Weather

Today: A mixture of sunshine, cloud and rain. Temperatures will reach 20C inland. 25C along the coasts and 11C over higher ground.

Outlook: Remaining unsettled.

Yesterday:
- Wind: NE, E, NE, NE, SE, NE
- Humidity: 55%, 55%, 55%, 55%, 55%, 55%
- Pressure: 1005 hPa, 1005 hPa, 1005 hPa, 1005 hPa, 1005 hPa, 1005 hPa
- Pollution: Good, Good, Good, Good, Good, Good

Sunrise: 06:59
Sunset: 18:02

Air quality in Cyprus is assessed with the aid of a network of nine advanced monitoring stations.

Information provided by the Air Quality Section of the Department of Labour Inspection (DOLI).

Worldwide

Algeria 16 Cloudy Madrid 14 Cloudy
Belgium 4 Cloudy Manchester 13 Cloudy
Bulgaria 11 Cloudy Moscow 10 Cloudy
Buche 11 Cloudy Oslo 5 Cloudy
Cape 24 Cloudy Paris 7 Cloudy
Canada 10 Cloudy Prague 13 Cloudy
China 11 Cloudy Rome 18 Cloudy
Denmark 13 Cloudy Rome 18 Cloudy
Scotland 12 Light Rain Southampton 11 Cloudy
France 3 Moderate London 98 Cloudy
Germany 9 Mild Stockholm 6 Dust
Hungary 13 Light Rain Tel-Aviv 9 Cloudy
Israel 13 Cloudy Vienna 8 Cloudy

WaterBee to improve water management

Worldwide, 70 per cent of water used is currently wasted

By Peter Stevenson

Improving water management on the island has led to the creation of WaterBee, a co-operation between the University of Cyprus, private research centres and other academic institutes. The move comes in response to a report by the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) stating that bad water management and inefficient irrigation systems contribute to the waste of 90 per cent of the Earth’s available water.

WaterBee is a complete, flexible, cost-effective Smart Irrigation and Water Management system. It enables farmers, vineyard owners, golf clubs, public authorities and landscape managers to optimise their water consumption.

According to the research team at the university, the system helps lower operating costs and increase output by being more efficient and eventually improving the quality of the crops. It will provide a range of services to meet current farmers’ needs such as greater control over their irrigation requirements. It will also give accurate and complete information on crop and field conditions as well as easy-to-use smartphones and web apps to support crop irrigation decisions with real-time data.

Water supply in Cyprus is always an issue and the Centre for Intelligent Systems and Networks (KIOS) at the University of Cyprus has been a major contributor to the WaterBee project.

The WaterBee was presented at the International Agricultural and Gardening Machinery Exhibition (IAM) last week in Bologna, Italy.

The introduction of the system is of significant importance, according to the university, because agriculture is the largest industry in the world but it is also one of the biggest threats to the environment. The industry wastes 1,500 billion litres of the 2,500 billion litres it uses every year according to the WWF, which is attributed to inefficient irrigation systems.

WaterBee’s intelligent irrigation modelling and scheduling system goes well beyond the state-of-the-art. It has a unique Soil Moisture Model for optimal water use, continuously self-adapting to each user’s situation and business objectives. It uses machine learning approaches and an open web-enabled architecture which will enable it to integrate all environmental data in the future, in line with the European IN-SPIRE Directive. This enables users not only to optimise the use of water by irrigating only where and when needed, but also enhancing plant growth and quality.

ARE YOU AN INNOVATOR?

Innovation is no longer a matter of choice. It's a prerequisite for competitiveness and progress, says the Cyprus Employers and Industrialists Federation (OEI).

If you have applied or created something new, then you have innovated. If the application or setting-up of the innovation has been successful, then there is the opportunity to be distinguished for it.

OEI is now encouraging individuals and businesses to take part in the 7th Cyprus Innovation Award competition. The awards are open to innovation in the following sectors: Primary Sector (Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, etc.); Manufacturing (Industry); Services; Broad Public Sector.

OEI’s Cyprus Innovation Award is supported by the Ministry of Commerce and the Research Promotion Foundation.

Entries must be received by OEI by January 18 and can be found at www.innovationaward.oei.org.cy or at OEI’s new offices at the corner of Acropolis Avenue A St, Pedion Areos, Nicosia (Tel: 22 665025).

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Illegal betting shop

A PATROL of the crime prevention department of Larnaca police seized a computer, 15 electronic coupons and €60 in cash yesterday at a betting shop in Aradippou that was operating without a licence.

Three people who were in the betting shop at the time were charged with illegal gambling, but were released and will later be summoned to the District Court of Larnaca.

Fire destroys car

A PRIVATE car burst into flames during the early hours yesterday in Larnaca.

According to a police report, the company car parked outside the apartment block of a 31-year-old using it, burst into flames around 01:35am. The car was completely destroyed, as well as tools and various other goods in the boot of the car.

Sinai travel warning

The Foreign Ministry has issued a travel warning advising people to avoid travelling to the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt unless absolutely necessary due to an increase in activity by armed militiamen to the border with the Gaza Strip.

It warned that this is the case “especially on the Feast Day of St. Catherine” on Monday due to high risk of a terrorist attack against pilgrims visiting St. Catherine’s monastery there.