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Al Ain population reaches one million... no towers...and a high speed railway track in 2030

Al Ain Times News

Al Ain population reaches one million...no towers...and a high speed railway track

Abu Dhabi Council for Urban Planning reveals Al Ain Plan 2030

The Abu Dhabi Council for Urban Planning recently revealed its urban plan for the city of Al Ain.

In a press conference held on the day the plan was announced, His Excellency Falah Mohammed Al Ahabbi, General Manager for the Abu Dhabi Council for Urban Planning said that the plan provides a comprehensive

image of the future of Al Ain as a city with sustainable environmental, social and economic development.

The plan provides new ways to support and develop economic opportunities while preserving the agricultural aspect of the city, as well as adding new elements that will make the city an effective center in the modern world economy.

Implementing the 5 year plan:

Mr. Al Ahabbi mentioned that all the projects announced by the Abu Dhabi government are on schedule and have not been affected by the global financial

crisis. He said it would be difficult to discuss the cost of the five year first phase of the plan for Al Ain. He said that the main plan has been developed through the cooperation of international planning experts and representatives from the Abu Dhabi Government and Municipality and the people of Al Ain. The plan includes schedules and detailed programs on using the land, construction density, building height limits, transportation systems, infrastructure and areas that are to be protected as part of the environmental protection initiative.

Al Ain Sports Club wins President's Cup & Etisalat Cup 08/09

Al Ain Times News

Last Monday April 13th, Al Ain Sports Club won the 2009 president's Cup as the Al Ain Football Team played against Al Shabab Club of Dubai to win the final match (1 - 0).

Less than ten days from the winning of President's Cup, the Al Ain won the 08 / 09 Etisalat Cup by winning against Al Wahda Club (1-0).

(See spectacular photos inside)



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WHAT'S NEW

The Al Ain Wildlife Park and Resort to Relocate 500 Trees

Established in 1968 by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nayhan, the Al Ain Wildlife Park & Resort (AWPR) will include more than 900 hectares of land and is home to 4300 animals, 30% of which are considered to be endangered. As part of the transformation into a wildlife resort, significant development is progressing to set the standards globally for conservation education offered to its visitors.

Driven by the desire to encourage the people of the UAE to live in harmony with nature, the transformation did not only focus on relocating the 180 species of animals to which the zoo is home, there was a far bigger issue of moving some of the oldest members of the zoo, some of which had been there before the zoo was even opened.

Operation "green fingers" has involved the moving of more than 500 trees, and has taken more than 35,000 man hours, 50 staff, including an expert team flown in from California, to ensure that everything runs smoothly and the trees are kept as stress-free as possible. The Al Ain Wildlife Park & Resort is working in partnership with Valley Crest Middle East - a leading landscape company from California with which Al Ain Wildlife Park & Resort has established a joint venture. The operators have scoured over 2000 acres for over four weeks, cataloging the trees according to species, size, vital statistics and GPS coordinates. Every care and precaution is taken to ensure that the trees remain as stress free as possible and there is a 99% success rate in moving the trees.

The mature trees, some

taller than 20 meters (65 feet) and more than 40 years old, will be re-introduced into the completed Al Ain Wildlife Park & Resort. The Al Ain Wildlife Park & Resort, adhering to the highest standards of sustainability, is taking great efforts to preserve the trees. This is a practice consistent with sustainability guidelines and sound development. When the 900 hectare site is complete with desert safaris, resort, residential, learning and conservation centres, the landscape will be populated with mature, native trees and plants.

Using techniques developed in the US and for the first time applied in the UAE, each tree takes on average 60 days to move and the procedure involves a complex technique of creating a box (made of eco-plastic lumber produced in Dubai)

for each tree, lifting and moving the tree to a temporary nursery, before sending it to its final destination where it is planted. (see notes to editor for more in depth information).

Al Mansouri, Managing Director of Al Ain Wildlife Park & Resort comments on why this is perhaps the most important part of the AWPR project; "People around the world tend to take their tree and plant life for granted - in the desert it is something that we cherish. Here in Al Ain we are extremely proud of our beautiful collection of trees, which is why we have a dedicated team of 50 to look after them. Our collection ranges from Ghat to Acacia trees and we wanted to be sure that they remain a key feature in the new wildlife park. We are very proud to be the pioneers of this technique

in the UAE and we hope that other reserves and developments will follow suit and relocate their trees as opposed to destroying or abandoning them."

Robert Crudup, President of Valley Crest Tree Company comments on the move (the company moving the trees): "Working in partnership with AWPR is a perfect match for us as we have many synergies in terms of the way we view the environment, and our vision for creating a more ecologically friendly and sustainable environment for future generations in

the UAE. We are about 75% of the way there with the first stages of the move and are pleased to say, that so far, all of the trees involved are responding extremely well to their new habitat."

Come and see for yourself...

The chance to see the tree location is a once in a life time opportunity and one which will only be available until mid-April. We would be delighted to give you a guided tour and talk you through the process, showing you some of the trees which have been moved and have already settled in to their new environment.



Al Ain hash house harriers have celebrated their silver anniversary

Fifty hashers made their way around the Hilton on the new boulevards on the side of the 'wadi' before enjoying a tasty hotel buffet.

Georges 'Marble' Robehmed and Gerry Maguire, the two oldest Al Ain harriers who have completed more than 600 runs, cut the commemorative cake and made a toast to another 25 years of hashing.

Georges said: 'INSERT

QUOTE HERE ABOUT THE DAY AND HASH CELEBRATING 25 YEARS'

Hash house harriers, an international group of non-competitive running, social and drinking clubs, began in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 1938, when a casual group of British colonial officers and expatriates began meeting on Monday evenings to run.

Every two years, hashers

from around the world celebrate together in a different country that is decided by an international vote. Next year, the event will take place where it all started: Malaysia.

Georges, who has been in the UAE for 39 years, added: 'I hope one day Al Ain will be ready to host the world hash so the whole world can see how beautiful the Garden City is.'



Indian Centre New Committee

The new Managing Committee of Indian Social Centre-Al Ain for the year 2009-10 assumed charges on the 11th of April 2009, amidst a sizable gathering of the members of the Centre. The outgoing General Secretary Jimmy, Dr Sudhakaran the president of the Centre and Sasi Stephen, the media secretary addressed the audience before the new committee headed by

Naresh Kumar Suri took over charges from the outgoing committee. The new General Secretary of the Centre Paul Mathew thanked the members of the Centre for the trust and confidence laid on the new committee. He further said that the new committee, which is designated to run the day to day affairs of the Centre for the next twelve months, will devote their entire energy and

resources to build up the Centre and its activities for the benefit of the members and the Indian community at large in the Al Ain region.

Dr Sudhakaran, who served the Centre as its president for several years unveiled the new Code of Conduct plaque donated by Jimmy, the outgoing General Secretary.

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EDUCATION & CULTURE

AAWC and Tawteen team up for leadership Training

Fun, adventure and a lot of learning about leadership and management was the theme of two and a half days for students from Al Ain Women's College. Al Ain Women's College (AAWC) Student Services coordinated with Tawteen Leadership Camps to provide this tremendous opportunity for the students. Independent Learning Week is a time for students to work on projects or undertake activities to enhance their personal learning. Forty-one students took the

initiative to spend their Independent Learning Week at this Leadership Camp. The camp began the first day at AAWC and then moved to the Palm Sport Resort for days two and three.

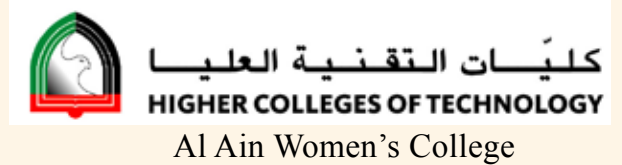
The camp combines experiential/adventure based activities with presentations and personal reflection to learn about leadership and team work. The ladies had the chance to identify their own style of leadership as well as learn to work cohesively as part of a team. The group was

divided into five teams and each day the teams had various tasks to complete and reflect upon. The activities included a spider web activity, pyramids, stepping stones, horseback riding, and golf. There were various levels of difficulty with each activity or task and the students learned the values of planning, communicating and cooperating as a team. Many students easily and effectively took on leadership roles within the groups. Many of the students had the

opportunity to try new activities for the first time which added to the excitement.

Students now have the opportunity to complete two follow up reflective assignments to gain accreditation with the Institute of Leadership and Management which is an internationally recognized organization based in the UK.

As one participant, Fatima Al Mansouri put it as we ended the camp "It was the opportunity of a lifetime."



Final Line up for WOMAD Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH) and WOMAD (World Of Music Arts & Dance) are pleased to announce another five internationally renowned artists are now confirmed for the three-day WOMAD Abu Dhabi festival, including Mohammed Mounir from Egypt, as well as homegrown Emirati band

Kamal Mussallam Group with Sokoor Al Magabeel.

The latest artists to be confirmed for the festival on 23rd, 24th and 25th April are: Kamal Musallam Group with Sohoor Al Mayabeel (Kuwait/UAE), Los De Abajo (Mexico), Márcio Local (Brazil), Mariem Hassan (West Sahara), Mohammed

Mounir (Egypt).

This brings the total number of artists to an incredible 23, performing across the two venues; at the Abu Dhabi Corniche and Al Jahili Fort, Al Ain. Both locations are free, no tickets are required.

There will be three free parking areas in Abu Dhabi at the Marina Mall, Abu

Dhabi Marina, Zayed Port and The Intercontinental Hotel. Free shuttle buses will run to and from the Corniche.

The final line-up for WOMAD Abu Dhabi 2009 is:

Abdullah Chhadeh & Syria

Dhafer Youssef

Dulsori

Etran Finatawa

Jivan Gasparyan

Kamal Musallam Group featuring Sohoor Al Mayabeel

Khaled

Los De Abajo

Márcio Local

Mariem Hassan

Mohamed Mounir

Paprika Balkanicus

Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali

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You've got the Interview? Now it's time to sell yourself!

Job Interviews are the second phase of the employment hiring game. A strong CV and Cover Letter will get you an interview, but only a strong interview will land you a job! If you've made it to the second phase, it's because your CV was good enough to get you the interview. You've got your foot in the door - now it's time to sell yourself!

Review the job interview tips below to help you get ready for what can be a daunting process unless you're fully prepared.

- Make sure you have researched the company before you arrive for your interview.
- Make sure you're prepared for the types of questions the interviewer may ask.
- For the actual interview, make sure you: arrive on time, wear suitable interview clothes, switch your cell phone off, don't smoke or chew gum and, above all, act professional and natural but not too casual. Remember, honesty and sincerity go hand-in-hand with confidence and will be obvious to the HR Manager conducting the job interview.
- Before you answer interview

questions, make sure that you have understood the question. Ask for clarification if you are unsure and stop and think before you give an answer.

- When answering questions, think about the job and the employer's needs first and stress how you will help to achieve the company's goals.
- Explain how your skills and attributes will benefit the organisation.
- Most importantly - stay calm!

So you got the interview, you've done your research, you've arrived on time and are dressed the part. Your answers have been flowing naturally and then the interviewer asks, 'So, what are your strengths and weaknesses?' Difficult interview questions can catch you off guard if you're not well-prepared. It's a good idea to have thought about these questions and have your answers ready beforehand so that you don't get caught by surprise.

Make sure you're prepared for the Al Ain Career Fair - for more information on Interview Techniques and examples of interview questions, visit our website, www.alaincareerfair.com and have a look at the student, graduate and job seeker services.

SPORTS

Al Ain Amblers RFC

The Rugby season is coming to an end in the United Arab Emirates but, for the Al Ain Amblers Rugby Football Club, a new beginning beckons. The Club, which is based in the Palm Sports Resort, held its Annual General Meeting last week and a new Committee was elected. Long standing Chairman, Steve Arnott, had already stood down earlier in the year due to a family relocation, and Mark Smith, the then Vice Chairman, had ably been holding both positions in his retirement year. James Carter and Tom Loney were elected as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, together with Brodie Mc Lellan (Treasurer), David Muirhead (Business Manager), Piers Campbell (Youth Teams Manager) and Tui Waruhia (1st Team Coach). Existing members, Bob Armstrong (Director of Rugby), Hayley Philp (Social Secretary) and Andre Fourie (Club Captain and Fixtures Secretary), were all standing again and were re-elected.

New Chair, James Carter, believes "the members have elected a very strong committee to lead the Club in 2009-10. The

mixture of youth and experience not only provides a solid platform, but will also allow the Club to expand upon the good work completed by the outgoing committee. On behalf of the Al Ain Amblers, and the new Committee, I would like to thank all outgoing members for their hard work and dedication. They have firmly established the Club; providing competitive rugby across all levels within the Gulf, and as a Sport and Leisure facility within Al Ain."

On the rugby pitch the Youth Section have enjoyed a very successful season; largely thanks to an excellent set of volunteer coaches. The Under 16 team won all of their league games and were only beaten in the league Cup Final against Dubai Exiles by a last minute, extra time try. The team also toured Kuala Lumpur and won all of their games. The Under 14/15 age group grew in size this year and rounded off a wonderful development season with a series of wins on tour in Cairo, including a victory over the hosts Under 16 team. The new

girls' team is still in the development phase but they are very keen and motivated. We anticipate future success once they persuade the rest of the region to play rugby with tackling rather than touch! The Under 12 team also produced a memorable season, finishing well in the league and winning all of their games on the Cairo tour. The highlight of the season though, was the narrow loss in the final of the Cup during the Al Ain Youth Tournament, and the success of the 2nd team in winning the bowl competition. The Under 10's, 8's and 7's all showed impressive form during the season and this season's youth tour to Cairo demonstrated the strength of Al Ain's youth rugby with all age groups reaching the final of their competitions. Youth rugby has seen considerable growth in Al Ain over the past season and the increasing number of young players taking part bodes well for the future of youth rugby in Al Ain.

In the Adults Section, the 1st team experienced a mixed start to the season but have been unbeaten since January. Perhaps the turnaround was the

Dubai Sevens tournament towards the end of 2008 which coincided with an influx of some new and exciting players. At the tournament the 1st team narrowly lost in the semi final after recording some impressive victories, including a comfortable win against Gulf Premiership team Bahrain. However, the highlight was the performance of the Al Ain Veteran's team who played some superb team rugby on their way to the final. Although they lost out to Dubai Hurricanes in a tough game, the final was played in front of 40,000 spectators. The Veteran's have subsequently reached the final of the Sharjah Tens and are now looking forward to a trip to the Phuket Tens. In the fifteens game the 1st team have beaten every team in the league in 2009 and finished the season in second place, one point behind top spot. One game remains, the Cup Final against the Dubai Hurricanes on 17 April at the new home of Arabian Gulf Rugby, the Sevens Ground. Al Ain will be looking to finish off the season in style and repeat the victory that they recorded against the same

opposition last year.

Outside of rugby the Club continues to offer a variety of different sporting activities, including: a dive centre; tennis; basketball; soccer and swimming. Al Ain Amblers Netball Club have completed their second season in the Abu Dhabi Netball League, finishing 6th in the A league, and recently enjoyed a tour to Bahrain, where they took part in the Annual Intergulf Netball Championships. In the next few weeks, the Club is set to open a new pool and pitch side food and drink feature, in addition to a brand new, fitness suite. All these facilities and activities sit nicely within the Palm Sports Resort, where excellent equestrian and

golfing centres also exist.

Upcoming events include the 1st team Cup Final on 17 April in Dubai, for which the Club is providing a free bus to and from the ground. The culmination of the season is the eagerly anticipated End of Season Ball on 1 May at the Palm Sports Resort Racing Stadium, where the 'Games Room' is expected to make a return. To request details for these events, and for any enquiries about the Club's facilities and membership, readers are directed to the Clubhouse Manager, Kim Cummings, who will be delighted to assist you (03 702 6436).

James Carter

Chairman

Al Ain Amblers Rugby Club.



Congratulations!! Al Ain Sports Club winner of Etisalat Cup & President's Cup 08/09



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ENTERTAINMENT

SUDOKU!

A Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid which has been subdivided into 9 smaller grids. The aim of the game is that each column, row and box must contain each of the numbers; one to nine. Meaning you cannot use the same number twice in any column, row or box!

4					6		7	
	7		5					1
5						6		2
			3	6		9	5	
1	4			8			3	6
	3	9		5	7			
7		4						9
9					3		1	
	1		8					7

SOLUTION:

4	9	1	5	6	8	2	1	3
5	1	7	3	4	7	8	9	6
6	8	3	2	1	9	4	5	7
8	7	1	7	5	4	6	3	9
9	3	7	6	8	2	5	4	1
4	5	6	1	9	3	7	8	2
2	4	9	8	7	1	3	6	5
1	6	8	4	3	5	9	2	7
4	8	1	9	2	6	1	8	3

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 Fadwa M.B. Al Mughairbi, PhD
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Upcoming Films

- Reviewed by Latifa S. Al Khaili



Monsters vs Aliens

Animation, Action, Sci-Fi

A young girl is hit by a meteorite from outer space that turns her into a giant. The girl is then taken to a secret government compound where she meets a group of quirky monsters. Together they are on a mission to save the planet.

Contains sci-fi action, some crude humor and mild language.



Knowing

Action, Mystery, Thriller

A teacher opens a time capsule that was dug up at his son's elementary school. In the capsule he finds a letter with some mysterious predictions, some that have already occurred and others that are about to. He starts to believe his family is involved in the events that are about to unfold tries to figure out the mystery behind the letter.

Contains disaster sequences, disturbing images and brief strong language.



DVD Review

Doubt

Drama, Mystery

In 1964, a nun confronts a priest after suspecting him of abusing a black student. The priest denies the charges. Confrontations overshadow various topics including themes of religion, morality, and authority.

Contains thematic material



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 Birth of the the world's first cloned camel in Dubai on Thursday 8 April, 2009

LIFESTYLE

Mom's Kitchen

Apple pie

by Amal Rahuma Tatanaki



Ingredients:

Dough:

- 2 cups flour
- ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 2/3 cup butter in room temperature
- 1 egg
- 2/3 cup sugar

Method:

Filling:

- 4 red apples grated
- ¼ cup honey
- ¼ cup sultanas
- ¼ tsp cinnamon

Grease a pie pan. Using half the quantity of dough, cover the base of the pan and push the dough up to halfway up the side of the pan. Place the filling onto the dough.

With the remaining dough, make pipe shaped dough pieces around ¼" in diameter. Place them over the filling to make a grid pattern.

Bake in the oven at 180C for 20 min . Serve with vanilla ice cream.

Got questions? Ask the Chef, Amal Rahuma Tatanaki, on amaltatanaki@gmail.com.

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