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Suspect arrested for murder of Swedish tourist

By Gazette Staff

PHUKET CITY: After a regional manhunt for the killer of Swedish tourist Hanna Charlotta Backlund, 26, whose body was found at Mai Khao Beach on March 15, police have arrested and charged with murder their prime suspect after he gave himself up in Ranong province early on March 19.

Region 8 Police Deputy Commander Pol Maj Gen Tavat Boonfueng led a team to Ranong to bring Akkaradej Tunkae, 31, back to Phuket. They arrived at Tah Chat Chai Police Station in a police van at 5:30 am, it was announced at a press conference on March 19.

Akkaradej allegedly told police that he had watched Miss Backlund and her friend Emma Stenman at Mai Khao Beach for three days until he spotted Miss Backlund sunbathing alone on March 15.

He approached Miss Backlund from behind. In his right hand was a kitchen knife taken from his home, some eight kilometers away, police said.

He grabbed Miss Backlund by her throat with his left hand and, when she attempted to break free, he stabbed her in the neck, stomach and side of her body, police added.

After rushing to his home on his motorcycle, he cleaned the knife and hid it in a closet before changing his clothes, said police.

On Sunday morning, Akkaradej and his daughter traveled by bus to a relative's home in Chumphon province, police told



Phuket native Akkaradej "Chon" Tunkae, 31, was arrested early on March 19 for the murder of Swedish tourist Hanna Charlotta Backlund (inset).

reporters.

After hearing media reports that police had spoken to locals and were moving in on a prime suspect in the murder, Akkaradej left his daughter in the care of his relative and traveled to a friend's home in Ranong, said police.

Akkaradej called his wife and father and told them where he was, which the pair then relayed to police. Last night at Tah Chat Chai Police, Akkaradej's father persuaded him during a phone conversation to give himself up, said police.

With Akkaradej's wife and father present, police took Akkaradej into custody in Baan Tublee, Ranong province, at 1:35 am.

Pol Lt Gen Thanee Thawisri, commander of Royal Thai

Police Region 8, said, "The knife has been found and will be sent to Surat Thani for testing. We will have the results of DNA tests soon and will take samples from the suspect's clothes, fingernails and tissue."

Akkaradej said, "I feel bad about everything. The night after I did it I went back to my home and cried. I feel hurt and sad for [Miss Backlund's] family and also for my family.

"I accept everything that I did because I feel pity for my own daughter."

The case will be sent to court within one month, said police.

The 100,000-baht reward offered by local businesses for information leading to the arrest will be given to Akkaradej's wife and father, police added.

Dr Smith denies resigning as NDWC chief

By Somprach Saowakon & Sangkhae Leelanaporn

BANGKOK: Late afternoon March 13, Dr Smith Dharmasaroja denied reports in the Thai media that he had resigned his position as Director of the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC), which is responsible for issuing tsunami warnings.

In a telephone interview with the *Gazette*, Dr Smith said that he told a press conference in Bangkok March 12 that he was only considering resigning – out of frustration from the lack of support from successive governments in funding the work of the NDWC.

The NDWC was set up after the 2004 tsunami to avoid a repeat of the huge loss of life in that disaster.

Dr Smith, 72, was widely quoted in the Thai media as having already resigned his position.

He was a vocal critic of the Gen Surayud Chulanont government for failing to establish the NDWC as an independent agency with its own budget and spending discretion.

The NDWC continues to be administered by the Meteorological Department.

However, Dr Smith said that he was still contemplating handing in his resignation. "I am still thinking about it because the central government still does not support the NDWC with any form of budget or staff, or improve the center by making it independent. To achieve anything we must have help from other organizations," he said.

Unsolved murders and drug arrests on the rise

PHUKET: According to monthly crime statistics released by Phuket Provincial Police, four murders committed in February remain unsolved, while the number of drug-related arrests was about 30% higher than the same period last year.

There were also four attempted murders reported in February, with two related arrests made, and 15 reports of assault. One arrest was made for rape.

There were a total of 109 arrests made for drug-related offenses in February, 40 of which involved *ya bah* (methamphetamine) with a total of 1,326.5 pills seized.

However, arrests for gambling offenses still topped the list with 170 arrests.

Thirty-six people were arrested for using cannabis, with just over one kilogram of the illegal herb confiscated.

There were 18 arrests were made for possession of *krathom* (an indigenous plant that acts as a mild stimulant) with 258 leaves of the plant seized, plus two vials containing 330.22 grams of *krathom* leaf extract.

Fifteen people were arrested for possession of inhalant with 12 bags and three cans seized.

There were 137 cases of theft reported, including seven motorcycles and eight cars. Arrests were made in 60 of the cases.

There were 44 arrests for prostitution and 14 arrests for possession of unlicensed firearms.

Three people were arrested on the island in February for possession of or distribution of pornography.

Pet owners face microchip crackdown

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET: From April 24 every cat and dog arriving on Phuket must be microchipped, Phuket Provincial Livestock Office Chief Dr Sunart Wongchawalit has announced.

He has also announced that with no reports of cats or dogs on Phuket being infected with rabies since 2003, Phuket is the first province to be declared "rabies free" by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

To keep Phuket rabies-free, the Livestock Office will step up its vigilance in requiring every dog and cat being brought onto the island to be vaccinated for rabies.

Livestock Office staff at Phuket International Airport (PIA) have for years required

cats and dogs being brought onto the island to be vaccinated for rabies. "Pet owners bringing their dogs and cats into Phuket must have them vaccinated against rabies at least 21 days before bringing them here," Dr Sunart said.

Pets arriving without papers to confirm that they have been recently vaccinated will be vaccinated at the airport before being released to the owner on Phuket, Dr Sunart said.

Each pet also will have a microchip implanted before being released and a "pet passport" will be issued to the owner, he added.

The microchip implants and pet passports will cost a mandatory fee of 200 baht. The Livestock Office will soon enforce

the same requirements at the Tah Chat Chai road checkpoint, Dr Sunart said.

The new rule also applies to pets already on the island, Dr Sunart said. "If anyone refuses to allow Livestock Office staff to implant their pet with a microchip, they could face a fine of up to 10,000 baht, six months in jail, or both," he said.

The Livestock Office aims to have all cats and dogs on Phuket fitted with microchips, even strays. All the dogs being kept at the Mid Road Dog Shelter in Thalung have been fitted with microchips, said Dr Sunart.

Although the Livestock Office charges 200 baht for fitting a microchip and issuing a pet passport, most pet clinics charge from 600 to 800 baht, he added.

Candidates step forward for OrBorJor election

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PHUKET CITY: Two of Phuket's top political heavyweights on March 17 registered their candidacies for presidency of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*), along with 50 other candidates for the 24 council seats available.

The two rival candidates for the presidency, Anchalee Vanich Tephabuttra and Paiboon Upatising, arrived with more than 1,000 supporters, evenly divided between the two camps.

K. Anchalee is a member of the locally powerful Democrat Party and a virtual incumbent, having resigned the *OrBorJor* presidency about two weeks before the end of her term on March 13 so that she could campaign full time for the same position.

There to support her were Phuket's two elected MPs, her husband Tossaporn Tephabuttra and Rewat Areerob. Also cheering her on were other Democrat Party members, including 21 candidates for positions on the 24-seat council.

K. Anchalee said she would continue her current policy platform, which she said aims to improve the quality of life among



Anchalee Vanich Tephabuttra (left) and rival candidate Paiboon Upatising at Phuket Community Hall. Photo by Yongyot Preuksarak.

Phuket residents through initiatives including better education and tourism development.

Insisting that it is not illegal for her to use her position in the Democrat Party in her campaign, K. Anchalee said the Democrat Party logo will appear prominently on her campaign material.

Also at the hall were supporters of former Phuket Senator Paiboon Upatising and 16 candidates from his *OrBorJor* Kon Baan Rao party, including former *OrBorJor* Vice-President Sorra-

tham Jinda.

K. Paiboon, a fiscal conservative and developer of the Phuket Villa residential projects, said he had spent a great deal of time with Phuket residents since the end of his term as senator and that he wants to work hard and with honesty to improve the lives of all Phuket people.

The election will be held on April 20. As it is a provincial poll, an islandwide ban on alcohol sales will start at 6 pm on April 19 and end at midnight on April 20.

Aborted fetus found on Koh Sireh

By Sompratch Saowakhon

RASSADA: Villagers on Koh Sireh made a gruesome discovery on March 10, finding the corpse of an aborted fetus partially buried by the side of the main road to Koh Sireh.

Pol Maj Nanon Pitakkulthorn of Phuket City Police said that on the afternoon of March 10, a villager alerted police after he found the corpse of a fetus, probably in its fifth or sixth month of gestation.

The corpse, in a plastic bag, was partially buried behind an erosion-control barrier near the "monkey viewpoint" on Srisuthat Rd no less than 24 hours earlier, he said.

"We don't know the gender of the fetus, which had no right leg," he said.

"We don't know why the mother has done this. Because the baby was so small, it looks like it wasn't ready to be born. We can only assume that this was the result of some kind of abortion," he added.

Maj Nanon declined to give further details, but said the police would continue to investigate.

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Aging aircraft reef to become major dive site

By Semacote Suganya

PHUKET: Ten decommissioned military aircraft will be sunk off the coast of Cherng Talay to create the largest artificial reef of its kind in Thailand.

The announcement was made at a meeting and project presentation chaired by Vice-Governor Worapot Rattasima at Phuket Provincial Hall on Thursday.

Attending were representatives from several government agencies and Vittayen Muttamara, secretary of the Bangkok-based For Sea Foundation, a non-profit organization that has organized the project with the support of the Thai Diving Association.

The Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) has provided 4 million baht for the project, which will see four Douglas C-47 Skytrain military transport aircraft and six Sikorsky S-58T helicopters sunk about a kilometer off Bang Tao Beach.

The aircraft will rest about 20 meters deep where a sunken tin-mining sledge already lies submerged.

K. Vittayen said his organization was established by a group of Bangkok-based divers in April 2005 to survey and restore coral reefs damaged by the tsunami.

"We co-ordinated with all the agencies involved to acquire the aircraft from the air force and



Six Sikorsky S-58T helicopters, similar to the one pictured here, will be part of an artificial reef off the coast of Cherng Talay.

to get permission to sink them in order to create an artificial reef. This project is the first of its kind in Thailand," he said.

The aging aircraft, which have been dubbed the "Coral Reef Squadron", are currently at the Koke Krathiem Air Force Base in Lopburi.

The US-built aircraft, which served during the Vietnam and Korean wars, will be partially disassembled and transported overland before being dropped into the bay in a two-day operation scheduled to start on May 5.

The dive site is expected to take some pressure off popular dive sites in the Similan and Surin Marine National Parks, K. Wittaya said.

"We believe these aircraft are very suitable for creating artificial reefs because they are

large enough for divers to enter and will not affect currents at that depth. Also, they are mostly aluminum and will not rust," he said.

Paitoon Praechaiyaphum of the Marine and Coastal Resources Department Region 4 office in Phuket said the project is expected to become Phuket's second major dive site.

"The reefs located off Koh Racha Yai, which attract some 600 divers monthly, is currently the only major site," he added.

"We expect about 3,000 divers to visit the site annually," he said.

Kidnapped baby turns up in Krabi

By Alin Boonkrungthong

THALANG: Police are searching for two people suspected of snatching a newborn baby from Thalang Hospital after a two-day ordeal ended with mother and baby being reunited in Krabi March 13.

Arrest warrants have been issued for Sunantha Sangarun, 28, and her unidentified accomplice, said Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Rattasima at a press conference.

Burmese native K. Fah, 20, gave birth to a boy at Thalang Hospital about 6 am on March 10, said Sub Lt Patiwat Yodkwan of Thalang Police Station.

K. Fah went to sleep that night with her baby beside her, while two relatives of her husband, who is not the father of the baby, slept in the same room, he added.

About 2 am, K. Fah woke and went to use the bathroom. That was when she noticed that her baby was no longer in the room, Sub Lt Patiwat said.

After hospital staff were alerted of the missing baby, a hospital worker called Thalang Police.

Lt Patiwat arrived at the hospital with an investigation team

at about 2:45 am, he said.

On March 13, staff at Krabi Hospital alerted local police after Sunantha showed up at the hospital without any documentation for the newborn baby she had with her, said Maj Anukul Nuket of Thalang Police Station.

Krabi Police contacted Thalang Police and Maj Anukul traveled to Krabi Hospital with K. Fah.

Aware that hospital staff were suspicious of her, Sunantha fled, without the baby, before Maj Anukul and K. Fah arrived, said Maj Anukul.

After seeing the baby, K. Fah was able to identify the boy as her own, he added.

CCTV cameras at Thalang Hospital showed Sunantha and one other person, about whom police have declined to give details, with K. Fah's baby on the night of the kidnapping, he said.

He declined to comment on possible motives for the kidnapping or whether the child's natural father might have been involved until the suspects are arrested.

This is the first reported incident of a baby being kidnapped from Thalang Hospital, Maj Anukul added.

Samkong shortcut now one-way

PHUKET: To relieve traffic congestion at the Wor Kor Intersection, the street from Thepkrasattri Rd to the western gate of Phuket Rajabhat University (PRU) is now one-way.

Phuket City Police Traffic Inspector Maj Teerawat Leamsuwan said that the one-way system should ease traffic bottlenecks at the Wor Kor Intersection, where Thepkrasattri Rd and Rassadanusorn Rd meet.

Drivers on Thepkrasattri Rd can enter the street, called the Rajabhat-Samkong road, drive

past PRU and continue to Yaowarat Rd.

Traffic from Yaowarat Rd can access the western gate of PRU via the Rajabhat-Samkong road.

However, to reach Thepkrasattri Rd drivers have to turn right onto Su Kanjana Wanich Rd, just after the Rajabhat weekend market.

The one-way system is in force 24-hours a day and will be reviewed after May 31, Maj Teerawat said.

- Pathomporn Kaenkrachang



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Chalong Marina plans

The Chalong Marina, to be operated by the Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) but financed chiefly by the Marine Transport Department, is part of an economic-development plan by the Phuket Provincial Office, which has expansion of the marine-leisure industry as one of its cornerstones.

Other southern provinces have expansion of the yachting industry in mind and the Marine Transport Department is planning more marinas in the Gulf of Thailand and along the Andaman coast.

Marinas planned for Chalong Bay and for Phuket Bay, off Phuket City, ran into opposition as soon as they were proposed, however. In the case of Chalong Bay, much of the opposition was on environmental grounds.

The futuristic Phuket Bay plan has not moved forward, largely for political and economic reasons, while construction of Chalong Marina's modest first phase went ahead.

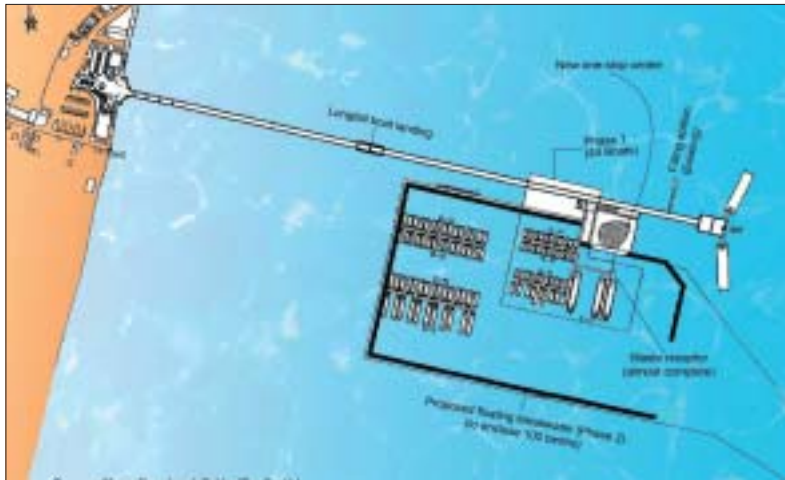
Because of limited funding, Chalong Marina was divided into two "phases". Phase 1 - construction of 44 floating slips, sewage facilities and other infrastructure - is largely complete.

Phase 2, which forms the bulk of the project, involves completion of a still-indeterminate number of slips and the all-important breakwater. This has received criticism from all sides since draft plans were revealed last year.

During a six-hour public hearing on June 5 at Muang Phuket School, attended by about 130 persons including then *OrBorJor* President Anchalee Vanich Tephabuttra, opponents derided plans offered for Phase 2 as: too small, too large, finan-

Scaled-down plans aimed at allaying local opposition to construction of Phase 2 of a marina at Chalong Pier found few backers during a second public hearing on the issue at Muang Phuket School in Rawai on March 12.

Chalong resident Marque A. Rome reports.



The layout of the full Chalong Marina project, if ever completed.

cially unsound and environmentally dangerous to the region's highly endangered dugong population. Fishermen were particularly exercised because planning did not take into account their needs and would leave them nowhere to moor boats.

Everyone agreed that the marina's south-facing access would do nothing to stop rough seas, which mostly come from the south.

The new plans, again presented at Rawai's Muang Phuket school, involve construction of a floating breakwater. The structure, an innovation for Thailand,

was proposed in response to complaints that the original breakwater, a simple but permanent rock jetty, would interrupt the pattern of ocean currents, precipitating environmental damage that might extend to far-off locales. The potential impact upon dugongs' diet of marine grasses at Ao Makham and in Phang Nga Bay was especially feared.

The current proposal is more friendly towards dugong grazing but much more expensive. The 1,300-meter rock moles proposed last June, enclosing slips for 210 vessels, would cost 109.2 million baht, or 84,000 baht per meter.

The floating breakwaters proposed earlier this month will cost 115,000 baht per meter. Their length and the number of slips they protect are yet to be determined. It was partly with regard to deciding this issue that the latest meeting was held.

A C-shaped, six-meter-wide, 882-meter-long breakwater, enclosing only Phase 1's 44 slips, will cost 101.4 million baht. If a similarly shaped, 1,148-meter-long breakwater enclosing a 100-boat marina is developed, the price rises to 132 million baht.

The engineers' report noted that the floating structures - hollow, rectangular concrete-enclosed metal pontoons anchored by cables to the sea floor - are environmentally friendly because they allow currents to pass virtually unobstructed. "Wave patterns striking shore will thus not differ greatly from before," the report reads.

Unfortunately, their effectiveness as breakwaters is more problematic. The engineers noted that floating breakwaters were developed for use during the D-Day invasion of northern France in 1944. Since then, roughly one hundred such breakwaters have been built: "Some worked and are still in use; some didn't and have been torn out," said the engineers.

The downside of using a floating breakwater is vulnerability to the elements. They are prone to rust, need frequent replacement and can break loose in exceptionally bad weather. Life expectancy at best is 20 years and upkeep costs are considerable.



Waters inside such breakwaters, moreover, are not as calm in bad weather as permanent barriers.

Last year's proposal including a stone jetty, although hooted out of contention, was budgeted at 370 million baht for both phases; Phase 2 would have cost 300 million baht.

Nine months later, estimates by consulting companies Golden Plan Ltd, Sea Spectrum Ltd and STS Engineering Consultants for a 200-boat marina inside permanent rock breakwaters now total 430.2 million baht, with Phase 2 projected at 364.6 million baht - an increase of nearly 22%.

Consultants projected a 6% Financial Internal Rate of Return (FIRR) and an Economic Internal Rate of Return (EIRR) of almost 22%.

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fail to gather local support



The southwest side of the 44-berth Chalong Marina project's Phase 1, as viewed from Chalong Pier. Scheduled for completion last September, Phase 1 is still not yet ready for visiting yachts. Phase 2, if built, would include a breakwater around the marina and expand the number of berths to 100.

choices on offer but it may not be realized. After last year's meeting the *OrBorJor* told consultants to reduce the number of slips planned by half and to develop a plan that addressed environmental concerns. As STS deputy manager Suwat Buayam explained, "The purpose of today's meeting was to see whether the 100-boat marina and new breakwater will be acceptable. The new proposal aims at minimizing environmental impact on existing reefs, which are protected by law and cannot be removed."

But the 100-slip project affords only half the number of slips originally proposed but at twice the cost. (100 slips for 374.1 baht

vs. 200 slips for 370 million baht). Worse, it suffers a negative rate of return. "The project will not realize a profit during the period covered by our projections," the consultants said in their report.

The report advised that "after operation begins, services should be limited to those that can be profitable".

Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Rattasima opened the meeting with a 10-minute speech centering on the virtues of an all-in-one service center for arriving yachts. To that end, a circular, two-story, multi-purpose structure, with canted roof will be built on a square concrete platform covering 2,601 square meters near the end of the pier at a cost

of 74 million baht.

"More than 1,000 foreign yachts arrive here yearly," K. Worapoj said. "A unified facility is necessary, not only to control traffic, but to prevent smuggling, especially drug smuggling."

But these were not the concerns of those assembled. In fact, only about 50 persons attended the meeting, split more or less equally into three groups: local boat operators, civil servants and journalists.

Among those who rose to speak, opposition was uniform. Several suggested they had been betrayed as, at the end of last June's meeting, many thought proposals for controversial Phase 2 had been scrapped altogether.

"We understood Phase 2 was canceled," said one speaker, a fisherman. "Now you're proposing it again. What's going on?"

"It appears the chief concern of participants is shore access," observed STS' K. Suwat.

Shore access was the only point of discussion for local people. Opposition centered on the marina's positioning.

Whereas last year's proposal had no western breakwater, thus allowing longtail boats from the offshore islands access through the marina to the pier landing and the beach - where they typically load or offload passengers and supplies - the new plan bars that avenue.

"You've merely drawn lines on a map," said Pisut Rakban, 40, a Chalong fisherman. "You don't seem to realize there are reefs that run south. Your breakwaters will close access to shore for longtail boats. Boats will never survive that route [across the reefs]."

Longtail boats form the principal means of supply for the islands, which have few facilities for larger vessels. Longtails ride too low for use with floating landings at the pier's end. Thus, beach access is viewed as essential by their operators.

Siwakorn "Ibrahim" Chai-pakdee, who represents Koh Lone in the Rawai municipal council, concurred with K. Pisut. "Longtail boats will have to snake through the pilings underneath the pier to get out," he said, suggesting it was not safe.

Also, exiting north necessarily increases overall fuel costs because most traffic heads south.

Guy Robert Lidureau, Thai Dive Association member and owner of Seafarer Divers, voiced other concerns. He favors an 800-boat marina. He pointed out that

the project, as proposed, will benefit few. The plans illustrate basic misunderstanding of the needs of Chalong Bay users.

"The harbor is used mostly by transport vessels and fishing boats - not yachts," he said after the meeting. "This project is only for yachts." But those are a minority of the 500 boats he thinks regularly use the harbor.

Mr Lidureau urged that provincial authorities work to gain local support for an expanded project - first by canvassing local associations regarding needs; second by getting representatives from those same associations to meet and hash out competing desires in committee; and finally by drawing up new plans based on the results.

Environmental concerns and problems of beach access for longtails might be overcome by extending the existing pier and building a marina in deep water, where no reefs interfere, he suggested.

At the meeting's end, a senior engineer from the Customs, Immigration and Marine Office one-stop office discounted the manifold criticisms.

"Locals misunderstand. They see what's on paper and think they can't get their boats out. But that's not true. The consultants will work out an acceptable plan," he said.

Final decision on the project will be deferred until after the *OrBorJor* elections on April 20.

K. Siwakorn suggested approval was critical for the consultants. "They promised they could persuade locals to support it. So far they've failed to do that.

"If they don't come up with [an acceptable compromise] soon they'll likely never get another project," he said.

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Queer News

Hot-headed soldiers shoot up police station

NAKHON RATCHASIMA: Dealing with the police can be a frustrating experience in any country. Minor traffic offenses are often ignored and when a crime is reported, often nothing seems to be done. Weeks or months can go by with no apparent effort to arrest perpetrators and put them behind bars.

Most people can do little but sit and fume at the situation. Only an unwise person would lose his temper at a police officer, especially in Thailand.

Two soldiers in Pak Chong District, however, recently decided that shooting up the local police station might spur the officers there into making some progress in their case.

Pak Chong District Police Superintendent Col Wiwat Silaket told reporters on March 14 that

at about 10:30 pm the night before he was sitting working in his second-floor office when he heard three shots ring out from in front of the station.

When he went to investigate, he saw that the window above the stairway leading up to the third floor was pockmarked with bullet holes. In front of the station's accounting office, he found a 9mm bullet head.

Curious as to why his station had come under attack by gunfire, Col Wiwat and a number of his underlings headed outside to find out where the shots had come from.

Across the road and dressed in camouflage fatigues were two men who, when they saw the officers approach, hastily made a dash for their car.

The soldiers were not fast

enough, however, and the fleet-footed police officers stopped them from driving away and demanded to search them.

Sgt Maj Sitthiphol Siang-sakul, 42, had a 9mm pistol which appeared to have been just fired and his accomplice, Sgt Maj Phairoj Emsombun, 38, was found in possession of a .38 revolver.

Looking rather sheepish, the two defenders of Thai sovereignty were brought into the station for questioning.

Sgt Maj Sitthiphol explained that he had earlier reported to police that a window at his home design shop had been smashed.

When a window on his car met a similar fate, he again reported the vandalism to police.

When he came to the station earlier that day, he was told

that police still had no leads in the two cases, he said. Frustrated, he and Sgt Maj Phairoj sat down across the road from the police station, where they cracked open a bottle of liquor to try and calm down.

As sometimes happens, however, the alcohol had the opposite effect. Enraged and emboldened by the devil's drink, he pulled out his pistol and started shooting to blow off steam, he said.

Sgt Maj Sitthiphol claimed that he had shot into the air, never having meant to hit the police station.

His excuse did not convince the police officers, who detained the two soldiers.

Police did not say what the soldiers would be charged with.

Source: Daily News



Erika Perschbacher was known for her love of animals.

Well-known Phuket resident dies

RAWAI: Long-term Phuket resident Erika Perschbacher was found dead in her Rawai home on March 9. She was 69 years old.

Erika, a retired German nurse affectionately referred to by locals as "Mama", was described by those close to her as wonderful, selfless and caring.

During her nine years in Phuket, Erika took it upon herself to provide a home for stray cats on the island and help nurture diseased animals back to health.

Erika usually donned a red cap when she left her house and was frequently seen carrying around her favorite cat Gypsy in a basket. Often she would bring Gypsy to the pub to keep her company while enjoying her evening drink.

She leaves behind eight cats, and has left most of her estate to a local Thai named K. Mon, who works as a housekeeper at a hotel in Phuket. K. Mon will take over the house, but will not keep the cats.

While a small provision has been made for the care of the cats in Erika's will, the best thing would be to find new caring homes for them, said her friend Joan Watson of the Phuket International Women's Club, of which Erika was a fundraiser and honorary member.

Anyone interested in adopting one of Erika's cats is urged to call 087-2820422 or K. Mon at 081-8916290.

One man's trash is another's treasure

NAKHON SRI THAMMARAT: The heady days of "Jatukham Fever" last year, when sale of the over-sized Jatukham Ramathep medallions hit a record high, are clearly over.

The large amulets – particularly beloved by tuk-tuk drivers, gunmen and others in dangerous professions – were reputed to bring good fortune. Some individual medallions sold for millions of baht and one woman was literally trampled to death in the rush to get hold of one medallion

in a highly-anticipated new series.

However, massive overproduction coupled with waning interest soon brought the price down and quelled the fever.

Just how much the bottom has fallen out of the Jatukham trade was made evident on March 14, when villagers in Tambon Pak Nakhon in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Muang District found a pile of Jatukham amulets unceremoniously dumped under a tree.

The reporter at the scene estimated there were more than

200,000 abandoned amulets.

The find came to light when Siriphen Bunchet, 33, told reporters that there was a huge pile of amulets under a tree by the side of the road. Villagers were very upset, he said, as many local people regard Jatukham Ramathep amulets as holy.

When the reporter arrived at the scene, he found villagers picking over the thousands of amulets, taking the ones they liked. There was quite a selection: the amulets were available in two sizes and a wide range of colors.

The amulets were of two designs, "Thewaracha" and "Patihan", both commissioned by Wat Bang Saphan in Tambon

Bangjak to raise money for renovations at nine temples in the area.

The larger amulets, 5 centimeters across, were originally sold for 150 baht each. Their 3-cm counterparts were offered at just 59 baht – hardly a steep price to pay for invincibility.

During the height of Jatukham Fever, the pile would have fetched more than 200 million baht.

While helping themselves to their fortunate find, many of the villagers cursed the people who had dumped the amulets.

The culprits would soon surely meet disaster for their sacrilegious act, they predicted.

Source: Thai Rath

Tourism minister targets mega-projects

Tourism and Sports Minister Weerasak Kowsurat said he would soon propose a plan for five tourism mega-projects to the Cabinet for funding approval.

K. Weerasak said the first project aims to create a "civilization tourism route" between Thailand and Burma at a cost of 265 million baht over three years.

The second is eco-tourism development, which is expected to cost from 900 million to 1 billion baht.

The third is the "Thailand Riviera" project. Initially proposed some years ago, the scheme aims to build new tourism magnets along the Gulf of Thailand at a cost of 760 million baht over the next two years.

The fourth is promoting the Mekong River as a new destination. The project will require 130 million baht this year and another 420 million baht through 2009 and 2010.

The fifth project, budgeted at 500 million baht, calls for the building of a Thai-Khmer cultural route, which is intended to attract international and domestic tourists, Weerasak said.

Apart from the mega-projects, Weerasak said the National Budget Bureau and the National Economic and Social Development Board had approved an additional 3.4-billion-baht budget for marketing activities this year.

Of the additional funding, the ministry will allocate 1.6 billion baht to the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

I got you, Babe. The Commerce Ministry will ban the export of pigs in an attempt to ease the supply shortage and stem rising prices.

The announcement came after it was found that pigs were being smuggled to neighboring countries, exacerbating the domestic supply shortage.

Commerce Minister Mingkwan Sangsuwan said that the ministry had ordered officials to be on the lookout for pigs being illegally exported to neighboring countries, where pork prices are higher than in Thailand.

The movement of pigs will require official approval and there will be a ban on exports, K. Mingkwan said.

Due to supply shortages, the



POWER PLAY

Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) workers repair a collapsed 500,000-volt power pylon in Bangkok's Nong Chok district after four 17-year-olds removed bolts and steel lattices from it to sell as scrap.

The collapse of the 60-meter-tall structure cost Egat more than 10 million baht in repairs. The thieves sold the scrap for a total of 1,600 baht, which they split four ways.

price of piglets has jumped from 800 baht to 1,800 baht each.

Formula for success. The vast majority of respondents to an online poll by the National Institute of Educational Testing Service disapprove of two new conditions for entrance into state universities, NIETS director Uthumphorn Jamornmarn said.

Of 6,253 people who took part in the month-long survey, 5,458 (87%) did not agree that a foreign language and a Professional Aptitude Test (PAT) should be included in admission tests set to be adopted in 2010.

The survey results will be submitted to the Rectors' Council of Thailand.

Rectors' Council chairwoman Assoc Prof Monthol Sanguansermisri said her panel would heed the concerns of students and parents over the matter.

The 100-point admission test will comprise 20 points for grade point average (GPAX), 30 points

for Ordinary National Educational Test (Onet) and a combination of the PAT test and a foreign-language test totaling 50 points.

Debugging. State Railway of Thailand suspended 10 train services for 15 days from March 17 following reports that bedbugs were widespread in the air-conditioned carriages and would take 15 days to eliminate.

The lines affected are Bangkok to Chiang Mai, Ubon Ratchathani, Yala and Surat Thani.

Pent-up demand. Wardens at Bangkok's Klong Prem Central prison seized from prison mail nearly 1,000 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills sent to an inmate.

Sixteen drugs-convicted prisoners convicted for drug of-

fenses lined up to receive items their relatives had submitted for checking under prison regulations, which allow officials to cut open packets if their contents cannot be seen.

Officials opened a box addressed to Samai Khumkan, who is serving a 20-year sentence on drug charges, and found a bar of soap, toothpaste, towel and a tin of powder. They cut the tin open

and discovered 992 *ya bah* pills.

Prison Director Somsak Rangsiyopas submitted the drugs to Prachacheun Police Station and informed the Narcotics Suppression Bureau for further investigation.

K. Somsak said the smuggling of illegal items into prison was a major problem because there were not enough officials to check some 200 packages sent every day.

Censorship and silence. Filmmaker Apichatpong Weerasethakul's acclaimed *Sang Sattawat* ("Syndromes and a Century") will screen in Thailand with black frames to replace the parts cut by national film censors.

After fighting over censorship of his film for nearly a year, K. Apichatpong has decided to screen the film with silent, black frames to replace six scenes the Board of Censors found objectionable.

Pedophile released on bail. After sentencing 61-year-old American Glen Richard Allen to 16 years in jail for luring two underage girls into performing lewd acts, the Criminal Court granted him bail of 1.6 million baht and barred him from leaving the country.

Allen was accused of paying two 14-year-old Thai girls 500 baht each to perform oral sex on him while he videotaped them. He was also found guilty of molest

Around the Nation news roundup is sourced from the pages of The Nation, Dail Xpress and Kom Chad Luek newspapers.

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Cash only will be accepted for donations
Only 70 turtles are available on first come first served basis

LAGUNA PHUKET

This Laguna Phuket event is part of Earth Day 2008

In my previous column, I documented the arrival to Krabi in 1927 of SripHong Phukaoluan and followed his footsteps as he built businesses during the 1940s and 1950s.

Living local history

He was a man of many firsts for Krabi: the first brick-producing factory, the first to introduce diesel fuel and the first to open a gasoline station, the Shell station in 1957.

He became the first head of the Krabi branch of the Red Cross Foundation in 1960, then under Royal patronage, and went on to become the first head of the Krabi Provincial Boy Scouts. He also started the local Lions Club.

For all his volunteer work, he received the Companion (Fourth Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand from HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Other firsts he brought to Krabi included its first paved road in 1960 – an 800-meter stretch of Uttarakit Rd that was paved using a steam-powered roller, which is currently on display in front of Krabi Resort.

K. SripHong's eldest son, Chuan, returned from his studies in England and become manager of the Siam City Bank in Krabi Town.

He followed his father's example, becoming involved in local politics and eventually became Mayor of Krabi, a position he held for 13 years.

His recollections of Krabi and the surrounding area are fascinating. During the early 1970s, the economy was dependent on agriculture; mostly rubber and palm oil. People's fortunes were tied to the prices of those two commodities.

K. Chuan sought to diversify and expand the local economic base. He tried to interest local businesses in developing tourism.

He saw the beaches in Ao Nang and the islands as excellent opportunities for economic development.



Krabi's first gasoline station (pictured) was opened in 1957 by SripHong Phukaoluan. K. SripHong also gave Krabi its first brick-producing factory.

His business associates in Krabi and Phuket thought he was crazy. Ao Nang was a wild jungle and there were no roads or electricity. K. Chuan paid 800,000 baht for the 18 rai where the

Krabi Resort now stands.

Then, for 2,000 baht per rai, he bought the 100 rai of beachfront where the Last Cafe stands. You can buy it now for 20 million baht per rai.

At that time, the "road" in Ao Nang was a dirt stretch from the bridge at Haad Napporat Thara – then only a wooden pedestrian foot bridge – to where McDonald's is now on the other side of the beach.

There were no phones, but lots of wild animals, the locals relate.

Twenty-seven years ago, K. Chuan enlisted the help of 200 local villagers to build 34 bungalows that would become the Krabi Resort. One could stay in a seafront bungalow for 175 baht per night.

Times have changed and 175 baht doesn't go far today, but the area has retained its natural beauty.

High season headaches. Over the past few months, we have been documenting the changes in Ao Nang, specifically the replacement of traditional Thai buildings and architecture with the monotonous four-story shophouses that line the main road.

Bit by bit, the entire town is

being transformed and soon, when you drive down to the beach, you won't be able to view the famous limestone karsts as they will be hidden behind the rows of shophouses.

Adding insult to injury, many of these units are being built in the middle of high season.

For as far back as locals can remember, the community respected the unwritten rule that heavy construction was prohibited during high season, from November 1 to May 1. That rule unfortunately seems to have been forgotten, along with a sense of community and respect.

Interestingly, the Ao Nang Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), which issues construction permits, seems unconcerned that this might have a negative effect on resorts and hotels in the vicinity.

Case in point: construction started on a townhouse next to my resort this high season (yes, that's why I'm sniveling).

This four-story townhouse is actually being built between two well-known, award-winning resorts, the first winning an award from the Tourism Association of Thailand as one of the Top 50 Most Beautiful Resorts in Thailand and the other (yours truly's) being named in the Top 100 Resorts of Thailand by international travel writer Lily Yousry-Jouvre.

Simply, the noisy construction has caused many complaints from guests and local businesses. Which of these types of businesses benefits the community more: two award-winning resorts or another shophouse added to the scene?

One can only wonder why the *OrBorTor* hasn't foreseen the consequences of allowing this type of construction to take place during high season.

That leads some people to ask why there are no formal regulations prohibiting major construction in tourist zones during high season.

This point will be addressed at the governor's monthly advisory-committee meeting. Let's hope there is a bit more common sense prevailing there.



ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

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Deep South village chiefs call for better protection

Kamnan and village chiefs in the Deep South on March 11 called on the government to take their well-being into consideration and provide greater protection from the daily killings.

They pointed to the fact that 40 of their colleagues have been killed since January 2004 and that many more have been attacked by militants.

Seri Nimayu, 51, head of the Kamnan (*tambon* chiefs) and Village Chiefs Association of Narathiwat, said the situation has become unbearable and called on the government to take their plight seriously.

A *kamnan* receives a salary of 5,000 baht a month, a village chief receives 4,000 baht and an assistant village chief receives 2,500 baht.

"We have sided with the government and put our lives on the line while doing our jobs. They will have to do more in terms of looking after our welfare and security," K. Seri said.

Wae Kariyor, head of the Kamnan and Village Chiefs Association of Yala said the insurgents have demonstrated that they are superior to the state because they are able to carry out acts of violence without being caught.

"If they can attack a kamnan or village chief and get away with it, just think of how the ordinary villagers must feel," K Wae said.

Village chiefs and kamnans, like the district chiefs who appointed them, fall under the Ministry of Interior chain of command.

While many have been targeted by insurgents, security officers suspect that a number of kamnan and village chiefs sympathize with the militants or else chose to turn a blind eye to the violence for fear of possible retribution.

More than 2,900 people have been killed since January 2004 in the Malay-speaking region.

Surat shoot out. The manager of a *khao tom* (rice porridge) restaurant in Surat Thani was shot

twice in a gunfight with two customers in the early hours of March 13.

Witnesses reported that around 4 am, two customers at Pha Muang restaurant called the manager, Chat Changkhit, 31, over to their table.

When Chat arrived, one of the customers drew a pistol and shot him twice.

Chat then pulled out his own gun and returned fire. The ensuing firefight lasted about two minutes sending the approximately 20 diners in the restaurant running for cover.

The two gunmen then beat a retreat, running to a metallic silver car and driving away. Chat was taken to Surat Thani Hospital where he was treated for two bullet wounds to the chest and left arm.

Police at the scene, led by Surat Thani Muang District Police Superintendent Col Buntawee Toraksa, recovered two 9mm cartridge cases near table 43, where the gunman and his accomplice had been sitting.

Police said that they believe the shooting was motivated by revenge as the victim is a well-known figure among local hoods.

Police have a lead suggesting the gunmen are local men and may be linked to the security forces.

This was the second shooting at the Pha Muang restaurant, opposite Surat Thani Municipality Office, this year.

On January 26, the restaurant's security manager Sgt Manas Kaowphutphong was shot dead in his car parked outside the restaurant.

Bad bedfellow. A Ranger in Narathiwat was found dead in his bed in the early hours of March 12 in what the army are describ-



Handle with care

A bomb disposal officer inspects an explosive found hidden in a motorcycle in the Deep South on March 9. The bomb was defused and sent for forensic examination.

ing as an accidental shooting.

Volunteer Ranger Thaewan Thipprakhon, 30, from Company 4606 of the Ranger's 46th Regiment, was found with a single bullet entry wound under his chin. He was lying in bed clutching his rifle in Ratchanu Ubatham School in Reusoe District where he was based as part of a teacher protection unit.

Other company members reported that at 3:50 am, about half an hour after K. Thaewan went to bed, they heard a snigle shot from where he was sleeping.

When they went to investigate they found he was already dead.

Col Phaisan Noosang, Commander of the Ranger's 46th Regiment, said that they believe Thaewan accidentally shot himself with his rifle which he slept with while twitching in his sleep and did not intentionally kill himself.

Election excitement. Nakhon Sri Thammarat police officers are keeping a close watch on suspected gunmen in the run-up to elections for the president and council of the provincial administration organization (*OrBorJor*), which are due to be held on April 20.

With the window for registration for *OrBorJor* president

candidates due to close on March 21, at the time of going to press two candidates – the current president Withun Dechadaecho and his former deputy Phichai Bunyakiat, both affiliated with the Democrat Party – had confirmed they were to stand.

Maitree Chanthara, the President of Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Electoral Commission, said that the election would be hotly followed by the province's 1,075,884 registered voters with a turnout of more than 80% expected to cast their ballots.

There are 42 seats on the *OrBorJor* up for the taking and the organization has an annual budget of more than a billion baht – one of the three highest *OrBorJor* budgets in the country.

Nakhon Sri Thammarat is renowned for its passion for politics, whether local or national, and this combined with the size of the prize on offer has led police to make plans for preventing any election-related violence or disturbances.

Deputy Commander of Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Police, Col Suthat Chansawat, said that all levels of officialdom need to be vigilant for any potential wrongdoing that may occur in the lead up to the election.

The police have drawn up a plan of action to monitor the movements of known and suspected gunmen and will be searching haunts where would-be assassins and people likely to cause trouble are known to congregate, Col Suthat said.

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

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By Nick Davies

C-Cube Automotive detail shop is a newly opened spa for cars and the first Meguiar's franchise outlet to open in Phuket. The bright orange building on Yaowarat Rd is a beacon for anyone who wants to spruce their car up, from boy racers with customized kit-cars to Sunday drivers to limousine fleet operators.

With a range of cleaning, polishing and waxing treatments from the US for all kinds of car interiors, paintworks, wheels and trims, cars glide onto the forecourt looking as if they're about to be put on a revolving stage at a motor show while scantily clad ladies gyrate to techno beats; or else these speed machines could be auditioning for a part in the next *The Fast and the Furious* movie.

The team of washers, waxers, buffers and polishers are equipped with some of the best tools for the job. They have been trained in the Meguiar's way of caring for cars; a step by step process using specific products to rid cars of blemishes, giving them a dazzling, long-lasting shine.

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A simple wash at C-Cube Automotive costing 150 baht will make your car look so buff that even Mr Universe would be jealous.

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Little red rubies



SNACKING WITH SOME BLING BLING : *Tubtim krawp*, made with water chestnut and coconut milk, is the ultimate Thai dessert.

other Phuket classic – and *roti* (sweet pancake). These are also well worth a try.

Stall owner Khun Joo told the *Gazette* that the bulk of her business is takeaway, as the small area she rents only has enough room for three tables.

Most of her customers are people who stop by after exercising at Suan Luang Park, she said.

There, on her little wheeled cart, is the hero of my story: a huge bowl of bright-red *tubtim krawp* floating enticingly in sweet coconut milk.

Despite its appearance as a dazzling goblet of jewels, servings are very reasonable indeed at just 10 baht a bowl.

Khun Joo told the *Gazette* she has no secret recipe. The somewhat painstaking process of turning water chestnuts into crispy, mouthwatering gems is one she learned from a friend from Chonburi who ran the same operation in the same place for 10 years before having to return home.

“First you must boil the water chestnuts and peel them to reveal the yellow insides,” she explained.

“These are then carefully cut into pieces about one centimeter across and injected with red or pink food coloring. After that they are coated with flour and placed in boiling water until they float to the surface.

“They are then served in fresh coconut milk mixed with jasmine-scented water and served with ice,” she said.

Be warned: the simple method she uses is such a success that it is often difficult to find a place to park along the road in front of it.

Other desserts on offer are *salim* (vermicelli mung bean noodles) and a mix of different sweets, combined according to the customer’s tastes.

While Khun Joo’s little dessert cart might not look that impressive, to me it is a little red jewel that I return to time and time again.

Khun Joo’s tubtim cart is open for business daily from about 6 pm to 11 pm.

After my dinner last night my stomach was full and the usual torpor began to set in. My eyelids began to feel heavy, but somewhere in the back of my mind a little red light turned on. I suddenly knew that my evening meal just wouldn’t be complete without a small bowl of my favorite Thai dessert: *tubtim krawp* (red water chestnuts in coconut milk).

For many foreigners, the

word *tubtim* will conjure up images of the fictitious Burmese slave girl of the same name who was a character in the Rodgers and Hammerstein play *The King and I*.

In fact, the word *tubtim* has two meanings in Thai, referring either to a ruby or the red, pulp-covered seeds of the pomegranate

fruit, which happen resemble the gemstone.

Despite the name and its similar appearance to pomegranate seeds, *tubtim krawp* is made of a different plant altogether, either the

crunchy water chestnut or, in some cases, the similarly-textured *mun kaew* (Jicama, or “Mexican potato”) root, often sold from fruit

carts around Thailand.

The best place I have found to enjoy this quintessentially Thai snack is at a roadside vending stall that sets up a three-table operation every night from 6 pm on the sidewalk along Chao Fa East Rd, about 50 meters south across the road from Suan Luang Park.

There are three cheap dessert vendors there. The one with the delicious *tubtim* is in the middle, flanked by vendors selling warm tofu milk sweets – an-

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By Sompratch Saowakhon

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Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket

Wallapa Saengsuwan and Saksri Beungkaew were married at the Pra Pitak Grand Ballroom of The Metropole Hotel on February 2.



Dr Sasikhan Ngiabprasert and Dr Timo Krings were married at the Pra Pitak Grand Ballroom of The Metropole Hotel on February 16.



Kwanyeun Jaidee and Anuchai Sae-ngao were married at the Phuket Ballroom of Royal Phuket City Hotel on January 20.

Savvy surfer

By Skyler Swezy

When Keith "Robbo" Robinson was 12 years old, his dad cleared him space in the family garage to repair surfboards.

Forty-eight years on, the 60-year-old Aussie is still working on surfboards, now making them by hand in his garage at Nai Yang.

One recent afternoon, the balding board builder ran his expert hand over a half-finished short-board and gestured at the group of local Thai riders hanging out in his garage.

"All these guys here are victims of mine," he said with a smile.

They are members of the Kamala Go Surfing Club and Phuket Board Riders club.

Phuket is not a renowned surfing destination, but it has surfers. In the past, local riders sourced their beloved boards however they could.

Some picked up boards and surf supplies from traveling surfers returning from big-wave tours in the Pacific, others asked seasonal residents to bring surfing equipment on their next trip.

Robbo began supplying Phuket surfers with boards 10 years ago – and now with a workshop on the island, he supports the local scene and sponsors a promising young rider named Lim. Robbo describes his workshop as a "niche, hobby, addiction".

"Okay, so I make a little money on the boards, but I don't need the money. What's great is the feedback I get from these guys and watching them progress. These guys have just opened their hearts to me," he said.

Some of them want to build boards and Robbo has agreed to teach them the trade, the same way he was taught long ago.

Growing up in Sydney, Robbo began surfing at the age of nine. By age 12 he was repairing surfboards and at 15 he



left school for the life of a surfer.

"I'd pick up a bit of work sanding surfboards, pin lining, finishing coats, doing preparations, anything other than the master jobs, which were shaping and laminating. I had to go work for an established company to learn those properly," he said.

At 18, Robbo was working

in the shop of highly respected board-builder Don Burford, whose small shop became Burford Reinforced Plastics, a prominent company in Australia.

"I wanted him to be my mentor, so I put it to him. He said, 'Yes, if you're prepared to come here every night, finish your work here, go have some-



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crafts slickest boards



Left: Members of the Kamala Go Surfing and Phuket Board Riders crews pose with Indian-Pacific boards.

Right: Sixty-year-old Aussie surfboard maker Keith "Robbo" Robinson is planning a trip to a secret surfing location.



tom boards each week.

The rough shape is cut in Australia and shipped to Thailand, where Robbo shapes each board for one intended rider. To pull it off, he has to account for the rider's weight, height, skill and the kind of waves he or she will ride.

"Handmade, foam-core, fiberglass boards are made with somebody in mind, not a price or a shop," he said.

Boards can be built for specific wave characteristics. Phuket's waves are "top heavy", which means that instead of gathering into a steadily curling wall, they tend to quickly crash down upon themselves, making for tricky surfing.

"The boards I was bringing over from Australia were giving [local riders] the shits. They'd have a good wave and then a shitty one. So I went home and built a board especially for Phuket," he said.

"We've done our homework here and I listen to the guys," Robbo added, walking over to the board rack in his shop and sliding a red one from its slot.

"This one here is a particular hybrid I've made for Phuket. It has a fuller nose, it's wider, it's got a double concave. The edges are a bit softer and there's lots of tail lift to keep it light and maneuverable," he said.

Most local riders have only surfed top-heavy Phuket waves, but they know there's better surf

out there.

With this in mind, Robbo is planning a group trip with to a destination that he wouldn't reveal.

As Robbo was talking, the group of surfers moved from the garage and gathered around a television in Robbo's living room. On the screen a pro rider shredded down the face of a barreling, behemoth wave. Wide grins broke out and heads shook in awe.

"I used to skip school and would sit down on the beach after I'd been surfing. I would dream of deserted tropical islands with surf where I was the only one with a board. I still have the same dream.

Last night I had my charts out, looking at this new spot I have my eye on. We've done a little research and now it's time to go."

Robbo's custom short-boards cost about 17,000 baht and mini-mals about 22,000 baht. For further information about buying a board, learning to surf or joining the surf scene call Robbo at Tel: 087-2811995.

thing to eat and come back into the shaping room.' So I used to sit on the floor until 10 at night, covered in foam dust, watching him," Robbo said.

"Sometimes I'd ring up and say, 'I can't make it today, the surf's good.' And he'd say, 'How good is it?' I'd say, 'Oh it's great. I'm gonna milk it for about four

hours, sure.' He'd say, 'All right, I'll come down and have a surf with you.' He would, but then he'd take me back to work and keep me there at night to make up for the morning I'd missed," Robbo recalled, laughing. "It's a lifestyle."

Robbo eventually founded a surfboard-manufacturing com-

pany called Indian-Pacific, but creating a successful business robbed him of his time in the water.

"Making boards is fun; making money out of them is a pain in the arse," he said bluntly.

Robbo has since pulled back from large-scale production. Instead, he crafts a couple of cus-

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This week



FANTASY FLY-INS: The management team at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa welcomes Kiatkamol 'Tui' Lata (left), winner of the popular TV contest Academy Fantasia 3, and actress Araya 'Chompoo' Hargett (center) to the resort for a fashion photo shoot.



CEREAL CELEBRATION: Thongthuan Sukmuang (4th from left), chairman of the Phuket Reporters Club, congratulates Chukiet Opaswong (3rd from right), president of Rice Exporters Association and managing director of The Metropole hotel, at his birthday party held at The Metropole recently.



LENDING AN EAR: Cosmetic surgeon Dr Sanguan Kunaporn (left) joins Dr Vlastibor Minarovjehc (2nd from right) from Slovakia and Dr Toranis Tantipriyakij at Phuket International Hospital after second-stage ear graft surgery on Pratchaya 'Dodo' Suttipol (in pink hospital gown), who was born without any cartilage on his left ear. The ear reconstruction is being provided free.



UPCOUNTRY PRACTICE: Danish Honorary Consul to Phuket Kenneth Karlsson and his wife, Evita, congratulate Rungnapa Putkaew, barrister and Managing Director of PK International Law Office, at the March 7 opening of her law office in Chalong.



LIGHT ON: Thai artist Therdkiat Wangwatcharakul (black shirt) celebrates the opening of his first single canvas art exhibition, in the theme 'Light of Life', at D Gallery at Royal Phuket Marina on March 8 with D Gallery Director Robert Collins (left), Managing Director Pornthip Raksapiksu (2nd from left) and Gallery Manager Nichakamon Khajorn (right).



ROLLING STONES: Stoney Monday developers (from left) Carl McDarby, Rell Hayes, Ian Laycock, Patrick Hehir and Louis Propero launch their Stoney Monday Oasis Beach Resort project at Layan on March 3.

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All rise for Bepy

Standing ovations are normally reserved for legendary individuals; sportsmen such as Pelé, Jack Nicklaus and Rod Laver, Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, the first climbers to conquer Mount Everest, great opera singers, Nobel Prize winners and elder statesmen.

Well-known expat Bepy Graziani di Ceneda received a standing ovation at the Blue Canyon Country Club on March 9. Normally, you wouldn't see anybody receiving a standing ovation at Blue Canyon and you would not see Bepy being given a standing ovation for being there, especially as he has been there almost every day for the past 10 years.

You wouldn't have expected to see Bepy, like most of us, receiving a standing ovation for anything, except perhaps for his pepper steak with blue cheese sauce. But this day was different.

Nine years ago, Bepy Graziani di Ceneda, owner of Toto Italian Restaurant at Tinlay Place at the entrance to Laguna, decided to start a golf association. He often did things by himself, usually without consulting anybody, often almost starting a war

in Tinlay Place, a village in Cherng Talay where we wine and dine.

Bepy generally considers Tinlay Place to be his personal village – and what with a couple of pubs, a sports bar and restaurants, he has, in all fairness, made a substantial contribution, albeit having stepped on a few toes.

Having consulted his friends and taken no notice of anybody, he founded the Mulligan Golf Association and a weekly tournament. In addition to the weekly tournament, an annual tournament is held with prizes, sponsorships and all manner of fun things.

Bepy received a standing ovation from about 100 players and supporters at the ninth annual Mulligan Golf Tournament; not because he started it, but because he was there. He was unable to play for the first time; he couldn't because he can hardly walk unassisted.

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven



DYNAMIC DUO: Bepy Graziani di Ceneda, founder of the Mulligans Golf Club, and his loyal caddy Khun Sue.

Four weeks ago, we thought Bepy was not going to come out of hospital, but he did and he insisted on coming to the tournament. It must have been frustrating and emotional after playing almost every day for 15 years.

However, he drove around the course like some sort of royalty, waving and shaking hands. He was chauffeured by K.

Sue, caddy number 152, who has caddied for Bepy for many years and was followed by other carts with an entourage of relatives and nurses, who I suspect would not have looked out of place among CIA agents following the president.

Mind you, his loyal caddy probably deserved a standing ovation after many years following

Bepy around. I have personally witnessed her being thrown out of a golf cart as Bepy tried to impersonate Michael Schumacher down the ninth fairway.

Regardless of his health, Bepy was not going to miss his beloved Mulligan tournament. He stayed for the game and most extraordinarily remained for the dinner and took part in the prize giving.

K. Sue stayed with him, steering the wheelchair, looking after him and generally going far beyond the call of duty.

Most guests and players at the Blue Canyon have enjoyed a lot of pleasant experiences at Bepy's establishments: the excellent Toto Italian Restaurant, the bars and the parties.

The standing ovation was, in many ways, a thank you for all this and the Mulligan Golf Society, but mostly it was for the courage and determination that made him come out against the odds.

As Bepy was known to say on a regular basis, "Eh-eh, unbelievable."

International writers dominate Boathouse awards

Local literati and book lovers flocked to Mom Tri's Boathouse on Kata Beach for the announcement of its Short Fiction 2008 Contest winners on March 12.

Eric Rosenkranz of Singapore won first place with his story *The Gift*. Second prize went to Barbara Fagen of the US for her story *Unpacking*, while Dr Michael Moreton of Bangkok won third place with *The Bridge*.

The contest attracted entrants from throughout Thailand and as far away as the US, Scotland and Australia, with stories of 1,000 to 1,500 words containing three key words: Boathouse, Phuket and Mango.

Bangkok-based author Jake Needham, writer of bestsellers such as *The Big Mango*, *Laundry Man* and *Killing Plato*, selected the winners from a shortlist of 18.

"It was a tough decision", said Jake last week during his stay at the Boathouse with his wife, K. Aey, "as the quality of so many entries was surprisingly high."

Three Phuket-based writers – Alexander Maycock (6-2-6-4-6), Barry



MY WORD: Author Jake Needham (2nd from left) and Boathouse PR Manager Lisa Sol (center) congratulate (from left) Frank Visakay, Barry Daniel and Liz Westgate (on behalf of Alexander Maycock) for winning Honorable Mentions in the contest.

Daniel (*Letta 'Ome*) and Frank Visakay (*The Perfect Vacation*) – were awarded honorable mentions for their entries.

Later that evening, Bruce Stanley led an entertaining discussion of Jake's work and of writing in general, marking the first of a new series of Boathouse Writer's

Nights, a revival of the popular Chao Praya Literary Society events once held at the resort.

Jake was also involved in two Boathouse-sponsored writing workshops on March 11 and 12 at QSI Phuket and British International School (BIS), joined by

more than 100 students seeking to learn tricks of the trade.

"A book never runs out of batteries, is great value for money with hours of entertainment for a couple of hundred baht, fits in any bag and stimulates your own imagination," said Jake at the workshop. "Go out to a bookshop, browse around and you will find a book that will appeal to you."

Young writers will have the chance to compete in the second part of the writing competition, which is open to writers 15 to 18 years old. Students are asked to finish Jake Needham's short story featuring his novels' character Jack Shepherd using between 800 and 1,200 words. The contest closes on April 10.

Contest and event details and all the winning stories can be found at www.boathousephuket.com.

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Old versus new – the secrets of

By Lana Willocks



CHANGES AND CHOICES: TRADITIONAL VS MODERN

Café boran and other old-time favorites are served up steaming and fresh at Odin Tea Shop, on Yaowarat Rd, Phuket City (above). Coffee Gold (right), on Chao Fa Nok Rd, opposite Phrompan supermarket, offers lattes and other trendy twists on the bean.

Coffee is the last safe refuge for addicts. Consuming most other types of stimulants in the Kingdom could land you in the slammer – or worse.

Smoking is now banned in most places in Thailand and there's always the looming threat that the ban's tentacles will spread to cover more public, and even private, spaces.

The return to democracy in Thailand has killed off the fun for sociable alcohol drinkers, too.

The flurry of elections in recent months has imposed numerous booze bans during voting periods, leaving the imbibers among us almost wistful for those relatively carefree days under military rule.

The social police have yet to find a problem with the little brown bean, however, and have thankfully kept out of the cafés in search of people to harass.

Café culture has been mushrooming across Thailand since the introduction of premium coffee franchises in the 1990s. According to Nestlé, the maker of Nescafé, Thais now drink

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Thai Iced Coffee

Strong, black ground coffee, sufficient to brew 4 cups
4 tablespoons sugar
4 tablespoons heavy cream
2 teaspoons ground cardamom (*krawan* in Thai)
1 teaspoon almond flavoring

Add the cardamom to the ground coffee, then brew the coffee. When the coffee is brewed, add the sugar and almond flavoring, mix well and then let the coffee cool to lukewarm.

Fill four 12-ounce (1.5-cup) highball glasses halfway to the rim with crushed ice and then fill two-thirds full with coffee. Into each glass, stir about one tablespoon of heavy cream.

To achieve a layered effect, hold a spoon on top of the coffee and pour the cream slowly into the spoon so that the cream floats on top of the glass over the coffee.

Quick Cappuccino Mix

1 cup coffee whitener
1 cup hot chocolate powder
2/3 cup instant coffee
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp nutmeg

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the brews



SWEET LAYERS: Traditional Thai coffee (*café boran*) is made with condensed milk and usually served with deep fried dough and tea.

about 200 cups a year compared with just 50 cups a year a decade ago. The Thai coffee market is now estimated to be worth some 20 billion baht.

Where once the staple coffee drinkers were old Chinese men in shophouses stirring their oversized shot glasses of *café boran* around marble-topped circular tables, Thais of all generations are now seen happily sipping their hazelnut-whipped-

mochaccino concoctions in shopping centers and roadside cafés in locations far flung from the trendier neighborhoods of Bangkok.

Particularly in Phuket City and Patong these days, it seems you can't walk more than five paces without coming across yet another coffee shop.

One company has even set up caffeine resupply kiosks right on the grounds of petrol service

stations, so the driver can juice up at the same time as his vehicle.

And somewhere down the alley or around the next corner a mobile coffee cart driver is on the hunt, seeking those with a yen for *café yen*.

It's enjoyable, it's social and for those who sell the brew, it's a profitable venture with great potential for growth, all of which makes one think that it all must come to an end soon.

You can almost imagine some Culture Ministry official seething at the sight of happy latte sippers, thinking, "This must be stopped."

So, in preparation for a decaffeinated future, coffee addicts are advised to stock up on supplies now and keep the recipes on the facing below in a safe place, or better yet, commit them to memory.

The iced coffee (*café yen*) recipe is an updated, less saccharine twist on the traditional method that uses a cotton strainer bag (*thung thom café*) and loads of sweetened condensed milk.

The quick cappuccino mix is a family favorite. Coffee snobs may scoff at the use of instant coffee, but various fine-grind aficionados have affirmed that it is smooth and delicious. As the family motto goes, "If it works for cousin Betty, it'll work for me."

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Sakura makeover, less is more

The latest makeup trend to emerge from Japan is the "sakura look".

Like the country's national flower, the sakura makeover is all about a naturally fresh, bright and lively look that enhances Asian faces.

The Sakura look highlights the browns of Asian eyes rather than focusing on the western style of making the lips stand out.

The new look was recently introduced at Central Festival Phuket with the opening of Lunasol by Kanebo, a new Japanese cosmetic brand.

During the event, Japanese makeup artist Shunichi Suzuki gave a Sakura makeup demonstration, advising Asian women to go for a subtle and natural-looking makeup theme to achieve the fresh and subtle appearance.

The the makeup's base foundation is very important he said. Choosing a light water-based foundation helps keep the look light.

A concealer lotion should be used after application of foundation to hide skin problems such as age spots, hyperpigmentation



The sakura makeover emphasizes the browns of Asian eyes.

and Rosacea. You can top it off with loose powder if you feel the need for more coverage and want to avoid the cake-powder look.

The next step is to treat the eyes with an eyelid-base lotion before applying eye shadow. "This helps make the eyes look lighter and retain the original color and appearance throughout the day and night," said Mr Shunichi.

Drawing a fine line around your eyes before applying the eye-shadow will help emphasize them. If you want a two-tone look, apply a darker shade to the upper lid (globe-line) and a lighter color, such as white or broken beige, to the base just above the lashes.

For a spot of glamor, line your eyes with a glittering color and then brush your eyelashes with mascara and draw up your eyebrows with an eyebrow pencil, carefully mirroring the shape of your eyes.

Using a lip-pencil is not always necessary or desirable. Instead, just use a soft-colored lipstick. It will help give your face a healthy glow and highlight your natural look, just like the Japanese sakura flower.

- Janyaporn Morel

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Sweet treat for the skin

Cocoa powder, chocolate liqueur, sweet almond oil, grounded walnuts, honey and milk – a decadent combination that sounds like a recipe for a mouth-watering treat. But it's the skin, not the taste buds, that will revel in this cocoa confection.

The Kanda Spa at Kata Beach Resort has introduced its "Ultimate Body Wraps of Chocolate Lover" spa session that will detox and moisturize the skin – not to mention provide sensory delights.

Kanda Spa opened in December. It is the first spa at the Kata Beach Resort, a popular fixture on Kata Beach for nearly 20 years.

The Kata Group invested some 20 million baht in creating

the spa, which features three Bali-style pavilions set on one rai of land.

Spa supervisor Pimyada Settawattanasiri said that the spa aims to showcase Thai culture by using Thai decorative art, Thai-style massage and local herbs.

The Chocolate Lover treatment veers off the usual Thai spa track, however, providing a sweet surprise to those seeking a relaxing, sensual experience.

The 60-minute session starts with a Thai herbal sauna to open the skin pores, then you lie down and the therapist applies the chocolate concoction from head to toe. A strong desire to sneak a taste soon takes hold as the aroma bathes the room in chocolaty goodness.

Spa MAGIC

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn
Kanda Spa



CHOCOLATE DIP: There are few things more divine than a spa treatment that combines massage with chocolate.

Once the chocolate is layered on, you're wrapped in plastic and towels and left to lie and relax for 15 minutes, feeling a bit like a cake that's been popped in the oven.

This is followed by a show-

er, and after all the chocolate has washed off your skin feels noticeably smoother, and, of course, nicely scented.

After that the therapist massages lotion onto your body again for some added moisture, and

you're left with a soft, sweet-smelling feeling all over for the rest of the day.

The Chocolate Lover treatment will set you back 2,900 baht.

There is a wide range of treatments available, including Kanda Spa's featured treatment – Himalayan Healing Stones, an 80-minute session costing 2,800 baht.

Other services include Pregnancy Massage, Tension Release Massage, Red Wine Gel Scrub, Coconut Cream Scrub, Aroma Salt Body Glow, as well as many facial treatments using Thai herbal products.

Kanda Spa is open daily from 10 am. Tel: 076-330530-4
Website: www.katagroup.com
Treatments cost from 500 baht for a one-hour foot massage to 12,400 baht for the Romantic Fantasy, 3½-hour couples package.

It started in a relatively minor fashion, a slow but irritating "plop... plop" as drips from the ceiling below the bathroom landed like Chinese water torture on the kitchen stone floor. It has been a recurrent problem since we moved into our new home.

What we didn't know before moving into the area was that the local water had the corrosive qualities of sulphuric acid when it comes in regular contact with copper piping. The pipes turn blue and the metal eventually gives way, leading to dripping and eventually to the house being flooded.

"I'll call the plumber," said Him Indoors optimistically. "He can't come for a couple of weeks," he reported back, dolefully. "Neither can any of the 25 others I've called. Crikey. It's not rocket science is it? It's only a

Watertight relationships

bit of plumbing. I'll do it myself." Be still, my sinking heart, I thought. Remember that old song *Right Said Fred*, in which demolition has to take place before anything gets done? It begins ringing in my ears.

"Right," he said. "I'm gonna have to take the bath out to get to this pipe. That means taking the tiles off." He did. Soon the bath had been removed.

"You know, while I'm in here, I might as well do all this piping – sink, loo, shower... the lot."

Three sons and I quickly joined a local health club – not for exercise, for the showers – and started going regularly to res-

taurants for meals.

On he plodded. "You know, you're right. The color of this bathroom suite is pretty horrendous. I'm going to rip it all out. I'll raise the floor here and put in one of those high-tech glass showers with lots of power. It'll be great and no labor costs."

Never trust a man that claims he'll save a fortune by doing it himself. He won't. What he pockets in money he squanders in goodwill. I was having strip-washes at the kitchen sink and thinking of getting a tin bath in front of the fire, just like my grandmother did. Except I didn't have a fireplace.

I should have berated him about the dangers of the strange world of TV makeover programs in which the presenters have a wand that transforms the pumpkin of DIY disaster into the golden coach of chic designer living.

What they don't show you is the hordes of helpers with professional expertise, who have been fully trained in basic safety procedures. Hospital casualty departments – and sometimes the

morgues – are brimming with people who mistakenly drilled into mains wiring or fell 20 feet through a loft floor or from a roof.

To be fair to Him Indoors – a man of good sense and some electrical expertise – the closest we've come to needing medical help is a psychiatrist. We're still together, just, but how many women simply bolt the door at the mere mention of Do-It-Yourself and set off in search of a man who thinks all screwdrivers contain vodka and orange?

I'd advocate a complete ban on DIY programs on television were it not for the difficulty of finding a professional who will not require his client to win the lottery before the bill can be settled.

In London the Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering told me they will be short of 29,000 plumbers over the next five years, caused, they think, by government plans to send every Tom, Dick and Harriet to university where they can run up debts and then not get a job at the end of it.

An apprenticeship in plumbing, on the other hand, can open the door to potential earnings of up to £70,000 a year in the UK for anyone prepared to run their own business and work hard.

So here's my plan: degrees in all building trades instead. The universities won't like it, but hey, what's a doctor but a glorified plumber anyway – waste pipes, running liquids and more?

It might also give the girls a better chance – of 11,000 members of the Institute of Plumbing, only a handful are women. So put your daughter into S-bends, Mrs Worthington, then send her straight round to my place. Or it's divorce lawyers at dawn.

Ambrosia Sakkadas, a Britain-born Greek Cypriot and graduate of Central St Martins College of Art & Design in London, is an artist, designer and newspaper columnist. Flushed with the success of her first novel *Greek Girls Don't Cry*, available from amazon.com, a second is now in the works.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Until March 28. Phuket Food Festival.

Find a great variety of local food every day, including fresh seafood, at the 11th Phuket Food Festival at Saphan Hin. There will be demonstrations of local delicacies, sales of OTOP products, cultural and contemporary performances and more. Entry is free.

For details contact Jaras Sae-Tan. Tel: 081-3261526. Email: rat_st99@yahoo.com

Until March 29. Light of Life Art Exhibition.

"Light of Life" will feature acrylic and oil on canvas by Thai artist Therdkiat Wangwacharakul at D Gallery, Royal Phuket Marina. His previous exhibitions were of oil on aluminum sheets.

His landscapes focus on the interplay between shadow and light. Open daily 11 am to 7 pm.

For details, contact Bowie at Tel: 076-360867. Email: bowie@dgallery.co.th Website: www.dgallery.co.th

March 22. Easter Buffet @ Wine Connection Chalong.

A super Easter buffet with carved leg of lamb and many more dishes, such as parma ham, coppa and more, are awaiting you – along with a live band and fireworks. 650+ baht per person. 6:30 pm-11 pm. Contact Pascal. Tel: 087-8896074. Email: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th

March 22-24. Kids' Weekend.

Children's Weekend at Scuba Cat Diving. Is your child at least eight years old and does he or she want to try diving? Scuba Cat Diving is running a Bubblemaker and Seal Team Weekend specifically for children. Contact for details. Tel: 076-293120-1. Email: info@scubacat.com Website: www.scubacat.com

March 22-23. Island Trophy Kid's Optimist Regatta.

In another first for Phuket youth sailing, the Phuket Yacht Club at Ao Yon has announced the inaugural Island Trophy. This two-day regatta, with kids from Koh Samui and Phuket competing in their first-ever real boat race, will take place off Ao Yon from 10 am to 5 pm.

The competitors, kids from

around 8 years upwards, are learning to sail the tiny Optimist dinghies at Koh Samui with the Samui Yacht Club Regatta, and here in Phuket as part of the Phuket Yacht Club's sail training program.

For details contact Katy Gooch. Tel: 085-2159185. Email: phuketyachtclub@gmail.com

March 23. PC Group Therapy – Chalong.

Join Windows for Dummies... author Woody Leonhard and his band of techie irregulars in a wide-ranging discussion of computer topics.

If you can't get your Windows to work right, 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. 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong.

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

March 28. Laguna Phuket Sea Turtle Conservation Ceremony.

Since 1994, Laguna Phuket has held this event within its complex to raise funds for the sea turtle conservation programs run by the Royal Thai Navy and Phuket Marine Biological Center.

Apart from the releasing of sea turtles, there will also be many other fun activities, such as a sea-turtle-conservation exhibition, a turtle sand-sculpture completion, T-shirt painting, bead-bracelet making and games booths at Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket beachfront from 4 pm to 6 pm.

For further information contact Saranya Tantiphiriyakul. Tel: 076-362300 ext 1304. Email: saranyat@lagunaphuket.com

March 28-April 24. BIS IB Visual Arts Exhibition.

A display of works by graduating students of the British International School IB program at Room Limited on the bypass road.

Private viewing on Friday, March 28, from 7 pm to 9 pm.

Open to the public from March 29 until April 24, from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm.



K. Thaweesak explores war and global conflicts in his latest exhibition at D Gallery.

Soldiers – Art Exhibition

April 26-May 17

In these 20 paintings, K. Thaweesak is questioning himself as to what causes wars and destruction, whether it be past wars or current conflicts. He looks at who is involved in the wars, the instigators and the victims. He also observes how nonsensical and destructive it is to have wars.

At D Gallery, RPM, daily from 11 am until 7 pm.

Contact Bowie for further information. Tel: 076-360867.

Email: bowie@dgallery.co.th Website: www.dgallery.co.th

Closed April 13-16, during Songkran.

Contact K. Gai. Tel: 076-238711-20 ext. 3603. Email: saowarotm@bcis.ac.th Website: www.bcis.ac.th

March 30. Mac Group Therapy – Chalong.

The first-ever Macintosh Group Therapy meeting will be at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong on March 30.

PC users are invited, too, but the emphasis will be on problems folks are encountering with their Macs. Bring your questions. Bring your computers. Let's see if we can find some answers.

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

April 6. Chakri Memorial Day (Public Holiday).

Chakri Day commemorates

the origins of the Chakri dynasty, founded by Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital.

HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the Chakri dynasty.

April 10-12. Phuket Bike Week.

Details to be announced.

April 13-15. Songkran Festival (Public Holiday).

Songkran (Thai New Year),

also known as the Water Festival, is held during the driest months in Thailand.

Songkran is celebrated by Thais throughout the country by pouring – traditionally only a little, but these days a lot – water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

April 17-20. Phuket International Cricket Sixes.

Winner of prestigious awards from the International Cricket Council and the Asian Cricket Council, the Phuket International Cricket Sixes will be held at Karon Municipal Stadium.

Every year the Phuket Sixes attracts club cricket teams from around the world, along with local Phuket sides, to enjoy the competition and camaraderie of cricket.

See page 34 in our Sports section for more details.

May 1. National Labor Day (Public Holiday).

Public holiday for all commercial workers, but government offices will remain open.

May 5. Coronation Day (Public Holiday).

Coronation Day commemorates the ascension to the throne of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on May 5, 1950.

May 19. Visakha Bucha Day (Public Holiday).

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the sixth lunar month of the Thai calendar.

It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha. Miraculously, these events fell in the same month and on the same date in the Buddhist era.

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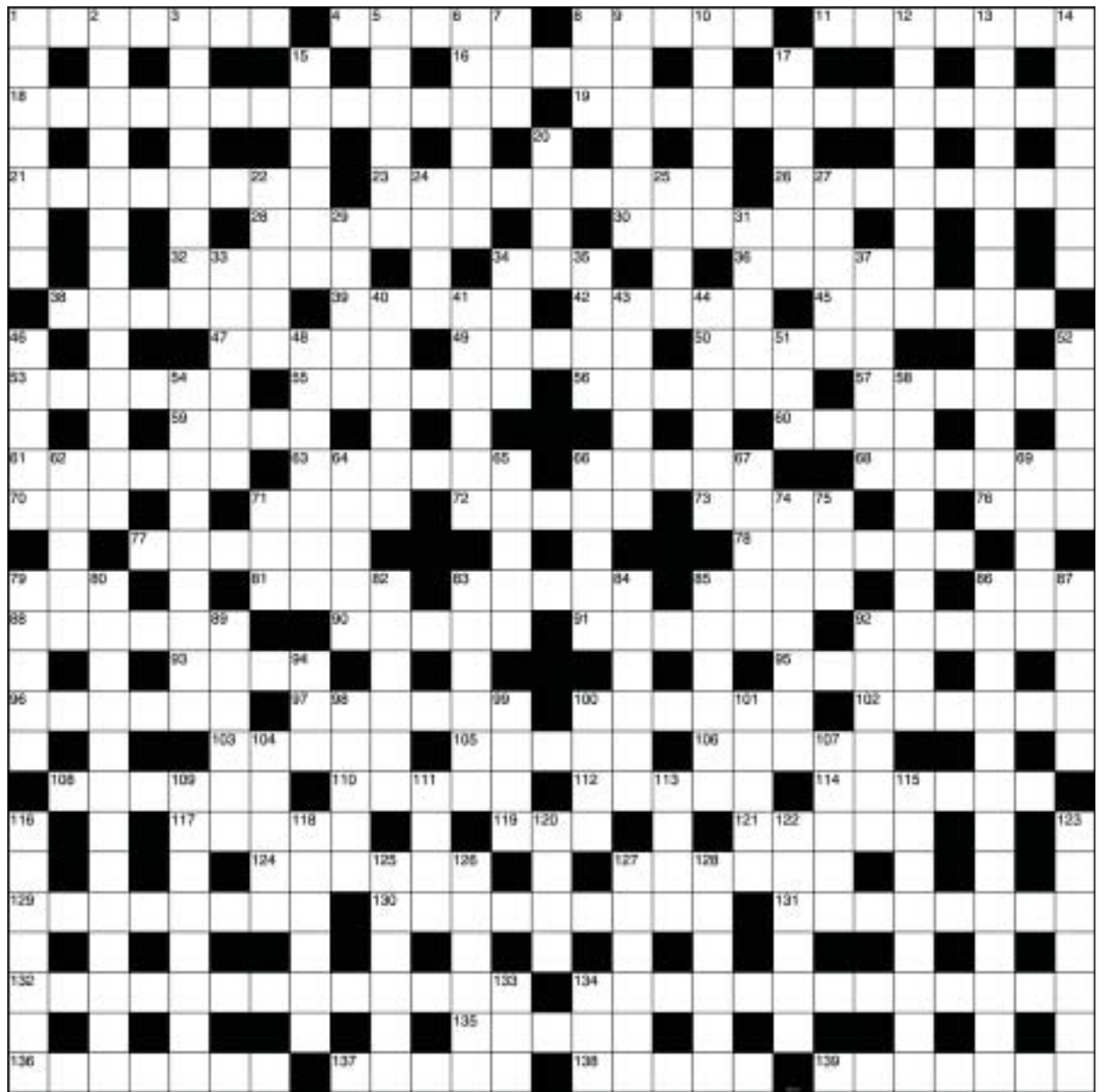
Puzzles

The BIG Crossword

Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are at least 25 words related to water sports. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 15 or more, good; 20 or more, very good; 25 or more, excellent. Solution on the next page.

G	C	V	J	L	J	P	S	S	B	E	A	C	H	E
O	N	F	F	E	T	O	E	A	G	B	X	P	P	R
S	L	I	T	P	J	O	L	I	U	N	X	O	S	I
V	S	S	I	S	G	L	G	L	G	N	I	V	I	D
H	K	L	E	K	V	M	G	I	G	Z	L	W	X	K
I	A	V	W	S	S	W	O	N	L	E	R	J	O	Y
I	A	B	T	O	H	R	G	G	K	A	P	G	A	R
W	P	O	K	Q	R	X	E	R	U	F	R	Y	H	E
B	U	F	K	Q	G	L	O	T	S	U	E	M	Z	U
M	O	M	I	X	L	N	P	P	A	G	F	W	C	E
E	C	D	M	S	S	Y	E	G	X	W	R	G	V	Y
W	O	Q	Y	M	H	E	V	N	P	Q	U	N	A	Q
E	F	G	Z	B	D	I	Z	L	E	V	S	W	Z	V
W	N	Z	F	B	O	U	N	N	M	W	D	E	D	E
F	N	M	O	L	T	A	A	G	E	Y	N	W	V	L
N	Q	A	S	V	N	L	R	Q	W	C	I	A	O	X
T	T	E	G	G	P	R	Q	D	S	O	W	K	T	C
T	I	Q	F	O	Y	X	L	L	U	E	K	E	H	Q
K	I	U	R	G	N	I	M	M	I	W	S	B	C	J
P	A	D	S	U	R	F	B	O	A	R	D	O	A	T
X	Y	Y	H	T	O	L	O	P	I	E	N	A	Y	H
H	F	E	A	D	E	A	S	D	E	I	S	R	P	G
T	B	G	Z	K	V	W	J	C	P	X	S	D	K	V
R	A	F	T	I	N	G	Y	J	G	A	M	W	V	C
X	X	A	C	J	H	A	A	I	L	K	N	B	W	M



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Across

- 1. Far-off
- 4. Leaf (through)
- 8. Ex-UK PM, Tony...
- 11. Hill
- 16. Debate
- 18. Ex-president of South Africa (6,7)
- 19. Chattiness
- 21. Rissole
- 23. Secretion of milk
- 26. Fierce shark (3-5)
- 28. Claim
- 30. Scolded repeatedly
- 32. Iron or tin
- 34. China's ...Zedong
- 36. Unfulfilled
- 38. Walking corpse
- 39. Degrade
- 42. Niggard
- 45. Arch of foot
- 47. Soot
- 49. Manufacturer
- 50. Songs for twosome
- 53. Whiten
- 55. Spanish capital
- 56. Fascism
- 57. E African country
- 59. Cartoon character, ...Ant
- 60. Manipulative person
- 61. Entangle
- 63. Agreed to
- 66. Quarried
- 68. Medieval maiden
- 70. Night & ...
- 71. Baby carriage
- 72. Actor, ...Leary
- 73. Drastic
- 76. City, ... Paulo
- 77. Of straight lines
- 78. Guiding principle, ...rule

- 79. Primary number
- 81. Commoner
- 83. Initiated
- 85. Hazard
- 86. Water column
- 88. Clashing instrument
- 90. On no occasion
- 91. Contradict
- 92. Drumming insect
- 93. Dusting powder
- 95. Rather this ...that
- 96. Irregular
- 97. Secured by hammering
- 100. Most likable
- 102. Humbler
- 103. Ballet
- 105. Lounges
- 106. Prolonged assault
- 108. Sited
- 110. Cult heroes
- 112. Hones
- 114. Band's tour helper
- 117. Stated further
- 119. Must, ...to
- 121. Dog, ...Bernard
- 124. Powerful beams
- 127. Misbehave (4,2)
- 129. Huge Egyptian statues
- 130. Tidal river-mouths
- 131. Evolves
- 132. Protestants
- 134. Sedated
- 135. Measure
- 136. Stinging weeds
- 137. Light-splitting glass
- 138. Grown-up
- 139. Railway shunting tracks

- 2. Evangelical organization (9,4)
- 3. Nuclear weapon (4,4)
- 5. Snuggle
- 6. Desire to harm
- 7. Brassiere
- 8. However
- 9. Introductory (4-2)
- 10. Vexing
- 12. Inflatable life-jackets (3,5)
- 13. Fatigue
- 14. Small falcon
- 15. Spanish rice dish
- 17. Pollen-producing part
- 20. 50s actress, ...Turner
- 22. Even further delayed
- 24. Taj Mahal city
- 25. Sturdy trees
- 27. Own up
- 29. Peruvian mammal
- 31. Indian teachers
- 33. Seventh, ..., ninth
- 34. Honey liquor
- 35. Forewarning
- 37. Eventuated
- 40. Scene of uproar
- 41. Grinned
- 43. People from Baghdad
- 44. Prepared (newspaper)
- 46. Waned
- 48. Unethical
- 51. Flightless bird
- 52. Painter, ...Picasso
- 54. Chastise
- 58. Gossip network
- 62. Nursemaid
- 64. Singer, ...Carpenter
- 65. Put off

- 66. Italian city
- 67. Finger or toe
- 69. Alleviated
- 71. High spirits
- 74. Prize ribbon
- 75. Moose
- 79. Take place
- 80. Decoration
- 82. Misrepresented
- 83. Happened to
- 84. Fairly modern
- 85. Most uncommon
- 86. Actor (4,9)
- 87. Linger
- 89. Came to earth
- 92. Progressed (4,2)
- 94. World news service (1,1,1)
- 98. Corrosive fluids
- 99. Sprint
- 100. TV bulletin
- 101. Effeminate
- 104. Befuddle
- 107. Colic pain
- 109. Man-eating savage
- 111. Theirs &... ..Macpherson
- 113. Model
- 115. Affirmed
- 116. ...& brush
- 118. More straightforward
- 120. At a great distance
- 122. Reviews (accounts)
- 123. Anyway
- 125. Stranger
- 126. Bee wounds
- 127. Restrained, ...down
- 128. Additionally (2,4)
- 133. Hollywood producer, ...Goldwyn
- 134. Islamic leader, the ...Khan

Solution on next page

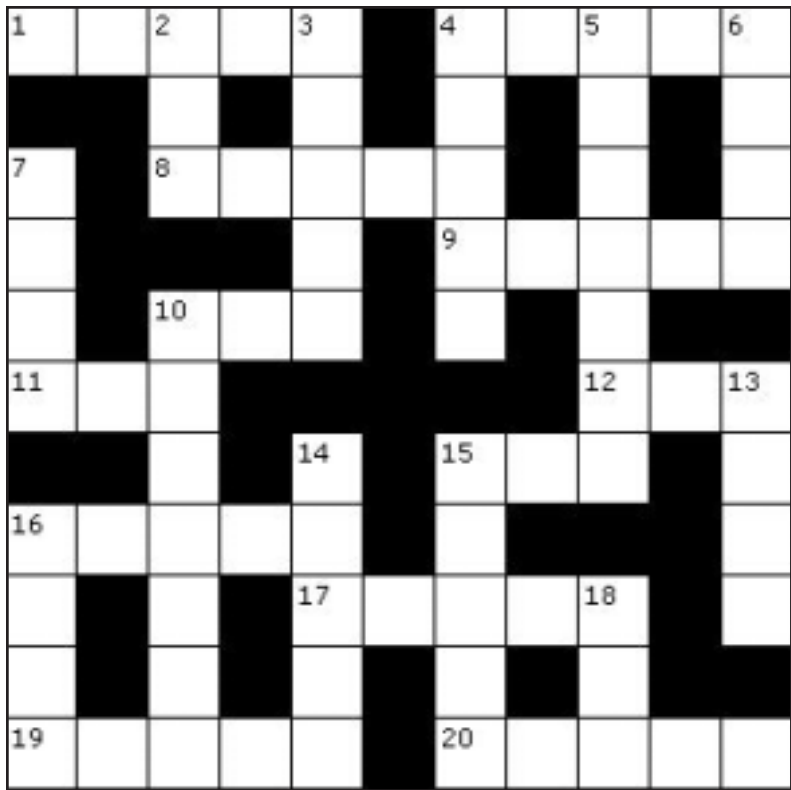
su | do | ku

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

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. Bound to read | 2. Ball |
| 4. Sports seat | 3. Something sweet |
| 8. Bread loops | 4. Regular debts owed |
| 9. Pools of water | 5. Serviettes |
| 10. A place to drink | 6. These go on your head |
| 11. Duo | 7. Not hard |
| 12. To catch a fish | 10. Business is doing well |
| 15. Phone company | 13. Very small |
| 16. Pace | 14. Mechanical creature |
| 17. Small staff | 15. Room at the top |
| 19. Not loose | 16. Try out |
| 20. Hot rocks | 18. Basketball league |

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



Kids! Ask Mum and Dad to help you find the answers to these questions. They're not easy but, if you do some research, you should be able to find the answers to all of them.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Actor Richard Kiel is best known for playing which villainous character? | 8. In art, what color is said to signify royalty? | 16. Which of Shakespeare's plays has a title that is also a proverb? |
| 2. Which author created Rip Van Winkle? | 9. Who wrote <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> ? | 17. Who won a Golden Globe for her role in the movie <i>Working Girl</i> ? |
| 3. Pebbles and Bamm Bamm were characters in which animated TV series? | 10. Which book begins with the famous line, "Marley was dead, at least to begin with"? | 18. Which English football team knocked Manchester United out of the 2000-01 FA Cup? |
| 4. In which Formula One team did Damon Hill replace Nigel Mansell? | 11. What nationality was Salvador Dali? | 19. How many days was Great Train Robber Ronnie Biggs on the run from the United Kingdom for? |
| 5. In which year did Japan attack Pearl Harbor? | 12. Who created Peter Pan? | 20. Who did Iain Duncan Smith beat to become the leader of the UK Conservative Party? |
| 6. Which character did Harrison Ford play in <i>Patriot Games</i> ? | 13. Which 1948 novel was originally called <i>The Last Man in Europe</i> ? | |
| 7. In which American state would you find a town called Santa Claus? | 14. Who painted <i>Still Life with Apples and Oranges</i> ? | |
| | 15. Which novel was based on the exploits of Alexander Selkirk? | |

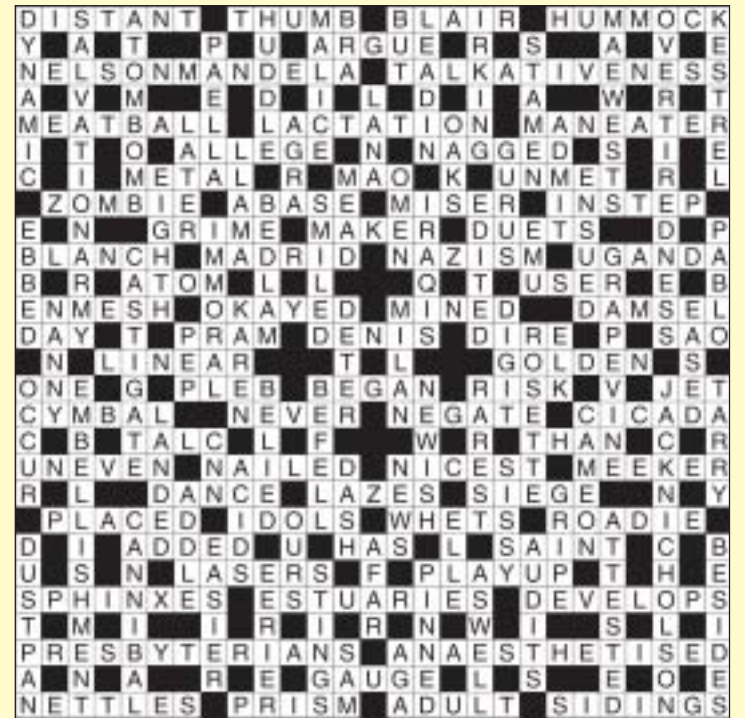
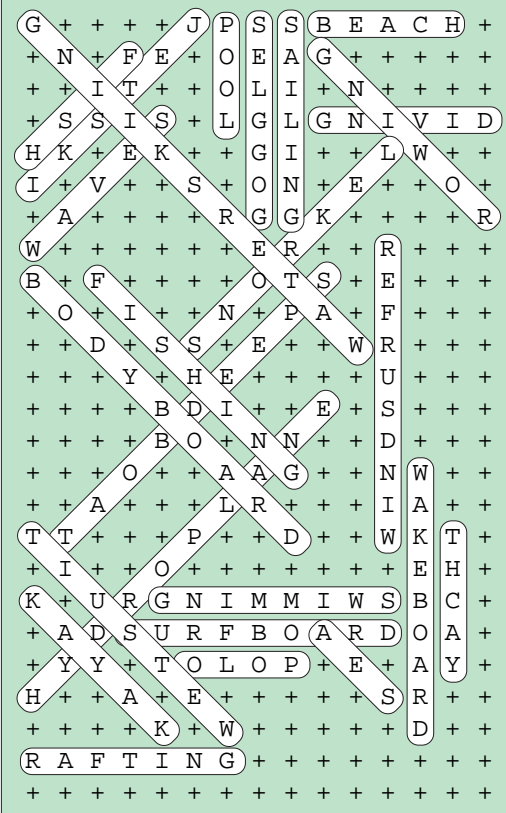
Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Monster Quiz Answers

- Jaws, in the James Bond movies;
- Washington Irving;
- The Flintstones*;
- Williams;
- 1941;
- Jack Ryan;
- Indiana;
- Purple;
- Oscar Wilde;
- A Christmas Carol*;
- Spanish;
- JM Barrie;
- 1984*;
- Cezanne;
- Robinson Crusoe*;
- All's Well That Ends Well*;
- Melanie Griffith;
- West Ham United;
- 13,068;
- Kenneth Clarke.

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Savvy seafarers stick to their roots

Although they make up a large percentage of the island's population today, the Siamese were not the first inhabitants of Phuket. The numerous islands and coastal planes from the Mergui Archipelago in Burma all the way south to Indonesia were inhabited by other groups years before the Siamese even arrived in Southern Thailand.

There were up to six different tribes living in Phuket, all sharing Austronesian ancestry and speaking dialects of a language more closely resembling Malay than Siamese.

Little is known about the history of these people. Most of the tribes no longer exist, having been absorbed over the years into other populations and mainstream civilization. Cave paintings in Phang Nga and archaeological discoveries of tools and weapons in Phuket suggest that these people may have inhabited the region for up to 3,000 years.

Much can be learned about these people from travelers' accounts of Phuket.

Tribal people who inhabited the inner regions of the island were sometimes referred to in Malay as *Orang Bukit* (mountain people).

A French merchant who came to Thalang (as Phuket was then known) in 1686 wrote a brief account of the island and its inhabitants in a letter, saying that Thalang was a small island with an estimated population of about 6,000 people.

Most of Thalang was covered with forest; its sparse population scattered around the island in villages.

The Frenchman wasn't keen on these inhabitants. According to a copy of his letter translated into Thai, he wrote that they were uncivilized barbarians; the vilest people that one could come across in Siam.

The islanders lived among the forests and were illiterate; most of them did nothing produc-



A modern-day boat used by the indigenous sea gypsies around the Andaman Islands.

tive besides hunting and collecting wood.

However, some dug the earth for tin, which could be found close to the surface and traded for goods with tin merchants, he noted.

Many travelers to the region also mentioned their encounters with another group of early Phuket natives who lived by the coast: an indigenous tribal group often referred to as "sea gypsies".

Thais call them *chao lay* ("sea people") for good reason. These people practically lived off the sea, harvesting shellfish, sea

cucumbers and other marine life for food.

They never settled, traveling from cove to cove, exhausting the marine resources of an area before moving on.

The *chao lay* developed a fierce reputation as pirates for their hostility toward merchant ships that sailed into their territories.

Captain Alexander Hamilton, an English trader who visited the East Indies in the late 17th century, kept an account of the kingdoms and trading towns he came across during his travels. Hamilton refers to Phuket as "Junk Ceylon".

He mentioned that although trade was possible, the island was thinly inhabited because of the great number of "freebooters" (pirates) who inhabited the islands along the coast.

According to Hamilton, they robbed, captured and sold people into slavery. Junk Ceylon, he wrote, "feels the weight of their depredations".

The sea gypsies, as early European visitors named them, were so-called because they moved from place to place like gypsies, only ever stopping temporarily before moving on.

They were described as hardy people who were expert sailors and built small, tough boats that could withstand harsh weather conditions. In his accounts, Hamilton does not mention any first-hand encounters with them in Phuket.

However, he recalled a similar group of people who inhabited the Andaman Islands located about 400 miles northwest of Phuket.

Hamilton described them as fearless savages living on an island that posed a threat to ships because of the dangerous banks and rocks surrounding it.

These savages, referred to as "Cambals" by Hamilton,

"would swim off to a boat if she approached near the shore and attack her with their wooden weapons, notwithstanding the superiority of numbers in the boat and the advantage of missile and defensive arms of iron, steel and fire".

LOOKING BACK

By Anand Singh

Hamilton also wrote about a Captain Ferguson, who on one occasion was navigating his ship with a company of other ships from

Malacca bound for Bengal. Due to strong currents, his ship was driven off course and sailed into a channel of the Andaman Islands.

His company reported that Ferguson's ship may have been wrecked by the channel rocks.

Whatever the case, Ferguson and his crew were never heard of again and Hamilton pondered that they may have been "devoured by those savage Cambals".

The reputation of these natives was widespread among European visitors in the late 17th century.

Over the years, however, as more Siamese and Chinese people moved to Phuket in search of tin, these former inhabitants were suppressed.

Many of them moved to islands in the Andaman Sea. Today, sea gypsies still exist in Phuket, Surin and the Phi Phi Islands.

Their way of life has changed little over the centuries and even today many of these people still conform to their nomadic lifestyle and depend heavily on the sea.

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Not just another hooker book

Suppose there's room on the groaning shelf of Thai bar girl books for this latest addition, *Miss Bangkok* (Maverick House, Bangkok, 2007).

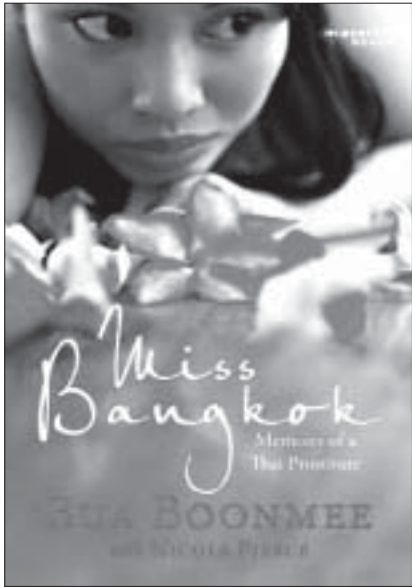
Subtitled "Memoirs of a Thai Prostitute", this is the story of Bua Boonmee as told to Nicola Pierce, author of *The Last Executioner*, another engaging biography by the same publisher.

While bar girl books are generally written by incompetent white males, *Miss Bangkok* is told from a woman's point of view on the game.

The only predecessor I know is *My Name is Lol, Do You Want Me?* which was really a feminist screed written by her hack ghostwriter.

The theme throughout was that behind the smiling tourist brochures, Thailand is a horrible place where women are ruthlessly oppressed and yadda yadda yadda.

Judging by her photographs, Lol is cute as a button but a very nasty piece of work whose only loyalty is to her greedy and ungrateful mother. This should be re-



quired reading for any aspiring sex tourist.

Bua is a much nicer person. Unlike Lol, who got into the game when she was 15, Bua doesn't set foot in Patpong until halfway through the book, when she's 29. She grew up in Korat in a stable though unhappy military family. Father drinks, mother gambles – typical story.

The three kids grew up in subsidized army housing.

Unlike her brother and sister who were good in school and went on to university, Bua dropped out at 14.

The family split up soon afterward when the father brought home a *mia noi* ("minor

wife"). The mother fled to Bangkok with her kids.

Bua married a worthless drunken bartender who gave her a son. Then she married a worthless drunken motorcycle messenger who gave her another son and a daughter.

The second husband proved a devoted father but stayed resolutely unem-

ployed. Both husbands habitually beat her.

Bua started as a barmaid on Sura-wong Rd and then she moved up to hostess at a Japanese club on Thaniya.

Here she sustained an improbable eight-year platonic relationship with a wealthy Japanese businessman, which ended on a trip to Chiang Mai when she rejected his advances.

After taking time off for childbirth, she returned to Thaniya only to be told that, at 29, she was too old. So she made her way to a Patpong bar and was bought-out on her first night.

"I saw myself as an actress being paid to play a role, and the client was essentially my pay check," she writes.

"The other girls used to joke about seeing farangs as walking, talking ATM machines. I found it easier to follow suit and standardize the men in such a way, rather than acknowledge their individual physical features.

"But every so often a particularly unattractive farang would come along and it would take every trick in the book to distance myself."

Finally she does fall for an Ameri-

can named Jack, a traveling phone company executive. He is generous, relaxed, affectionate and sends her passionate daily emails when away on his travels. He's quite content to let her keep working at the bar, though, and she knows that she

must keep her three children a secret from him. Then she receives an email from a woman named Sarah, his fiancée, and never hears from Jack again.

The book ends with her still working in the Patpong bar. Her outlook on this life is clumsily but sincerely expressed:

"It was never a simple matter of walking away from Patpong. Initially, this way of life and the money I

earned from it had been a crutch, helping me to walk again after the crippling effects of poverty.

"But somewhere along the way this crutch had become the very backbone of my existence; its vertebrae like tendrils wrapping themselves around my every organ. I was trapped."

There are a few other melodramatic passages, possibly ginned up by Nicola Pierce, but basically Bua tells her tale simply, rolling with the punches of life as best she can. She seems like someone who deserves a rescuer.



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Can email read and can people be taken back?

Which of the following, if any, are correct: "the email stated", "the email read", "the email indicated", "the email wrote"?

Since an inanimate object isn't really able to read, write or speak, how does one go about attributing something to the text of an email – or even a letter or a sign?

Paul Roemer
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Barbara replies:

Don't start thinking that way or you'll have to stop replying to email with "Good to hear from you." You won't be able to write "Listen up!"

When some commission somewhere publishes a lengthy report about a problem but takes no steps to solve it, you won't be able to complain "All talk, no action."

It's true that "the email wrote" is no good. Obviously, the author did the writing. "Read", though, is one of many verbs that can be used two ways – such as "smell" in "I smell something strange" and "The room smells strange" or "feel" in "I feel good" and "That feels good! Do it

Welcome to Word Court, where Barbara Wallraff unravels some of the mystery that shrouds the English language, debunking confusing usage and clearing away the clutter that stops clear understanding – all by answering reader's questions.

again."

As for "stated" and "indicated", they're not wrong in the examples you gave.

They are equivalent to "said", which is very widely used with inanimate subjects, as in "The sign said..."

That brings me to a final point: language authorities tend to suggest using plain old "said" rather than any of its equivalents, except where you feel the need to add a hint of additional meaning.

For example, in "What a good idea," he joked", "joked" serves a purpose, making clear he didn't mean what was said, but in "He stated that it was a good idea" or "The email indicated he liked the idea", the verbs add nothing except extra syllables.

Lately I've been hearing people say things like "I was taken

back by his audacity."

To me, "taken back" means that the person was returned to a place he or she had previously been or was reminded of something that happened in the past.

If someone was "taken aback" by something, he or she was surprised or disconcerted by it. Can "taken back" refer to being surprised or disconcerted?"

Erika Blake
Rensselaer, NY

Barbara replies:

No. At first I wondered if you were mishearing – after all, "taken aback" and "taken back" sound a lot alike, but when I looked at online news sources, I found that the misuse of "taken back" is common in writing as well.

Originally, "aback" and "back" were just versions of the same word. "Back" gradually

won out in nearly all senses and phrases.

In the 1600s through 1800s, however, when sailing ships were common, "taken aback" was a nautical term.

It referred to the dangerous situation in which wind blows on the front of the ship's sails, causing the ship to stop dead or go backward.

The phrase became a figure of speech used to refer to people when they were, as you say, surprised or disconcerted.

Because it was already set as a phrase, with a more specific meaning than "take back", "aback" remained in use.

The Oxford English Dictionary gives other uses of "aback", such as "to hold aback" and "to stand aback from", and doesn't

call them obsolete.

But the online news sources I read indicated that the only way "aback" is used these days is with "take" or "taken".



Barbara Wallraff is a weekly syndicated columnist for King Features and a contributing editor and words columnist at *The Atlantic Monthly*, where she has worked since 1983.

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The holiday is over

As this edition goes to press, police are staging a media circus to show off Akkaradej "Chon" Tunkae, 31, confessed killer of 26-year-old Swedish tourist Hanna Backlund at Mai Khao on March 15.

The murder has rekindled memories of the rape and murder of British backpacker Katherine Horton on Koh Samui on New Year's Day, 2006. In that case, police tracked down the killers within days. The men were tried quickly and sentenced to death.

In bringing in Akkaradej, it seems no resources were spared. Crime Suppression Division officers from Bangkok were called in to assist and the full array of Phuket's highest-ranking officers took direct action on the case.

It is a pity the same dedication of resources was not made with the likes of the Simen Knudsen murder or the scores of unsolved murder cases involving victims presumed to be migrant workers from Burma over the years.

Sadly, swift justice in select cases does not save the next victim from a similar fate. What is needed is a culture of crime prevention.

The Royal Thai Police have already made it clear that they want a stronger presence on Phuket. All eight police stations on the island were recently upgraded to full district status, ensuring each station is led by a superintendent, and Phuket will soon become home to Police Region 8 headquarters.

With any luck, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Gen Decha Budnampetch might finally get the extra officers he has been pleading for.

Yet it was Tourism and Sports Minister Weerasak Kowsurat's order that whistles be given to arriving female tourists to sound the alarm if they are attacked that heralds news. His suggestion may have sounded silly to the international media, but it may just save lives.

Thailand is fortunate in that many people still live in tight-knit communities. Neighbors who know and talk to one another look out for each other's safety. If there is a bad guy in the neighborhood, a neighbor knows about it.

This social trait among Thais could be further developed to create better "neighborhood watch" police reporting networks, perhaps using the huge number of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides on the island. The police are happy to have "war on drugs" hotlines, so why not extend this approach to the fight against violent crime?

Sunbathing alone on an isolated beach, although idyllic, is not safe. Anywhere. Period. But a place where the local community serves as eyes and ears in the fight against crime might deter all but the truly wicked.

— The Editor

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

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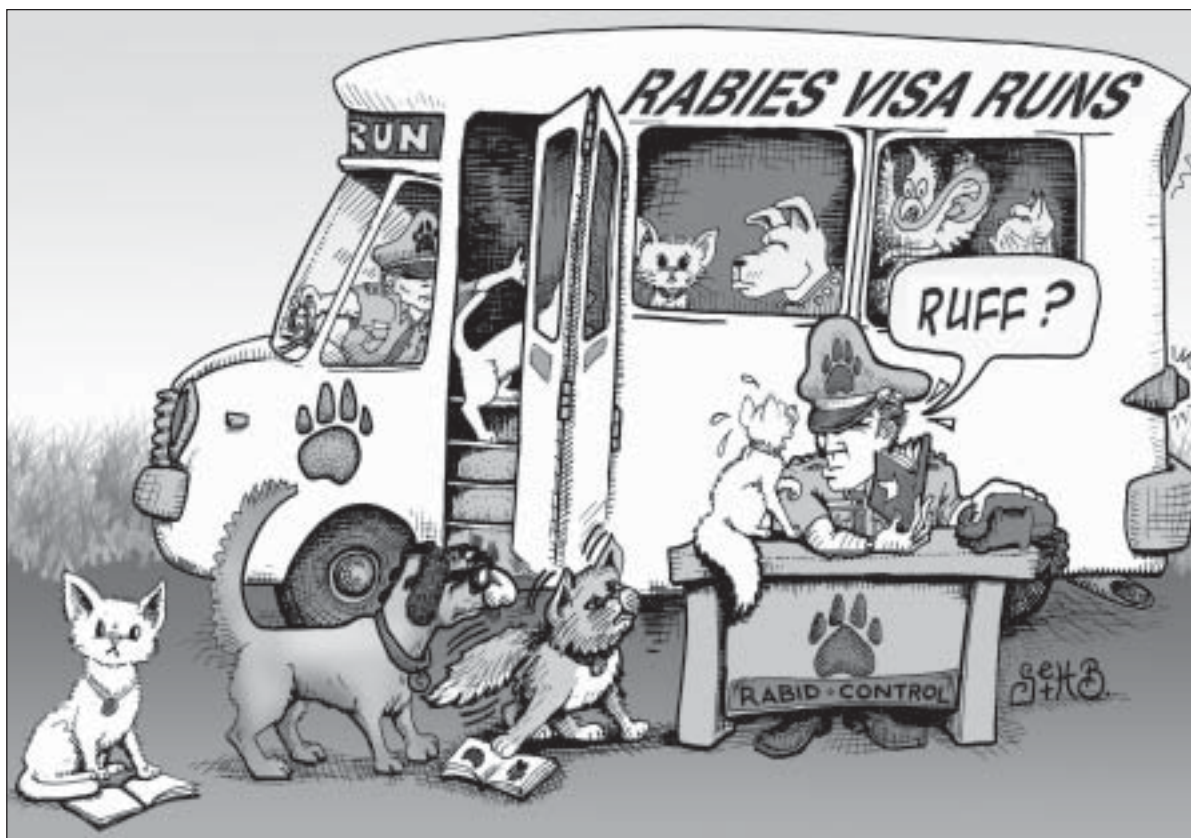
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Letters

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.

Hanna murder will hit tourism trade

This is an awful thing to happen, such a tragedy for the lady and for Phuket in general. This will have a dramatic impact on the tourism industry and will get a lot of coverage in Sweden.

When the British girl was raped and murdered in Samui there was a real media frenzy in the UK and people were advised not to travel to Thailand.

Andrew Dearden
By email

Killings need to be kept in the spotlight

There seems to me to be a lot of foreigners and Thais being murdered in Phuket lately. Maybe the *Gazette* should do more follow-up stories to let people know what the police are doing and report on how many of these cases are solved.

The *Gazette* doesn't seem to do follow-up stories on anything and to me that seems pretty slack. A local paper like yours should be keeping these stories alive so the local authorities stay on their toes and fix this problem.

The *Gazette* seems to have no teeth and doesn't want to do anything that upsets the local officials. But that is your job as a newspaper, is it not?

Frank Lee
By email

Not smiling anymore

I think that the sooner people here in Sweden realize that Thailand is not a safe country in which to spend their holidays, the better.

Beaches in Thailand are not safe, and have not been, ever. We

always hear about smiling, safe Thailand here in Sweden and I think it's time to open people's eyes to the sad, but true, facts of today's Thailand.

Bjorn Skoglund
Sweden

No excuses for savage murder

A young Swedish woman, Ms Backlund, was butchered on an isolated stretch of beach in northern Phuket, apparently in broad daylight. One has to wonder just how safe it really is here.

Local police can only comment, "She was beautiful and sunbathing topless", as if they considered that a motive. If so, I imagine this was an act of sexual repression. By the reports of several stab wounds to the neck, can I assume she had her throat slit?

Christy K Sweet
Cherng Talay

Just another day in the horrific South

I was shocked to read about the massacre of eight people by their gun-wielding neighbor in Songkhla [Around the South, *Gazette*, March 15-21]. The fact that such an incident is relegated to page 9 says a lot about the tolerance for violence in this country.

I have yet to read any follow-up reports in the press that shows any soul-searching or questions of "How could this happen?" by the authorities or anyone else. And the only international coverage I saw was online in a British rag that made light of the whole thing by emphasizing that the John Denver songs being played at top volume triggered the killing.

Not to downplay the murder of Swede Hanna Backlund in Phuket, which was tragic, but this case compared with the near-daily killings in the Deep South highlights how invisible "brown faces" are when it comes to sympathetic press coverage.

Susan
Chalong

Left in the dark

Last night [March 17] I returned home to Soi Yodsane in Chalong to enjoy 15 minutes of normal life until the electricity cut off at about 6:15 pm.

After two hours, we tried to call the electricity company to find out why it was taking so long, but no-one answered.

Given the recent "improvements" along Chao Fa West Rd, why is it that we still have to put up with four-hour blackouts without ever knowing why?

A. Chandler
Chalong

Sexist in the city

In response to the writer of "Switch the Ambrosia column, please" [*Gazette*, Letters, March 15-21], it seems that the anonymous writer is as sexist as he claims Ambrosia to be.

He, I presume, generalizes about Thai women from what he has seen in places such as Patong. Ambrosia isn't supposed to be "politically correct", she simply has a keen sense of what makes men and women tick, and knows how to make light of it.

At least Ambrosia is honest about her own ego, something which I think 'Name supplied' could benefit from aspiring to.

Ambrosia admirer
Phuket City

Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials or business owners are published as *Issues & Answers* on the facing page.

Chamber of Commerce proposes overhaul of island management

We need an efficient unit to coordinate infrastructure development in Phuket. Many countries all over the world have done this. This unit would comprise representatives from local and central government agencies as well as representatives of the local community sitting on the committee board.

The model in Langkawi, Malaysia, is one example where a single unit oversees everything: water, electricity and telephone services.

Different levels of management including the Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*), Municipalities and Tambon Administration Organizations (*OrBorTor*) are now in charge of governing the area as well as handling utilities and basic infrastructure.

The way things are managed now is not quick enough, so there must be new system.

A management unit could oversee and co-ordinate all infrastructure projects, making everything faster and more efficient. If any problems occur they could be reported directly to this unit for action, for example if a telephone box is broken. People would help to take care of problems together.

Transport

Phuket's population is growing very rapidly and the island's infrastructure is struggling to keep up with such a rate of growth.

There are 400 cars and 2,000 motorcycles registered in Phuket each month. With the rapidly increasing number of vehicles on the island, we need to consider alternative transport systems as

I recently went to Singapore to obtain a one-year multiple-entry non-immigrant "O" visa, but was told that under the "new laws" I could not be issued one without having the correct paperwork. As a result, I was issued only a single-entry visa.

On arrival in Phuket, I went to the Immigration office in Phuket City with my wife. We didn't have confirmation by an embassy to prove my income, but no-one there would provide us any information about what was needed to obtain such proof. The trip was a waste of time.

I work offshore on an oil platform in the US, on a four-week rotation. I work for four weeks, then have four weeks off in Thailand. I am paid on a daily basis every day I work for four weeks. When I come home, I am paid nothing for four weeks.

I have a contract that states my "day rate", but I am not paid a salary. So, my contract does not stipulate my annual income, although I earn more than

FIRST PERSON

Dr Sirichai Silpa-ar-cha, secretary general of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce (PCC), has announced that the PCC has set up a committee charged with the task of developing an efficient management model to oversee Phuket's infrastructure, including public transport, waste management and education.

When complete, the committee's findings will be sent to the central government for consideration.

Here Dr Sirichai describes the main challenges that the committee are addressing, and how he thinks various levels of government fall short on their responsibilities in these areas.



it is impossible to keep on extending and expanding the roads.

With so many locals and tourists traveling around Phuket, the number of private cars on the roads causes traffic jams. People must use private transport because there is no mass transit system to use as an alternative.

If Phuket had an efficiently managed mass transit system with more buses and minivans servicing shopping centers, hospitals, schools and commercial areas, I believe that people would leave their own cars at home and the roads would have less traffic.

Managing such a system shouldn't be difficult at all. With a minimum investment, minibuses could be put into service and they could become a symbol of Phuket.

However, it is the planning

of the routes that will make the difference as to whether the project would work efficiently and make travel around Phuket more convenient.

For example, a central location in the city should be decided on with two points at either end that define the main route. These points could be located in Samkong and Saphan Hin, which are on opposite sides of the city.

The next step is to create an orderly system for the traffic in the areas the minivans operate, similar to Patong's one-way system.

Motorcycle taxis would also benefit from the people who are getting off the minivans and need to reach somewhere that's not on the minivan route.

As the routes would cover several districts, it would be best for the system to be overseen by

a single management group, rather than being managed by the individual districts, which would be very difficult to co-ordinate.

Central management of a transit system would also help avoid issues that would arise from disagreement between local administrations on how the system would operate in each area.

If we wait for each local administration to comply, the system will never get off the ground.

Garbage

We need to decrease the amount of garbage that is incinerated and promote recycling.

Local dumping areas should be designated in each community and garbage collection should be handled by private operators who

will take the garbage for recycling.

Garbage that cannot be recycled could be put to use instead of burning it. In Japan, for example, compressed garbage has been used to create land to build an airstrip, capable of withstanding earthquakes.

The same solutions employed in Phuket would reduce garbage disposal costs and be less harmful to the environment than burning the garbage and letting off toxic fumes.

Education

Schools, particularly secondary schools, are concentrated in Phuket City, which causes traffic jams.

After students finish primary school, there are fewer secondary school options, and many seek to get into the famous ones such as Phuket Wittayalai, Satee Phuket School and Chalerm Prakiat School.

These schools should set up branch schools in other parts of the island so students no longer need to commute into Phuket City.

At first these schools might not be popular, but in the long term, with the right support from the government, they should thrive.

Health care

Vachira Phuket Hospital is struggling to keep up with the growth in the island's population. Four years ago, the hospital was receiving 800 patients a day. It currently receives about 2,000 patients a day.

Thalang is an important area, being the main travel route between Phuket and Phang Nga. We should recognize its importance and get support from the central and local governments to expand the Thalang Hospital.

If we develop Thalang Hospital, it would ease the caseload at Vachira Hospital. Vachira could then focus on handling the complicated patient cases, letting hospitals handle more general cases.

We should invest in the hospitals that are easily accessed, and Thalang Hospital is at a location that people can get to easily. It's better to do this than put the money into hospitals that are far away and not easy to access.

The PCC is just raising the issues and proposing ways of solving them. The main people to take action should be the local organizations and the central government.

Whatever they do, we cannot force them. We can just describe the problems and offer a good management solution to handle these problems.

Non-immigrant O visa

US\$100,000 a year.

What do I need to show the embassy and which embassy should I go to? I am a UK citizen, but the company I work for is in the US.

Tony Gwynne

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

We explained to you and your Thai wife, but it seems you didn't understand. We don't know what documents you need to apply for a non-immigrant O visa at the Thai embassy in Singapore as Thai embassies are attached to a different ministry [*the Foreign Ministry - Ed.*] from us.

We can only explain to you our procedure for applying for a one-year permit-to-stay after you have been issued a non-immigrant "O" visa.

Issues & ANSWERS

To apply for a one-year permit-to-stay on the basis of having a non-immigrant O visa issued to you because you are married to a Thai, you must have a letter from the embassy of your home nation confirming your income. In your case, the letter must be confirmed by the UK embassy in Thailand.

I suggested that you ask your US employer for a letter confirming your income and then ask the UK embassy in the US to confirm that the letter is accurate. Then take this letter to the UK embassy in Thailand and ask them to confirm it is accurate.

This was just my suggestion,

but you then should be able to apply for – and be issued – a non-immigrant "O" visa from a Thai embassy.

Alternatively, you can apply to have your visa changed from a tourist visa to non-immigrant O visa at the Immigration Bureau on Soi Suan Plu, off Sathorn Tai Rd in Bangkok.

Once you have a non-immigrant "O" visa, apply to Immigration for one-year permit-to-stay on the basis that you are married to a Thai. You and your wife will need to bring the house registration document (*tabien baan*) your wife is registered on, her ID card and your marriage license.

As you do not continually live together in Thailand, also ask the UK embassy in Thailand for a letter confirming that you work for periods then take breaks, and bring that letter to us, too.

Confessions of a gigolo

Hardly a week goes by in the ebb and flow of the nocturnal activities of Fun Town without me hearing a new and amusing story that just deserves to be told to a wider audience.

The following anecdote contains activities of an unusual nature. While it might hardly be a surprise here in Pattaya, those of a strait-laced nature may find some of the terms offensive.

If you are the type who is easily offended or disgusted, I suggest you cease reading now.

The life of a gigolo can prove to be quite a bummer if the following story is anything to go by.

Denis the Menace, host of the OK Corral beer boozier and sports emporium in Soi Rungland in south Pattaya, related the following anecdote concerning an amusing incident that occurred to the son of a quite famous British comedian of the 1920s through to the 1950s.

While his father would later have a statue erected to mark his achievements

in the field of entertainment, the son apparently makes his living as a professional ladies man.

A regular visitor to Thailand, the aging but still charismatic gigolo, who we'll nickname "Banjo", was in Pattaya accompanied by a Thai lady.

She requested her beau's help in instructing her niece, fresh out of the trees and off the back of a buffalo in the village, in the ways of coital activities as they apply to the average foreign male.

Being an obliging kind of chap, as gigolos are wont to be, he readily agreed to give the required instruction and took the girl under his wing.

In the first instance, he renovated her less-than-acceptable wardrobe and soon had her dressed in more than jeans and a tacky T-shirt.

She was then sent off to the hairdresser to be coiffed in modern fashion.

Finally, she went to a beauty shop for the application of war paint and shiny new nails. Of course, all expenses were borne by her aunt, as the whole point of

being a gigolo is not to spend any of your own hard-earned money.

Happy with the end result on the visual front, Banjo then retired to the boudoir with the aunt, the trainee niece and a video camera – purely for the purposes of use later as an instructional tool.

Naturally, the aunt commenced the training proceedings in order to give her inexperienced and still somewhat shy niece a chance to get an idea of how things are done correctly when it comes to the art of mattress dancing.

At one point the aunt asked her paramour how her niece could be helping with the act of sexual congress currently in progress.

Banjo suggested the niece might like to use one hand to stroke his knackers while placing the finger of the other hand in a place where the sun is never known to shine.

It appears the niece took to the latter activity with a little too much relish, because Banjo suddenly experienced an extremely unpleasant sensation emanating from the back door.

It appeared one of the niece's new nails had come adrift while she was engaged in learning the trade from the bottom up.

Ceasing all erotic activity, Banjo wriggled into Kama Sutra position number 181: basically, he was on all fours.

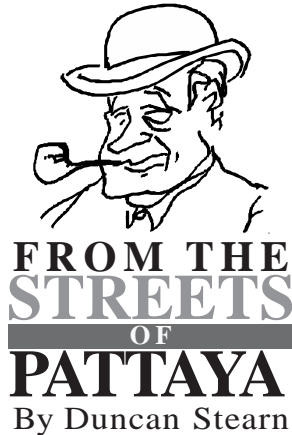
The aunt, with assistance from the niece, stared into what must really have seemed like a black hole in the hope of recovering the shiny nail.

After much peering, pointing and slightly painful poking and prodding, the aunt suddenly exclaimed, "We've found something!" Then, with a deflated mutter she noted, "Oh, it's only a corn kernel."

The search for the missing nail continued unsuccessfully until, finally, Banjo decided to relax and let nature take its course.

Eventually the nail passed back whence it came and Banjo was able to once more sit without discomfort.

The tale just goes to show that the life of a professional gigolo is not all it's cracked up to be.



Being an obliging kind of chap, as gigolos are wont to be, he readily agreed to give the required instruction and took the girl under his wing.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

ARIES (March 21-April 20): This week you will find it increasingly difficult to ignore a friend's odd behavior. Sunday is best to uncover the secret behind this. In romance, your subtle moves are appreciated and there should be a clear signal that it's time to pick up the pace. If you're celebrating a birthday this week, look forward to a year of plain sailing. The number 1 is lucky on Monday.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): If you're setting off on a journey this week, you should discover what you have been hoping to find. Capricorn is ready to forgive your mistakes in the past and a reunion will bring peace. Some nurturing of your money tree will ensure a good summer harvest, but don't try to rush growth. Cancer starts to find you irresistible, but still has

unfinished business concerning another relationship. Number 7 can be lucky on Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Having recently-restored energy, your motivation to embark on a new business scheme is strong. A mid-week meeting with an old colleague could provide the bait you've been seeking. Don't try to move mountains until initial groundwork has shown that the offer is valid. If you're in a relationship, you may learn that your partner has hidden strengths. If you're single, enjoy flirting with a stranger this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): If you want to get ahead in business, you may learn something to your advantage this weekend. Romance with Taurus is promising,

but you need to lay all your cards on the table. Where money is concerned, hidden assets come to light. Leo has an unusual request next week; think twice before committing. Strawberry red encourages higher expectations.

LEO (July 24-August 22): The chances of finding a lost object are high this week. Luck is also on your side at work, as someone with influence is prepared to make an offer you can't refuse. As March comes to an end, you will be pleased to receive an unexpected boost to your finances. Allow extra time when traveling early next week as last-minute hitches are forecast.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Health issues could prevent you from achieving everything you

need to do this week. Those of you who have been burning the candle at both ends are advised to take some quality time out for relaxation. Where romance is concerned, a relationship with Gemini is not out of the question, but lack of compatibility will be a stumbling block. The number 3 can bring some luck on Tuesday.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Efforts to make progress at work will be frustrated by someone's tendency to blow hot and cold. The stars will be more supportive next month. Financial dealings with Pisces are not well-starred; keep all details safe in case you need to prove a point. As March draws to a close your energy starts to peak; make the most of this advantage by focusing on home improvements.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): You are advised not to waste energy trying to convince someone in authority that they are wrong. Your tendency to behave like a steamroller will not be well-received. A love affair with Aries has auspicious astral backing, but Leo's interests lie elsewhere. Investments made before the end of the month are likely to be rock steady. Tuesday is the best day for showing an estranged friend that you want to build bridges.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Splashing your hard-earned cash around won't bring any long-term satisfaction. Purchases made in the heat of the moment are certain to disappoint. Those of you who would like to enhance their homes are advised to wait until they can afford the best. Midweek, your words are

likely to be misinterpreted so choose them carefully where important negotiations are concerned. Wear a piece of turquoise to encourage wisdom.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Your partner or someone particularly close to you is likely to dig their heels in when you ask them for support. Those of you who haven't properly thought your plans through should take time out for serious reflection this weekend. It could be that you're barking up the wrong tree. Where business is concerned, your reputation receives a boost when an old colleague puts in a good word. The number 6 can be lucky on Thursday.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): You will probably lack your usual motivation as March draws to a close. Taking a break should be on your agenda as life has been demanding since the start of the year. A Scorpio friend would be the perfect companion to take a trip with. Spring cleaning your home encourages stale energy to dissolve and incorporating the colors sapphire blue and jade green will encourage a more creative outlook.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): You could find yourself in the middle of an argument between friends this weekend. Your diplomacy should help clear the air, but taking sides must be avoided. A secret ambition begins to look more tangible. Taurus will support you, but Sagittarius is only interested in their own gain. Monday is best for reminding someone of a forgotten debt. The number 4 is lucky on Wednesday.

The Phuket Gazette is now available at all **FamilyMart** outlets in Phuket

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- Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd (opp. 7-Eleven), Patong
- Thara Patong Hotel, Thaweewong Rd, Patong
- Mae Luan Rd (diagonally opp. 7-Eleven), Phuket City
- Yaowarat Soi 2 Rd, Phuket City
- Chao Fa East Rd (opp. Big One Supermarket), Phuket City
- Klong Pak Lak, Patong
- Club Andaman, Patong
- Phisit Gorani Rd, Patong
- Monthana Rd, Patong
- Colisiem Mutiplex, Phuket City
- Soi Paneang, Samkong
- Moo Baan Irawadee, Samkong

**KHUN WOODY'S
COMPUTER**

Cough up for your CAT AirCard bill – or else

Many people are using the CAT EV-DO wireless Internet service. At the time of writing this, after 11 am, it's the fastest Internet service available in Phuket – even faster than the expensive wired ADSL lines. To see the latest speed tests from all over the island, go to: www.live-access.com/PhuketInternet.aspx

Up until a few months ago, you could get the "AirCard" service by only buying a Sierra Wireless AirCard 580 from CAT. Now CAT offers the Comtech CCU-650, which attaches to your computer via a USB cable. The box is pricey, but the monthly service is quite reasonable. The CCU-650 costs 10,990 baht and the EV-DO service costs 900 baht a month.

Soon, CAT will switch to the CCU-680, which runs marginally faster than the CCU-650, but handles Skype better, with less lag time than the CCU-650. For details, see my February 16 article at: www.phuketgazette.com/computers/pdf.asp?cID=142.

Many people have told me that they bought their AirCards or CCU-650s from CAT and have never received a bill for monthly service. Six months later, they still haven't received a bill and they figure CAT will come around sooner or later.

That's about to change. CAT has lost a lot of money from unpaid monthly EV-DO bills – and we're all about to pay for it. Let me explain.

For those of you who have AirCard 580s or CCU-650s, and haven't paid your monthly bills, you are going to be cut off, probably sooner rather than later.

CAT can't cut you off immediately – telephone regulations here, as in most countries, require the phone company to continue service for many months even if the bill isn't paid. But the free ride is about to end – abruptly.

CAT claims it has sent out EV-DO bills to many – certainly hundreds – of customers who haven't paid. Almost all of those customers are foreigners.

The Phuket office was called on the carpet by CAT in Bangkok for allowing foreigners with tourist and retirement visas to set up telephone accounts. Because so many people haven't paid their bills, it's likely that CAT will no longer give EV-DO accounts to farang unless they have work permits.

The policy is due to change in the next few days, if it hasn't already. It's a monumental pain in the neck for all foreigners on the island – but CAT has been backed into a corner by the mounds of unpaid bills.



If you install Service Pack 1 on a pirated copy of Windows Vista, chances are good you will see a message like this one – and your problems have just begun.

Vista Service Pack 1, which became widely available earlier this week, "breaks" the two most common Vista pirate copy cracks. Microsoft makes no bones about it. If you have a pirate copy of Vista and you install Service Pack 1, you're very likely to end up with a passel of problems.

Although the old "kill switch" – which effectively killed pirate copies of Vista – isn't quite

so draconian, the new pirate copy, uh, demotivator isn't pretty. See Ed Bott's report at blogs.zdnet.com/Bott/?p=378 for details.

If you're using a pirate copy of Windows XP, you're probably going to be stung by XP Service Pack 3 – although Microsoft hasn't divulged the details, as it has with Vista. Suffice to say that you pirates better get legal if you want the latest service packs for either XP or Vista.

Attention Mac Users. In response to voluminous requests, there will be a Mac Group Therapy session on Sunday, March 30, between 10 am and noon, at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong.

If you have questions about your Mac, or you need a fast Internet connection to fulfill your life, bring your computer, bring you problems, bring your mother-in-law and let's see what we can do. Novices always welcome.

Woody (www.AskWoody.com) writes computer books "For Dummies" and articles.

Do everyone a favor: if you haven't paid your bill, contact CAT and pay them. If you got your card in Patong, call the CAT office at 076-512-160. If you got yours in Phuket City, call 076-216-861, or drop by the office. The CAT office in Patong has moved to Soi Tun on the "third road" that's slowly evolving in Patong. Some foreigners say that they've tried to pay their EV-DO bills, but the folks at the CAT office won't let them.

That's changed. Some folks originally bought their cards with a grace period or free-trial period. That's changed, too.

Buying and Selling Used AirCards. Many people at the PC Group Therapy sessions ask about buying used EV-DO cards. There's no problem at all buying a used CAT AirCard 580 or CAT CCU-650, but you have to transfer the account when you buy the card, otherwise you'll be cut off.

The only way to re-instate the account will be if you pay off all of the back bills – including the bills accumulated by the previous owner.

That's why CAT requires both the buyer and the seller of a used AirCard or CCU-650 to go, together, to the CAT office. It costs 250 baht to transfer the bills to a new owner and the person selling the card will be required to pay off their bill before the account is transferred.

While we're on the topic, if you're having problems with reception on your AirCard 580 or CCU-650, you should try an external antenna. CAT carries them and, at about 2,000 baht, they can make a big difference. Several places around the island now sell plug-in antennas and signal boosters, but if you use any product other than the ones from CAT, you'll void the warranty on the AirCard.

Piracy Clampdown in Service Packs. Internet connections – or lack thereof – continue to rate as the number-one topic at the Sunday morning PC Group Therapy sessions, but we cover a lot of additional ground. If you haven't been to a session lately, you've missed an important discussion about Windows Vista Service Pack 1 and Windows XP Service Pack 3.

Those of you who might be running, ahem, less-than-legal versions of Vista should be very aware of the fact that the new

PC Group Therapy

Join Woody and other Windows victims at his Sunday morning PC Group Therapy sessions, co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. On March 2, from 10 am to noon, he'll be at the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong, near Andaman Beach Suites. On March 23, from 10:00 to noon, he'll be at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong, next to Wine Connection. On March 30, he'll be hosting the island's first Mac Group Therapy session, also at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong. And on April 6, he'll be at the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong. Sessions are designed to help everybody – even complete computer novices – and they're absolutely free. Driving instructions at www.khunwoody.com, or check out www.ozvisual.com/forum/pcclubforum.php

For those of you who have AirCard 580s or CCU-650s, and haven't paid your monthly bills, you're going to get cut off, probably sooner rather than later.

Infrastructure woes put damper on building boom

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

PHUKET: Expensive land has sparked a construction boom in condominium projects, but the sluggish growth of basic infrastructure facilities on the island threatens future demand for property, say industry insiders.

Such highlights and challenges of the Phuket property market, as well as marketing strategies, were discussed at Royal Phuket City Hotel during a March 5 seminar organized by the Real Estate Information Center (REIC) of the Government Housing Bank. Government officials and real estate professionals from Phuket and Bangkok attended the event.

Opening the seminar, Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai said that tourism growth – the driving force behind the property market – remained healthy with 5.3 million visitors generating some 90 billion baht in revenue for Phuket last year.

The construction industry also grew at a steady pace. The

REIC reported that 2007 third-quarter construction on flat land grew by 20% compared with the same period in 2006. Building permits covering a total of 1.1 million square meters of flat land were requested, said V/Gov Smith.



Real Estate Information Center Director Samma Kitsin said that in addition to the garbage problem in Phuket, airport capacity is an issue that needs to be dealt with soon.

In the same period, construction permits for about 180,000sqm of elevated land were applied for – an increase of about 9% on the previous year.

With so much of the island's income earned from foreign tourists, economic slow-downs have less impact on Phuket than other regions of Thailand, said REIC Director Samma Kitsin.

He added that there are currently about 100 housing projects underway in Phuket, comprising about 7,000 units, including single houses and shophouses.

About 2,000 units within

these projects are complete, while about 2,300 are being built and the remaining are not yet under construction.

Most of the housing estates are in Phuket City – 4,000 units in total – while 2,500 are in Thalang and 1,000 in Kathu.

A survey in September last year found that about 30 condominium projects were underway, said K. Samma. High land prices are behind the trend of building condominiums, he added.

Condominium development is growing at a faster rate than other types of properties in Phuket, said Thanan Tanpaiboon, chairman of the Phuket Real Estate Club (PREC).

"I'm shocked about the number of condominium units that are coming into the market now," he said. Two projects alone will create more than 3,000 units in Phuket City, he added.

The Panason Residence Condo, next to Makro on Wichit Songkhram Rd, will have five buildings of 1,700 units in total, with selling prices starting at 1.2 million baht. The Green Place Condominium project, along the back road behind Surakul Stadium, is slated to have eight buildings comprising 1,300 units, at

prices starting from 1.49 million baht.

Senator Phummisak Hongsyok, ex-Chairman of the PREC, said that only 52% of land in Phuket had proper land titles, which placed limits on property expansion and caused more upward pressure on prices.

"The cost of land appraisals since the beginning of the year has increased by more than 100%," he said.

Athip Peechanont, president of the Thai Condominium Association (TCA), said that overall prospects look good for the Thai property market now that the political situation has stabilized. Foreign investors are investing in the Thai economy again, which will in turn give a boost to the residential-housing market, K. Athip added.

The condominium market, he said, will reap benefits from the current lack of good investment alternatives. "This year will be the year of the condominium because investors earn such low interest in the bank and because investing in the stock market or in gold is too risky," he added.

Other positive factors for the property market are tax incentives on home mortgages and that minimum lending rates are expected to drop, said K. Athip.

There are, however, a number of threats to the growth of the industry, K. Athip warned. Economic factors, such as fluctuations in the price of oil, inflationary pressures and the sub-prime mortgage crisis in the US,

will hurt the property market. The Foreign Business Act, as well as confusion over new rules and regulations, have also affected foreign investment, he added.

"We are trying to fight the nominee-company shareholding and Foreign Business Act. I think it would be great if we could change the lease holding for foreigners from 30 years to 90 years," he said.

"I get complaints that I want to sell the nation and that foreigners will rent all the land in Thailand and make land ownership too expensive for Thais. The TCA has proposed converting some areas, such as Phuket, Chiang Mai and Chonburi, into special zones for foreign lease and land holdings, he said.

The biggest threat to Phuket's property business is the lack of supporting infrastructure, those at the seminar noted.

K. Thanan, of the PREC, said, "I agree that there is not enough infrastructure in Phuket, especially [management of] the garbage problem. I see that construction creates a lot of garbage, which is bad for the image of the province."

An unstable electricity supply is another problem, he added.

Senator Phummisak said he was most concerned with garbage, the water supply and traffic. "It will become a big problem soon if it is not solved," he added.

K. Samma said that in addition to the garbage, airport capacity is an issue that needs to be dealt with soon.

V/Gov Smith said that the government is pushing to address many of these issues, but that solutions – including a light-rail transport system, garbage-system improvements and IT city plans – are awaiting budget approval.

Expensive land has sparked a construction boom in condominium projects, but the sluggish growth of basic infrastructure facilities on the island threatens future demand for property, say industry insiders.

VITAL STATISTICS: COMPANY REGISTRATIONS

	Feb 2006	Feb 2007	Feb 2008
Limited company registrations	205	96	114
Limited partnership registrations	24	26	27
Limited companies changed	302	321	356
Limited partnerships changed	31	30	40
Companies de-registered	11	20	13
Partnerships de-registered	10	9	8

Source: Phuket Business Development Office

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Malaysia primed to become a haven for expats

During the turbulence that has hit financial markets in recent months, one country that escaped most of the turmoil was Malaysia.

Malaysia's stock and property markets continued to make progress. In terms of gross domestic product, economic growth for 2007 was expected to be around 6.0%, but it came in at 6.7%.

The recent general election, however, removed some of the feel-good factor instantly. The first day of trading after the election saw the main index, the Kuala Lumpur Composite Index close at a loss of 9.5%. This was the largest fall in a decade.

Further examination of the election results reveals that the outcome has the potential to benefit Malaysia. Until now, the ruling coalition, Barisan Nasional, has had such a huge parliamentary majority that it was able to change the constitution at will. The election has left the coalition with a 62% stake in parliament. Although this is not sufficient to singlehandedly change the con-

stitution, it does give it a large working majority.

This introduces the reality of a multi-party democracy that will hopefully assist Malaysia in the future. The two largest opposition parties have a moderate agenda.

Fears that the ruling-party coalition has insufficient parliamentary strength to continue with the government's 200-billion-ringgit (2 trillion baht) spending plan appear to be unfounded. The coalition won 140 of 222 parliamentary seats while the combined opposition clinched 82.

Malaysia is a country that fascinates many expats living in Thailand because it offers attractive retirement packages. The current program is officially called MM2H - Malaysia My Second Home. Approved immigrants can receive 10-year renewable visas. Should there be only, for example, three years to the expiry of a passport, then this will be taken into account and seven years will be added to a subsequent passport.

This makes it simple for most people if they are considering the pros and cons of retiring in Thai-

land or Malaysia. Thailand has a one-year visa and requires foreigners to check in every 90 days. This is not onerous when one is in good health, but as retirees get older, even the fittest 75-year-old can forget about visa-expiry dates and 90-day check-ins.

Malaysia has also recognized the desire for people to own their own property freehold. Some years ago, a previous prime minister, the unforgettable Mahathir Mohamad, in the wake of the Asian financial crisis became convinced it was in Malaysia's interest to encourage foreign ownership of property.

There were some restrictions: Foreigners could not buy property with a value of less than 2.5 million baht. This was to keep foreigners from competing with the poorest sector in Malaysia for housing resources.

A maximum of three properties could be bought by foreigners and profits were subjected to a capital-gains tax starting at 30% and declining over years to 5%. Very sensibly, the Malaysian government scrapped all capital gains taxes in February 2007.

Mortgage facilities are easily available to foreigners. The normal maximum percentage is 70% with the lender absorbing all costs. There are a number of foreign banks operating in Malaysia as well as an advanced group of domestic banks. The mixture of domestic and foreign banks helps local banks attain high standards.

Another change that was introduced a year ago is that applications for buying property only have to be approved by the relevant state government; the Federal Government has decided to excuse itself.

Any reader considering Malaysia as an investment or retirement destination will find the process to be a pleasant experience. Naturally, if property is to be bought, then normal market insight is essential. Estate agents are knowledgeable and helpful.

Also, if you need an architect, civil engineer or other professional, they are readily available.

Malaysia's legal system was installed by the British during colonial times and English law is standard. This makes buying property simple and transparent.

Medical insurance is compulsory for retirees.

However, they do add a spoonful of sugar. Any new car purchased in Malaysia or imported from overseas during the first 12 months of the MM2H visa is duty free.

MONEY TALKS



By Richard G. Watson

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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Golf's top seniors to swing by Phuket

KATHU: The Thai Senior Professional Golfers Association (TSPGA) will hold its largest annual golf tournament, the Phuket Asian Senior Masters 2008, April 20 to 24 at Phuket Country Club.

Golfers in the main tournament will be competing for a share of four million baht in prize money, while a one-day Pro-Am (professionals and amateurs) competition will see players teeing off for the King Rama IX Royal Trophy.

The Pro-Am tournament will be held April 20 with the names of the pros invited to be revealed at a later date. One million baht raised from the Pro-Am event will be donated to the King's Foundation after the event.

Amateurs can enter in teams of four at a cost of 30,000 baht per team. The deadline for entries is April 11.

There will be a practice day for the seniors on April 21 before the main tournament on April 22 to 24.

The main tournament will be a 52-hole stroke play competition, with the top 65 golfers making the cut after 36 holes.

A qualifying tournament with an entry fee of 1,500 baht will take place April 8 at the Pine Golf and Lodge in Bangkok for golfers who do not automatically qualify for a spot in the seniors' event. The top 25 golfers will make it through to the tournament.

For further information visit www.thaiseniorgpa.com/en/news.html For an application for the Pro-Am tournament email: martin@phuketconcierge.com.



GOING SWIMMINGLY

PHANG NGA: Race two in the TriBallistic Malaiwana race series was another success, this time held at the Bor Saen Resort and Spa in Phang Nga on March 16.

More than 45 adults took part in the main race held in the morning (600m swim, 22km bike, 6km run). Bryan Hoare led the race from the start and went on to win. He was closely followed by Nick Dobyn, Harold Arneson and John Douma.

The children's events took part in the afternoon with the first of two races being the splash and dash (50m swim, 1.5km bike, 750m run). The race was once again won from the start by defending champion Chelsea Keegans shortly followed by first-timer Elanor Blythe.

The second children's race, the juniors' (200m swim, 6km bike, 1.5km run), was again dominated from the start by first- and second-place athletes Melisa Keegans and Emilie Kirstein.

Details of race three in the series of four races will be released at a later date.

Cricket sixes to return to Phuket

KARON: The Phuket International Cricket Sixes tournament, winner of prestigious awards from the International Cricket Council and the Asian Cricket Council, will be held at Karon Municipal Stadium from April 17 to 20.

Every year the Phuket Sixes attracts club cricket teams from around the world, along with local Phuket sides, to enjoy the

competition and camaraderie of cricket at Karon Stadium in Phuket.

First held in 2004, the annual tournament now attracts up to 28 cricket teams from throughout the region, including Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, India, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Korea and Australia as well as the UK.

Star players, such as former England test cricketers Adam Hollioake and Alan Mullally and former Australian international Trevor Chappell, have all competed in the "sixes by the sea" in the past.

Featuring a full schedule of cricket, a player-welcome party and a gala awards dinner at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort, in addition to the cricket sixes matches, the Phuket Sixes tour-

namment is supported by Tourism Authority of Thailand and makes a welcome return to Phuket this year.

Sixes cricket requires just five overs (30 balls) per innings and six players per team. Matches can take as little as 45 minutes to complete.

Games will be played daily from 10 am until 6 pm and teams will compete in Cup, Plate, Bowl and Spoon divisions.

On April 18 at Karon Stadium, a charity Twenty20 format match will be played featuring the 22 best players of the tournament.

First ball will be bowled at 7 pm at Karon Stadium, with all proceed going to ChildWatch.

For further information about cricket sixes in Phuket visit www.phuketsixes.com

Kids called on to hit the greens

The 2008 Kids-Tee-Off golf challenge will take place May 29 and 30 at Laguna Phuket Golf Club.

The event is being held to help develop the talents of future golfing stars by giving youngsters a rare chance to play competitively.

The tournament is open to players aged from six years old to 17 who hold an up-to-date handicap card from a recognized golf club or certificate of competence for children aged under eight years old.

The Kids Tee Off champion will be decided over a 36-hole, stroke-play tournament. Up to 120 golfers are expected to take part across 10 divisions.

Tee-off time will be 7:30 am each day. Registration is US\$195 until March 15, US\$220 thereafter with May 8 set as the closing date for entries.

Further information can be found at www.kids-tee-off.com Alternatively, email ktochallenge@kids-tee-off.com

Young golfers make their mark at Le Meridien tourney

KATHU: A range of abilities and ages came together as 157 golfers, both Thais and foreigners, took part in the eighth Le Meridien Golf Tournament held at Phuket Country Club March 15.

Tossaporn Sakharirak, 16 years old, played an impressive two rounds, scoring 38 and 39 off a 9 handicap to win Flight A Low Net with net score of just 68.

In the other Low Net competitions, Suchert Submee won Flight B with a score of 37 39 76 (12) 64 and Theerapong Metha scored 47 44 91 (29) 62 to win Flight C. Chao Srihabutr won the Ladies Low Net competition by scoring 46 49 95 (36) 59.

In the Low Gross competitions, Sarawan Leamka won Flight A by scoring an impressive 35 38 73. Pariwat Pinsawas scored 36 34 70 to win Flight B, while 14-year-old Panuwat Chanakij won Flight C with 44 43 87. Jareerat Knights won the Ladies Low Gross with 36 37 73.

Special awards:
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Scott Duncanson and crew rest on board *The Loft's Southshore* while the crew celebrate (inset) after their victory in the Platu Open Championship.

Duncanson defends Platu Championship

CHONBURI: Phuket's Scott Duncanson and his crew – Trent Pederson, Jim Poulson, Kevin Scott and SEA games medalist Weerasit Puangnak as tactician – successfully defended the Platu Open Championship title last weekend off Jomtien, south of Pattaya.

At the end of the seven-race regatta, both Duncanson helming *The Loft's Southshore*, formerly called *The Ferret*, and Platu 117 sailed by Dutchman Rolf Heens Kirk representing Malaysia were tied on 13 points.

However, the title was awarded to Duncanson and crew as they had scored three first-place finishes compared with Heens Kirk's one.

The Thai national team sailing on *Naiad* and helmed by Wiwat Toontat secured a comfortable third place with 15 points.

Thirteen teams from Singapore, Australia, Malaysia and Thailand competed in the event.

The Platu Open was the first event of the The Raimon Land, One Design Platu Championship 2008, which comprises The Platu Open, Coronation Cup, Platu Nationals, Hua Hin Regatta and Royal Varuna Cup.

One-design racing of the Farr Platu 25 class yacht has seen a resurgence of popularity in Thailand over the past 18 months. Much of the interest has been attributed to the efforts of class stalwart Kevin Scott in securing regatta sponsorship from property developer Raimon Land and the introduction of a sailing fun day and training program providing the opportunity for non-sailors and sailing novices to try their hand at yacht racing.

The Ocean Marina Yacht Club at Jomtien Beach provides an ideal base from which to race these small keelboats.

Speaking after his victory, Duncanson said, "This is easily the most competitive and highest level of yacht racing in Thailand at the moment. The Platu class is clearly gaining momentum and is attracting the best yacht racers from Thailand and South East Asia."

"The standard of racing has improved immensely over the past two years and is so close and competitive now that I wouldn't be surprised to see three or four different regatta winners over the next 12 months.

"Consistent top three finishes in all five of the regattas will be key to winning the overall championship for the year," he added.

ACYC RACE SERIES 2008

Katsu steals the show at ACYC

By Chris Husted

AO CHALONG: Winds of up to 15 knots saw a fine start to the Image Asia Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) Keelboat and Multihull Race Series 2008 on March 16.

The Racing and Multihull classes beat upwind to the outer safe-water mark in the strong winds, with light chop making for a bumpy ride.

Bill Phelps' *Twin Sharks* wasted no time in exiting the bay, with Chris Jongerius on *The Frog* in hot pursuit.

Two beauties catching all sailors' eyes were Nick Band's *Windstar* and Ben Copely's new Swan 42 *Katsu*, both in their maiden ACYC regattas.

Katsu proved too quick and took top honors in the Racing class, with *Twin Sharks* maintaining her lead around the course to win the Multihull class. *Windstar* proved she was more than just easy on the eye and won the Cruising class.

Back at the clubhouse, awards were handed out to the top three to finish in each class, with prizes provided by day sponsor Julian Hill of PhuketSail.

During prize giving, Tony Knight of the ACYC announced that the club is using a new handicap system. He asked skippers and crews to bear this in mind as results determined by handicaps will become clearer as the new system becomes established.

Consequently, the overall winner prize on the day was renamed the Encouragement Award, which was given to John "put wheels on your keel" Vause



Ben Copely's new Swan 42 *Katsu* steams upwind in Chalong Bay. Photo by Leslie Hand for Image Asia Events.

on *Ruby Tuesday* for allegedly running aground.

Mr Knight called for ACYC members to pay their yearly fees as the club lease on its current premises has been extended until the end of July, after which the ACYC will move to new premises a few hundred meters north of its present location.

He also reminded skippers and members that the ACYC general meeting will be on April 18.

The next ACYC regatta will be on March 30. All are welcome to join, regardless of sailing experience. For more information call Tony Knight at 081-7470074.

ACYC Race 1 Results.

Racing class: 1. *Katsu* (Ben Copely), 2. *Sail in Asia* (Mike Downard), 3. *Ruby Tuesday* (John Vause).

Cruising class: 1. *Windstar* (Nick Band), 2. *Nerida* (Roger Diggelman), 3. *Cinders* (Ket Mangklaseranee).

Multihull class: 1. *Twin Sharks* (Bill Phelps), 2. *The Frog* (Chris Jongerius), 3. *Typhoon* (Matt McGrath).

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: With the first half of the season played, Queen Mary extended their unbeaten streak to 28 with an 8-1 win over Dog's Bollocks. However, Piccadilly continue breathing down their necks just three points behind after swiping all three points against Offshore.

After losing 2-7 to Shakers, Beach House's Joe won the beer lea when he checked out a 39 (9, X15).

Playing in his last game of the season for Piccadilly, young Tony hit four 140s, then bought a round for the team.

At the bottom of the table, Market Bar have made a remarkable recovery, going from just 1 point to 11 in the last four games.

Newcomers Sick Buffalo started the season with a three-point loss, but after that have managed to pull at least one point from each encounter.

March 11 results: Dogs Bollocks 1 Queen Mary* 8; Piccadilly* 6 Offshore 3; Shakers 7 Beach House* 2; Simply Red* 2 Market Bar 7; Valhalla* 4 Sick Buffalo 5; (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Queen Mary (26 pts.); 2. Piccadilly (23); 3. Offshore (13); 4. Dogs Bollocks (12); 5. Sick Buffalo (12); 6. Market Bar (11); 7. Shakers (11); 8. Valhalla (11); 9. Beach House (9); 10. Simply Red (7). [Ties broken by number of points taken from singles/doubles play.]

March 25 match-ups: Beach House v Queen Mary; Sick Buffalo v Dogs Bollocks; Simply Red v Piccadilly; Market Bar v Offshore; Valhalla v Shakers (home team first).

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel



Workmen hang in the scaffolding over the incomplete gate while the roof is being added to the ordination hall at Wat Luangphu Supha.

Top Land launches near Chalong Circle

RAWAI: Work on the second Top Land property development by local developer Chalong Concrete Co Ltd is now 50% complete. The project, on Wiset Rd, is expected to be finished within the next two years.

The construction of the Top Land Haa Yaek development commenced at the end of 2006 after the success of the 800-million-baht Top Land Rassada project by the same development company. The project, which is located on 80 rai of land on Pracha Uthit Rd, is now two-thirds sold out.

The Top Land Rassada project, which started in 2005, comprises several types of tropical Balinese-style units including 42 two-story townhouses, 44 one-story twin houses, 48 two-story twin houses, 74 one-story single houses and 24 two-story single houses. Prices start at 1.95 million baht.

"We have sold 65% of the Rassada development and are now able to transfer the titles to our buyers. Completion is a year and a half off," said Top Land's project manager Janpim Eawpoo. "Around 50% are residential buyers who will be living in the unit they've bought."

The newer Top Land Haa Yaek project, which is valued at 500 million baht and situated on 17 rai of land on Wiset Rd, will provide buyers with more choice and the convenience of a central location near Chalong and Rawai, she explained.

"Although we are aiming at the same market as we did with the Rassada project, Top Land Haa Yaek is designed in a different style. The design is more modern and there are commercial and residential units on offer," K. Janpim said.



Work continues at the Top Land project on Wiset Rd, where all the commercial units have sold out.

Wat Luangphu hall takes shape

CHALONG: The construction of a new ordination hall (*ubosoth*) at Wat Luangphu Supha is 80% complete and should be finished by the end of this year.

Thanapong Korudom, chairman of the temple's committee, told the *Gazette* that the hall has been under construction since mid-2003.

The total construction budget of 35 million baht has been fully paid for with donated money. Of this, just over 10 million baht was generated from the *kathin* (religious ceremony of presenting robes to the Buddhist monks) held on October 26, 2005, by the Thai Red Cross Society that celebrated the 111th birthday of Luangphu Supha, reputed to be Thailand's oldest monk.

The ceremony was presided over by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, who also serves as patron of the Thai Red Cross Society.

The *ubosoth*, set upon supports over a shallow pond, will be called *ubosoth klang nam*, which means "ubosoth at the center of water". The structure

is about 10 meters wide, 22m long and 23m high.

In accordance with traditional *ubosoth* design, it has eight windows and two large doors. The large wooden doors and window panels will be engraved with traditional Thai designs.

All the structural work is complete. Concrete stucco exteriors are still under construction inside, along with work on four archways and a low fence around the plot.

Work on a large Buddha image set inside the hall is also underway, said K. Thanapong.

All of the design details are being done by artisans from the Fine Arts Department in Bangkok who were personally selected by HRH Princess Sirindhorn.

The structural work was done by local construction contractors.

Work is also underway on the main entrance arch, which is being financed with a separate budget of 4 million baht, all of which came from a donor who asked not to be named, K. Thanapong explained.



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Decor

Natcha Yuttaworawit

Adding a new decor dimension

Add a new look and flavor to your dinner party decor with a new stylish range of glassware. Creative glass manufacturer Ocean Glass has recently introduced a new line of glassware, including drinking glasses that give off floral scents and beer mugs with patterns that change color when they are filled with liquid.

The new designs in the extensive range include tumblers, plates, bowls, vases, glass jars, tea cups and beer mugs with sleek, flowing forms suitable for everyday use as well as for more formal occasions.

The collection also includes a series of handmade decorative crystal wine and water glasses,

as well as ashtrays and fruit bowls.

The most popular items in this new range though are glasses with stripes that change color depending on the temperature of the liquid poured into them and patterned glasses that give off floral fragrances, such as rose scent, as you sip your drink.

There are some cute designs to choose from, too, with forms of cupid, angels and animal-shaped figurines.

Drinking glasses can also be personalized and made to order by having illustrations put on them, such as a wedding photo along with an inscription.

Ocean Glass' creative designs are not meant solely for luxury hotels or lavish abodes.



Colored glasses can be used to brighten up a cabinet display, adding a twist to a room's color scheme.

The company's philosophy is that their designs have a place in every kind of home, explained a customer service assistant at the showroom.

Staff at the Ocean Glass Showroom also have plenty of tips on how to enhance a room's decor with glass ornaments. Plain glass can be made to look like classier crystal, for example, by

displaying it on a piece of colorful fabric, while genuine crystal pieces look beautiful when placed on a window sill or in other well-lit locations.

Crystal balls in the bottom of a clear-glass vase is another way of creating a simple but classy effect in the living room.

Ocean Glass is a popular home grown glass manufacturer

that last year produced 140 million glassware pieces with products available in most home-decor stores.

Ocean Glass. Open Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-6 pm. Located on the bypass road, about 500 meters north of the Tesco-Lotus supercenter. For more information call 076-261008.

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Building a global brand



PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

Speak to most developers and real estate agents and two things rapidly become apparent. The first is that with more than 400 developments now gracing Phuket's shores, supply is continuing to grow at breakneck speed.

The second is that over the past year demand for property has not grown at the same pace as supply – mainly as a result of political events, the appreciation of the Thai baht, uncertainty over amendments to the Foreign Business Act and most importantly the sub-prime credit crisis.

Last year saw a huge increase in tourism numbers, which has been known to create a positive, knock-on effect on the residential property market.

In this perfect "field of dreams", there is no shortage of property and potential buyers continue to arrive in ever-increasing numbers. The question that remains is whether they will continue to buy or whether oversupply is inevitable?

As with any developing market experiencing growth, market segmentation and pursuing new markets for sustained growth are essential.

Sustainability is perhaps too closely associated with philan-

Last year saw a huge increase in tourism numbers, which has been known to create a positive, knock-on effect on the residential property market.



Through clever cross-marketing of brand and destination, including the facilities available at Laguna Phuket, such as the Laguna Beach Resort (pictured) and the Laguna triathlon as an event, Debbie Dionysius and her Laguna Phuket Destination Marketing team is one of the best examples of global marketing done successfully.

thropists who want to fit in with the world of real estate. Unscrupulous corporate raider Gordon Gekko and his "greed is good" sentiment, from the classic Michael Douglas movie *Wall Street*, seem more and more appropriate.

In the end, market growth comes down to a basic numbers game of supply and demand.

In the recent past, Phuket has been over-reliant on Hong Kong investors, whose interest in the region has decreased, and has had trouble finding significant new replacements for the volume generated a few years back.

Unlike other markets in Thailand, such as Hua Hin, Pattaya and Bangkok, Phuket has a limited demand from domestic buyers looking for a sec-

ond home or an investment at the upper end of the market.

Typically, Thai buyers prefer to drive to the eastern seaboard or Hua Hin rather than buying costly flights.

Also, it is believed that the overall predominance of leasehold property on offer remains a major deterrent for foreigners wanting to obtain bank financing and mortgages.

These factors, plus others, all point to the need for the Phuket property businesses to look further afield to new markets and customers.

Taking on the world is a tall order for most individual developers. Often marketing expenditure and scale of economies simply don't match up.

Debbie Dionysius and her Destination Marketing team at Laguna Phuket is probably the best example of global marketing done successfully. Using clever cross-marketing of brand and destination, Laguna Phuket

world market, but it wasn't always so. Rewind a decade or two, when Bali was the holder of the magical title of "Asia's premier resort destination". Phuket has excelled at attracting attention to itself.

Just take a look at Neil Cumming's Asia Web Direct and Wotif.com websites, including Phuket.com, which have been hailed for their significant worldwide profile.

Today, it's not uncommon to see groups of businessmen from countries such as Vietnam, Cambodia, India and Malaysia arriving to study the Phuket blueprint, with the aim of recreating the island's success formula at home.

While Phuket as a destination and a brand are flourishing, it's time for us to up the ante. Competition is growing and global economies fluctuate, so it's increasingly important to cast the marketing net as widely as possible.

The emergence of quality publications has not only raised the bar at home but also further afield, creating a positive impression of Phuket's developing market.

We need more Debbie Dionysiuses, Graham Dovens and Neil Cummings to take the lead and show Phuket to the world. You may ask, what's in a name? The answer: absolutely everything.

Bill Barnett is managing director of C9 Hotelworks (c9hotelworks.com), a Phuket-based hotel and residential property consulting firm.

With more than 20 years' experience in the region, he has played an active role in some of the island's biggest developments.

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Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

Cactus capers with cocky cats

There are only two types of people in this world: those who like cats and those who don't. Unsurprisingly, I hate the things. They're sneaky, sly, annoying. They even relieve themselves in places they really shouldn't just so that with one whiff you'll remember how much you dislike them. I'm sure it's deliberate.

Unlike that far more respectable species the dog (those animals that choose to be with you because they like you), cats do a runner as soon as they can. Some owners even make life easier for the little darlings by cutting holes in the bottoms of their doors.

Late in the day, perhaps even at night or the following morning, once they've tired of amusing themselves by killing birds and noisily fighting the other cats, they return home. Once more ensconced, they do their best to convince their owners that they've come back for reasons other than pure selfishness.

These horrible creatures attempt to communicate their feelings for you by doing that sycophantic head-rubbing-on-the-leg nonsense – and if that doesn't get your attention, they start that annoying purring noise. As far as



On some cactus species you have to wait half a century for the flowers to appear. The rose cactus is much more generous as the flowers appear somewhere on the plant almost continually.

they're concerned, we're nothing more than human can-openers.

Once they've got what they want they're off again.

Any feline within a mile will insist on approaching me. I give the thing a gentle shove with my foot and that's when I'm inevitably accused of kicking the cat.

I was having problems with felines in my pot plants a few years ago, with them depositing those pungent liquid gifts in soil that I can only presume they confused for cat litter.

It was then that I had a brainwave. There's a cactus in this part of the world that cunningly disguises itself as a regular plant, but with plenty of traditional cactus thorns attached for good measure. A few of these in pots solved the cat problem outside my house. For some reason, the cats weren't keen to return.

The cactus that managed to achieve this was the *pereskia bleo*, or rose cactus. In Thai it's known as *kulab pukam*. Let's keep this between ourselves, as

I'm supposed to know what I'm talking about, but it took me some time to realize that this is actually a member of the cactus family. It certainly doesn't look like one.

All 13 species in the *Pereskia* family are so different from other kinds of traditional cactus that when you first see them they just look like regular plants. They have erect stems and branches that usually form dense, large bushes. The branches look woody and thin, with dozens of large, laurel-like leaves.

Some say that *pereskia bleo* is the original cactus. The mystery deepens in that the plant is the only one in its plant family.

Being a cactus, it does have spines. On the *pereskia bleo*, they come in little tufts that you'd hardly notice – unless you were an unsuspecting cat.

Another thing that the rose cactus has in common with its cousins is spectacular flowers. On some cactus species you have to wait half a century for the flowers to appear. The rose cactus is much more generous as the flowers appear somewhere on

the plant almost continually.

Even the flowers are special. They're a vivid orange, five or six centimeters across and look very much like a rose. Incidentally, that's where the *kulab* in the Thai name comes from: *kulab* means rose. These flowers usually appear singly at the ends of the ripened branches.

As with other varieties of cactus, this is a succulent plant with fleshy stems that can store water. The young branches are totally content to put up with long periods of drought without suffering at all. If anything, they enjoy it, especially with plenty of full sun.

Left to their own devices, these things can get big, up to about three meters tall, but somehow they never look straggly. There's a two-meter-tall example near my house that quietly sits there, orange blooms beaming away to itself. It hasn't had a moment's attention for years, and it looks fantastic.

The cactus works for me. If I stick a few more of these in the garden, I'll never be accused of kicking cats again.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden?
Email Bloomin' Bert at: bert@bloominbert.com

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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

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PATONG BEACH

14th floor of Phuket Palace. Best offer over 2.5 million baht. Tel: 089-7974532.

ON THE BEACH

2-bedroom apartment in north Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, swimming pools. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-2765117. Email for photos. Email: jihshawd@gmail.com

TOWNHOUSE

in Than Thong 3 project. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. 19sq wah. Located near Khao Khad Viewpoint. On Phattana Thongtin Rd. Fully furnished. Price: 1.2 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

BARGAIN HOUSE

Located in desirable Choa Fa Thani. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms (2 en suite). Living room, kitchen/diner, study, laundry room, 4 verandas, garage, fully furnished, ADSL, True TV. Ready to move in. Fenced garden in secure estate. 6.8 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 084-8439579. Fax: 076-323-421. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

VILLA FOR SALE



Immaculate villa. Private area, big lush garden, pool, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, big living room, Scandi-kitchen, huge patio, fully furnished, contemporary Bali-Thai style. Living area: 450sqm. Land: 1,400sqm. Near Heroines' Monument with scenic hill view. Chanote. 12.9 million baht. Tel: 084-6907057.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Villa-style, 3-bedroom house located in good position within Villa California. Extended, air-conditioned master bedroom, with mirror-door wardrobe included and large en-suite bathroom. 2 air-conditioned bedrooms and separate bathroom. Lounge with aircon. Dining area, utility room. Extended and modern European style kitchen with 4-ring hob oven and washing machine included. Connected to main water and sewage lines, no septic tank. Viewing recommended. 2.2 million baht. Tel: 089-2891502.

SEA VIEW, 3.2 RAI

at north end of Bang Sak Beach. This land is between Thap Tawan Beach Rd and Bang Sak Beach Resort, 6km from Takuapa. Tel: 081-8947644.

NEW RAWAI POOL-VILLA

2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 300m from the new pier. 3.9 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 086-0760141. Email: than que4@gmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

11 rai in Pasak area located near Laguna Phuket. Only 2.8 million baht per rai (Nor Sor 3 Gor). Good-sized plot and no need for fill-soil. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

RAWAI VILLA 3.5 MILLION BAHT



Beautiful 2-storey Rawai Villa for sale or rent. 2 en-suite bedrooms, open-plan living room, UBC, telephone, Patio, large garden. Only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 084-8446476. Email: dildalarge@yahoo.co.uk

HOUSE FOR SALE



in Erawadee 2 Project, located near Khao Khad Viewpoint. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Only 1.5 million baht. Please contact to view. Tel: 087-2770978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

10-min drive across Sarasin Bridge. Chanote, 80 rai. Has road and utilities access. Suitable for hotel or residential projects. Nice location, just 300 meters from the beach. Only 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

NEW TOWNHOUSE

in Tan Tong 7 project. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 19sq wah. Central location on Chao Fa East Rd opposite Villa California. 1.9 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

APARTMENT PATONG BEACH

Now commencing construction of 4 top-quality, poolside, open-plan, 1-bedroom apartments. On a very quiet natural site in the hills at the north end of Patong Beach. 2 mins from the beach and center of Patong. Road access and good water supply. Starting at 4.9 million baht. For full details contact Andy. Tel: 081-8913466. Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

3-STORY SHOPHOUSE, KATHU

Brand-new, 5-meter-wide shophouse, excellent location on Wichit Songkram Rd, near Anuphas Golf Ville. Tel: 081-6065772. Email: pauljames@expathotel.com

PRIVATE PROPERTY PROJECT



(Kamala 1). Thai-style pool-villa with sea view. Price: 28.5 million baht. Project Kamala 1 is 1 km from the beach and 5 minutes from Patong. 1,400sqm land area. 450sqm living area. Fully furnished, aircon. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. 1 studio with kitchen, bathroom (staff room). 1 European kitchen, 1 Thai kitchen outside. Swimming pool 10mx4m. Thai-style sala. Fish pond. Thai-style parking for 2 cars. Storage room. Contact Manuel Pinto. Tel: 081-8923172.

FOREIGN FREEHOLD

condo in Rawai, 27sqm. Close to bank, 300m from the pier. 650,000 baht, negotiable. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

THAI-STYLE HOUSE

near Laguna, 3 bedrooms, living room, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 087-8938590.

PHUKET TOWN CONDO

Corner condo unit overlooking pool. Great location opposite Tesco, near Big C and Central. 42sqm, plus two balconies in a modern-design building. TV, stereo, aircon, washing machine, furniture all included. Will be finished by mid-2009. 3 million baht obo, but the price will increase near the project's completion. Tel: 087-277-0978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Due to health problems, I am offering two houses for quick sale - one on half a rai of land and another on 1 rai. Both are located in a good residential area 5 mins from Laguna resort. Buy both for 15 million baht. Call Bepy for more info. Tel: 081-8930692. Email: toto@phuket.ksc.co.th

LAND FOR SALE

Manik-Bangjo land, Chanote. 4 rai at 2.7 million baht per rai. Located in residential area and close to road. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

LAND FOR SALE

Near Laguna Phuket - good for residential projects. 22 rai (NorSor 3 Gor). Close to main road, water and electricity access. 7 million baht per rai - can buy half-plot. No need for fill-soil! Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

NEW LUXURY PENTHOUSE



Beautiful panoramic sea and sunset views over Patong Bay. Large living room and balcony. 2 bedrooms, 2 en-suite bathrooms. Fitted kitchen, aircon, ceiling fans. Includes private roof terrace. Total area: 245sqm. Also includes lift, pool and private covered parking. Price: 12.9 million baht. Tel: 087-887-9070. Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

HOUSE & GARDEN (KOH KHEW)



for sale near Boat Lagoon. 371sq wah of land, 200sqm house with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Good for home and office. 6.8 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 081-569-9483. Email: jaidao@hotmail.com, jaidao@yahoo.com

BEAUTIFUL GARDEN APARTMENT

Bang Tao Beach Gardens. Beautiful, 2-bedroom, ground-floor apartment (124sqm), overlooking gardens & pool. Two minutes' walk to Bang Tao Beach. Furnished. 10 million baht. Please contact Thanisara. Tel: 081-8928259. Email thanisaraferguson@gmail.com

3.6 MILLION RENTAL INCOME

4 pool-villas near Laguna. 48 million baht. Tel: 086-9520772. Email: kamala@phuket.ksc.co.th

THAI-STYLE HOUSE, KAMALA



on more than 1 rai of landscaped gardens. Lighted security walls, electric gate, three 10,000L filtered water tanks with local water plus ground well with automatic pump. Emergency generator, cable TV, 3-phase electricity, 2 phone lines. Large swimming pool, waterfall koi fish pond, garden lighting. 3 or 4 bedrooms all en suite, 4 aircons, 4 ceiling fans, 2 stories plus wine cellar/storage room. Teak walls and hardwood floors. Fully-furnished with many extras. Natural surroundings and mountain views with enough land for future expansion, eg. 3 x 2-bedroom rental units. Chanote available through holding company for foreign ownership included. Asking 18 million baht walk-in, walk-out. Willing to accept 50% down and 50% after 6 months. Includes Mazda 626 sedan car. Tel: 081-8922942. Email: gsantos512@yahoo.com

LAND FOR SALE

22 rai (NorSor 3 Gor) near Mission Hills Golf Club, hotels and residential areas. Road and utilities access. Owner has done project layout, easy to start. 2.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

BEST DEAL!

Land for quick sale. 400sqm for 1.6 million baht, in Nai Harn Beach. Tropical location in the best area, 10 mins to beach. Contact K. Krit for appointment. Tel: 081-6913029. Email: kris_silanachai@yahoo.com

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Property Gazette

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SURIN LAND PLOTS FOR SALE

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LAND FOR SALE

Cherng Talay area, Chanote, 1.1 rai. 7 million baht. Contact Ms Tanaka for more details. Tel: 081-8927721. Email: ytmiland@yahoo.com

PRIVATE SALE OF 1 RAI

next to Phuket Country Club golf course. The land has a new road and is in a very nice neighborhood. 7 million baht. Tel: 081-6766214.

HOUSE WITH POOL

in Land and Houses Park with finance. Down payment only 1 million baht. Tel: 087-8950328. Email: giepp969@hotmail.com

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.

AO POR LAND, URGENT SALE



150 rai, Chanote, panoramic sea view. From 2.3 million baht per rai. Contact for more info. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: se_rim@hotmail.com

KATA GUESTHOUSE

New, 7 rooms, swimming pool. 18 million baht. Tel: 087-8950328. Email: giepp969@hotmail.com

HOUSE WITH POOL, RAWAI

3 bedrms, 2 bathrms, living room, kitchen, furnished, 4 aircons, alarm system, sala, terrace on 2 levels, 8mx4m pool, walled garden and parking. Includes company papers and Chanote. 5.5 million baht. Call Paul (English) on 081-8941660 or Pop (Thai) on 081-077-0133. Email: bo@motto.dk

INEXPENSIVE LAND

1-rai house lots near airport and Mission Hills Golf Course. Chanote, underground electricity. 1.06 million baht, full price! Contact Chris Fisher. Tel: 086-9421930

LAND & HOUSES PARK



at Parichart Village 35/20 Soi 1. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons, some furniture, 50sq wah, garden. Chalong area. Urgent sale! 4 million baht, must see. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-6899679, 087-2681341. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

MILLIONS OFF LISTING PRICE



Owner relocating. New 370sqm villa at Kamala Beach. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, aircon, Western kitchen, BBQ, furnished, pool, 750sqm of land. Perimeter wall, ADSL, plasma TV. Tel: 084-8500568.

LAND IN RAWAI

0.7 rai has been leveled and fenced off. 4.25 million baht. Tel: 089-6666726. Email: lasonth@ksc.th.com

KOH YAO YAI

Quick sale, 4 rai, Chanote, water, electricity, 5 mins to beach. 500,000 baht per rai. Tel: 081-8928208.

THAI-STYLE VILLA WITH POOL

500sqm, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Furnishings negotiable. Stunning villa in secluded hillside development. 29.95 million baht. Tel: 076-304070. Fax: 076-304071. Email: phuket@plus.co.th For more properties, please see our website at www.thaipropertyplus.com

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NICE TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, 3 new aircons, 2 kitchens, laundry, lounge/dining, phone & ADSL, cable TV, fully tiled. 5 mins to Central Festival. 1.35 million baht. Chanote. Please call K. Kob. Tel: 081-5357767. Email: phuketjon@csloxinfo.com

HEAVEN ON EARTH



5-bedroom, Thai-style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang Nga Bay view. 3 big bedrooms are en suite with sea views. Private swimming pool. 730.8sqm land plot. Construction area approx 573sqm. Full security service. Located at Rommai Chailay Estate. 27 million baht. Tel: 081-7191705. Email: layan@loxinfo.co.th

SHORT SALE B2.8M



Moo baan Chao Fa Thani. Detached house, 260sqm of land, community pool, 24hr security. 2-3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, large living room, fully furnished, garden. Tel: 089-6639669. Email: andrekant@hotmail.com

LAND ON KOH SAMUI

Located at Namuang on the southwest coast. Easy access - only 10km (5 minutes) from main road, 8km to the ferry, 10km to town (Nathon), and 17km to the airport. Hillside land, stunning sea view. Full infrastructure with electricity and water available, access on concrete surfaced road. Chanote. Eight and four rai next to each other. Price: 2.5 million baht per rai. Land purchase is directly from owner - no brokers. Contact K. Boonyarat for info. Tel: 086-9484803. Fax: 077-232268. Email: grus35@hotmail.com please visit our website at www.abmprojects.com

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HONEST LAND/ HOUSE DEALS

A small site with good deals. Contact Victor. Tel: 089-9728544. Email: av58phuket@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketstay.info

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in Chalong. Brand new, spacious, 2-bedroom villa with deluxe kitchen and large living area. Priced to sell. Tel: 089-6521473.

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PATONG CONDOS FOR SALE

Condos from 3.8 million baht. Tel: 087-2650118. Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk Please see our website at www.housesforsalephuket.blogspot.com



Detached House for Sale

- In Chalong
- New detached house on 370sqm of land with Chanote title
- 1-story, 3 bedrooms, 2 bath rooms (1 with jacuzzi), 3 toilets, 1 living room and Western kitchen (with microwave, dish washer, big cooler, electric hot plates), 1 stock room.
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Property Gazette

POOL VILLA, CHANOTE



House in Cherng Talay, near Laguna Phuket. Land: 1,200sqm. House: 300 sqm. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (1 en suite), living room, storage/laundry room, fully-fitted Western kitchen, dining area, large entrance hall, pool, Jacuzzi, ADSL, True TV, solar water heating, fully walled, remote-controlled gate. Asking 10 million baht ono. Tel: 086-5948426 (English), 089-8738295 (Thai).

SUPER BEACHFRONT APARTMENT

Stunning design. 2 en-suite bedrooms, Jacuzzi, Western-style kitchen, terrace. Views of Kata Bay and hills. Beach path. Pools, spa, gym, restaurant. Rental pool. 16.5 million baht. Tel: 085-8822587. Email: speedj speed@hotmail.com

LUXURY APARTMENT, KATA
70sqm in luxury, newly built complex, 400m from Kata Beach. Pool, steam sauna, top kitchen, Jacuzzi. Come and look. From 2.9 million baht, fully luxury furnished. Tel: 076-388593.

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

near Mission Hills. 1.7 rai. Only 2.2 million baht. Tel: 087-2699206. Email: phkt51@yahoo.com

CHALEYKERE VILLAGE IN KATHU
2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-9347637.

ABSOLUTELY BEACHFRONT LAND



in Khao Lak, Phang Nga. 400 rai. 4 million baht per rai. Chanote. Separate plots at 6 million baht per rai. Urgent sale! Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

HOT DEAL!

Business for sale and lease in Patong. 15-room guesthouse for sale. Fully equipped restaurant, bar, bakery and Internet cafe. Yields high income. Located in center of Patong. Only 1.8 million baht. Contact K. Kris. Tel: 081-6913029. Email: director@purimasproperty.com

AIRPORT & BEACH-AREA LAND

1 rai (1,600sqm) with four 2-bedroom houses. Includes 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, shared swimming pool, Internet. 19 million baht for all. Tel: 081-6919346. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com

LAND NEAR LAGUNA

3 rai, 1 ngan, 68 wah of flat land (no fill-soil needed). 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-9520772. Email: michael@scuba-quest.de

PLOTS ON MY ISLAND

Cherng Talay: 77 rai. Thalang: 106 rai. Chalong: 66 rai. Kata-Chalong: 6 rai. My name is Wellta. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com Please visit my website: www.landinphuket.com

LUXURY PROPERTIES for sale or rent in Phang Nga, Phuket. For further details, please see our website at www.janepropertyphuket.com

HOUSE FOR QUICK SALE



Discounted from 2.9 to 2.7 million baht. House on big land plot, 294 sqm. Ready to move in, with kitchen, cable TV, telephone, aircon and 3 carports. Call! Tel: 089-8737865. Email: nuchpn@hotmail.com

BANG WAD DAM, NICE PLOT



Nice plot overlooking natural lagoon behind Bang Wad Dam. Approx 26 rai, sloped land, access road, water and electricity. Good for residential project. 2.5 million baht per rai (negotiable). Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

URGENT SALE!

Hotel in center of Patong. Fully equipped with shops, spa, bar, swimming pool. Great revenue. For quick sale. Contact K. Kris. Tel: 081-6913029. Email: director@purimasproperty.com

80 RAI, BEACHFRONT

At Bang Sak Beach, 10 mins from Khao Lak, 340m of beachfront. Chanote, good road. 4 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-7298365.

HOUSE IN PATONG

One-story house, furnished, 23sq wah, 3 bedrooms with aircon, 1 bathroom with hot water, living room, kitchen. Tel: 076-341724, 081-569-0664. Fax: 076-344485. Email: sunsetap@ji-net.com

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BEAUTIFUL HOUSE FOR SALE



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.

4-BEDROOM VILLA WITH LARGE POOL

Nice villa with large swimming pool. Very safe and quiet location with security. Available for long-term or holiday bookings. Tel: 076-378361, 081-676 4849. Fax: 076-263919. Email for full details. Email: info@etwood.com

RAWAI SEAVIEW HOUSE

New, super modern and furnished. Best location, 2 to 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, garage, garden. Sale from owner. Freehold. 11.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062. Website: www.phuketdir.com/poolseahouse

HOUSE FOR SALE 2.6M./RENT

Quiet, 1 bedroom, 264sqm of land, cable TV, Internet, and telephone. Tel: 087-9261381. Email: pakadog@gmail.com

BEACHFRONT LAND

Beautiful piece of land opposite Yacht Haven Marina. Ready to build, road access, water, electricity. 7 rai with more than 180 meters of beach frontage. For quick sale. Only 6.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-3430777.

GREAT SHOPHOUSE

for sale. 3 years old with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Excellent location on busy Chao Fa West Rd. 6 million baht. Contact K. Piyanute. Tel: 081-8926991.

KRABI, AO NANG AREA, SEAVIEW

Phuket is called the pearl, but Krabi has the beauty of nature. Large plot, 30 rai (5,600sqm) of Chanote land for sale. Solid investment. The land has 123-meter frontage road. The land is surrounded by a natural park and forest zone. Less than 100m from the sea. Boat access close at hand. Electricity available. 10km from Ao Nang. Perfect for small resort or residential development. 8 million baht per rai. Contact Kag or Edwin for more info. Tel: 086-7866350 or send Email to: buurmanb@hotmail.com

LAGUNA TOWNHOUSE

59/9 for sale. 4 bedrooms, golf course and lake view. Only 24 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

KAMALA CENTER CONDO

1 bedroom, 65sqm, serviced, common pool. Only 2.3 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

SHOPHOUSE CHALONG

Modern building on busy soi. 5.25 million baht. Tel: 084-8419040, 081-7974061.

PATONG CONDO VIEW

35sqm. Furnished, TV, pool, parking, freehold. 2.1 million baht. Email: guntmit@aol.com

SEAVIEW CONDO PATONG: B3.6m

New 2-room deluxe condo. Fully furnished, in best location in Patong, with pool and parking. 5 minutes from the beach. 3.6 million baht. Tel: 081-8928526. Email: info@phuket-besthomes.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-besthomes.com

DESIRABLE



unique and elegant home/office. This ideally located property (Samkong, Phuket City) represents the ultimate in a comfortable home with adjoining office suite. Recently refurbished and tastefully decorated at a cost of more than 4 million baht, this property is now available for discerning home buyers. The home consists of: master bedroom with balcony, elegant en-suite "spa" bathroom, large second bedroom with balcony and en suite bathroom, and a third double bedroom with balcony. The property has a maid's bedroom and separate toilet/shower. The fitted kitchen features an adjoining breakfast/dining area. The home also offers a vast, comfortable sitting room with contoured ceiling and atmospheric lighting. The adjoining 3-level office suite is ideally suited for numerous business opportunities. The property features an attractive garden and 2-vehicle car port. Asking price is a realistic 8.5 million baht. Call for details. Tel: 081-7191705.

POOL VILLA FOR SALE

Bang Tao, 3 bedrooms, big living room, 2 bathrooms, 2-car parking. Tel: 087-8933183. Please see our website at: www.phukethome.ws

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

NEW VILLA FOR RENT



Nai Harn, near Sai Yuan Rd. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room. Fully furnished, open-plan Western kitchen, 8mx4m pool and lovely 800sqm garden. Gardener and pool cleaning is included. For long-term rent. Please contact Paew at Tel: 089-9725378 or Wolfgang at Tel: 083-3888036.

APARTMENT SALES & SUB LETTINGS

in Kamala, Surin and Bang Tao. 1- & 2-bedroom modern apartments. Sales and short- & long-term sub lets. Tel: 081-5372018. Email: matt@phuketwest.com Website: www.phuketwest.com

CONDO FOR RENT IN CITY

Condo in best location in Phuket City, with pool and parking. Fully furnished, aircon, TV, kitchen. Long- or short-term rent. 6,500 baht per month. Tel: 081-7197015.

LAND FOR LONG-TERM RENT

2,200sqm, Sakdidet Rd with utility access. 88m from main road. In natural location ideal for resort, apartments or condominiums. Sea view of Chalong Bay and Phuket Bay possible. Owner has done project layout; easy to start. Tel: 083-5212244.

CHARMING HOUSE

in Mai Khao for rent in quiet, safe area. Long or short term. Furnished with antique furniture. 2 bedrooms, 3 aircons, True TV, DVD, phone, big garden. 3 mins from Mai Khao Beach, 10mins from airport. Tel: 081-7197015, 089-4708926. Email: eanfievat@voil.fr

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. True TV and ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing. Pool and gardener service. Daily rental offered; weekly: 40,000 baht; monthly: 140,000 baht. Contact K. Suchada. Tel: 084-8436837.

PATONG TOWER CONDO - A BEAUTY



Beautiful Patong Tower beach condo with stunning 280° panoramic views of the sea, hills and town below. Large outdoor patio and wrap-around balcony. Completely renovated, Internet and washing machine. Available now. Tel: (011) (86) 13816344147. Email: txxzt@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.PatongTowerRental.com

2 RAWAI POOL-VILLAS

3 or 4 bedrooms, furnished, near beach. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

SHOP IN PATONG, SOI FOODLAND

Townhouse shop, now used as a restaurant, with kitchen. Best location, available June. Ready for 3 years' rent. Tel: 076-340920, 081-8928526. Fax: 076-340920. Email: Peter@phuket-besthomes.com

KAMALA, FOR RENT

3-bedroom detached house in small, select compound. 20-meter pool, security, cable TV, ADSL, maid. Tel: 081-9560527.

FOREIGNER-OWNED

house in Nai Harn. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, terrace, aircon, ceiling fans. ADSL, True TV, alarm system, fenced-in garden. Car park, 100sqm storage. Quiet area. Furnished: 28,000 baht/month. Unfurnished: 26,000 baht/month. Long-term rental. Tel: 076-388194, 085-4767318. Email: happyjo@procom.in.th

STUDIO APARTMENT IN KAMALA

Private kitchen, aircon, True TV, ADSL, pool. 5,000 baht per week; 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8500568.

LAGUNA TOWNHOME

Long term-rent, best unit. Golf and lake view. 173sq wah. 4 bedrooms with option of 1 more. Many upgrades. Tel: 081-0503275.

BANG TAO VILLA FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, car park, big 20sqm living room. Tel: 087-8933183. Website: www.phukethome.ws

1-BEDROOM BUNGALOW

Quiet location in Rawai. Aircon, ADSL, cable TV. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2790837.

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE IN CHALONG



Fully-furnished house for rent in Chalong. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and 2 aircons, set in the quiet and beautiful Baan Maneekram Estate. Private garden, TV, DVD, fridge, microwave, washing machine, telephone line and internet access, etc. Rent: 16,500 baht a month, minimum 6-month contract. To view the house, call 087-8874659 after 7 pm. Email: marc_husted@yahoo.com Website: www.phuketchalong.com

LAND AND HOUSES PARK

house for rent. Chalong, new, fully furnished, nice decorations, 3 bedrooms, safe. Tel: 085-7863213. Email: fabelemo@yahoo.fr

NEW CHALONG HOME

2-bedroom, furnished home for rent with phone, True TV, aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

HOUSE FOR RENT

in quiet and safe area, long or short term. 5 km from Laguna. Furnished, True TV, telephone line, Internet, big garden, 3 bedrooms, 2 aircons, 2 big bathrooms, bathtub, hot water. Only 16,000 baht per month, or 13,000 baht if you pay lump sum for 1 year. Tel: 087-4172757 (English), 086-682-9804 (Thai).

FURNISHED HOUSE

for rent. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living room, kitchen & telephone line. Tel: 081-5379878, 089-7298472. Email: suwittrai@hotmail.com

KAMALA, 140SQM

2-bedroom, 3-bathroom townhouse. Aircon, European-style kitchen, terrace, ADSL, carpark, fenced garden and swimming pool. Tel: 086-9478852.

NEW BEACH HOUSE

Tel: 076-283190, 081-9561202. Email: info@rentthaihome.com For information, please see our website at: www.rentthaihome.com

RAWAI BEACH DUPLEX

Furnished, 12mx4m pool, close to bank. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

SHOP FOR LEASE

Small shop for lease in a busy, prime Patong location, 20 meters from the beach. Tel: 083-6469906. Email: tsabest@gmail.com

NICE, MODERN HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from Rawai & Nai Harn Beaches. 162-sqm. 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. Tel: 087-3830936.

HOUSE FOR RENT



Beautiful house, 180sqm. Quiet, 5-min walk from Rawai Beach to bank, market and clinic. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 fully-equipped kitchens, large living room, fully furnished, aircon, gardens, pool, Jacuzzi, ADSL and gazebo. Long term. Tel: 089-1824674.

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

This new 3-story shophouse is available for long-term lease. Ideal for home office/shop accommodation. Inquiries at Tel: 089-6521473.

LAGUNA RENTAL

2 bedrooms, furnished, large common pool, from 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-7839062.

HOUSE AT CHALONG

For rent near Palai Beach. 2 or 3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, phone line. Tel: 089-7288311.

NEW HOTEL FOR RENT

Situated at Patong Beach on soi Banzan, just 100 meters from Jungceylon. 16 rooms, fully furnished, 8-year contract. Please contact for more details. Tel: 086-2837656.

THE GREENHOUSE BUNGALOWS

Chalong. new 2-bedroom bungalows. Fully furnished, cool, quiet, close to all facilities. 12,000 baht/month. Contact K. John. Tel: 081-9791976.

FANTASTIC SEAVIEW

Karon beach, pool-bungalow. Private and quiet area. Nice, furnished, True TV, Internet. 22,500 baht per month. Please contact for more details. Tel: 089-593-8690. Email: ruen_narayan@hotmail.com

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HOUSE FOR RENT



at Chalong in Land & Houses. Single house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 240sqm. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-5697068. Email: sirio@tisco.co.th

PHUKET VILLA, DAORUNG



House for rent, 55sq wah, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, no phone line, unfurnished. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-2709093.

BALI-STYLE JUNGLE HOME



Live in the cooler mountain air at Tewana Village, Chalong. Just minutes from the beach or Central, our jungle setting cottages and great design make for a perfect hide-away. One furnished double bedroom, Bali-style bathroom, kitchen, Wi-Fi. 16,000 baht per month. Contact Tewana Village. Tel: 089-5930986.

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6923163.

KATA OCEANFRONT LUXURY

Large 2-bedroom condo, pool, spa 5-star. Quiet area. 60,000 per month. Tel: 089-9726017. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For further details visit: www.koumbele.com/kata2

FOR RENT

House in Chalong, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 82sq wah. Rent for 1 year at 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-9074004.

NEW, NICE, CHEAP

house for rent 13,000 baht per month, near Khao Khad/Ao Yon, furnished, European kitchen, good neighborhood. Tel: 089-9710774. Email: kwanarune@hotmail.com

RAWAI POOL HOUSE

for rent. 4-bedroom, 500sqm house. 10m pool. High end and newly built. Fully furnished. Never seen! Big garden. 5 mins to Nai Harn Beach. Tel: 089-6525664.

Property Gazette

Property Wanted

SEAVIEW LAND WANTED
2-5 rai, preferably Kata/Karon or Kamala up to Nai Thon, zoning must be suitable and legally entitled for condominium project according to Building Control Act, City Planning Act, National Environment Control and Maintenance Act. Email: cfmcap@phuket.ksc.co.th

LAND WANTED IN
Kata-Karon, Chalong or Phuket City. Between 150-800sqm. Call for more details at Tel: 086-1203660.

LAND WANTED
300-400sqm of land for lease, located anywhere in Phuket but must be on a main road. Please contact for more info. Tel: 089-7807558.

LAND IN RAWAI - NAI HARN
Looking for a plot between 200 and 800sqm to build a house. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 085-7955383.

LONG-TERM RENTAL
wanted for family. Location: Patong, Kata or Karon. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8989274.

ABOUT 1 RAI WITH SEA VIEW
at a maximum of 6 million baht. Kata, Chalong, Rawai, Nai Harn. Contact me for further details. Tel: 089-9728544. Email: av58phuket@yahoo.com

Property Services

PHUKET TECHNICIAN SERVICES
Electrical-system installation, repairs and maintenance. Plumbing and painting work is also provided. Contact for details at:
Tel: 081-5384989 (Eng), 086-9487489 (Thai).
Email: mnobnorb@hotmail.com

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Centrally located (opposite Patong tower). Size: 50 sqm. 17,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-292672. Fax: 076-292407. Email: desy@patongtower.net

PATONG APARTMENT & ROOM
Long- and short-term rent from 800 baht per night. Tel: 076-512151, 089-2909567. www.brommathaihouse.com

PATONG LUXURY APARTMENT
Patong center, 1 and 2 bedrooms. Tel: 076-341827 or email for info and photos. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

PATONG APARTMENT
300m from beach. Clean, modern, comfortable. Aircon, TV, fridge, big bed, pool, car park. Tel: 081-0825707. Website: www.phuket-accommodation.info

KATA SEAVIEW APARTMENT
1 or 2 bedrooms, aircon, kitchen, cable TV, ADSL. Daily or long-term rent, from 16,000 baht per month. Please contact for additional details Tel: 084-8381421, 089-8749147.

4-BEDROOM VILLA WITH LARGE POOL
Nice villa with large swimming pool. Very safe and quiet location with security. Available for long-term or holiday bookings. Email for full details. Tel: 076-378361, 081-6764849. Fax: 076-263919 or send Email to: info@etwood.com

FREEDOM APARTMENTS
Soi Khuan Yang. Fully furnished, aircon, cable TV. 7,500 baht per month, available April 1. Tel: 084-8450541, 081-8914561.

QUIET SERVICED APARTMENTS
in Chalong. Free Wi-Fi, maid service, bed-linen service. Fully furnished studio suites in modern building. Rooftop pool. 1 superior room, available end March; Standard rooms avail mid-April. Special low-season rates for contracts of 6 months. Tel: 086-2826221. Email: info@phuket-apartment.biz
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Golf Club. 1 apartment, 85sqm, 2 bedrooms, living room, bathroom, kitchen, terrace, swimming pool, fan/aircon, telephone, wireless Internet. Available for rent. Short term: 800 baht per day. Long term: 15,000 baht per month. 1 apartment 58sqm, 1 bedroom, living room, bathroom, terrace, pool, fan/aircon, wireless Internet. Available for rent. 600 baht per day for short term; 12,000 baht per month for long term. Tel: 076-202725, 081-8916632. Email: golfandview@gmx.de

NINA GUESTHOUSE
11,000 baht per month. Swimming pool, aircon, hot shower, new room. Located on Nanai Rd. Tel: 081-7100007. Website: www.atnina.com

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PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE
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Island Job Mart



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Tape Editor: Reporting to the Production Manager, the Tape Editor will be responsible for editing, in coordination with the TV News Editor and camera operators, each day's raw footage, as well as final edits of our daily program packages.

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Other Positions will be available in the resort and interested candidates may submit their CV's accordingly

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OPERATIONS MANAGER(ESS)

Operations Manager(ess) required to manage daily production in small but busy office in central Patong. The successful candidate will probably be at least 30 years old and have proven management ability.

He or she will quickly learn all aspects of the business and assume responsibility in ensuring a smooth operation. In particular, he/she must be able to use initiative in dealing with problems as they occur and also be comfortable in managing other staff. An excellent command of both spoken and written English is necessary for communicating with the foreign owner and foreign clients, ranging from walk-in customers to five-star hotel managers. An attractive salary is offered, with a possibility of earning additional commissions on sales & marketing for a particularly outstanding candidate. Above-office accommodation is also available if desired. Please submit applications with current CV and recent photo. Email: apclarke64@hotmail.com

TELESALES, NATIVE ENGLISH

Full- or part-time, native-English speakers for telesales desks. Excellent opportunity on a professional team. Call or email for info. Tel: 087-1111646. Email: colin@evocation.net

MARKETING

Fly Adventure Phuket is looking for a creative and responsible person with an outgoing personality and experience as a travel agent to join our sales-and-marketing team. Tel: 085-3632325.

CAPE PANWA HOTEL & SPA

JOBS OPENING AT CAPE PANWA HOTEL & SPA

KITCHEN • Bakery chef (Thai national) • Night cook • Western cook • Chef de partie	FRONT OFFICE • Supervisor • Receptionist
ACCOUNTING • Restaurant cashier	FOOD & BEVERAGE • Restaurant manager • Waiters / waitresses
MAINTENANCE • Furniture supervisor	HOUSEKEEPING • Room attendant (male) • Room maid

All positions offer attractive salaries and benefits. Please apply in person or send your resumé and a recent photograph to:

Cape Panwa Hotel & Spa
Personnel Department
27 Moo 8 Sakdidej Rd, Phuket 83000
Email: gm@capepanwa.com, www.capepanwa.com
Fax: 076-391177

STAFF WANTED, TRAVEL AGENCY

located in Chalong. We are looking for Thai or European staff who speak French. Computer/Internet knowledge is essential and a past in travel is a must. We provide training and a very good salary. For more details call Tel: 076-282906 or Email: info@thailandcircuits.com

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Thai National with especially high administration, organizational and English-language skills. Will work directly with managing director and on his behalf. Position requires a person who is mature, well educated, refined and able to travel as required. Please submit a CV to pat@destinationair.com For details see our website at: www.destinationair.com

JAPANESE NATIVE SPEAKERS

Work in Bangkok. Translators, writers, reservation agents needed.

- Degree in hotel & tourism management.
- Good communication skills in both Japanese and English.
- Minimum of one year's experience in the field of hospitality and tourism or customer service.
- Experience in an online travel company is a plus.
- Able to work day/night shifts.
- Fresh graduates are also welcome to apply.

Email: hrmanager@wd-travel.com

PHP & ASP PROGRAMMERS

Need experienced PHP / ASP programmers. Good English skills. Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

TIMESHARE JOBS IN HONG KONG

Absolute is looking for 4 English-speaking, sensible, experienced, cold-line and in-house sales staff to join its newest sales center in Hong Kong. Excellent product, potential and package. Sales manager is John Parnell, training starts March 9. Don't miss this opportunity! Email: bl@marbella.net Email your resumé or apply online at www.clubabsolute.com/fivestar

HOSTESS FOR BOOTH

We are looking for a friendly and outgoing lady with a good appearance and good social skills to represent our company at our booth at Jungceylon. Must be able to learn quickly and speak English well. We provide training, good salary and commissions. Thai nationals only. Apply by sending Email to: annickenluc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com or call Tel: 087-8822856.

CHEF & WAITRESS - JUNGCEYLON

Chefs and waitresses wanted for a restaurant/cafe opening soon at Jungceylon shopping center. Good location! Contact K. Oh. Tel: 087-8810300. Or Email: thommm@online.no

SALES POSITIONS

Wine Connection is looking for sales executives. 3 positions are available. Foreigners as well as Thais are encouraged to apply. Positions are available in Phuket, Khao Lak and Krabi. Salary, commissions and monthly support package offered. Apply today at Wine Connection Chalong. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-282411. Fax: 076-282414. Email: gmpuket@wineconnection.co.th

MANAGER & STAFF NEEDED

1. Thai Female manager with 3-5 years experience in hotel or resort management. Must speak and write perfect English.
 2. Electrical engineer. Must speak English.
- Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-8736889. Send your CV by Email: wnammatapetersen@hotmail.com

ENGLISH-SPEAKING THAI LADY

Home help needed in the morning, 6 days/week. Must have own transportation, preferably a car. Contact for info. Tel: 086-7458832. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

ROCK CITY SINGERS WANTED



Rock City is opening a second venue in Patong and looking for Rock singers who want to live the Rock 'n' roll lifestyle. Any rock genre considered. Show us what you've got! Demos, CVs and references are welcome. Rock never dies. Tel: 086-6864170, 087-3866223. Email: fredrikphuket@yahoo.com See website for details: www.rockcity.cc

OFFICE ASSISTANT / SALES

Phuket Ocean Villas are looking for motivated individuals to join their team. Applicants should be fluent in English and Thai and have excellent computer skills. Tel: 076-527565. Apply by email: cv@phuketooceanvillas.com

URGENTLY WANTED TEACHER AND NANNY

1 teacher to assist 3 young students to study Calvert School Online in Laguna area. 1 nanny to play with 3 children. Must be young and fun. Please contact for more info. Tel: 086-5932722. Email: director@12property.com

Island Job Mart

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

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



STAFF REQUIRED PHUKET AIRPORT HOTEL

Our busy commuter guesthouse is located adjacent to Phuket International Airport. To improve our guest service, we seek to fill the following vacancies:

Customer Liaison Officer

Very hands on, ensure 100% customer satisfaction, good English, supervise staff, previous hotel experience.

Food & Beverage Manager

Hands on, manage small Thai/Western restaurant, bar and kitchen, good English, previous hotel experience.

Night Porter/Security

Alert, trustworthy, spoken English.

Applicants must be Thai nationals. We offer a friendly working environment, with close support from the business owners, subsidised training, free meals, medical insurance, paid holiday leave, competitive salary with bonuses.

In the first instance, please email your resume, including recent photo & salary requirements to:

phuketairport@phuketairporthotel@yahoo.com



Avantika Boutique Hotel, a small boutique beachfront luxury hotel with 31 rooms at the South end of Patong Beach is looking for suitable candidates for the following positions;

Receptions Reservations Secretary Waiter/Waitress

Contact: Please send a recent photo, resume, reference & expected salary to :



Human Resources Department

Avantika Boutique Hotel
4/1 Thaveewong Rd., Patong,
Kathu, Phuket 83150
Tel: (076)292 801-5, Fax: (076) 292 808-9
Email: info@avantika-phuket.com



GOLF IN THAILAND CO LTD

Golf in Thailand Co Ltd is looking for Thai national, male or female, age between 25 to 35. With good English communication skills and enjoys meeting people. Experience is not necessary as training will be provided. Excellent basic salary + commission.

Please send your resume to Franklin@golfinphuket.com or for further inquiries please call Tel: 076-319019 Monday to Friday from 10.30 to 12 noon.

Location 96/1 Vichitsongkram Road, Moo 7,
Kathu, Phuket 83120, Thailand.



Phuket Branch.

We are looking for open-minded people who are seeking a challenging role within their career. Join our extensive international team and work for one of the world's market leaders in real estate. Our overseas chain of Estate Agents Network gives you the chance to enjoy both a successful career and a dynamic lifestyle. You will be working with our worldwide officers and global property exhibitions program.

Opportunities Available:

► Graphic / Web Designer (part / full time)

- Thai nationality. The candidate should have experience in Adobe suite including indesign, Photo-shop and Illustrator, knowledge of printing industry would be advantage along with good general IT grounding.
- Good command of spoken and written English. Be a team player and be able to work under pressure.

► Computer Programmer + IT (part / full time)

- Thai nationality. Apart from the usual HTML, CSS and JavaScript experience with open source tools and technologies is a must: Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP (Python a plus)
- Additional preferences:
 - Strong knowledge of relational database design and optimization.
 - Knowledge of database and websites.
 - Security-minded, with good attention to detail.
 - Comfortable working with strict project timelines.
 - Good English language skills are a definite plus.

► Accounts

Thai nationality, with experience, enthusiastic and well organized candidate required. Office skills including accounting, computer database and good command of spoken and written English. You must have interpersonal skills, be a team player and be able to work under pressure.

Email your CV with photo to adminphuket@oceanestates.com

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TEL: 076 - 325 986 | WWW.OCEANESTATES.COM

Corporate Headquarters • Avenida Julio Iglesias 3
29660 Marbella • Malaga • Spain

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Thai lady required. Part-time, flexible hours. Good English and computer skills. Please Tel: 086-2790837.

MARINE TECHNICIAN

Sailing yacht charter company is looking for a technical manager. Good salary for qualified candidate. Email: thailand@dreamyachtcharter.com



URGENTLY REQUIRE

Phuket Receptif Co., Ltd, a travel agency based in Phuket is seeking an outstanding person to lead our Operations Department.

OPERATION MANAGER (Responsible for French market)

Candidates should possess the following qualification:

- Thai national
- At least 2-3 years experience from a similar position
- Fluency in French and good command of English
- Professional and well organized
- Strong service and customer orientation
- Strong computer and office administration skills

Interested applicants are welcome to apply in person or send their resume and a recent photo to:

Mr. Christian Chevrier, CEO
100/25 Moo 5 Chalemprakiat Rama 9 Rd.,
T.Rasada, A.Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-261195
Fax: 076-261197
Email: info@phuket-receptif.com

SWEDISH FEMALE SALES PERSON

We are an expanding travel agent located in Phuket City. We are looking for a Swedish female, age 25+, for an internet sales position. Computer knowledge is essential, and a past in the travel industry and good knowledge of Thailand an advantage. Tel: 076-246427, 081-7879454. Fax: 076-246180. Please apply by sending email to: andersp@loxinfo.co.th

SEEKING LIVE-IN MAID

Seeking maid for long term in private luxury house (Thai & Farang) in Kamala. Duties: Cleaning, laundry, grocery, shopping and cooking. We offer: 1st & 2nd month, 10,000 baht; then 12,500 for good work. If you are female, aged 25 to 38, have hotel experience and speak English fluently, contact by phone Tel: 086-1727974. Or email surat.rattana@romsai.ch

LHP FOUNDATION

is seeking a Thai National with prior social work and experience caring for HIV patients and other health conditions. Please contact for more information at Tel: 076-614060. Email: areasufhome@loxinfo.co.th

MASSAGE AND SPA

we are looking for a manager, cashier, and massage lady. Must be service-minded. Contact K. Pui. Tel: 076-293046, 081-0862342.

Employment Wanted

IRISHMAN 42

Seeking position in any field. Experienced driver - bus and heavy goods vehicles. Tel: 076-381920, 085-7920452. Email: pj_duignan@yahoo.ie

RESPONSIBLE THAI-CANADIAN

lady seeking Rava job in child care, cooking or cleaning. Please contact Tel: 089-6483711.

HOTEL, DIVING, SALES

Male, 43, Swiss national, Sales manager (13 years of advertising experience), hotel business (head waiter) and diving (PADI instructor). Fluent in German, English and French (basic knowledge of Thai and Italian). I am looking forward to hearing from you soon, kind regards, Stefan. Tel: 087-2684981. For more info please contact me by email at: stefanhaldenstein@hotmail.com

Looking for a job?

Looking for a better quality candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net/

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

BANG TAO GYM
Secondhand gym equipment for sale. Good price. Tel: 081-5250078.

MONGOOSE
Rockodile, 21-speed, 1 month old: 7,000 baht. Cold drink-refrigerator, 2ft x 5ft: 4,000 baht. Desktop computer, Compaq: 8,000 baht. Tel: 084-6288450.

ALL KINDS OF HOTEL
restaurant and kitchen inventory for sale. Contact Jan Jensen. Tel: 081-9683882.

GOLF CLUBS AND NEW BED

Full golf set with bag: 10,000 baht. New double mattress with iron frame bed: 5,000 baht. Tel: 087-3858898.

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

- 1) 6-door under-counter refrigerator
- 2) 3-door under-counter refrigerator
- 3) Fagor 6 open burners
- 4) Dishwasher
- 5) Grill
- 6) Walk-in cold room
- 7) Shelves (stainless)
- 8) Ice cream freezer

All are professional materials in very good condition (1 year old). Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-9583341. Email: lavilla.phuket@gmail.com

ARTIST'S EASEL FOR SALE

Oil/watercolor wooden easel for sale. As new. Bought for 15,500 baht 3 months ago; will accept 12,000 baht. Watercolor board has adjustable stretchers, allowing canvas height of up to 114cm. Only serious enquiries. Contact by email: melkyriaco@hotmail.com

AIR CARD FOR EV DO
Sierra wireless with software. Only 10,000 baht, or make an offer. Call after 3pm. Tel: 081-0862772. Email: thewizardofrockandroll@gmail.com

GYM MACHINES
3 exercise machines for sale. Very good price. Tel: 081-3670991.

2-BURNER GAS GRIDDLE

Dimensions: 730mm x 550mm x 390mm. Nearly new. 12,500 baht ono. Tel: 086-9495255, 080-0968301.

DIVE GEAR FOR SALE

- 2 new APEX regulators CTX 50 with octopus and manometer. 30,000 baht for both.
- 1 BCD Poseidon Besen WZO S/M, 15,000 baht.
- 1 BCD Seaquest Fusion S/M, 15,000 baht.
- 1 Panasonic video camera, MV-GS 17 mini DV, almost new. 10,000 baht

Moving to Europe. Tel: 085-4767314.

SALTWATER FISH TANK

16 x 16 x 30-inch long saltwater fish tank with stand and sub-filter tank (also 16 x 16 x 30). Includes Bio Ball waterfall filtration, charcoal filtration sub pump and protein skimmer. Plus extras. 17,000 baht. Tel: 087-2800659. Email: galinskig@yahoo.com

RELOCATING

Furniture from Index for sale, only 2 months old:
- Red L-shaped sofa
- White computer work station with matching book shelf, plus 2 matching book units
- 2 red office chairs
- Samsung Thai washing machine
- Noble king-sized mattress
Please contact by Email: melkyriaco@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.aathailand.org or
email info@aathailand.org
phuketaa@yahoo.com

SPONSOR

a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the good will of 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 Carol (Tel: 087-4178860 or carol.fryer@piwc.info) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-2776948 or email: sue.arnulphy@piwc.info).

Business Opportunities

SEAVIEW GUESTHOUSE

and restaurant in Patong. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

215 NANAI RD PATONG

Bar and restaurant for sale, fully equipped, 2 deluxe rooms, aircon. Tel: 089-4713610.

START YOUR OWN RESTAURANT

Develop your own concept and see guests rushing through your doors. Great location. Fully equipped. 200,000 baht + rental at 6,800 per month. Tel: 083-7904245. Email: herveduprat@hotmail.com

WILD WILD WEST

1 or 2 investors wanted for steak house & saloon. 90% ready. Excellent location. 9-year lease. Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

DOMAINS FOR SALE

heilprodukte.com, art-gallery-worldwide.com, stainless-artwork.com, phuket-house-for-sale.com, asiabars.mobi, asiabarsphuket.com, thailady.mobi Email: info@klausharbauer.com

ESTABLISHED & STRONG

Sauna Center Patong. Not seasonal. Under 2 million baht. Call Kevin at TSBA Co. Tel: 084-7300190. Email: wunchart-thannawat@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE KARON

Beautiful guesthouse, 645sqm. Apartment suites 45sqm. 50 meters from beach. 2.9 million baht for inventory. 55,000 baht per month rent. Tel: 086-2718254. Email: ninproperty@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT NANAI RD

Urgent sale. Near 7-Eleven, 2 floors, 5-year contract. Rent: 13,500 baht per month. Buy: 800,000 baht. Tel: 076-512111, 084-8528286, 084-4463256.

BAR FOR SALE

Great Patong location. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

BAR RESTAURANT FOR SALE

One of the busiest bars on Nanai Road. Established for 11 years with year-round trade and known for good quality food. Pool table & dart board with established teams in two pool leagues and darts league. TV projector & 6ft screen. Web site and Wi-Fi Internet access. 4-plus years lease with reasonable monthly rent. Tel: 084-8479068. Email: dna-muswell@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.offshorebarphuket.com

KAMALA BAR FOR SALE

Full kitchen and bar, comes with 2-bedroom house, car and scooter. 10-year contract. Call for details. Tel: 087-3849155.

BAR FOR SALE

Nice small bar in Karon. Good location, cheap rent, no key money. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8914019. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE, RESTAURANT AND TOUR

A 15-room guesthouse, 64-seat restaurant, and tourist information plus rental business is for sale in Patong. Absolutely the best area. Very good turnover (4 million baht net per year) and very good lease contract! 7.9 million baht. Call or email for more information. Tel: 089-9325175. Email: wojidkowbengt@hotmail.com

FORMER CLINIC FOR SALE

near airport on 4 rai of land. 38 million baht. Industrial. Tel: 085-7839062.

SALON & SPA

for lease or rent with all equipment included, in the basement of Fantasia in Phuket City. Tel: 086-5930086.

NEW NANA PLAZA PATONG

Beer and go go bars available starting from 1 million baht for 3 years. Also food rights. Finance available. Contact Lee. Tel: 086-6109230. Email: nanaplazapatong@yahoo.com

ENGLISH BAR AND RESTAURANT

for sale. Popular English bar and restaurant on Koh Lanta for rent or sale. 2-room accommodation. 1.2 million. Tel: 075-684570, 086-9743085.

GUESTHOUSE AND BAR

18 apartments + MGR Resident holding company. All rooms furnished with aircon, cable TV, Wi-Fi, etc. 3+3+3-year lease. Close to all amenities. Includes 8 new motorbikes. 3.9 million baht. Contact for more info. Tel: 087-4615102.

RESTAURANT RAWAI

14-year contract, 8,000 baht per month. Fully equipped. Sell for 2.1 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 085-8843610.

ELEGANT SHOPHOUSE

Super bargain, 4-story shop-house with Chanote. Fully-equipped restaurant on 1st and 2nd floor. Fully-furnished apartment on 3rd and 4th floor. Valued at 6.7 million, now priced at only 5.5 million. Have to move out. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8915602.

Agents for Classified Advertising

PHUKET

Julapan Stationery Tel: 076-282254
Chaofa East Rd (next to Siam Commercial Bank)

K.L. Mart Tel: 076-280400/3
Patak Rd, Chalong Fax: 076-280403

Earth Language School Tel: 076-232398/9
Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City Fax: 076-232398

Sin & Lee Tel: 076-258369
Thalang Rd, Phuket City Fax: 076-211230

Taurus Travel Tel: 076-344521/2
Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong Fax: 076-344523

41 Minimart Tel/Fax: 076-324312
Srisoontorn Rd, Cherg Talay

Deli Supermarket Tel: 076-342275
Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong Fax: 076-344314

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Tout, Trader & Trumpet

ROOFTOP RESTAURANT

for rent on the top floor of Sinthavee Hotel, Phuket City. Convenient for a restaurant or bar. Also, a discotheque on the 2nd floor (with license). Email: allservices29@gmail.com

HOTEL PATONG



Bromma Guesthouse, 3 units, 4 floors. Interior area of 800sqm, on 400sqm of land. 40 million baht. Tel: 089-2909567. For further details, please see our website at: www.bromma-thaihouse.com

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

wanted. I will be relocating from Bangkok to Phuket this August and am currently looking for a hands-on investment opportunity based in Phuket. Email: stephancookca@yahoo.ca

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Italian restaurant for sale in Kamala. Eight dining tables and full kitchenware. Near Krungsri Ayudhya bank. Please contact to Khun Na. Tel: 083-1802143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

GREAT DEAL! BUSINESS SALES & RENTAL UNIT

- Hotel for sale: 3 rai, newly renovated, boutique resort, great deal, best location in Patong.
- Hotel for sale: 55 rooms in 5-rai area, small luxury resort located in the quiet end of Patong. New construction, clean and great atmosphere.
- Hotel for rent: best location in Phuket City.
Please contact via email for an appointment. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

BOOKS FOR SALE

Many language books and about 5,000 used books with shelf. For quick sale: 350,000 baht. Please contact K. Pui. Tel: 084-1705552.

KATA GUESTHOUSE

with bar/restaurant, Internet cafe, laundry. 5 mins' walk from beach, inside Kata night bazaar. Close to the fastest developing area in Kata Beach. Freehold title with company, easy transfer. Tel: 081-8948446. www.southernfriedrice.com

RESTAURANT FOR SALE IN KATA

Restaurant with 64 chairs for sale. Fully-equipped, kitchen, 2 rooms, fully-furnished. Contact Mr George. Tel: 089-6546001.

GREAT DEAL

Restaurant and bar with beautiful garden for sale. Fast-growing area in Kathu near Loch Palm. Fully furnished and equipped. Long-term contract (rent), 1.9 million baht. Also, Patong Beach restaurant, top location with bar, garden, fully furnished and equipped. 45 seats. Top quality kitchen including food. Long rental contract. Only 2.2 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-323353 (daily 9-10 am, ask for Khun Yu).

SUCCESSFUL BAR FOR SALE

On Nanai Rd. League pool table, 42" plasma TV, own sound system, fully stocked. 31-month lease on bar, cheap rent, 750,000 baht. Tel: 084-8520862.

PRIME RENTAL SPACE in center of Patong, 135sqm, can be subdivided. Tel: 086-1588752.

BAR SALE OTOP

Bar for sale at Patong OTOP, 550,000 baht ono. Please contact Mike. Tel: 086-2821662. Email: mike richmond@fsmail.net

INVESTMENTS 30% MINIMUM RETURN

More than 30 combined years of experience in Thailand, we have business opportunities and land banks like no other. We have Thai families looking for the best deals. Please phone us, you will not be disappointed. Tel: 087-2795021. Email: bbee_1@hotmail.com

OFFICE IN KATA

For rent 40sqm, outdoor kitchen, aircon, cable TV, telephone and furniture. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-6714178.

NIGHTCLUB KATA CENTER

The only nightclub in the area of Kata, Karon or Chalong... Now for sale at 4.5 million baht or 50% partnership. For more info contact Paul. Tel: 084-6455971. Email: paul.phuket@gmail.com

URGENT DIVE CENTER SALE

Located on Koh Lanta. Sale includes fiberglass speed boat, pick-up truck, 34 tanks, 13 sets of equipment (3 years old). Price: 3.5 million baht. If telephoning, please contact me between 7pm and 9pm. Tel: 084-3315972.

TRADE COMMODITIES ONLINE

On-line options trader offers private consultancy. Trade gold, oil, currencies, wheat, sugar, soybeans, corn, etc. safely and profitably with a small account. Zero experience required. Have an income in the tropics regardless of other people and the stock market. 100% serious. Limited places. Tel: 081-7373958. Email: info@optionwok.com

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- < 5,000 baht, valid up to 10 years
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- < Sole agent in Thailand Internationally recognized & accredited.

Address: Baan Suan Place, 38/3 Moo 5, Soi Bang Yui, Phuket.
Tel: 084-8068736 Fax: 076-209058.
Email: iaa@intllicense.com www.intllicense.com

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BY PLANE 12,999 BAHT	
<p>Call to book now Thai or English: 081-0803414 (Khun Ning) English: 081-8540061 (Khun Geoff) Office contact: 076-304072-4. info@bangkoklegalservice.com</p>	

ACCOUNTANT & LAWYER

Accounting & taxes, legal services, visas, work permits, property, corporate litigation, etc. Inter Audit Co Ltd, T.S.T. business law Co Ltd. Please call us for more details. Tel: 076-384110, 089-2095903, 086-6552004.

PATONG IVORY ANTIQUE SHOP

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Pickups

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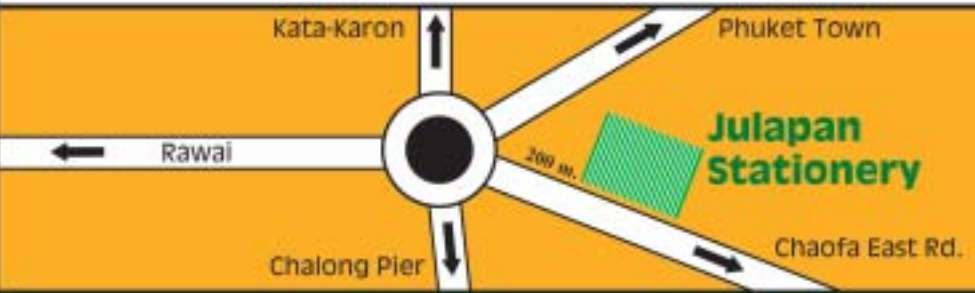
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In addition to the fact that our filtration benefits of a low consumption as well as a silent pump, investing in a Desjoyaux swimming pool makes you participate in "cleaning" our planet... "Earth". Indeed, the structure (PAC/FORMWORK) of our pools is 100% manufactured from recycled plastic materials: 1 OLYMPIA pool structure represents about 30.000 plastic bags which will never pollute again.

- FAST construction
- ATHLETIC body
- LIGHT budget
- CONSTANT performance
- STRONG structure
- RELIABLE guarantee
- ENERGETIC filtration

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