

Majorca Daily Bulletin

Wednesday, April 24 2019

1.20€ · Founded 1962 · N.16881 · Passeig de Mallorca 9 A, Palma 07011



Amanda signs copies of her new book in Palma

Bulletin columnist Amanda Jeffrey signed copies of her latest English learning book at the two branches of El Corte Ingles in Palma yesterday as part of Spanish book day. “*El Book de Amanda*” has been well received across the island. Book day is celebrated in Spain on St. George’s Day or San Jordi.



Government wants “no smoking beaches”

● Councils are encouraged to promote smoke free areas: See Full Report on Page 4 Inside Today.



Trump to make state visit to Britain: Inside

The city crowd: young, urbane PM awaits Spain, whoever wins election

Madrid.—As they prepare to vote in the most uncertain national election in decades, Spaniards can safely predict one thing regardless of political persuasion - that their next prime minister will be young, cosmopolitan, white and male.

The main contenders in Sunday’s ballot offer a lack of diversity that has left parts of the electorate at risk of feeling unrepresented, political commentators say. Surveys show up to four in ten voters are still undecided and no single party is close to winning a majority.

Conspicuously missing from the field are women, as well as anyone who identifies directly with the rapidly ageing communities of rural Spain, a constituency that is fast emptying out as working-age people abandon farms and villages for cities. “We have ended up with something like a Corte Ingles catalogue,” said political communication consultant Luis Arroyo, referring to a famous Spanish chain of department stores.

A televised pre-election debate on Mon-

day night did little to dispel that impression.

No clear winner emerged, and images of the top three candidates - Socialist Pedro Sanchez and rightists Pablo Casado and Albert Rivera - appearing in virtually identical dark blue suits circulated widely in domestic and international media.

Far-right Vox’s Santiago Abascal, excluded from the debate because his party holds no parliamentary seats yet, tweeted a picture shortly after it ended of a row of blue and yellow macaws with the caption: “Spot the difference”.

Sanchez, outgoing Prime Minister and poll leader with around 30 percent of votes, earned the nickname “Pedro El Guapo”, or “Handsome Pedro” earlier in his career for his rarity value as a young newcomer to the Socialist hierarchy among a crowd of older politicians.

But as it has gradually fractured over the past five years, Spain’s political landscape has been increasingly populated by young, contemporary males.