegration of the traditional family pattern means that, instead of living in the bosom of a large familial unit, relatives are often scattered over different homes, sometimes even far away. Many foreigners spending their twilight years here in the Canaries are several hours travel away from their loved ones. And even if the family is very close, everyone leads their own lives, marked by the hectic pace of everyday working life. As long as elderly people live as couples, this reduced family world is usually still okay. However, when one of them dies, everything changes. News, such as that of the 71 year old German 'Charlie', who was found in his apartment in Los Silos five days after his death, or of the 70 year old woman, whose cry for help after a fall was finally heard by an attentive cleaning lady after three



↑ Men in particular suffer when their partner dies

days of lying in pain, is deeply frightening. They fulfil exactly the horror scenario that many people worry about. "I speak with my son by phone every day, and if I don't answer the call, he rings my neighbour", Elisabeth from Los Realejos explained. "We have a close network of friends and are in regular contact

with each other. If we don't hear anything, we'll check on each other. But there are also more and more ostracised people in our area, with whom no one really has contact", says Janet, who lives in the north-west of the island. And John from Puerto de La Cruz reflected: "My sister wants me to go back to Eng-

land so that she can keep an eye on me. I'm a widower and I live alone. She's almost ten years younger than me. However, my former friends have either moved or are already dead. I've lived here for over 30 years and have more friends here than in London. I don't want to leave, but it could be that something may happen to me and nobody will notice."

Guata Project

The fact that aging can sometimes be difficult has been recognised by the borough of Santa Úrsula, and together with the Alzheimer's and dementia organisation Acufade and the department of social services they have founded the Guata project.

Santa Úrsula is home to more than 2,000 people over 65 years of age, many of whom live alone. "That's why we want to break new ground with the Guata initiative", says Mayor Juan Acosta.

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