

Mallorca Bulletin

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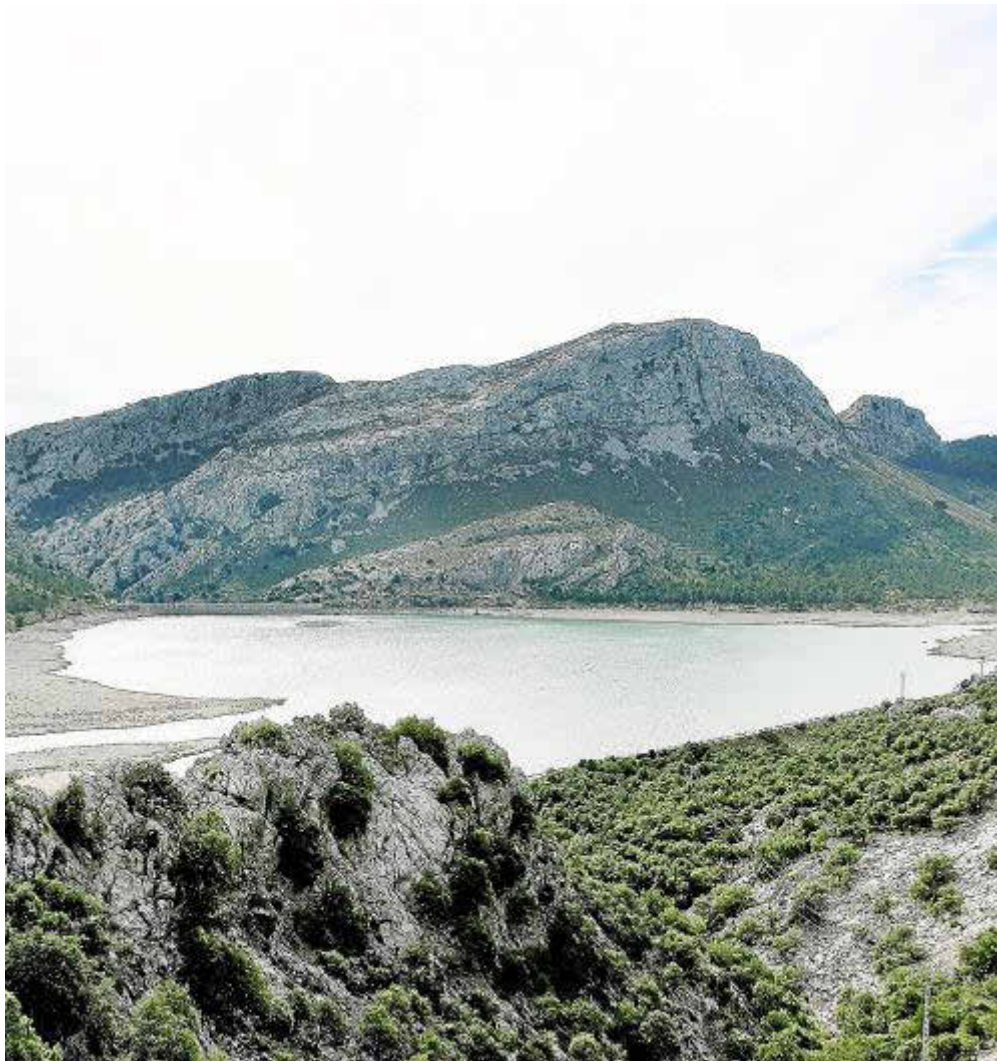
PAELLA UNDER THREAT FROM EUROPEAN UNION

● A Spanish rice variety traditionally used to make paella is under threat from a fungus after the European Union banned a pesticide farmers say they rely upon, in another example of how the bloc's environmental rules are angering growers. Three rice producers in the Valencia region said their harvest of arroz bomba, or bomb rice, a variety grown almost exclusively in Spain, was half the 10-year average in 2023 as a result of the Pyricularia fungus which causes rice

blast disease. Bomba rice "is very likely to disappear," says Miguel Minguet, a rice farmer in the Albufera Nature Park in Valencia. "Our crop is going to be lost to regulations." Meanwhile, major exporters such as Brazil, India and Cambodia are widely using the pesticide to protect their own crops. Farmers across Europe have staged angry protests against the EU over restrictions they say hand an advantage to outside competitors.

A HOT ONE IN SPAIN

● Spain has logged the warmest January since records began in 1961, with average temperatures last month reaching 8.4 degrees Celsius (47.1 Fahrenheit), 0.4 degrees above the previous record in 2016, the environment ministry says. The temperature in continental Spain also exceeded the average for that month in the period 1991-2020 by 2.4 degrees. The unseasonably warm weather in the middle of winter lured people to beaches and outdoor cafes across Spain.



Starting to run dry. The state of local reservoirs. PHOTO: JOAN LLADO.

SOME RAIN PLEASE

● Fears local reservoirs could run dry.

Palma.—Valldemossa has already introduced water restrictions and there are fears that the island could run dry this summer because of the lack of rain. Catalonia on the mainland has been forced to bring in some major water restrictions.

The lack of rain on the island is already start-

ing to cause some concern, with the Balearic government indicating that they are hoping for a heavy winter downpour. Bad weather is forecast for this weekend, the Palma Met Office (AEMET) having previously said that there would be no rain until the middle of this month at the earliest.



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LOVE IS IN THE AIR IN MALLORCA FOR VALENTINES

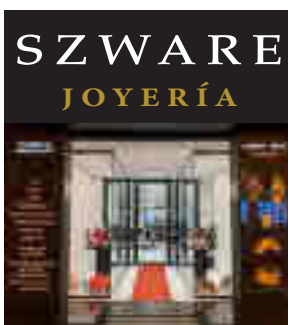


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BIC STUDENTS TAKE TO THE STAGE

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