

FREE



Barasti Beach Christmas Eve
Friday December 24th
 Featuring **ROBIN S**
 The Meridien Miha Seyahi Beach Resort & Marina, Telephone: 04-3181313

BUSINESS:

Smart moves to stay ahead in phone wars
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Corruption and calamity - it's cricket in 2010
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SLEEPING ROUNDS IN CARD SEARCH

Residents resort to desperate measures in fear over ID fiasco

UAE residents have become so desperate to get their hands on an Emirates ID card they have started camping outside registration centres overnight in a bid to beat the rush.

With just nine days to go until the application deadline expires, expats have become frantic in their bid to sign up to the scheme.

It is still not clear what will happen to those who miss the December 31 deadline, with the Emirates Identity Authority (EIDA) remaining tight-lipped.

But many people are not taking any chances. Hundreds have been sleeping outside centres, or turning up in the early hours of the morning

By Fareed Rahman

hoping to be first in line to be granted a precious appointment.

Joy Jose, an Indian worker, arrived at one centre at 3am yesterday, desperate to complete the process and avoid a rumoured hefty fine.

He said: "There were already 300 people waiting. People are saying there will be a fine of Dhs700 if you don't have a card. That would be too much for me. My friends came to the centre at night and slept outside."

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The secret recipe blended with a modern Arabian flavor



In your element

Visual treat

WHETHER it's holiday guests you want to impress, or simply fancy kicking off the festive season with something special, be sure to make time for the "Fire and Water" spectacular at The Dubai Fountain. The already impressive regular fountain shows have been amped up as part of the festive celebrations, with live flames combined with the water and music shows.

Held every 20 minutes from 6pm, this never seen before experience promises to dazzle.

Call 04 334 4550 for more info.

There's lots of activities scheduled at Dubai Mall too, so head indoors if you want to catch Festive Stilt Walkers roaming around the ground floor. If you are after more traditional activities then head to the Treasury Dome, where you will find Arabic Tents laying on complementary henna painting, Arabic coffee and dates or falconry, from 12-10pm, right through until January 14. **Check the website www.thedubaimall.com for further information**



Dance away

AVOID looking like a fool on the dance floor this festive season with some help from the Arthur Murray dance school. Anyone can book an appointment with the skilled instructors and they are even offering a free one-hour private trial. For further inspiration catch one of the live performances by Arthur Murray dancers at Festival Centre starting January 7, featuring showcases of popular dances such as the waltz, tango, rumba and samba. Or put your best foot forward and sign up at either Arthur Murray JLT or Souk Al Bahar. Call 050 502 7349, www.arthurmurray.ae



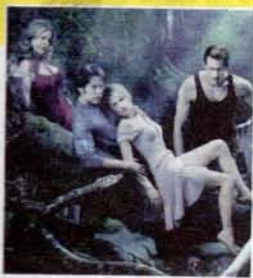
Just the ticket

TICKETS for the live music performances during Gulf Bike week are now on sale. Be sure to book your place at hotly-anticipated gigs by Amy Winehouse, Pharrell Williams with his band N*E*R*D, and special guest Mike Posner, plus performances from local artists, bike stunt shows and exhibitions, and a host of other activities. **Tickets can be bought at www.gulfbikeweek.com**



Fangs a lot

The gripping finale of the third season of True Blood airs tonight and the last few drops are guaranteed to leave viewers thirsty for more. As we say goodbye to our favourite residents of Bon Temps, Eric grapples with his conscience while plotting his revenge against Russell, and Sookie considers a new life without Bill. **True Blood shows tonight on America Plus and OSN series HD at 11pm**



Healey's Bar makes your Ladies Night extra special this festive season as we invite you down to experience pampering just in time for the holidays.