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IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS: Wichit Tesco sparks protest; Tsunami memorial service; Democrats under investigation. **Pages 2 & 3**

INSIDE STORY: At what price paradise? **Pages 4 & 5**

AROUND THE REGION: Swedish publisher sparks Koh Lanta controversy. **Page 8**

AROUND THE SOUTH: Evicted villagers find legal allies. **Page 9**

AROUND THE ISLAND: A day for the little people. **Page 10**

FEATURE: Junior IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards. **Pages 14 & 15**

LIFESTYLE: Superyachts; Elite models strut their stuff. **Pages 18 & 19**

AFTER DARK: Strong club scene means better beats. **Pages 20 & 21**

SPA MAGIC: A natural solution to stress. **Page 22**

SPORTS: 2007 Boxing wrap-up; Langkawi Regatta. **Pages 38 & 39**

PROPERTY: Construction: L&H park gets familial; Decor: Ann's antiques; Gardening: Flowers and "trekkies"; Home of the Week. **Pages 41-46**

PLUS

QUEER NEWS 6; AROUND THE NATION 7; CHEAP EATS 12; HAPPENINGS 16; WHAT'S ON 23; TAKE A BREAK 25 & 26; BOOKS, TOWNINGS 29; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 30; FIRST PERSON, ISSUES & ANSWERS 31; PATTAYA, FIT FOR LIFE 32; HOROSCOPES, YOUTH 'N ASIA 33; COMPUTERS 34; BUSINESS AND MONEY 36 & 37; CLASSIFIEDS 47-59.

Nation mourns HRH Galyani

BANGKOK (Nation, Gazette): After months of receiving treatment for cancer, HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana's passed away 2:54 am on January 3. She was 84.

The Princess had been receiving treatment for cancer at Siriraj Hospital for months. Well-wishers had flocked to the hospital since the news spread that she had been admitted.

HM Queen Sirikit and several members of the Royal Family visited Princess Galyani at the hospital on the evening of January 2, arriving at 6:06 pm.

HRH Galyani was also visited by HRH Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, HRH Princess Chulabhorn Valayalaksana, Princess Ubolratana Rajakanya, HRH Princess Srirasmi, HRH Princess Bajra Kitiyabha, HRH Princess Siribha Chudhabhorn, and HRH Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana.

The royal funeral will take place at the Dusit Mahaprasart Throne hall inside the Grand Palace. The mourning period will continue until the 100th day of her departure, the Royal Household Bureau has announced.

Shortly after the news of her death was announced, people in black dress rushed to the hospital to pay their respects to the portrait of Her Royal Highness on display there.

The Princess is the elder sister of two kings of the Chakri Dynasty, HM King Rama Ananda and current monarch HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The Princess contributed to the country's education in many various ways. She sat on a com-



HRH Galyani Vadhana. Photo courtesy of Praew magazine.

mittee to select who should win scholarships from the Office of Civil Service Commission to pursue degrees abroad. She chaired a committee that designed French exams for national entrance tests.

In addition to education, the Princess also did much social work. She was patron of the Thai Cardiac Children's Foundation, Foundation for Slum Children, Foundation for the Yuwaprasart Waitayopatham Hospital, Foundation for Children with Mental Disabilities, Foundation for Rajvithi Hospital, Green World

Foundation and Hospital for Tropical Diseases Foundation.

She chaired many other foundations including the Kidney Foundation of Thailand and the Breast Foundation.

By granting her patronage, she worked closely with these organizations to try to ensure their work directly benefited people, especially the underprivileged.

In 1995, in the year of the Princess' sixth-cycle birthday, HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej bestowed her with the title of Krom Luang Naradhiwas Raja-
Continued on page 2

'No water shortage in 2008' - Phuket waterworks chief

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: An unusually wet December has kept Bang Wad reservoir in Kathu filled to capacity, while forecasts for continuing rainfall through March mean there is little reason to worry about water shortages in 2008, the head of the provincial waterworks authority said December 27.

Reporting to Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit at the monthly Phuket Provincial Security Council meeting at the Katina Hotel, Phuket Provincial Water Supply Manager Sayan Wareearoonroj said current reserves are sufficient to last until May, the month that usually marks the end of the dry season.

The island's only reservoir, the 7.3-million-cubic-meter basin at Bang Wad is currently at 99.9% capacity, he said.

The Thai Meteorological Department has predicted appreciable rainfall for the next four months, with 30mm expected in January, traditionally Phuket's driest month, he said.

Predicted rainfall amounts for February, March and April are 39mm, 111mm and 127mm respectively, he said.

Despite copious amounts of rain falling on Phuket in the wet season, lack of reservoirs has resulted in water shortages during past years.

A second reservoir with 7.2-million-cubic-meter capacity at Bang Neaw Dum in Thalang is expected to be complete by September, 2008, at the earliest,

Continued on page 2

Annual fiction contest opens

PHUKET: Aspiring writers are invited to compose novelettes for the second Mom Tri's Boathouse Short Fiction Contest.

The writing contest which saw last year's winning short fiction piece expanded into a full-length novel will be judged in student and adult author categories.

The adult competition is open to all. Stories can be on any subject but must have a Thai theme or Thai flavor. Submissions must be between 1,000 and 1,500 words and contain the following three key words: the Boathouse, Phuket and (the big) Mango.

Student writers between 15 and 18 years old will be given some help to start off their short stories by using the introduction from a Jack Shepherd story by internationally acclaimed author Jake Needham, whose crime fiction *Killing Plato* starts in the Boathouse's Galley Bar.

Students are asked to finish the story using between 800 to 1,200 words.

Winning stories will receive Mon Tri's Boathouse vouchers and some stories will be published in *The Greater Phuket Magazine*.

The deadline for entries in the adult writers category is February 29, 2008.

Winners will be announced on March 12, 2008. The deadline for student entries is April 10, 2008.

From page 1

What water woes?

while the authorities are in the final stages of land acquisition to build a 5.7-million-cubic-meter reservoir at Klong Krata in Chal-long.

Phuket has two main water supply systems. Both systems use the Bang Wad Reservoir as their principal supply.

With the opening of the Bang Neaw Dum reservoir, the PPWS will expand its coverage into Thalung, where most residents rely on lagoons or ground-water supplies.

TSUNAMI VICTIMS REMEMBERED

December 26 marked the third anniversary of the 2004 tsunami disaster. Various memorial services were held around the island in memory of those who lost their lives on the same day three years ago. In Patong the service, which began at 10 am, included a food and alms offering to 108 monks who spent an hour praying for those who perished.

Rememberance service attendees observed a one-minute silence to remember those lost to the waves. When the chanting was over, many people whose relatives and friends died in the disaster went to the water's edge and released flowers as morning beach-goers looked on.

Later that evening some 700 people gathered near the water, each placing a lit candle in the sand, basking the beach in a solemn glow. In addition to the sea of candles were more prominent features, including miniature towers with candles and wreaths surrounding their bases.



By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

WICHIT: Some 50 protesters gathered at Phuket Provincial Office on December 26 to protest the construction of a new Tesco-Lotus branch on Chao Fa East Rd, which if completed would become the retail juggernaut's third branch on the island.

The protesters, some of whom are vendors at the Moom Muang market near the proposed project site, converged at Provincial Hall about 2 pm.

In the absence of Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit or any of his deputies, the complaint was accepted by Governor's Office chief Rapeeput Na Nakhon.

Wisate Sabaijit, acting Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) of Wichit Municipality, told the *Gazette* that on September 5 Tesco-Lotus was granted permission to build the new retail center, which will be located on a long, narrow plot along the inbound land of Chao Fa East Rd in Wichit, several hundred meters south of the PTT service station.

The project will cover a total land area of 1,729 square meters, he said.

All the required procedures had been adhered to and a building permit was issued by his office on that day. As such, there is now no legal basis under which construction can now be stopped, he said.

However, local residents say they will continue to protest the project. Retired local resident

Locals protest Wichit Tesco



The unmarked site of Phuket's third Tesco-Lotus branch sits on this plot of land beside Chao Fa East Rd in Wichit. It has yet to be announced whether the new outlet will be a Tesco-Express or a larger configuration.

Sunanta Iam-anancharoen said the project would have a negative impact on the livelihoods of vendors at Moom Muang market and other small businesspeople in the area.

K. Sunantha told the *Gazette* that the recent opening of the controversial Laguna Tesco-Lotus Market Cherng Talay, in Thalung, against strong local opposition was a bad sign.

Although a complaint had since been filed with the Administrative Court over its legality, the Cherng Talay Tesco opened just in time to take advantage of brisk holiday season sales.

The first Tesco-Lotus branch in Phuket opened with great success at Samkong Intersection on the bypass road in October 1999. Numerous other large retailers have opened on the

island since then, especially along the bypass road, with little or no public opposition.

A source at the Tesco-Lotus Corporate Affairs Department declined to comment on the new store at that time, but said the retailer would issue a statement soon.

Construction on the project is now in the land-clearing phase.

Nationally, Tesco-Lotus and rival retailer Big C have both refused to comply with the Commerce Ministry's proposal to regulate modern retail expansion in the absence of the country's first retail and wholesale business law.

The Commerce Ministry on December 26 called for a meeting with retailers and suppliers to seek agreement on temporary regulations to end the conflicts between big and small players.

While other retail giants agreed with the proposal, Tesco-Lotus and Big C were the only two to find fault with some of the regulations.

They said that the regulations must be changed, as some details were too restrictive for chains wanting to expand.

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Woman remains comatose after severe beating

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PATONG: A 37-year-old woman was left fighting for her life at Vachira Phuket Hospital after her enraged husband of 20 years allegedly beat her over the head with a dumbbell early on December 27.

Pol Lt Col Serm Kwannimit identified the victim as Dawan Harnsena, a native of Nongkhai and long-time Patong resident.

After questioning the victim's younger sister, police learned that Dawan's likely assailant was her husband, 43-year-old Songdet Harnsena, who fled by motorcycle from the couple's home on Phisit Gorani Rd after the attack.

Songdet likely became jealous after he went to collect Dawan from work the night before and saw her chatting with a foreign man outside Pizza Hut on Soi Bangla, where Dawan was employed on the night-shift as a dishwasher, said Col Serm.

Songdet, a security guard at the local agent of an international courier service, thought his wife had taken a farang *kik* (casual

sex partner), said the victim's sister, who lived nearby.

The couple's ensuing argument turned violent at about 3 am at their home. The weapon used was a dumbbell – not a club, as was previously reported in the Thai-language media, Col Serm said.

Dawan's sister, Aran Innok, 35, said that the victim worked as a housekeeper at the Phuket Palace hotel in addition to her work at Pizza Hut, he added.

After the attack, Dawan was rushed to Patong Hospital and then transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket City where she underwent emergency surgery for a blood clot in her brain. She is still in a coma, he added.

The victim's sister told police that the couple have a 19-year-old daughter who is studying in Nongkhai.

The exact motive for the attack won't be confirmed until Songdet turns himself in for questioning, Col Serm said.

"We are confident he will surrender himself to us soon," he added.

Phuket Democrat win under investigation

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PHUKET: The Election Commission (EC) in Bangkok has agreed to investigate one complaint of electoral fraud against Tossaporn Thepabutr, one of the two Democrat Party candidates elected to represent Phuket in parliament in a landslide win in the December 23 general election.

Phuket Election Committee (PEC) investigation officer Ratchapon Thongnuengarm confirmed on December 20 that the EC had ordered him to collect evidence in the case, based on charges lodged jointly by candidates from four rival political parties before the December 23 polls.

Six candidates from four parties – People Power, Peua Pandin, Chart Thai and Ruamjai Thai Chart Pattana – held a press conference on November 28 calling for changes in the PEC, which it said unfairly allowed K. Tossaporn's wife, Phuket Administration Organization (*Or-BorJor*) President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr, to unfairly use her position to help him win a seat.

The ensuing complaint, lodged against K. Tossaporn only, was based on similar charges.

K. Ratchapon on December 20 told the *Gazette* he is now busy collecting evidence in the case with his counterpart from the Royal Thai Police and that an EC ruling should be rendered



TIT FOR TAT: Democrat Party MP candidates Tossaporn Thepabutr (in blue shirt) and Rewat Areerob (in yellow shirt) file their complaint at the Phuket Election Commission in Phuket City against a pre-election smear campaign.

The Election Commission in Bangkok has now agreed to investigate a complaint against K. Tossaporn for alleged electoral fraud.

by January 3.

Were the EC to issue K. Tossaporn a "yellow card" (suspension) he could still stand in the resulting by-election – but not if he were to receive a "red card" (ban).

The PEC is also collecting evidence for the EC related to a complaint lodged by K. Tossaporn and his running mate Rewat Areerob the day before the election.

The complaint involves a pamphlet circulated by persons unknown imploring the public not to "waste their time" voting for the Democratic Party candidates, as they stood to be red-carded

after the poll for having received help from K. Anchalee.

The Democrats asked for an investigation into who had circulated the pamphlet, which they claim was a violation of Section 53 of the Election Act, forbidding efforts to intentionally discredit a candidate by disseminating wrongful information.

Despite the alleged smear campaign, the Democrats won in a landslide.

K. Rewat was the top vote-getter with 93,004, followed by K. Tossaporn with 87,905 votes. Somchart Somnam from the Chart Thai party came in a distant third with 17,252 votes.

Chef severely burned in Patong restaurant gas explosion

PATONG: The chef at a newly opened restaurant on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd suffered first- and second-degree burns to 40% of his body after a cooking gas cylinder exploded on December 26.

Pol Capt Jongserm Preecha of the Kathu Police told the *Gazette* that he received a report at 8 am that there was an explosion at Patong Corner Restaurant, on the corner of Soi Jintana.

The chef at the restaurant, 32-year-old Chairat Inkaew from Phang Nga, had his arms and upper body scorched in the explosion.

He was rushed to Patong Hospital, and later transferred to the burns ward at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket City.

Capt Jongserm said the blast likely resulted either from care-

lessness on the part of staff or faulty equipment, which had only recently been installed.

The new restaurant opened for business on December 17, he added.

Capt Jongserm estimated the damages to the restaurant at 300,000 to 400,000 baht.

"The restaurant was fitted out with all high-quality materials. The owner said that he had invested about 1 million baht [in the restaurant]," Capt Jongserm said.

The owner is a Bangkok-based investor, he added.

K. Chairat is now listed in stable condition and is able to walk. However, he is expected to be hospital bound for about two weeks.

– *Semacote Suganya*

Corpse washes up at Tah Chat Chai Beach

TAH CHAT CHAI: Police are trying to identify a body that washed up on Tah Chat Chai Beach about 2:30 pm December 26.

Pol Lt Damrong Songchuoy, of Tah Chat Chai Police Station, said the body appeared to be that of an Asian man, probably in his 40s.

"There were no wounds or abrasions to indicate the man had been a victim of violence," he said.

The body, found by villagers, was clad in a yellow polo shirt, black trousers and leather shoes.

"There was a watch on the left wrist and a gold ring on one finger," he said.

"A review of daily police logs failed to turn up any missing person reports, nor had any been called in," he added.

Lt Damrong said the man is believed to have died about two days before his body was found.

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If you're a landowner in Phuket, you're sitting pretty. Your land's value will continue to rise at breathtaking speed, while the prices of most everything else – aside from petrol – will remain stable.

Even if you don't own land, Phuket is still full of ample opportunity to prosper.

Borrowing rates are set to go down, making it cheaper for you to spend and invest, while the economy will continue to grow, ensuring that your job will remain intact and your business will thrive.

If you're at the lower end of the economic scale, have no fear, the government will help keep prices low and impose a minimum-wage increase to ensure you're able to afford to live in this fast-growing paradise.

Sound like a dream come true? Well, these assertions can be gleaned from the statistics – and as the old saying goes, "statistics don't lie" – compiled by three government offices in Phuket.

The rosier figures, of course, are the land values, which are reported by the Phuket Provincial Treasury Office (PPTO). Late last month, the PPTO released its assessed land prices for the whole of the island (see charts, right).

Land appraisals are conducted every four years in order to set benchmark figures for property transaction taxes. Since the previous assessment of 2003, prices in many areas have doubled, tripled or even sextupled.

The Baan Don-Layan road in Cherg Talay skyrocketed, with plot prices rising from a 2003-assessed price of 2,000 baht per square wah (four square meters) to 12,700 baht/sq wah in 2007.

The true cost of living in paradise

Officially, Phuket is an oasis of stability and unlimited wealth potential. But does the reality of daily life here match the government figures?

Semacote Suganya, Pathomporn Kaengkrajang and Janyaporn Morel investigate.

If you bought a half-rai (800sqm) plot in this area four to five years ago, it would have cost you about 400,000 baht. The same plot today is worth 2.54 million baht.

Phuket's priciest land overall is Patong's Thaweewong Rd, commonly called "the beach road", which has a new assessed price of 94,000 baht per square wah, up from 40,000 baht in the previous valuation.

Looking at figures from the Phuket Finance Office (PFO), property has taken the driver's seat in Phuket's economy, with 35% of the 3.184 billion invested in the province in 2007 coming from real estate or construction businesses. Hotel and restaurants accounted for 20% of the investment total, while 8% of investment was in tourism.

While the land office hears "boom", the words of caution "slow" and "steady" are what's whispered around the Phuket Fi-

nance Office. PFO Director Boonsong Sookvisit reports that product prices will be stable, inflation will slow down and the buying power of consumers will strengthen due to salary increases in both the government and private sectors.

He also said that the PFO forecasts that loan-interest rates will be reduced, returning confidence to investors.

This view is echoed by the Phuket Internal Trade Office, an agency that acts as a mediator between consumers and producers in setting prices. Its director, Wasana Utsaharam, said that prices overall remained stable in Phuket, while the most notable increases were in transport costs (fuel) and cooking oil.

K. Wasana said that the central Internal Trade office controls the prices of raw products such as rubber, rice and soy beans.

For products with rising prices, such as palm oil and soy beans, K. Wasana said that the price hikes were over a period of time, with incremental increases every three months (three baht per liter), to help consumers cope with the higher costs.

A similar strategy was used to stem the spiraling petrol prices.

The office also works to convince shops to display price labels on all products, to discourage overcharging.

"In Phuket," said K. Wasana, "most shops and malls were very co-operative as Phuket is an upmarket and international market."

"The entrepreneurs have co-operated very well. We also see that the foreign population likes to see price labels, so they will buy goods from the shops that have price labels showing."

However, services such as motorbike taxis and tuk-tuks are beyond the authority of the Internal Trade Office, said K. Wasana. The prices are agreed upon between two people, and if buyers see the price as reasonable they will use the service, she said.

RENT

Rent accounts for a large proportion of expenses for many people in Phuket, but probably due to the nature of the business – mostly small, family-owned, with possibly "two-book" accounting practices – figures are not collected for long-term rental units.

An informal survey of a selection of people by the *Phuket Gazette*, however, showed that rental prices have remained the same or increased only marginally over the past five years.

The owner of a 14-unit apartment building near Phuket Rajabhat University, Pranee Hongwongpaisal, has recently made a third rental-rate increase since the apartment opened five years ago.

The original price of 2,000 baht per month was raised to 2,200 baht three years ago, and this month she increased the rent to 2,500 baht per month.

"As Phuket has higher living costs, and because the petrol

price is up as well as the electricity and water prices, we have had no choice but to put the rent up," she said.

"Compared with other apartments, the rent for our apartments has been steady for long enough and we have a good safety record, so the 300-baht increase won't be much trouble for the tenants," she said.

GETTING RICH - OR GETTING BY?

Phuket's minimum wage was given a boost on November 12, when the Ministry of Labor announced an increase of the daily wage rate from 186 baht to 193 baht – the highest increase in the country. The wage hike came into effect on January 1.

The effect on labor costs will be minimal, according to a source in the construction industry, who noted that workers on construction sites in Phuket are already paid a rate of 200 baht per day.

And for the sizable population of non-salaried workers in the province, the wage hike will have no effect.

Fishermen, especially, are finding it hard to get by in the wake of fuel price increases, said Duangjai Thitipan, a volunteer for the Catholic Phuket Group, a charity for the poor in Phuket.

K. Duangjai said that in Koh Kaew, for example, there are about 30 fisherfolk families, who supplement their incomes by sifting through trash for items to sell. They earn about 120 baht a day.

"They cannot afford the cost of living," said K. Duangjai, "so they always search for other

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Tuk-tuk driver Paisarn Suthitapan has seen his profits fall in the wake of the fuel price hikes. A tuk-tuk driver for 10 years in Phuket, he is based at Wachira Phuket Hospital, where he charges passengers 20 baht per person for fares within Phuket City.

ways to get money, such as borrowing from anywhere that they can.

“So in the long term, they cannot afford to send their kids to school. Many of these children have to stop school long before they graduate because their parents cannot pay the education fees.”

Tuk-tuk driver Paisarn Suthitapan has seen his profits fall in the wake of the fuel price hikes. A tuk-tuk driver for 10 years in Phuket, he is based at Wachira Phuket Hospital, where he charges passengers 20 baht per person for fares within Phuket City.

He said that he raised the price to 20 baht three years ago, but hasn't raised it again, even though his costs are higher. His fuel costs about 400 baht a day, and he earns about 1,000 baht a day, making a 600-baht daily profit.

Rather than raising his hire rates, K. Paisarn chooses to wait until he gets at least five passen-

gers in the tuk-tuk before embarking.

“Local passengers always understand this situation, but passengers from other provinces always complain,” he said.

LIVING COSTS

Small business owners and salary workers alike say they have had to tighten their purse strings, raise prices or make other adjustments in order to cope with what they say are higher expenses in Phuket.

The owner of Mae Porn Seafood restaurant in Phuket City, Theerasak “Ohn” Trisankusuan, said that the prices of cooking oil, palm oil and drinking water have risen, which has affected his bottom line.

“I used to buy cooking oil at about 500 baht for 18 liters, now the same amount costs about 690 baht [the restaurant uses one bottle every couple of days].

“We can still live but the profit is lower,” he said. Passing

the higher costs onto customers would drive diners away, he explained, so instead the restaurant has slightly reduced the quantity of food served with each dish as a cost-saving measure.

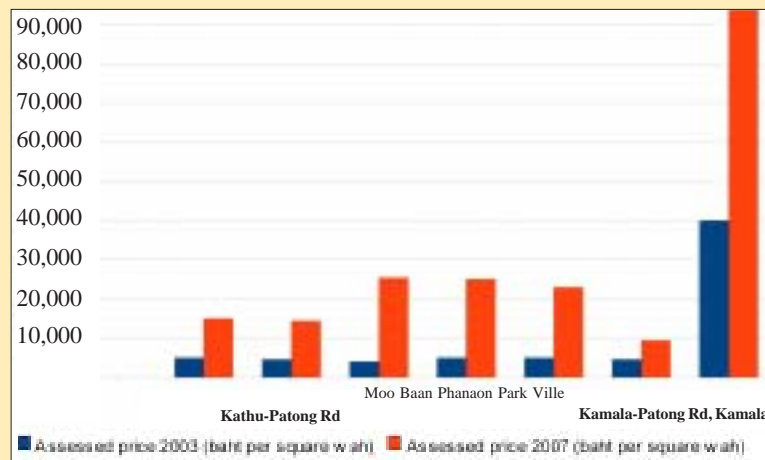
A Phuket resident for 17 years, office employee Archara Chaisiri said that her daily costs have gone up while her salary has not. “I used to spend about 100 baht a day on food; now I have to pay at least 120-150 baht a day.”

K. Archara said she now refrains from buying luxury items such as dresses and shoes, and travels less by car because petrol is expensive.

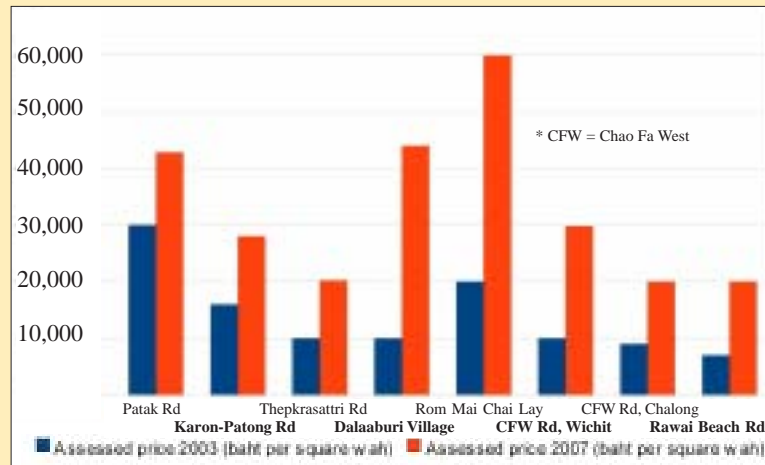
Laundry business owner Benjawan Charoenpiriyanon said she recently had to raise the price of her service from 450 baht for 70 items to 500 baht, after holding the price steady for four years.

“The prices of everything to make this business have all increased, including detergent, fabric softener and bleach,” she said.

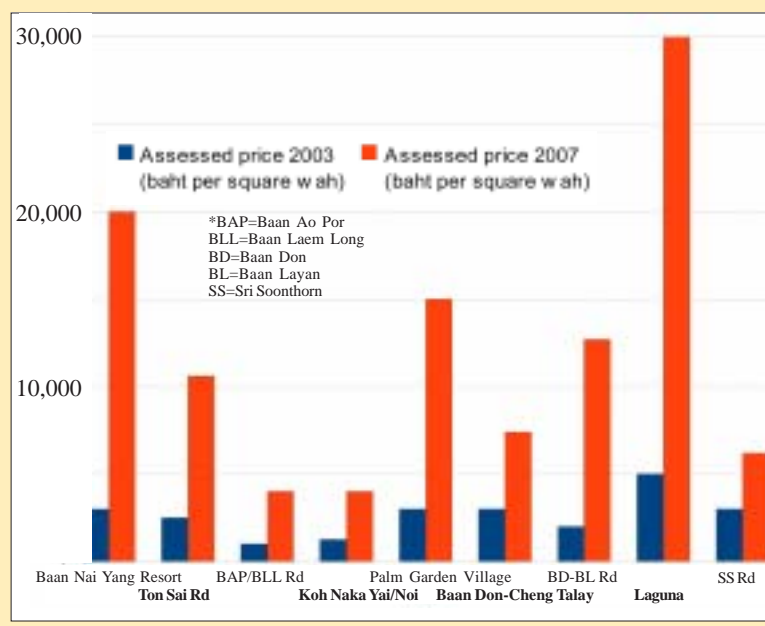
Land price rises in Kathu district



Land price rises in Muang district



Land price rises in Thalang district



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TRASHING Phuket

Most visitors and residents on the island regard the coastal route from Patong to the airport as one of the island's jewels that must be preserved. The natural beauty along that road is one of the reasons many people, Thais and foreigners, came to Phuket – and kept coming back.

Yet, on Nai Thon Hill, on the road between Baan Sakoo and Nai Thon Beach, unscrupulous people are taking advantage of an extended verge and dumping their unwanted trash beside the road.

Who knows? If they keep dumping there, they might extend the verge enough to build another million-dollar mansion there. Let's face it, if you're sitting on top of the pile, you don't have to look at it.

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QUEER NEWS

Attack of the 50-foot pret

NAKHON SRI THAMMARAT: In the increasingly litigious nations of the West, any accident in the work place, including those caused by the victim's own stupidity, are an immediate opportunity for cash payouts.

Apparently the concept hasn't filtered down to rural Thailand, as shown recently by a man who, after losing both hands in a horrific crane accident, proceeded to blame a 20-meter-tall *pret* ghost.

A *pret* is a tall ghost with a large stomach but tiny mouth, particularly prevalent in Nakhon Sri Thammarat province and notoriously difficult to pursue for compensation payments.

On December 15, Sarawut Damkaeow, 22, a volunteer with the Tai Tek Teung rescue foundation, was helping a friend, named in the report only as Somkiat, 30 – a bin man with Tha Reua Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) – to make merit for the *OrBorTor*.

K. Sarawut's task was to stand in a cherry picker and string a kind of holy thread to ward of evil influences, or anti-ghost wire, from the *OrBorTor* to various temples in the municipality.

While stringing the thread along power lines in a cemetery belonging to Wat Nom, the wind suddenly picked up and the basket began to sway.

K. Sarawut fell from the basket and in a bid to save himself from a 20-meter fall, grabbed a high-voltage power cable, sending a huge current of electricity running through himself.

K. Sarawut remained conscious, freed himself from the power lines and dropped to the ground, but his hands had been badly burned.

Villagers rushed him to Maharaj Nakhon Sri Thammarat Hospital where doctors told him his hands were so badly burned they would have to be amputated.

While waiting for the operation, K. Sarawut spoke to local news hounds.

He said that in the cemetery, just after the wind had picked up, a giant ghostly hand slapped him causing his fall from the basket.

After falling 20 meters and being electrocuted, even the most rationally-minded may start seeing ghosts or demons coming for them.

However, K. Sarawut's

tale was backed up by half the village.

Bunlom Nongseuadee, 69, who took K. Sarawut to hospital, said he saw a shadowy figure about the height of a seven-story building very much like a *pret* appear in the trees and strike the cherry picker with the palm of its hand.

Just speaking of the apparition gave him goosebumps, he added.

The incident happened in a cemetery and the spirits that owned the land may have been angry that K. Sarawut was putting up the thread without first appeasing them by burning incense, K. Bunlom said.

Many other villagers nodded in agreement and insisted they had also seen the shadow.

However, the supernatural explanation was not unanimously accepted.

A number of villagers muttered in the background that the accident was far more likely to have been caused by the fact that Somkiat, who was driving the crane, was a bin man and in no way qualified to operate heavy machinery.

Source: Thai Rath

Villagers make murky discovery

BURIRAM: The discovery of ancient artifacts is always a cause for excitement.

A common way to unearth such relics is at an archaeological dig, though just as often they are discovered by pure chance at construction sites.

While some finds are more dramatic than others, few can beat a recent tale from Isarn of two 1,500-year-old Buddha images rising from the stagnant waters of a temple pond.

On December 10 more than 1,000 people flocked to see the images at Wat Khok Ngiew in Pa Kham District.

Many brought containers to scoop up some of the pond water, believed capable of curing ills and protecting people from danger.

The images were discovered by 52-year-old Saner Nakchalathee, who said he was led to the site after his wife told him she had seen beams of

light shooting out from the temple pond in a dream.

The following day, he told the abbot of the temple about the dream.

The pair then walked round to the back of the temple, which is the site of ruins from the same era as those at the nearby Phanom Rung temple complex, where they found two Buddha head images protruding above the surface of the murky pond.

The abbot arranged a 24-hour guard for the images, as ancient Buddhist relics had been plundered from the area in the past.

The images are thought to date back to the pre-Thai Thavaravadee kingdom, it was reported.

Villagers said that they believed the images had emerged from the depths as a sign of impending prosperity and happiness to residents of Pakham District.

Source: Khao Sod

HM The King's recovery the year's best joy

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's full recovery from illness provided the greatest moment of joy to most Thais during 2007, according to a Suan Dusit Poll survey.

When asked what their happiest moment of the past year 71.1% of 8,367 respondents said they were most happy about the King's full recovery

On October 13, His Majesty was admitted to Siriraj Hospital with weakness on his right side and pain in the right side of his chest. The treatment lasted nearly a month, during which more than a million people headed to the hospital to sign well-wishing messages for the revered monarch. Many camped out at the hospital to show moral support for the King, until he left the hospital on November 7.

The survey said 20.9% were most happy about the holding of general elections last month and that the country was on track to return to democracy.

The rest said they were most happy about the existing peace in the country.

Conducted between December 10 and December 30, the survey also found Thongchai "Bird" McIntyre remains the favorite male singer while "Da" Endorphine was the favorite female singer.

On their expectations for the country, respondents said they hoped the new year would bring peace, an end to unrest in the Deep South, a better economy, good leader and good government.

Cyber scamming. The Department of Special Investigations (DSI) has urged the public to be aware of fraudulent online investment schemes after discovering more than 100 websites had scammed an estimated 5 billion baht in the past year.

Col Piyawat Kingket, head of the DSI's Office of Special Criminal Cases, said the depart-



These tiny bats were recently discovered in Tambon Wang Takian of Chachoengsao's Muang district. Villager Paitoon Tronglim, 35, said he had seen the bats flying around the area about this was the first time he had managed to capture two specimens, after they hid inside a rolled banana leaf.

The bat's body is about the size of a human thumb and its extended wings have striking coloration, unlike most bat species.

ment expected fraudulent schemes to increase in 2008 due to the sluggish economy and low interest rates for savers.

Most of the websites lure people to invest online with offers of rewards such as cars, houses or cash. But investors quickly realize that their money has been stolen.

Most webmasters involved in fraud cooperated with foreigners to register their websites in Thailand.

After collecting enough money, they would then close their site and disappear, the DSI found.

Aerial assault. Using mobile phones during rain storms is dangerous as they could be struck by lightning even inside buildings, Dr Thiravat Hemachudha of Chulalongkorn Hospital in Bangkok has warned.

Dr Thiravat said he had recently admitted a male patient with a terrible hearing defect and vision loss in the right eye after being struck by lightning while

talking on his mobile phone inside his house.

The accident, which happened in Yala in November, initially left the patient in a coma. The patient is now receiving treatment and is gradually improving.

Beyond bounds. An ex-Border Patrol Police officer received a life sentence for murdering his Bangkok hotel co-worker on March 27 and stealing some 500,000 baht of the hotel's money that she was transporting.

Bangkok's Phra Khanong court also ordered Phakhinai Janwiman, 47, who was working as a chauffeur at Novotel Bang Na Hotel, to pay 1.4 million baht compensation to the family of his victim, hotel financial officer Sukanda Mekloy.

The victim's father said he would appeal the sentence, as it

was too light for what Phakhinai did to his daughter.

Elections R Us. The Election Commission (EC) has earmarked 1.8 billion baht to organize the race for 76 elected senators and the selection process for 74 appointed senators, EC Secretary-General Suthiphon Thaveechai-garn has announced.

Preparations will focus on publicity to raise awareness about the new electoral system and the nomination process for senatorial candidates, he said.

For the appointed seats, professional groups will submit the names of their candidates from January 13 to 17 at the EC headquarters in Bangkok.

The EC-appointed panel will vet candidates' credentials before forwarding the names to the seven-member selection panel, headed by Constitution Tribunal President Virat Limvichai, to appoint 74 for the job. Under the old system, all senators were elected.

For the elected seats, the senatorial race is scheduled for March 6.

Turf war. Two rescue workers from the Por Tek Teung Foundation in Bangkok filed a police complaint accusing rescue workers from the rival Pirun Foundation of assaulting them on the night of December 24.

They also asked police to arrest people who reportedly shot at a Por Tek Teung vehicle a few hours after the assault.

Two Por Tek Teung workers said in their complaint they heard a communication radio report about a motorcycle accident and rushed to the scene, where a Pirun worker took issue and assaulted one of them.

A Pirun worker, who asked

not to be named, denied the assault and said the two foundations had no problem at the accident scene because they had already agreed to zones for collecting injured people.

Asked about the shooting in front of the police station, the Pirun worker said he did not know anything about it - but a Pirun vehicle was also shot at in the same vicinity that night, he said.

Sondhi sentenced. The Criminal Court sentenced *Manager* newspaper owner Sondhi Limthongkul, to three years in jail on a libel suit filed by ousted prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

The newspaper's publisher, Khunthong Lorseriwanch, was handed down a suspended two-year sentence and a fine of 40,000 baht.

Sondhi was one of anti-Thaksin activists and led many protests against the government before Thaksin was toppled by the military junta in September 2006.

The court ruled that Sondhi had made comments about Thaksin but not attempted to prove they were true, thus causing widespread confusion.

Sondhi did not follow any constitutional rules in building social sentiment to overthrow Thaksin and his campaign had seriously affected social cohesion, leading to a rift between rival supporters, the Court ruled.

Therefore it sentenced Sondhi to three years in jail, effective immediately.

Shortly after the verdict, Sondhi was released on bail.

Around the Nation news round-up is sourced from the pages of The Nation and Kom Chad Luek newspapers.

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Swedish publisher under scrutiny

A disturbing story written here several months ago about the apparent exploitation of 12-year-old Kay Sayluu from Lanta Old Town has done little to convince the Swedish parties involved to clear the air.

Kay's family house and two longtail boats were smashed by the tsunami, which was detailed in a Swedish-language book entitled *Kay from Koh Lanta*, published by LL Forlaget Publishing in Sweden, a company partially funded by state grants.

Swedish author Johanna Starkenberg-Frojd and photographer Anna Rehnberg arrived on the island shortly after the December 2004 disaster looking for a real-life survivor's story. They found Kay and his family.

The family never signed an official release form of permission to publish Kay's story, but trusted that benefits would eventually flow back to them. The publisher promised Kay a trip to Sweden, which never materialized but the family assumed a small amount of the book's proceeds would be given to help jump start Kay's education.

After several polite requests



by locals, LL Forlaget Publishing, which sells the book online for 120 SEK (562 baht), has refused to make a donation towards Kay's education. Now locals are seriously considering legal action to right this injustice.

They point to Section 35 of the new Thai constitution, which states, "Assertion or circulation of a statement or picture in any manner whatsoever to the public and disclosure of personal infor-

mation without the consent of the information owner, which violates or affects a person's family rights, dignity, reputation or the right to privacy, shall not be made except in the case which is beneficial to the public."

Because it's clear the publishers did not receive written consent from Kay's parents to use his story for commercial gain, local residents claim that they are deliberately manipulating tsunami

victims for financial advantage.

Anyone interested in making a donation towards Kay's education can contact his parents at www.helpkay@lantalongtail.com. Funds will allow Kay to have private English lessons while he continues to work in the family fishing business.

Bridging the gap. Peak season arrived but the tourists didn't. Koh Lanta resort owners claim their high season occupancy rates have been disappointing compared with the past two years.

Lanta Long Beach Resort, one of the largest beachfront bungalow operators on Phra Ae Beach (Long Beach) with 140 units, reports a 50% occupancy rate from October through December. There is a growing sense among other local business owners that something is askew.

One of the major issues affecting tourism on the island, as it grows from an '80s backpacker haunt into an established tropical destination is access on and off the island.

Currently, arriving by automobile involves two car ferries, one between the Krabi mainland and Lanta Noi and one connecting Lanta Noi to Lanta Yai, where the 10-beach tourist island lies.

Tidal fluctuations and ferry mechanical malfunctions mean

the journey between the new Krabi International Airport and resorts on Koh Lanta can take up to four hours – definitely a hard sell to travel-weary Europeans who want instant, tropical gratification.

A bridge has been promised for one leg of the crossings within three years by Krabi Governor Siwa Sirisawalak, but locals fear this will only create a bottleneck at the other ferry crossing.

Better than a snow hut. In the past few years, Lanta has seen an incredible influx of Swedes relocating to the island. It only makes sense that the property market on the island is dominated by blond-haired real estate developers and brokers.

Generally, property developments on the island still lack the range and sophistication of Phuket, but several of the best Swedish-targeted projects are selling like vodka in Stockholm.

Poseidon Villas on Long Beach sold most of their 31 homes in their first phase and have already sold 25% of the 35-unit second phase, released a few months ago.

The developer of the beachfront community says 90% of sales have been to Swedish nationals.

Apartment and villa prices range from 3.5 to 7.5 million baht.



Kay Sayluu (above) from Lanta Old Town is the Thai boy behind a controversy involving a government-funded Swedish publishing company.

Sales at Poseidon Villas on Koh Lanta (artist's impression, left) are strong with 90% of units picked up by Swedish nationals.

LETTER FROM KOH LANTA

By Duane Lennie

and brokers.

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Evicted villagers fight for land rights

It may be hard to believe that anything positive could arise from the tsunami tragedy three years ago. However, should a team of veteran lawyers have their way, the events of December 26, 2004 will trigger a major rewriting of Thailand's Land Act, spelling relief for many villagers throughout the country.

"The land-grabs from seaside communities affected by the tsunami were unconscionable," says Suwit Thonghom, chief lawyer of the Andaman Law and Community Rights Center.

"Hopefully this will be the last straw in decades of injustice of illegally evicting villagers from their homes to line the pockets of land officers and developers."

K. Suwit and his alliance will soon submit their proposal to Deputy Prime Minister Paiboon Wattanasiritham to amend the 1954 Land Act to ensure community consultation in issuing land titles. This will enable people in communities to scrutinize the dubious process of issuing land rights.

"Right now it's up to Land Department officials and the individuals who apply for the titles. So what we've got is titles being issued for land that had already been occupied and used by villagers... We have found that many new title deeds have showed up for land [that was] occupied by fishing communities before the tsunami," he explained.

A few months after the tsunami, hundreds of families along the Andaman coast found that they could not rebuild their homes where they used to be. The lands their ancestors had lived on now had new owners, mostly investors from companies they had never heard of.

In the eyes of the authorities, these new owners have every right to claim the land because they came with legal land rights papers. Local authorities in many areas ignored villagers' claims that they and their families had lived on the land for decades, if not centuries, before the tsunami - and became instrumen-



REMEMBERING THE TSUNAMI

Villagers of Baan Nam Khem in Phang Nga's Takuapa's district launch a raft in memory of those who lost their lives in the December 26, 2004 tsunami. The community was Thailand's hardest hit, with about 800 lives lost in the disaster.

tal in evicting the people, he said.

The villagers have no way to fight for their land if the law is not changed to recognize community customary rights, said K. Suwit, adding that thousands of communities throughout Thailand face eviction by property developers.

Stoned on the road. Surat Thani Governor Winai Buapradit has ordered police and local authorities to start highway patrols now that the craze of throwing rocks at cars has spread to the South.

On the evening of December 29, police at Baan Na Dem District Police Station received three reports of rocks being thrown at cars on the Asia Highway near the district's Tha Reua subdistrict.

Although no one was injured in the attacks, Gov Winai said that he was very concerned about the reports. If the attacks spread, it

could damage the reputation of the province and have consequences for the tourism industry, he added.

The attacks were likely to be the work of gangs of youths, Gov Winai said. Provincial and Highway Police have been ordered to work with rescue volunteers and local authorities to patrol the highway and the Governor called on parents to take responsibility for their children and to be on the lookout for harmful behavior.

Elephant fruit raid. Villagers in Yala's Betong district have appealed for help from the authorities after their crops were ravaged by a herd of 16 wild elephants.

On December 28, Ohlan Billsan, an official at Betong District Office, said that the elephants had come down from a nature reserve in the Sankalakiri Hills

and raided farms belonging to residents of Baan Kunungjanong, feasting on bananas, sugar cane, cassava and other crops.

Officers from the Kheun Bang Lang National Park Wildlife Protection Office had to help villagers chase the elephants back to the national park, K. Ohlan said. Officers also arranged for the villagers to set up a guard to keep watch for the elephants and asked them not to shoot the animals if they returned.

"Every year the elephants come to the edge of the park to forage for food. In the past the land was still covered with forestland, but villagers have cut back forest where the elephants used to find food," K. Ohlan said.

"This is the first time in years that such a big herd has come into an inhabited area," he added.

Bike thieves busted. Claiming that they had busted a ring of teenage motorcycle thieves, police in Phatthalung on December 26 announced the arrest of eight suspects.

Maj Gen Kittisan Dechsuntharawat, Commander of Phatthalung Provincial Police, told reporters that the arrests came following the testimony of a 16-year-old who was arrested in possession of a stolen motorbike a few days earlier.

From the teenager's statement, police tracked down seven more members of the gang and retrieved 21 other stolen motorbikes.

Gang members said they targeted bikes whose owners had left the keys in the ignition or vehicles parked in isolated areas, where there were unlikely to be witnesses, police said.

The leader of the gang paid 3,000 to 4,000 baht for each motorbike, or exchanged the bikes for 10 pills of ya bah (methamphetamine), Gen Kittisan said.

The gang leader would then take the bikes to Ranong, from where they would be smuggled into Burma and sold for around 12,000 baht each.

Police are now searching for the gang leader, who they suspect may also be involved in the drug trade, Gen Kittisan said.

People who have had a motorbike stolen in Phatthalung can bring their registration documents to Phatthalung Muang District Police Station to check whether their bike is among those recovered, he added.

Around the South news round-up is sourced from Kom Chad Luek and The Nation newspapers.

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Party for the Little People

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

Thailand's annual Children's Day will see a host of free activities, prizes and entertainment around the island for youngsters on Saturday, January 12. The *Gazette* has compiled a roundup of where to go and what to do to keep the Phuket's little people entertained on this special day.

Phuket City: Students from Phuket City schools will be holding stage performances at Saphan Hin from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm with free food and drinks. The Land Transportation Office will have a road-safety exhibition and a demonstration of safe bicycle riding.

Computers will be available for children to use, along with a range of other activities, games and free gifts. For more information call Phuket City Municipality at 076-250163.

Aspiring politicians can get a look inside the Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit's office from 8 am until midday and have their pictures taken at Governor Niran's desk.

Bangkok Hospital Phuket will host activities from 8 am to midday, including a magic show by Philip Mayakol who possesses the ability to make tables levitate. There will also be games with prizes, free food and drinks. For more information call 1719.

Patong: Patong students will be putting on some of the 10 stage shows scheduled from 8 am to 3 pm at Loma Park. There will also be a lucky draw, painting and other activities organized by a variety of government and private organizations, plus 5,000 gift boxes, as well as snacks and drinks. For more information call Patong Municipality at 076-342078.

Cape Panwa: Budding sailors will have the chance to climb aboard Royal Thai Navy ships HTMS Chao Phra Ya and HTMS Tayan Chol between 9 am and



Thailand's annual Children's Day will see a host of free activities, prizes and entertainment around the island for youngsters on Saturday, January 12.

4:30 pm at the Royal Thai Navy Third Naval Area Command post. Highlights will include a helicopter and naval-weapons display, a sea-rescue demonstration, a parachute show, plus live entertainment, free gifts, drinks and sweets for kids. For more information call 076-391826.

Phuket Aquarium will be opening its doors to children and students for free from 9 am to 4:30 pm.

Other activities include quizzes for prizes and games. One-hundred-and-twenty children aged between 10 and 13 years old can take part in a digital photography workshop supported by Sony.

Applications for the workshop and photo shoot can be made in advance by visiting the aquarium's website at :



www.phuketaquarium.org

Two three-hour workshops will take place on the day – one in the morning and in one the afternoon.

Visitors will also be able to take a look at the photos made on last year's Children's Day

shoot in Phang Nga. For more information call 076-391126 ext 15.

Mai Khao: Phuket International Airport, in co-operation with the Third Naval Area Command, Aeronautical Radio of Thailand Ltd and Thai Airways International (THAI), PTT and several airlines, will stage activities at the airport's multi-purpose building and parking lot from 8 am to 3 pm.

There will be a "Dun-Dar-Ra" (impressions of famous people) competition for individuals and teams. There will also be games, shows, free gifts, plus food and drinks.

A Destination Air aircraft will be on display in the parking lot, along with a navy helicopter, airport emergency-response vehicles and fire engines. There will

also be a fire-fighting demonstration. For more information call 076-351570.

Kamala: Phuket FantaSea will host games and activities from 3 pm to 5 pm and put on a traditional Thai mini-concert at the Viva Bangkok Stage Theater in front of the Similan entertainment center. The day will also mark the opening of a new themed attraction, the Tiger Jungle Adventure. For more information call 076-385000.

Cherng Talay: Laguna Phuket will hold activities from 1 pm to 4 pm under the theme "Laguna Party Be good guys for the King".

Popular RS-promotion singer Yui Noparpa will be putting on a performance and free snacks will be available. Other activities will include shows, games and quizzes with prizes. Stalls will be selling second-hand items, the proceeds from which will be donated to the Vachira Phuket Hospital AIDS-elimination campaign. Stage entertainment will take place opposite Canal Village from 2:45 pm onwards.

Karon: Some 80 scholarships will be handed out by Karon Mayor at Karon Circle to begin Children's Day activities to be held between 8:30 am and midday. Students from Baan Kata School and other Karon schools will be performing with dancing and other live entertainment.

Thirty lucky children will ride away on bicycles from a lucky draw. There will be games during the day with free snacks available. For more information call Karon Municipality at Tel: 076-330478.

Kathu: Prince of Songkla University (PSU), Phuket campus students will be handing out gifts to children between 8:30 am and 9 am at Building 3 of the campus, followed by stage shows from 9:20 am to 11 am, plus a lucky-draw and free snacks. For more information call Kathu Municipality at 076-321500.



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A steamy bowl of secrets

The secret is not just in the plethora of fresh ingredients that go into every bowl of *Mee Geow* (noodles with minced pork wrapped in parcels of flour and egg) Phang Nga but the care and attention that goes into the preparation of each bowl.

"*Mee Geow Phang Nga*" is a special phrase that K. Penporn or "Pen" has heard since she was a child. It is more than just a name for a bowl of noodles – the phrase has always been associated with a passion for carefully preparing a delicious concoction of wholesome ingredients that has kept customers coming back for generations. At this little-known noodle shop, one bowl is never enough.

K. Pen's grandparents made these noodles when the family lived in Phang Nga and she has been carrying on the family tradition in Phuket for the past six years.

"In your bowl is my family's secret formula that was passed on to me by my grandparents. The recipe is actually Chinese and it's so old that I really don't know exactly when or where it actually originated," said K. Pen.

Since helping her grandparents as a child, K. Pen has enjoyed the daily preparation and knowing that customers enjoy eating her family's noodles.

Discover the taste of delicious homemade Phang Nga noodles at Mee Geow Phang Nga Restaurant in Thalung, where the noodles and soup are made fresh every morning from a secret family recipe that has been passed down through the generations. *Gazette* reporter **Sompratch Saowakhon** enjoyed a few bowls of the secret formula and a chat with restaurant owner Penporn Sae-Ong.

K. Pen gives her homemade noodles a shake before serving. (Left) The final, mouth-watering concoction.



"All the ingredients are fresh and we start preparing everything at about 5:30 in the morning. We never use any artificial colors or preservatives or MSG [monosodium glutamate] so our noodles look and taste quite different from those at most other places," she said.

"Our noodles are made fresh every day from 100% wheat flour mixed with eggs, which gives them a soft yellow texture, making them very easy to eat," she added.

"We prepare the soup stock



by boiling pork bone for a couple of hours, along with the dumplings, roasted red pork and boiled chicken, which is shredded then added when the noodles are served," K. Pen said.

The restaurant is small and can be difficult to find, since there is no sign in English – even the sign in Thai is small and not easy to spot at a glance. Even so, the restaurant is always packed with people waiting patiently for their next bowl of noodles.

The waiting is not a sign of slow service but that a single bowl is never enough. There are always people waiting, possibly for their third or even fourth bowl.

The choice of noodles is limited to two kinds, they are: *mee-geow-nam* (noodles in soup) or *mee-geow-heang* (noodles with soup broth on the side).

With the *mee-geow-heang*, a spoon of roasted peanut is added to the bowl of noodles. Each of the servings has a colorful mixture of fresh noodles, four

fresh *geow* (pork dumpling parcels), roasted red pork, boiled chicken, all topped off with a garnish of crackling pork, fried onion and freshly sliced leek. You can add more color to your bowl with bean sprouts and the variety of fresh green vegetables at each table.



CHEAP eats

BY Sompratch Saowakhon

"We don't use instant noodles here. Everything in the bowls is made by hand, with care and the customer in mind. We guarantee that everything is safe, clean and chemical-free," said K. Pen proudly.

"Even all seasonings and garnish are made right here, nothing pre-packed, instant or artificial. It's like our brand and we are proud of it," she added.

To find Mee Geow Phang Nga Restaurant, go from Phuket City towards Thalung, past Heroines' Monument. Slow down at the Shell gas station on the left and look for a house with a blue roof, about 10 meters past the station. Open every day except Mondays, from 9 am to 4:30 pm.



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Changing the world

4TH JUNIOR IMPAC DUBLIN LITERARY AWARDS

Nearly a hundred students from the southern region, all aged 14 to 18, recently submitted 800- to 1,200-word essays in English entitled "If We Could Change the World" for the regional round of judging in the 2006/2007 4th Junior IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards for Thailand.

Arriving at the *Phuket Gazette* offices from several secondary schools in the region, the submissions were judged by the *Gazette* editorial team.

Judges narrowed the submissions down to five finalists each, from which two were selected for merit awards and one awarded the top prize.

The 5,000-baht merit award winners were Jatuporn Neamchuchuen from

Buranarumluk School in Trang and Joy Corthesy of QSI International School in Phuket.

The regional finalist, 16-year-old **Kongsarut Klaphet** receiving of Kathuwittaya School, Phuket, receives 10,000 baht for his winning essay plus the chance to attend the senior international IMPAC award ceremony in Dublin, Ireland.

Judging was based on content, originality and the writer's ability to clearly express his or her ideas, while taking into account that English is a second language for most of the writers.

Here is Khun Kongsarut's essay, unedited, as it was presented to the judges.

Many scientists believe that pollution from burning fossil fuels is causing temperatures on Earth to rise.

So, what is the reason for all this increase in CO2 emissions? The only answer is "Humankind".

Would you not agree that humankind is the most destructive species on Earth? Every action that we take has an impact on the environment.

Every time we use air conditioning, every time we travel in a car or on an airplane, every time we turn on lights, each time we use energy created by burning fossil fuels we are leaving our own carbon footprints.

These footprints are damaging our planet. They are the black marks of our guilt. It's time to clean up!!

We can clean up by using less energy that relies on burning fossil fuels. We can use renewable sources of energy such as the sun, water and the wind for hydro-electric or solar energy, for example.

We need to use cotton bags instead of using plastic bags, walk or use public transport instead of using the car and turn off lights

when they are not needed.

We should reuse paper, bottles, cans and anything that needs energy for its production. We can recycle things like plastic bottles, cans and glass.

This is not difficult and it would not take much for us to change our habits and to make the world a better place.

The environmental problems, however, are not the only problems we have nowadays. We also have increasing problems about prejudice. There are many types of prejudice such as classism, racism, nationalism and sexism.

Prejudice means judging people or misunderstanding the facts before we know them. Many people make decisions about others based on what they look like or who they are instead of what they can do.

Prejudice is like a disease; it stops our communities from being healthy.

It also holds people back from doing what they want to do. It is a barrier for people, preventing them from achieving their dreams.

Perhaps there are many lost opportunities where people can not follow their dreams and

By the year 2100, it is predicted that the sea levels and the the global temperatures will rise worryingly. We will lose our coral reefs in the next few years if nothing is done. So, what is the cause of these problems? The answer is "Global Warming", which is the phenomenon whereby the world becomes hotter because of Carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions.

If We Could Change the World

Before discussing how or if we could change the world, it is important to decide who 'we' are. Are 'we' a group of friends in Phuket, Thailand, or maybe a nation of people? Are we all Thai people?

Or are we the whole world? I think people who live in this world are all in need of change.

If we are talking about changing the world, then I think we do have to include everybody and so, when I talk of 'we' I am talking about the collective responsibility, I am talking about

humanity.

I will discuss two issues that I think take priority when we think about changes needed in our world.

If we talk about the modern world, the first thing that appears in our minds must be this place full of modern technology and facilities.

On the one hand, yes, these make our lives much easier. For instance, in the past there were no cars, trains or planes, so it was hard for people to go to places that were far from their homes. Now we have the technology to

do this. However, these are only benefits.

On the other hand, we also get lots of problems that impact on our environment.

By the year 2100, it is predicted that the sea levels and the the global temperatures will rise worryingly. We will lose our coral reefs in the next few years if nothing is done.

So, what is the cause of these problems? The answer is "Global Warming", which is the phenomenon whereby the world becomes hotter because of Carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions.

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change the world in a positive way.

So we need to find a cure for this disease. The only cure can be found in our hearts. We should be more tolerant of each other and accept anyone for who they are.

We are all unique individuals and this makes us different. We should celebrate our differences and enjoy them.

For example, different cultures and different communities have their own ways to celebrate their festivals.

We should accept what they are doing by enjoying them, rather than being afraid or judgmental.

We need to understand each other to avoid fear and ignorance. This can be done through education by telling people in school about prejudice and discussing the differences between people.

To live and work together for a better world, we need to have one global community, sharing resources, sharing power and sharing responsibility.

we turn down the air conditioning, each time we help someone who is different to us, we also change the world.

It is clear that we are constantly changing the world, sometimes without our knowledge or intention. The question should not be if we could change the world, but how are we going to change it for the better? How are we going to save the world?

There are four main stages that people go through to deal with change and these are the same stages people go through when they are mourning somebody's death.

The four stages are denial, which means people pretend that they do not know anything about the problems and refuse to solve

them.

The next stage is anger, which means getting angry about the problems that nobody is willing to solve.

The following stage is despair, which means hopelessness and the thought that nothing they can do would solve the problem.

An the final stage is acceptance, which means accepting what happens and trying to finally solve the problems. I think we need to be aware of the stages

and face up to them. We need to take responsibility.

All of our actions are important and each thing we do has an impact on the world around us. The title of this essay is 'If we could change the world'.

I believe we do change the world every day with everything we do and say. Each time we use a motorcycle instead of walking, each time we judge someone without knowing them, we change the world.

Each time

we turn down the air conditioning, each time we help someone who is different to us, we also change the world.

The Gazette would like to wish Khun Kongsarut all the best at the IMPAC finals in Dublin and hope it spells a source of pride for him and his school.

We need to understand each other to avoid fear and ignorance. This can be done through education by telling people in school about prejudice and discussing the differences between people.

To live and work together for a better world, we need to have one global community, sharing resources, sharing power and sharing responsibility.

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This week



DEVELOPING DEVELOPER: Phil Marmara of UPL Real Estate Phuket and Son Sariya (in yellow), owner of Sariya Property Co, donated computers to the students of Rachaprachanukroh 36 School in Kamala on December 17.



SAFE HAVEN: French Red Cross President Prof Jean-Francois Mattei chats with children at the official opening of children's shelter Phuket Sunshine Village at Koh Sireh on December 17. Also present on the day were Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatwichai and PSV Managing Director Dr. Supaluck Kanjanamethakul.



GOING COCONUTS: UK representative Andy Wallace (left) and General Manager of The Village Coconut Island Mark Ashman (right) celebrate the opening of phase one of the five-star luxury villa development on December 16. About 400 friends and guests took a private water taxi from Laem Hin to The Village's pier to enjoy a day of seaside activities, including water skiing, banana boat rides, Hobie cat sailing, face painting and live music.



ON MANY LEVELS: Famed Thai actress Jarunee Suksawat (left) congratulates Benjamas Boonrod on becoming Executive Director of and first Phuket agent for Bangkok-based, multi-level network marketing company Dham Allianze, which provides healthcare, personal care and household products.



HIP HATS HOORAY! Bangkok Phuket Hospital held an end of year party December 14 for 900 administrative staff and doctors and nurses at the Royal Phuket City Hotel. The party included a variety of stage performances and a "Hip Hat" contest.



MERRY MARRIOTT: JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa Marketing Communications Director Ms. Lenka Juraskova (2nd from left) and Public Relations Manager Siripun Petchai (right) visited the Phuket Gazette offices on December 20 to wish reporters a happy and healthy New Year with a basket of health food. Receiving the basket are Gazette reporter Pathomporn Kaenkrachang (left) and Chief Reporter Sangkhae Leelanaporn.

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Unknown to many visitors to the island, big, beautiful superyachts drop anchor off the north end of the island every year for the Phuket Invitational Superyacht Rendezvous, held every December 19 and 20.

The annual event, which has been running for the past seven years, sees the bold and the beautiful enjoying rallies around the islands off Phuket in the highest of style and returning each night for festivities at the exclusive Amanpuri resort

This year, however, event organizer Adam Frost has special news – the annual Phuket Invitational is to become a regular fixture on the Superyacht Cup calendar.

The Superyacht Cup has been organizing superyacht sailing regattas for 12 years, and its event in Palma in June 2007 set a record for superyacht events by attracting 52 of the world's biggest sailing yachts.

Forthcoming Superyacht Cup events include the SYC Transatlantic Challenge starting in Antigua in April, the SYC Palma from June 11 to 14 and the SYC Antigua in December. The Superyacht Cup is part of Informa PLC, which also owns The Monaco Yacht Show, as well the new World Yacht Racing Forum in Monaco in December and the Abu Dhabi Yacht Show to be held



March 2009.

“We are excited at the opportunity of joining forces with Asia’s Phuket Invitational, pooling our knowledge and expertise to present a very appealing addition to our event calendar,” said Spike Thompson, director of the Superyacht Cup.

“It also gives us an interest-

ing potential enhancement to other Superyacht Cup events, since we have often been asked to consider ways of including motor yachts, and the experience of the team in Phuket in this regard will be invaluable.”

Adam Frost said, “Asia’s servicing infrastructure and facilities have expanded consider-

ably over the past five years, and now offer the high level of service and provisioning that some of the world’s most elite clientele have come to expect, as well as a spectacular and exciting array of destinations to discover.”

The 2008 event will see the start of the joint

venture between the two organizations, with a three-day regatta and a new Asia Charter Show and Destination Asia Cruising Forum.

Pictured here are scenes from this year’s event – simply a taste of more opulence to come.



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A model a month for 2008

Twelve international models, one for each month of the year, draped in tropical attire, from casual Thai silk and batik designs to swimwear, caressed the catwalk at Phuket FantaSea last week to celebrate the launch of the Paradise in Phuket 2008 calendar.

The calendar girls showed off locally produced fashion wear, including batik fashion by Phuket clothing store Chai Batik as well as poster prints of the photographs shot on location in Phuket.

The professional models were flown to Phuket for photo shoots at 12 prominent locales on the island, including the Phuket Welcome Gate, Promthep Cape, Nai Yang Beach and the Heroines' Monument.

Organized by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Southern Region 4 office, Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) and Elite Model Management South East Asia, the Paradise in Phuket 2008 calendar was conceived to promote Thai fashion, the skills of Thai photographers and tourism in Phuket.

Other locations for the calendar shoot were Phuket FantaSea, Jungceylon, Sunwing Resort & Spa, a pineapple field, Sino-Portuguese-style buildings in Phuket City and at Phuket Aquarium and Ton Sai Waterfall.

A limited run of 10,000 copies of Phuket Calendar 2008 produced by Elite Model Management South East Asia at a cost of 5 million baht will be distributed free to the public.



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Is it the sound of progress? There's definitely something going on in Phuket. Six months ago, you'd have been hard pushed to find anything remotely resembling a "club scene" on the island.

Now, there are major Thai and international acts coming to Phuket, playing out and asking to come back – the music scene finally has more to offer than just dingy discos and karaoke bars.

Enormous progress in the club scene was made in 2007, partly thanks to the open-minded approach to music employed at Club Lime.

Whether played by resident DJs Eddie and D(r)readmongey or by high-profile guests, the venue has been steadily making a name for itself.

The first major milestone was passed when DJ Nakadia played at Lime on October 12. That gig alone proved there is a market for clubbing beyond generic rock, hip hop and maddening euro-techno.

Another first for Phuket is minimal techno. D(r)readmongey has been championing the genre at Club Lime for a while, but the style of music received a big boost when "Jay" Montonn Jira brought his laptop full of tricks to Lime on October 31.

The girls danced out of compulsion and admiration for their fantasy sweetheart while he played a style of music most of them had never heard before.

It isn't just minimal techno that is making waves – there is also something of a drum 'n' bass movement occurring in Phuket. Prominent Bangkok DJs such as Dragon, T-Base and Pichy have played in Phuket recently – and there's more to come.

Club Lime is once again on the pulse here, playing drum 'n' bass on a regular basis.

The twice-monthly Bass-load event was pulled back to

Hey DJ! What's that sound?



David Morales (right) is one of 25 DJs and bands who will play at Thailand's first major dance-music festival, Culture One, which will be held in Bangkok on January 19. He will be joined by the likes of indie band Slur (left).

With Phuket's club scene experiencing some major changes in 2007, events like Culture One could be just what the island needs. DJ D(r)readmongey (above) was one of the first DJs to champion minimal techno in Phuket.

once a month but looks set to return to two times a month for 2008.

Rumors that a major drum 'n' bass artist (hint: think of "the best of the best", but I am not allowed to say who just yet...) will be coming to Phuket have been floating around and should be confirmed once all the i's are dotted.

Another strong rumor is that a former world number one DJ, according to the top 100 poll compiled by DJ Mag, will be playing at Seduction some time this year.

If you haven't noticed, Se-

duction has been booking some heavyweight names.

Recent DJs at Seduction include party-animal Brandon Block and US house maestro Louie Vega. On January 12, Judge Jules will arrive loaded with CD-Rs and trance tunes galore.

The club scene is experiencing change all over Thailand, as well as in Phuket. On January 19, Bangkok will play host to what is being billed as Thailand's first international dance-music festival.

Think Creamfields in the UK, Future Music Festival in Australia and Zoukout in Singapore.

Culture One is being organized by the people behind Club

Culture, who were previously behind Club Astra, the venue that kick-started the trend of international DJs playing in Thailand.

The event is taking place at Helicopter Port, BITEC, Bang Na-Trat Highway. The fact that such a festival is even happening is phenomenal for Thailand.

Four arenas will play host to various styles of music, from house, through hip hop and indie, to psy-trance. Headlining the bill in the main arena will be David Morales with support from the likes of the Stanton Warriors.

Marco V and Brian Cross will lead the charge in the Amnesia arena, with John "OO"

Flemming the highlight in the Godskitchen arena. There will also be a Dude/Sweet arena where indie kids can enjoy the sounds of Slur, Filthy Dukes and Twilight Actiongirl.

Tickets for Culture One are 650 baht in advance or 850 baht at the door, inclusive of one drink. For the sake of history and because it's on a Saturday night, make this one event to venture away from Phuket to attend.

Doors open at 4 pm and advance tickets can be bought from www.thaiticketmajor.com

What would ideally come next would be a similar event in Phuket.

Promoters, club owners and DJs are starting to look favorably upon Phuket over Koh Samui and Koh Phang-ngan.

The Phuket Jazz Festival is a start and the Phuket International Blues Festival has made inroads over the past few years, but a dance-music festival during this or the next high season would cement Phuket's reputation as a serious nightlife destination – not some place lost in the club scene of yesteryear.

The logistics of organizing such a festival are, sadly, horrendous.

In Phuket last year, the Hilton Arcadia Phuket Resort & Spa played host to the Nation VI party, which was touted as the largest gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender party in Asia.

The event attracted 1,500 partygoers and DJ Kate Monroe span until 8 am on October 23.

Party-organizers Fridae pulled the plug on the Nation parties to focus on other projects.

It's unclear whether an event similar to the Nation parties could be organized on an even

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By Matt Crook

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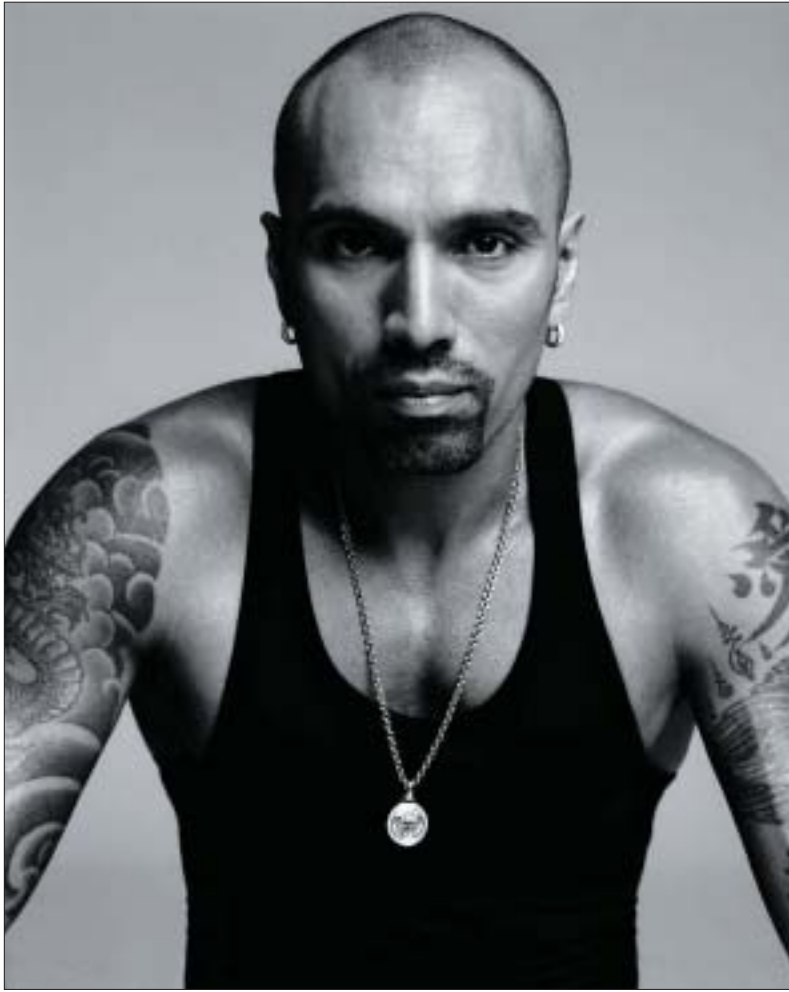
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larger scale in Phuket.

At the speed of change in Phuket, anything is possible. The island now has its own DJ store – RST located at 23/14 Chao Fa East Rd.

The shop sells all the latest DJ and sound equipment and offers an already-popular DJ training course, which has been a hit with quite a few girls on the island. Could it be the Nakadia effect?

Setting the foundations for the club scene in Phuket are the local DJs. As well as the DJs in Lime, there are a string of quality acts playing out across the island, most of whom were on display at the Phuket DJ competition held at Jungceylon in September.

DJ Q, DJ Touch and others are playing tunes against the grain that people are starting to enjoy.

One of the problems in

Bangkok is that clubbers rarely turn up to support local DJs, instead opting to venture out only for headline acts.

In Phuket, the local DJs are starting to make names for themselves, but the all their hard work could come undone if there is a sudden influx of big name DJs arriving in Phuket every weekend.

This past year was a great year for nightlife in Phuket – things can only get better in 2008.

Support the scene, attend the parties and there won't be any more talk of Samui or Phangngan – it will all be about Phuket.

For more information about Culture One call Tel: 02-2623456 or visit www.culture-one-bkk.com See www.thai ticketmajor.com to book tickets. RST DJ shop can be contacted by calling 076-264675.

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Enjoying a natural end to stress

After being so busy with work toward the end of the year, I was hoping to find a spa treatment that could relieve all the tension that had built up in my body and mind over the past few weeks. I also wanted something simple, tranquil and chemical free – no need to add more pollutants to all the toxicity I have accumulated over the years.

I discovered Baan Tamachart Thai Spa in Patong, “Tamachart” means “natural” in Thai and it was this that persuaded me to walk into the place. It sounded as if they could give me the kind of treatment I was looking for.

I was welcomed to the traditional Southern-Thai-house spa with a drink of fresh bale-fruit and greeted by the General Manager Vimolchan “Ae” Wesaphan. She told me that Baan Tamachart Thai Spa has been giving conceptual spa treatments to clients under the label “natural is life” for over six years.

I also learned that Patong Medical Spa at Patong Hospital is operated under the same company, as well as Patong Sea Spa.

“Here we use all natural methods and products for our treatments. Most of our products use fresh and dried natural ingredients that are free from any chemical agents.

“If we do use a product with



The spa is popular with Scandinavians, Europeans and Japanese visitors looking for an authentic Thai spa experience.

a chemical base, then we ensure that the products are properly certified,” K. Ae said.

“The idea here is to help customers detoxify rather than adding to the toxins that bombard their bodies in daily life,” she added.

I nodded my approval and felt confident that I was about to receive a therapeutic spa treatment that would bring me closer to nature and back my natural self.

The spa is popular with Scandinavians, Europeans and Japanese visitors looking for an original and traditional Thai spa experience.

The cozy arrangement of the spa’s facilities includes four private treatment rooms, two rooms with four Thai massage beds, two reclining chairs for foot massage, two steam rooms and a changing area and toilets.

The treatment menu provides body and face treatments,

beauty treatments and many kinds of massage to banish the various manifestations of stress.

The menu also includes eight treatment packages, each named after a Thai flower. Prices range from 1,400 baht to 5,400 baht. There is also a pedicure service.

On the specials menu is “Shirodara therapy”, which originates from India and uses gently-warmed oil poured on the head, massaged into the scalp. The treatment is said to help relieve tension and stress of all kinds.

Following my request for a simple, stress-relieving treatment, I was offered the Thai Banburi package, which is a combination of herbal steam treatment and Thai massage, plus a hot herbal compress – perfect, I thought.

Before my treatment, I had to fill in a questionnaire that would help the therapist adapt the treatment to my specific needs, noting where in my muscles I was feeling tension.

My assigned therapist, K. Saeng, started by cleaning my feet with warm water, scrubbing them and softening the skin with lotion.

I then changed into a sarong

and took a shower before going into the herbal steam room for a 20-minute session of inhaling the herbal scents, which began the process of freeing my mind of troubles and easing the built up tension in my body.

After another shower it was time for the Thai massage, so I donned the light cotton shirt and pants that were ready for me in the changing room.

The massage went from gentle to firm when my muscles needed to be stretched to dissipate the tension in them. As the pampering became more graceful I slipped into a light sleep.

K. Saeng then began applying the hot herbal compress, which contains a mixture of therapeutic Thai herbs, including tamarind leaves, plai (zingiber), khamin (turmeric) and citrus plants, used for their antioxidant agents, such as lime and orange.

The aromatic scent of the herbal compress was relaxing and the heat on my skin took away the muscle pain and tension.

K. Saeng explained that the zingiber in the compress helps make the muscles supple and relieves pain. The antioxidant agents help open the skin’s pores so that the therapeutic qualities of the other herbs can seep into the skin and be absorbed by the muscles. I felt I’d received the perfect treatment for my state of body and mind and I was satisfied with the results.

K. Ae said that many foreigners enjoy this treatment. They are impressed with the traditional Thai wisdom that uses natural ingredients for healing and treating in an uncomplicated way, she said.

My two-hour appointment with heaven cost 1,800 baht. When it was over, I felt refreshed and relaxed.

Baan Tamachart Thai Spa. Open daily 10 am to 10 pm. 222 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong. Tel: 076-341938, 076-294409. Fax: 076-292298. Email: baantamachart@yahoo.com Website: www.baantamachartthispa.com

Spa MAGIC

By Janyapoarn Morel

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Until January 30, 2008. My Awakening.

January 3 was the first day of K. Map's latest solo exhibition titled My Awakening "P" at the Watermark bar and restaurant. Join us for a glass of wine and some exotic color combinations.

Opening cocktail reception 7 pm. Exhibition open until January 30.

Strong, powerful paintings that stir emotions and appeal to the passions are Varaporn Ponrit's trademark.

Contact Stuart. Tel: 081-7376184, 076-239730. Email: stuart@watermarkphuket.com Website: www.watermarkphuket.com

January 6, 13 and 20. PC Group Therapy – Patong, Laguna and Chalong.

Join ...for Dummies author Woody Leonhard and his band of techy irregulars in a wide-ranging discussion of computer topics from 10 am until midday.

If you can't get Windows to work right, if Office is driving you crazy, if you need to find a decent Internet connection, if you're going to buy a computer in Thailand or if you need to get one fixed, this is the place to be.

First Sunday of every month at the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong. Visit www.khunwoody.com for driving instructions. On January 13, the session will be at the Sandwich Shoppe near the entrance to Laguna and on January 20 at the new Sandwich Shoppe at Fisherman Way Business Center in Chalong.

For further information contact Woody Leonhard. Tel: 089-1960940. Email: woody@khunwoody.com

January 12, 2008. Saphan Jai Photo Exhibition at Phuket Aquarium.

On this year's Children's Day, Phuket Aquarium presents the outstanding photography and artwork of the InsightOut! Creative Children's Workshop and Exchange Project.

Besides the opening of a two-month photo exhibition, the children will share their work and experiences. Come have fun with your family and learn how to take great pictures. Or join in with one of the other activities, such as action games.

The event will take place 9:30 am until 5 pm.

For further information contact K. Tu. Tel: 076-391126-15, 087-6933965. Email: prom_natt@yahoo.com Website: www.phuketaquarium.org

And best of all: entrance to the aquarium is free for children.

January 12, 2008. Malaiwana TriBallistic Relaunch Party 2008.

From 6 pm to 11 pm at Skipper's Sports Bar at Royal Phuket Marina. Live music by Indigo Pearl house band The Boom, featuring May Palmer and the "Sax Bomb" DJ and saxophonist Gerard Cornielje.

Also includes pre-race registration for February 3 Triballistic race and a new range of Tri-Ballistic merchandise on sale.

Adults: 1,000 baht, inclusive of buffet, one beer or glass of wine (only first alcoholic drink included) and raffle ticket. Children: 750 baht, inclusive of buffet, three soft drinks and raffle ticket.

Tickets are available from Shaun at 089-5902015 or at info@triballisticclub.com; from Skipper's Bar at 076-360890; and from Helle Kirstein at the British International School – Phuket library.

January 12 and 19. Super BBQ Buffet at Wine Connection Bang Tao and Chalong.

A truly special BBQ buffet with cheeses, coldcuts, excellent mains, salad, desserts and live band. 650 baht per person. 6:30 pm until 11 pm. At Bang Tao on January 12 and Chalong on January 19.

For further information email Pascal at fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th or call 087-8896074

January 12-27, 2008. French Cuisine Festival at Mom Tri's Boathouse.

Mom Tri's Boathouse will host the annual "Quinzaine de la Gastronomie Francaise", an extravaganza of French cuisine each night from 7 pm to 11:30 pm, from January 12 to 27, 2008.

Guest Chef Maître-Cuisinier de France Jean Noël Lumineau, in collaboration with Mom Tri's Boathouse Executive Chef Tummanoon Puchun, will



Puravarna Windsurfing Rally for His Majesty the King

January 16-19, 2008

The Puravarna Windsurfing Rally for HM The King, in celebration of the auspicious occasion of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 80th birthday, is a rally with a course that will take contestants, for the first time in Thailand, down the west coast of Phuket.

The rally course will guide contestants past the famous beaches of the island province and cover a distance of more than 100 kilometers.

The route will start at Nai Yang Beach and pass by Surin Beach, Patong Beach and Kata Beach before ending at Nai Harn Beach. From noon until 4 pm daily.

For more information contact Thanit Raksanaves. Tel: 081-6997700. Email: ewc@loxinfo.co.th Website: www.startline.org

present a four-course dégustation menu every evening.

Each course will be accompanied by a superb French wine, chosen by the Boathouse's Wine Director, Georges Ciret. The Boathouse Wine & Grill a la carte menu will remain available throughout the entire festival.

For more information contact: Pinyo Thippimas. Tel: 076-330015. Email: fb@boathousephuket.com Website: www.boathousephuket.com

February 3. Malaiwana Tri-Ballistic Race at Indigo Pearl Resort.

The new Triballistic series will get underway at Indigo Pearl Resort at Nai Yang Beach, from 6 am to 11 am.

- Senior Sprint: 750m swim, 20km bike, 5km run.
- Junior Race: 200m swim, 6km bike, 1.5km run
- Splash & Dash: 50m swim, 3km bike, 750m run.

Registration available at www.triballisticclub.com, BIS library and at the Skippers Bar TriBallistic Party on January 12.

Registration can also be by email to info@triballisticclub.com or by calling 089-5902014. Races start 7:30 am.

For more information contact Shaun Boulter at Tel: 089-5902014, Email: info@triballisticclub.com or visit the website at www.triballisticclub.com

February 7-9. Chinese New Year.

Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the Chinese new year and is the biggest social occasion on the Chinese calendar. It is celebrated with gusto among

Thailand's sizable Chinese community and legions of Chinese tourists from neighboring nations choose to enjoy the holiday in Phuket.

February 21. Makha Bucha Day – Public Holiday.

Makha Bucha Day, which falls on the full moon of the third lunar month of the Thai calendar, commemorates the Buddha's ordaining of 1,250 monks who arrived unannounced from afar only seven months after the Buddha began his teachings. It is also the date the Buddha delivered his Fundamental Teachings – just months before his death.

February 22-23. Phuket International Blues Rock Festival.

Presented by HotelTravel.com, the third year of Phuket's biggest international blues rock festival will be huge – expanded to 12 bands – showcasing 10 of Southeast Asia's finest acts and topping it off with an American headliner each night at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa.

The event will have one of Australia's top blues bands as well. Returning is guitar phenomenon Rich Harper and his band from California and another top US act will close the show on Saturday night.

February 28-March 1. BIS Under 15 Fobissea Games.

The games will be held on the school site. The Fobissea Games offer a wonderful opportunity to participate in a major competition and to mix with like-minded students from other international schools in Southeast Asia.

For further information contact Patrick du Preez. Tel: 076-23871120. Email: ppreez@bcis.ac.th Website: www.bcis.ac.th

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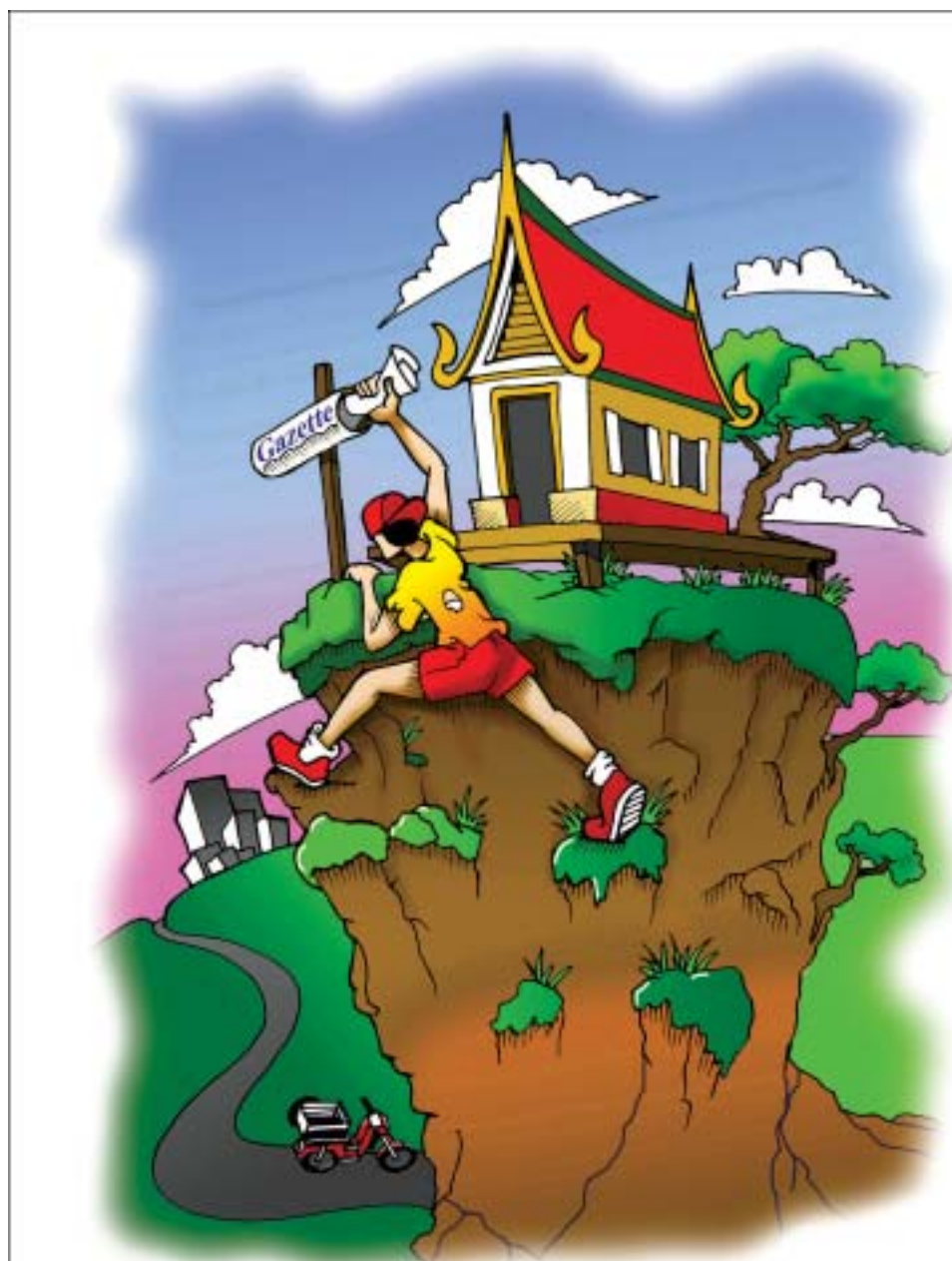
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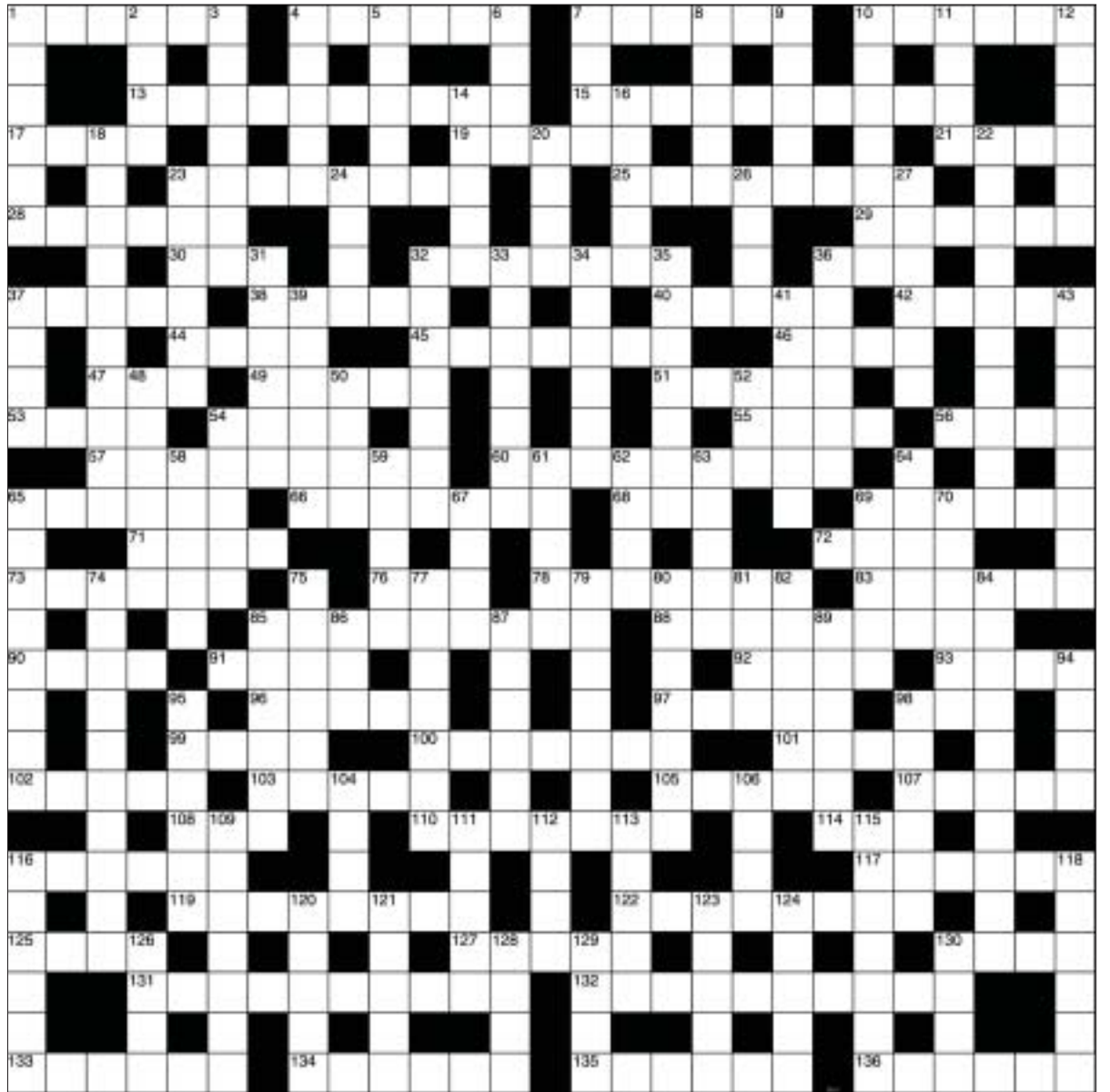
Puzzles

The BIG Crossword

Spot the Difference



Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?
Solution on the next page.



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Across

- 1. Chewy confection
- 4. Short-sighted
- 7. Was inclined (to)
- 10. Scolded repeatedly
- 13. Abbreviating
- 15. Writer/feminist, Simone...(2,8)
- 17. Small amphibian
- 19. Nation on the Arabian peninsular
- 21. Set (table)
- 23. Strolling musician
- 25. Soberly
- 28. Light bulb inventor
- 29. Cafe or bistro
- 30. Muslim leader, ...Khan
- 32. Stirred up
- 36. Request, ...for
- 37. Northern Italian city
- 38. Polite form of address
- 40. Respond to stimulus
- 42. Australian animal
- 44. Made last, ...out
- 45. Cleaver
- 46. Desire
- 47. Gallivant
- 49. Hospital worker
- 51. Sink hole
- 53. Sinful
- 54. At a standstill
- 55. Classic pop singer, ...Campbell
- 56. Curved doorway
- 57. Mobsters
- 60. Rented property
- 65. Prehistoric remnant
- 66. More streamlined
- 68. Full-time golfer
- 69. Fix
- 71. Rope tangle

- 72. Warm & spice (wine)
- 73. Ketchup, ...sauce
- 76. Actress, ...West
- 78. Act of repentance
- 83. Coat of arms plate
- 85. Acorn-like treats
- 88. Segregating
- 90. Smooth-tongued
- 91. Cormorant
- 92. Profuse
- 93. Roman garment
- 96. Corpse rigidity, ...mortis
- 97. Shrub
- 98. Unit of resistance
- 99. Lowing sounds
- 100. Weapons store
- 101. Lentil dish
- 102. Stage play
- 103. Doctor
- 105. Humble (oneself)
- 107. Diva, prima...
- 108. Small European deer
- 110. Leather works
- 114. Post-graduate business degree (1,1,1)
- 116. Sparkles
- 117. Tropical American lizard
- 119. Sit astride
- 122. Traditional beliefs
- 125. In time, AD, ...Domini
- 127. Typeface
- 130. Drink, ...spumante
- 131. Fashionable celebrities
- 132. Amazed
- 133. Diction
- 134. Bun seed
- 135. Construes
- 136. Picturesque

Down

- 1. Subtle shade of meaning
- 2. Heart (of matter)
- 3. Sounding horn
- 4. Arithmetic
- 5. Proprietor
- 6. Barred prison
- 7. Ocean phase
- 8. Fear greatly
- 9. Mistrust
- 10. Asian food items
- 11. Lass
- 12. Lethal
- 14. Man-made fibre
- 16. Take place after
- 18. Merry-go-rounds
- 20. Medium-length skirt
- 22. Chief port of Egypt
- 23. Cried in pain
- 24. Conformed, ...the line
- 26. District
- 27. Jabbered
- 31. Rectifies
- 32. Vast
- 33. Crushing sound
- 34. Deep shock
- 35. Silt-removing boat
- 36. Made reparation
- 37. Measure of distance
- 39. Grown-ups
- 41. Ices
- 43. Moored (of ship)
- 48. US Arctic state
- 50. Cotton spool
- 52. A long time...
- 54. Eskimo shelter
- 58. Eighth, ..., tenth
- 59. Paper lots
- 61. Explode
- 62. Spotless, spick &...
- 63. Antlers

- 64. Indian city, New...
- 65. Worn out
- 67. Avid
- 69. Out of practice
- 70. Pedestal base
- 74. Robin Hood's beau (4,6)
- 75. Reclining seat, ...longue
- 77. Lure
- 79. Scent
- 80. Pop tune's exposure on radio
- 81. Unconscious state
- 82. African antelopes
- 84. Self-centered people
- 85. Chromium
- 86. Encouragement, ...on
- 87. Together, in...
- 89. Patriotic hymn
- 94. Continent
- 95. Stings
- 98. Advanced years (3,3)
- 104. Title document
- 106. Go berserk, run...
- 109. Largest bird
- 111. Skillful
- 112. Divorce, decree...
- 113. Gaps
- 115. Trees, silver...
- 116. Chafes
- 118. Sour
- 120. Voice types
- 121. Challenges
- 123. Not tight
- 124. Chop cuts
- 126. Giant monster
- 128. Travel on horse
- 129. Hitler follower
- 130. Wood-shaping tool

Answers on next page

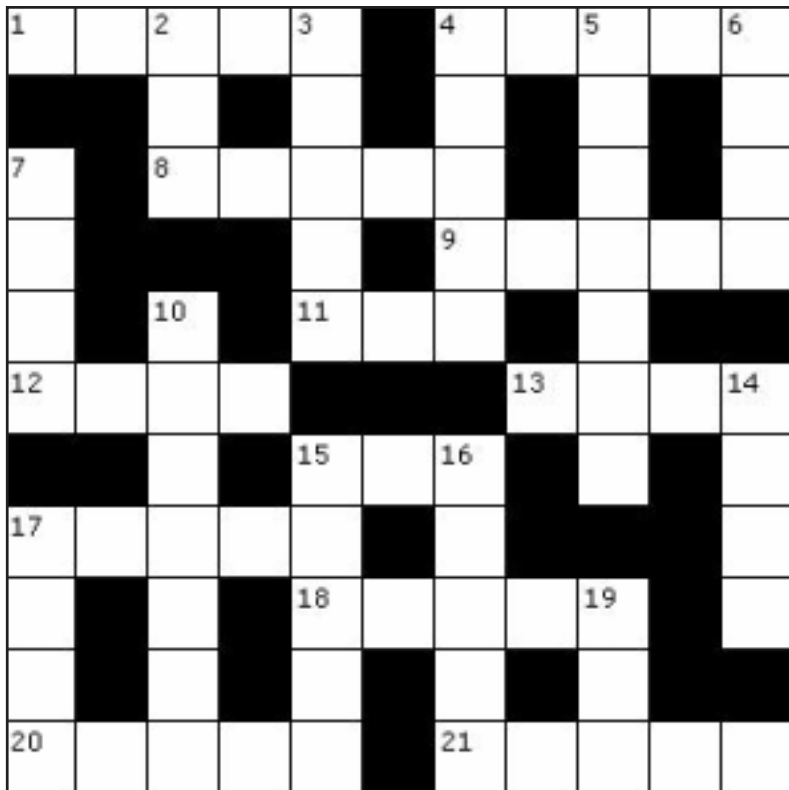
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Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

Sudoku is very simple: each row, each column and each "box" of nine squares within the puzzle must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9 with, naturally, no repetitions. Beware: there is only one solution to this puzzle, which is on the next page.



Quick Crossword

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1. Grant | 2. Item at auction |
| 4. Talisman | 3. Past participle of wake |
| 8. Keepsake | 4. Barbarian |
| 9. Software developer | 5. Recess |
| 11. Religious woman | 6. Indie-rock band |
| 12. Noisy | 7. Turn liquid to gas |
| 13. Cookie | 10. Vegetable |
| 15. Belly | 14. Musical instrument |
| 17. Soft drunk | 15. Presents |
| 18. Lucky | 16. Not lies |
| 20. Songs | 17. Letters and parcels |
| 21. Homo sapien | 19. Nightmare on ...Street |

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. A burger is a German townsman but what is a burgermeister? | 8. What strait may be named after Troy's founder, Dardanus? | 15. Which is the only Hitchcock movie to win a best picture Oscar? |
| 2. What is the only Asian great ape? | 9. Who was raised as a shepherd after his mom learned he would cause the fall of Troy? | 16. A pair of which company's jeans sold for more than \$46,000 on eBay? |
| 3. What noun is used for the earliest known dwellers of a region? | 10. Henry VIII married three women with what first name? | 17. Monet and which fellow impressionist often painted the same scene? |
| 4. What is a synonym for an appendix to a book? | 11. What is the official language of Rwanda and Senegal? | 18. Whales belong to what order? |
| 5. "The Dead" appears in which James Joyce collection of short stories? | 12. Who is the only WWII veteran to have walked on the Moon? | 19. What is inflammation of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord better known as? |
| 6. What measurement was originally the area that could be plowed by oxen in a morning without tiring them? | 13. Which animal's German name is Nilpferd? | 20. White light is made up of which three primary colors? |
| 7. Coral reefs consist mainly of what sedimentary rock? | 14. Volodymyr Shcherbytsky suppressed press coverage of which disaster? | |

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



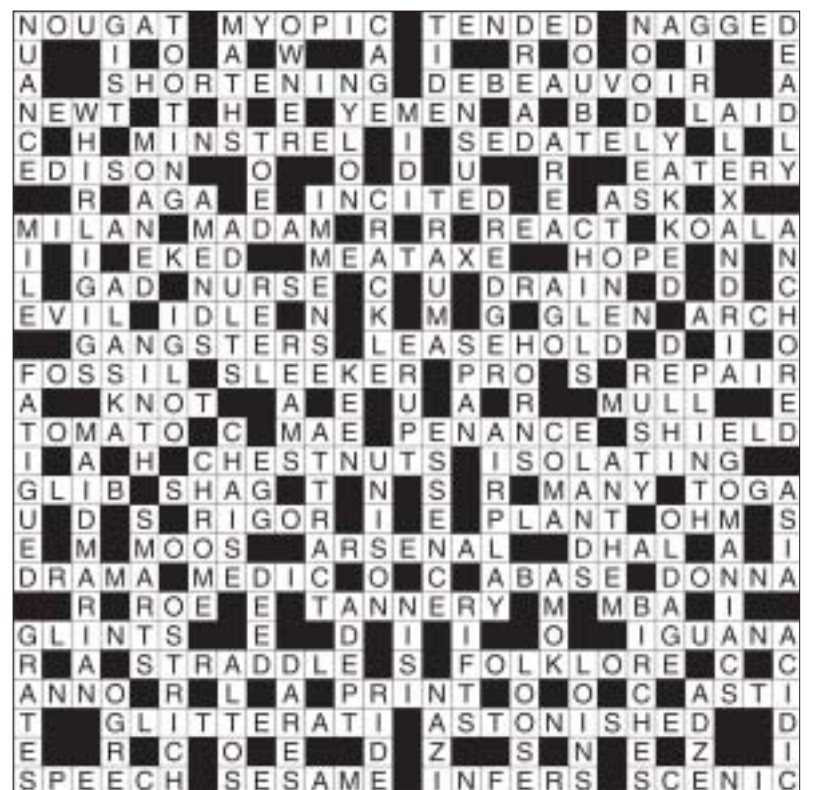
Monster Quiz Answers

1. A mayor;
2. The orangutan;
3. Aborigines;
4. An addendum;
5. The Dubliners;
6. Acre;
7. Limestone;
8. The Dardanelles;
9. Paris;
10. Catherine;
11. French;
12. Alan Shepard;
13. A hippopotamus;
14. Chernobyl;
15. Rebecca;
16. Levi's;
17. Auguste Renoir;
18. Cetaceans;
19. Meningitis;
20. Red, blue, and green.

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Solution to this week's BIG Crossword



Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



Celebrations On The Auspicious Occasion Of His Majesty
The King's 80th Bithday Anniversary 5th December 2007

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The King

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Tales from a living legend

Harold Stephens has long lived in a virtuous cycle of having great adventures (driving a jeep around the world, for example), then writing about them (*Who Needs a Road?*) so he can have yet more adventures: diving for the sunken battleship *Repulse*, exploring for lost civilizations in the Malaysian jungle.

In 1974, after turning his newspaper stories into books that made some money, he built a 71-foot schooner *Third Sea* in Singapore, fitted it out in Bangkok, and sailed the Pacific for the next two decades.

In *Tales from the Pacific Rim*, his 18th book, he has turned to fiction. These 20 stories are based on his experiences on land and sea and, as the title indicates, take place in a great arc from Bangkok, Singapore and Malaysia through Fiji, Samoa and Tahiti to San José and San Francisco.

About half employ a Conradian narrator. This is a literary device with an illustrious history. Just as Joseph Conrad used Captain Marlowe to tell the stories of Lord Jim and Kurtz, F Scott Fitzgerald

used Nick Carroway to tell the story of *Gatsby*. And Stephens uses a schooner captain with a history very much like his own to tell the tales of a wide variety of fascinating characters.

The Singapore Yacht Club is the scene of the first story, *The Man Who Wanted to Buy a Wife*. A sailboat trip in Fiji forms the background for a tale of obsessive love, *The Kava Pounder*. The *Swede Who Liked to Drink* is about the global misadventures of one of his crewmen.

How to Throw a Javelin is the tale of the downfall of a local hero in Tahiti. All are narrated in the first person from the perspective of the ubiquitous sea captain. Here's an example of Stephens' descriptive style. The young javelin thrower Teravani is on a schooner arriving in Tahiti for the first time from the remote island of Huahine:

"From a distance the island appeared bluish-gray but as the sun rose higher and they drew nearer, the grays turned into soft greens. Uncertain forms took shape. Valleys appeared in pools of receding purple,



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

jutting arms of land reached to join the threatening reef and sand beaches of velvet black dissolved into frothy foam where the breaking sand unrolled...."

Stephens lives in Bangkok now and several stories are told from the perspective of Thai characters: a Bangkok towkay who engineers his own disappearance to start another life as a guesthouse owner in Chiang Rai, an illiterate barge boy who rises to own a fleet of service boats, a servant girl who stitches together

a business empire.

Four of the longer stories are about a clash of cultures.

Peace Corps volunteers helped to build and crew Stephens' schooner and *The Teacher Who Taught Darwin* is about two American teachers in a small Malaysian village who run afoul of local customs. *The Fighter Pilot from Vietnam* is a doomed love story that moves from Saigon to the Bamboo Lounge at the Oriental to the E&O Hotel in Penang.

In *The Agent*, an American painter in Luang Prabang has built a simple life of contentment with his Lao model/lover until disrupted by the arrival of a brash female art dealer from New York. *Full Circle* moves from Tahiti to Australia and back again as it tracks the romance of an Aussie surfer bum and a Tahitian girl.

The book ends as it begins in the Singapore Yacht Club. Cushy job, big ketch, beautiful wife, Adriaan De Waard seemed to have it all until an old friend turns up at the club bar to reveal his childhood past in Java. The ending, as in many of these stories, is a shocker.

I was waddling along the street the other night when I was ambushed by a giant Sikh. "Hello, sarr!" he roared. "I am karmic prognosticator, also known as farrtune tellarr. I see that you are feeling stressed and don't know where to go."

I managed to rise to the occasion. "I know perfectly well where to go," I informed him briskly. "I'm heading for that bookstore up ahead."

Later, I reproached myself for my rudeness. Had I succumbed to his blandishments, I might have enjoyed a pleasant evening having my fortune told.

I've always been a skeptic in areas where there's no compelling evidence. I don't believe in fortune telling, ghosts, astrology or amulets.

I don't even believe that Elvis is alive and well and living with Princess Diana in a shack in the Appalachians. Nor do I believe the auxiliary myth that Elvis is finally drug-free.

Cynical wretch that I am, my life is much poorer for the

The karmic prognosticator

absence of titillating superstitions. I do believe, however, that the real father of Anna Nicole Smith's baby was Dick Cheney. A guy's gotta believe in *something*.

Yes, I scolded myself for rebuffing that hapless karmic prognosticator. Had I encouraged him, I believe our dialog might have gone something like this:

Me: Okay, sardarji – tell me intimate details of my early life.

Him [fixing me with a penetrating stare]: Achchha. I can tell, just by looking at you, that you were born.

Me: Obviously. But when? Where?

Him: You see, these petty details of time and place belong

to the illusory world of transient phenomena. They are rooted in the time-space continuum, which is a function of the vulgar realm of relativity. They are therefore of no interest to philosophers like ourselves. We are concerned with the grand, the cosmic, the universal and the transcendent, are we not?

Me: That's true. Thank you for raising my consciousness to a higher plane. Tell me more.

Him: I can tell that you are old. Indeed, you are teetering on the cusp of paleolithicality, possibly even of

prehistoricity. In terms of pure knock-down, drag-out, doddering senility, you are right up there with the Rolling Stones.

Me: How old am I, exactly?



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Growing with responsibility

This past week, four *Gazette* editors were presented with a special year-end challenge: to judge the best from 58 English-language essays written by teenage students taking part in the 4th Junior IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards for Thailand 2006-2007 competition.

Although the task was initially greeted with a certain amount of apprehension, when it was over the judges had found it had been easier than expected to reach a consensus on which essays merited the two 5,000-baht merit awards and which essay was due the top prize of 10,000 baht – and a chance to visit Dublin in June, when the winner will attend the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award ceremony.

This year's topic was particularly broad and all-encompassing: "If We Could Change the World".

Like many of the young writers, top-prize-winner Kongsarut Kladphet of Kathu Wittaya School [see pages 14-15 for the text of his winning submission] used the topic to address the issue of collective versus individual responsibility.

While this dynamic has been important to survival since the dawn of man, young Kongsarud correctly pointed out that pressing global challenges such as climate change highlight the need to vastly expand the traditional view of "us" to include more than just "my family", "my country" or even "my race", but to extend it to include all of humanity.

While other students also tackled this issue, none did it with the same insight and clarity as Kongsarud.

He also wrote perceptively about the caustic social effects of prejudice – something mentioned by only a handful of the other young writers.

Of the many essays, almost all mentioned global warming as a grave threat facing humanity. Likewise, almost all were of the opinion that human greed was responsible.

More than half of the essay writers noted that HM The King's "Sufficiency Economy" theory was the sort of comprehensive appeal to common sense that, if actually implemented, could be used to set mankind and the environment we inhabit back on the path of sustainability.

But while there was a broad consensus that each and every one of us has a role to play in reducing our own impact by minimizing our "carbon footprints", not a single essay writer noted that the world's current population of 6.6 billion people is predicted to exceed 9 billion by the year 2050 – or what this trend, if it continues, will have on climate change and other important environmental issues.

Teachers, please take note.

– The Editor

Do you have an opinion you want to share?
Email editor@phuketgazette.net

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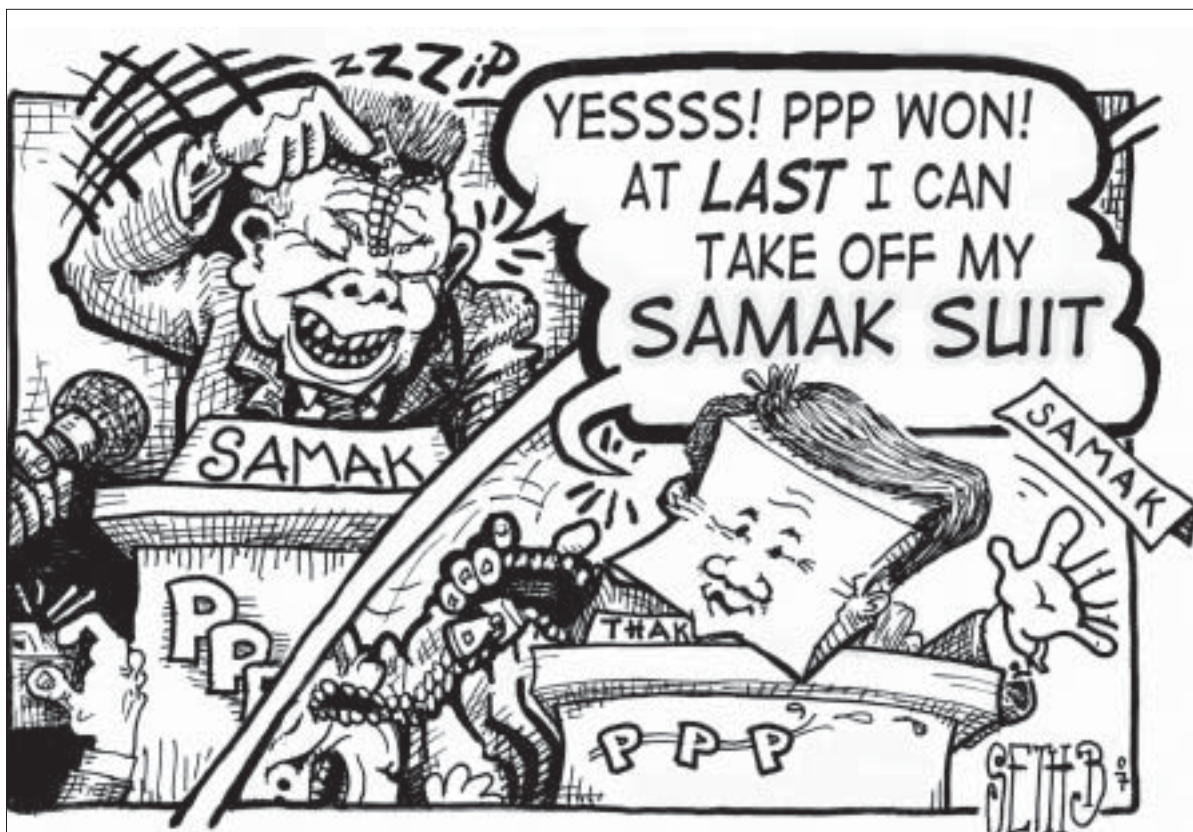
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Letters

The *Gazette* is pleased to receive mail from readers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, fax to 076-213971 or send an email to editor@phuketgazette.net with

your views for publication in our next issue. We reserve the right to edit all letters. Pseudonyms are acceptable only if your full name and address are supplied.

Despite promises, South still suffers

Great job Surayuth, great job Sonthi: You criticized Thaksin's heavy-handed tactics, spewed rhetoric and made hollow promises – and now the situation in the Deep South is worse than ever.

According to an official report, there were more attacks on schools and teachers there in the past year than in the three previous, with about 150 schools torched and 20 teachers murdered.

Extending an olive branch to terrorists works every single time it's tried (hint: this is called "sarcasm").

Don't let the door hit your butts on the way out.

Heaven's Spent

Maybe, just maybe big business is better

Regarding the problems between the new Laguna Tesco-Lotus and the local small merchants, although the small traders may have plenty of good reasons to complain, the authorities may think that it's good to have a big company to take over the trade. Their reasons may include that bigger businesses:

- pay regular income tax, withholding tax and VAT;
- employ staff with regular contracts, which means with withholding tax and insurance paid;
- respect the law regarding the ban of selling alcohol at certain times and to underage customers;
- respect the law regarding hygiene and safety;
- generate a huge amount of work with subcontractors,

which are also regular companies that pay taxes and so on.

We still have yet to understand how the authorities will make use of this income, but that is another story.

Cetto La Qualunque
Rome

Phuket becoming Costa del Concrete

Phuket is such an attractive place to live because of the climate and the tropical surroundings but as the hilltops are shaved and jungle encroached upon to build new homes in Western-style neighborhoods for the increasing number of people desiring a home in the tropics, the island is turning into a concrete jungle by the sea.

If only some simple laws were introduced to ensure sustainable development or at least environmentally friendly development, perhaps Phuket would remain a tropical paradise rather than rapidly becoming Asia's Costa del Sol.

One simple solution is for developers to be forced to leave a percentage of the area they are developing in its natural state.

Rather than the construction of a new neighborhood beginning with razing the entire plot, let's say that a new neighborhood must have at least 20% of its area in its natural state. This could be a communal park area or gardens for each property.

This shouldn't be too hard, as surely, when the leveling of the ground begins, the plans have already been drawn up.

Many neighborhood developments have rows of houses squeezed in to ensure the maximum return on investment for the developer. If they gave the space

of one or two houses to gardens, they could charge a little more for the houses and residents would enjoy a bit more space and nature for their money.

Also, the more cement poured over the land, the more chance there is of flooding and landslides in the immediate area.

Lawmakers and developers, it's up to you to ensure that those foreign investors you love so much continue to invest in Phuket for years to come.

Green Dreamer
Phuket

Making sense of what's in the works

I read with interest your online report that a large homeWorks building supply and home-improvement center is being built.

While the project is too far underway to be stopped, I wonder if there is the demand for yet another home center on the bypass road, especially given how empty HomePro at Tesco-Lotus is most of the time – not to mention the plethora of small hardware stores on the island.

As for the plan to build a pedestrian bridge connecting the center with the rest of Central Festival, would they also consider putting in other overpasses in the area – particularly in front of Wichit Songkram School.

Every morning I see primary school kids trying to cross the busy road to get to school – it's so dangerous.

Also, covering a huge expanse of what was previously a permeable surface with concrete is bound to make flooding in the area worse. Remember this prediction next September.

Somchai Huasaikul
Samkong

Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials and/or business owners are published in *Issues & Answers* at www.phuketgazette.net.

Deputy mayor pledges solutions to traffic problems in Patong

Everyone must follow the rules that have been set up. We have been asking local people and businesses to share their opinions with police officers in Patong.

We need these people to respect the rules and help Patong remain attractive for tourists.

We have spoken to many businesses owners to get their opinions on the best way we can all work together to achieve this.

Patong Police and Patong Municipality have been working together to address the issue of the roads in Patong. We also asked jet-ski operators for their thoughts on the issue of traffic.

First and foremost, we need to complete the new road [Phang Muang Rd] behind Jungceylon.

There have been a few land acquisition problems that have delayed the whole project slightly, but now the project is nearing completion and should be finished some time in 2008.

We must finish it quickly. Everything hinges on laying sewage pipes under the road.

After that is complete, we will open the bidding up to private companies to complete the road work.

We know that there are a lot of problems with traffic jams

FIRST PERSON

For some time, people have complained that Patong is not prepared to welcome the number of tourists that arrive in the high season. Traffic on Patong Hill is often jammed and accidents occur frequently there.

With record numbers of tourists arriving, the *Gazette's* Sompratch Saowakhon sat down with Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukkaban to get his thoughts on how Patong can be developed to cope with the large number of tourists and its traffic problem.



in Patong. We will do everything that we can to find ways to relieve road congestion.

We have asked the Patong Traffic Police to look into the one-way system.

There have been many cases of accidents involving people who were not used to or aware of the one-way system.

It's not so much the local Thai people we worry about;

most of them live here and know the roads, but we worry about tourists, especially those here for the first time.

They are often unfamiliar with the Patong system.

Once the road behind Jungceylon is completed in 2008, we will work together with the Patong Traffic Police to set up a new one-way system in order to relieve congestion.

A lot of people have been asking me about the [proposed] Patong Hill tunnel, which a lot of people have shown an interest in.

In my opinion the tunnel is needed, but at the moment there is insufficient budget for the research and information gathering needed to present the project to the new government.

Although we need to get a

budget in order to complete the research, I think the reality of a Patong Hill tunnel is not as far away as people think.

We have also been speaking to jet-ski operators, members of parasailing businesses and other groups about areas that are being used on the beachfront.

We are in discussions with them on the best way to zone off certain areas and make better use the available space.

Also, we are working to resolve the issue of how tuk-tuks and taxis use the beach road. Hopefully a solution can be arrived at soon.

There are also some problems on the sidewalks of Patong that have come about from people setting up stalls and selling things.

I keep telling my officers to keep an eye out for and arrest such hawkers.

Currently, we fine them 500 baht for a first offense. In 2008, the fine will increase to 1,000 baht.

I need everybody to respect the rules in order to prevent Patong from becoming too crowded and uncomfortable.

I hope that people will love their home and that everybody will take care of it together.

What is being built on Karon Beach?

What is the construction on the beach in front of Central at Karon (in front of the desalination plant). Is that construction allowed?

Also, why is the road from Karon to Patong being fixed for a fifth time?

Is it costing the government any extra to keep fixing it?

Tom Notaro
Phuket

Alexandre Lauser, general manager, Centara Villas Phuket and Centara Kata Resort Phuket, replies:

The new construction is for a new project from Centara Hotels & Resorts group called "Centara Grand Beach Resort".

I can't give exact details, such as the precise number of rooms and the final design of the resort, because the final plan is being reviewed, but the resort will feature a mix of different styles of rooms and will be similar to Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort.

The construction will take two years to complete.

Issues & ANSWERS

Want to know how to get something done? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities? Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond.

Write to: The Phuket Gazette, 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Muang, Phuket 83000. Fax 076-213971, or submit your issue at www.phuketgazette.net

Tawee Thongchaem, Mayor of Kata-Karon Municipality, replies:

That area belongs to the Centara Villas Resort.

They have the right to build on their own land, which they have a Chanote title for.

The construction has been approved by us.

Termphan Noksaeng, deputy director, Phuket Provincial Highways Office, replies:

We don't have any roadworks being carried out on the road from Patong to Karon.

Can you please identify exactly where the road is being fixed. I recently drove along that road and did not see any place where the road was being repaired.

What you might have seen was work being carried out privately to improve the road right in front of a particular resort or residence.

Two-month stays on tourist visas

I have a "2 entry" tourist visa. Each entry is for two months and the visa was issued in Vancouver, Canada.

When I entered Thailand on October 24, I was allowed to stay for two months.

Do I need to leave the country and re-enter Thailand for another two months' stay? Or, can this be done at the Immigration Office in Phuket?

John Graham
Canada

Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen of the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office replies:

For this type of visa, what we call a "double entry visa", you must leave the country after your first two months' stay, and then re-enter Thailand so that you can stay two months more.

If you come to extend your permit-to-stay at our Immigration office in Phuket City, we can extend your stay only 30 days - not two months.

Permits for using fireworks

If I want to have fireworks at my party, do I have to ask any permission? If so, who do I ask?

Miss Lee
Phuket City

Teeraphol Sitthabutr, Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) of Muang District, replies:

To set off fireworks at your party, the law requires you to first obtain a permit from the District Chief. Companies that sell fireworks or specialize in fireworks entertainment usually organize this for their clients.

Your application must include: the reason for the celebration; which types of fireworks and how many fireworks will be used; a copy of your house registration document (*tabien baan*); a copy of the ID card of person in charge; and the permit to buy fireworks.

The permit to set off fireworks is issued free, but you should allow at least a week for the permit to be approved.

If the permit is issued, we notify the police to ensure that the fireworks will be set off safely.

The fragrant winds of change

I feel it is my duty to divulge the news that I have become a father. I don't mean in the Catholic Church, clerical dog-collar sense, I mean in the sense of dark circles under the eyes and sleepless nights. I have aided in the process of producing another two-legged pollutant for the planet.

Yes, the winds of change have blown through the household and I can assure you the noise you hear from a rear end is not mine. My son – and I shall write this as if we are close friends, dear reader – farts a lot.

I think this is a good thing, for him. After all, were he aware of etiquette and manners, he would endeavor to hold his eructations until a suitable moment and then let rip. Being a baby, and a male at that, he just lets 'em go whenever the wind builds up. Given Pattaya's less-than-fragrant air quality, I doubt he has added much more than a few kilos of methane to the diesel-encrusted haze that surrounds our little sleaze-pit-by-the-sea.

My concern, at least in an environmental sense as it relates to Pattaya's increasing problems with finding landfill, is the amount of waste material now leaving

our household on a daily basis. My son produces his own body weight in toxic waste each day. I'm hoping there isn't some kind of United Nations sanction against the toxic waste he excretes.

A plastic bag filled with his used nappies weighs as much as a couple of kilos of grade-A plutonium and is probably just as dangerous when mixed with the wrong kinds of chemicals.

Doing something as mundane as shopping requires arising three hours earlier than normal. This, of course, is achieved without effort by our all-farting alarm clock.

As this is my first foray into the world of fatherhood, I would like to make a few observations that I'm sure have been well-documented among the parents of the world, but, of course, are very new to me.

Sleep: I don't get enough. My child is a night owl, much like his old man. This is quite a good thing. When I come sauntering home after a night of sipping alcoholically-charged soda water in a number of dens of the chrome pole, I can guarantee my little boy will be wide awake and heavily engaged in removing excess natural milk products from either of the two rather attractive bars designed for such a purpose.

My wife, if I may be so bold as to announce publicly, does not possess a substantial mammary-gland package, but what

she does have are perfect examples of the art.

Though my son is a night owl, he has the disturbing habit of waking up somewhere between sparrow fart and his own rather-more-booming nappy cough, demanding to be once again in extremely close proximity to the sources of natural milk.

Like most people in Pattaya, I am not a morning person; well, not that early in the bloody morning anyway. Once he has been weaned away from the very objects of my own carnal desires, I will be tempted to add a little extra something to his bottled milk to make him sleep.

Sex: I don't get enough. Not quite true, but it's the quality that's missing. Our best chance of engaging in coital pursuits is in the eight-minute-and-13-second periods when he sleeps or when he's actively engaged in contented gurgling at his favorite toy: a purple elephant with a red tail and black-and-white, polka-dotted underbelly that my wife has swinging from a long piece of string tied to the ceiling. Is this how kids get into LSD?

Doing something as mundane as shopping requires arising three hours earlier than normal. This, of course, is

achieved without effort by our all-farting alarm clock. Also, instead of simply walking out the door with money and a set of keys, the amount of material required makes us look as though we're preparing for an assault on Mount Everest.

I'm hopeless when it comes to mechanical or electrical devices – especially children's toys and furniture. Give me a hammer, ask me to put a nail into a wall for hanging a picture on and the chances are that you will find the house being knocked to its foundations.

That said, I defy anyone with less than a

master's degree in applied mechanics or engineering to be able to put together a child's cot. Even the blasted collapsible stroller I bought from a reputable department store is now in a state of permanent collapse.

If I sound as if I'm regretting this whole exercise into the realm of fatherhood while surrounded by sex pheromones, I'm not. After eight years living in this unique environment, I can say with complete honesty that, after my wife, my son is the best thing that has ever happened to me. All right, who farted?



FROM THE STREETS OF PATTAYA
By Duncan Stearn

The statistics are frightening: nearly 30% of men in England will be obese by the year 2010 if nothing is done to tackle the problem.

In America, nearly two-thirds of adults are overweight or obese and 275 Australians are diagnosed with diabetes every day – obesity and poor eating habits being a major cause.

Things are not much better in Thailand where sugar and fat consumption has risen among school-aged children.

It is predicted that 20% of Thai children will be obese in the next 10 years.

Many foreigners come to Thailand to relax and spend time sampling the fine restaurants and bars.

In a lot of cases, this lifestyle includes a lack of physical activ-

Discovering the secrets of losing weight

ity. An excess of unhealthy habits and a sedentary lifestyle will eventually lead to obesity and all of its associated health risks, such as diabetes, cholesterol problems, cancer, cardiovascular disease, musculoskeletal aches and pains, and depression.

The solution is to get your body moving. The more active you are, the more calories your body will burn. If your calorie input exceeds your calorie output,

you will put on weight.

In theory, this is a simple equation, but losing weight can be a frustrating process.

The key is to be patient – don't try and shed weight too quickly. Be disciplined with your eating and exercising habits.

Don't weigh yourself every day. It's body-fat you want to lose, not muscle or fluid weight.

Scales cannot tell you what is coming off, so seek professional help from a qualified trainer who can determine your body-fat percentage and create an exercise plan accordingly.

The plan must be specific to your own lifestyle and goals and should include two different types of training session: one for fat burning and one for metabolic-rate enhancing.

Your training plan must also be relevant to your current level of fitness, amount of time avail-

able and the facilities you have access to.

Unstructured activities, such as walking down the street instead of jumping on a motorbike or walking up a flight of stairs instead of an escalator, are highly recommend. These simple changes in lifestyle will burn more calories.

The other part of the equation is your food-and-drink intake. A drastic reduction in food intake is not the long-term answer.

If you shed several kilos of body weight in a week, the loss will be due to fluid and muscle loss, not body-fat.

Your body will go into starvation mode and slow its metabolic rate, which will lead to more fat deposits in the long term. Car-

bohydrates are also not evil.

Consuming too many carbohydrates is a problem, but we need a constant supply of carbohydrates that are low in glycemic index in order to access our fat supplies when exercising.

Fat is the evil; in particular, saturated fats, which are found in fast foods and sweets.

There are only four calories in one gram of carbohydrate, compared with nine calories in one gram of fat.

If you have had a particularly festive season with extra pudding that is now showing itself around your waistline, get moving, seek advice and don't just become another obese statistic.

Nick Dobyn is the manager of Phuket Personal Trainers Co Ltd, a Rawai-based personal fitness consultancy. Call 086-2514801 or email Nick at: nick@phuketfitness.net.

FIT FOR LIFE
By Nick Dobyn

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In The Stars by Isla Star

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Although the New Year kicks off slowly for many of you, you should receive proof during the first week of January that important goals are tangible. On a romantic note, this weekend will be a highlight when Libra finally makes their feelings clear.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): You are forgiven for taking life at a snail's pace during the first week of the New Year. A busy schedule of socializing is bound to have taken its toll on your energy levels. Work matters will proceed in fits and starts while others find their feet again after the holiday period.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): You aren't accustomed to being pushy, but the urge to get ahead will become stronger during January. As you realize that time is money in the world of business, progress is certain to come. Scorpio can be of assistance in your attempts to scale the career ladder, but Aries is concerned with their own needs.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Your crafty plan to wait in the shadows while someone else fails in a business matter could land you in hot water. You need to wake up and realize that you're not the only one who is hungry for success. There's also more going on than meets the eye at home.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): You need to get on top of things as dramatic changes early this year will require your full attention. Streamline business activities so you are able to take care of what is really important. Friends who have come to count on your help can find other ways of solving problems.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Those of you who have enjoyed celebrating the holiday season with family will be ready to get back to work. Your ability to swim with the sharks comes in useful as a business venture becomes complicated. As far as money is concerned, the spotlight is on spending to invest during the coming weeks.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): If getting to know a potential partner is proving to be as hard to crack as a coconut shell, you are advised to seek further along the beach. Your path to romance is set to take some twists until later in the year. Those already in a relationship will have to make a compromise this week.

LEO (July 24-August 22): A business matter is best left shaken, but not stirred. Once you have made your demands known, leave the other side enough space to consider them. Economizing should be a priority for those born under the sign of Leo who couldn't resist spoiling those close to them during the holidays.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Over-tiredness could cramp your style this weekend. Friends who are still ready to socialize should understand that you're not being a wet blanket. Laying low during the start of January will set you up for a busy period in February.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Those of you who are still getting to know a new romantic partner discover yet another attractive side to their character. Being spoiled this weekend cheers you up after a disappointing start to the New Year concerning work issues.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Sweet dreams this week reflect your satisfaction with progress, both on work and personal levels. Those of you who thought you'd never reconcile with a long-lost friend should have reason to celebrate.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): You shouldn't allow someone's rude behavior to get you down this week. The person concerned has an unrelated problem and would appreciate you lending a sympathetic ear. Keeping a promising business plan quiet for the time being is imperative as a snake in the undergrowth would love to steal your bright ideas.

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Suffering a Phuket 'cultural' shock

At 15 years old, I have spent most of my life in my father's homeland, Italy, but I have always kept in touch with my Thai friends by MSN and annual visits to Thailand.

I really appreciate the opportunity given to me by the *Phuket Gazette* to have my own corner in the newspaper. I have been told to write freely and without constraints.

Before moving from Italy to Thailand, everyone was worried that I would struggle with all the changes in my life, but I wasn't bothered.

I was, however, curious to live another kind of life. I was excited to be moving to Thailand, even if it made me sad to leave my friends behind.

After two months in Thailand, school started. I had to attend a new school right away to avoid falling behind a year.

My first welcome to school was a haircut. I saw my hair falling like Autumn leaves in front of my eyes. I don't mind having my hair a bit short, but not this much - my hair is above my ears!

Not only that, but I have to keep my fingernails short, wear a school uniform and not wear makeup. Also, every morning, we raise the Thai flag and sing the Thai national anthem.

But you know what? I like it. In fact, this was the type of school I was looking for, with no distinction between students, good discipline and beauty and elegance that comes from the culture. This was a radical change for me. No more colorful dresses; no more Italian shoes; no more dyed hair.

Less than 20 days after arriving in Phuket, while walking with a friend in a supermarket, two girls approached me and insisted that I fill out a form to take

Youth 'n ASIA

By Maria Giuletta Consentino

part in a contest. Back then, my only concern was to get to the beach and escape from school when I could.

I took the form and found out it was for a beauty contest - it was for Miss Teen Thailand 2007.

I'm not usually interested in this sort of thing. In Italy, I never used to watch that kind of competition on TV and I never considered participating in a contest like this. My mother and my Italian friends through MSN had other ideas and I became curious about the competition, although I wasn't exactly enthusiastic.

I filled out the form and, one week later, I was at the contest at Kata Beach Resort in what was a completely new world for me. I was so happy because, I thought, once I had lost in the contest, I would be able to go to the beach.

You never know what destiny has in store for you. In the end, I qualified for the final in Bangkok for Miss Teen Thailand when I was elected Miss Teen Phuket 2007.

When I first heard the speaker say "Miss Teen Phuket" followed by my name, I was as shocked as when my father told me we were leaving Italy.

I didn't know what to do or

how to behave. I had to be thin, tall and have white skin, always with a smile on my face even though I felt like screaming.

All this was practically the opposite of what I am.

They told me to do so many things. They said don't stay out in the sun - there goes my beach time. They told me to be taller. They must have been crazy, I thought. But no, they were serious.

They even suggested I drink a special kind of milk. My father said that I would probably only grow a few millimeters in time for the national final. The only way I could be taller was to wear high heels.

At first, it was a disaster. I fell down hundreds of times and kept breaking the heels until I finally learned how to walk in them.

It was a relief when I didn't win the contest.

Since arriving in Thailand, I have often wondered why people want to be white and hate having dark skin. Phuket is has a lot of sun. How can people expect to keep their skin white? Are they supposed to stay home all the time? I remember in Italy with my friends, we used a special oil on our skin to make ourselves a perfect brown color.

Here, people dress as if they were in Alaska. If you want to be beautiful and famous, you must suffer a little bit, but this is ridiculous.

We must be proud of who we are. We are all as beautiful as we feel - dark, white, black, yellow, short, tall, sexy or not.

Have a great New Year everybody.

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Every year about this time, my inbox overflows with anguished hollers for holiday help. "My brother-in-law [or some other equally nefarious scoundrel] deleted all the pics on my new camera," the tale of woe goes. "How do I get 'em back?"

Maybe your brother-in-law was looking through the pictures on your camera, trying to zoom or rotate one of them, when he accidentally hit the wrong key and deleted the picture. Oops. Maybe he transferred all of the pictures from your camera to a computer, but he didn't quite do it right, or the computer's hard drive conveniently turned belly-up. Whatever the cause, those really important pics on your camera aren't there any more and you don't have a backup. Bummer.

Of all the Windows tricks I've encountered over the years, this one has saved so many people, so many times, that you should seriously consider cutting out this column and stuffing it in your camera bag.

If you accidentally delete pictures on a digital camera, Windows can help you get them back. Best of all, there's a photo-undelete utility that works almost all the time and it doesn't cost a satang.

Cameras don't have fancy file systems. They use plain old, simple FAT – the file allocation table approach pioneered in the original version of DOS about 100 years ago. (Rumor has it that Bill Gates himself wrote much of the code for FAT.) Camera FAT works with memory cards much like DOS FAT worked with floppy disks and, later, those gigantic 2MB hard drives.

While FAT has few redeeming social values, one of its great virtues lies in the way that it deletes files. Actually, in the way it doesn't delete files. Cameras (via FAT) divvy up their memory card space into fixed-sized chunks. When you take a picture, the camera grabs enough

Bringing lost photos back from the dead



If you accidentally deleted pictures on your camera, PC Inspector can help you get them back – free.

unused chunks of the memory card to hold the picture, transfers the picture from the camera's computer to the card and marks the chunks of memory as being "in use". Easy.

When you tell your camera to delete a picture, it doesn't really delete anything. It just changes the first character of the file name to a reserved character that signifies that, in effect, the next time you need a chunk of memory, you can use the chunks that used to belong to that photo.

File undelete programs take advantage of the fact that the data – your picture – isn't actually deleted until the camera needs to re-use the space on the memory card. With a bit of luck, you can recover pictures that you took a long, long time ago.

Here's how to get the pics back:

1. Don't use the camera. More precisely, don't use the memory card that holds the pictures. Every time you use the memory card – on some cameras, every time you stick the memory card back in the camera – you stand the chance of overwriting some of your old pictures.

2. Download PC Inspector Smart Recovery 4.5 (www.snapfiles.com/get/smartrecovery.html). In Windows XP, double-click on the downloaded file to install the program. In Vista, right-click the file and choose "Run as Administrator". The installer takes a while, so be patient.

3. If you have a card reader attached to your PC, take the card out of the camera, flip the write-protect lock tab so nothing can be written to the card, and put it in the card reader.

If you don't have a card

reader, attach the camera to your PC. In either case, if Windows pops up and offers to do something (such as copying the files into your PC), "X" out of the AutoPlay dialog box.

4. Click "Start", "Programs" (in Vista, it's "All Programs"), "PC Inspector Smart Recovery". You will then get the PC Inspector Smart Recovery main dialog.

5. In the left pane, choose the drive that contains your camera's memory card or choose the camera itself. This can be a bit challenging because PC Inspector doesn't give you many details about the drives, but you can use Windows Explorer to find the correct drive letter.

6. In the middle pane, choose the type of file you want to recover; chances are it's .JPG.

7. In the right pane, navigate to a place where you would like to store the re-constituted files.

8. Click "Start". This will take a while, but you can watch the program's progress by looking at the folder that's being filled with recovered photos.

9. When it's done, "X" out of the program, flip the write-protection tab back to its normal position and put the card back in your camera. You're ready to snap away.

Sometimes PC Inspector refuses to install correctly (see www.pcinspector.de/Sites/smart_recovery/faq.htm?language=1 for possible solutions). Occasionally it doesn't

recognize all of the files on your camera's memory card. In those cases, it's time to haul out the big guns — and shell out a few baht — for disk-recovery software from SanDisk, a company that makes many kinds of computer memory cards.

You have to pay for SanDisk Rescue Pro (US\$40 or about 1,200 baht), but if you're cagey, you needn't spend much at all.

Before you go to the RescuePro site (www.lc-tech.com/software/tprowindetail.html) and shell out hard cash for a copy of the software, keep in mind that SanDisk gives away the software on a CD for free when you buy certain SanDisk products.

Although the list of products will change over time, at this moment, in Panthip Plaza (Bangkok) or Sim Lim Square (Singapore), you can buy a SanDisk Extreme III 1GB flash memory card

KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

with RescuePro on a CD for 1,000 baht, or a 2GB SD card with RescuePro for 1,400 baht.

Makes it silly to pay full price for the software, doesn't it?

Using RescuePro is as simple as popping the CD in a handy drive, sticking in your memory card and away you go. Yes, the SanDisk software works on non-SanDisk products. And you only need to buy it once: unlike some operating systems I could mention, there's nothing to stop you from using one copy of the program on all your hardware.

PC Group Therapy: The PC Group Therapy sessions are more popular than ever, with dozens of people dropping by to ask the odd (sometimes very odd) computer question. On January 6, we'll meet from 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong.

On January 13 from 10 am to noon, we'll be at the Sandwich Shoppe near the entrance to Laguna. On January 20, we'll be at the new Sandwich Shoppe in Fisherman's Way Business Park, Chalong. All the therapy sessions are free of charge.

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Eyes turn to new leaders to maintain strong baht

Since December 2006, there have been two versions of the baht: an on-shore version and an off-shore version. The introduction of a "two-tier" currency is not a new concept. In Thailand's case, it came about as a result of capital controls restricting the types of foreign investment allowed to enter the country.

Basically, Thailand wanted to have its cake and eat it – simultaneously. Unlike Thailand in the mid-1990s, when the country was living above its means on foreign cash, new-millennium Thailand was faced with a problem that was virtually the complete opposite.

It had, to an extent, become a victim of its own success. Exports comfortably exceeded imports, allowing for a build up in foreign-exchange reserves. While every country wants to have a comfortable level of such reserves, if they grow too large, pressure builds for the currency to appreciate.

The Thai government tried having the best of both worlds. To keep exporters happy, it wanted exports to continue to rise at double-digit rates annually. However, exporting at such a high level meant that the money from these exports would continue to accumulate. To restrict the amount of money entering Thailand, the Thai government implemented its controversial "capital controls".

The alternative to capital controls would have been to allow the baht to appreciate in value. However, this would have had the natural effect of reducing exports and encouraging imports, as imported goods would become cheaper.

One result of the creation of the two-tier currency system is that it is often difficult for indi-



MONEY MONEY MONEY: For 2008, Thailand should have a strong currency, appreciating against most of the world's major currencies.

viduals to know which rate to use. When sending funds from overseas, the best way is to have the overseas bank send the funds to Thailand and have them exchanged for baht in Thailand.

The expensive route is to exchange the funds overseas into baht and then send it via the banking system to Thailand. This will cost about 10% more than the first option. This is not just a theory. Many foreign tourists make this mistake when leasing villas and condos. It is certainly never pleasant to pay 10% more than necessary.

Given the current political situation, it is unclear what the future holds for this two-tier currency system.

Keeping an ideal level of foreign exchange reserves is not always an easy balance to achieve. Thailand's neighbors, who are often trade competitors, have to some extent reduced the upward trade momentum on exchange rates, from which they also suffer. Two powerful forces affecting all these countries are the powerhouse economies of Japan and China.

The easiest to understand is

China, which is enjoying an unprecedented boom that is transforming the nation in many ways.

Historically, periods of economic difficulty are often associated with political change. China, as a one-party state, is acutely aware that to keep its political power with a minimum of disruption there is nothing equal to a sustained economic boom.

It is important to note that until 1979 the Communist Party had a track record of fiscal mismanagement, having based its economy on a set of outdated principles that resulted in money-losing, state-owned "enterprises".

The free enterprise we see in China today is still "managed", albeit with a 180° turn. Shortly after assuming power in 1979, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping traveled the region, including Thailand. He saw enough to convince him on his return to China to enact changes.

However, to achieve what he had put in motion was not an easy task. It was necessary for private investment to make the necessary strides and create employment for vast numbers of

people and, at the same time, offer continued employment to workers in the state "smoke stack" sector, many of whom would eventually need to be re-employed.

One of the factors used to encourage exports was keeping weak exchange rate. A decade ago, this did not matter much to the rest of the world, but China has now grown to have the largest foreign exchange reserves (US\$ 1.5 trillion), yet it has allowed only a partial re-stabilizing of its exchange rate.

This has prevented many countries, especially in Asia, from being able to allow substantial currency appreciation against the yuan – it is a matter of staying competitive.

The Chinese government does not allow its currency to be freely traded. It sets the exchange rate daily, allowing the market value to move either upwards or downwards – but only to a modest extent.

The second factor is Japan. On basic economic principles, the yen should be rock solid and trading at very high levels. Japan has the world's second-largest foreign exchange reserves, at almost

US\$1 trillion. It enjoys an enormous current account surplus with the rest of the world and is a first world country.

But a quick look at Japan's economic statistics immediately shows a problem – and as the Japanese economy is the world's second largest, this will inevitably have an effect on the global economy as well.

Base lending rates in Japan have been between 0% and 0.5% for years. Its central bank base lending rate is currently 0.5%. This indicates an economy with major problems. Japan has accumulated the largest domestic debt in the world, about 160% to 170% of its gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Considering that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recommends that countries should not exceed 60% of GDP, the debt of the Japanese can be seen for what it is – an enormous ball and chain. This was mainly caused by government thinking in

the 1990s that they could somehow spend themselves out of a recession.

Japanese citizens are investing their cash in higher-yielding currencies, such as the Australian dollar, New Zealand dollar and the pound sterling. Often, so are their pension funds.

For 2008, Thailand should have a strong currency, appreciating against most of the world's major currencies. However, the domestic political situation could still "put a spanner in the works".

Richard G Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service. He can be reached at Tel: 076-381997, Fax: 076-383185, Mobile: 081-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th Website: www.global-portfolios.com



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Patong businesses hit by alcohol bans

By Natcha Yuttaworawit & Matt Crook

The December 23 general election sent shockwaves through Thailand, not just on the political front, but through all of the businesses whose income is reliant on the consumption of alcohol.

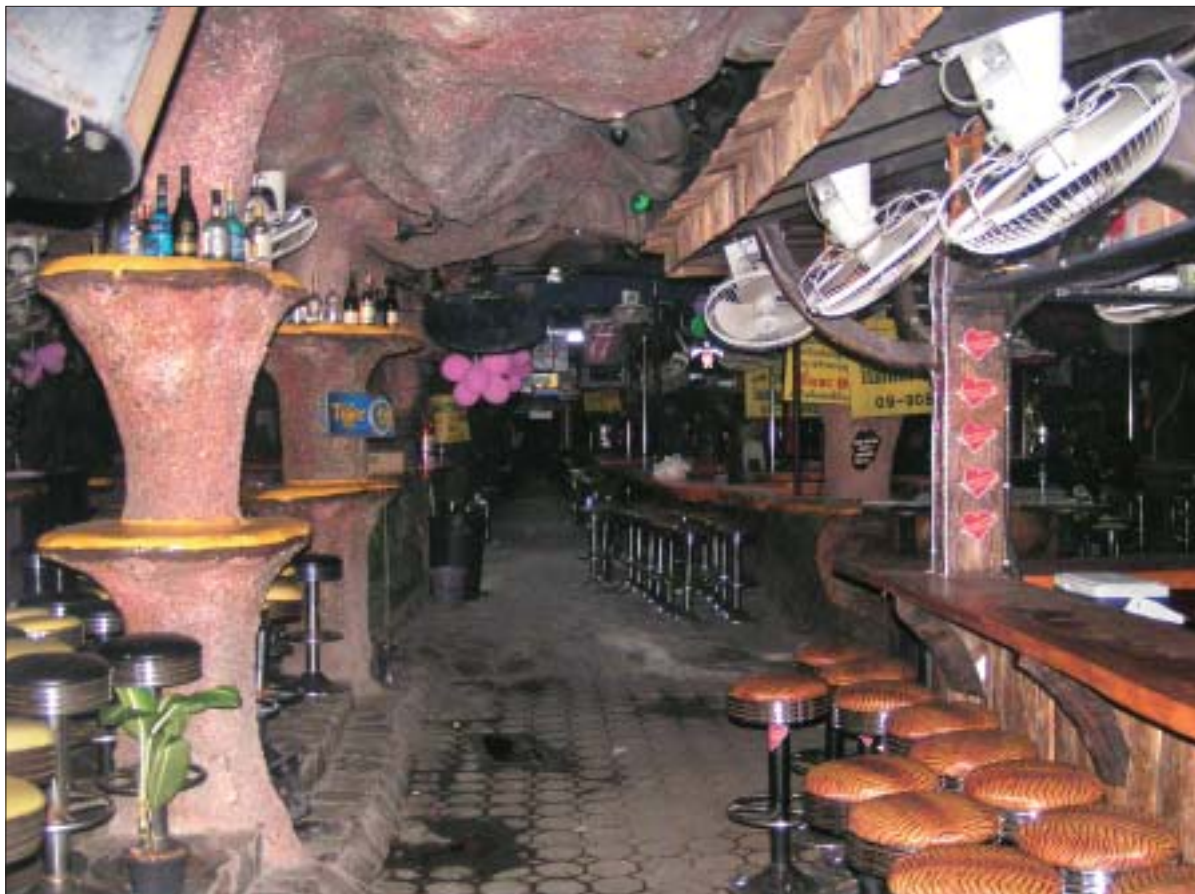
The two-weekend ban on sales imposed across the nation left a severe dent in the pockets of Patong business owners in the middle of the peak season.

Alcohol sales and consumption were prohibited from 6 pm December 14 until midnight December 16 for advanced polling, and again from 6 pm December 22 until midnight December 23 for the main polling day.

Businesses in Patong and around the island were forced to either cease selling alcohol during the ban or face a police fine, arrest, or both.

Before the ban came into effect, Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Col Paween Pongsirin warned that it was to be strictly enforced. The ban was imposed to prevent drunken behavior that might have disrupted the election or lead to violations of electoral law.

Stephan Bouwman, executive chef at BYD Lofts, told the *Gazette*, "At a modest guess, we lost about 300,000 baht in revenue over the two weekends. Guests went to have dinner elsewhere,



Bars and restaurants in Patong were left deserted when a two-weekend ban on alcohol sales was imposed throughout the nation.

where the police [ignored alcohol sales].

"On both weekends at Surin Beach, restaurants and bars were serving alcohol. We did know about December 23, but we knew nothing until the last minute about December 15 and 16. In fact, we put the weekly party ad in for Friday's party [December

14] but had to turn away clients," he added.

"Patong and other major tourist areas should be declared special zones, allowing foreigners alcohol. The idea is for Thai citizens not to get drunk or be influenced by alcohol, not foreigners. In any case, alcohol could be bought anywhere in Phuket during this period in the smaller shops, so the whole exercise was futile," said Mr Bouwman.

"This happened in the peak season as well – a period we look forward to all year long," he added.

Matthew Patterson, who promotes events at Club Lime, said, "The situation at Club Lime was very much similar to BYD Lofts. If anything, I think it would be the tourists who came to Thailand on two-week holidays, only to find two of their weekends screwed up, who really lost out during the ban.

"For a lot of people coming

to Thailand for the first time, it left a bad impression. Most of the bar owners didn't even find out about the ban over the first weekend until the day before it was implemented."

Sompetch Moosophon, head of Patong Entertainment Business Association, said, "The effects during the election were very bad because the advance voting period was so long. We had to stop to selling alcohol for two whole days.

"Patong was almost empty. Many of the tourists and bar owners are angry. Patong must be designated as an entertainment zone, but it can't happen right now.

"When our government is stable, I will talk to the [the right

people] about making Patong an entertainment zone," said K. Sompetch.

"Some bars still opened secretly and many people bought alcohol before the ban and drank it at home," he said.

"I think now we have many problems in our country that affect tourism. As bar owners, we have to follow the law, but the tourists were unhappy," he added.

Chanok Kaewsinuan, CEO of Tangmo Group, said, "I have more than 20 entertainment businesses, so I was directly affected by the ban. Tourists did not know about the election rules. When they went to have dinner, they tried to order wine, but we couldn't serve it and they became unhappy."

"We lost a lot of income and the customers were annoyed. I received many complaints from customers. People come to Patong for the nightlife. When they saw that the bars and clubs were closed, it looked bad," he said.

"I want the law changed. I understand the reasons for the alcohol ban, but I think it's unfair for foreign tourists – they can't even vote.

"Bars, clubs and restaurants should be able to open on election days and sell alcohol to foreigners. That way, we don't lose income and Patong doesn't lose tourists," added K. Chanok.

Pol Lt Col Borriboon Yusomsomboon of Phuket City Police told the *Gazette* that in Phuket City, six establishments were fined on December 14 and two on December 15. The offending alcohol-sellers were each fined 2,500 baht.

Kathu Police reported one violator during the pre-election weekend, and Thalang Police caught two establishments breaking the ban on December 15.

Club Asia Fitness bought out

PHUKET CITY: Club Asia Fitness Center was bought from Asian Wind Co Ltd by Club Asia Management Co Ltd and officially taken over on July 1, 2007, said Managing Director Sutarsinee Suanplee.

Located on the the third floor of the Royal Phuket City Hotel, Club Asia Fitness Center has been in operation for 10 years.

The center comprises a 200-square-meter gym area with a range of Star Trac cardio fitness and Technogym resistance-weight-training equipment, said K. Sutarsinee.

In addition, the center has a 150-square-meter free-weight training area.

Asia Fitness Center also

offers RPM Spin Bike Classes. The 220-square-meter aerobics studio offers more than 30 group-exercise classes.

The majority of these are Les Mills programs, which are professional programs used around world, added K. Sutarsinee.

The fitness center includes a juice bar, saunas and steam baths, a spa, and the use of the hotel swimming pool, said K. Sutarsinee.

"With a total area of 750 square meters, we aim to provide a professional service to all our club members," said K. Sutarsinee.

For more information visit www.clubasiaphuket.com



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By Scott Mallon

Gloves off in 2007 wrap-up

There is no shortage of boxers in Thailand. With a huge pool of Muay Thai fighters to draw from and several talented amateur-boxing prospects turning pro after the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Thailand seems destined to remain a force in Asian boxing.

Whether because of a lack of marketability, lack of money or their reluctance to travel abroad, the vast majority of boxers from Thailand fight in Asia and are unseen by western boxing fans.

Thailand has tough, determined and disciplined fighters who always give 100% when they step inside the ring.

Yet, there are considerable problems with Thailand's boxing scene; mismatches, record padding and the absence of an assertive boxing commission are obstacles that hinder the growth and prosperity of boxing in Thailand.

Fighter of the year: Oleydong Sithsamerchai

Sithsamerchai was one of the lone bright spots of 2007. Defeating Puerto Rico's Omar Soto in April and closing the year with a stellar performance against the highly-favored Eagle Kyowa (now Eagle Den Junlapahan) to snatch the WBC minimumweight title.

Sithsamerchai edged out female fighter Samson Sor Siriporn for "fighter of the year" because of his superior opposition.

Fight of the year: Napapol Kittisakchokchai Vs Saenghiran Lookbanyai

After two postponements, the long awaited match-up between WBC number-two ranked Napapol Kittisakchokchai (44-2, 39 KOs) and WBC number-three ranked Saenghiran Lookbanyai (20-1, 15 KOs) finally came off and the rare battle



Oleydong Sithsamerchai (right) lands a stiff jab to the face of Eagle Kyowa.

between two top-ranked Thais was well worth the wait.

Before this bout, some boxing insiders questioned the heart of Kittisakchokchai and gave the edge to Lookbanyai.

For all Lookbanyai's courage though, Kittisakchokchai was the one who proved he had the will to win.

In the middle of round 10, he landed a short right hook to the body, doubling over the exhausted Lookbanyai.

More from fatigue and the accumulation of punches than any singular shot, Lookbanyai crumpled to the canvas.

He tried valiantly to rise before the count of 10, but exhaustion got the better of him and he was unable to beat the count.

Reportedly, Lookbanyai will move from the WBC to the WBO and should challenge for a major title some time in 2008.

Two months after his bout with Lookbanyai, Kittisakchok-

chai only managed a draw with unheralded Jack Asis.

He's scheduled to fight for the world title against Israel Vasquez – most in the boxing world think his chances of winning are slim to none.

Upset of the year: Pongsaklek Wonjongkam Vs Daisuke Naito III

Seventeen straight title defenses, eleven long years without a defeat – it seemed unfathomable that Pongsaklek Wonjongkam could lose.

Lose he did though, to Daisuke Naito, a fighter whom he had defeated twice before. In the bout, Wonjongkam, then 29, looked lethargic, out of sync and unable to pull the trigger – a sure sign of aging.

Wonjongkam closed out the year with two wins against journeymen and will supposedly fight Naito for the fourth time early

next year.

Knockout of the year: Devid Lookmahanak Vs Richard Olisa

Lookmahanak looked poised to challenge for a world title. Instead, Richard Olisa, a sub-.500 fighter, destroyed him in two rounds.

Lookmahanak fights in January for the vacant WBC Asian Boxing Council super fly-weight title.

He'll probably win the ABCO belt but I wouldn't count on him ever becoming world champion.

Olisa won two subsequent bouts before scoring a draw with fellow Filipino Danilo Pena.

Upcoming Bouts in 2008

Pongsaklek Wonjongkam Vs Daisuke Naito IV: Will Pongsaklek regain his title or has age finally caught up with him? The boxing world awaits and will

reportedly learn the answer early next year. The bout is scheduled to take place in Thailand when it does go off, giving Wonjongkam the home-court advantage.

The Thai is well aware of the importance of this bout to his legacy – he'll be prepared. My pick: Wonongkam via close, unanimous decision.

Poonsawat Kratingdenggym Vs Somsak Sithchatchawal: It's been nearly two years since Somsak Sithchatchawal upset Mahyar Monshipour in Paris to win the WBA super bantam-weight title.

In his first defense, Sithchatchawal was annihilated in three rounds by Panamanian fighter Celestino Caballero and hasn't been the same fighter since then. He's racked up 10 straight wins against non-descript opposition but has been stunned numerous times and has the look of a one-hit wonder.

Kratingdaenggym fought five times in 2007 against comparable opposition, winning all of the bouts via KO. Although only three years younger than Sithchatchawal, Kratingdaenggym is clearly the more talented and fresher of the two fighters and looks to be have a decided edge. My pick: Kratingdaenggym via wide decision or late KO.

Ratanachai Sor Vorapin Vs Gerry Penalosa: Penalosa holds all the cards in this bout. Back in 2000, he knocked out Sor Vorapin in six rounds and although

Sor Vorapin is four years younger than Penalosa, he's the more ring-worn of the two and has a tendency to lose the big fights.

Couple this with the location of the bout, in the Philippines, and a Sor Vorapin victory looks highly doubtful. My pick: Penalosa via TKO5.

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Phuket prepares for annual Prime Minister's Cup

Phuket boats set sail for Langkawi Regatta

By James Goyder

PHUKET: Phuket is set for the annual football competition "The 4th Thailand Prime Minister Cup 2008", kicking off in January.

Thirty-six football teams from around southern Thailand will compete for trophies and cash prizes.

There will also be the chance to advance and take on winning teams from other provinces in the nationals. The competition, organized by Phuket Provincial Center of Tourism Sports and Creation, comprises teams in the following categories:

- Under 12s (five teams)
- Under 14s (five teams)

Winners in these groups will receive 10,000 baht for first place, 5,000 baht for second place, 3,000 baht for third place and 2,000 baht for fourth place.

- Under 16s (six teams)
- Under 18 (five teams)

Women's (three teams, ages not fixed)

Winners in these groups will receive 12,000 baht, 8,000 baht for second place, 5,000 baht for third place and 3,000 baht for fourth place.

- Men's (12 teams, ages not fixed).

Winners of this group will receive 15,000 baht for first place, 10,000 baht for second place, 7,000 baht for third place and 4,000 baht for fourth place.

The first match to kick off the cup will see the *OrBorTor* Kamala team and the *Thalang* Trading team thrashing it out in the Under 16s category at Sanaam Chai Field and Saphan Hin Stadium at 2.30 pm on January 3.

All are welcome to go along and cheer the local teams on at Sanaam Chai Field and Saphan Hin Stadium from January 3 to February 3. Winners will go on to compete with other southern provinces between April 1 and 30.

Winners of the Under 12s and Under 18s will compete at Phang Nga; Under 14s and the Men's winners will go on to compete in Krabi. The winners in the Under 16s Women's categories will go on to compete in Chumphon.

With the sails barely furled after the King's Cup Regatta, local yachtsmen are focusing on bringing home silverware from the Royal Langkawi International Regatta 2008, to be held from January 5 to January 11.

Many of the boats that competed in Phuket in the King's Cup will be making the short trip to Malaysia.

Frank Pong's *Jelik* and Ray Roberts' *Quantum Racing* will be vying for top honors once again, having finished first and second respectively in the Racing class of the King's Cup.

Both yachts have previously won in Langkawi. The addition of *Full Metal Jacket*, skippered by Chris Meads, which also competed in last months King's Cup, promises a highly competitive Racing class.

Bob Brindley will be joining the Phuket contingent competing at Langkawi.

Another King's Cup veteran, he will be defending the Premier Multihull crown that he won last year on *Xcatriot*, a catamaran designed by Phuket resident Mark Pescott and built by Brindley himself.

"I'm really looking forward to the Langkawi Regatta as it is always extremely well run and there should be a strong Phuket presence with a lot of boats from Ao Chalong Yacht Club [ACYC] heading down there," Brindley said.

Having failed to impress in the Multihull 1 class in this year's King's Cup, Brindley is hoping for a good performance in Malaysia. "I think our handicap in the King's Cup was a little too generous. We will give it our best shot in Langkawi, but I won't be too disappointed as long as we do the best we can," he said.

He will be facing familiar competition in the Multihull class with four out of the six current entrants hailing from ACYC. Tim



Tim Milner's *Seekronghuk*, Roger Kingdon's *Moto Inzi* (pictured) and Grenville Fordham's *Image Asia Ceberus* are all scheduled to compete alongside *Xcatriot* in the Multihull class at this year's Langkawi Regatta.

Milner's *Seekronghuk*, Roger Kingdon's *Moto Inzi* and Grenville Fordham's *Image Asia Ceberus* are all scheduled to compete alongside *Xcatriot*.

Many eyes will be on *Seekronghuk* after its dramatic capsize on the finish line in the King's Cup.

Whether or not *Seekronghuk* makes it to the start line, Phuket will be well represented in almost every class. *Ceberus* skipper Fordham said, "A lot of the boats are either Phuket based or were Phuket based, so I'm hoping to see a lot of old friends."

He, too, has tasted success at Langkawi, winning the Club Cruising class on *Jemini Jo* in 2006.

However, Fordham is not expecting a repeat of this success. "I doubt we will come away with much silverware this

year. It depends on how many boats actually make it. I'm just looking forward to it because it's one of the few chances I get to go racing - even the trip down there is fun."

Bob Brindley, however, clearly feels that overcoming Fordham to retain his title will be anything but plain sailing. "I'm particularly looking forward to racing against Grenville."

"I have raced against him before and it has always been 50-50," he said.

Organized by the Royal Langkawi Yacht Club, the 2008 Langkawi Regatta is the sixth to be held since the inaugural event in 2003.

This year, organizers are hoping for more than 35 entries. Usually held early February, this year's regatta has been moved forward to take place between

the Phuket King's Cup and the Singapore Straits Regatta.

Regatta Race Committee Chairman Ahmad Zailani Bashah said, "The changes in the regatta dates will ensure that strong easterly winds will create an environment where sailors have to work hard to trim their sails to perfection in order to achieve maximum speed.

"It is going to be a highly exciting and challenging race and good wind conditions have been forecast," he added.

The first race of the Langkawi Regatta is scheduled for January 7.

For the many sailors representing Phuket, it promises to be an exhausting, yet rewarding, five days.

For further information visit www.langkawiregatta.com

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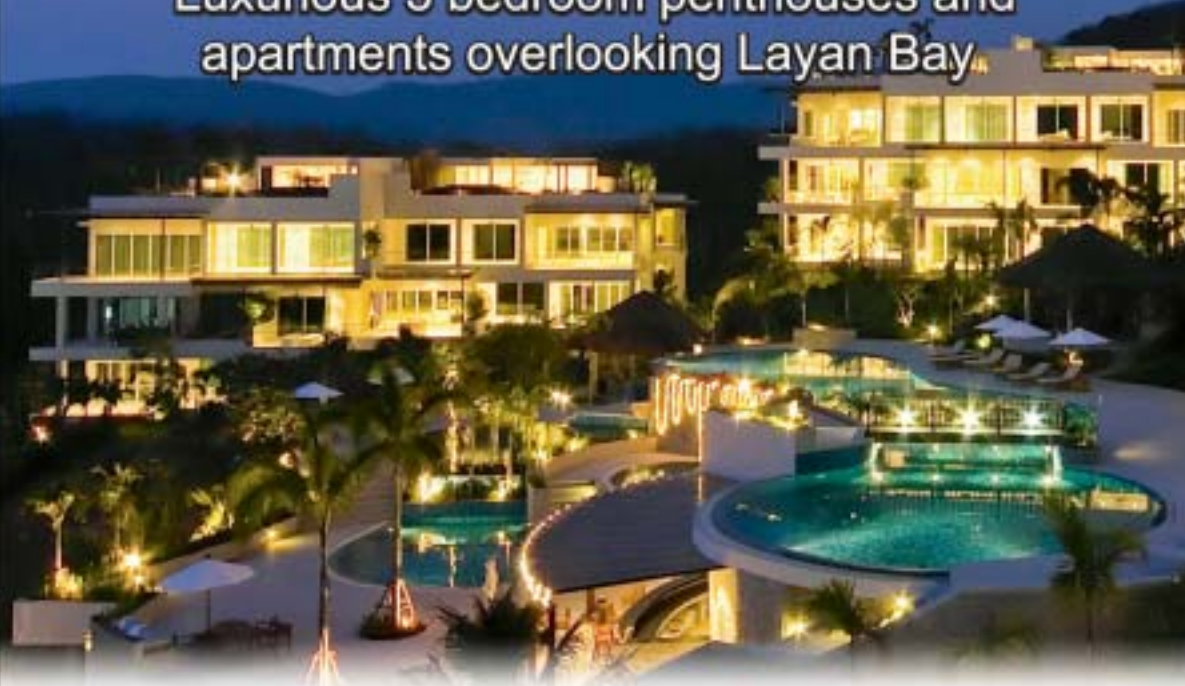


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Construction

by Janyaporn Morel

Land & Houses Park enters final stages

CHALONG: More than 10 years in the making, Land & Houses Park Phuket, a family-oriented residential development of about 1,000 homes, is nearing completion.

Of the three final projects within the 415-rai development, the 300-unit Chaiyapruerk project is 95% complete and should be finished by March, and the Seewalee and Nuntawan projects, together totaling another 400 units, are each about 80% complete and expected to be finished by August.

Construction of the development, which stretches from behind Wat Chalong all the way across its main entrance on Chao Fa East Rd, began in 1996, marking the beginning of one of the first large-scale residential projects on the island.

The project has been developed by LH Muang Mai Co Ltd, a subsidiary of Land and Houses Public Company, which claims the title of Thailand's largest developer and is listed on the Thai stock exchange.

Ruksapong Khumkhanjumb, General Manager LH Muang Mai Co Ltd, told the *Gazette*, "The people who buy our houses like our communal services and facilities."

Facilities available within L&H Park include a children's playground, clubhouse, spa, swimming pool and paddling pool, gym, sports hall with yoga room and aerobics studio. Round-the-clock security is provided.

Aimed squarely at families, the 950 homes in the huge project are all on plots of 200 square meters to 1,200sqm, with usable areas ranging from 85sqm to 450sqm. The homes currently available are priced between 3.9 million and 20 million baht.



Land & Houses Park comprises 950 homes in a family-oriented community near Wat Chalong. Facilities in the community include a children's playground.

Of the 300 two-story Chaiyapruerk homes, touted as ideal homes for first-time buyers, only five are now available. The detached homes each feature three bedrooms, a large living area with a combination of Western and Asian designs and utilities.

"Chaiyapruerk units start at 3.9 million baht. We think these units will be sold out by the end of 2008," said K. Ruksapong.

"L&H Park does not sell off-plan. Homes in different projects within the development are built simultaneously, some to interior-decoration stage and others to ready-to-move-in stage, and then offered to prospective buyers," she added.

Of the Seewalee and the Nuntawan homes, a total of 59 units are still available. The two-story, three-bedroom Seewalee homes are described as being in "typical English style" designed

with families in mind. Each of the homes has a garden large enough to accommodate a small swimming pool.

The three-to-four-bedroom Nuntawan properties come in three styles: colonial, contemporary or rustic. Each has a garden

large enough for a swimming pool, a large family area and is set on a plot anywhere from 300sqm to 800sqm. Prices range from 5.7 million to 10 million baht.

Once these homes are sold, there will be only two units remaining available in the Laddawan project.

The Laddawan homes mark a departure from the mid-range market, and offer luxury pool villas modeled on tropical bungalows.

One of the villas is on 1,084sqm of land with 161sqm of living space. The other is on a 1,152sqm plot with 252sqm of living space.

They are priced at 18.9 million and 20.9 million baht, respectively.

They are located next to a lagoon and feature four-by-eight meter swimming pools, salas and gardens with external lighting. The Western-style interiors include three bedrooms with bathrooms en suite. Each villa also has a maid's quarters, living area and dining room.

However, K. Ruksapong explained that Land & Houses

has two other developments in the pipeline for 2008 and 2009. One will be another residential community, while the other will be something that Land & Houses "has never done before", she said.

"The 2008 development will continue with the same theme as L&H Park in Chalong, but the 2009 project will be aimed at high-end property buyers, and possibly include condominiums and high-end villas, K. Ruksapong said.

However, she added that the company was not yet ready to disclose more details.

Land & Houses offers finance on all of the homes in the project. Foreign buyers can take out loans of 50% of the total value of their houses, while Thai buyers are able to borrow 100% of the cost of their new homes.

For further information contact Land & Houses. 80/15 Village 7, Chao Fa West Rd, Chalong. Tel: 076-381151-2. Fax: 076-381111. Email: info@lhphuket.com Website: www.lhphuket.com

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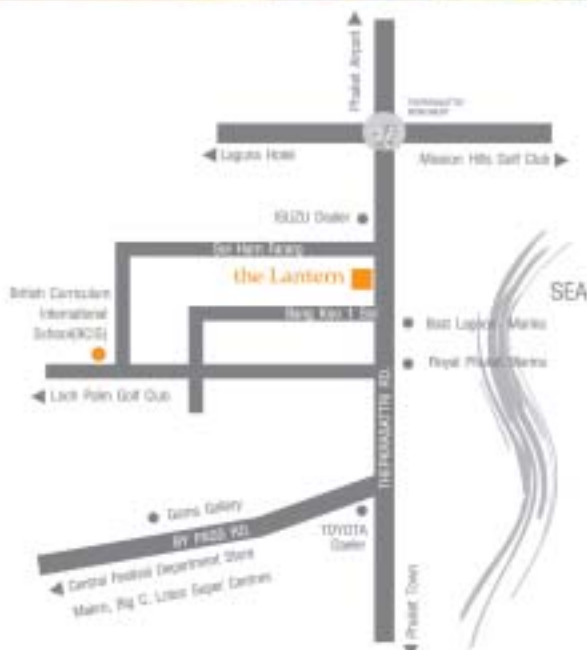
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Décor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit

Ann Furniture Antique is a shop that recently opened its doors to customers who have a desire for classical Asian décor.

Depending on taste and budget, customers can choose between ancient Indonesian, Burmese, Chinese and Thai antique ornaments and furniture or classic reproductions.

The range of décor in the shop includes artistic Indonesian mahogany and ceramic dolls, expertly handcrafted Thai décor items and century old ornaments from China.

Shop owner K. Ann said that this shop is the first of several planned branches of Ann Furniture Antique, with antiques and classic reproductions from around the region for sale at reasonable prices.

"These pieces are not mass produced. Many of them are unique originals imported from Indonesia, Burma and China.

"We stock only grade-A products, but we still try to keep the end cost reasonable for our customers and give them options depending on their budget," said K. Ann.

The Thai furniture items are predominantly made of teak wood, while Indonesian furniture is mostly crafted from mahogany. The latest addition to the collection of décor items launching this

Pop into Ann's for Asian antiques



Ann Furniture Antique stocks genuine antiques, hand crafted creative decor and classic reproduction furniture made to order.

month is imitation rattan made from polyester, which is imported from Germany to use for furniture here in Thailand.

"Although polyester rattan is not a traditional material, I think it works well because it lasts longer, it's easy to clean and there isn't a problem with mold that effects natural rattan as it gets older," K. Ann said.

"The polyester rattan is perfect for those who like a modern

design and want an alternative to more pricey teak," she added.

Even with so many other furniture and decor suppliers to compete with in Phuket, K Ann is confident that customers will be attracted to the high quality of the items for sale in her shop.

"Yes, there are many other furniture and décor outlets in Phuket, but it's always possible to offer something different or better than the rest. Some of

these products are limited editions that cannot be copied, so you will not find them anywhere else. Look closely at one of the dressers or chests of drawers and you will notice the attention to detail in the decorative patterns and the fine finishes.

"Hand-painted, ceramic dolls made in Indonesia and costing about 1,500 baht are popular ornaments with customers. They make nice souvenirs but I often give them away to customers when they buy a larger item of furniture," said K. Ann.

"Other Indonesian décor includes paintings and hand crafted furniture products, such as a unique dining set.

"The 'royal dining set' is a one-off design by an Indonesian craftsman. It will always remain unique as he will not make this particular design again, but other designs can be requested by customers," she added.

The table and chairs can be bought separately. The table is 130,000 baht and the chairs are 90,000 baht for the set.

"Reproductions are made to order at our factory in Bangkok before being delivered to the shop in Phuket.

"Orders are made from de-

signs submitted by us or the customer, or they are copied from other classic designs. Our customers buy from us with peace of mind as we take responsibility for any damage or mistakes from the factory and we deliver directly to customers in Phuket," K. Ann said.

K. Ann claims that the items in her shop are designed to fit in both traditional and contemporary-styled homes. Comparing natural furniture-making materials, K. Ann said, "Teak is by far the most durable material used for interior and exterior decor.

"Furniture made from water hyacinth has become popular recently, but it will not last as long as teak," she added.

"Teak is the best material for outdoor furniture as it's so hardy and durable. Furniture for the living room should be soft and comfortable," K. Ann said.

Ann Furniture Antique is located on Srisoonthorn Road, about two kilometers from Cherng Talay Police Station. The shop is open on Monday to Saturday from 10.30 am to 5.30 pm. For more information, call Tel: 076-527745-6 or 089-6502153.

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Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

She canna be more beautiful

I'm all for tolerance. We should welcome, embrace and understand all people of all religions, ethnic groups, colors and creeds. If you were to ask me after a few towers of beer, I'd even say we should tolerate the French.

I have decided that this week I wouldn't actually have a go at intolerance, or even the French, but instead go straight for the heart of a far more menacing group: Trekkies. You know them, those people who dress up in Klingon costumes swearing death and destruction on anyone associated with the Starship Enterprise, spending every weekend at conventions. Nutters. I'm probably being intolerant again.

Unfortunately, from what I've seen of Trekkies, most of them appear to be fundamentally confused. For a start, they call themselves "Trekkers" despite everyone else calling them "Trekkies".

They also seem to forget that there is in fact only one real "Star Trek". "Live long and prosper"? What kind of nonsense is that? The only Star Trek that really mattered was the timeless series featuring Captain Kirk, Lieutenant O'Hura (who can forget those miniskirts?) and Mr Spock. And yes, he was a "mister" - not a "doctor".

That title was reserved for a grumpy chap who spent his career crouching over bodies in red shirts sporting one of those upside-down gold V badges, waving a silver thing that made a woo-woo noise. He inevitably always looked up at a worried Captain Kirk and uttered the immortal line "He's dead, Jim". Why was it always one of the blokes in the landing party wearing a red shirt that got killed, by the way?

I've thought long and hard about how to somehow incorporate a Star Trek quote into an inane gardening article. In one of



The colorful canna: to boldly grow where no plant has grown before.

the most tenuous links in history, the ever-reliable canna plant came to my aid, bringing Scotty's immortal line to life - "She canna take it, captain."

The canna, or *Buddha Raksa* in Thai, is so common that many of us take it for granted. Discussing this particular plant over a beer, a friend of mine (yes, I do have the odd one) actually said, "Oh, that's what it's called." They're everywhere in Thailand. Out of all the flowers that bloom radiantly in this part of the world, the canna possibly has the most vivid colors of the lot - spectacularly vivid.

There is a huge number of hybrid forms, but they all conform to the basic pattern - a fleshy stalk with large pale green leaves sticking out on opposite sides,

topped off with a cluster of large flowers that almost emit radiant color for a few days.

Once their job is done, the flowers start to mope a bit, then wither and drop off, after which the whole stalk inevitably meets the same fate - it will only flower once. These shoots always appear in clusters from the ground, as they all share the same root system. The variation in colors is huge, from canary yellow to scarlet and orange, and even dark purple.

I remember after first arriving in Thailand, taking a farang friend of mine to meet her potential parents-in-law in the countryside of Trang province. Thai flora was a novelty to me at that stage, and I recall being fascinated by the richness of the colors in this

flower I'd never seen before. The colors were incredible, and there were so many of them.

I'm still convinced that her potential father-in-law considered me insane for wanting to take some of these plants home, as they were so common and inexpensive. Nevertheless he dutifully helped me to dig a few up out of his garden to throw in the back

of the car, so that I could give them a new home elsewhere.

It was one of the first introduced species of flower to this region, originally coming from tropical America and the Caribbean. It was brought here to add yet another splash of color along the driveways and avenues of the well-to-do a couple of centuries ago.

We now see them in most Thai gardens. Even mine, and well-to-do I most certainly am not.

The downside is that this plant is high maintenance. While it's reasonably happy just to sit there, grow, flower, look colorful and multiply, it definitely appreciates a bit of regular attention.

One of the best things you can do to encourage future growth of the whole plant is to snip off the whole stalk at its base once its group of flowers has turned brown.

Canna enjoys copious quantities of sunlight, nutrients in rich soil and water. If any of these elements don't form part of its everyday life, then it won't do anything drastic, but the flowers will go on strike and simply refuse to appear until they feel the plant is once again receiving the treatment it deserves.

I canna believe that I got through the whole thing with only mentioning Scotty from Star Trek once. Well twice now, of course. That should keep the Trekkies quiet for a while. Now, about the French...

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Home of the Week

Rawai

Salika style with all the trimmings

Villa Salika is a ready-to-move-into, fully-furnished villa tucked away in Rawai. This villa features a modern interior-design and is located in a prime residential area. The property is suitable for investment either as a family estate or a resort-like villa for be renting out.

The villa overlooks Chalong Bay while Phuket City can be seen in the distance. Nai Harn Beach and Phromthep Cape are a short drive away and Phuket International Airport is about 45 minutes away.

The privately-owned residential area is away from the major tourist spots and hotel crowds.

There is no construction work in the surrounding area, ensuring a peaceful existence for residents.

The villa includes a reception and living area, five bedrooms with bathrooms en suite and private spas, an infinity-edge swimming pool with adjacent pool villa, spa pools, a day-room with spa and shower facilities, sun terraces, and a sala suitable for al-fresco dining.



Villa Salika comes with an infinity-edge swimming pool with adjacent pool villa, spa pools, a day-room with spa and shower facilities, sun terraces, and a sala suitable for al-fresco dining.

Also included are a wine cellar, a kitchen and a yoga studio.

The property has been

decorated with furnishings from Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia and Myanmar. Southeast-Asian craftsmanship is evident throughout – from the stain-finished redwood floors to the bam-

boo table and pieces of art placed throughout the property.

A geometrically-designed, Chinese-teak staircase leads up to the bedrooms.

In the main living area, the space is dominated by glass doors that open out onto the swimming pool, the water of which is black in appearance.

One floor up is the yoga studio. This space can also be used as a meeting room and is furnished with daeng wood.

Bronze woven ceiling fans circulate air throughout the room. The rest of the studio is encircled by glass doors draped in white linen.

The master bedroom is separated from the other guest rooms to ensure privacy.

The room comes with its own reception area before the entrance with doors that open out

onto a private sun terrace.

Warm-brown color are used in the master bedroom, found in the Thai silk drapes and furnishings that are covered with materials such as brown suede and leather.

To one side of the room is a door leading outside to the sala and the pool.

A cream-marble design is incorporated in the en-suite bathroom to the master bedroom. The second bedroom is located on the ground floor with two entrances, one opening directly to the parking area.

The third and fourth bedrooms are adjoining. The third bedroom features a Thai-rattan weaved chaise longue and linen curtains. The en-suite bathroom is at the back of the room. This room also features an outdoor whirlpool.

Chao Fa wooden handles are used on the adjoining door, sculpted in the shape of scrolls usually found in Thai Buddhist temples. Both bedrooms face the sea with doors opening out onto a shared sun terrace.

The layout in the third and fourth bedrooms are similar. Both feature black-marble style en-suite bathrooms. The bathrooms feature free-standing, hammered-steel wash basins.

The garden was landscaped by Pieter van Loon from Eurolandscape, Holland.

This property come with wireless Internet, palau-style roofs and parking for three cars. There is also a roof garden with views of Cape Panwa.

Villa Salika is on the market for 70 million baht. For more details on the sale of Villa Salika call 081-8929495.

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Properties For Sale

LUXURY VILLAS



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MISSION HILLS LAND

3 rai of land for sale in the heart of Mission Hills Golf Course. An ideal location for villas or small resort. Tel: 081-8912926, 081-8911826. Email: info@baanboosakorn.com

SEAVIEW, FLAT LAND - RAWAI

Access from main road. 20 x 80m (1 rai). Company available, no transfer fee. Only 15 million baht. Tel: 081-7888280. Email: mauram7@hotmail.com

NOW OR NEVER

Land and house in Chalong, exclusive residence, 2-story house, 780sqm big garden with pool. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, Western kitchen. Includes all appliances, aircon and much more. 11.6 million baht (negotiable). Urgent sale, owner returning to homeland. Contact at Tel: 076-282542, 089-7244246. Email: pattochan007@hotmail.com

POOL VILLA IN NAI HARN

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, full aircon. 4.9 million baht. Tel: 076-288047, 081-8941660. Email: cottrell@loxinfo.co.th

KAMALA HOUSE: IT'S A MINX!



1,100sq ft, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (1 en suite), fitted kitchen, huge terrace and carport on 4,300sq ft of private land in gated community with clubhouse & pool. 10-minute walk to beach, 9km to Patong, 30 minutes to airport. 7.9 million baht, freehold. Tel: 852-98169116. Email: szivhk@yahoo.com

SURIN LAND PLOTS FOR SALE

1,016sqm: 6 million baht. 996sqm: 5 million baht. 5-minute walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 081-8687676.

PATONG FREEHOLD

Studio room in condo 40sqm. Totally renovated, fully furnished, sea view in central Patong, near Jungceylon. 2.7 million baht. Tel: 084-8485450. Email: enzoarturo@yahoo.it

INEXPENSIVE LAND

1.5 rai house lots near airport and Mission Hills golf course. Chanote, underground electricity. 1.06 million baht, full price! Only 2 left! Contact Chris Fisher at Tel: 086-9421930.

VILLA WITH POOL

Land and Houses Park, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, European kitchen. 6.9 million baht. Tel: 081-0918908. Email: stein_dokset@hotmail.com

EXCLUSIVE RESIDENCE

A beautiful 3-bedroom villa in an exclusive area on Kata Hill. Sea view, pool, etc. All set in a beautiful landscaped garden. Includes all furniture. 18 million baht. Tel: 081-7888280. Email: mauram7@hotmail.com

LUXURY IN NAI HARN



Immaculately finished villa from a renowned Phuket developer. Class, quality, style. 3 bedrooms, all en suite, garden, pool, sun deck, auto gate and security. 42" wall-mounted LCD, home theater fixtures, fittings, linen, etc. True Visions cable, Internet. Fully furnished, professionally managed, ready to move in. All you need is the key! 14 million baht. Email for more photos. Tel: 087-2982028. Email: timothy.ross@financialadvice.com.sg

HOUSE FOR SALE

2-story, 4-bedroom house in Chalong. Western kitchen, aircon, quiet area. 3.4 million baht. Tel: 081-9795755.

RAWAI 2-STORY HOUSE

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Nanai villa, Patong. Exclusive villa, Thai-style, high standard, fully furnished, swimming pool, 200sqm living area, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Address: 154/13 Nanai Rd. 16 million baht. Tel: 083-1767676.

BIG TOWNHOUSE

in Rawai. 9 Rooms: 180sqm. Garden: 70 sqm. Balcony: 50 sqm. Aircon. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 084-4454614.

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9-rai private island for sale. Ten-minute boat ride from Phuket/Koh Siray. White sand beach, lush, perfect little getaway! 15 million baht. Tel: 085-8807954. Email: lukeremmers@yahoo.com

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Near Heroines' monument, 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Cable TV, Internet, telephone and fully furnished. 24hr security, swimming pool. Asking price: 2.7 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

FOR SALE

Large family house on one rai, beautiful and quiet land on hillside, lots of trees, near Rawai and Nai Harn. 6.5 million baht. Contact for info. Tel: 081-2525665.

RIVER CITY GUESTHOUSE



by Andaman Sea, Phang Nga. 7 rooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, 5 aircons, restaurant, car park, sat TV, Internet. Private boat slip in front of your door! Sale: 680,000 baht. Tel: 081-9796011. Email: stefanmariaschmitz@yahoo.com

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HOUSE FOR SALE IN SAI YUAN



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SHOPHOUSE AT PATONG BEACH
Patong, 80/9 Soi Wattana, Beach road. 14 million baht. Tel: 087-3809181. Email: maxshop@gmail.com

4-BEDROOM VILLA IN CHALONG
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Property Gazette

SEAVIEW VILLA



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51.4sqm, in Chanakran Property Village, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Behind TOT Public Co Ltd in Chalong. Price: 3.6 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 081-9562406.

BALI BEACHFRONT
or mountain house, 4,990 euros, 10 year/freehold 29,990 euros. Krystal Court Penang, 158sqm townhouse, 99,990 euros. Email: berndpfluger@yahoo.de

HOUSE FOR SALE



in Erawadee 2 Project, located near Khao Khad View Point. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Only 1.5 million baht. Contact to view. Tel: 087-2770978. Email: koyyangle99@hotmail.com

PHUKET CITY HOME PROJECT



- * Detached house for sale
- * 105sq wah, 2-story
- * Upstairs has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms
- * Downstairs has maid's room
- * Living room, 1 bathroom
- * Laundry room
- * Dining room with one dining table
- * Remote control door
- * 3 aircons
- * Bathtub

Price 5.95 million baht.
Contact K. Nathnarin at Tel: 089-9739873.

HOUSE FOR SALE
Situated in desirable Choafa Thani, this 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom (2 en suite) house with living room, kitchen/dining, study, garage and laundry room is in a secure compound. Backs onto water and has mature garden. ADSL and UBC installed. Price: 7 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: bimvool@aol.com

RAWAI SEAVIEW HOUSE



New, super modern, furnished. Best location. 2 to 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, garage, garden. Sale from owner. Freehold. 12.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062 or visit www.phuketdir.com/poolsea house

RAWAI POOL VILLA
400sqm land, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 400m to the beach. Price: 7 million baht. Tel: 084-0579266. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

1 BEDROOM CONDO – KAMALA
in commercial center, use of shared pool. Only 2.3 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

HILL LAND FOR SALE
12 rai overlooking Loch Palm golf course, lake and entire valley with 180° view. 1.9 million baht per rai. Contact K. Noi. Tel: 087-2698492.

COCONUT ISLAND LAND



for sale. 4.5 rai, Chanote, hillside, panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Bouddha for more information. Tel: 089-2900484.

BEACHFRONT RESTAURANT



Opportunity for exclusive beachfront restaurant/cocktail bar serving Millionaires Mile.

- * Kamala beachfront - south end near Rockfish
- * 2 access points: walk-in off beach promenade and main shopping street.
- * 2 Storey concrete structure, currently used as a residence
- * Suitable for conversion into exclusive restaurant.
- * Approximately 200sqm inside/outside

Sale price is 12.8 million Thai baht or 255,000 euros. Hurry before the Thai baht appreciates further.

Email: paddypower99@yahoo.com
Tel: 0818943839 (Don) or 0848507706 (Jean)

PATONG TOWER SEA VIEW



Furnished, 1-bedroom, 1-bathroom condo on the 15th floor with full-length balcony. Ready to move in, great condition. Quiet location in the heart of town. Elevated, unobstructed, panoramic sea view, 100 meters from Patong Beach, shops, dining and banking just steps away. Pool, indoor parking and 24hr security and reception. A rare chance to secure a one of a kind location. Offered at 6.5 million baht. Tel: 087-2761225, 081-6927397 Email: patong15@gmail.com

INVESTMENT PROPERTY
Patong Beach, run as 5-star hotel, 100m to the beach. Income guarantee from the developer. Sales contract at 300,000 baht. For more info please contact K. Oi. Tel: 045-30272542. Email: oi1@rocketmail.com

KATA HOUSE, TERMS AVAILABLE
Two-bedroom house. Terms of 6 years available at 490,000 baht per year, or cash of 2.6 million baht. Aircon, ADSL, cable TV. Tel: 66-801170144. Email: svein@byggeguiden.no

ELEGANT VILLA
Hillside, 15m pool, shady garden. Unique! Private! Nice! Contact at Tel: 076-388236, 089-7275407. Email: cosmocampbell@yahoo.com For details, please see our website: www.villa-sale-phuket.com

BAN SAKHO LAND PLOTS
100sq wah, ready to build. 2km from Nai Thon Beach. 10,000 baht per sq wah. Tel: 084-0526400, 081-4669597. Email: narin@phuketvillage.se

SEAVIEW POOL HOUSE
in Rawai, 3 bedrooms. 12.5 million baht. For pictures and info please contact at Tel: 085-7839062. Email: docucolumns@hotmail.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB
3-story duplex renovation project directly on the 15th fairway. Tel: 081-8941994. Email: tomkat@phuket.ksc.co.th Visit: www.fairway15.com

THAMAPRAO LAND PLOTS
7,500 baht per sq wah. 100sq wah, ready to build on. 1km from mission hills. Tel: 084-0526400, 081-4669597. Email: narin@phuketvillage.se

BANG TAO HOUSE
for sale. 2-story, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big pool, automatic gate, 5 aircons, Sat TV, Internet. Tel: 084-8516121. Email: phuketmat@yahoo.com or visit www.phukethome.ws

Agents for Classified Advertising

PHUKET	
K.L. Mart Patak Rd, Chalong	Tel: 076-280400/3 Fax: 076-280403
Earth Language School Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City	Tel: 076-232398/9 Fax: 076-232398
Sin & Lee Thalang Rd, Phuket City	Tel: 076-258369 Fax: 076-211230
Taurus Travel Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong	Tel: 076-344521/2 Fax: 076-344523
41 Minimart Srisoontorn Rd, Cherng Talay	Tel/Fax: 076-324312
Deli Supermarket Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong	Tel: 076-342275 Fax: 076-344314

Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

NEW FURNISHED VILLA



close to Laguna. 300sqm. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, living-room, dining, kitchen and pool. 2 mins to Laguna. Long or short-term rent. Please contact K. Gai Tel: 081-7344324 or visit our website at: www.phuketgreenlandvillas.com

NICE, MODERN HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins to Rawai & Nai Harn Beaches. 162sqm. 2 bedrooms with private bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. 3 aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage service. 22,000 baht per month. Please contact K. Nui at Tel: 087-3830936.

HOUSE FOR RENT IN CHALONG



New single house in Land & Houses Park for long-term rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 240sqm, 2 aircons. 17,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-5697068. Email: sirio@tisco.co.th

RAWAI BEACHFRONT



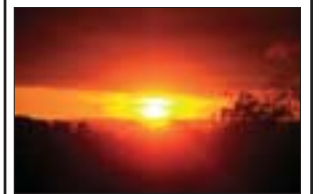
3 bedrooms, aircon, telephone, UBC, 1-year contract. Contact Gina. Tel: 089-6499939.

NEW SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



Near Heroines' Monument, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-6900626. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

BAAN SUAN KAMNAN



If you want the best, take a look at this neighborhood first. Just outside Patong. Overlooking the sea and Patong bay. One large piece of land and one stunning house with private pool and a lot of privacy. Tel: 086-7866350. For further details, visit our website at www.patongbluepoint.com

BOAT LAGOON LUXURY

Waterfront townhouses for rent. 2 & 3 bedrooms, UBC, TV. Long- or short-term rent. Pool, sauna included. Call K. So at Tel: 081-3444473.

RAWAI BEACH VILLA

4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, UBC, ADSL, private pool. Rent: 45,000 per month. Tel: 084-0579266. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

BUNGALOW FOR RENT, BANGTAO

Furnished, 1 bedroom, aircon, hot water, Internet, cable TV. 700 baht per night, 10,000 baht per month (long-term). Tel: 086-2670157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

PATONG / KALIM LUXURY APARTMENT

Luxury apartment for long term lease (up to 2 years) for caring tenant. Single or couple (Sorry, no one under 18). Privately owned. Double-bedroom, bathroom en suite, lounge/dining, kitchenette. On 3rd floor of Sunset Beach Resort (junior suite) Hotel on beach front. Balconies (bedroom and lounge) overlook waterfall-swimming pool. Apartment service not included but available at own cost. Business center has high-speed internet. Kalim Beach is a very easy walk (500 meters south) to Patong Beach. 30,000 baht per month. 60,000 baht deposit required. Email: madzorba@bigpond.net.au

4-BEDROOM BALINESE VILLA

Western-style, furnished, 4-bedroom landscaped villa. Great location, 5 mins to Laguna, 8 mins to Surin Beach, 8 mins to International School! New Western kitchen. 24hr security. Bargain rental. Price based on length of contract and deposit. Tel: 089-2167220. Email: houseforrent@julianburgess.co.uk For further details, and to see a slideshow visit our website: www.julianburgess.co.uk/4bedvilla.html

NAI HARN HOUSE FOR RENT

1 km to beach, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool. 35,000 baht per month, 1-year minimum. Tel: 081-3971835.

QUIET GUESTHOUSE

near Bangla. Rooms for rent. Pool, sauna, gym, short- or long-term. Tel: 081-0843415.

NAI HARN BEACH

Great 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom, apartment. Lovely lagoon views right near the beach. Reasonable rent. Tel: 081-9252155. Email: nengrich@gmail.com

EXCLUSIVE RENTAL

Close to BIS school, 24hr security, 5 bedrooms, 2 parking spaces, pool, maid's room. Family and child friendly. Available now. Tel: 081-4077403.

BUNGALOW FOR RENT

2-bedroom bungalow for rent in Cherng Talay, short- or long-term with maid service available. Tel: 081-8912926, 081-8911826. Email: info@baanboosakorn.com

KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS

Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Private, gated, parking with storage. UBC & ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing. Pool & gardener service. Daily rental offered; weekly: 40,000 baht; monthly: 140,000 baht. Contact K. Suchada. Tel: 084-8436837. For further details, please see our website at: www.phuket-island-homes.com

SEAVIEW VILLA FOR RENT

A stunning, 5-bedroom villa with infinity pool, vast deck, BBQ area and full housekeeping services. Perfect for a big family or a group of friends. Tel: 076-260468. Email: ops@theestategroup.com

HOME OFFICE BYPASS ROAD

Great location near Lotus. 30 stories, 10m x 15m, 8 parking spaces in front. Showroom, 4 offices, 4 bedrooms, 3 toilets, 5 aircons. 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-1951394, 081-9583135. Email: astec99@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

New house for rent: 25,000 baht per month; or for sale at 4 million baht. Tel: 087-264-6808, 083-1743880.

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT OR SALE

Fully-furnished villa at 3 soi 8/1, 70/76. Good price (private area). Tel: 081-5376045.

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

This new 3-story shophouse is available for long-term lease. Ideal for home office/shop accommodation. Inquiries at Tel: 089-6521473.

HOUSE FOR RENT

New house for rent, 25,000 baht per month and for sale: 4 million baht. Call Tel: 087-2646808, 083-1743880.

TOP VILLA, TOP VIEW FOR RENT

Thai-style villa with pool, on top of a private hill. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms. 4km to BIS. View of golf course, lake and valley. Quiet, security guard, maid, furnished, Wi-Fi and UBC. Yearly lease at 65,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2698492.

MINI RESORT - POOL

Luxury 3-bedroom homes and spa near Laguna. Reasonable weekly or monthly rates. Tel: 089-5944067.

BOAT LAGOON TOWNHOUSE

for rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, includes washer and dryer. Large terrace and canal. Only minutes from shopping centers and international school. Long-term rent, 1 year minimum, 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2820567. Email: crystaleva1@hotmail.com

KAMALA BEACH

New apartments and houses for rent, 2 to 4 bedrooms, fully furnished, close to beach, quiet. 15,000 to 30,000 baht, short- or long-term. Call Larry at Tel: 085-7978270.

PHUKET RENTALS

Houses, villas, condos and apartments. Get booking, pay, no commissions. www.phuket-rentals.com

RAWAI SEAVIEW CONDO

Furnished studio for rent. Aircon, TV, UBC and ADSL. 5,500 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-0579266. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE

Living room, 2 bedrooms, 2 kitchens, 2 bathrooms, roof, terrace, 2 aircons, little garden, ADSL, telephone. Loch Palm Club. Long-term: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-202725, 081-8916632.

COMFORTABLE HOUSE

in secure environment, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms (2 en suite), living room, study, garage, kitchen/dining room, fenced garden, furnished, UBC, ADSL. 35,000 baht per month. Near Wat Chalong. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

FOR RENT AND SALE

in Kamala. Hotel room 1.3 million baht. Condo (2 bedrooms), rent 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-7945411.

BEST VILLAS IN NAI YANG

Ultra luxurious, furnished, pool and sala. Superb mountain views. One, large 2-bedroom villa for 25,000 baht/month. And one 3-bedroom villa at 45,000 baht/month. Close to beach, airport and Blue Canyon Country Club. Contact Paul at Tel: 085-7811182 Email: paulk@afriedlander.co.za

WICHIT VILLA FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 3 aircons, brand-new furniture, TV, DVD, CD, ADSL Internet, dishwasher, washing machine, etc. 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-526597, 084-48494882. Email: brickjon@yahoo.com

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Property Gazette

Property Wanted

HOME WITH LAND, 1-10 RAI

Any size or style of home with 3- to 10-year lease on monthly payments. Dry land suitable for horses, preferably near a beach, but not on a busy road. Phuket, Krabi, etc. Tel: 084-8424581. Email: christyksweet@gmail.com

PATONG TOWER

condo with a sea view. Keen buyer ready to purchase. Please contact with details if you have one available for sale. Tel: 084-447-1978. Email: diggerresort@hotmail.com

WHEN YOU WANT LAND...

for commercial building or residential homes in Phuket, we have quality choices from a variety of locations for you. Please contact for details. Tel: 085-2575711. Email: ppsr.property@gmail.com

LONG-TERM RENTAL wanted for family. Location: Patong, Kata or Karon. Tel: 084-8989274.

LAND FOR PROJECT Our VIP client wants to buy land - seafront or good view - on which to build a resort and residential project. Need at least 20 rai. Please send full details and photos by email. Urgent. Tel: 076-524000, 081-8912333. Fax: 076-223237. Email: surin123@csloxinfo.com

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RENT LONG-TERM?

Nice condominium or house with access to communal swimming pool. Minimum 2 bedrooms. Rent up to 30,000 baht per month. Needed from February 1 for Danish person. Email: jfridberg@hotmail.com

HOUSE OR SHOWROOM WANTED

Showroom wanted for rent for old furniture and decorative items. A house, townhouse or commercial building with easy access for big truck would be of interest. Tel: 02-3813891, 086-7553734. Email: oak_y50@yahoo.com

1-MONTH HOLIDAY RENTAL

Looking to rent a 3- to 4-bedroom house for one month from Jan 15. Patong, Karon or Kata. Email: mdamkvist@yahoo.com

Property Services

WE HAVE WHAT YOU WANT

in real estate. Please contact for more details Tel: 085-7839062. Take a look at www.phuketmarbella.com

JUST TELL US...

What kind of property you're looking for and we will find it for you contact Tel: 085-7839062. Email: salesphuketmarbella.com

Accommodation Available

PATONG APARTMENTS

Modern studios, 1 bedroom with cable TV, DVD, ADSL. Close to beach. Please call for more information. Tel: 084-8473304

SEAVIEW VILLA FOR RENT

Stunning, 5-bedroom villa with infinity-edge pool, vast deck, BBQ area and full housekeeping services. Perfect for a big family or a group of friends. Please contact for details. Tel: 076-260468. Email: ops@theestategroup.com

PATONG LUXURY APARTMENT

Located in central Patong, 182 bedrooms. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-341827. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

PATONG BEACH CONDO FOR RENT

Absolute top-end luxury 2-bedroom, 3-bathroom fully-loaded condo with spectacular sea views, Wi-Fi, UBC and whirlpool bath in Patong Tower. Available from March until Jan 2009. Contact Greg. Tel: 087-0548115. Email: showbus1@msn.com

NAI HARN BEACH

Beautiful apartment for rent at The Sands Nai Harn. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully-furnished and equipped. Lovely views of Lagoon. Please contact for more information at Tel: 089-7317699. Email: nengrich@gmail.com

4-BEDROOM VILLA WITH POOL

Special offer until Jan 1, 2008: only 1,500 baht per day. Call for details. Tel: 076-378361, 081-6764849. Fax: 081-7722300. Email: info@etwood.com

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PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

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Corporate Headquarters • Avenida Julio Iglesias 3
29660 Marbella • Malaga • Spain

APMS
Albar Property Management Service
Additional staff required in Phuket

1. Client Service Manager	1 Position	Ref. / No. CSM-001
2. Client Service Secretary	1 Position	Ref. / No. CSS-002
3. M&E Engineer	1 Position	Ref. / No. MEE-003
4. M&E Supervisor	2 Positions	Ref. / No. MES-004
5. Building Inspector	2 Positions	Ref. / No. BI-005
6. Driver	2 Positions	Ref. / No. DV-006

All positions require good English.
Send CV to P.O. Box 71 Patong, Phuket 83150 Thailand
E-mail: APMS_2007@hotmail.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

Reporter

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car.

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to editor@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang
Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-236555

SIMPSON MARINE
Asia's leading yacht brokers and new yacht sales company require the services of a professional receptionist. Candidate must be young, dynamic and outgoing with a service-oriented mind. Highly proficient in English and computer skills are a must. Interested candidates, please send CV and photo to: phuket@simpsonmarine.com

PC JOB: DATA ENTRY
Work in office, Nai Harn. Basic knowledge of English and PC-Internet required. 12,000 baht per month. Urgent! Please contact for more info at Tel: 085-4737812. Email: vankets@gmail.com

PHAETHON CO LTD
needs 2 female staff with good spoken English and computer skills for our office near Tesco-Lotus. contact for details. Tel: 087-5278532, 084-8989274.

FULL-TIME MAID AND GARDNER
Full-time maid and gardner/handyman wanted to take care of house and gardens in Chalong, live-in. Ideally an established married Thai couple with no children, who will live in a fully furnished maid's bungalow alongside the main house. Duties include cooking, cleaning, maintaining a swimming pool and grounds, and looking after cars, motorbikes and a speedboat. Basic English and a clean driving license an advantage. Salary for each: 9,000 to 10,000 baht per month, depending on experience. References required. Tel: 086-2829182 (for English), 081-5545665 (for Thai) Email: eduardo@exchequer.com

EVENTS EXECUTIVE WANTED
English/Thai speaking Events Executive with own car wanted in Phuket. Tel: 603-78802502, 019-2379447. Fax: 603-78801154. Email: jeffreysoh@yahoo.com or visit our website at http://conceptualevent.com/job_opportunity

ENGLISH PROGRAM
Satree Phuket school requires native speakers to teach science or mathematics. Salary starts at 30,000 baht plus 8,000 addendum (under the conditions). Interested persons please call Tel: 076-211034 ext 144 or send a resumè to email: a_pupatanun@hotmail.com

SPA THERAPIST
Hotel in Patong area requires a spa therapist. Immediate start. Tel: 081-8920038.

ONLINE JOB APPLICATION
HOTEL - ACCTING - SALES - IT - WEB DESIGN - F&B
www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com/JOB.htm

RENTAL SALES
Siam Real Estate urgently requires a Thai national with excellent English and sales experience to sell holiday and long-term rentals. Must drive car, know the island and have good administrative skills. Good salary and commission. Please contact for more information at Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com

RESERVATION STAFF REQUIRED
Diethelm Travel is looking for highly qualified and service-minded operations staff. Good command of English and computer skills required; experience in tourism is a plus. For more details contact at Tel: 076-209163, 081-8927714. Fax: 076-209174. Email: max.t@th.diethelmtravel.com

SALON STAFF
Staff needed for busy salon/massage/bar in Patong. Please contact for details at Tel: 089-2553700. Email: markhigson497@msn.com

JOB VACANCIES
* General Manager
* Assistant to General Manager
* Sales Manager
* Sales Officer
Thais or foreigners invited to apply. English skills required. Contact at Sinthavee Hotel Phuket.
Tel: 076-211186
Fax: 076-211400
Email: sinthavee@hotmail.com
www.sinthaveehotel.com

DRAFTSMAN WANTED
Electrical design and engineering firm needs a draftsman with experience in AutoCAD. Electrical or architectural experience a plus. English not necessary. Good salary plus benefits, Fax: 076-270662. Please send CV to email: wally@avcphuket.com

FLUENT ENGLISH SPEAKER
required for email tasks, research, writing and general administrative duties. Email: admin@languagesinaction.com

DELIVERY MAN OR LADY
Thai company in Kamala wants a man or woman for delivery of products in Phuket. Age not a problem, young or old accepted. Must have motorbike. Job is for Thai national only. 7,000 baht per month, plus gasoline. Tel: 076-385221. Fax: 076-279340. Email: giovannifrova@libero.it

PURCHASING AGENT WANTED
to buy construction stock. 3 years experience and English required. Thai national. Tel: 087-0778454. Email: solitude001@aol.com

HOUSESITTER
needed to look after a 3-bedroom house and dog in Kamala, also do shopping. Must be able to drive. Hours: 10 am to 6 pm, Mon to Sat. Tel: 086-5932722. Email: jamesreanet@hotmail.com

BUNGALOW IN RAWAI
Beach 11/22 Soi Suksan 2, needs Thai lady or man for cooking and bar work 4 or 8 hours per day. Must speak English. Good salary. Please contact Laide (located in Phuket). Tel: 086-2773817. Email: villas@hotmail.fr

LIFE DRAWING MODEL WANTED
Female required to sit for year-12 students to draw, preferably unclothed or with swimming costume. On a Mon 1:20 - 3:20 and a Wed 11.15 am to 1.15 pm. To start Jan 14 for 5 weeks. Reasonable rates of pay. Professional and friendly atmosphere. No time wasters, Please contact for more information at Tel: 084-8491323. Email: sfruin@bcis.ac.th

**Looking for a job?
Looking for better quality candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net/!**

Island Job Mart

OFFICE MANAGER PHUKET

Tropical Landscaping International are currently seeking an experienced, honest, enthusiastic and hard-working Thai national for the position of Office Manager within our growing Phuket team. Applicants should be fluent in written and spoken English and have experience with accounts. Please submit full applications, including resume, references, current photo and expected salary. Tel: 076-325003. Fax: 076-324544. Email: ben@tropical-landscaping.com

FULL-TIME NANNY

Foreign family urgently needs full-time Nanny. Thai nationality, must speak English. conTel: 081-9872821.

HOTEL MANAGER

Looking to hire an experienced hotel manager for 30 room resort. Email resume giving experience, availability and salary desired Tel: 076-383280, 084-7453742. Fax: 076-383280. Please send to: Email: ltmesneg@aol.com

TEACHERS AND DRIVER NEEDED

The following positions are open at a nursery school in Chalong:

- 1) Full-time English teacher
- 2) Part-time English teacher
- 3) Thai teacher
- 4) Part-time driver

Tel: 081-8949600, 084-0068736. Email CV to: info@smiley-kidz.com



Luckanawadee Boutique Beach Resort Khao Lak is seeking the following staff for the resort and its high end restaurant, Soul Fusion.

Food and Beverage / Restaurant Manager

Male or Female, Bachelor Degree or Higher, Thai Nationality, at least 3 years experience in this field, Excellent communication skills in both written and spoken English and Email and internet.

Reservations Agent

Male or Female, Thai Nationality, must have an excellent command of both written and spoken English and be familiar with MS Office, Emailing and internet.

Marketing Specialist

Male or Female, Thai Nationality, Bachelor Degree in Marketing, Excellent command of English and an excellent command of computers.

Accountant / Main Cashier

Male or Female, Thai Nationality, Bachelor Degree or higher, experience in accounting.

Waiters/Waitresses

Male or Female, Diploma or higher, good command of spoken English, at least 2 years experience in a 4 or 5 star resort restaurant.

For all positions: We offer an excellent salary, accommodation in Khao Lak, uniforms, laundry, meals and health insurance.

Interested applicants please apply in person or send resume to:

Luckanawadee Boutique Beach Resort

7/9 Petchkasim Rd. Laem Kaen, Thai Muang, Phang Nga, Khao Lak 82210
Email: adam@housegardenphuket.com Tel: 081-891-9051, 089-588-8402

MEXICAN RESTAURANT

One cook and two waitresses wanted for new Mexican restaurant in Chalong. Must speak English. Please contact for more information at Tel: 089-1638166. Email: vjngong@gmail.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Thai lady required, part-time, flexible hours, must have good English and computer skills. Please call Tel: 086-2790837.

Employment Wanted

SWISS SALES MANAGER

32-year-old Swiss Sales & Purchases Manager seeking new challenging job in Phuket. Over 11 years experience dealing with international customers. Very motivated, dedicated and reliable. Fluent in French and English. Tel: 087-2664583. Please contact for CV and further details. Email: chriscntivres@hotmail.com

BRITISH ENGLISH TEACHER

20 years experience. Available for private lessons, business, kids or conversation classes. Tel: 086-7458832. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

BRITISH MALE QUALIFIED

in social care and experience with autism, learning disabilities and working with the elderly. All work considered. Contact Danny. Tel: 084-6459736.

THAI FEMALE FLUENT IN ENGLISH

Experience in restaurant management, English teaching, sales and cooking Thai food. Will consider all jobs, contact Jay. Thank you. Tel: 084-6459736.

INTERPRETER/ SALES

Singaporean Chinese is looking for a permanent job. Language: fluent in English, Chinese, Hakka, Southern & central Thai. PC & Internet savvy. Please contact for more info. Tel: 084-3125018. Email: vans_soros@yahoo.com.sg



An all suite ocean luxury resort, located on Surin Hill, overlooking Surin Beach and Andaman Sea, is inviting applicants for the following positions:

A&G EXECUTIVE

Resident Manager / Operation Manager (Thai only)

FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICE

Food & Beverage Service Attendants

FRONT OFFICE

Night Resort Host

HOUSEKEEPING

Floor Supervisor

ENGINEERING

Duty Engineer
Engineering Technician & Storekeeper
Mechanic

Attractive salary, fringe benefits and career opportunities are offered to the successful candidates.

Please send your resume with a recent photo or apply in person by January 15, 2008 to:

Human Resources Manager

125 Moo 3, Surin Beach, Srisoonthorn Road, Cherngtalay, Thalung, Phuket 83110 Tel: (076) 271 271
Fax: (076) 271 270 email: hr@ayarahilltops.com



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www.hlbthai.com

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HLB (Thailand) Ltd. is the member of HLB International, a world-wide organization of accounting firms and business advisors with 450 offices in more than 100 countries.

HLB (Thailand) Ltd. is consulting investors to plan, structure and implement their projects in Thailand. Our services include start up consulting, market and feasibility studies, financial project management, accounting and auditing services

Now we are looking for the experienced professional to fill this position:

Senior Accountant, based in Phuket (2 Positions)

Full Time : Mon - Fri (09.00 - 18.00)

Job Description :

- Control G/L, A/R, A/P management
- Control fund receipt, payment and cash flow
- Prepare regular financial reports and statements
- Take care of all banking requirements including monthly reconciliation
- Co-ordinate with auditors and government officers
- Close monthly and annual account
- Prepare monthly and annual tax returns to clients
- Provide advices to customer when appropriate

Qualifications :

- Bachelor Degree in accounting
- Minimum 3 years experience in accounting field
- Able to close accounts independently
- Fluent in writing and speaking English
- Computer literate and experience with integrated accounting software solutions
- Mature personality with good analytical and communication skills
- Able to work overtimes when necessary and under pressure

Interested candidates are invited to send your resume in English only and recent photo to jaruwan@hlbthai.com

TLI - OFFICE STAFF PHUKET

Tropical Landscaping International is currently seeking English speaking Thai nationals for positions within our growing Phuket office. The positions available are:

- Office Manager
- Office Assistant/Secretary
- Sales Staff

Tel: 076-325003. Fax: 076-324544. Email: ben@tropical-landscaping.com
For further information, please contact us, and/or see our website at: www.tropical-landscaping.com

SALES AGENT

Sales agents/representatives for the most dynamic product on Phuket. Destination Air has three positions open. Must have own car and strong knowledge of tourism market. Please contact for more information at Tel: 076 - 328505. Send CV to Email: pat@destinationair.com or see our website at www.destinationair.com

ENGLISH PROGRAM

Satree Phuket school requires native speakers to teach science or mathematics. Salary starts at 30,000 baht plus 8,000 addendum (under the conditions). Interested persons please call Tel: 076-211034 ext 144 or send a resume to email: a_pupatanun@hotmail.com

WANTED PROMOTION MARKETING

Marketing / sales person. Work with marketing, ticket sales and promotion for Club Lime on Patong Beach. Become a member of our new sales crew, opportunity for farang who want to live and work in paradise. Please contact Nicklas for more info. Tel: 085-7988511. www.clublime.info

ACCOUNTANT

Destination Air requires experienced accountant for immediate employment, full-time, at our Phuket International Airport Office. Tel: 076-328505. Fax: 076-328598. Send CV by email to establish interview: pat@destinationair.com For details, visit our website at www.destinationair.com

DIVE AND SURF SHOP

in Kata needs Thai staff, male or female. Please contact for more info at Tel: 089-8749147.

PA/SECRETARY

Must be able to understand all accents of the English language and understand English people speaking Thai. Being attractive will help in pursuing your dream job with your dream boss. Contact Montree at Tel: 081-7887991. Email: scott@beerphuket.com

RESTAURANT, HOTEL & TOURS

Guesthouse in Patong with restaurant and tour business is searching for a cook, receptionists (day and night) and tour staff. Tel: 089-9325175. Email: wojkdowbengt@hotmail.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Our real estate company is looking for an Office Assistant. Must be familiar with MicroSoft Word, Excel, Adobe, Photoshop etc. Must speak and write English. Good remuneration for the right person. Please apply by replying to this ad. Tel: 087-8822856. Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

EDEN DIVERS

Reservation staff needed. Must speak good English. Salary depends on experience. Thai female preferred. Contact K. Andrew Tel: 085-7654677.

Gazette Online Classifieds
10,000 readers every day!

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

RESORT UMBRELLAS

Wholesale prices. Custom made from durable shade cloth, 5-year guarantee.

Be quick!

Tel: Shades 084-6898844.

25' JVC TV

Bought in May, in excellent condition. Moving, must sell. 3,600 baht. Please call for more info. Tel: 087-2705177.

FRAMED PAINTING

of Singapore River Boat Quay by Se Lee, 1981. Width 95" x height 75". Price: 20,000 baht ono. Please contact via email: hhhg14@hotmail.com

HIGH CLASS SOUND SYSTEM FOR SALE
For Bar / Disco / Liveband



- 1 Complete sound system PSE high quality all light cased including 4 x pse 1200 watt power amplifiers 2 x pse 4 way crossover units 1 x Yamaha mg 1560e 16 channel mixer with digital effects 2 x pse mid/high cabs loaded with 12 inch and horn 2 x pse sub cabs loaded with 2x15 inch drivers 2 x hughes & kethner 15 inch & horn wedge monitors
- 2 Spirit by soundcraft powerstation 800 16 channel powered mixer 2 x 300 watt power amplifiers 2 x 7 band graphic equalizers onboard lexicon digital effects

all equipment in excellent condition amps and speakers
Tel: 081-8940570. Email: hsligners@hermanns-phuket.com

CHEERING SOFT ICE

machine, 2 flavors and swirl. Brand-new, warranty! Only 45,000 baht. Sushi/cake cooling counter display, 150cm. New warranty, only 16,500 baht. Tel: 086-5413629.

TWO JBL SPEAKERS

New, 1,000 Watts. Two stands. Value: 40,000 baht. I will sell for 33,000 baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 081-0815996.

SAMSUNG SLIM TV 29"

Selling for 5,500 baht; cost 8,000 baht. 6 months old, like new. Tel: 085-7888262.

GOING BACK TO EUROPE

Set of furniture and many other things. List on request. Tel: 087-8861513. Email: philippe.lehenaff@wanadoo.fr

OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Two sets, each comprising 4 chairs, a bench seat and a table. Heavy duty. Ideal for a beer garden. 20,000 baht per set. Tel: 089-5915330. Email: absoluteautos@hotmail.com

MAX 1 POOL TABLE

Good condition, complete with light. Call for details. Tel: 076-342280, 081-9781956. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

DAVIDA MOTORBIKE HELMETS

2 Davida open-face motorbike helmets. 1 size M, 56-58 Union Jack, 1 size S, 54-56 Aus flag. Leather lined, peaks, made in UK to UK standards. 6,000 baht each ono. Tel: 076-350020, 089-5902014. Email: shaunboulter@triballisticclub.com

Articles Wanted

PIE WARMER

I need a pie warmer. Tel: 087-8950620. Email: mike7474@hotmail.com

Bulletins

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mission Hospital
Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket Hospital
Phuket City
Fri 7 pm

Patong Hospital Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun
at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm

Chalong Health
Clinic-near Chalong Circle
Tues 1 pm

For Phuket info (English)
call 081-9564031,
081-8912895

Scandinavian speaking Group
Wat Karon School-Karon
Tue and Sat 7 pm
Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)
087-2795636 (Nor)
086-7458910 (Swe)

For info on other Thailand
AA meetings inquire
at Tel: 02-2318300
(for Thai language press 3)
www.aethailand.org or
email info@aethailand.org
phuketaa@yahoo.com

HIGH QUALITY SOFA

Very comfortable, quality sofa, paid 83,000 baht new in Bangkok. Washable pillow cover, quality material, with two matching foot stools on wheels and many extra pillows. Email me for photo. Will sell for 25,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-9507788. Email: simon@kingsimon.com

GLASS DINING TABLE AND SOFA

Lovely, quality, glass dining table set with six pastel-colored dining chairs. Paid more than 100,000 baht new from Panache shop in Emporium Bangkok. Will sell for 24,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-9507788. Email me for lovely photos at: simon@kingsimon.com

A HORSE FOR CHRISTMAS?

HORSE LOVERS WANTED to join private English-style livery yard. Beautiful riding facilities will soon be available for 6 horses. 4 x 4m stables, 40 x 20m sand manege, 15m covered schooling ring, 50 x 50m show jumping paddock and 20 x 50m turnout paddock. Experienced live-in grooms, qualified dressage/jumping instructors, secure on-site riding and long beach hacks. Friendly, social atmosphere, new friends, wine and BBQs await like-minded residents. Assistance offered to parties interested in purchasing horses. Availability limited, members only, strictly closed to the public. Please contact Elizabeth for further information. Email: elizabeth@luckytiger.org

SPONSOR

a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of our donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor.

Contact K. Carol (Tel: 087-4178860 or carol.fryer@piwc.info) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-2776948 or sue.arnulphy@piwc.info)

SEEKING MUSICIANS

to jam with Bowie-Jagger-esque singer. I have 25 years' experience on and off. For fun. Tel: 085-7932275. Email: eunson101@yahoo.com

Business Opportunities

TSBA Business Brokers

WELL LOCATED
BAR/CLUB, PATONG

EXCELLENT LOCATION

If you want to buy or sell a business

Call Kevin 084-7300190.
Email: kevin@tsba.info
www.tsba.info

BAR SALE OTOP

Bar for sale in Patong, OTOP. Please contact Darren. Tel: 085-7979115. Email: johncamel927@hotmail.com

PATONG GUESTHOUSE

Fully equipped guesthouse with 12 aircon rooms. Five-year lease with old Ltd company and website. 2.5 million baht + 43,400 monthly rate. Tel: 089-5883184. For further details, please see our website at: www.patongphuketguesthouse.com

SHOPHOUSE IN PATONG BEACH

Patong, 80/9 Soi Wattana, Beach Road, 14 million baht. Tel: 087-3809181. Email: maxshop@gmail.com

NIGHTCLUB URGENT SALE

One partner leaving country, other moving to Chiang Mai. Hence urgent sale required for a nightclub just off Bangla Rd. 180sqm, all new construction. 3-year lease with 3-year option. Excellent opportunity. All reasonable offers considered. Tel: 081-7520275. Email: comfortablynumb_18@hotmail.com

RIVER CITY GUESTHOUSE



Phang Nga on Andaman Sea. 7 rooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, 5 aircons, restaurant, car park, Sat TV, Internet. Private boat slip in front of your door! Sale: 680,000 baht. Tel: 081-9796011. Email: stefanmariaschmitz@yahoo.com

PRIME BANGLA SPORTS BAR

Profitable sports bar with pool table and 42" TV. Three floors, lady's room and furnished apartment. 4+ year lease. For 3 million baht. Email: gv1970no@yahoo.no (inquires only).

GUESTHOUSE LEASE

For sale, 2 + 3 year lease. 7 rooms and shop, all rooms furnished. 3 large rooms with fridge, TV, aircon and bathroom. 4 small rooms also with bathrooms, lounge and kitchen. Space to build 3 extra rooms. Tel: 087-3196458, 087-2670957.

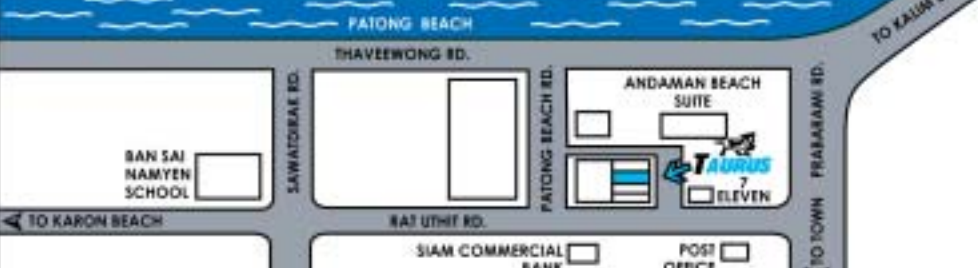
DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY

Nice curtain shop for sale with equipment and staff ready to start, located near Chalong. Tel: 081-8937068.

WORK FROM HOME

Proven business, full training given, machines, ingredients, everything you need to start earning money from day one. 150,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 054-451978, 084-8058815. Email: gntradingco@hotmail.co.uk

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Taurus Travel



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with Khun Kai (076-344321-2)

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With more than 10,000 visitors a day, the Island Trader Online is Thailand's most active classified marketplace.

*Ads may be submitted in person or online (phuketgazette.net/classifieds), but must be paid for at the Gazette offices. The discount is not available when payment is made at our agents.

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
367/2 Yaowarat Road, Phuket City
Tel: 076-236555 Fax: 076-213971

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

PATONG BAR

Large bar & restaurant in prominent position 100 meters from beach. Good turnover and profits. For full details please contact K.Wayne at Tel: 089-6529620, 617-3824 5397,084-8494562; or Email: curtain_unlimited@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW APARTMENT & RESTAURANT

4-room apartment with seaview balconies in Patong. For sale or lease, 6.2 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 085-8885144.

BANGLA BAR/CLUB

New, fit-out, seats 90, aircon, 7 rooms. 4.9 million baht. Tel: 089-8677940.

RETIRE ON ROCKET SCIENCE

Online options trader offers private consultancy. Trade in the world's biggest financial markets safely and profitably from home, with a small account. You will be amazed, it's not rocket science. Zero experience required. Have an income in the tropics regardless of other people. 100% serious. Limited places. Tel: 081-7373958. Email: info@optionwok.com

FOR SALE IN KATA

Guesthouse with restaurant. 3 rooms, aircon, kitchen, bar. Tel: 083-3381625.

INTERNET & COFFEE SHOP

for lease in Patong. Great location, 20m to beach. Well set up with Internet and bakery shop included, and more space for tour counter and bar with long-term lease. For an appointment call Kris. Tel: 081-6913029 or 089-7286242. Email: kris_silana_chai@yahoo.com

NIGHTCLUB CENTRAL KATA

The only nightclub in Kata, Karon or Chalong areas. Now for sale at 5.5 million baht or 50% partnership. For more info contact Paul. Tel: 084-6455971. Email: paul.phuket@gmail.com

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

New 3-story shophouse available for long-term lease. Ideal for home office/shop accommodation. Inquiries to Tel: 089-6521473.

RESTAURANT KARON

Includes bar, tour company and 3-year lease. 10,000 baht per month rent and 1.4 million baht key money. Bargain! Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-473 1351.

ONCE IN A LIFETIME

opportunity to partly-own a rental hovercraft business on Phuket. This is not a failed business just needs further investment. No time wasters. Please contact Steve at Tel: 086-2769556. Email: Phukethovercraft@hotmail.com

OFFICE FOR RENT / GOOD AREA

15.4 meters with aircon and car park. 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-5372655. Email: kwan_1905@hotmail.com

CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

looking for a partner / investor. We have contracts to build from Jan/08 over 30,000sqm of buildings. We need to invest in a mobile crane, truck, excavator, scaffolds and steel formwork, etc. Please contact us in German, English or Thai. Email: phuketconstruction@hotmail.de

BAR / RESTAURANT

Large bar-restaurant with pool table, couches, plunge pool, Wi-Fi and cable TV. Fully-equipped kitchen. 1.5 million baht. Please contract for more information. Tel: 087-062 8681. Email: mrbeanowilson@hotmail.com

ITALIAN RESTAURANT

for sale near Laguna entrance. Proven success, ready to move in. 4 million baht. Rent for 30,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 085-7839062.

INTERNET AND LAN GAMES

Internet and LAN-games in Rawai. Please contact me for details. Tel: 076-288636, 084-8516179. Email: franck2548@yahoo.com

BAR FOR SALE

Bangla Rd. Please contact K. Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

SOI TIGER BAR

for sale, in excellent location. For more info visit www.janepropertyphuket.com

MASSAGE, SALON & BAR

Main street near Central, modern design, many repeat customers. Must see! Call Tel: 089-2553700. Email: markhigson497@msn.com

PRIME RETAIL SPACE

Center of Patong: 1,350sq ft. Can divide into office, store or restaurant. Tel: 086-1588752.

CLOTHING SHOP, URGENT

For lease on Nanai Rd, Ban Kajana with furniture and bedroom. Owner moving overseas. Please contact for more details. Tel: 087-3809951.

Business Products & Services



SMILEY KIDS
A SMILEY KID is a happy kid!
Nursery school
English-Chinese-Thai
076-381533
www.smiley-kids.com, info@smiley-kids.com

English nursery school for kids from 18 months up
Qualified English teachers
The most affordable school on Phuket Island
Grade 1 home schooling course
After school care for children from any school
Weekend sleepovers
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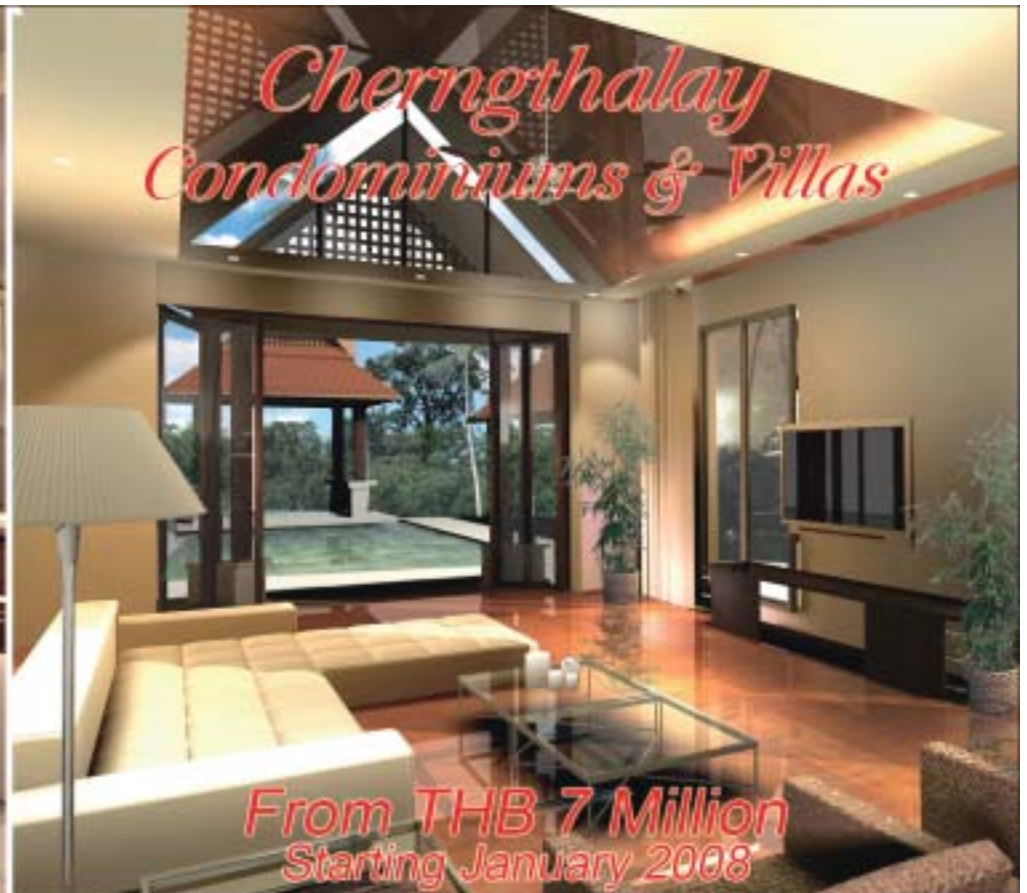
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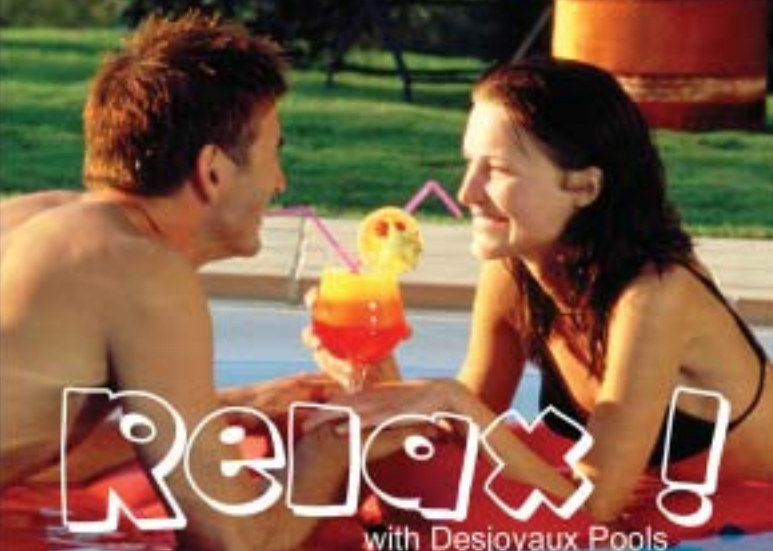
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