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## Water woes stall main roadworks

By Sompratch Saowakon

**WICHIT:** Work on widening Chao Fa West Rd has been suffering delays due to a dispute over moving water mains pipes and the expiration of the contract with the company assigned to carry out the work.

The Phuket Provincial Highway Office (PPHO) is now unable to give a completion date for the project, which began in 2005.

PPHO Chief Supphasak Nunsang told the *Gazette* that construction delays meant that the project overran the March 6, 2007, expiration date on the contract with the construction company.

The PPHO is now in the process of hammering out an extension to the deal, he said, though work will continue during negotiations.

"The reason for the delay is problems with moving water pipes and electricity poles to allow construction to take place," K. Supphasak said.

"All the electricity poles now have been moved, but we are still waiting to move the water pipes. This is slowing us down considerably."

"The work on the project is about 60% complete. The budget for the project is about 200 million baht. I cannot say when it will be finished," he added.

"The reason the water pipes have still not been moved is that the Phuket Provincial Water Supply (PPWS) does not have the budget to move them."

"Our contractor does not want to move the pipes as it is not part of the work stipulated in their contract."

"Also, they are worried about causing leaks. We used to



**MAINS PROBLEM:** While the dispute continues over whether the roadworks contractor or the Phuket Provincial Water Supply should move the water mains pipes, local residents suffer water shortages.

try to dig under the pipes, but this led to some pipes being broken and local residents' water supply was disrupted, which they weren't very happy about," he said.

However, PPWS Chief Sayan Waree-aroonroj told the *Gazette*, "The water pipes are no longer our problem, it is now the responsibility of the construction contractor."

"The pipes have been damaged many times during the construction and we have had to fix them."

"The PPWS has already finished moving the pipes for them and it's now up to the contractor to finish the job."

Another PPHO project, the proposed resurfacing of the

Patong Hill section of Phra Barami Rd is still waiting on the Department of Highways approval of the nine-million-baht budget request.

K. Supphasak, however, said that he was certain approval for the project would be given, but he couldn't say when. The PPHO already has a contractor lined up for the job.

K. Supphasak explained that the road would not be closed during the resurfacing as it would be done in sections, one lane at a time.

The whole job will be complete within a week, he assured.

Feasibility plans on the proposal to bore a tunnel under the hill are still being conducted by the province, he added.

## Songkran road toll targets set

By Sompratch Saowakon

**PHUKET:** Phuket officials have declared that they want no more than three deaths, 34 accidents and 53 injuries during the Songkran holiday period from April 11 to 17.

Last year's Songkran holidays, from April 7 to 16, and saw six deaths and 99 accidents, with 96 accident victims requiring hospital care.

Last year's numbers exceeded the goal of no more than four deaths and 53 accident victims, but was far lower than the 397 accidents in 2005.

A meeting to discuss the targets for this year's Songkran was chaired on April 2 by Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai at Phuket Provincial Hall.

Aroon Kerdsom, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Office for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (ODPM), said, "We have a set plan for driver safety during Songkran Festival."

"We will set three checkpoints in each district - Muang, Thalung and Kathu."

He added that the Phuket Provincial Land Transport Office will be offering free car safety checkups through some 20 garages on the island until April 20 so motorists can have their cars checked before traveling during the Songkran holidays.

Participating garages will offer discounts of 15% to 20% off normal prices for any repairs needed, he added.

Suwalai Pinpradab, Director of Tourism Authority of Thailand's Southern Region 4 office, said, "We expect Phuket will bring in about 800 million baht during the Songkran Festival because about 90% of flights and hotels are booked."



## 1,881 more people register as 'islanders'

PHUKET: Between February 21 and March 20, 1,881 people registered with the government as living in Phuket, bringing the island's official population to 313,955.

Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (*Palad*) Piya Bharrasilpin reported the increase on March 29.

Part of the increase is thought to be in response to the Governor calling for island residents to register themselves on Phuket house registration forms so that the provincial government will receive larger budgets from the central government.

Of the new registrations, 550 were in Muang District, 311 in Thalang District and 1,020 in Kathu District. Contributing to the rise was the fact that 211 babies were born during the period, with 91 deaths reported.

Between January 31 and February 20, some 3,200 people registered with the government as living in Phuket.

As part of the government registration campaign, the province is advertising in local Thai-language newspapers, TV and radio and through community education programs.

# OrBorJor school MoUs extended to 2009

By Supanun Supawong

PHUKET: The Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) signed between the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) and seven Phuket schools have been extended for three years.

The deal allows the *OrBorJor* to continue providing support for the schools through to 2009.

The seven schools are Baan Maireab, Kathu Wittaya, Cherng Talay Wittayakom, Muang Phuket, Baan Talad Neua, Thalang Pranangsang and Baan Nabon.

*OrBorJor* President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr said, "We have continually developed education management to raise the standard of education in Phuket."

"Every year we spend at least 100 million baht, or about one quarter of our entire budget, on education."

Kathu Wittaya School Director Kham Sukhaphan said that in addition to raising the standards of his school, the MOU has brought in funding to carry out repairs to the school.

"The *OrBorJor* has built a new building and renovated an old building for us. They

have also fixed our problem of not having enough teachers.

"And because of the high standards of the teachers from the Prince of Songkla University, we have a high percentage of our students going on to study at university."

K. Anchalee said that this year the *OrBorJor* will spend about 22.5 million baht on hiring 233 teachers.

The *OrBorJor* will start science classes at Muang Phuket and Baan Talad Neua schools taught by lecturers in biology, chemistry and physics from Prince of Songkla University, Phuket campus," she added.

## Russian 'sister city' delegation visits Phuket

By Supanun Supawong

PHUKET: Mayor Kolyadin Oleg Genyadierich, Deputy Mayor Serganor Oleg L'voich and other officials from Nakhodka, Phuket's "sister city" in the Russian Far East, met Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanimit and other top provincial officials March 27.

The delegations discussed ways the two cities could cooperate and share knowledge in a variety of industries, including fishing, tourism and sports.

Gov Niran visited Nakhodka last September, when the two cities were officially "twinning".

Representatives the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) offered to include tours to Russia and Nakhodka in their catalogs and to welcome Russian students studying tourism to train in hotels and tour agencies in Phuket.

The PTA also asked the delegation for their cooperation in establishing Phuket as a destination for Russian newlyweds to spend their honeymoons in Phuket, as many Korean couples do.

Both delegations agreed to push for the establishment of direct air links, while the Phuket Provincial Health Office offered to send Thai massage specialists to Nakhodka to work, train and share their knowledge with Russian spa owners.



**FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE:** Mayor Genyadierich (right) from Nakhodka, Russia, shakes hands with Governor Niran Kalayanimit after agreeing to cooperate in several areas of tourism and investment.

Photo: Yongyot Preuksarak

Information exchanges will also take place in fishing and aquaculture, important industries in both locales.

In education and sports, Phuket City Municipality will arrange for teachers and students to visit Nakhodka, with Russian sports trainers coming to train municipal school students and exchange knowledge with teachers.

The Phuket Provincial Boxing Club is also expected to host a delegation of Russian youths

and trainers. Phuket Rajabhat University also expressed an interest in exchange programs in areas of mutual interest, such as environmental research.

## Driver charged over fatal Samkong smash

PHUKET CITY: Lanju Saechiw, the driver of a pickup truck involved in a fatal head-on collision with a tuk-tuk in Samkong on February 14, has been charged with reckless driving resulting in a death.

Tuk-tuk driver Payao Junjue and passenger Eero Untamo Malim, from Finland, died in the collision in front of the popular Steak Samkong restaurant on Yaowarat Rd.

Two other passengers in the tuk-tuk were injured in the accident.

Phuket Police Station Investigator Capt Sarit Butnongsang told the *Gazette*, "I have sent this case to the Phuket Provincial Court. It is now up to the court to decide [whether K. Lanju is guilty]."

— Sompratch Saowakhon

## Koh Kaew 7-Eleven robbed at gunpoint

KOH KAEW: A bandit toting a sawed-off shotgun made off with about 4,900 baht in a robbery on a 7-Eleven in Koh Kaew about 4 am on March 26.

Staff at the mini-mart, located on Thepkasattri Rd just north of Boat Lagoon, told police that the robber was tall with light-colored skin and was wearing a black jacket and motorcycle helmet.

Approaching the checkout counter, the man drew a short-barrel shotgun from his belt and ordered the two cashiers on duty to hand over all the money in the till.

After they did, he ran outside to a parked motorbike and made his escape.

Police said that they have few leads from which to track down the culprit.

Sub-Lt Thada Sodarak of Phuket City Police Station told the *Gazette*, "The gun used in the robbery may have been a replica, as one of the cashiers told me that it didn't look real."

Neither of the two salesclerks could remember the make or registration of the getaway motorbike."

This is the third time that the shop has fallen prey to armed robbers, Lt Thada added.

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## Karon restaurateur on the lam

KARON: Police believe Karon restaurateur Suban Pon-iamsaen is still hiding in Phuket after eyewitnesses reported that he calmly walked into the kitchen of Mala Seafood restaurant, next door to his own restaurant on the beach road, and shot dead the owner.

Eyewitnesses reported that Suban carried out the execution of Mala Peng-iam, 52, at point blank range about 7 pm on March 27.

He then walked calmly back out to his white Toyota sedan and drove away, Lt Col Peeranut Chatinkaew, a Crime Suppression Inspector at Chalong Police Station, told the *Gazette*.

K. Mala had been shot three times in the face and once in the chest with a .38 caliber pistol. Police also found a bullet hole in the kitchen wall from a shot that had missed its mark, Col Peeranut said.

"I know [Mala and Suban] had many heated business arguments. They were actually distant relatives but were always arguing, such as when one wanted to have karaoke in the restaurant but the other said it would be too noisy.

"None of these cases went to court, but local police knew of the disputes and always warned them not to let it get out of hand," Col Peeranut explained.

"Saban is still at large, but we know what he looks like and have notified all units to be on the lookout for him. He will not be able to leave the island. He will be charged with premeditated murder," he added.

"We know he is still in Phuket. I think he is trying to decide whether to turn himself in," Col Peeranut said.

— *Sompratch Saowakhon*

# Marine Dept permits late jet-ski registrations

By Janyaporn Morel & Stephen Fein

PHUKET: The Marine Department is continuing to accept registration applications for new jet-skis replacing old or broken ones despite the one-month grace period expiring on March 31.

Surin Theerakulpisut, Chief of Phuket Marine Office, which oversees the use and registration of jet-skis on and around Phuket, told the *Gazette* that the owners of unregistered jet-skis being used in Phuket waters will face fines of up to 10,000 baht.

Such fines can be ordered following a jet-ski inspection by the Marine Department, he said.

However, he added that inspections of jet-skis at beaches where their use is permitted would be unlikely until the existing backlog of applications had been processed.

The delays in processing the applications stemmed from jet-ski inspections and other time-consuming requirements, K. Surin said.

"Owners of unregistered jet-skis being used will be fined, but we will continue to accept late registration applications. We can't fine them at the desk because we don't know whether they have been using the jet-ski or not," he told the *Gazette*.

Currently, 219 jet-skis are allowed to operate in Phuket: all at Patong, Karon, Kamala and Bang Tao Beaches.

In February Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit ruled that owners of registered jet-skis had until March 31 to replace old or inoperable vessels with new ones; a ruling that effectively backed



Operators will be fined if caught renting out unregistered jet-skis, but are allowed to file late registration applications for new jet-skis.

down from the province's strict policy to gradually phase out jet-skis at Phuket beaches.

The new registration loophole contradicted the intent of a provincial order issued in March 2004 by former Governor Pongpayome Vasaputi.

K. Pongpayome, now Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Interior, hoped that as existing jet-skis aged and became inoperable, their numbers would

gradually be reduced. A complete ban would go into effect on March 4, 2011.

Under the new system, however, the number of jet-skis will remain at 219 until March 4, 2011, when the ban is expected to be imposed.

However, K. Surin told the *Gazette* that jet-ski regulations were always subject to review and change by the current Governor.

## Investigation into Chalong bomber stalls

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

CHALONG: After hearing that the investigation into the November bombing of three houses in Chalong had stalled, Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Rathsima ordered police to step up efforts to catch the person or persons responsible.

The three homemade bombs, described as "fertilizer bombs", detonated at about 2:30 am on November 28 on Soi Songkun, about one kilometer off Chao Fa East Rd.

Two Burmese workmen were injured in the blasts, which police believe were motivated by a land dispute.

Rating the case a top priority, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit ordered police to submit monthly investigation progress reports.

Col Chalit Kaewyarat, Superintendent of Chalong Police Station, on Thursday reported to V/Gov Worapoj, Chairman of Phuket Provincial Security Committee, that the investigation had stalled for lack of physical evidence.

"We called in many people for fingerprinting, but none of the prints match those found at the houses," Col Chalit said.

## Rock City co-owner dies after heart attack

PATONG: Swedish national Carl Essler, 47, one of the investors in the popular Rock City nightclub in Patong, died after suffering a heart attack early on March 28.

He was rushed to Patong Hospital after suffering chest pains in the early hours of the morning and was later pronounced dead.

Fredrik Klingvall, Managing Director of Rock City, told the *Gazette*, "It has come as quite a shock. He was still quite young, and I had been working with him on the project since December 2003, so I knew him well.

"He was a quiet guy. He wasn't one of the guys to hang around at night," Mr Klingvall said.

"Carl was very physically active and enjoyed the outdoors. He was a down-to-earth, hard-working person.

"He loved scuba diving and the lifestyle in Phuket suited him well," he said.

"We are saddened by this tragedy and I know he'll be missed by a lot of people on the island.

"Our sincere condolences to those who were close to him and to his family and friends in Sweden," Mr Klingvall added.



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The March 22 protest outside Phuket Provincial Hall by more than 300 villagers from poor communities around the island was the latest in a long line of calls for action by residents who feel they are being left behind in Phuket's burgeoning economy.

What distinguished this rally from previous protests, however, was the cooperation between many separate communities facing similar problems – most pressing the issues of land ownership and access to public utilities.

The non-governmental organization (NGO) Chumchon Thai Foundation estimates that in Phuket there are 30 communities with about 5,000 families squatting on public and private land, including mangrove areas and national park lands, without access to public utilities.

After spending most of the day shouting and waving banners, the protesters finally agreed to leave only after handing a letter of six demands [see panel] to Phuket Vice-Governor Tri Augkaradacha.

One of the protest's leaders, Supat Nunkhao, from Pla Katak Pattana community on Koh Sireh, told the *Gazette* that the representatives were from poor communities across the island, from Mai Khao to Patong, as well as sea gypsy villages along the coast.

"We want the Governor to help prevent us from being charged with encroachment. There are some villagers now living on public land, but we don't receive development assistance from anyone."

"All the government agencies just pass the buck. The Tambon Administration Organizations (*OrBorTor*) don't take responsibility and push us off to the Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*). The *OrBorJor* sends us off to the provincial authorities, and the provincial authorities tell us it is the Land Office's responsibility. Now no one helps us," he said.

The Phuket Development Network for Poor People's Rights is the group responsible for organizing the March 22 protest, as well coordinating a wide range of community action work in Phuket's underprivileged communities.

K. Supat's Pla Katak Pattana community is at the forefront

# Network of poor

Last month villagers from across Phuket protested at Provincial Hall to demand that authorities help them with their problems. Though protests are nothing new in Phuket, the presence of representatives from more than 20 communities made this one stand out.

*Gazette* Senior Reporter Janyaporn Morel investigates what sparked the demonstration.

of the movement and it was their action in October 2005 that provided the spur for the Network's formation.

Boonsom Dechnoo, another network leader from Pla Katak Pattana, explained, "People from Pla Katak commu-

nity went to protest at the Phuket Provincial Hall to ask the government for help in October 2005. That protest was a very long protest, and we stayed in front of provincial hall for 46 days. We found that poor people from other communities came to talk with us.

"Many were facing the same problems as us and we have worked together since then," he said.

"We have had a lot of help from NGOs such as the Chumchon Thai Foundation, Wildlife Fund Thailand, Habitat for Humanity and Action Aid. They have been educating us about how we can help ourselves. They taught us about successful community projects, such as how Ban Nam Khem in Phang Nga recov-

ered after the tsunami. The Chumchon Thai Foundation showed us how to set up community savings cooperatives, and many of the communities now have development savings funds," he said.

The network also represents Phuket's indigenous sea gypsy communities, who face many of the same problems as other poverty-stricken communities on the island.

K. Supat said that Pla Katak Pattana villagers feel that their community has been overlooked by the authorities. Although the 33 families, a total of 196 people, who live in the province are not originally from Phuket and originated

primarily in other Southern provinces, they are now registered as living in Phuket.

"Politicians, government officers and businessmen still look at us as if we are outsiders, and they don't want to help us," he said.

"When we first came here in 1993, we rented 52 rai of pri-



"We want the Governor to help prevent us from being charged with encroachment. There are some villagers now living on public land, but we don't receive development assistance from anyone."

– Supat Nunkhao



The Phuket Development Network for Poor People's Rights protest outside Phuket Provincial Hall on March 22.

This woman's sign reads, "Why is development for us moving slower than development for the rich? Do the poor have rights?"

vate land at a cost of 2,000 baht per rai per month. We all earn a living by drying fish.

"Many of the tools we needed for our livelihood were destroyed by the tsunami. We informed the government that we needed assistance, but we didn't push too hard as we saw that our problems were a lot less than some other areas as we were protected by mangrove forests," he said.

The community's problems were amplified in May 2005 when the owner of the land they were living on ordered them to move off the land within 15 days.

"We couldn't do as the land owner requested as it would have been impossible for us to move off the land within 15 days. We have been working on the land for many years. We asked the landowner to give us six months to vacate the land, but he didn't

agree," K. Boonsom said.

The villagers appealed for help from the provincial authorities and the office of then-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, but this only made life harder, K. Boonsom explained.

"After he saw that we had complained to the government, the owner brought police to threaten us and closed the access road to our community. This caused many problems for us. We buy water from private trucks, and after the road into the community was closed the trucks could not enter," he said.

At this point 13 of the original 46 families gave up and left the community. The remaining 33 decided to fight the case, claiming that the landlord did not have the right to order them off all of the 52 rai that he claimed to possess.

"We know that in 1985, much of the area was water-

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# list demands to Gov



A fisherman dries fish at Pla Katak Pattana community, where families have been living since 1993. The landowner ordered them to leave, but they are challenging his ownership of the property.

logged mangrove forest. The documents of the landlord, however, show that he has owned the land since 1970, which is impossible as no one can be the legal owner of undersea land," K. Supat said.

An investigation by the Provincial Land Office and Phuket Muang District Office found that the landlord's claim to 12 of the 52 rai patch of land were indeed suspect.

In 2005, then-Governor Udomsak Uswarangkura ordered Rassada *OrBorTor* to prepare the 12 rai of land for use by the community. This, however, has never happened, K. Supat said.

Sutas Hongbood, President of Rassada *OrBorTor*, told the Gazette that the *OrBorTor* is still waiting for the final result from the land office.

"At present, survey work on the land is not yet complete.

Once the land has been confirmed as public land, then we will transfer this area to the management of the *OrBorTor* to develop it for the use of the community," he said.

This, however, is not good enough for the members of the Network. As can be seen from their list of demands, they are campaigning for all of Phuket's *OrBorTor* to follow the example of Mai Khao.

K. Supat explained that Baan Laem Lah and Baan Hin Look Diew communities in Mai Khao both have problems of encroachment on public land.

"They have the same problem as us but Mai Khao's *OrBorTor* still supports them by providing basic infrastructure while they are waiting for their case to be processed.

"We managed to find a budget of almost 900,000 baht to develop infrastructure on our land

but we are still not allowed to use it," he added.

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit, however, told the *Gazette* that there could be no blanket granting of demands to solve the province's poverty problems.

"Each group's requests must be examined on a case-by-case basis," the Governor said.

"Most of the protesters are people who are encroaching on public land and have been assisted and motivated to protest by NGOs.

"Many native Phuket people are not happy that people from other provinces have come and occupied government land here.

"The most recent protesters came from many groups. Some of the groups who came to join the protest have already had their problems solved but they still came to give support to other groups," he added.

## The Demands:

The six demands submitted to Governor Niran Kalayanamit by the Phuket Development Network for Poor People's Rights:

1. Help communities in the Network develop their public utilities such as water, electricity, roads and road drainage.
2. Stop prosecuting villagers that have land encroachment problems and instead start discussions with community leaders to solve the problems.
3. Put an immediate stop to the demolition of communities.
4. Move seven communities under the administration of the *OrBorTor* or provide a clear development plan as has been done for communities under Mai Khao *OrBorTor*. The seven communities are: Khajornkiat, Pla Katak Pattana, Kingkaew, Prachasamakkee (Koh Kaew), Saphan Hin (Koh Phi), Pra Barami Soi 8 and Pu Dam.
5. Communities that are currently being prosecuted be allowed to continue with development work to alleviate their problems and be allowed to follow the policies of the poverty sub-committee chaired by Gen Surin Phikulthong.
6. The province must use special measures to help and protect the five original Sea Gypsy villages on Phuket.

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## Queer News

# HITMAN'S GUIDE: Why beating your wife can be a very stupid thing to do

NAKHON SRI THAMMARAT: A gunman-for-hire listed on the Police Region 8 most-wanted list was whacked, not by zealous cops or victims' relatives out for revenge, but by his long-suffering companion as he lay asleep in bed.

At 10 am on March 30, Chawang District Police Inspector Lt Col Sompong Prohmreuangchart received a report of a shooting at house number 134 in Village 2 of Tambon Jundee.

Arriving at the single-story home with volunteer rescue workers, police found the body of 37-year-old Kanit Likachai lying under a mosquito net wearing only a pair of blue underpants. He was covered in a dried-up pool of his own blood.

The cause of death was evident, two shots straight into his chest. From the state of the corpse, police estimated Kanit had been dead about 10 hours.

Missing from the scene were: the murder weapon, a .357 revolver allegedly that of the victim; the victim's live-in partner, identified as Sun Boonchoo, aged 27; and the couple's two-year-old baby boy.

Col Sompong told reporters that the neighbor who discovered the body said she heard sounds of an argument between Sun and a violently drunk Kanit about 2 am the night before.

The yelling was followed by sounds that appeared to be that of a savage beat-

ing lasting over an hour. After that there was a period of silence, followed by two gunshots.

A short while after the two blasts, Sun emerged from the house carrying the couple's son. Her face bruised and swollen, she asked the neighbor for some painkillers and then left, the neighbor said. None of the neighbors were brave enough to ask questions about what had transpired, police were told.

The next morning, the same neighbor noticed the door to the couple's home was ajar and the residence was unusually quiet. Looking inside, she saw the corpse of Kanit and reported the death to the police.

Based on the evidence at hand, police think that Kanit arrived home drunk and took out his frustration on Sun before placing his .357 revolver on the side of couple's bed and falling asleep. As he slept, Sun put the pistol to the center of his chest and fired twice, killing him instantly before leaving with the child.

Col Sompong said that a subsequent check of the victim's background revealed him to be one of the most-wanted gunmen for hire in the south of Thailand.

In the latest development, Sun has contacted police and said she is prepared to turn herself in and face legal charges.

Source: SiangTai



**THE NAKED TRUTH?** The men told police that they had gone out for a swim wrapped only in small towels, which were blown away by a gust of wind and picked up by young ladies who refused to return them.

– Photo courtesy of Siang Tai Daily (www.siangtai.com)

## Nude tour ends with cover-up

PATONG: English tourists, identified by police as Rouald Simms and Barry Viasby, were arrested and charged with indecent exposure in the early hours of March 17, after police set up roadblocks to stop them from speeding around Patong's central entertainment district on a motorcycle – while stark naked.

The duo, riding together on a single motorbike, ran several blockades and ignored calls to stop before their tour was finally curtailed by police about 3:20 am.


The man riding pillion occasionally stood up, eliciting screams from hundreds of women and ladyboys who lined the streets of the popular nightlife area, according to a report in a local vernacular newspaper.

After their apprehension, the pair said they had gone out for a swim in the bay wrapped only in small towels. A gust of wind blew the towels to the ground and they were picked up by young ladies, who refused to return them, the men claimed.

The duo, aged 21 and 36, told police it was their first visit to Thailand and they had to fly out the following day. They complained that they didn't have a chance to swim before they were arrested.

Police released them after they paid fines of 500 baht each – and put on some clothes.



– Source: Siang Tai




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# Weird weather sparks worries

**E**erie weather patterns have irritated Khao Lak expats and visitors alike over the past few weeks. Heavy rainfall and cloudy skies, unusual for this time of the high season, made swimming at Khao Lak's beaches impossible at times and also caused several severe road accidents, including head-on collisions near Khao Lak Lamru National Park.

The rains sparked discussions about whether global warming was to blame or if the seasons had moved forward, which would mean that we are actually in the rainy season already.

Looking at the wind direction, it is obvious that we are still in the hot season, as major winds are blowing from the northeast. If there had been a seasonal shift, winds would be coming from the southwest.

Even the underwater world did not escape the odd weather. Divers reported that water temperatures were down to 23°C and visibility as low as five meters at places around the Similan Islands and other nearby dive sites.

In addition, a reddish algal bloom discolored the water of the Andaman Sea, making it rather difficult for local dive shops to sell trips to the Similan Islands.

However, it has not been all bad news for Khao Lak's dive businesses. A local scuba diving instructor said, "Despite the crazy conditions lately, all in all this season has been really good due to an increase in big fish sightings. We have seen more manta rays and whale sharks than in previous years."

There have also been unconfirmed reports of two killer whales being spotted off Koh Bon, near the Surin Islands, north of Khao Lak.

**Welcome presence:** Police have beefed up their efforts to control traffic in Khao Lak center, affecting traffic near the Nang Thong supermarket and halfway between Nang Thong and Bang Niang Beach on Petchkasem Rd.

Frequent checkpoints have slowed down traffic in the area for at least a couple of hours each day. Although the checks have



**WELL AT LEAST IT'S NOT RAINING NOW:** Scuba diving vessel Voyager II, of Khao Lak-based dive operator Manta Point, floats off Koh Bon, which is famed for big fish sightings. Local dive operators said that this year has seen an increase in the number of sightings of whale sharks and manta rays.

mainly focused on drivers' licenses, helmets and whether road taxes and accident insurances were paid, the presence of traffic police in Khao Lak has been a good sign overall.

**Construction boom:** The center of Khao Lak has been expanding and it appears that its construction boom will soon shift further north toward Bang Niang Beach.

A big shopping mall with the ambitious name of Khao Lak Town Plaza is under construction opposite the Bank of Ayudhya on Petchkasem Rd. The project is being built in a U-shape and will be dominated by 18 shops but also

offer accommodation for visitors in 12 bungalows.

The 3D computer-generated image displayed on the billboard in front of the construction site shows a McDonald's in the southern front corner.

Whether this is wishful thinking of the project owner or a true reflection of what there is to come was still unclear at the time of writing. It is, however, obvious that Khao Lak will at-

tract Western food-and-beverage franchise chains in the near future, as the area is growing at great speed.

**High-class hotel:** More good news for the area is that the ex-



## ANDAMAN COASTING

By Franky Gun

clusive Kempinski Hotels chain has chosen Khao Lak as the site for their second hotel in Thailand. The resort is currently under construction and the first phase is scheduled to be completed in time for the high season next year.

The first phase will feature a 320-room, five-star luxury hotel set in landscaped tropical gardens and lagoons on a 50-rai plot with 300 meters of beachfront.

The resort will have a tropical spa, and large meeting and function rooms. Gourmet cuisine will be served at the resort's four restaurants, which will include a Thai dinner restaurant on the seafront.

The second phase is scheduled for completion in 2009 and will comprise 40 pool villas on 25 rai.

Kempinski's President and CEO, Reto Wittwer, said, "The Khao Lak region is attracting tourists once more, with a number of resorts already re-opened. Kempinski is pleased to be part of the recovery of Khao Lak after the 2004 tsunami.

"With the Khao Lak resort, we can offer our guests the chance to experience the grace and elegance of traditional Thai hospitality." More information can be found on the Kempinski website [www.kempinski.com](http://www.kempinski.com).

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# Volunteer dies in hail of bullets

Surat Thani Police are hunting for a team of assassins who killed a well-known Village Security Volunteer in a fusillade of more than 80 bullets.

Police believe the killing was a revenge attack because the victim was the chief suspect in the killing of the family of a local businessman.

Kowit Yang-an, 34, was driving home in Chaiya District about 8 am on March 27 when a black pickup truck pulled alongside him and at least three gunmen in the back of the vehicle opened fire, peppering K. Kowit and his pickup with bullets.

Police recovered 55 cartridge cases from an M-16 assault rifle, five spent shotgun cartridges and 22 11-mm cartridge cases scattered around the truck.

K. Kowit was the chief suspect in the killing of the wife and child of local businessman Surat Sewatsin at the end of last year. K. Surat himself survived the attack. Locals attribute his survival to a Jathukam Ramathep amulet he was wearing.

Violence dogs K. Kowit's family. His elder brother Supchok was shot dead at the end of last year while serving as President of Takrop Tambon Administration Organization.

Maj Gen Wiboon Bangthamai, Commander of Surat Thani Provincial Police, said he would launch a crackdown on gun ownership in the province and urged army officers in the province to make sure soldiers were not able to take ammunition from the shooting range to sell to civilians.



Police inspect Kowit Yang-an's truck. He died when attackers sprayed it with more than 80 bullets.

**Crooked colonel?** More than 200 villagers briefly blocked the Asia highway in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Na Bon District March 26 to demand the dismissal of a police officer they believe is connected to a murder case.

The villagers, led by Prawit Chaichiwit, called on acting national police chief Gen Seripisut Temiyavej to remove Lt Col Meechai Nokkaew, an Inspector at Police Region 8 Headquarters, claiming that he had a lot of "influence" in the area. After making their demands, the villagers returned home.

The incident was sparked by the killing of Noppaphon Chaichiwit, K. Prawit's father, who

was shot dead in his home on March 22. Local police said that the killing was a robbery.

K. Noppaphon's relatives, however, claim that K. Noppaphon was killed to silence him as he had previously launched a complaint with the Crime Suppression Division in Bangkok alleging that Col Meechai was involved in the abduction of his daughter, Chaisuwan, and her long-term partner Sathaphon Chjomphusawan.

The couple disappeared without trace shortly after being released on bail after being charged with car theft-related offenses in 2003.

Col Meechai has denied any involvement in K. Noppaphon's killings or the disappearance of his daughter.

**Buddhists demand protection:** About 2,000 Buddhists in Songkh-

la's Saba Yoi district ended a four-hour demonstration in front of the district hall March 26 after authorities agreed to their demand to keep troops in the area to ensure public safety.

The protesters submitted a seven-point letter of demands to Saba Yoi District Chief Preecha Damkerngkiart.

Their demands included an increase in security forces in the district, arming of local Buddhists for self-protection, equal enforcement of laws for Buddhists and Muslims, and equal protection from the National Human Rights Commission.

There is a widespread feeling among Buddhists in the predominantly Muslim region that they get worse treatment from the authorities than Muslims.

District Chief Preecha said the authorities would respond to the demands within three days.

The demonstration was staged to counter demands for a troop withdrawal following a mysterious explosion at an Islamic boarding school in the district on March 17.

Many local Muslims believe the blast at the Barmungsart Witthaya Islamic boarding school that killed three students and injured three others was an attack by Army Rangers.

**Kamnan killed:** A widely-respected Tambon Chief (Kamnan) was shot dead as he was eating boiled rice in Nakhon Sri Thammarat City March 28 in what may have been a case of mistaken identity.

Witnesses reported that Somphong "Kamnan Khong" Bunchai, 45, was eating with four or five friends when two men pulled up in a white car and walked into the shop. One drew a gun and shot K. Somphong repeatedly.

K. Somphong's friends, despite the fact that they were all carrying guns, dived for cover and did not return fire, police said. K. Somphong died en route to hospital.

K. Somphong, who was awarded the "Kamnan of the Year" prize for 2006, was known for his work in drug suppression in Tambon Tha Keun, Tha Sala District.

He had previously reported his own younger brother to the police for drug-related offenses, resulting in the brother serving a one-year prison sentence. Despite this, his wife said that she doubted any of his work would have caused anyone to want to kill him.

Local reports said a suspect in the killing of another local politician was sitting at the table next to K. Somphong when he was shot, leading locals to suspect that the assassins may have killed the wrong man.

*Around the South is taken from the pages of The Nation and Kom Chad Luek newspapers.*

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# Evil porn 'snaring young Thais'

Deputy Prime Minister Paiboon Wattanasiritham warned of an "evil cycle" of young Thais surfing pornographic websites and being able to locate and watch obscene video clips in just 25 seconds.

Thai net surfers did more than 520,000 searches using the keyword "sex" in January alone, he said.

K. Paiboon, also the Social Development and Human Security Minister, said Thailand had about 500,000 web pages containing inappropriate and sexually obscene content that young people could easily access.

What seemed to spread most quickly were video clips featuring young women in revealing clothes, he said.

One obscene video clip featuring an actress look-alike had received nearly 300,000 online searches in the past two weeks alone, he said.

An initial investigation had found there were at least 250 websites that featured obscene and nude clips of teenagers.

"Thai youths and children thus become both the performers and the audience. When connected to the Internet, it takes only 25 seconds to access inappropriate websites such as pornography, which is different from the past when it took a lot longer to find a porn book or sex video," said the minister.

Citing a recent study, K. Paiboon said inappropriate Internet content could lead to sexual violence and crime among youths who were being "constantly stimulated".

This prompted the government to announce a "good society for children" policy with a national committee on safe and constructive media to oversee television, radio, telephone services, the Internet and movies.

The National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (Nectec) has reported that half of Thailand's 8.4 million Internet users last year were young people under 25.

It predicted this year there would be 13 million Internet users, with 6.5 million of them young people, K. Paiboon said.



Surrounded by the runners-up, Farung Yuthithum, 19, waves after being crowned Miss Thailand Universe 2007 on March 24

**Human trafficking claim:** Every month, a few children go missing from the Muslim Community in Tak's Mae Sot District in what clearly are cases of human-trafficking, a local leader claims.

Thongsuk Khamveera, vice-chairman of a local Muslim association, said the missing children are sent to Bangkok, Nakhon Sawan and even Malaysia to be beggars, workers and prostitutes.

Some children are stolen, others are lured away. Some are sold by their own parents, he said.

"Look around Mae Sot and you see how perpetrators exploit the children. Some mothers rent out their babies for 20 baht a day. Other women want to carry the babies while begging for money because this arouses sympathy from unsuspecting people," he said.

K. Thongsuk is preparing to submit a petition to Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont calling for help in preventing human traffick-

ing and other crimes in his community. Most of the perpetrators are illegal aliens, who now outnumber Thais in the community near the Burmese border, he said.

"We suspect that some government officials are involved in the human trafficking," the community leader added.

**Pakistani gets life:** A Pakistani man was given a life sentence for the May 2006 murder of Dissanee Thongnarkthae, an English-language teacher from Ubon Ratchathani who he met over the Internet.

The Ratchada Criminal Court sentenced 35-year-old Mohammad Arif to death, but reduced the punishment because his confession had proved "useful". The court also ordered Arif to pay 2 million baht in compensation to the victim's family, who initially sought 5.3 million baht.

According to the lawsuit, Dissanee flew to Bangkok to meet Arif, who had told her he

was "a handsome Spanish man". The two met at Racha Palace Hotel in Bangkok, where Arif had sex with Dissanee before killing her and dismembering her body.

He put the body parts in travel bags to be dumped elsewhere and stole the victim's valuables. He was arrested after police received a tip-off from a suspicious taxi driver.

**Compensation collection:** The Health Service Support Department (HSSD) will propose a new compensation system for medical-malpractice victims to the Public Health Ministry later this month.

"Under the new system, a fund will be established to swiftly and fairly compensate victims," said HSSD Director General Dr

Supachai Kunarattanapreuk.

The new system would not focus on "who is at fault" but rather on fair compensation being given quickly to victims. It will deter patients from taking expensive and time-consuming legal action against doctors, he said.

The new compensation system would collect contributions from private and state medical facilities to establish the compensation fund.

An HSSD panel is now preparing the details of the draft, which should be submitted to Public Health Minister Mongkol na Songkhla later this month.

**Childcare nightmare:** Thirty-six-year-old nanny Boonreung Katasarn has denied grievous assault on an infant in her care.

The parents of one-month-old MJ Artwyutthikulwong told police the nanny had battered their son, who is now fighting for his life in intensive care after sustaining serious internal injuries and broken bones.

Parents Suwit and Isaree rushed their son to Bumrungrad Hospital on March 16, one day after employing Boonreung. K. Isaree said neighbors overheard Boonreung in a heated phone call and suspect she lashed out at the child.

The Bangkok couple filed a police complaint against Boonreung four days later and she was charged with assault and causing serious injury, according to Tao Poon District Police.

Boonreung, who remains in custody, told reporters the infant was hurt in a bath-time accident when he slipped from her grasp and twice hit his head on the floor.

*Around the Nation news roundup is sourced from The Nation and Kom Chad Luek newspapers.*

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# BUTTERFLY BOOSTER

By Semacote Suganya

**W**hat better way is there to spend a morning on the island than watching the release of a thousand of Mother Nature's colorful paintings released into the wild environs at Khao Phra Taew Wildlife Conservation Center near Thalang?

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit performed the honors of releasing 15 species of butterflies provided by the Phuket Butterfly Farm and Insect World at a March 23 event.

The butterflies were released as a part of a project to bolster the population of those species on the island. New growth on Phuket and an increase in the use of pesticides has caused indigenous butterfly populations to decline in recent years. The butterfly farm was established in 1981 and in co-operation with Kasetsart University they have been breeding and releasing butterflies for years. The indoor garden area allows users to feed the butterflies (if the butterflies are in the mood) and observe the breeding methods used to increase their numbers.

But if you'd like to spend a day searching for the natural butterflies, Jaipet Hatthakam, the General Manager of the butterfly farm, recommends traveling to the Khao Phra Taew Conservation area, particularly around

the Bang Pae and Ton Sai waterfalls. In those areas you can often find rare butterflies such as the Tree Nymph, Ashy White Tree Nymph, Jungle Glory, Dark Jungle Glory, Burmese Saturn and the Tufted Jungle King.

To bring beautiful butterflies to your garden, K. Jaipet suggests planting lantana (*phaghakrong* in Thai), which is good for attracting local butterflies. He also recommends ixora (*khem*), yellow star (*kradum thong*), African marigolds (*dao rueng*), cosmos (*dao kra jai*) and glove amaranth (*ban mai roo roey*).

However, not all butterflies like the same plants and flowers, so it's best to plant a variety. Groups of flowers of the same color are also more attractive to them.

They prefer to feed and lay eggs in sheltered areas, where they don't have to fight wind gusts. Place tall plants at the back and the sides of your butterfly garden for extra protection. And to keep your butterflies healthy, of course it's best to avoid the use of pesticides.

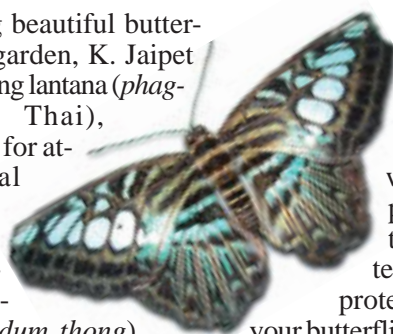
Phuket is home to 30 of Thailand's more than 300 species of butterfly, some of the most common here being

the Mormon, Common Mormon, Common Rose, Yellow Helen, Lemon Emigrant, Leopard Lacewing, Autumn Leave, Orange Oakleaf, Great Egg-fly, Clipper, Chocolate Soldier, Dark Blue Tiger, Blue Glassy Tiger, Common Tiger and Common Glassy Tiger butterflies.

In addition to just being beautiful creatures, K. Jaipet says that Chinese people believe that butterflies bring good luck. So go out and find them around the island – or create a nice garden, and have them come to you.



**GENTLY, NOW:** A teacher and a crowd of schoolchildren marvel at the released butterflies, some of which landed on their outstretched hands. Among the species freed were the clipper (below, left) and the red lacewing (below, right).



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# DOLPHIN DAZE

Some time ago, the news papers reported on a woman who had married a dolphin. I thought I'd heard everything when it comes to weirdness, but this one really got me scratching my head. The dolphin lives in the Gulf of Aqaba off the Israeli resort of Eilat. A 41-year-old British woman, Sharon Tendler, has been visiting him two or three times a year for the past 15 years.

Ms Tendler says it was love at first sight. "It's not a perverted thing," she says. "I do love this dolphin. He's the love of my life. I love him, but not in the way that you love a man. It's a pure love that I have for this animal."

It is a tribute to Ms Tendler's liberality that she hasn't ruled out the possibility of marrying a human some time in the future. But for now she's "a one-dolphin woman". She fully expects her new spouse to have relationships with girl dolphins, and says, "I hope he has a lot of baby dolphins. The more dolphins the better."

The wedding was touching in its simplicity. The bride wore white, and walked down the dock to where her groom was waiting in the water.

She kissed him on the cheek and plighted her troth by presenting him with a herring – although one report said it was several mackerel. The cheering spectators then threw her into the water so that she could swim away with her beloved.

"I'm the happiest girl in the world," Ms Tendler gushed. "I made a dream come true. And I am not a pervert."

We are not told what the dolphin thought of the whole business. Ms Tendler had asked his trainer for his fin in marriage, and presumably the trainer consulted his ward in dolphinese before giving his blessing.

Since the marriage has no legal standing, it has not evoked the wrath of the moral guardians of our world. So far as I am aware, Pope Benedict has not pronounced judgment on it, and neither have religious luminaries like the Reverend Al Sharpton, Jimmy Swaggart and al-Qaeda ideological chief Ayman al-Zawahiri.

You would think that if these guys were on the ball, they'd give us some moral guidance here.

I applaud every event that brings people – and species – together in our strife-torn world.

But I confess to being relieved that this relationship is purely platonic, because there is the question of what the children would look like.

If they looked like Daryl Hannah who portrayed the mermaid in the old Tom Hanks movie *Splash*, however, my enthusiasm would know no bounds.

Critics who question the morality of such a union need to know that things were a lot worse in the old days.

According to Greek mythology, Helen of Troy was the daughter of Zeus, the king of the gods, who disguised himself as a swan and ravished a woman named Leda. The myth glosses over important biological details

such as the precise manner in which the swan managed this feat; but hey, this swan was a god, and you don't ask gods intimate questions like that.

We are told that Helen, whose abduction by Paris sparked the Trojan War, had a "face that launched a thousand ships". We are not told what the rest of her looked like. Presumably it involved feathers. These apparently did not deter Paris, who loved her despite them.

One wonders, though, what the thousands of Greek and Trojan warriors who died in battle thought about giving their lives for a woman who was half bird.

Cross-species unions have a dark side. Another news item tells of a two-year-old male hippo in Kenya named Owen, who fell in love with a 130-year-old female tortoise named Mzee.

This elderly lady at first rebuffed him with hisses, but he followed her around like a love-sick teenager until she relented and succumbed to his charms. Now they even sleep together.

Here the issue is one of age difference. In a civilized society, Mzee would be prosecuted as a pedophile, but since the underage hippo initiated the relationship, the situation is fraught with moral complexities that cry out for a clear judgment by the moral guardians of our age.

Pope Benedict, Al Sharpton and all: Where are you now that we need you?

*S. Tsow can be flamed at stow@yahoo.com, but not when he's crying out for moral guidance from the religious luminaries of the world.*



When I was young, I thought that a spa was a bathtub with bubbles, what they call a Jacuzzi nowadays.

"Mr Brown's got a spa bath in his house," my sister told me. "It's out on the balcony," she said.

Perhaps that was an Australian thing, I have no idea why a Jacuzzi was called a "spa". Maybe because the bubbles have some kind of therapeutic effect?

Clearly this was way off the beam when I heard that a certain businessman had built a new house in Phuket with a spa – and four ladies worked in the spa along with a spa manager.

Four ladies and a manager working in a single bathtub? This seemed intriguing, but somewhat unlikely. Upon further investigation, I got to the bottom of it all, discovering that spas were natural springs in which sick people bathed.

The following quote from Wikipedia explains the background fairly well: "A spa town is a town frequented, generally in times past, for health reasons, to 'take the waters'.

The name derives from the latin acronym *Salus per aquam* or *Sanitas per aquam* (health through water) and it's the origin for the name of the Belgian town Spa. In continental Europe, a spa was known as a *ville d'eau* (town of water). Although Spa is famous for hot thermal baths, the term is also used for towns or resorts offering cold water or mineral water treatments which are included under the terms balneotherapy and hydrotherapy.

"Bath, a town in England got its name from the baths that the Romans built, and Bath, along with some other places in England such as Scarborough and Tunbridge Wells, are known as 'spa towns' and remain famous tourist attractions today."

But today spas are still all about healing.

Monpanee Na Talang, Well-

# The healing powers of spas and spa managers

Then comes the subject of the spa as used in the ubiquitous term "resort and spa". What would have been simply called the Butterfly Guest House a few years back would now bear the lofty title be The Butterfly Guest House, Resort & Spa.

A friend of mine, a resort manager, once asked me to arrange a photographer for the opening of The Banyan Tree Spa Phuket.

This was a wonderful place: serene, with exotic smells and perfumes in the air.

Beautiful ladies with mysterious smiles drifted gracefully in and out of doorways amidst the sound of soft Asian music. Then the spa manager told my photographer that she wanted pictures of a lady covered in mud.

It didn't seem to fit in with the all the beautiful atmosphere, but she explained that spas are all about healing – and that mud has healing properties. I definitely preferred the perfumed baths with lots of pink flower petals, that seemed to fit in much more with the healing waters of the original spas.

But today spas are still all about healing.

Monpanee Na Talang, Well-

ness and Spa Manager of Twin palms Resort, is well experienced in the spa business. She had seven years' of experience at the Banyan Tree Spa Phuket, which consistently rated among the best in Asia.

Monpanee worked in Bangkok and Samui before joining Twinpalms Phuket last year. She seems to belong there. Twinpalms is a beautiful resort, with a stunning beach club called Catch, the most popular Sunday brunch in town, and the beautiful Palm Spa.

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I find Miss Monpanee herself to be excellent therapy, especially for cheering somebody up. One of my friends calls her an angel. Last Saturday she was an angel for all the children at the Phuket Special School at Pa Khlok, when she used her day off to buy and serve them lunch.

"That's not a big thing," she told me. "Many people do that."

I thought it was a big thing.

## LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

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# LIFE BEYOND THE

The beautiful Charlie Webster isn't going to change her name to make it easier for people to know she's a girl, and she's not about to back down from football, either.

"People come up to me and ask, 'Do you actually know what you're talking about?' I'm like, do you think I'd actually be able to sit there for five hours and talk without a script if I didn't know what I was talking about? It's not me, it's just that some people haven't opened their mind," she said.

Charlie currently presents *Club EPL*, which broadcasts every weekend to an audience of more than 240 million viewers worldwide, and she does know football.

Not only has Charlie been going to matches with her dad since she was two and played football at school, but she has also spent a season as a presenter touring with Real Madrid, co-hosting with David Beckham for the Adidas "Impossible Is Nothing" campaign in Europe, and conducting exclusive interviews with top football stars such as Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos and Zinedine Zidane.

Now just 24, Charlie already has an impressive resumé of life experiences. Scouted by a British Athletics Federation coach at the age of 12, she went on to become a professional 800-meter runner by the time she turned 13. Soon after she started competing professionally as a 400m runner.

At 19, she turned to school and worked on her honor's degree in English language and linguistics. Charlie is also fluent in Spanish and proficient in German. Around this time she also became a sports model and took up acting.

Charlie was looking for a career that would let her combine her love and knowledge of sports with her ability to communicate

Laguna Phuket recently hosted a team from ESPN Star Sports, including celebrity presenters Andrew Leci, Andy Penders and Charlie Webster, for a charity golf tournament to raise funds for the Life Home Project.

Being a television personality usually means living up to other people's expectations and then living with the popularity and the criticism. Between the cocktail receptions, dinner parties, charity visits, golf and, of course, the beach, the *Gazette's* Laura Schafer met the very real people behind the personas.



**IMPRESSIVE RESUMÉ:** Charlie Webster gives the camera a barrier-shattering smile. Beauty, brains and love of sports – what more could ESPN want?

and perform. However, she also had a higher goal in mind.

"How could I make a difference? I know it sounds cliché, but I want to make a difference and I think sports is a great way to do it. I like communicating. I like being able to affect people. I like to perform, I feel it's a skill of mine. So put them together and – hey – sports presenter," said Charlie.

She feels that she is now on the right path to making some differences, first in the sports world

by being a female presenter, but it's not easy being a girl in what's seen as a boys' club.

"It's tough. It's my calling in a way. I've always done things a little bit differently. It improves me as a person and it improves me as a presenter. It is tough and I get a lot of stick, but you have to earn respect and I think I've earned that respect.

"People know that I know exactly what I'm talking about and I can match in knowledge and in expertise anybody out there,"

she said about breaking into football presenting.

Charlie has plans to make even bigger differences. Her ultimate goal is to set up a sports academy for abused and underprivileged children. She knows from personal experience that being involved in athletics can give a child direction, passion and dedication.

"I've crossed barriers in Asia as the first female football presenter. It just shows you you can do anything. I'm from a working class family, I was never 'bought' into anything. It shows if you work you can do anything and hopefully I reflect that.

"It doesn't matter if you're a woman or a guy, colored or not colored or whatever – it doesn't matter, you can do it. Society says be like that. You should think out of the box," Charlie added.

As for how her dad who took her to all those matches feels about his daughter being a voice of football in Asia. "He secretly loves it," said Charlie.

Love him or hate him, Andy Penders is the vocal, passionate anchor on ESPN's Saturday night football commentary show *Football Crazy*.

But off the set, and on the course of the Laguna Phuket golf course, he is a surprisingly reserved and warm guy. He doesn't say much, but when he does speak, anyone nearby listens because his comments are well thought-out.

The 34-year-old Englishman and Southampton supporter started out as a football journalist writing for sports websites. A few jobs later he was the senior producer of multimedia at ESPN. Four years ago producers there were looking for a fresh format, and Andy pitched a concept that had been playing on his mind.

"I've always thought I'd be alright on tape. I did the pilot and they loved it, and that led to me doing live football," explained Andy. The pilot became *Football Crazy*.

Being in the spotlight brings criticism, especially to a presenter with a loud style such as Andy's. He admits that at first he was bothered by hearing that some people didn't like his presenting style. However, he says he's learned to deal with it and just move on.

"The easiest thing to do with the show is that I just have to be myself, so I just carry on doing that. If people don't like me that's their problem," Andy said.

"People are more likely to

The Life Home Project provides a safe, supportive home for HIV-positive women and their children. It is a charitable organization supported through private donations and fund raising projects such as an art program in which women at the home create products to be sold.

The Life Home Project provides daycare for the shelter's children and a scholarship program for children affected by HIV, as well as underprivileged and sea gypsy children.

For more information contact The Life Home Project, PO Box 105 12/16 Montri Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000 Thailand. Tel: 076-242632 Email: lifehome@loxinfo.co.th website: www.lifehomeproject.com



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# STARS



**LIKEABLE:** 'If people don't like me that's their problem,' says Andy Penders (left). At the post-golf party at Laguna Holiday Club Resort Phuket they all seemed to like him. – Photo: Dan Miles

write in if they don't like something than they are if they do like something. But on *Football Crazy* you could count the negative comments we get throughout the course of the year on one hand," he said.

Andy was grateful for a weekend to spend time with his colleagues to help other people – and spend with his family.

"It's not often we get the chance to do something a) as a group and b) we never get the chance to do anything for charity, especially on the weekend. It's the first weekend I've had with my family in a long time – that's quite important."

Andy was impressed by the charity event, which raised more than 500,000 baht for Life Home Project. After returning home after the weekend, Andy wrote on his blog, "Seeing these guys and their smiles and being able to understand what magnificent work the charity has done was amazing."

Andy says that having great coworkers helps him to get through the long working hours and working almost every weekend. "They're all very passionate people and we're all very lucky people. It's not hard work, but a lot of hours – and it's enjoyable."

One of the first things Andrew Leci will warn you about is not to be misled by his suit and his dry humor. "If you have ever watched me on TV, you'd know that I don't 'do serious' at all," said Andrew of his regular roles on ESPN's *Here We Go* and *Football Focus*.

Andrew's biography paints him as the ultimate "New Age Renaissance Man" – if only he understood what it meant. He has a degree in English literature and drama from the University of Sheffield in the UK, and has written about food, travel and books for the *The Sun*, *The Edge*, *Businessweek* and the now-defunct *Asiaweek*.

He also is trained actor, a practiced comedian, a qualified Cordon Bleu chef and co-founded the Instant Café Theatre Company in Malaysia in 1989.

"I guess like most human beings I still haven't found what I'm looking for. I try to try as many things with my life with the hope of finding something I am sufficiently good at that people will either give me money or give me awards for. My latest incarnation is as a sports presenter," explained Andrew.

How he landed in front of a TV camera was just a matter of him putting two and two together and going for it, he said. Andrew was between jobs – or "between lives", as he describes it – and was tuning into some sports action on ESPN when he started thinking about the presenters.

"I thought, 'Hmm... that's interesting, I could do that.' I



**SEARCHING:** Andrew Leci contemplates golf at Laguna Phuket – and he says he doesn't 'do serious'.

thought I could combine my acting skills with my love of sports and my knowledge of football. I've been a football fan all my life. It was sort of a serendipitous moment," he said.

Andrew either likes or loves his current incarnation, but he says that it's never less than that. He has realized that he has every boy's dream job, getting paid to watch and talk about football.

"If someone would have told me when I was a kid that I'd be doing this at this stage of my life I would have laughed. It's a fantastic way to make a living," said Andrew.

As for being a personality who is recognized on the street, Andrew is somewhat used to it after his acting days in Malaysia, where he performed in produc-

tions ranging from Shakespeare to *A Streetcar Named Desire* to live comedy. Being stopped on the street just to talk or to field a few questions just comes with the job, he says.

"I consider that if people are paying money to watch you on television you should give them the time of day and you should be nice to them. And if they want to talk to you, you should talk to them," he said, quickly adding with a smirk that he did not have any stalkers and people are usually very nice.

Andrew feels people involved in television don't do enough for charities or to help out in communities. "If you are in the position we are where we have good jobs and make reasonable money, then we should help out."

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## This week



**LAGOON LAUNCH:** The owners of the new Porto restaurant at Boat Lagoon, Bovernporn Lorchaiwet (left) and Wolfgang Grimm (2nd from right), are joined by Robert Wigman (right), Director of Wine and Taste, and Phuket Tourist Association Consultant Pattanapong Akewanich at the launch of the restaurant.



**RUBBING IT IN:** The sales team of Kiwo-Thai Co Ltd test their new Banana Boat sunscreen products on a tourist at Patong Beach.



**APRIL ART:** Advisor to the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) Rawat Areerob (2nd from right) and BIS School Director Dr George Hickman (2nd from left) show off one of the paintings on display at the IB Visual Art Student Exhibition at the Royal Phuket Marina. Art by seven BIS students is on show and for sale until April 30.



**ON THE LOOSE:** (from left) Ernst Loosen entertains Dusit Laguna Resort F&B Director Michael Vorderleitner; Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket Hotel Manager Torsten Richter; and Hans-Peter Blumer of Black Forest Distribution Co Ltd, importer of Dr Loosen wines from Germany, at a March 26 wine dinner at the Sheraton Grande.



**FITNESS BOOST:** Dome Chitralada (2nd from right), Vice-President of Commercial Sales for Johnson Health Tech (Thailand) Ltd, receives a bouquet from Amporn Ruyan, Managing Director of Paunsilp Advertising, at the opening of Johnson's Phuket branch. From left, Regional Manager Primlada Piemchaiwong, Assistant HR Manager Pattana Tammarom and Financial Controller Willie Chen look on.



**GRADULATIONS:** Phuket Gazette Classifieds Administrator Porntiwa 'Jeab' Hongwongpaisarn (2nd from right) is joined at her graduation from Rajabhat Phuket University by fellow staffers (from left) Classifieds Assistant Manager Oranut 'Ja' Samantamit, Classifieds Manager Phatsara 'Yui' Raktammakit and Website Products Sales Rep Angkana 'Koy' Kaewpradit.

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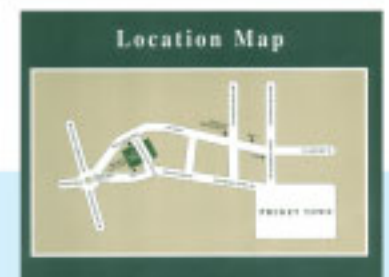
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**TOKIKO PROFILE:** In 1966 she won the best new talent award of the Japan Record Grand Prix by singing her song "A Red Balloon". She also won the best singing artist award of the Japan Record Grand Prix in 1969 by singing "Lullaby For A Lonely Night" and in 1971 by "Travel Weary In Shiretoko". She has been writing her original songs and singing them and many Asian and European songs. In recent years, she enthusiastically started on performing with an orchestra and so many concert have been done not only in Japan but many countries in the world; U.S.S.R ('68), China ('81,'95), U.S.A ('87,'88,'90,'97,'02), France ('89,'92,'95), Belgium ('89), Russia ('92,'00), Egypt ('94), Austria ('95), Bulgaria ('95), Brazil ('98), Czech ('95), Vietnam ('99,'00), Canada ('88,'02), Turkey ('02)

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# A girl's rich imagination

I am almost ashamed to admit this, but since hitting the start of my forties, I have become obsessed with money. Like most people I never seem to have enough of the stuff, what with the cost of children and everything that goes with them – housing, clothing, food, education...

Yes, I am well aware that relative to 99.9% of the planet, I am amply blessed. But the really sad thing is that I inhabit a fantasy world in which I genuinely imagine that any day now I am going to become absolutely loaded.

How? Well, because the book I wrote is now published, it is well on the way to becoming a bestseller, and before you know it I'll be quaffing champagne cocktails with Hugh Grant who, naturally, will take the lead male role in the film version. Just think of all those film award parties I'll be attending.

I spend all my time thinking things like, "I know I'm a bit of a state now, but it doesn't matter, because when I'm rich I'll be really groomed."

Not that I'm not groomed now, of course, but what I mean is really groomed. I have even gone to the trouble of mentally working out that, to save time, I'll spend one day a month at a spa getting my eyebrows shaped, a manicure and a Brazilian bikini wax done simultaneously.

Then there's my wardrobe, currently a sorry mix of designer, by which I mean French Connection and High Street – by which I mean Oxfam and vintage clothing shops.

But any time soon, I'm going to be upgrading it. I was thinking Emporio Armani for casual, Armani for smart, and it goes without saying that all my shoes will be handmade by Jimmy Choo and Manolo Blahnik.

Other purchases I've plan-

ned are my runaround car, my modest little London flat overlooking the Thames (Richmond or Canary Wharf? It's so hard to decide) and lengthy foreign holidays in Tuscany and the Caribbean.

Please tell me that there are other people out there who also feel that wealth on a massive scale must be just around the corner, and that their current lifestyle is some kind of mistake.

I know that these days we're all supposed to be concentrating on the beauty within – balancing our chakras the way our mothers used to move furniture around – but I don't believe anyone who says they don't care about cash.

They're either totally irresponsible, like me, and shortly to be visited by burly men who will cut up their credit cards, or they're too cashed up for their own good – in which case they really should spread it around a little.

The worst thing, though – and I'm sure this is true for many women in my position – is that if I'm honest, I have been relatively opulent.

In my twenties I earned enough to develop a plane habit so expensive that if I could get all the money back now, it would have been enough to pay for my boys to go to Harrow Boys' School.

There'd even be cash to spare for a Harvey Nichols tuck box every term for the darling little monsters who, incidentally, haven't brought in a penny since arriving on the scene one by one over the past 17 years.

Did I appreciate this at the time? No I did not. Because, naturally, I expected that one pay rise would lead to another – even though I was my own boss – and that, in short, I would carry on getting richer.

Only it hasn't quite worked

## AMBROSIA'S

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## SECRETS

out that way. I really didn't realize how much it costs to be an adult.

I mean, once you're in your forties there's really no excuse for not paying your road tax or your mobile phone bill, is there? Not to mention forking out for the dry cleaning, kids' birthdays and staying in hotels with indoor toilets.

Nor did I anticipate that becoming a slacker – I mean creating a better work/life balance, or whatever the "in" phrase is

this week – would inevitably mean seeing my earnings plunge into freefall.

I just can't reconcile myself to the fact that if you want serious loot you usually have to work bloody hard for it. Because in my case, without sounding morbid, I'm not going to hang around waiting for an inheritance.

My father is a retired accountant who has taken to growing olives in Cyprus, and hopefully he has a good few years of fresh sea air ahead of him to be getting on with.

I just wish sometimes that he'd been a dodgier accountant and cooked more books.

When I told him I was going to semi-retire and become a full-time writer, his immediate response was an expression of horror accompanied by the words, "I haven't got any money, you know."

He did relent a few minutes later, adding, "But I do have this olive grove and five dogs. You can probably have them if the going gets tough."

He wasn't lying. These days he probably thinks I'm the one who's loaded. As if!

I know that money is like potato chips – no matter how big your stash, you always want more. Richard Branson is probably sitting around right now day-dreaming... "When I'm as rich as Bill Gates, I'll go everywhere by balloon."

I should just admit to myself that I may never become as utterly wealthy as I am in my fantasies. What I should really do is count my blessings (yawn) and be thankful, as my mother would say (yawn).

I suppose there's always that promise of my dad's dogs. And they certainly are very nice dogs. I wonder how much I could get for them?

*Ambrosia Sakkadas, a UK-born Greek Cypriot and graduate of Central St Martins College of Art & Design in London, is an artist, designer and newspaper columnist. Her novel, Greek Girls Don't Cry, is available from amazon.com and amazon.co.uk*



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## COCKTAIL TIME

by Semacote Suganya

**W**attana Kaewmano, Beverage Manager at JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, shows two fantastic cocktails invented by Tom Waden, the resort's talented Liquid Chef.

Perhaps the most stunning of these concoctions is the prestigious Paramour Pearl Cocktail – a combination of smooth spirits and flavors, giving the drink a soft, sparkling taste, garnished with a necklace of Andaman Pearls.

This romantic cocktail costs 15,000 baht plus tax and service charge – totaling about US\$375. The first of these cocktails was bought and blended for a loved one on Valentine's Day.

**Ingredients:**

Hennessy Paradise Extra Cognac 1½ oz  
 Ruby port ½ oz  
 Lime juice ½ oz  
 Vanilla syrup ¾ oz  
 Pasteurized egg white 1 oz  
 Champagne poured on top  
 One strand of Andaman Pearls

**Method:** Pour all ingredients except the champagne (and the pearls) into a shaker, and mix. Pour into a glass and top with champagne. The egg white cre-



ates the foam on the top, which is rejuvenated each time a little more champagne is added.

**T**he Mojito Royale is the most popular drink at the Marriott. This 350-baht cocktail is the Hemingway classic with a twist.

One of the secrets to this local rendition is to gently crush the mint to release the flavor. The Marriott also makes its own lemongrass syrup and aged rum is used to give the drink a smoother flavor. Not too sweet, not too sour – but refreshing.

**Ingredients:**

Dark aged rum 1½ oz  
 Fresh mint 5-7 leaves  
 Lime 6-7 slices  
 Lemongrass extract 1 drop  
 Sugar syrup 1 oz  
 Crushed ice

**Method:** Pour sugar syrup to create a layer on the bottom of the glass and top with lime slices, then gently crush fresh mint leaves with your palms to release their flavor and let them fall into the glass. Add lemongrass extract and stir, then pour in the rum. Fill with crushed ice.





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# Days of pride

By Natcha Yuttaworawit & Laura Schafer

**T**he 2007 Gay Pride Festival opened with flair in Patong March 29, with a red-carpet party at the Paradise Complex's Way Out Strip. The 2007 festival slogan is "Creating a Stronger GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transsexual) Community in Phuket".

To help create that strength, community activities including a beach volleyball tournament, costume parade and dance party were held during the four-day festival.

The April 1 costume parade was the grand finale of

the festival, with participants joining in from local bars as well as members of Patong Hospital's "Men Who Have Sex With Men" (MSM) public awareness project.

Parade spectators lined both sides of Thaweewong Rd to catch a glimpse of the flamboyant outfits, which included head dresses, wigs and even body paints. The parade ended at the Patong Football Field, where a closing party was held.

The festival is sponsored by Phuket Pride Association (PPA). The PPA also actively supports Phuket organizations that fight against HIV and Aids, including the Patong Hospital MSM project, which works to increase condom use among male sex workers in Patong.



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# Heritage of millionaires

## TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ed Peters

Anyone who can unearth an early copy of the *Lonely Planet Shoestring Guide to Southeast Asia*, the “yellow bible” as it was once known, will find there were but a few pages devoted to Laos, confined to a brief historical round-up and the gloomy advice that the political situation proscribed travel within its borders, backpacking or otherwise.

Fast forward to 2007, and – glory be – there’s an entire guide to the country. And there’s no question about the most popular destination in what was once called the Land of a Million Elephants. It’s Luang Prabang.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site for the past dozen years, Luang Prabang is one of the most beautifully preserved cities in the region.

It’s hardly off the beaten track – witness the thousands of visitors flocking in from Thailand, Europe and even mainland China every year – but there are only a few non-stop international flights buzzing their way here, so for the moment the former capital is pretty much unspoiled.

It’s even more perfect for those who don’t want to go without their home comforts. There are some 35 temples to wander about, and once you’ve reached your full wattage (pun intended), then there are possibly twice as many cafés and restaurants to chill out in.



Similar to how Kathmandu was renowned for its gustatory pleasures in its hippie days in the early 1970s, the main strip of Luang Prabang is one bakery and pizzeria after another, all serving top scoff and at prices that will barely make a dent in the one million Laos kip you’ll get if you exchange 100 US dollars. Being a millionaire has never been so easy, or so much fun.

The greatest pleasure in Luang Prabang is to rise just before dawn and make your way down to Sisavangvong, the highest of three parallel thoroughfares running through the most historic part of town. There’ll be scores of others up and about already, kneeling on the pavement waiting to give alms to the monks from nearby monasteries.

Hawkers provide the necessary vitals, and once you’re armed with alms, simply wait for the orange tide. It is led by venerable barefooted abbots, followed by the younger brethren and with winsome 10-year-old novices trailing at the rear.

The form is simple: scoop a handful of rice into the monks’ begging bowls as they scoot by. The whole process lasts for perhaps half an hour. Once banned by the old communist regime, this simple and moving ceremony is

**REMINDERS:**  
The former royal palace in Luang Prabang (above) now the National Museum, and (right) a French colonial home.

now part of mainstream life in Luang Prabang, and as much about the preservation of culture as anything UNESCO might fashion with bricks, mortar and high-flown mission statements.

While Luang Prabang’s night market is the stuff of Aladdin-style legend, it’s curious to record that by day the city is less busy than might be expected. Package tourists are bussed off

to visit outlying villages, or boated up the Mekong, and the streets and alleyways, tailor-made for meandering on foot or by bike, are often deserted.

When the foot-slogging becomes a little too much, there are plenty of spas to relax in and contemplate the wonders of a former civilization that somehow managed to loiter in the 21<sup>st</sup> century pretty much intact.

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# Highly Hi-So



**THE HIGH LIFE:** With panoramic views over the Laguna development all the way up to Phang Nga, the open-air design of 360° is well-suited to its natural beauty. Right: DJ Sonny, from the Bangkok Bed Supperclub, spins chill tracks at the kickoff party for 360°'s new season of buffets and DJs.

**P**erched high, high up on a hill above Laguna and surrounded by the Phuket Pavilions housing development, the 360° Bar pumps out chill music and relaxing vibes as the west-coast upper crust sip cocktails and socialize.

Sitting up above the fray, and above the multi-million-baht homes surrounding the club, the open-air bar is a scene unto itself. The design and management reach for many ideas at the same time – from world-class music to a buffet bar – and largely reach them.

Stepping up onto the open-air balconies that make 360°, the feel is one of sophistication, with the bar and tables lit from within and far more premium drinks in hands than Chang beers.

It is a place to be seen and a place to see, with breathtaking vistas completing not an entire 360° view, but a respectable 300° or so.

The best views are at sunset, but in order to see them you have to show up a bit earlier than the 7 pm start time that 360° has set for their recent promotions.

The promotions promise to be big events, with 1,490-baht buffets on Wednesdays (Mediterranean food) and Sundays (Latin food) in April, accompanied by international DJs who 360° fly in from Bangkok and beyond playing Friday nights.

On some nights you may see resident DJ and Bar Manager Steady Eddie on the turntables

serving up laid-back tracks. Eddie Anekana grew up watching international DJs perform at his family's bar on Koh Samui before he moved to the Bed Supperclub in Bangkok, from where he is recruiting new artists to join 360°'s lineup.

DJ Sonny was among the first to make the trip and performed at the season opener March 30 when he played music perfect for relaxing – and flirting.

The exclusivity of 360° is

due in no small part to the effort required to lounge in their lounge. Secluded, with few road signs and, as far as I could tell, no sign

## AFTER 360° Bar DARK

By Zach Fridell

on the club itself, it is an evening's destination more than a short stop or a jumping-off point. If you make the

40-minute trek from Phuket City you won't be disappointed by the sights, but you also won't want to stay for a mere 10 minutes.

As you arrive at the Phuket Pavilions estate, a

smartly-dressed guard will raise the gate, allowing you to drive up to the parking lot halfway up the hill.

From there it's a short, steep ride in a golf cart up the hill until the thumping bass and bright lights can be ignored no more.

Even at the entrance to 360° itself, it's another climb up a set of stairs before you are rewarded with the hilltop party.

Despite its ultra-modern design, the bar also manages to feel natural, with trees planted in the middle of the dining areas and nothing more than a large sheet

of fabric separating the party from the open sky.

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# The Cryptic Crossword

## Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of 25 words relating to cowboy life. The names 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; 20, excellent.

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

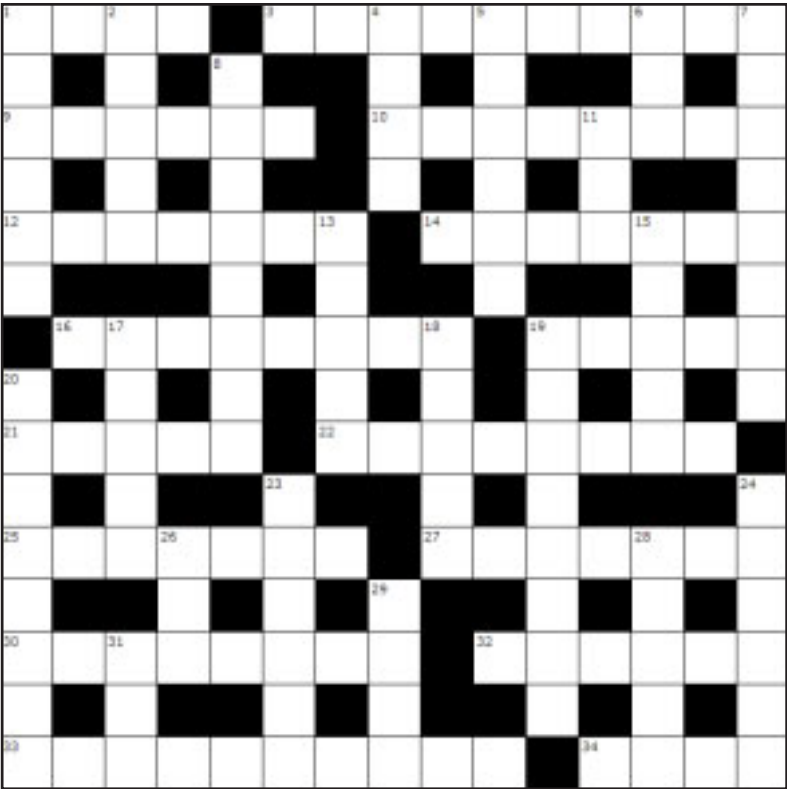
Solution on next page

### ACROSS

1. Stone difficulty? Yes. (4)
3. Fairytale character in deer-call twist. (10)
9. Sister takes point back, at sleep. (6)
10. Drug agent, is silicon blooms. (8)
12. Fuel trick, they say, of stomach. (6)
- 14 & 19. Golf course? Young lady, I am on hummocks. (7, 5)
16. Solar line east, to clip twitch. (8)
19. See 14.
21. Music for golfing action. (5)
22. Drone and I mess up tidy dampness. (8)
25. In which children and Ed dwelled. (7)
27. Snooker component a signal to dance. (4,3)
30. Socialist abandoned flying essential. (4-4)
32. Palace's slatted opening. (6)
33. Having no writer, heart and souls redesigned. (10)
34. Without this, you'd give up. (4)

### DOWN

1. Quit about doctor's clue. (6)
2. Complains about meats. (5)
4. Almost nine to a Columbian ship. (4)
5. With cereal part, scold insect. (6)
6. Almost lost the Spanish. (3)
7. Shrink a creditor's right with one saint.
8. Overcharge with, er, 50 in currency. (8)
11. Tax department is about right. (1,1,1)
13. Capture difficulty. (5)



Compiled by Tortuus. © 2007

15. Small island is rented out. (5)
17. Capital company in air. (5)
18. Firm with sound equipment is amusing. (5)
19. Hospital limit to monopolize animal. (8)
20. Is a ringer a queen?
23. Gainsayer of unit of fineness. (6)
24. Cheat warmer. (6)
26. Scrap or shirt. (3)
28. Hammering block not viable initially – be sick about it. (5)
29. Shivers at end of plague. (4)
31. Well seizure. (3)

Solution on next page

## Scribble Space



## EZ TRIVIA QUIZ

1. As I was going to St Ives, I met a man with how many wives?
2. Which country's flag has horizontal bars, from the top, of white, blue and red?
3. Where does rubber come from?
4. What is the capital of Belgium?
5. What is made in a tannery?
6. What would you put in a quiver?
7. What is the cube root of 1,728?
8. What does an omnivore eat?
9. If you walked north, then turned right, then right again, then left, which direction would you be facing?
10. What are raisins made from?

Answers on next page

## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

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.

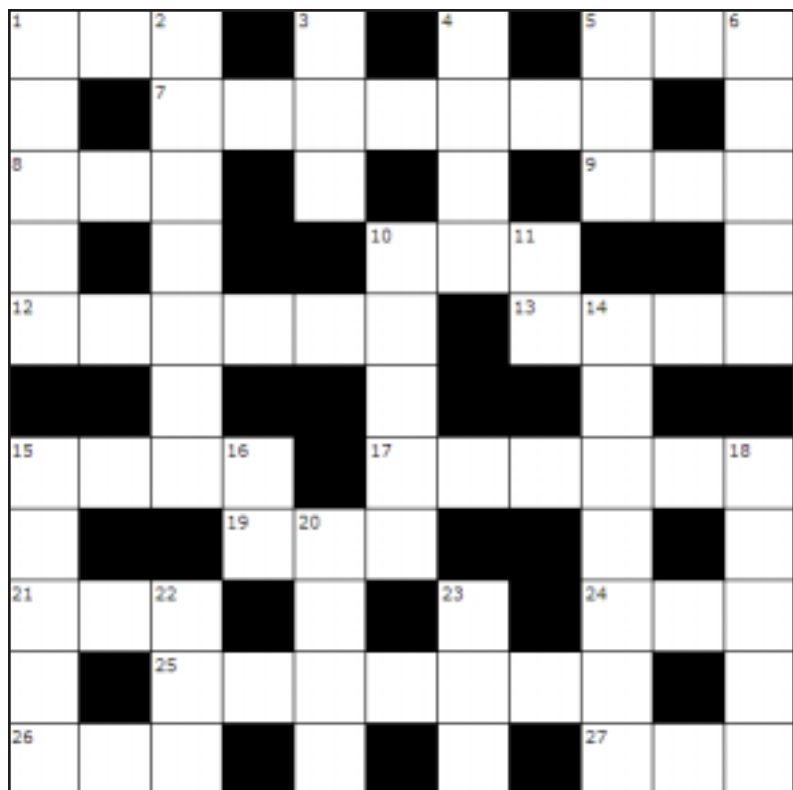
## Rhyme Time

The words described below all rhyme with "vein". What are they?

1. Self-important.
2. Wind indicator.
3. Run for office.
4. Bubbly.
5. Amuse.
6. Hold.
7. Cause of misery.
8. Scandinavian.
9. Killed.
10. Series of links.

Answers on next page





## Quick Crossword

### ACROSS

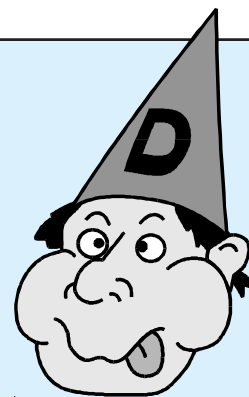
1. Sinbad's giant mythical bird.
5. Measurement of rotational speed.
7. Wright brother.
8. Golf course average.
9. It doesn't work.
10. Unhappy.
12. End of daylight.
13. Get-out-of-jail payment.
15. Badger's home.
17. Ship's kitchen.
19. Mr Lincoln.
21. Body of saltwater.
24. New York City.
25. Stop it from happening.
26. Anger
27. Opposite of science?

### DOWN

1. Boxing ring boundary.
2. Small crown.
3. Ms Gardner, actress.
4. Itchy pest.
5. Stop light.
6. Olympian's reward.
10. Play venue.
11. Database, in short.
14. Georgia city.
15. Japanese dish.
16. Thanks.
18. Sailing vessel.
20. Ale.
22. Chimpanzee, eg.
23. Rent out.

*Solution below right*

## Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1. What did Tim Berners-Lee and Robert Cailliau invent?  | submarine was built from designs drawn up by Cornelius Drebbel in which year?                       | 14. What is Bill Gates' full name?  |
| 2. Harry Brearley invented stainless steel by adding what to conventional steel?                                       | 8. Who, in 1619, invented the microscope?   | 15. What is Salvino D'Armati credited with inventing about 700 years ago? |
| 3. Who won the "War of Currents" between AC and DC power?  | 9. Which Norwegian invented the outboard motor?   | 16. What 17th century invention was known originally as the Arpicembalo?  |
| 4. Who described Einstein's Theory of Relativity as "a beggar clothed in purple whom ignorant people take for a king"? | 10. Whitcomb Judson invented the clasp-locker, now better known as what?                            | 17. What invention is engineer Edwin Beard Budding famed for?             |
| 5. When and how was nylon first used commercially?   | 11. Another of his inventions made Judson's son a millionaire. What was it?                         | 18. When was the first plastic material, Bakelite, produced?              |
| 6. Samuel Langley invention, the bolometer, is used to measure what?   | 12. What invention was originally intended to combat headaches, nervousness and morphine addiction? | 19. The Difference Engine, invented in 1822, was the first what?          |
| 7. The first navigable   | 13. In 1913, Arthur Wynne created the first what?   | 20. What did Neil Arnott invent in 1832?                                  |

*Answers below, left*

# Puzzle Solutions

## Monster Quiz Answers

1. The Worldwide Web; 2. Chromium; 3. Nikola Tesla; 4. Nikola Tesla; 5. In 1938, to make toothbrushes; 6. Electromagnetic radiation; 7. 1578; 8. Cornelius Drebbel; 9. Ole Evinrude; 10. The zipper; 11. The cupholder; 12. Coca-Cola; 13. Crossword puzzle; 14. William Henry Gates III; 15. Eyeglasses; 16. The piano; 17. The lawn mower; 18. 1907; 19. Computer; 20. The water bed.

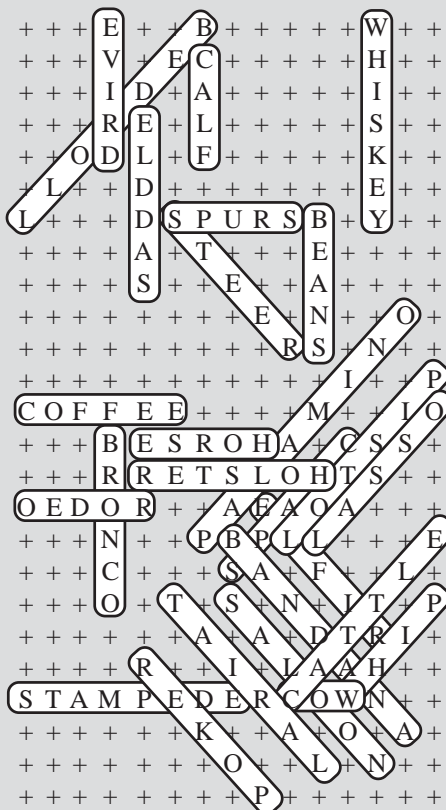
## EZ Trivia Answers

1. Seven; 2. Russian Federation; 3. Rubber trees; 4. Brussels; 5. Leather; 6. Arrows; 7. 12; 8. Everything; 9. East; 10. Grapes.

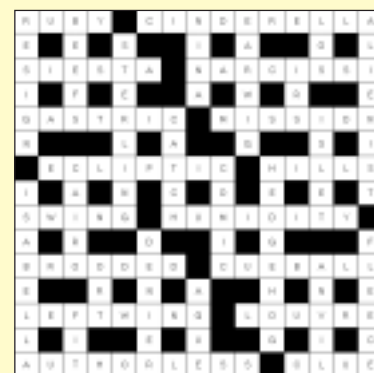
## Rhyme Time Answers

1. Vain; 2. Vane; 3. Campaign; 4. Champagne; 5. Entertain; 6. Contain; 7. Bane; 8. Dane; 9. Slain; 10. Chain.

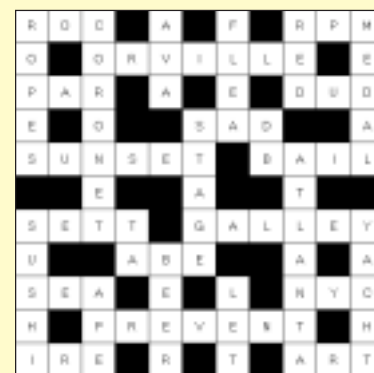
## Hidden Words SOLUTION



## Solution to this week's Cryptic Crossword



## Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



## Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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



# World's best story writer

I'm in love with Alice Munro. I've been in love with her for two decades, ever since I read *The Beggar Maid*, a collection of stories about a mother and daughter in rural Ontario that read like a novel and stretched and swung between girlhood and old age.

She has only written one novel, *Lives of Girls and Women*, but her 11 collections of short stories have roused other writers to compare her to Tolstoy and Chekhov.

She has revolutionized the form. Short stories were originally written for magazines but hers can go on for 60 and 70 pages. She has an intense sense of place, mostly western Ontario and Vancouver, and she loves to play with time: a story may start with a middle-aged woman reflecting on childhood memories, flash forward to an old age home, spin back to her teenage prime. In her latest collection of stories, *The View from Castle Rock* (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2006, 349pp) she's added another innovative twist, combining family history, personal memoir and fiction.

She has collected information about her Scottish ancestors, the Laidlaws, and how they immigrated to the wilds of Canada in 1818. Meanwhile, there were other stories she had not included in other collections because they were closer to a personal memoir than fiction.

"You could say that such stories pay



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

more attention to the truth of a life than fiction usually does," she writes in her introduction. "But not enough to swear on."

The tale opens with Alice Munro searching a graveyard in rural Scotland for the gravestone of her great-great-great grandfather, born at the end of the 17th century. William Laidlaw was known as Will O'Phaup, from the name of the farm he took over in hardscrabble Ettrick Valley. He was a man of great local fame for feats of running and strength. Descended from him were noted preacher Thomas Boston and poet James Hogg, friend of Robert Burns. Various family members wrote diaries and memoirs, which help Munro follow their progress across the Atlantic and into the wilderness of Canada.

A third of the way through the book we come to *Working for a Living*, the

story of her father who abandoned farming and turned to trapping as a way of life. Later with his enterprising wife he set up a mink and fox farm that got them through the depression but would eventually fail.

In the end, he settled happily for a night watchman job in a local foundry and set down his memoirs of the family. By this time his daughter had become a famous writer.

About halfway through the book, the story shifts to Alice Munro. She's 60 and driving with her husband past a boarded-up rural store. She suddenly remembers eating an ice cream cone at that spot while on a drive with her father to a lake-side hotel where her mother had spent the summer of 1941 selling fox and mink furs to American tourists.

We get the story of her first love, a stable boy who would become a soldier in World War II and a successful construction contractor afterward, last glimpsed at a high school reunion many years later.

There is the summer of 1951 when she's in her last year of high school and hired as a maid at a rich family's summer home where she's introduced to a stern and sophisticated class system.

And at the end of the book, a cancer scare that turns out to be false prompts her to reflect:

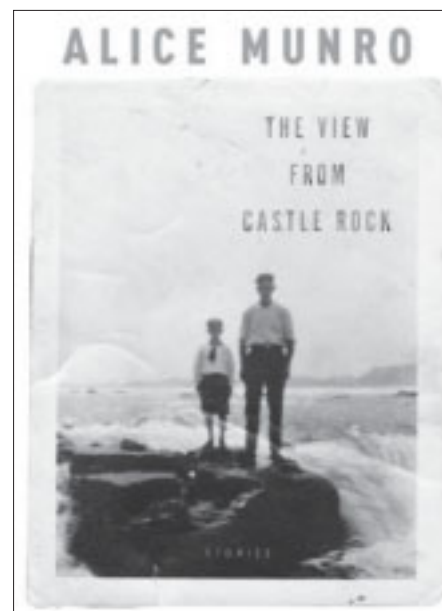
"Such frights will come and go.

"Then there will be one that won't. One that won't go.

"But for now, the corn is in tassel, the height of summer passing, time opening out with room again for tiffs and trivialities. No more hard edges on the days, no send of fate buzzing around in your veins like a swarm of tiny and relentless insects.

Back to where no great change seems to be promised beyond the change of seasons. Some raggedness, carelessness, even a casual possibility of boredom again in the reaches of earth and sky."

Alice Munro is 75 now and has recently said that this may be her last book. All we can do is pray it ain't so.



## PHUKET DIARY

[www.phuketgazette.net/calendar](http://www.phuketgazette.net/calendar)

### Jungceylon Grand Opening. April 8 to 15.

Jungceylon is planning a week of entertainment and fun during the Grand Opening celebrations from April 8 to 15.

Scheduled for the celebration are a concert by Thai super star Tata Young (April 9), the Miss International Songkran Contest (April 12) and fireworks and light-and-sound show (April 8).

There will also be a multitude of fashion shows including bikini and lingerie catwalk shows (April 8) and an opportunity to cheer for your favorite "Hottie" at the Miss Phuket Bike Week Beauty Pageant (April 15).

All activities are free. For more information, see the website at [www.jungceylon.com](http://www.jungceylon.com)

### April 13 to 15. Songkran (Thai New Year).

Also known as the Water Festival. 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 – of water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

### Phuket Bike Week. April 14 and 15.

Several thousand bikers from all over the world are expected to participate in the 13th Annual Phuket Bike Week 2007 to be held April 14 and 15 by Phuket Riders Club and *Ride Thailand Magazine*.

Throughout the weekend

bikes such as Harley-Davidsons, BMWs, Ducatis and Hondas will be touring the island, including a procession through Patong, Kata, Karon, Promthep Cape, Rawai and Thalang.

Past Phuket Bike Weeks have enticed at least 5,000 people to the island.

Some highlights of this year's festivities include a Big Bike and Motor Show on April 14 at 4 pm and a Biker Fashion Show by Harley Davidson Bangkok at 9:30 pm that night, both at Thai Naan Restaurant on Wichit Songkhram Rd opposite Central Festival Phuket.

On April 15 activities will be

centered around Jungceylon shopping center in Patong and will feature a Big Bike Party at 7 pm and the Miss Phuket Bike Week judging at 9 pm.

### Until April 30. BIS Student Art Exhibition.

The British International School (BIS) is holding its International Baccalaureate Visual Arts Exhibition from March 23 to April 30 at Royal Phuket Marina.

The exhibition of about 100 pieces of art by seven BIS International Baccalaureate (IB) art major students includes sculptures, photographs, paintings and fashion art.

The exhibition will be on display from 9 am to 5 pm daily.

For more information call BIS at 076-238711-20 ext 0, or Jeanette Skelton at Royal Phuket Marina at 081-7971420.

### Until April 15: Perfect Phuket Contest.

Property developer C9 Hotelworks has launched a website and worldwide competition, sponsored by the *Gazette*, urging the global community to create videos of the perfect lifestyle on Phuket, with the chance to win prizes.

The [www.phuketperfect.com](http://www.phuketperfect.com) website guides viewers to a

dedicated page on the YouTube website where entrants can upload their videos from March 1 until April 15.

Winners will be announced on [phuketperfect.com](http://phuketperfect.com) April 30. Top prize is a week's stay at the Movenpick Residence.

All details of the program and uploading instructions can be found at [www.phuketperfect.com/contest/](http://www.phuketperfect.com/contest/)

### May 1: Labor Day.

Labor Day is a public holiday for all employees in the private sector. However, government offices will function normal.

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## Deal with encroachment now

Foreigners in Phuket routinely complain about current laws prohibiting non-Thais from freehold land ownership. Yet despite these laws, most well-funded foreigners have been able to find some way to work within the law to secure property here – such as through lease agreements or buying into a condominium project – or by “bending” the spirit of the law by building on land owned by a company controlled by a Thai nominee.

At the opposite end of the spectrum are some 5,000 landless families in 30 slum communities, as estimated by a representative of the non-governmental organization Chumchon Thai Foundation [see Inside Story, pp4-5].

Many of these families were denied aid after the 2004 tsunami disaster because they were unable to produce land title deeds or otherwise prove they were registered residents of the areas they inhabit.

Their plight is the reverse to that of well-heeled foreigners: although they have every right to buy land here, they simply can't afford to – and given the cycle of poverty most are entrapped in, they probably never will.

A recent article in the online version of the strongly pro-capitalist *Wall Street Journal* stated that prices of “beachfront and oceanview property in Phuket have climbed by at least 30% annually for the past five years.”

If true, this means the average seaview villa bought in 2002 at a cost of 5 million baht now commands a whopping 18.56 million baht. With prices like these, it is little wonder that the poor are getting forced off land that, in some cases, they have occupied for almost two decades – or, in the case of sea gypsies, for centuries.

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit is quite right to insist that each group of protesters petitioning the government be treated separately; some of the groups have legitimate claims, others do not.

Perhaps saddest of all is the fact that even as the number of slum dwellers on the island increases – with the inevitable social costs – the province and the local land office have done little or nothing to make it clear to potential settlers, be they encroachers or property investors, what land is government owned and which is privately held and available for development.

In 2003, as part of a national campaign to standardize land titles, the Land Department undertook a survey of the entire country and was to launch a drive to upgrade all land papers so that the Chanote would become the sole form of property deed for Thailand.

Apparently that was all for naught. There is still much confusion over land ownership, and the poor are paying the highest price for that confusion.

– The Editor

**The Phuket Gazette**

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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.

### It's simple: jet-skis endanger lives

The letter from “We love speed” (a fitting, moronic pseudonym) in the March 31 *Gazette* asked, “What damage do jet-skis do?”

A couple of years ago a 13-year-old German boy died after the jet-ski he was riding crashed into a moored long-tail boat off Patong. He was riding a jet-ski that police officers said had been hired for him by his father.

The boy died before he arrived at Patong Hospital, just a few hundred meters from the beachfront.

What a horrific image that must have been. I'm sure the many people who were there on the beach that day will never forget it.

Would “We love speed” let his or her children drive a powerful motorbike around a crowded shopping mall? Perhaps. Jet-skis are a bloody nuisance that spoil the peaceful ambiance of the lovely beaches and pollute the water with the stench of gasoline.

I'm very happy to hear you “banana brains” will spend your “spondoolakas” elsewhere... your reckless attitude is not welcome in Thailand.

Simon Sheldrick  
Kata

### What happened to that welcome smile?

I recently made a trip to Penang and while checking out of Thailand one of the women in our group was engaged in an argument with a Thai immigration officer regarding her length of stay in Thailand.

She was marched off to an

office and about an hour later returned fuming mad. We asked what was the problem and she said, “You won't believe it but three of those immigration officers [each with a calculator in hand] were trying to convince me that February had 31 days and that I had overstayed my visa.”

Funny, yes – but bad for tourism. A simple solution, proposed many times by visitors to Thailand, is for Thai Immigration to hire a lot more computer-literate women who speak a foreign language, and make them immigration officers at the high-volume traffic border crossings, such as at Sadao.

Not only would tourists be processed faster, but also greeted by a warm smile instead of the face of an officer impersonating the Gestapo.

Dennis Wiley  
Phuket

### I live in Phuket, not in New York

Mr Devlin [see Letters, Issue of March 24], what have you been drinking?

I guess from your use of words, such as “marketer” and “sidewalk”, you may be from one of the colonies – maybe that rather successful one that is already trying to change the way world speaks, eats and thinks. But trying to make Phuket streets a copy of New York really is one of the silliest ideas I have read for a long time.

So “take me to the corner of cabaret avenue and 5<sup>th</sup>” is going to make sense to a tuk-tuk driver? “Next to the Tai Pan,” will do fine.

There are hundreds of landmarks around town that the transport people know: Bangla,

Banana, Holiday Inn, and so on – it's just a matter of using them.

Sure the smells are unpleasant at times, but the collective waste has to go somewhere. Try Venice, Rome, Paris or Athens for distinctive aromas.

Keeping a tourist town clean in the tropics is enormously difficult and I think Patong Municipality is doing their best.

I always thought the main street to the Paradise Hotel was one of the better kept streets, with its fountain and well paved areas. Other routes to the hotel I would agree may need a clean up, but on the other hand we would then be without Little Greenwich.

Glad I live in New Jersey (Thalang).

Paul Wheildon  
An Englishman in Phuket

### TAT should lure more Americans

As an American staying in Phuket I've been asked by business owners why Americans don't spend their holidays in Thailand. They tell me that they have customers from all over the world, but very few Americans.

Since having these discussions I've noticed that I don't meet many Americans traveling here, and before coming here most people at home I talked with were hard pressed to point to Thailand on a map.

Perhaps the Tourism Authority of Thailand should consider better marketing Phuket to the US while attempting to lure better quality tourists to Phuket, instead of hitting up the usual European suspects.

An Unquiet American  
Phuket

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



# SATISFYING JAPANESE TSUNAMI CONCERNS

**T**his morning [March 27] I met with Japanese Consul Tathuo Ishikawa from the Japanese Embassy in Bangkok. He came to discuss Phuket's early warning system and preparedness to deal with any future tsunamis.

The Japanese Embassy is very concerned for the safety and security of all its nationals in Phuket, which includes about 500 expatriate residents and a much higher number of visiting tourists.

I explained to Mr Ishikawa that we now have 19 siren towers covering risk areas. I also told him that we conduct drills once a year to ensure these areas can be evacuated in 30 minutes.

I also explained our telecommunications capabilities, which allow us to warn the public about a tsunami and coordinate emergency response. These include an emergency hotline to the National Disaster Warning Center as well as an island-wide emergency radio network.

Other warning capabilities are through the Internet, television and other media as well as emergency messages sent out by instant messaging.

After our meeting, Mr Ishikawa was given a tour of the provincial disaster warning control center at Provincial Hall, where the operational status of all 19 warning towers is constantly monitored.

We also discussed the possibility of establishing a sister city relationship with a city in Japan. This is in the preliminary discussion phase and we first need to decide which city would be appropriate.

On the topic of tourism promotion, we discussed ways of increasing the number of visitors to Phuket from Japan. Before the tsunami, there were more foreign visitors to Phuket from Japan than Korea, but that is no longer the case.

I was given three reasons as to why Japanese tourists have

## The Governor's LETTER

In his fourth Governor's Letter to Phuket's expatriate community, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit looks at a variety of topics, from tsunami warning systems to Phuket's 'sister cities'



not returned to Phuket in the same numbers they did before the tsunami. The first is competition. Many Japanese want a new experience when they travel; with so many other countries in the region developing themselves as tourist destinations, it is increasingly difficult to attract repeat visitors.

The second reason is the lack of direct flights. The last time I met the board of THAI International Airways I asked for their cooperation in re-establishing direct air links to Phuket that were canceled after the tsunami.

The final reason for the small number of visitors from Japan is a continuing sense of unease about the possibility of another tsunami, which is why it is so important that we let Japanese people know that we have a good warning system in place.

With the Thai economy so sluggish, we would of course like to encourage more Japanese investment in Phuket.

There are many opportunities waiting in line, such as projects to help develop Phuket into an information technology hub, as well as megaprojects that include the Ao Phuket development project, construction of a

light-rail transit system and the sports training complex in Thalang, for which the land has already been approved by the Treasury Department.

I think all of these areas will be of interest to Japanese investors.

**Sister cities:** Phuket enjoys "sister" relationships with a number of foreign cities, including Las Vegas in the USA, Nice in France, and Yantai and Hainan in China. The latest is the Russian port city of Nakhodka, which we were twinned with last year.

In addition to promoting tourism, establishing such relationships can bring intangible benefits such as increasing international understanding.

In the case of Nakhodka, it is good that we have a sister city in Russia, which is a large and growing source of tourists.

Having Nakhodka as a sister city will help us to establish educational links, which should help us improve the Russian language abilities of our tour guides. Already we are seeing Russian language courses being offered by Phuket Rajabhat University and the Non-formal Education Center.

Apart from tourism, we are

also witnessing increased investment by Russians in the real estate sector and in other areas, such as marina projects.

**Patong:** I have to accept that there has been talk about putting Patong's power lines underground for a long time, with no progress achieved – no matter how many "study trips" abroad members of the municipal council have made.

I think the tangles of electric lines in Patong and other parts of Phuket reveal the lack of communication among the many utilities that install them, including the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA), Telephone Organization of Thailand (TOT), TT&T and cable television companies.

I always encourage these organizations to get together to solve problems that are hurting the province, but they usually say that current regulations prevent them from taking action and they have to wait for a change in the law.

Sewage is another problem in Patong, especially during the high season when there are so many tourists.

I would like to ask the private sector for their help. I have heard that some hotels are trying

to save money by not operating their on-site wastewater treatment plants, instead releasing their untreated effluent into the sea or other public areas.

We hold many seminars aimed at increasing awareness and encouraging the public sector to take a more active role in environmental protection; if they don't do their share, they will kill their own businesses.

**Drugs:** On the issue of drug abuse, I am told by the provincial drug suppression committee that the total number of arrests on drug-related charges is decreasing, but that the amount of drug seized in such cases is on the rise. Still, I don't think there are any big drug "agents" operating here.

**Trash:** Phuket really needs a second trash incinerator, as the single furnace now in operation cannot handle all waste produced.

We have asked for two billion baht from the government to fund a second incinerator, which would meet our trash disposal needs many years into the future.

Phuket City Municipality does its best to minimize the amount of trash that needs to be burned by measures such as by separating garbage and encouraging source reduction at home.

Unfortunately, the development of Phuket is resulting in a more "urban" social outlook among residents that makes it difficult to get the kind of community support we need to deal with issues like this.

**Funding:** The interim government is approving few large-scale provincial development budget requests because it has many other issues to deal with, such as drafting a new constitution.

Most of these plans are being left until the next government takes office. This obviously affects plans to build a second incinerator, sports complex, convention center and other projects that have been on the provincial agenda for some time.

In the meantime, we must wait and do our best with what we have and try to court private sector investment if possible.

We are not a rich country, so we need strong organization and public support, with everyone working together to achieve our common goals.

Niran Kalayanamit,  
Governor of Phuket

niran\_pkt@hotmail.com

## Can I cut down my neighbor's branches?

My neighbor's land has many trees and there are no buildings on the property.

If a heavy branch or dead tree fell onto one of my buildings or my house, which is very near the barbed wire fence separating our properties, would I be entitled to any compensation for the damage caused by the dead tree or branch?

The neighbor is not interested in cutting or trimming trees that pose a threat. Is there a way to compel the owner to remove or trim trees that may be in danger of falling onto my home or garage?

Don  
Thalang

### Issues & ANSWERS

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**Tanida Silapa, a lawyer at Thepkrasattri Municipality, replies:**

If a neighbor's tree or a branch falls and causes damage to your property, you can

file a complaint with the police for compensation from the tree's owner.

If you have asked your neighbor but he refuses to cut down branches hanging over your property, you can cut down the branches yourself – but you can cut *only* the parts of the branches that overhang your property.

I advise that you take photos of the branches before you cut them down, just in case your neighbor is upset and files a complaint against you.

However, you should call us first (Tel: 076-311381 ext 17) and let us inspect the area. If you do not want to cut down the branches yourself, then we can do it for you – free.



## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): A steamy romance ensures that you remain on cloud nine this week but it's probably not a good idea to take things too quickly as you are not in an auspicious position to make commitments right now. Sudden changes in your domestic situation are forecast to take place toward the end of the month, and these will probably involve relocating. Your money tree is due to bear plenty of fruit.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): You should achieve everything that you aim to this week. A slow atmosphere on Monday means you could easily lose your cool with those who can only move at a snail's pace. More support is forthcoming after Wednesday; Cancer will be particularly productive. An instant attraction this weekend isn't likely to spark a great romance right now. There may be a different story when you meet again later this year.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): The ball's in your court until the end of this month. If you have an ambition to fulfill you should have no problem in doing so. On Sunday you can prevent an uncomfortable social situation from developing into something heavier by using your sense of humor. Where romance is concerned, flattery will get you everywhere with a sensual Sagittarius. Those already in a committed relationship should remind their partners how much they care.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Trying to please too many people could become stressful for you this weekend. Remind yourself that others' happiness is not your responsibility. A fresh career start is indicated if you have been actively seeking new directions. Scorpio is definitely impressed by your skills. Plan a shopping trip for this weekend as a new look

will give your confidence a helpful boost. The number 3 can bring luck on Monday.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): You could find yourself in hot water this weekend. If you are caught up in the gossip grapevine, be advised to keep information to yourself. Communication will be subject to crossed wires during the coming days. Money matters are well-highlighted, although this is not the right moment to take risks in unfamiliar areas. A Pisces finds you interesting and is waiting to make a calculated romantic approach.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): If you have been lazy lately you will receive a necessary prod this week. This will enable you to get back on the ball in time to compensate for recent overspending. Although rainy days still seem far away you are advised to start saving. Clear up clutter at home to allow energy to flow more freely. The color lime green adds sparkle to your aura.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): If you are feeling hot under the collar you should plan to cool down at home this weekend. Next week promises to bring challenges on the work front that you will need all your energy to deal with. The outcome from one of these situations will leave you in a good bargaining position for future discussions. Promotion is indicated to come your way in the not-too-distant future.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): You may be basking in the sunshine of a new love affair and Cupid is still smiling if you haven't met the partner of your dreams. The only excuse for being single will be that you prefer things that way. An Aquarian work colleague will try to take advantage of your lack of atten-

tion this week, so try to concentrate on business more. The number 5 comes alive on Wednesday.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): The state of your finances is a cause for concern until the end of the month when astral influences take a turn for the better. In the meantime, you are advised to resist all unnecessary spending. A minor cash boost is forecast to arrive on Tuesday or Wednesday, which should be enough to tide you over if you're careful. Where affairs of the heart are concerned you should make the current level of your commitment clear.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Fun and laughter are firmly on the agenda for you this weekend. After a recent social drought you will be relieved to enjoy a couple of light-hearted days. Communication delays threaten to cramp your style on Monday, but you can rest assured that things will get back on track after then. An attractive Arian would like to get to know you better. Wear scarlet to advertise your availability.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): An emotional dilemma needs to be addressed this week; you can no longer keep this concern in the back of your mind. Spiritual matters begin to occupy your attention when you meet a fascinating person this weekend. Leave important business decisions until the end of April as confusion and deception are highlighted until then. The color bronze encourages relaxation and a calmer mood.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): All that glitters definitely isn't gold. If you are inclined to be gullible, you should be careful when making a purchase this weekend. A casual relationship is put to a premature test this week; you will need to make a quick decision. Business continues to boom and you could receive an important visit on Tuesday. Allow yourself the luxury of doing nothing on Sunday.

# How hotels

I was about to leave for Puerto Princesa in the Philippines when Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa's Environmental Coordinator Arfinn Oines called and asked if I could take a look at their Environmental programs.

I'm always skeptical of travel industry PR schemes, and with Evason on my blacklist for developing on Koh Yao Noi, I told Mr Oines I had my doubts, but I would keep an open mind and left for Puerto Princesa.

More than a sanity fix, this Princesa trip was to write a case study on "Responsible Destination Development" for the University of Leeds in England.

I've kept an eye on Puerto Princesa since 1995, but when I began questioning the municipality on an academic level I was astounded. For starters, Princesa's officials are proud of their plans, programs and detailed budgets.

Information I haven't found in Phuket for the past 18 years was provided without even asking. In Princesa's transparent administration, budgets were included automatically with every program description.

Five basic environmental programs, each with a budget between 1.7 and 2.2 million baht a year, are being implemented to protect Puerto Princesa's environment in the city, jungles, forests and seas.

Canals are clean and open, rubbish goes to a state-of-the-art sanitary landfill, water is pure, 85% of forests and jungles are patrolled every day, poaching has been eliminated, a "communal forest" offsets the logging ban, seas on both coasts are patrolled daily for illegal fishing and both coastlines are patrolled by foot.

Princesa's school system maintains a 98% literacy rate in the general population, 85% of high school graduates qualify for higher education (keeping internationally-funded scholarship programs constantly full), most residents speak fluent English and the tuk-tuks are converting to clean-

burning liquefied natural gas thanks to a city-sponsored program.

On top of all that, environmental club membership is so cool that drugs and gangs simply don't exist.

Princesa also hosts two nature-based World Heritage sites and another on the way. I've been on three committees to get Phang Nga Bay recognized as World Heritage – but every time it gets rejected for "mismanagement".

Phuket bills itself as a water sports playground, but there are few public water training courses and many local water sport and tour guides can't even swim. We have few public pools and we still don't have a convention center.

Yet in a destination with 140,000 tourism arrivals a year – only 12,000 international – I stumbled upon an Olympic-standard swimming pool. A couple dozen college kids under the stadium were wrapping up their heads like pirates. I asked if they were rehearsing for the next festival but they said no, they were a Volunteer Forest Patrol practicing their first aid.

In town, there's a modern 8,000-seat convention center-sports arena under constant use. The local dive resort is so clean that dugong live nearby, and the Mayor grows endangered Tridachna clams around his island – where he maintains a low profile yet very comfortable shelter, refusing to build an ornate "show" mansion.

It's amazing what visionary, corruption-free leadership can do – and in two years Puerto Princesa International Airport opens, allowing environmental tourists to bypass Manila. Watch as the arrival numbers skyrocket.

So after Princesa's environmental nirvana, how could a Phuket hotel interest me in its environmental program? I promised Mr Oines an open mind, so upon return I paid him a visit.

Evason Phuket has won many tourism awards, but since I consider most hotel awards self-serving prattle, I was suspicious. After I took a closer look, however, it appears that Evason Phuket "walks the walk" when it comes to the environment – and that's coming from a skeptic.

More than just doing things right, Evason Phuket experiments with environmental innovations – and they don't wear their heart on their sleeve. As Mr Oines said, "We aren't trying to make anybody look bad, but we do want to enlist others into comprehensive

## THE GRAY AREA



By John 'Caveman' Gray

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# can lead



**HEADCASES:** Volunteer Forest Patrol members in Puerto Princesa practice first aid.

environmental practices.”

Evason Phuket Resort Manager Claude Baltes isn't arrogant. “Hopefully, most Phuket hotels are doing many of the same things. The question is if any other hotels do *all* the things we do.”

That comment kept me awake for nights. What can Phuket hotels do to make a significant impact on environmental tourism – and maintain sustainable, quality arrivals?

The answer is, “Plenty.” We are a major destination in a region not known for environmental enlightenment. Pooling our ideas and resources, putting them into practice and then promoting them properly will keep Phuket “Clean and Green”, giving our island a significant marketing advantage over competing destinations. Ideas will spread because they make economic sense – and everybody wins.

The Evason Phuket practices dozens of environmental programs – too many to mention in one column – so I'll start by highlighting five. I used three criteria to determine the best practices. First, they should be well-tested and universal. Second, they top the list of my favorite environmental practices. Finally, they have to be good business.

- Four-cycle boats. Evason's commitment to 4-cycle speedboats immediately caught my attention. Speedboats and jet-skis have nothing to do with “natural tranquility”, but high-pollution 2-cycles show no respect for the sea or the atmosphere. The Racha Island Resort is the only other property I know with four-cycle speedboats.

If your hotel doesn't own speedboats, does your tour counter have a four-cycle-only booking policy? You can't hide your head in the sand. If you sell two-cycle tours you contribute to the problem same as operating your own – maybe more.

Ironically, speedboat operators benefit the most from switching to four-cycle engines.

The lower fuel, repair and maintenance costs offset the price of converting within a few weeks – after that, it's all gravy.

- Solar hot water. Solar hot water has been with us about 50 years, but how many hotels in tropical Phuket use this energy-saving and cost-saving method. Traditionally hot water consumes 40% of the energy in a home.

- Waste reduction. Hippies first learned to separate their trash in the 60s. Back then, separating was only between glass, metal and paper. Evason Phuket separates rubbish – not three, but eight ways.

- Composting. The Gray family had a compost pile in our suburban back yard, so I learned the virtues of free warm organic fertilizer from birth. I saw my first compost pile in three decades at Evason. After aging, the compost is spread in the garden, where it fertilizes the vegetables Evason grows for its own kitchen.

- Social responsibility. Life is a two-way street, and every business should be involved in its own community's welfare. Simply providing jobs isn't enough. Unlike many travel industry “community programs” that are simply self-serving PR, Evason-Phuket donates 0.5% of its revenue – note: not profit – into community welfare programs, including the Life Home Project.

Hopefully, many local hotels already employ these concepts. If you do, let us know with an email. Good practice deserves praise. Let's share experiences and results until we develop a comprehensive statement of environmental lodging practices.

Using the Evason example, let's make Phuket tourism more environmentally-friendly and then let others understand our commitment. Remember, surveys say “Clean and Natural” is the highest factor in destination selection.

*Send your responsible practices, comments and suggestions to [info@johngray-seacano.com](mailto:info@johngray-seacano.com)*

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# Dredging the Internet Backbone

In last week's column I talked about fast Internet connections in Phuket, which I discussed briefly at an International Business Association of Phuket (IBAP) meeting a few weeks ago. Now I'd like to tackle several topics that were raised by the IBAP audience.

One question regarding Phuket's ICT infrastructure was, "Why is fiber-optic cable is so much faster than copper cable?"

The answer, surprisingly, is that copper wire can handle data as fast as fiber optic, in theory.

A bundle of 50 twisted-pair copper wires has more data-carrying capacity than a typical fiber-optic cable. (Don't believe it? See [arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20061010-7952.html](http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20061010-7952.html).) The trick lies in how that capacity is used, and how much money is spent on the equipment to handle the data.

Traditional telephone network switches hooked to copper cables do a poor job of handling large volumes of data because they have a hard time precisely

controlling electrons in the wire. Electrons bump against each other, dissipating the signal and limiting the number of simultaneous transmissions through the cable.

Think of it this way: take a very long, narrow pool table and imagine three pool players standing side-by-side at one end of the

table. Have them shoot balls to the other end of the table as quickly as they can. No matter

how you set things up, if the table's narrow, the balls will start banging into each other sooner or later, hitting the sides of the pool table, slowing down the entire process.

Phuket's copper cables look more like rutted tracks than felted pool tables: to get fast data speeds it, uh, takes a lot of balls.

Now imagine stacking a bunch of laser pointers at one end of the pool table, and hiring a gazillion monkeys to flick them on and off.

The lights go straight down the table, and there's no interference, so you can keep track of



**I FLOAT, THEREFORE I AM:** Fiber optic cables are placed on the ocean floor with highly specialized cable-laying ships, like France Telecom's Rene Descartes.

the separate conversations. Fiber-optic cable not only carries more "lines" than a traditional telephone-switched network, the data traveling down each "line" stands a greater chance of mak-

ing it to the other end unscathed.

There's been a lot of research and investment into getting a copper wire network to handle data traffic better. ADSL is the most common technology: using ADSL makes the old copper wires work better and faster, but only over short distances, and it requires more advanced (read: more expensive) switches.

Wires tell only part of the story. Just as the mobile phone industry swept aside the landline voice phone business in Thailand, I expect the demand for wireless high-speed Internet will skyrocket, outselling landline-based access soon.

Unless technology changes unpredictably (and sometimes it does), landlines will always deliver faster Internet service, but with the current ADSL lines grossly oversubscribed and requests for quality landlines taking longer and longer to install, wireless technology looks more and more inviting.

One attendee at the IBAP meeting asked about the definition of the term "broadband." The computer industry is full of words that sound high-fallutin' but don't really mean much. This is one of them. Broadband is synonymous with fast Internet. In one of my Dummies books several years ago I gave a definition: "Broadband is any Internet connection that's faster than the one you have."

I think it's fair to say that broadband implies the ability to reliably receive 1,500 Kilobits per second or more. That's how much bandwidth (there's another term) you need in order to be able to listen to CD-quality music that's streamed (poured directly from the Internet). 1,500Kbps is also almost fast enough to keep up with video on sites such as YouTube.

By that standard, it's debatable whether anybody in Phuket has a broadband connection. I'd

sure like to shake the hand of any person on the island who gets 1,500Kbps all day, every day.

Broadband used to rate as a tech geek's hallmark. Nowadays it's humdrum. Roughly 55% of the network-connected homes in the US are using broadband. South Korea boasts broadband almost everywhere. Hong Kong runs it in the sewers. No kidding.

Another audience member complained quite forcefully about the Communication Authority of Thailand (CAT) and its monopoly on Internet connections in Thailand. At least, that's what I think he said.

In retrospect, I may have misunderstood. Why? I'm not privy to the details, but it appears that CAT no longer holds a monopoly – the direct Internet connections to Singapore available from TOT and Island Technology being two cases in point.

Toward the end of the meeting, discussion turned to the oft-repeated "solution" for high-speed Internet in Phuket. Many of you know that there's an Internet backbone line – a high-speed, fiber-optic cable at the bottom of the ocean – located a few kilometers off Phuket's eastern coast.

The term "backbone" generally refers to a very fast Internet cable that's connected to other very fast Internet cables.

Many people wonder why Phuket doesn't simply hook directly into that cable, instead of routing through Bangkok or Singapore. Ends up that there's a good reason why nobody's done it: dredging up the cable, building an Internet Exchange Point in Phuket, hooking them together and paying the cable owner for all the data that goes over the line is considerably more expensive than improving the links to Bangkok or Singapore.

At least, that's what I've been told. Hooking into an OC-192 underwater fiber cable takes more than a grappling hook and a soldering iron.

Fittingly, there was an extended discussion about the obscure terminology computer folks employ. I'm just as guilty as any other geek when talking in techy shorthand, but writing *For Dummies* books makes me painfully aware of how convoluted tech vocabulary has become.

The only general advice I can offer: if you don't understand what some computer geek is saying, ask them to explain simply. If they can't, seriously consider the possibility that they don't know what they're talking about.

*When he isn't writing computer books and magazine and newsletter articles, or knocking Microsoft around on his website, Woody Leonhard (woody@khunwoody.com, www.askwoody.com) runs Khun Woody's Bakery and the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong.*

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## ON THE MOVE



**Tawee Suwanmosi**, from Songkhla, has been appointed the Chief of the Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO). He has an MA from Ramkhamhaeng University, an education degree from Srinakharinwirot University and a law degree from Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University. K. Tawee has worked as the Chief Assistant of the Nakhon Sri Thammarat Provincial Employment Office, at the PPEO and as the Chief of the Yala Provincial Employment Office.



**Pimlada "Prim" Piem-chaiwong**, from Bangkok, has been appointed Regional Manager of Johnson Health Tech Ltd (Thailand, South Office). K. Prim graduated with a degree from the Faculty of the School of Sports Science at Chulalongkorn University. Previously, she worked for six months as the Academic Officer at Marathon Co Ltd in Bangkok and as a Sales Specialist at Sport Ahtlon Co in Phuket for three years.



**Amornthip Hawharn**, from Phuket, has been appointed Executive Housekeeper at the Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort. K. Amornthip has more than 20 years' experience at various luxury resorts in Phuket. Prior to joining the Le Meridien, she served as Assistant Front Office Manager and Executive Housekeeper at the Laguna Beach Resort.

# Hyatt to open at Nai Yang

By Semacote Suganya

**NAI YANG BEACH:** Hyatt Hotels and Resorts will open a Hyatt Regency Resort on Nai Yang Beach next to the Arahmas Resort in late November, 2007.

The 151-room resort will be only the second Hyatt Regency branded resort in Thailand; the other is in Hua Hin. Hyatt also operates the Grand Hyatt Erawan Hotel in Bangkok.

The hotel's General Manager, Fergus Stewart, told the *Gazette* that Hyatt signed a management deal with the property's owner, Ann Sutabudh of Quality Group in Bangkok, just over a year ago.

"We have four brands; Park Hyatt, Grand Hyatt, Hyatt Regency and Hyatt Resort. We decide for each location which brand is suitable and advise the client what it will be.

"We will soon be opening Park Hyatts in Chiang Mai and Samui as well as the resort here", Mr Stewart said.

He acknowledged that Hy-

att is also looking at other potential sites near Phuket but declined to reveal the specifics.

Mr Stewart, from Scotland, has significant experience in the hotel and resort business. Thailand is the eighth country he has worked in and his previous experience includes operating facilities in China, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, the UK, Spain and Egypt. He has operated resorts for Hyatt for seven years.

"In addition to the 151 rooms and suites, we will have an excellent spa with nine rooms of 60 square meters each and three styles of restaurants; Italian, Thai Fisherman Village and a poolside venue," he said.

Unique features of the Phuket resort will be a small plunge pool on the balcony of every room and the location of the lobby. Rather than the traditional ground-floor entrance - Hyatt has placed the lobby on the sixth floor to take advantage of panoramic views across the Andaman Sea.

"When construction is fin-



**Fergus Stewart, GM of the Hyatt Regency Resort Phuket.**

ished we will take six weeks minimum to make sure the hotel is working properly and to train our staff. We never rush to open a property until all our staff and everything is perfect. Even in high season we will not rush to

understand our staff and their culture. We also want our staff to know the difference between Hyatt-style services and other companies' services. We will be happy when our local employees understand how we want to man-

get it open. We want to make sure that when the guests come they receive a proper experience from the very beginning.

"We will have a mixed staff. We will bring in some Hyatt specialists from other parts of the world to help us in the initial stages, maybe 10 to 15 professionals from various countries and disciplines, and they will train our local staff.

"When they come we adjust the training program to make sure they un-

derstand our staff and their culture. We also want our staff to know the difference between Hyatt-style services and other companies' services. We will be happy when our local employees understand how we want to manage the resort," Mr Stewart said.

When the pre-opening training is complete he expects to have only four or five non-Thais still in Phuket.

Hyatt in Asia has been primarily developing city-center properties for business guests and has been slow in developing resort locations, but Stewart says guests familiar with the Hyatt brand are becoming more interested in their hotels for leisure stays as well. He sees Phuket as a first-class destination because of its location as it is very easy to get to from most Asian cities. He feels that access from Europe is not yet perfect, but is improving and he hopes Phuket International Airport will be enlarged and improved.

The resort's guests are expected to come from a variety of markets. Asians, who will stay on average only four or five days due to their easy access to other Asian destinations, and longer-stay guests from Hyatt's customer base that is already familiar with the brand from Europe, Russia and the US.

Stewart expects a quick return on investment for the property. "We feel our hotels are very unique in the market. Hyatt is well-known for the design, technology and creative concepts. We have a strong niche market and we are optimistic that will be very successful from the beginning," he said.

The location of the resort is outstanding, says Stewart. "From the airport we can have you in your room sitting on your balcony and pouring a glass of wine within 15 minutes.

"Chain support involving our Gold Passport Loyalty Programme is our primary marketing strategy. We will also use our network to spread awareness of the resort via partnership marketing with major airlines such as THAI, Lufthansa and Singapore Airlines," he added.

Hyatt operates 735 branded hotels and resorts with more than 136,000 rooms in 44 countries around the world. Currently, there are an additional 49 Hyatt hotels and resorts under development, including 15 new hotels in China.

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# Want to go into commercial property but can't afford it?

Having dealt with investors for twenty-five years, I long ago came to the conclusion that the psychology of investors, regardless of what they think they believe, is very basic. When investments rise in value, they are happy, and the reverse is also true. They tend to value the consistency of their returns more than anything else.

Therefore, I favor investments that simply rise in value as opposed to investments that fluctuate. There is an old adage in the investment world: "Volatility creates myopia," and it is very true.

One easily-accessed investment that "keeps on keeping on" is the Glanmore Property Fund. This Fund is registered in Guernsey, Channel Islands, where it is subject to the highest regulatory standards.

Guernsey has associate membership status with the European Union but is totally tax-free to non-residents of the island.

The Glanmore Property Fund is owned by Tilney Asset Management International Ltd, which was recently acquired by Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest private-sector bank.

This acquisition will not affect the fund, however. Deutsche Bank simply saw a good investment opportunity and they will not interfere in the day-to-day management.

The Glanmore Property Fund was formed in April 1997. The small initially under management has grown steadily to en-

compass assets of about 1 billion pounds sterling (about 68 billion baht).

The fund invests in UK commercial property in a wide range of property types including standard retail, retail warehouses, shopping centers, offices, leisure facilities and industrial warehouses.

In all, the fund owns 85 different properties. The fund only holds physical properties; it does not hold property shares or REITS - Real Estate Investment Trusts.

The fund's assets are independently valued by Cardales, a member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, and there is a tendency to be a little conservative on the valuation of properties, which is good for investors.

Commercial property is an area in which individual investors seldom have the assets or the experience to acquire and manage a range of diversified properties.

This means that the commercial-property market is not impacted to the same degree as the residential-property market, which is primarily driven by individual investors.

UK commercial property normally works on medium- to

long-term leases. An analysis of Glanmore's situation reveals that only 15% of their leases are less than five years to expiration, 44% are 5 to 10 years and 41% are over ten years. Many of their tenants are large corporations.

CGNU/Norwich Union, part of Britain's largest insurance company, AVIVA, accounts for 3.9% of the total lease value, followed by National Insurance & Guarantee at 3.6%. The 10 largest tenants account for around 30% of all leases. It is

standard that all tenants are subject to periodic rent increases.

The Glanmore Property Fund can be used for two purposes: future capital gain or a mixture of capital gain and income.

The fund is available in two formats: "distribution," where dividends are paid in January and July - these

have always exceeded 5% per annum - and the "accumulation" version, which simply reinvests dividends.

However, in reality, investors often take an income spread over the year from the Accumulation Fund as the fund deals on a weekly basis and funds can be added or subtracted on these dates.

The fund has an attractive

investment track record. Over the 12 months to January 31, 2007, the fund, including dividends, rose 15% in value. This higher-than-usual increase can be attributed to the fact that the fund disposed of several small properties that had become insignificant due to the substantial growth in the overall assets held by the fund.

This is the point where the conservative valuations of Carsdales comes to the fore, when properties realize a lot more than their official valuations.

From inception in April 1997 to January 2007, the fund repaid 157% to investors after annual management fees of 1.5%. That is a compound annual return of 10.15%, according to Lipper Hindsight.

In 2003 the UK newspaper *The Guardian* published an article about the fund on their "Money" page.

A spokesman for Glanmore at the time, commenting about gearing (i.e. Borrowing), said that the cost of borrowing would not interfere with returns unless base lending rates in the UK moved up to 5.5% or 6%.

Glanmore uses gearing, which, in theory, is at a ratio of 1.22 borrowing to 1.00 investor's funds. Currently it is around 1:1, a more conservative approach.

Property funds frequently

use gearing and Glanmore's is relatively conservative. Ratios in other funds often move up to 5:1. However, with base rates at 5.25% and future markets indicating they could move higher, it raises some mild concern.

However, the addition of Deutsche Bank as the new parent means that borrowing costs have fallen for Glanmore, as all banks love to lend money to such a fund at very low commercial rates. However, there are other competitors that have much lower gearing or even no borrowing at all.

The Glanmore Property Fund is also available in euros and US dollar classes. The fund is listed on the Irish Stock Exchange and is approved by MAS (The Monetary Authority of Singapore).

This fund was featured in "Money Talks" in the *Phuket Gazette* about three years ago and is certainly worth a second look.

There are alternatives to Glanmore, but over the years I have been very satisfied with the fund's returns.

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](mailto:imm@loxinfo.co.th)



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard G. Watson

The Glanmore Property Fund has an attractive investment track record. Over the past twelve months, to January 31, 2007, the fund, including dividends, rose 15% in value.

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Australian International Master David Smerdon faces what may be his toughest challenge yet, after winning the Seventh Bangkok Chess Club Tournament. The winner of this match was not recorded.

## Aussie takes chess tourney

By Janyaporn Morel

PATONG: International Master (IM) David Smerdon from Australia beat six higher-ranked Grand Masters (GMs) to win the 7th Bangkok Chess Club Open World Chess Tournament, held March 27 to April 1 at the Phuket Graceland Resort and Spa and scooped up the US\$1,000 first prize.

The "Chess on the Beach" tourney attracted 109 chess players from more than 30 countries.

Kai Tuorila, Bangkok Chess Club Chairman and World Chess Federation (FIDE) Organizer, said this year set a new record

for number of participants after 108 showed up for last year's competition in Bangkok.

Players of all ages participated in the event, from a 7-year-old boy to the oldest competitor at 70.

The tournament was divided into two groups: Group A for the players with a ranking over 2,000, and Group B for those under 2,000.

### RESULTS

**Group A:** 1. IM David Smerdon, Australia; 2. GM Rogelio Antonio Jr, Philippines; 3. GM Ian Rogers, Australia; 4. GM R B Ramesh, India; 5. GM Dimitri Komarov, Ukraine; 6. IM Simon

Anseli, UK; 7. Cor Van Dongen, Netherlands; 8. FM Martin Haag, Germany; 9. FM Asko Hentunen, Finland; 10. FM Colm Daly, Israel.

**Group B:** 1. Paulleandru Elaurio, the Philippines; 2. R. Hanumantha, India; 3. Umnoui Atikachoemwartha, Thailand; 4. Pricha Srivatanakul, Thailand; 5. Reijo Ahjonen, Finland; 6. Francois Wolfaardt, South Africa; 7. Catherine Rogers, Australia; 8. Wolfgang Wiesebach, Germany.

The tournament was sponsored by Siam Commercial Bank PCL and Sinaptiq Co Ltd. Next year's BCC Open is expected to be held in Bangkok.

## Village headmen prepare for Kathu shoot-out

KATHU: The Phuket Village Headman Club, for *Phu Yai Baan* and *Kamman* on the island, will hold a shooting competition at the Kathu Shooting Range on April 28, starting at 8:30 am.

The tournament is open to entrants of all ages and will have five categories: village headman members, professional, open, beginner and women's beginner.

Guns that may be used for the contest are:

.38 revolver, 9mm pistol or .45 pistol. The barrel cannot be longer than six inches, have added weight or electronics.

Trophies will be awarded by Department of Provincial Administration Director-General Charnchai Soontharamut (a former Governor of Phuket), Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit and Phuket Vice-Governors Worapoj Ratthasima, Tri Augkaradacha and Smith Palawatvichai.



The late Angelito "Lito" Sisnorio (on the left) in a fight against Pigmy Muangchaiyaphum. The Filipino lost that bout in a six-round decision, then lost his life from injuries sustained in his March 30 bout against former WBC flyweight champ Chatchai Sasakul.

## Two deaths mar Thai fight scene

By Scott Mallon

BANGKOK: Former WBC Youth Flyweight Champion Angelito "Lito" Sisnorio (5-5-1, 2 KOs, 24 years old) died after suffering a fourth-round knockout at the hands of former World Flyweight Champion Chatchai Sasakul (59-3-0, 38 KOs, 37 years old), on the afternoon of Friday, March 30.

Sisnorio, who was cleared by the ringside physician, collapsed as he was on his way to dinner with friends.

He was rushed to Piyamin Hospital in Bangkok, where he underwent emergency surgery to remove a blood clot in his brain. He never regained consciousness

and died at 9:15 pm on March 31.

Last year, Sisnorio defeated the WBC's sixth-ranked fighter, Fahpetchnoi Sor Chitpattana, in a major upset to win the Youth Flyweight Championship.

He lost the title in his next fight, dropping a 12-round unanimous decision to the WBC top-ranked flyweight Panomroonglek Kratingdaenggym. He was also stopped in round four by reigning world champion Pongsaklek Wonjongkam.

The Filipino's death raises concerns over the mismatches that regularly take place in Thailand; foreign fighters with little or no chance of winning are regularly brought in to pad Thai fighter's records – often without proper documentation. Sisnorio was fighting without clearance from the Filipino boxing commission, the Games and Amusement Board, and this clearance is required of all visiting boxers fighting in Thailand.

Why a fighter of Sisnorio's caliber was allowed to fight Wonjongkam or Sasakul is now being questioned by boxing pundits. Unfortunately, it is a case of too little, too late.

Former PABA Light Flyweight Champion Deeden Kengkaron of Thailand also died on March 30, reportedly from complications after a fight in Manila. The 28-year-old apparently suffered convulsions and died the same night. He leaves a wife and three-year-old daughter.

Scott Mallon is a member of the Boxing Writer's Association of America. His article in last week's Gazette, written just before Lito's death, criticized the Thai boxing establishment for its repeated use of inexperienced Filipino fighters to "pad" the records of star Thai fighters.

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# Rotary rescues pitch in time for Rugby 10s

KARON: The pitch at Karon stadium will be re-turfed by the Rotary Club of Patong Beach just in time for the International Phuket Rugby 10s contest May 26 and 27.

The International 10s will host more than 30 teams from around the region in regular "Coffin Dodgers" classes.

The tournament will also include a fund raising dinner for the Ronda Butler orphans scholarship program. Money raised will be used to help keep kids in school for another two years.

To date there are 92 students in the program. At the dinner an array of rugby and sports paraphernalia will be auctioned. Participating teams are being encouraged to donate rugby gear and shirts. A rugby training program is being started for kids in the program with the hope of having a touch rugby game between the kids before the finals.

The 24 teams confirmed to play in the Clive Williamson Memorial Trophy competition include Phuket Vagabonds

RFC, British Club Bangkok, The Bucks from Singapore, the Melbourne Rams, Dubai Hurricanes, Bahrain Lights RFC, UK's Fifteen7 Sharks, Shanghai Hairy Crabs, Hong Kong's Pot Bellied Pigs, Doha RFC of Qatar, The Frogs Dubai, Arabian Gulf Vets, Aussie Armed Services, Devon RFC of the UK, Penang All Blues, Flying Muppets, Singapore's Wanderers, the Thai Southerners BKK, Bangkok Japanese of Thailand, Flying Kukris from Brunei, the international Seeing is Believ-

ing, Vientiane Buffaloes of Laos, Saigon Geckos and a team from Macau.

There are another 10 teams signed up to play in the Coffin Dodgers Competition. They are Phuket Viagrabonds, Malaysia's Magnificent Oldies Rugbeers (MOR), Bangkok Bangers, Cottesloe Olde Gulls from Australia, Bahrain Heavies RFC, South Darwin Bad Bunnies RFC, Qatar's Doha Dogs, Old Bill of Hong Kong, the Philippine Volcanoes and the Melbourne Vikings.

# Police win adventure race

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Pol Cpl Boonyoo Kaweerattanakhajorn, a member of the Thai national athletics team who has represented the country at sporting events around the world, was the winner of the first Phuket Adventure Race.

The multi-faceted race, including rock climbing and road running, was held in Phuket March 31.

In a dramatic finish Cpl Boonyoo beat Boontheung Srisang, another national athlete, who collapsed about 5 kilometers before the finish line.

Boontheung was the favorite heading into the race and had been running strong and in the lead for most of the day. His collapse handed second place to Pol Cpl Boonchoo Chandecha.

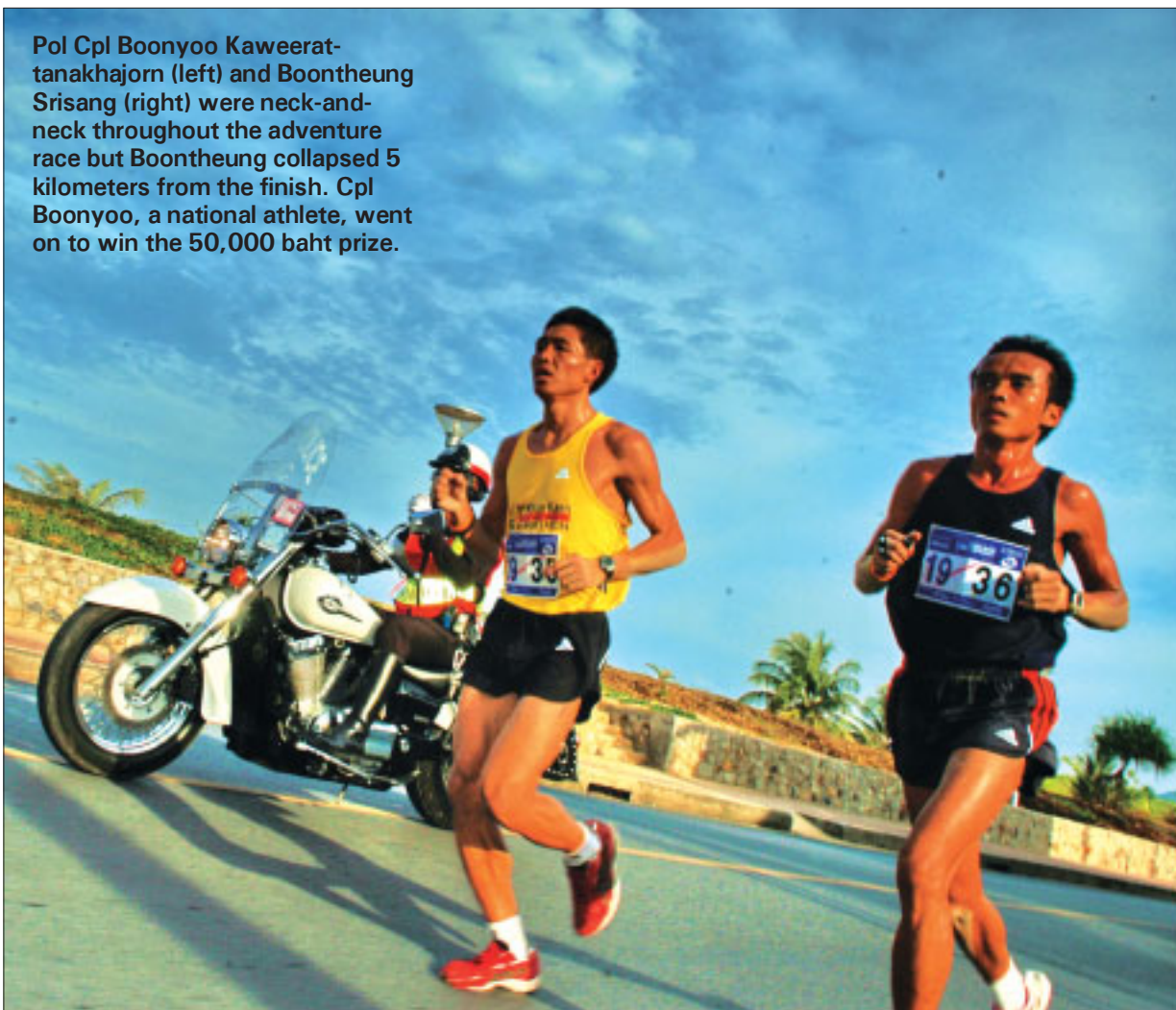
More than 2,000 athletes from Thailand and abroad joined the competition, held to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of HM the King Bhumibol Adulyadej and to promote sporting events in Thailand.

The event, called "Adventure Race Thailand Championship 2007," awarded more than one million baht in prize money among the four races.

The race was organized by the Tourism Authority of Thailand, in cooperation with RS Promotion and Tri Petch Isuzu Sales.

The four areas of competition were the Adventure Race – a 24km race from Patong Beach to Promthep Cape that included, rock climbing, a steep mountain run and an obstacle course, an Adventure Run – a 4km run at Patong beach, an Adventure

Pol Cpl Boonyoo Kaweerattanakhajorn (left) and Boontheung Srisang (right) were neck-and-neck throughout the adventure race but Boontheung collapsed 5 kilometers from the finish. Cpl Boonyoo, a national athlete, went on to win the 50,000 baht prize.



Mountain Bike race – a 24km race from Patong Beach to Promthep Cape, and Adventure Kayaking – a 7km kayaking race from Patong Beach to Tri Trang Beach.

The event also included other activities such as the Fun Zone, vendor stalls and concerts by renowned artists such as I-Nam, Girly Berry, Black Vanilla and Dang Pankorn.

## RESULTS

**OVERALL:** 1. Pol Cpl Boonyoo Kaweerattanakhajorn, 24, in 2:01:17; 2. Pol Cpl Boonchoo Chandecha, 31, in 2:06:12; 3. Amnuay Tongmitr, 24, in 2:10:18.

**ADVENTURE RUN - 4 KM: Men's Open:** 1. Sittiporn Sangthong, 21, 10:11; 2. Eakapong Promprasong, 21, 10:15; 3. Phu-ngern Saengkaew, 26, 10:16. **Women's Open:** 1. Patcharee Chaithongsri, 23, 14:58; 2. Chantranida Boonwong, 13, 16:37; 3. Not Identified, 16:45.

**ADVENTURE MOUNTAIN BIKE - 24KM:** 1. Thai Royal Navy PO 1 Seree Ruansiri; 2. Pol L/Cpl Thawatchai Masae; 3. Prasert Chuttamart.

**ADVENTURE KAYAKING - 7KM:** 1. Anusorn Sommitr and Piyaphan Phaophat; 2. Somchai Boonae and Prayuth Sodaban; 3. Yutthana Chaihem and Danai Phantaengthai.

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## Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

# Market almost ready for vendors

Work on Phuket Municipality's "temporary market" on Wirat Hongyok Rd is 90% complete and will be open to vendors this month.

Phuket City Deputy Mayor Sornsiri Koopongsakorn told the *Gazette* that the temporary market, located opposite Suan Luang, will house vendors currently conducting business at Tessabaan 1 Market on Ranong Rd.

Tessabaan 1 Market, also known as the Ban Saan Market, is Phuket's oldest. After 50 years of operation, it will be demolished and rebuilt with a new four-story building on the existing four-rai site. The temporary market, on 10 rai of rented land, is intended to provide shop space until the new buildings are completed. Spending for the entire project, at both sites, is budgeted for 250 million baht.

"Actually the temporary market will be ready once its roof is complete and the area around it paved. We plan to move all the vendors from the old market to the temporary facility at the be-



The frame is complete. All that remains is to complete the roof of the new market and pave the area around it. 'We think that if we can supply a clean, comfortable place it will help vendors compete,' says Deputy Mayor Sornsiri Koopongsakorn (right).

ginning of April. Then we will demolish the old market and start work on the new one in May," Deputy Mayor Sornsiri said.

The temporary market is a single-story steel structure with a concrete floor and galvanized zinc roofing occupying 15,470 square meters of land. The total

area will be divided into: 4,695 sqm for 500 stalls; 864sqm for 27 shops; 95sqm for public toilets. Public parking and service roads and will cover most of the remaining area, almost 10,000sqm.

Work on the new Tessabaan 1 Market, scheduled to take 550 days, should be complete by

the end of November 2008.

"We leased the 10 rai of private land for the temporary market for two years, in case work on the new market takes longer than scheduled," Deputy Mayor Sornsiri said.

The new market will be built in two parts. The first will be a four-story building with a total market area of 5,290sqm and 5,240sqm for parking. The second part will be 27 three-and-one-half story shophouse units to replace existing shophouses that currently border the market.

The basement, 2.2 meters below ground level, will be for sale of clothing, dry goods and vegetables. The ground floor will be for sale of fresh meat, along with smaller sections for flowers and souvenirs.

The second and third floors will have parking for 130 cars. Some 100 motorcycle parking spaces will surround the main building, which will be surrounded

by a road at least five meters wide, she added.

"There will be 590 stalls, all designed to meet vendors' requirements. We discussed the design of the stalls with the vendors before we made the plan. Vendors in the new market will have to pay a reservation fee of 15,000 baht for each square meter of space, plus a monthly rental charge of one baht per square meter per day," she said.

The financial arrangement was accepted by the vendors as a way for the city to pay off they debt incurred borrowing 250 million baht from the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperative (BAAC) to fund the project. Of this, 167.5 million baht is earmarked for the new building and shophouses; about 42 million for construction of individual stalls; 14.3 million baht for the temporary market. About 20 million baht will be reserved for

interest payments on the loan.

"What we would like to see is good competition with the large commercial retailers. We think that if we can supply a clean, comfortable place it will help vendors compete. We also want to continue the market at a place for local people to buy fresh food and produce in a clean place with good prices," Deputy Mayor Sornsiri said.

The temporary market is being constructed by Max System Supply and Service Co Ltd. The new Tessabaan 1 Market was designed by Sarin Architect Co Ltd and the construction contractor will be Phraram 2 Civil Engineering Co Ltd.





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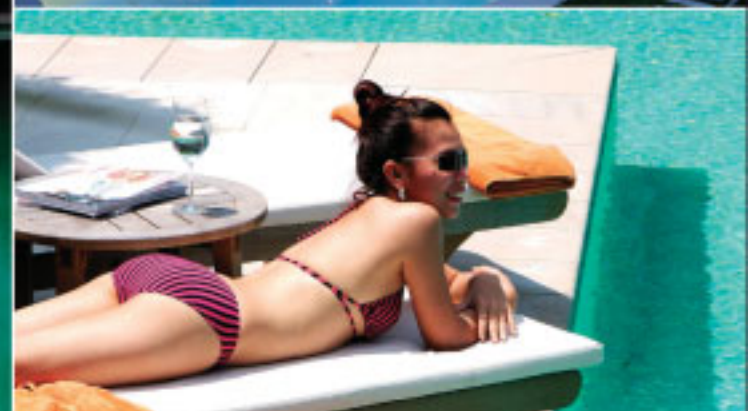
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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit



**CORNERED:** Tall vases (above) are good for filling corners of a room.

**TABLE SET:** On the dining table (left) short vases work better, allowing guests to see each other.

# Getting to first vase

Of the many ways to brighten up a home few have a better effect than flowers, and in Phuket a good range to choose from can be found in your front or backyard.

Kru Yok, owner of Yok's Flowers House on Wichit Songkram Rd in Kathu, has more than 25 years' experience as a domestic science teacher. "The flowers used do not need to be expensive. What is most important is the feeling they create," she said.

"The first thing to consider is how the flowers will be arranged in the vase and how the flowers will look. The impact of the flowers should be appropriate for the occasion, such as for dinner or for welcoming guests.

"Any flowers can be used for welcoming normal guests as the flowers will not be perceived as communicating an important message, but you should consider how they affect or enhance the style and colors used in the room," she said.

"For guests important to you, to whom you want to express your feelings, you should select the best specimens and their meaning must be clear."

Kru Yok explained that short vases should be used with big flowers. Conversely, use tall vases for small flowers. "Tall vases always look good in corners," she added.

"Jasmine and lotus flowers are the most popular Thai flowers used for decoration, but we must consider how they can be arranged to suit modern-style

homes. Jasmine can be made into a garland or arranged in the shape of a lotus blossom. If you want to use lotus flowers themselves, you can arrange the petals into rows, or cut the stems and float them in a basin or a little bowl," she said.

Even bachelors can use flowers to brighten up their pads. "Guys can use a short vase and with about three flowers and two long leaves. That will be enough because the table is not likely to be big," she said.

When using flowers as part of a dining setting, Kru Yok explained, "For a dinner table of at least six seats, put two short vases on the table. Don't use tall

vases on dinner tables because guests will not see who they're talking to." Flowers set on a dinner table must be colorful and have a good scent, she added.

"Each type of flower has its own meaning; some have deep meanings, some have many meanings, others have just a few. Regardless, they make people relax and feel good," she said.

*Yok's Flower House, next to Phuket Country Club on Wichit-songkram Rd, Kathu. Tel: 076-321315, 089-4713339 or 081-6919719. Many styles of vases can be found at Index Living Mall on the bypass road. Tel: 076-249541.*

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## Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

**G**ermans. You've got to love them, I suppose. I have to be very careful here, as there are one or two Germans around Phuket, I'm told, and I have the feeling that they are probably a lot bigger than I am.

Far be it from me to revert to national stereotypes, but we all know what Germans are like, don't we? The men are a little on the rotund side and love drinking beer while wearing those leather shorts with braces. Every meal consists of *sauerkraut* or *bratwurst* and beer, and they have a propensity toward dodgy facial hair. The women are icy Teutonic beauties with blond hair and blue eyes. We can't really get bent out of shape about any of that.

Germans despise inefficiency, love their country, have never been late for anything and, if I can say this without upsetting too many people, would like Europe a lot more if only it were a little more like Germany.

They speak amazing English and eat about five meals a day. They don't know the meaning of the word *Witz* (that's "joke" in German, though not a particularly common item of German vocabulary). Why do they capitalize nouns, by the way?

They also have an incredible knack of claiming pool beds at European holiday resorts by draping their towels over them at 5 am. Actually, I've even seen that here at Phuket hotels.

That's the stereotype, anyway, but deep down we rather admire them. What would the automotive world be like without German cars? German takeovers are probably single-handedly re-

# Letting the Germans occupy your garden

sponsible for the prevention of the demise of the British car industry. They got it organized.

Also in their defense, I learned something many years ago about one trait of their character – their absolute directness. I have a good friend who was my neighbor in the UK and who happens to be German. When any of the other neighbors threw a party, they would politely ask if you were free that night, or casually mention that they were having a barbecue, leaving the attendance decision entirely up to you.

Not Anje. Her approach was far more in keeping with the language of her fatherland. Bearing in mind that she was fluent in English, her idea of an invitation was, "I have a party on Saturday night. You will come." It wasn't a request; more like a direct order. That's when I came to realize that it wasn't arrogance or rudeness at all – just a direct translation of German. Not everyone understood that, unfortunately.

Regular readers of this column will know that the links between the meaningless rant that precedes the gardening bit are sometimes tenuous, to say the least. This week I believe that I've stretched the definition of "tenuous" to new heights. Just



**COMMAND PERFORMANCE:** If you really want a tree in your garden that's going to take over and dominate, the Bismarck may be just what you are looking for.

about the only gardening reference I can think of that has anything to do with Germans is the Bismarck palm, named after Otto von Bismarck, a former chancellor of Germany.

Its official name is the *Bismarckia nobilis*, or *tarn-fah* in Thai. Even though it's more expensive than many of its contemporaries, it's becoming a fairly common palm here in Phuket, probably because of its distinguished looks.

The Bismarck palm dominates the scenery wherever it's planted. Its solid, stout trunk and the rather too-organized symmetry of the huge crown makes it perfect for expensive hotels and government buildings. The dramatic foliage that appears to be almost silver amplifies the effect. It grows a single trunk that retains old leaf bases on young plants but becomes smooth on mature specimens.

This palm may reach a height of 15 to 18 meters with a spread of about six meters or

more. Even younger versions of the palm that have yet to form a trunk brandish full crowns of about 25 leaves with the maximum spread. The huge palmate leaves are hard and kind of waxy and are up to three meters across.

They are supported on two-meter stems that can be 25 centimeters in diameter. The leaf bases split where they attach to the trunk and the leaf stems are armed with piranha-inspired small sharp teeth.

The Bismarck palm is native to the island of Madagascar, off the east coast of Africa. Madagascar happens to be home to hundreds of unique plant species including a few favorite palms, such as the bottle palm and the traveler's palm; a palm-like tree related to the banana.

The Bismarck palm should be grown in full sun or partial shade on well-drained soil. It's the ideal tree for someone whose idea of gardening is to sit in the garden with a beer and watch, as it's highly drought- and salt-tol-

erant. I definitely count myself in that category. The drinking beer thing rather than drought-tolerant, that is. As is the case with a number of palms, it can't be transplanted until some form of trunk develops and is visible at the base of the plant.

Because of its huge ultimate size, gardeners who like to sound as if they know what they're talking about will tell you that the Bismarck palm is not recommended for small yards as it dominates its space, dwarfing and obscuring adjacent structures.

I say what the hell – if you really want a tree in your garden that's going to take over and dominate, then fill your boots. Especially something as impressive as this one – it's best planted where it can serve as a focal point. If you plant it against a backdrop of dark foliage, it will stand out even more.

I think it's worth having simply because it's different – not just another green thing in your garden.

Single trees are excellent, but a row of Bismarck Palms spaced five meters apart along each side of an entry road or wide walkway can create a dramatic impact. There's a row of young Bismarck palms outside that new development with the concrete elephant heads in the walls on Chao Fa West Rd that look superb. Give them a few years and they'll be incredible.

For anyone who really cares about this kind of thing, unlike so many other members of the plant world, *Bismarckia nobilis* does not have any immediate family; it's the only species in the genus.

I rather suspect that the Bismarck palm has a lot more in common with the Germans than just its name. It's the BMW of the plant world – it does its job very efficiently with the minimum of fuss in a very predictable way.

Just don't give it a pair of *Lederhosen*, or it will be demanding draft *weissbeer* rather than water. That's *eine Witz*, by the way.

**Want to know more about a plant in your garden?  
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# The lowdown on paying up

**T**urn back the clock a mere five or six years and you'd find only a handful of property agents in Phuket. Many of the accepted practices such as commission rates of 3% were in place simply because that was what the other guys were doing, so everyone followed suit.

Fast forward to 2007 where the number of agents has multiplied, along with international affiliations, developments of every type and budget span the island, and a resale market now competes with new product.

Commission structures have changed, the market has become more competitive and everyone is vying for the property buyer's cold hard cash. So what's changed and what rates are prevailing in the marketplace?

Talk to many agents and 3% is still widely used as the barometer of the local market. Speak to a wider selection of real estate brokers and developers and you will find many working on initial rates of 4%, 5% or higher. There are a number of projects where incentives on production (number of sales) are linked to higher rates, anywhere from 5-10% and often on a sliding scale.

Retail rates for commissions vary in developed markets like North America as well. In a typical scenario 6% is the commission, with 3% going to the buyer's agent and 3% for the seller's agent. Agency splits are not widely used in Phuket because both parties are frequently using the same agent.

New projects in today's market can expect to pay anywhere from 3% to 5% commission out of the gate. Individual homeowners selling their houses are often quoted a higher rate of 5% and up for lower value property, though this is frequently lowered for high-value villas due to the larger transaction price. Many individuals and developers enter into separate



deals with agents and rates vary from contract to contract.

Private individuals or companies associated with the property or tourism industry will often be able to provide customers for a development or individual houses. While these usually consist of delivering a prospective client, if the deal moves ahead, anywhere from 1-2% commission is paid. Introduction fees should always be documented in advance and a clear understanding of when the commission is due.

For those selling property the commission rates remain a commercial negotiation. Other cost elements in brokerage agreements include VAT or withholding tax, depending on the agency taxation status. Tax rates are 3% for withholding tax or 7% VAT (value added tax), and one or the other apply.

Equally important is at what time in the transaction the commission is paid. This is mostly re-

lated to actual payments made and not the closing of contracts. With new projects with periodic

**AGENT ARRIVAL:** As more and more real estate agents pop up in Phuket, commissions paid to the agents are a positive sign that actual transactions are taking place in the property market.

payments this is usually due when the initial payment, which is at least 20-25% of the entire purchase price, is made.

Agency exclusives or sole-agent agreements here were not widely used in the past but are starting to surface and will certainly be a trend in the future. These are agreements wherein only one agency is used and there is absolute reliance on the single resource to sell the property.

Those considering such deals need to look at past performance or benchmarks on successful sellouts of product along with the associated risk attached. Both pros and cons apply and this type of set-up exists in the wider global market with many landmark projects successfully sold on this basis.

The lowdown on commis-

sions is fairly basic but all too often sellers cannot see the forest for the trees. Commissions are the heartbeat of a healthy capitalistic business venture where you only pay for what you get.

Performance is rewarded only on virtue of actual results, something sorely missing in today's business world. All too often the focus is not on what was achieved in terms of revenue from a sale but concentrating on what amount an agent received in commission.

Sellers pricing in commissions and incentives along with putting together clear brokerage agreements only have upside in today's market, with the old adage applying you can only take actual sales to the bank.

*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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By Bill Barnett



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# Property Gazette

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**RARE STUNNING** seaview land in Layan. 8 rai, Chanote, road access. More information at email: [danwea@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:danwea@loxinfo.co.th)

**4-BEDROOM VILLA** with pool. 1km from Laguna, 5 aircons, ADSL, Sat TV, living room, garden. Contact at Tel: 084-8516121.

**KATA BEACH** apartment. New one-bedroom apartment with pool, gym and services. 3 million baht. Tel: 089-4735080.

**KARON POOL VILLA** 2 bedrooms, furnished, quiet location, sea view. Price: 7.5 million baht. Call Tel: 089-4735080.

**HOUSE IN NAI HARN** for sale. 85sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, 3 aircons, carport, cable TV, 2 telephones and furniture. 2.7 million baht. Call Tel: 084-0513731.

**LAYAN SEA VIEW** The land is 30 rai overlooking Layan and the Andaman Sea. Selling at 7 million baht per rai (on the right hand side of the road). For sale by owner. Tel: 086-4706648. Email: [thanuwat.p@gmail.com](mailto:thanuwat.p@gmail.com)

### SEAVIEW LAND IN CHALONG



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Email: [stefan@phuketit.co.th](mailto:stefan@phuketit.co.th)

### PATONG HOMES FOR SALE

Buy properties direct from owners (no middle man). Tel: 087-2650118. Email: [ant\\_p\\_clark@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk) For further details, please see our website at <http://housesforsalephuket.blog.spot.com>

**CHEAP LAND** for sale. 2million baht/rai. Wife's illness forces urgent sale of 3.5 rai of NorSor 3 Gor land on the government road between Ban Saku and Nai Yang Beach. Permission for 8 houses already granted, deep water borehole & electricity is adjacent. 2 million baht per rai, with quick sale from a Thai owner. Tel: 076-328451, 083-1728052. Fax 076-328451. Email: [phuketairporthotel@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketairporthotel@yahoo.com)

**RAWAI BEACH VILLA** for sale. 2 new houses. Asking 3.5 million baht with 240sqm of land. Price: 5 million baht with 400sqm. 100 meters from the beach. Tel: 086-9408914. Contact email: [freeholdprop@yahoo.com](mailto:freeholdprop@yahoo.com)

**VILLA BUNGALOWS** 3-bedroom villa and 5 bungalows, all with aircon. Very cheap as owner is leaving. Call Tel: 081-6064649.

**RAWAI BEACH** condo. Sea view, foreign freehold. 450,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. For more info email: [freeholdprop@yahoo.com](mailto:freeholdprop@yahoo.com)

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### LAND FOR SALE SAMUI



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**BEACH CONDO** in Karon. Last units left, 12 bedrooms, starting from 69 million baht. Easy walking distance to the beach. Guaranteed rental return. Tel: 076-292265, 086-0043008. Email: [info@ayudhya.net](mailto:info@ayudhya.net) For further details, please see our website at [www.ayudhya.net/english/condos/index.php](http://www.ayudhya.net/english/condos/index.php)

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### RENOVATION

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### 4.5 RAI IN RAWAI

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# Property Gazette

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## STUNNING VIEW

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for sale. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge, dining room, big kitchen, furnished. 1.6 million baht. Tel: 087-2705514.

## WE BUILD YOUR

house for 990,000 baht. 90sqm bungalow for 990,000 baht. 145sqm two-story house for 1.39 million baht. We can build any style of private home or commercial building in any location on Phuket. Tel: 076-322015, 086-8528234. Email: info@1nj.de Contact JN-Tech Co. Ltd. German Construction. See website at: www.1nj.de/e-index.html

## MISSION HEIGHTS LAND FOR SALE

Fully-serviced land plots various sizes. Please ring for price. Tel: 089-2262612. Email: jim@jimmarsh.net

## FOREIGN OWNERSHIP

Nai Harn beach condos, high quality and up-market, safe, secure, large 2-bedroom units completely furnished & equipped. Great location and views, close to beach. Only 8 million baht, a must see! Call Tel: 076-202201, 081-7974068. Fax: 076-202820. Email: tum@phuketlifestyle.com

## PATONG CONDO

Panoramic sea view, 36sqm, best location. Newly remodeled. Furnished, pool, kitchen. Freehold. 2.2 million baht. For info call 085-7823231. Email: guntmit@aol.com

## NEW HOME NEAR BEACH



Chalong, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car spaces. New furniture. Quick sale at 4.5 million baht. Please contact for more details. Call Tel: 089-7830494, 081-083 7354. Or send email: jimcox007@msn.com

## HIGH-TECH OFFICE

High-tech office building in central location close to Chalong circle. 2 stories with a total of 408sqm with sea view in quiet residential area. Central aircon system, complete security system, contactless door access system, CCTV with remote access. Server room with armored door and CAT5 cable system for computer network and phone switchboard. Private carport. Perfect for companies that need an attractive office with high standards. Price: 15 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-282211, 081-958-0815. Fax: 076-283251. Email: moo@phuketgajden.se

## CHALONG LUXURY

house. 2 stories, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, secure, quiet location, 2 kitchens, laundry room, full aircon, double garage, etc. Area: 292sqm. Curved teak staircase, spa, solar hot water, nice gardens, river views. 7.9 million baht. Chanote. Please call for more details. Tel: 076-383193, 089-7245655. Or see our website at: www.phuket house4sale.com

## SURIN SPRINGS

Stunning, luxury lakeside house. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, private pool. 5-minute walk to beach. Aircon, Sat TV, ADSL, nicely furnished. 25 million baht. Please contact for further information. Tel: 076-270655, 089-9084861. Email: kingsrqw@lds.co.uk

## CHALONG HOUSE

for sale. 2-story house in Chalong. 376sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, maid's room, kitchen, living room, 2 aircons, good area. 4.2 million baht. Tel: 081-0790688.

## DREAM HOUSE FOR SALE



Dream house in Chalong on 715sqm of land with private pool. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, Western kitchen, 7 A/Cs, dual carport and much more. Perfect for families. A must see. 16 million baht ono. Tel: 081-892 6251. Email: mrsouza@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at: www.phuketdreamhome.com

## BANGTAO SEAVIEW

land plots. 3.9 million baht. Land plots with infrastructure. First class sea view. Tel: 086-2670157. Contact via email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

## URGENT SALE!

2 million baht. Furnished, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home with kitchen and 2 aircons. Ready to move in. Please contact us for more details. Tel: 086-7003376. Email: contactmalisa@yahoo.com

## 28 RAI ON KOH LONE

Located on Koh Lone island. Has 120m of beachfront, opposite Phuket Aquarium. Call K. Tum. Tel: 084-0002083.

## FREEHOLD CONDO

for sale. Double bed, TV, fridge, balcony, parking. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 085-7977786. Email: tj\_biggie@hotmail.com

## APARTMENT

building for sale in Phuket City. 18 rooms, 4 floors with Chanote. Call for more information. Tel: 084-0541447.

## FURNISHED HOUSE

5 minutes to Laguna Phuket. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, UBC, ADSL, solar water heating, 3 aircons, living room, large hall area, pool 5m x 10m. Usage area: 310sqm. Land: 1,200sqm. 13 million baht. Contact for more info. Tel: 089-8738295. Email: tomasflet@hotmail.com

## KATA BEACH

bargain. 2 minutes to beach. Quick sale due to moving. Price: 2.9 million baht. Call Tel: 084-840-5834.

## HOUSE FOR SALE



Includes furniture, 2 aircons and hot water. For sale at 5.9 million baht (land and house). 80sq wah (320 sqm), 2-story house with 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, big storeroom and large garden in a nice tranquil area. 10 minutes to Nai Harn and Rawai beaches and 15 minutes to Phuket City. Please call owner for viewing. Tel: 084-9916654.

## BANG TAO, 5.3 MILLION BAHT



New house, 2 minutes to beach or market. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, with hot water. Contact K. Shanya. Tel: 087-3863388. For more information email: shanya.arman@gmail.com

## SEAVIEW LAND

in Nai Harn. 640sqm with Chanote, views to Phi Phi. 2.9 million baht. Tel: 076-288-047, 081-8941660. Email: cottrell@loxinfo.co.th

## HOUSE FOR SALE

2 stories, 4 bedrooms in Chalong. Western kitchen. Discounted price: 3.8 million baht. Tel: 081-9795755.

## 1 RAI RAWAI LAND

High quality. 1 rai Chanote land covered in palm trees, very beautiful, road, electric, top area, private. 4.5 million baht per rai. 2 one-rai lots available. Call Tel: 086-5950188. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

## KATHU NEAR GOLF

course. 2-story house, 1 year old. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. House is 220sqm. Land is 488sqm. Fully furnished. Price: 7.5 million baht. Call Tel: 083-3953976. Email: kawthai@hotmail.com

## FAMILY HOME ON CHAO FAH RD



4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a modern kitchen and a lovely garden. For long-term rent at 35,000 baht a month. For sale at 7.5 million baht. More info email: phuket8@hotmail.com

## HOUSE FOR SALE 3 MILLION BAHT



Must sell, discounted price. 2 bedrooms, includes all furniture and appliances. Quiet, gated community, pool, sauna, gym. 1 minute from Nai Yang Beach. Custom floors, cabinets, tiles, lighting. Euro/US standards. Contact for more details. Tel: 089-8742607. Email: jintananong@yahoo.com, loverofasia72@yahoo.com

## FREEHOLD CONDOMINIUM

Cape Panwa, 106sqm living space, ground floor, open-plan dining and living area with direct pool access, European kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 076-279280, 086-2821172, 089-8746054.

Email:

apawann@hotmail.com

## KRABI LAND

Land for sale near Ao Nang, mountain view. 1.2 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-7475293.

## CHALONG SHOPOUSE

with ocean view. 3 stories, perfect for small business. Very close to Chalong pier. 2.5 million baht. For more info please call K. Supachai. Tel: 081-554-4140.

## HOUSE AND LAND PACKAGE

TWO- AND THREE-BEDROOM HOUSES  
HALF RAI CHANOTE LAND  
QUALITY BATHROOM & KITCHEN FITTINGS  
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Email: thailandmls@gmail.com



## Surin Beach—Modern Seaview Apartments for sale

Within 100 metres of the beach, 80 sqm. of living space. One bedroom, living room, European-style kitchen, fully furnished, air conditioning, hot water system, home security system, internet connection, television and satellite TV. The price starts from 6.5 million baht for the first-floor apartment. Please contact Ann 66 81 868 7676



# Property Gazette

## Properties For Rent

### RAT-U-THIT ROAD SHOP

Detached building, large shop with offices above, prime location. For more info call Tel: 081-8935200. Email: gsf@seal-asia.com

### FREEDOM APARTMENTS

Near Wat Patong (2/56 Soi Khuan Yang). Fully furnished, European style, small kitchen, fridge, aircon, fan, cable TV, safe, hot water, bathroom. 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8450541, 081-8914561.

### KATA LUXURY APT

Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, Western teak kitchen, huge terrace. Long/short term. Starting at 20,000 baht per month for long term. Tel: 089-5926890. Email: north&west98@yahoo.com

### PATONG BAY VIEW HOME



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, ADSL, UBC, kitchen, dining room, great location, long term only, must see. 60,000 baht per month. Available May 1, 2007. Tel: 08-78821963. Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

### 1-BEDROOM CONDO

in Patong Tower. Newly renovated in a beautiful modern style. Best location in Patong. Only long term. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-1238320. Email: deherder@hotmail.com

### RAWAI HOUSE

for rent in Rawai resort. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, fully furnished, 2 safes, 5 aircons, ADSL Internet, communal pool, tropical gardens, car park. Long lease. Price: 50,000 baht per month. For more information email: hans\_lange@hotmail.com

### PHUKET B.L. APARTMENTS

New in Kathu. Big room, 1 bedroom, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, 1 living room, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 081-6923163.

### GOLF VILLA FOR RENT

New 4-bedroom, 4-bathroom villa at Phuket Country Club. Pool, aircon, maids' rooms. Long term: 65,000 baht a month. For more information call Tel: 086-2772691. Email: davidinasia@hotmail.com

### KATHU HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, fully fitted kitchen, 2 bathrooms, living room, driveway. Quiet soi close to Phuket Country Club golf course and Central Festival. Call K. Pom for details at Tel: 081-499 8719. Email: marshall\_hugh@yahoo.co.uk

### BEACHFRONT CONDO

Kalim area, Patong. High standard. Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Call Tel: 081-8920038.

### RAWAI RESIDENCE

studios. Rental per month: 6,000 to 12,000 baht. Aircon, safe, ADSL, UBC, close to beach. Tel: 086-9408914.

### CHALONG, 4 BEDROOMS

with aircon, 3 bathrooms, large open-plan living/dining room. European kitchen. Fully furnished, swimming pool, ADSL, UBC, nice garden. 50,000 baht a month ono. Tel: 081-9566745.

### PALAI, GREEN HOUSE BIG GARDEN

Fully furnished, 2 aircon bedrooms, hot shower, living room, kitchen, garage. 11,000 baht a month. Palai area. Tel: 081-8924311.

### QUIET HOUSE & CAR

for rent. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms with aircon, cable UBC, ADSL, maid & gardener. Toyota Yaris, black, automatic. Rent approx. from May to July 07. 49,000 a month, 20,000 baht a week. Tel: 081-9703136. Email: agogniat@loxinfo.co.th

### BIG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 big aircons, bedrooms fully furnished, but no fence. Beautiful garden, near Chalong Bay. Price: 30,000 baht per month includes electric and water. Tel: 081-8924311.

### 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

for rent. In Chaofa Thani. 9,500 baht a month. Nice garden. Tel: 076-280440, 086-6831964. Fax: 076-280440. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

### CHALONG, NEW HOME

for rent. 2-bedroom, furnished with telephone, UBC, aircon. For more information call Tel: 089-6521473.

### SEAVIEW APARTMENTS

for rent in Karon & Patong beach. Tel: 089-4912496. Email: bluewaterphuket@gmail.com

### LONG-TERM RENT



Tenant seeks long-term rental of a beautiful house, condo or apartment in Phuket. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-245-966. Email: info@phuketandamanrealestate.com

### SURIN BAY AREA

big garden. Long-term lease now available on 3-bedroom house with aircon, outdoor kitchen. 1.2 rai of screen-fenced garden. Unfurnished or partially furnished as required. Good for pets, kids & privacy. Large covered outdoor area. Garden maintenance provided. Tel: 086-9410410, 086-2692020. Please see website for more details and photos at: www.phuket-house.here.fastmail.fm/Surin\_Beach/Surin%20House%20-%20Details.doc

### HOUSE IN TRANG

for rent. New beautiful house, Pak Meang beach front, 1 bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, one big living room and carpark. 10 minutes to Chao Mai National Park. Long term (minimum 1 year): 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-3840864.

### RAWAI HOUSE FOR RENT



Set on a totally secluded 900sqm plot, with a 40sqm swimming pool. Guest cottage with own bathroom. House has 2 bedrooms, large bathroom, huge living room with balcony and views, indoor and outdoor kitchens. Furnished, ADSL, UBC, weekly maid service, gardener. Available from March 24 for 6-month let. 45,000 baht/month. Call Tel: 081-0806560.

### NAI YANG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms (2 w/ aircon), living room, kitchen, fridge, garden, fenced, ADSL and UBC. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-6506221. More information at email: ek\_phuket@hotmail.com

### 2 CONDOS FOR RENT

or sale. Melville House or Phuket Palace, completely new, fully furnished, lots of extras. 20,000 baht per month each. 3.9 million baht or 3.2 million to buy freehold. Tel: 084-1861858. Email: coltat1962@yahoo.com

### CHALONG HOUSE

for rent. Fully-furnished house for rent in Chalong. Available from May 2007. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and 2 aircons. The house is 2 years old, set in the quiet and beautiful Baan Mannikram Estate. The home comes with its own private garden, TV, DVD, fridge, microwave, washing machine, telephone line, etc. Rent is 20,000 baht per month, with a minimum 6-month contract. For more details, please contact Marc Husted by email at marc\_husted@yahoo.com or telephone Mr. Christopher Husted after 7pm on 087-8874659.

### RAWAI SEAVIEW APT

Deluxe studio, new, furnished, full kitchen, aircon, cable TV. Price: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-0571420.

### NAI HARN HOUSE

1 minute to the beach. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, aircon. 20,000 baht/month, minimum 1 year. Call Tel: 081-3971835.

### HOUSE IN KAMALA

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, laundry. Hot water, phone, ADSL, cable TV. 15,000 baht/month. Tel: 076-263254, 081-537 7137. Fax: 076-263254. Email: sunisadia@hotmail.com

### VILLA FOR RENT

Beautiful, new 2-bedroom villa with private pool close to Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. Fully furnished, aircon. 35,000 baht per month. Pool and garden maintenance included. Minimum 6 months. Call Tel: 081-9701716.

### PATONG BAYVIEW

home. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, ADSL, UBC, kitchen, dining room, great location, long term, must see. 60,000 baht a month. Available May 1, 2007. Call Tel: 087-8821963. Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

### CHALONG HOUSE

for rent. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, office, 4 aircons, indoor waterfall. Chalong. Tel: 084-8444228. More info via email: saisorn1971@hotmail.com

### LAGUNA AREA

luxury home with pool. 3 bedrooms, spa, big garden, exotic furniture. Rent: 25,000 baht per month. More info at Tel: 089-5944067.

### NEW HOUSE FOR RENT



Located at Anuphas Manorom Village, near Suan Luang public park and about 1.5 kilometers from Central Festival Phuket. 82sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, nice gardens. Please contact Mr Mongkol for more info. Tel: 084-0628040.

### STUNNING SEA VIEWS

Large luxury villa set in tropical gardens providing amazing views out to many islands. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool, sauna, snooker room. Much more. Internet, Sat TV. Located in a very exclusive development on Cape Yamu. 70,000 baht a month. Tel: 086-2796283.

### FOR RENT: LAND & HOUSES PHUKET

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms in Land & Houses Phuket. Fully furnished, 2 aircon bedrooms, 1 aircon living room. Rental price: 20,000 baht per month. Available on April 1 2007. Please contact for details. Tel: 081-5440571, 085-0412121.

### PENTHOUSE APT

to let at Lersuang, Surin Beach. Two bedrooms, 1,000sqm, swimming pool, 2 mins from beach. 40,000 baht per month. For more information call Tel: 081-5372018, 081-0779365.

### RAWAI CONDOS FROM 5,000 BAHT

per month. Superb fully-furnished studio and 1-bedroom condos all with aircon and balconies from 5,000 to 10,000 baht a month. Weekly/monthly rates available. Tel: 087-8917408, 089-2925309. For more info email: gillies18367@hotmail.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT



Located at Baan Sorn Naramit house project. 500m from Heroines Monument. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, spacious living room, fully furnished, air conditioned, covered parking. Call Tel: 076-324224, 081-8950784.

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# Property Gazette

## KAMALA BEACH

New apts and houses for rent or sale, fully furnished. Rent: 15,000 to 30,000 baht. Call Tel: 084-3059606.

## SEAVIEW CONDO

for rent. Rawai, 26sqm, modern. 10,000 baht. Tel: 089-5930986. Email: thirpalmtreeontheleft@hotmail.com

## EXCLUSIVE RESIDENCE

3-bedroom villa offering breathtaking sea views. 3 bathrooms, maid room, snooker room, study, lounge, dining, kitchen, spacious terrace. Tropical gardens, private pool. Secluded and secure location. Internet and Sat TV. 70,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 086-2796283.

## RENTAL HOUSE

8 rooms, new air conditioning, with or without boat and car. Call Tel: 087-8844725 for more information.

## QUALITY HOME IN KATHU



Detached house, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, with pantry, kitchen and maid's room. Close to Lotus. Long-term rent at 35,000 baht a month. For sale at 7.8 million baht. Tel: 081-7872201. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

## CHALONG HOUSE

for rent. 3 bedrooms, kitchen/living/dining room, laundry room, fully furnished, aircon in every room. Car park, swimming pool (shared), tropical garden. Hi-speed Internet and UBC satellite TV included. 35,000 baht per month, minimum 6 months. Call Tel: 087-1057320. Email: stefan@phuketit.co.th

## HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully-furnished, aircon bungalow available from May 2007. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Situated in an exclusive and secured estate opposite Boat Lagoon Marina. 45,000 baht a month, minimum 1 year. Tel: 081-8921732.

## CHALONG HOUSE

for rent. Furnished 2-bedroom with aircon, living room, kitchen, TV, fridge, telephone line, ADSL, garden and car park. Long-term rental. Email for more info, details and pics. Tel: 081-5388169. Email: termatigul@hotmail.com

## PATONG SEAVIEW CONDO

2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. Pool, UBC cable TV, phone, ADSL Internet. 35,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 081-5696283. Contact email: maurick1@yahoo.com

## LARGE STUDIO APT

Quiet + view. 70sqm studio. Bedroom, living room, kitchen, storage room, walk-in closet, terrace. Furnished, TV, aircon, car park, swimming pool. Absolutely quiet and private hillside location. Long-term rental at 24,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 076-296621, 081-6916147. Fax: 076-344689. Email: info@baansuanvilla.de

## LIST YOUR RENTAL

Phuket-rentals.com does not take commissions. We have renters contact you directly. Tel: 086-0799584.

## LUXURY VILLA FOR RENT

in Soi Sansabai, Patong beach. For short- or long-term rent. 2 swimming pools, Jacuzzi, jet stream, sauna, garden, fully furnished, walk to beach. Contact for great rates. Call Tel: 083-3925392. Email: franksrenthouse@yahoo.com

## BEAUTIFUL HOUSE FOR RENT



A must-see! 14 months old in an excellent location. Minutes to Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. High quality, beautiful and modern design with 162sqm of living area. The house has 2 large bedrooms, 2 private bathrooms, 1 guest toilet, large living/dining room, terrace, storage room, 2 air conditioners, private car park, free water and garbage collection service. The house is furnished with king-size bed and mattress, 5-door wardrobe, vanity set, dining table, fridge and curtains. Asking 22,000 baht a month ono. For more info call K. Nui at 076-288611 or 087-383-0936.

## NAI YANG HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms (2 with aircon), living room, kitchen, fridge, garden, fenced, ADSL and UBC. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-6506221. More information at email: ek\_phuket@hotmail.com

## 3-BEDROOM 2-STORY HOUSE,

Rent for 1 to 6 months until Nov 2007. Fully furnished. 3km to Nai Harn beach. Peaceful and quiet area. Tel: 087-8062407. Email: tse.goran@gmail.com

## HOME/OFFICE

for rent. 160sqm. Unfurnished, roof garden. 10,000 baht per month. 120,000 baht for 3-year lease. Please call Tel: 089-593-0986.

## FULLY-SERVICED

room at Patra Mansion in Phuket City. Fridge, cable TV, patio, fan, luscious landscaped grounds and pool. Fully serviced. Rent: 4,800 baht + utilities. For more information call 076-258103.

## SEAVIEW CONDO

for rent in Rawai. 26sqm, modern. 10,000 baht per month. More information at Tel: 089-5930986. Email: thirpalmtreeontheleft@hotmail.com

## HOUSE IN NAI HARN

for rent. Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, TV/music/DVD. Good price. Contact for details. Tel: 076-388621, 084-8519072. Email: goodtasteforgoodlife@yahoo.de

## PATONG TOWER SEAVIEW

1-bedroom apartment. 100 meters from the beach. Long or short term. Call Tel: 084-8473304.

## DUPLEX FOR RENT

Lovely Bali-style house. Call or email for more information and details. Tel: 081-9813614. Email: happyjaa@yahoo.com

## BEAUTIFUL NEW HOUSE

Pak Meang, 1 bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, one big living room and car park. 10 minutes to Chao Mai National Park. Long term only (minimum 1 year): 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-3840864.

## KOH KAEW HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, TV. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-245966. Email: info@phuketandamanrealestate.com

## KATHU, 3-BEDROOM

house for rent. Fully furnished. 2 bedrooms with aircon, 1 without. Cable TV, garden, secure estate, telephone. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-8876101.

## KARON CONDO

1 bedroom, 130sqm, 20th floor. 45,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-245966. Email: info@phuketandamanrealestate.com

## 3-BEDROOM HOUSE WITH POOL

in Nai Harn. Aircon, fully furnished, car park, UBC TV (gold), stereo, DVD, security system, safety box, automatic gate, phone line, washing machine, wireless Internet. Only annual (one-year) rental. 55,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 089-8730196, 081-7974197. Email: dannie@dvas.dk

## MODERN HOUSE

in Kathu. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen, parking area, private road, walled garden. Convenient to golf courses, and international school. 9 minutes to Patong. 20,000 per month, long term only. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: kittisakdj@yahoo.com

## OCEANVIEW CONDO IN KAMALA

250sqm condo with breathtaking view. 2 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, 1 study. Outdoor bath, huge terrace overlooking Andaman Sea. Fully furnished, tastefully decorated in contemporary Thai style. Walking distance to the beach, 15 mins from Patong, golf courses, diving and spas. Swimming pool and gym in complex. 90,000 baht per month, 3-month minimum. Short term: US\$1,000-1,400 per week. Tel: 852-94519793. Contact via email: jessandsteve@netvigator.com For details, please see our website: www.kamalaseaview.com

## HOUSE FOR RENT

Nice 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home with built-in BBQ in garden and ADSL. Fully furnished. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8915602. Email: andrea.capucci@gmail.com

## PATONG TOWER

sea view. 1-bedroom apartment. 100 meters from the beach. Long or short term. Call Tel: 084-8473304.

## HOUSE IN KAMALA

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, laundry. Hot water, phone, ADSL, cable TV. 15,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-263254, 081-537137. Fax: 076-263254. Email: sunisadia@hotmail.com

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Contact: Martin Holmes  
tel: 076 238 803  
fax: 076 273 319  
email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office  
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket  
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman  
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 01 968 1437  
tel/fax: 076 239 729  
email: brokerage@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office  
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket  
Contact: Jim Poulsen  
Mobile: 081 891 3237  
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speedboat. Monohull, built 2002, 37ft long, 10ft wide, two Yamaha out-board 200hp engines, toilet, GPS, VHF radio, depth sounder, boat trailer. Asking 1.7 million baht. Tel: 081-9587435. Email: [operation@moby-dick-adventures.com](mailto:operation@moby-dick-adventures.com)

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# Island Job Mart



A six-star resort-style development along the shores of Bang Tao Beach is currently seeking a candidate for the position of

### Project Admin Assistant

The successful candidate should possess these qualifications:

- ◀ Thai national.
- ◀ Bachelor's degree in any field.
- ◀ Experience in property business is preferable.
- ◀ Strong in communication & coordination function.
- ◀ Fluent in spoken & written English.

### Project Admin Manager

The successful candidate should possess these qualifications:

- ◀ Thai national.
- ◀ Bachelor's degree in any field.
- ◀ Experience in property business is preferable.
- ◀ Strong ability of negotiation.
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- ◀ Fluent in spoken & written English.
- ◀ Ability to work under pressure.

All positions offer an attractive package. For interview please send all CVs, resumes, and photographs to [info@thepalmbeachclub.com](mailto:info@thepalmbeachclub.com)

**GST International Co., Ltd.**  
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CII NAIHARN CO., LTD. is now looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Thai nationals for construction manager.

### CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

- Bachelor's degree or higher in Construction Engineering
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- Minimum 10 years experience of work as a construction manager dealing with contractors or clients
- Strong leadership, able to deal with staff at all levels including clients and contractors, positive attitude, ability to resolve day-to-day problems, self-motivated, excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Work with foreign project manager.
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- Able to work in Koh Yao Noi

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## Opening New Company

### Bangkok Legal Services

- **Accountant 4 positions**  
Female over 25 years, degree in Accounting. Two years' experience.
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Basic English speaking skills and computer literate.
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Basic English speaking skills. Must have a driver's license. If can handle, a work permit will be a special consideration.

Salary and a great future. Please send CV and photo by email: [Maresa\\_nons@yahoo.com](mailto:Maresa_nons@yahoo.com), [Ning\\_lilly@hotmail.com](mailto:Ning_lilly@hotmail.com) or contact for more information.  
Tel: 076-323214-5 Mobile: 08-10803414.

## SALES PERSON

Internet advertising for marine and seafood industry. Thai national who can speak, read and write English. Computer literate, good negotiation skills, own transport. Call K. Kevin. Tel: 087-2820867. Email: [kevin@sea-ex.com](mailto:kevin@sea-ex.com)

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Consultants. Young, articulate and sales-minded British recruitment consultants wanted for busy office in Phuket. Excellent salary. For more details email: [lan@evocation.net](mailto:lan@evocation.net) For further details of our company, please see our website at [www.evocation.net](http://www.evocation.net)

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## CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

CPD license is a must. Knowledge of QuickBooks is a plus. Must be good on reporting cash flow, budget, etc. Call Tel: 076-239111. Fax: 076-238974. Email: [hr@asia-marine.net](mailto:hr@asia-marine.net)

## OFFICE MANAGER

wanted by estate agent. The position requires basic accounting skills, good command of English, computer literacy. Please send CV by email or for more information Tel: 086-686 5998. Email: [info@tropical-homes.net](mailto:info@tropical-homes.net)

## TEACHERS WANTED

Teachers required for:

- \* Public schools
- \* Business/resort classes
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Candidates need to be native English speakers with TEFL or CELTA certification. Preference given to bachelor degree holders with teaching experience. Please call Brent at ECC. For more information Tel: 076-219062.

## HOUSE MAID

I require a live-in house maid. House is close to Boat Lagoon. Must be friendly with dogs and able to cook. Middle-aged Thai female preferred. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8913067.

## SWEDISH SALES PERSON (FEMALE)

Well-established inbound Scandinavian travel agency looking for a Swedish female Internet sales person to be a part of our team. A background in sales and/or the travel industry, computer skills and pedantic organizational skills will be necessary, as well as really good knowledge of Thailand. Immediate employment. Please send CV with photo to Anders Palm. Please contact for more information and details. Tel: 076-246427, 081-893-2575. Fax: 076-246180. Email: [andersp@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:andersp@loxinfo.co.th)

## STAFF FOR INTERNET

in Rawai. Thai female staff wanted full or part time with computer skills and basic English knowledge. Good salary. Contact Mr Rudi. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-288808, 081-0909640.

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General administration and marketing position Thalang area. Up to 20,000 baht per month. Must have good English (spoken and written). Tel: K. Bill 084-1032358, K. Anna 084-0575756.



# Island Job Mart



RAYAVADEE, A MEMBER OF THE LEADING HOTELS OF THE WORLD\* AND ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS RESORT, SITUATED IN THE PRIME LOCATION OF KRABI, NOW HAS EXCITING VACANCIES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

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- CHIEF STEWARD	1 POSITION
- SPECIALTY CHEF	1 POSITION
- CHEF DE PARTIE	1 POSITION
- COMMIS COLD KITCHEN	1 POSITION
- F&B SERVICE ATTENDANT	5 POSITIONS
- HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR	2 POSITIONS
- HOUSEKEEPING ATTENDANT (FLORIST)	1 POSITION
- FLORIST SUPERVISOR	1 POSITION
- GUEST SERVICE ATTENDANT	2 POSITIONS
- ACTIVITIES ATTENDANT	2 POSITIONS
- CHIEF GARDENER	1 POSITION

THE CANDIDATES SHOULD POSSESS THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

- PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO THAI NATIONALS, AGED BETWEEN 20-35 YEARS
- PLEASANT PERSONALITY, BE SERVICE MINDED AND HAVE EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- SOME YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN SPECIFIED FIELDS MIGHT BE ADVANTAGEOUS
- FORMAL TRAINING AND GRADUATION FROM A RECOGNIZED INSTITUTE OR HOTEL SCHOOL WOULD BE AN ADVANTAGE
- GOOD COMMAND OF ENGLISH AND COMPUTER LITERACY FOR GUEST CONTACT POSITIONS
- WILLINGNESS TO BE BASED IN KRABI

WE OFFER VERY ATTRACTIVE WORKING CONDITIONS AND AN EXCELLENT REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS PACKAGE. SUITABLE QUALIFIED PERSONS ARE INVITED TO APPLY IN PERSON OR TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATION TOGETHER WITH A COMPLETE RESUME AND RECENT PHOTOGRAPH:

## RAYAVADEE KRABI, THAILAND

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Now seeking energetic and dynamic individuals who fluent in English and a second language is a plus, to join our team in Bangkok, Phuket, Cha Am, Chiang Mai, Bintan and Pattaya (soon to open). We invite highly driven and dynamic professionals to apply for the following positions.

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**Asst. Sales Mgrs (T/O)**  
**Sales Rep's**  
**Telemarketers, OPC's**  
**Member Service Supervisor**  
**Room Division Supervisor**  
**Administrative Supervisor**  
**Member Service Officer**

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### After sales / Interior Design Co-Ordinator

- Thai National
- Female
- Bachelor's degree in associated field
- Very good spoken and written English
- Proven experience in a similar role
- An acute eye for detail
- Flexible and outgoing approach to work
- Must have driver's license

This role requires the successful candidate to take responsibility for the after sales service for all our current and future villa owners. Specific areas of responsibility include managing the owner's accounts, assisting in the interior design process, furniture packs and finishing material selection. This role will require the successful candidate to see the after sales process through from the outset all the way to handing the villa over to the owner after completion.

**Mark Ashman**  
General Manager

Mobile: +66 (0)848 422 325  
Island Office: +66 (0)86 942 9190  
Sales Office: +66 (0)76 239 724

20/12 Moo 2, Boat Lagoon Phuket  
Thepkasatri Rd, Tambon Koh Kaew  
Amphur Muang, Phuket 83200  
Email: [phorn@thevillage-coconutisland.com](mailto:phorn@thevillage-coconutisland.com)

Asians View Architect Co.,Ltd. is an Architectural design and Construction Management based in Phuket, we are looking for the candidate who is self motivated and high responsibility.

### FOREMAN NEEDED

- Diploma degree in Construction
- 3 - 4 Years experience in Architectural and Construction field
- Fair in both written and spoken English
- Positive attitude and friendly
- Able to work in Phuket
- Experience in "Auto CAD" is an advantage
- Possess own vehicle

Interested candidate, please contact 089-871-6133 (Ying) or send full resume, expected salary & enclose a recent photo by fax or email to :

Asians View Architect Co.,Ltd.

23/105 Moo 2, Thepkasatri Rd., Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000  
Fax : +66 076-273-512, Email : [secretary@asiansviewarchitect.com](mailto:secretary@asiansviewarchitect.com)

### OFFICE MANAGER

Thai Office Manager needed for busy sports-orientated business in Chalong. Requirements: read, write and speak English and computer skills (Word, Excel, Internet) needed. Working with Thais and foreigners. Excellent salary, social insurance and bonus. Please contact Smai for an interview. Call Tel: 076-367071. Or send email to: [info@tigermuaythai.com](mailto:info@tigermuaythai.com)

### FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

Thai, male/female, BA in accounting or related field with experience in accounting & financial management. Full knowledge of accounting & financial functions as well as Thai taxation. Working knowledge of Peachtree accounting software is a plus together with strong proficiency in English communication and computer literacy. Email: [hrda@destinationair.com](mailto:hrda@destinationair.com)

### SALES & MARKETING

Manager. Due to our rapidly expanding business, Destination Air, Thailand's only sea-plane company, is looking for a dynamic self-starter with excellent presentation skills and the ability to present our product with confidence to our sophisticated customer base. The candidate will develop a company sales strategy to achieve the established targeted goals. A Thai or expat with 5 years' experience in sales & marketing within travel industry is preferable. Please email your CV to: [hrda@destinationair.com](mailto:hrda@destinationair.com)

### OFFICE STAFF

We are an Internet travel agency and need a Thai female with good communication skills in English. Good personality, self-motivated. Experience with MS Word and Excel would be an advantage. Tel: 076-342750, 084-8523380.

### GUEST SERVICE AGENT

Destination Air has expanding opportunities for 2 persons to meet and welcome arriving guests at the airport and selected island resorts locations. Thai females (2), neat appearance, pleasant personality, inspired attitude and service-minded. Candidate must have strong English communication and interpersonal skills. Email your CV and professional info to: [hrda@destinationair.com](mailto:hrda@destinationair.com)

### SALES PERSONS

urgently needed. Established supplier company of hotels and restaurants for dining equipment & accessories needs a few sales people immediately. Some English and knowledge in F&B is a plus! For Thai nationals only. Time wasters need not apply! Contact. Tel: 076-261157, 089-7703681. Fax: 076-261239. Email: [phuketislander@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketislander@yahoo.com)

### SIMPSON MARINE

requires the services of a charter boat sales and booking representative. The ideal candidate will be a Thai national, have a strong background in sales and marketing, an excellent command of English both written and spoken, be self-motivated and confident. A background in a marine-related field would be a strong advantage. Own transport is essential. Initial applications should be made by emailing a full resume and references to:

Email: [phuket@simpsonmarine.com](mailto:phuket@simpsonmarine.com)

### PERSONAL ASSISTANT

required for new business in Phuket. We seek a Thai lady with fluent spoken and written English and good computer skills (Microsoft Office). Please contact Phil for more details. Tel: 083-3943246. Email: [pgebbett@gmail.com](mailto:pgebbett@gmail.com)

### CREATIVE ENERGETIC

educator. Horizons Learning Center, an expanding international school in Phuket, seeks experienced creative, energetic educators, to join our team. Special interest/talent in music, arts or sports a plus. International teaching degree required, ESL teachers need not apply. Tel: 076-238756. Fax: 076-238756. Email: [admin@horizons-phuket.com](mailto:admin@horizons-phuket.com)

### PEACHTREE SPECIALIST

Male/female, Thai, with two or more years' experience using Peachtree accounting software. Well-organized with attention to detail. Interested persons are invited to email CV and photo. Email: [hrda@destinationair.com](mailto:hrda@destinationair.com) or call Tel: 081-958292 for an interview.

### RECEPTIONIST WANTED

Audio visual company is seeking candidates for the above position. Applicants must be fluent in written and spoken English and Thai and have good computer skills. Experience in administration and accounts an advantage. Contact for more info. Tel: 076-527640. Fax: 076-527639. Email: [cv@enhanceav.com](mailto:cv@enhanceav.com)



# Island Job Mart



Evason Hideaway & Six Senses Spa at Yao Noi is the fourth Evason Boutique-branded Hideaway with 56 private pool villas, and sets even higher benchmarks for excellence in Asia.

We would like to offer you the opportunity to become a part of our team.

## Recruitment Days

Where: The Metropole Hotel, Phuket

When: 28 till 30 April 2007

Time 09.00 am till 18.00 pm

More than 200 positions available

You will live and work on Koh Yao Noi, 45 minutes away from Phuket. You should have a good command of English and be service minded.

A minimum guaranteed Service Charge of 10,000.-Baht, 5-days working week, 2-days off a week, free housing, multi talent training and excellent benefits apply to all our hosts

Apply in person or send your resume with a recent photo to Human Resources

Manager by email: [hrrm-yao noi@evasonhideaways.com](mailto:hrrm-yao noi@evasonhideaways.com)



We are an international property consultant having 200 offices worldwide providing property agency services, asset valuation, property and facilities management, research and consultancy, due to rapid expansion, we are looking for qualified personnel to join our company as follows;

### 1. Sales Manager: (2 positions)

- Male or Female, age over 28 years
- BA in Sales & Marketing or related fields
- At least 3 years experience in Sales & Marketing
- Knowledge of Land Development Act, Thailand Taxation structure, excellent PR skill
- Possess own vehicle
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English

### 2. Sales Executive: (4 positions)

- Male or Female, age over 25 years
- BA in Sales & Marketing or related fields
- At least 1-2 years experience in Sales & Marketing
- Self-motivated & able to work independently
- Possess own vehicle

### 3. Estate Manager/Assistant Estate Manager (6 positions)

- Male or Female, age over 25 years
- BA in Management or related fields
- At least 2 years experience in building/estate
- Knowledge in Juristic Person Acts is an advantage
- Strong leadership, good problem-solving skill
- Able to work under pressure

### 4. Administrative Manager (2 positions)

- Female, age over 28 years
- BA in Business Administration or related fields
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English
- Office administrative management, computer literacy and familiar with office automation
- At least 3 years experience or related fields
- Able to work under pressure

### 5. Accountant (2 positions)

- Male or Female, age over 25 years
- BA in Accounting or Finance
- At least 2 years experience in related fields
- Familiar with accounting software and knowledge of MS-office especially Ms-Excel and taxation systems
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English

### 6. Administrator (2 positions)

- Male or Female, age over 22 years
- Vocational or higher in Business Administration or related fields
- Computer literacy and familiar with office automation
- Good interpersonal skill, service-minded and well organized
- Knowledge on gardening and landscaping maintenance would be an advantage
- At least 1 year experience

### 7. Technician Supervisor (2 positions)

- Male, age over 25 years
- BA in Mechanical/Electrical or related field
- At least 2-3 years experience in system maintenance
- Strong leadership & self-motivated
- Able to work independently

### 8. Technician (8 positions)

- Male, age over 22 years
- Vocational or higher in Mechanical/Electrical
- At least 1 year experience in system maintenance

Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resume, stating present and expected salaries, and enclosing a recent photo mail to:

Knight Frank Phuket Co., Ltd.

1 Plaza Del Mar Building Room no.109-111 & 201-202, Pasak-Koktanod Road, T.Cherngtalay, A.Thalang, Phuket 83110

Tel: 0-7631 8151-58 Fax: 0-7631 8159, e-mail: [chutima.ninlawan@th.knightfrank.com](mailto:chutima.ninlawan@th.knightfrank.com)

#### Remark:

Thai Nationality only. Position 1-6 good command of spoken and written English and computer literacy is essential. Male applicants' must complete or exempt from military service. Knowledge of Real Estate is an advantage.



A growing travel club is seeking for more staff to join our Phuket and Samui branch.

### Russian Office Manager - Samui

- Russian nationality, male or female
- strong command of English, written and spoken
- good computer literacy
- flexible working hours
- previous work in holiday ownership business/ office secretarial work is a plus

Job Duties: Russian Coordinator/Contracts/Admin/BUP Pay will be between US\$500- US\$600 depending on experience Full training given though

Good salary package awaits the right candidates. Please submit your resume to the given e-mail address or call for more information

Rinky +66(76) 341427 Fax: +66(76) 341425  
Email: [hr@clubabsolute.com](mailto:hr@clubabsolute.com)  
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## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

### Advertising Sales

- Thai national with an outgoing personality
- Experience in sales and marketing
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Must have drivers license

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Wipa Putkeaw, Human Resources, by email, fax or post to:

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Fax: 076-213971 Email: [fon@phuketgazette.net](mailto:fon@phuketgazette.net)



Phuket Pavilions, 30 Private Pool Villas on a Hilltop overlooking the Andaman Sea & lush green Valley at Bangtao Beach, is now seeking for motivated and active professionals to join our team in the positions of :

ASST. HR MANAGER/TRAINING MANAGER	1 POSITION
ASST. RESTAURANT/BAR MANAGER	1 POSITION
VILLA ASSISTANT/BUTLER	3 POSITIONS
WAITER/WAITRESS	2 POSITIONS
BELLMAN/DRIVER	1 POSITION

The successful candidates should be in possession of these qualifications :

- Thai Nationals, Aged not over 35 years.
- Fluent in spoken & written English
- Outgoing and pleasant personality with service mind
- At least 2 years experience in related field

Candidates fitting above requirements and qualifications are invited to send a resume with a recent photograph to

Human Resources Department

PHUKET PAVILIONS

31/1 Moo6, Cherngtalay, Talang, Phuket 83110, Thailand.  
Tel. +66 76 317600 Fax. +66 76 317601  
E-mail : [kanok@phuketpavilions.com](mailto:kanok@phuketpavilions.com)  
[www.pavilions-resorts.com](http://www.pavilions-resorts.com)

### SALES & MARKETING

position available for mature male in busy marine chandlery in Boat Lagoon. Thai national, must speak fluent English, have sales experience, be outgoing and energetic. A knowledge of boats useful. Call Tel: 081-8913067.

CHEF, ASSIST CHEF, waitresses. New grill & steakhouse opening April 1 in Rawai, needs a chef and assistant chef who can cook Western food. Even farang chefs are welcome, work permit can be arranged for the right person. Also need 2 waitresses. Contact for more details. Tel: 089-8093566. Email: [lennartviberg@hotmail.com](mailto:lennartviberg@hotmail.com)

### TIMESHARE SALES!

Have you ever dreamed of working in a virgin market? The Holiday Club is a large multinational company with over 24 years in the timeshare business. We are presently running 2 full-time road show teams visiting regional areas in Australia with enormous success. Our customers are highly qualified, English speaking and most have never seen a timeshare presentation before! We are currently recruiting experienced Managers and Liners to staff additional teams to travel Australia. Our staff enjoy high commissions, daily spiffs, weekly draw, company paid transport, and accommodation and relocation packages. For more information email your CV or expression of interest. All correspondence will be treated in strict confidence. Call Tel: 61-755923394. Email: [rob.hewison@holidayclubpacific.com](mailto:rob.hewison@holidayclubpacific.com)

### ACCOUNTING

Manager. Rolly Tasker Sails Thailand Co Ltd requires the services of an Accounting Manager. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in accounting. Minimum 3 years' experience in manufacturing business is preferable. Strong in communication and co-ordination functions. Experience in QuickBooks is an advantage. Management capacity. Good spoken and written English. Self-motivated and proactive. Ability to work under pressure. Full time 8 am to 5 pm Monday-Saturday. Applications to the manager by mail/email/fax should include CV, recent photo and references. Contact for more information. Tel: 076-223893. Email: [rolly@phuket.ksc.co.th](mailto:rolly@phuket.ksc.co.th) Website at: [www.rollytasker.com](http://www.rollytasker.com)

### SECRETARY/ACCT

Knowledge of English and accounting needed. Office job in Rawai. Good salary. Contact Tel: 081-5376866. Email: [info@platinumresidence.com](mailto:info@platinumresidence.com)

### QSI INTERNATIONAL

School. An American-style school, has the following anticipated vacancy for the 2007/08 school year (search re-opened): Elementary classroom teacher. Successful candidate will be a native English speaker, have at least a bachelor's degree and hold appropriate certification. Letters of interest may be emailed to: [alansiporin@qsi.org](mailto:alansiporin@qsi.org). Please include your resume and references and be prepared to produce degree and certification documents.

### COOK WANTED

Small restaurant in Karon needs a female cook urgently. Please contact for more info. Tel: 081-8914019. Email: [tkoschig2000@hotmail.com](mailto:tkoschig2000@hotmail.com)

### ASSISTANT MANAGER

Marine company, good English skills, strong personality, driver's license, good organizational skills. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-6903196. Email: [rotapi@hotmail.com](mailto:rotapi@hotmail.com)



# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles for Sale

### FINE CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE



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### LOW INPUT, HIGH

output, automatic carwash machines for sale. Starting from 3.9 million baht. Please contact via email: carwash\_phuket@hotmail.com

### ANTIQUE FURNITURE

Hanuman Antique is closing. Last days with mega discounts on furniture. Indochina, French colonial and art deco styles. 50 to 70% off. Open Monday to Friday. 51 Patak Road, Kata.

#### Please contact

Tel: 087-0820100 (UK)  
087-0953010 (Thailand)

### LODESTAR DINGHY

with engine. Inflatable Hypalon rubber boat with 9.8hp Tohatsu engine. Includes travel bag, Water Sky and 2-person banana. All only 3 months old. Tel: 076-289691, 085-798 8231. Email: c9000@gmx.de

### JOB WAKEBOARD

In as-new condition with no dings. Multifit, flexible boots. Padded top-quality travel bag. Priced for quick sale at 13,000 baht. Tel: 087-0663514.

### REDFIN SURFBOARD

Australian-made 7'6" hybrid in as-new condition with no dings. Top quality, padded travel bag. Great for Phuket waves. Priced for quick sale at 13,000 baht. Also Manta boogie board in excellent condition. Pro-board from Australia. 8,000 baht. Tel: 087-0663514.

### BABY COT

Teak-finish wooden baby cot in very good condition. 2,500 baht.

Tel: 076-396639,  
085-0620688.

For more info email: rtmeakin@samart.co.th

## 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**  
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087-2795636 (Nor)  
086-7458910 (Swe)  
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(for Thai language press 3)  
www.aathailand.org or  
email info@aathailand.org

## Business Opportunities

### BAR & RESTAURANT IN PHUKET CITY



Lounge/bar/pool near Royal Phuket City Hotel. 80sqm, 2 floors, fully equipped, aircon, sound system, plasma TV, nice decoration. 4-year lease, 5 years more possible. 1.9 million baht + rent. Call Tel: 081-7288087.

### RESTAURANT/BAR

for sale in Rawai. Fully equipped, good location. Call for details. Tel: 081-0520160.

### GUESTHOUSE

Kamala, small guesthouse, bar, restaurant. 4 rooms and small apartment, beautiful terrace, very clean. 1 minute to beach. Wifi. 5-year lease. 900,000 baht. K.Bob. Tel: 087-2661851.

### RESTAURANT & BAR

Nanai road, most popular restaurant is for sale due to relocation overseas. Annual turnover of 3 million baht, selling at 3 million baht negotiable. For more info call Mark. Tel: 081-7411963.

### CONSTRUCTION

company needs partner. We need a partner to expand our company. Required Capital is 6 million baht for 50% of the shares. For more information please contact us via email in English, German or Thai. Email: fliege37@hotmail.com

### ANTIQUE SHOP FOR LEASE



Dibuk road in Phuket City. Nice interior decoration, aircon upstairs & downstairs, 5 rooms. Price for lease: 1.8 million baht. First year no monthly rental, following years pay 38,000 baht per month (9-year contract). Call Tel: 081-2727795.

### PUB/BAR/DANCING

for 250 people. Fully finished. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 076-388623.

### EXCURSIONS

company for sale. Including 1 speed boat in stunning condition, sales office and crew. Fully operational, well-established and profitable. Owners need to relocate. Urgent sale. Tel: 076-292265, 086-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website at www.ayudhya.net/english/business/index.php

### DISCOTHEQUE

for sale. Soi Bangla, Patong beach. Fully equipped, ready to run. Further details by appointment. Call Tel: 076-292265, 084-0535780. Email: info@ayudhya.net

### BOOK SHOP SALE

Patong OTOP book shop for sale. Price: 690,000 baht. Tel: 084-1705552.

### INVESTORS WANTED

Profitable franchise looking to expand in southern Thailand. Minimum investment: 1.5 million baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 084-8412830. Email: islandmuscle@gmail.com

### NANAI BEAUTY SHOP

for sale. Only 120,000 baht. Suitable for other uses. New aircon, glass frontage, etc. Please call Khun Orn at 081-3974957.

### RESTAURANT

for rent. New restaurant for rent at 25,000 baht per month. 1 million baht to buy all the equipment. 4 floors:  
- restaurant on 1st and 2nd floor  
- apartment on 3rd floor  
- staff room on 4th floor  
Ready to open now! Call or email for further details. Call Tel: 081-8915602. Email: andrea.capucci@gmail.com

### GUESTHOUSE

for sale. Near Sheraton Krabi. By owner. Tel: 081-3703109, 086-7431586.

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office space for rent. Includes: furniture, aircon, ADSL, telephone and fax. From 5,000 baht per month. Chao Fa Rd area. Call Tel: 085-7954768 (English), 081-8929960 (Thai).

### GUESTHOUSE

with bar and restaurant in Patong. 5 rooms for rent. Has manager, aircon, storeroom. Rent: 40,000 baht/month. Purchase for 700,000 baht, 200,000 baht deposit. Call Tel: 089-8227921.

### RAWAI RESTAURANT

Very popular, on main road, 48 seats, aircon inside. Good history. 7,500 baht per month. 2.6 million baht. Be quick. Call Tel: 083-3905430.

### KATA BEACH

New guesthouse for sale or rent. Call for info and appointment. Tel: 081-8948446.

### RESTAURANT/BAR

on Nanai Rd. Best location on this street. Fully equipped, pool table and big screen TV. Only 500,000 baht. If interested I can send some pictures. Call Tel: 087-1133043. Email: barneywest@hotmail.com

### FITNESS CENTER FOR SALE

Gym established for 7 years in Phuket. Owner retiring. Tel: 081-8111067.

### BEER BARS

For advice on buying a beer bar in Phuket call Kevin at TSBA. Tel: 084-7300190.

### GUESTHOUSE

for sale with restaurant/bar. Located opposite main entrance to Royal Paradise Hotel. 6 guestrooms with shower, aircon, TV. Luxurious, beautiful restaurant with kitchen, high standard. 14 million baht. Call Tel: 081-8956587, 081-8949060, 086-2697093.

### KAMALA REST/BAR

New, for rent. Main road. Famous pizza. Fully fitted and ready to open. Lease 5 years, 6,000 baht per month. Key money 400,000. Please call for more details. Tel: 086-2878966.

### Special Offer

Lips Bar - Rawai Beach for rent/sale due to serious illness of owner.



Lips Bar with the best turnover in Rawai is a designed sports and cocktail bar, fully equipped as well with two bars, one brand new dancing floor, music computer, beamer for big display, where you give the guests a fun place with a special touch. No wonder that this venue became an In-Meeting point by many repeating customers. No waiting time, no further investment necessary. Bids are welcome 1.5 million baht Remaining rental contract for property four high seasons.

Please contact  
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www.homebarphuket.com Live your dream in style. Levels 1 & 2: bar/lounge; levels 3 & 4: accommodation. 2.6 million baht + rent. Please call Tel: 087-8817600.

### BUSINESS COMPLEX

Top location! Very low rent! 13-year contract. Two shops in high foot-traffic area. 5 rooms on the second floor. No brokers. Tel: 086-5888383 (Thai), 081-0820039 (English). Email: sumalee1955@yahoo.com

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Patong. 16 rooms, newly renovated. Internet, cable TV, aircon, bar. 3 minutes to beach, busy location, 6-year lease. 4.6 million baht. Contact Keith at Tel: 087-0211763. Email: keithhbrice@hotmail.com

### STUDIOS IN PATONG

Studios with small kitchenette for rent in Soi Nanai 2. Low season offer of 12,500 baht a month, all included. Call Tel: 081-5362954. Email for info: petro@phuket.ksc.co.th

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## Personals

### BACKGAMMON

Retired Businessman looking for Backgammon Players on Phuket Island. Call Tel: 081-5778443.

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### BORED?

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Sincere Westerner with good qualities and healthy lifestyle seeks a sensitive and pretty lady. Contact via email: merlin\_upm@yahoo.com

### CUTE FRIEND

Smart and attractive guy would like to make friends with a cute lady. Email: toby20g@yahoo.com

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guy. Hoping to meet an honest and respectable girl who has a great smile, a cool brain and a warm heart. If you like nature, music, movies, concerts, travel, fishing, swimming, romantic dinners and cooking simply at home... it could be that we would enjoy doing all this together? Am I your "Perfect Match"? I don't know. You can find out by replying now. No Bangla Road replies please. Please contact via email: warwick\_isherwood@yahoo.com.au

## Pets

### FREE KITTENS

in Kamala. All colors, male and female. Mother gentle, clean, friendly. Tel: 083-3913480.

### MINIATURE RABBIT

needs home. Rabbit lovers, I am leaving the island in three days and have a small, 3-month-old miniature rabbit (with cage) that could use a good home. No charge, just come to Chalong and pick it up. Rabbit is white with a few small dark spots. Tel: 087-2803907. Email: mikewilliams100@hotmail.com

### TWO DOGS

for a good home. Mixed breed siblings. "Turre" (male) and "Murre" (female), 1.5 years old, are looking for a good, loving home. A temporary home (for about 3 months) is also an option. Tel: 089-8686602. Email: kalaine@suomi24.fi

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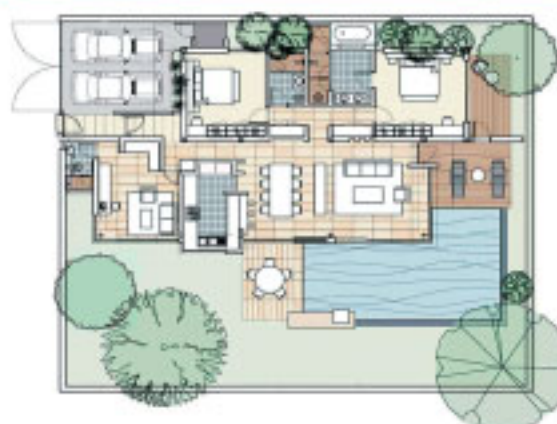
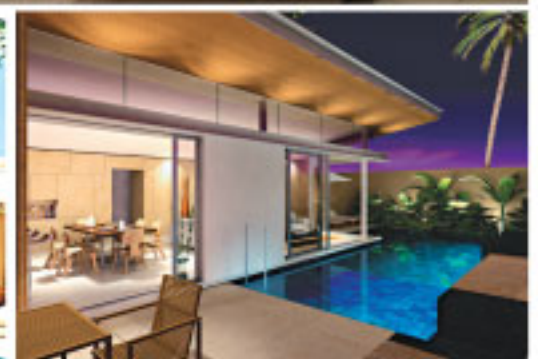
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