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IN THIS ISSUE

News: Patong ATMs scan card data; Burmese concert on hold. **Pages 2 & 3**

Inside Story: The latest on Phuket's dengue fever status.
Pages 4 & 5

AROUND THE NATION: Sales of Jatukham Ramathep amulets on the decline. **Page 7**

Around the Island: Books on a bus. **Page 10**

DINING OUT: Floyd hits the spot. **Page 13**

PEOPLE: Weddings; Boxing star lands in Phuket.

Page 14 & 15

LIFESTYLE: Wowed by wine; Mothers get smoothed over with silk. Pages 18 & 19

GOVERNOR'S LETTER: Crunching the numbers. **Page 27**

Computers: Woody lends a helping hand. **Page 30**

Business and Money: Money Talks; On the Move; Politics scares off new businesses.

Pages 32 & 33

Sports: Boxing: Sor Siriporn comes out swinging; Takraw; Golf; Mini-Volleyball for kids; Darts. **Pages 34 & 35**

PROPERTY: Design; Home of the Week; Gardening; Construction. **Pages 36-39**

PLUS

QUEER News, TRASHING PHUKET 6; AROUND THE REGION 8; AROUND THE SOUTH 9; HAPPENINGS 16; MOTORING 17; THAILAND TRAVELER 20; SPA MAGIC 21; TAKE A BREAK 23 & 24; BOOKS, EVENTS CALENDAR 25; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 26; ISSUES & ANSWERS 27; THE GRAY AREA 28; HOROSCOPES 29; CLASSIFIEDS 40-51.

ICEC locations down to 2 sites

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: After studying four proposed locations for the long-awaited Phuket International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC), project investor ING Funds (Thailand) Co Ltd has whittled the field down to just two sites: Anuphas and Sons' 250 rai off Chao Fa West Rd in Wichit and 130 rai of government land at Tah Chat Chai.

The announcement was made at a meeting of the ICEC siting committee at Phuket Provincial Hall on August 24.

Chaired by Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit, the meeting featured a presentation by Maris Tarab, managing director of ING Funds (Thailand).

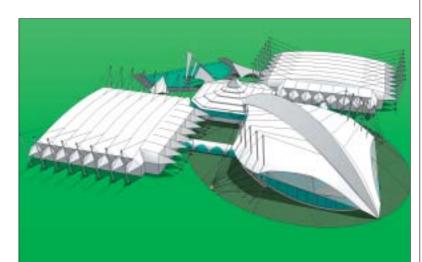
The two proposed sites were selected by ING Funds (Thailand) for the 2-billion-baht project because of their access to facilities and ease of development, he explained.

Two other privately-owned sites were eliminated by ING Funds (Thailand), the only investment firm to show interest in the project after Tourism and Sports Minister Dr Suwit Yodmanee announced the project should go forward with private investment.

Strong points of the Anuphas and Sons' land were access and ease of development. The site is bordered on one side by a paved divided highway and has adequate water supply from abandoned tin-mine ponds.

Unlike the other two privately-owned sites, the land has already been cleared and is ready to build on, K. Maris said.

Potential problems include increased traffic congestion along Chao Fa West Rd and Wichit Songkram Rd, he added.



CONVENTION SPACE 2008: Phuket's long-awaited International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC) will feature a 3,000-seat Convention Hall and 30,000-square-meter Exhibition Hall.

Prasert Temmart, representing the Phuket Provincial Public Works and Town & Country Planning office, suggested that a new bypass road – that would actually bypass the bypass road – or even a bridge from the Darasamuth School Intersection could be built to alleviate conges-

tion in the area.

There was no mention that lack of a sea view was considered a major drawback. Previous efforts to find a site for the project had held a sea view as a basic requirement.

K. Maris said that advantages of the Tah Chat Chai site, apart from having a sea view, include that it is located along a major highway and is easily accessible from the airport.

However, the site is quite far from Phuket's main population centers and most hotels, K. Maris said.

ING Funds (Thailand) asked for and was granted more time from the committee to study investment costs and other aspects Photo by Axis Group of the two sites before presenting its final recommendation to the

Also addressing the committee was Anurak Khunyotying, managing director of architectural firm Axis Group, which designed a similar project in Chiang Mai and has been chosen by ING Funds (Thailand) to design the Phuket ICEC.

committee on September 19.

Presenting a rough sketch of the proposed design for the Phuket ICEC, K. Anurak said the project would incorporate elements of Sino-Portuguese design, such as archways and covered corridors.

The Phuket ICEC will comprise a 3,000-seat Convention Hall, a 30,000-square-meter Exhibition Hall and a 20,000-sqm Arena Hall.

Once final approval is granted, ING Funds (Thailand) will begin construction immediately and the project could be completed within a year at a cost of about 2 billion baht, K. Anurak said

Island authorities ink trash deal

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PHUKET: With the island's only landfill close to capacity and its sole incinerator incapable of burning even half the volume of trash sent to it every day, all of Phuket's 18 local administrations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on August 22 pledging to tackle the mounting problem through trash separation and recycling.

The signing ceremony, at the Royal Phuket City Hotel, was presided over by representatives from two other signatory parties to the non-binding agreement: Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima and Mingkwan Witchayarangsarit, deputy director of the Pollution Control Department (PCD).

The MOU, prepared by the PCD, contains three provisions.

The first stipulates that the PCD, working with local and regional offices of the National Resources and Environment Ministry, provide support to improve waste management.

The second calls for the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) and Phuket City Municipality to develop efficient waste-management practices.

The new system will be implemented by Phuket's 18 tambon administrations, which will be responsible for enacting local regulations.

The third provision calls for all parties to conduct follow-up assessments and devise strategies to overcome any obstacles they come across.

There were 23 signatories to the MOU, the signing of which was witnessed by students from several schools administered by Phuket City Municipality.





6 Mae Luan Rd. Phuket Town

Keith Floyd still 'alive and well'

By Nick Davies

PATONG: Keith Floyd, renowned British celebrity chef and owner of Floyd's Brasserie at Burasari Resort, flew home on August 28 as planned in order to continue with his UK theater roadshow *Floyd Uncorked* – putting to rest rumors that he is suffering ill health.

Rumors about Floyd's health began circulating after he collapsed three days earlier while taking time out from cooking at his brasserie to talk to guests at the resort's bar.

Floyd passed out while seated and chatting with a guest from New Zealand, but regained consciousness a few minutes later and was taken to Patong Hospital by Burasari staff, where he was given the all clear by doctors; returning to the hotel the same evening for much needed rest.

Burasari Resident Manager Conor O'Leary on August 28 confirmed that Mr Floyd's condition was not serious and that his stay was not cut short by the incident, as some media have speculated.

Mr Floyd had already extended his stay after originally planning to return to the UK earlier, Mr O'Leary said.

Mr Floyd arrived in Phuket earlier this month on a brief visit to his Patong restaurant, taking time out from a busy schedule of filming and stage appearances

"He has been working very hard and was tired from his very busy schedule. We took him to hospital as a precaution but after a brief checkup, doctors gave him the all clear, saying he had fainted as a result of [exposure to] tropical heat and exhaustion," Mr O'Leary said.

"Mr Floyd is in good health and he is flying back to the UK today as planned to appear on stage on Thursday night as part of his theater roadshow," he added.

Triplets top Sgt Major's day

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET CITY: Staff at the maternity ward at Vachira Phuket Hospital received a treat on August 26 when Pol Sgt Maj Supat Ruangsri and his wife K. Thipawan arrived to have their triplets delivered.

The couple arrived from their home in Phang Nga Town after K. Thipawan, who was eight months pregnant, started having contractions about two hours earlier.

Sgt Maj Supat, an officer at Phang Nga Town Police Station, said, "The first born is Jirapat, or "Bank", who was born weighing 1.7 kilograms. Bank is still in the incubator. "The second born is Chinnapat, or "Bass", weighing slightly more at 1.8kg, and the third is Theerapat, or "Boss". He weighs 1.9kg," he added.

All three babes were born by cesarean section.

"At first my neighbor said that since I have three boys I should call them U, B and C because it's easy to remember," Sgt Maj Supat joked.

On a more serious note, he said, "When we return home, we must ask relatives for some help and I will certainly have to help my wife to take care of our sons... and now my wife has already been sterilized."



Triplets Bank, Bass and Boss enjoy the limelight after being delivered at Vachira Phuket Hospital on August 26.

Burmese concert hits bureaucratic barrier

By Semacote Suganya

PHUKET CITY: An ambitious plan to stage a concert to bring some fun into the lives of some 30,000 minimum-wage Burmese laborers living in Phuket received a lukewarm reception on August 23 from Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima, who said the event would need to be organized in accordance with all provincial regulations imposed on migrant workers – including the controversial 8 pm curfew.

The idea was put to V/Gov Worapoj by Burmese national May Kyawt Shin, who visited his office at Phuket Provincial Hall.

May Kyawt, a Bangkokbased announcer for Radio Thailand's Burmese-language broadcasts, is also an English-language teacher at Bangkok University and at the Military Language Academy, also in Bangkok.

Concerts featuring well-known Burmese music artists have been staged without incident in Ranong and Phang Nga, May Kyawt told V/Gov Worapoj.

The event would also be used as an occasion for the Burmese living here to show their deep respect for HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej and to celebrate the recent acceptance by



Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima (left) explains to May Kyawt Shin (right) the problems associated with staging a concert for Burmese people living in Phuket.

referendum of Thailand's new Constitution, she added.

With provincial approval, the event would be staged at Saphan Hin in September with the workers each paying a 100-baht admission fee, she explained.

Despite the statements of good intention, V/Gov Worapoj expressed concern over security. Phuket is a tourism province with greater security concerns than the other provinces where concerts have been held, he said.

He also noted that Phuket has many more registered Burmese workers than other provinces such as Ranong, where there are only 5,000.

While not ruling out the event outright, V/Gov Worapoj said it would have to be organized on a step-by-step basis and in accordance with all regulations.

As an example, he noted that May Kyawt's work permit specified radio broadcasting and English teaching – not concert promotion – as the work she could legally do. Thus, he suggested that a local high-ranking military officer be the official organizer.

Other government agencies, such as Phuket's Muang District Office and the provincial labor office, must also approve the event, he added.

Nattaya Anudit of the Phuket Labor Department office said that staging the concert at night would be difficult as Burmese are not allowed to be out after 8 pm unless accompanied by their employer.

Animals freed to honor Queen's birthday

PHUKET CITY: Some 2,000 well wishers resplendent in yellow turned out at Saphan Hin on August 25 to watch the release of 5,000 white snapper fish, one million baby shrimps and 100 warblers in a merit-making ceremony held in honor of HM Queen Sirikit's birthday.

The event was organized by Phuket City Municipality, the White Media Club and the Buddhist merit-making foundation the Kalayanamit Center.

At the ceremony were nine cows that were saved from slaughter in Phuket. The cows were bought from farmers in Phuket by the Kalayanamit Center.

Pawinee Chulaluck of the White Media Club told the *Gazette* that the cows will be given to farmers in Kanchanaburi who have signed an agreement not to sell or kill them.

K. Pawinee called for more people to help the Kalayanamit Center in achieving its humane goals. "People can donate money to go towards the next activity to save animals from slaughter," she said.

For more details or to pledge a donation to the Kalayanamit Center call 089-1956622, 081-6775401 or 081-5876051 (Thai), or 081-3006999 (English).







The huge pile of counterfeit goods, totaling 68,809 items, are scooped up while on their way to be destroyed at Phuket's incinerator. Photo by Youngyot Preuksarak.

B34m of 'fake' goods destroyed

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Provincial Police incinerated fake goods worth some 34 million baht at Phuket City Municipality Incinerator on August 25.

The imitation brand-name goods, totaling 68,809 items, were seized in raids over the past four years. The contraband included clothes, watches, bags, shoes, sunglasses, VCDs, DVDs and electronic games.

Overseeing the burn-off was Police Region 8 Deputy Commissioner Maj Gen Worawet Winitwetayanond, accompanied by legal representatives in Thailand of brands including Billabong, Camel, Puma, Nike, Adidas, Levi and other wellknown labels.

Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Col Chalit Thintanee said that pirated goods are a persistent problem in Phuket, with illegal copies of goods being sold predominantly in Patong, Kata and Karon.

"Most of these items are from Patong because it is the most popular tourist area on the island. There are many tourists there, so it's very easy for offenders to sell goods. Fake goods are popular in Kata and Karon, too,"

"Although local police and Crime Suppression police keep arresting the vendors, it is much more difficult to identify and locate the people who make the fake goods, so pirated goods are still being sold in tourist areas in Phuket," Col Chalit said.

Thai Supermodel Contest 2007

PATONG: Jungceylon, in association with Channel 7 TV, is set to host the Thai Supermodel Contest 2007 to find the most beautiful Thai girls to represent Thailand in upcoming international modeling contests.

The first-round competition is for candidates from southern Thailand. Applicable participants must be between 15 and 24 years old, at least 168 centimeters tall and possess a great personality.

Applications will be accepted at Phuket Square Hall 1

at Jungceylon from 11 am to 12 pm on September 8; the firstround will be the same afternoon.

The winners will also move on to compete in the secondround, nationwide competition at Central World Bangkok on September 18, where 20 models will be selected for the final round to be held on November 15 at the same location. The overall winner will become Thailand's next supermodel and gain headway for a career in Thailand's prestigious modeling industry.



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Bank card scanners found in Patong ATM

By Janyaporn Morel

PATONG: Police are warning credit-card and bank-card holders to exercise caution when using ATMs and other "swipe" machines in Patong after an ATM on Soi Bangla was found fitted with devices capable of recording card data and pin numbers.

Kathu Police Superintendent Col Grissak Songmoonnark told the Gazette that Patong police received a call from an English tourist about 11 pm Friday after he had problems using his credit card to withdraw cash from an ATM on Soi Bangla.

Col Grissak said that after the tourist removed his cash from the machine, he found it difficult to remove his card because it was stuck in the insert hole.

"He then tried to force his card out and he was surprised when a fitting glued over the insert hole came loose," Col Grissak said.

He explained that the ATM had two devices fitted to it. Glued over the insert hole was a scanning device to extract card data as the card was inserted into the ATM, and an extra keypad was fitted over the ATM's original keypad so that PIN numbers could be recorded as they were entered by unsuspecting users.

"Both devices look like the real ones and they record information from cards used at those ATM machines," Col Grissak explained.

Since the discovery that the Krung Sri Bank (Bank of Ayudhya) ATM had been tampered with, Kathu police officers have been ordered to check every ATM in Patong, Col Grissak said, as he expects that the Soi Bangla ATM was not the only one fitted with a scanning device.

"We found another machine not far from the first one that also had scanning devices fitted to it," he said.

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'The information recorded



A fake card slot and scanner, one of two devices attached to a Patong ATM by criminals to record unsuspecting customers' bank card and pin number details. Photo by Kathu Police Station.

is transferred to a computer and then used to make fake credit cards, which are used in many ways, such as buying things over the Internet," Col Grissak said, adding that major banks have been alerted to the discovery.

Police have received only one complaint about dodgy ATMs, Col Grissak said. "If the information from their credit cards is copied, it can cause them a lot of harm, but so far we have yet to receive complaints from any other tourists about it," he said.

Col Grissak, a former highranking Tourist Police officer in Bangkok, said, "In my experience, gangs try to steal credit card information in tourism areas, such as Bangkok, Pattaya and Samui, but this is the first time we have found this in Phuket."

Rough seas sink ferry

PHUKET: A ferry carrying 34 passengers and four crew sank on August 21, with all aboard left floating in the sea off Koh Phai until they were rescued by the Krabi Marine Police.

Krabi Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Phuwadol Vudduccanok identified the vessel as Sea Breeze 2, owned by the Phi Island Cabana Hotel.

While awaiting rescue, all passengers and crew remained safe in the rough water as they all had time to don life jackets kept on board before abandoning the sinking vessel.

Gen Phuwadol said that his unit received a report about 4:30 pm that a boat had sunk. Police immediately alerted the Krabi Marine Police, which dispatched five rescue vessels.

No people were seriously injured.

In a separate incident about 6 pm August 21, Phuket Marine Police responded to a distress call from the speedboat Rungorawan 19 as it tried to shelter from strong waves some 17 kilometers off

All 12 passengers were returned safely to Rassada Port about 10 pm.



DOUBLE TROUBLE:

hus far in 2007, dengue fever has already claimed the lives of two residents of Phuket, which has an incidence rate among the top 20 of Thailand's 76 provinces.

As no dengue deaths were reported in Phuket in 2006, *Gazette* reporter **Sompratch Saowakhon** and News Editor **Stephen Fein** asked public health experts about the rise in cases this year.

ommon throughout Southeast Asia, dengue fever cases typically rise in number in southern Thailand when monsoon season conditions result in pools of clean, stagnant water needed by the vector mosquito *Aedes aegypti* mosquito for breeding.

Figures released by the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) reveal that from January 1 to August 6 this year, two people had already died of the disease. Notably, both were in the 25- to 35-year-old age bracket. This fact runs counter to the common misconception that only babies and young children can succumb to the viral disease, caused by any of four closely-related serotypes of the genus *Flavivirus*.

Official statistics from the three government hospitals in Phuket (Vachira, Patong, Thalang) report that 247 Phuket residents were treated for the disease over the same period. The actual number of cases is probably far higher given the huge disparity between the island's official population and the actual number of people calling Phuket home – many of whom seek treatment at private medical facilities

Officially, Muang District had the highest number of

Phuket-resident patients over the reporting period at 126, followed by Thalang (98) and Kathu (23). It is notable, however, that individual statistics released by Vachira Phuket Hospital report that 460 dengue patients alone were treated there from January 1 to August 22, further highlighting the disparity between the actual and official populations.

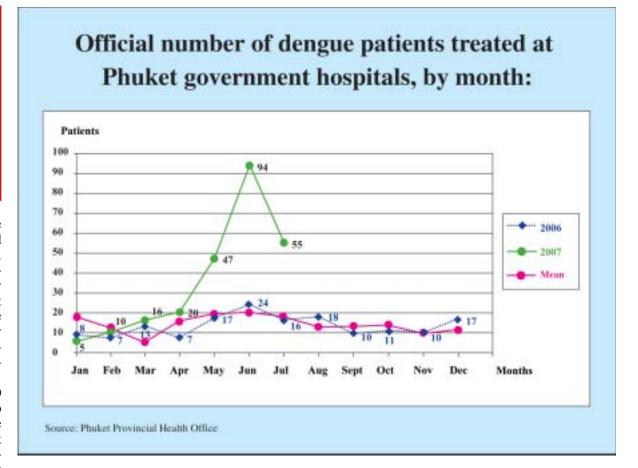
An officer at the PPHO Disease Control Section, who asked that her name not be printed, told the *Gazette* that Cherng Talay has had the highest incidence of the disease of any tambon on the island this year, accounting for 34 of the 98 patients who sought treatment for the disease in Thalang.

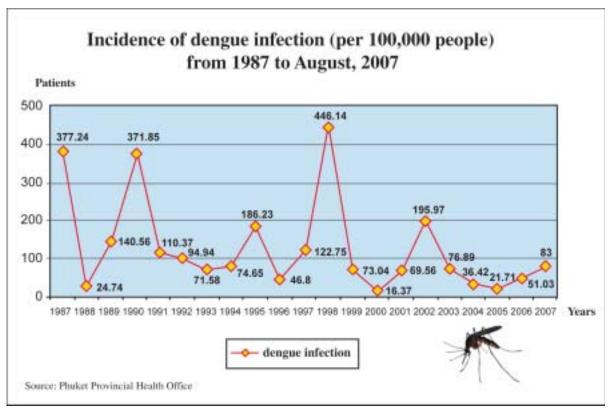
"Muang District may have had more cases overall, but the incidence per 100,000 members of the public is higher in Thalang so far this year," she noted.

The PPHO stepped up its campaign against dengue about 10 years ago, when it began responding to reports of local outbreaks by spraying insecticide to kill adult mosquitoes in those areas, she said.

Unfortuantely, such spraying has no effect on the waterborne larvae that take seven days to reach maturity.

The source declined to tell the *Gazette* the exact pesticides





being used, but said that many different compounds were in use and that their usage tends to vary from one area to the next.

Some people who contract dengue have relatively mild symptoms and are thought to

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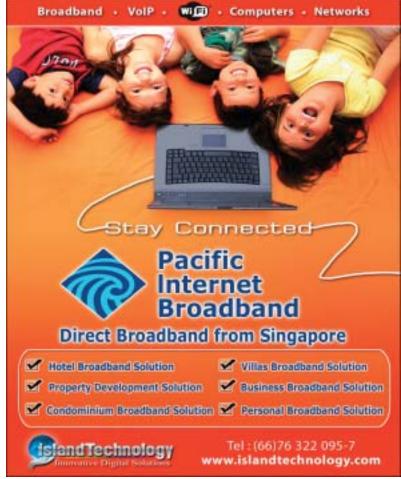
have come down with a common cold. Such misdiagnosis helps spread the disease, as those who are carrying the virus can spread it to others if they are bitten by a mosquito that then goes on to feed on another human, she said.

Patong

Misdiagnosis can also result in death when a patient forgoes treatment and suddenly takes a turn for the worse, developing "dengue shock syndrome", she added.

Historically, the highest number of cases seeking treatment in Phuket tends to be during the onset of the monsoon season, especially the month of June, she said. (See Chart 1.) However, Aedes aegypti is a remarkably versatile mosquito that can be found year-round in Phuket thanks to its ability to breed even in very small amounts of water – such as dishes underlying potted plants – even through periods of dryness.

"This mosquito originally lived in tree-holes or rock pools in Africa that dried out regularly so it evolved to survive periodic dryness," entomologist Henry Hagedorn of the University of Arizona was quoted as saying



Dengue cases on the rise



The Aedes aegypti mosquito feeds in the daytime and can spread yellow fever, chikungunya and a number of other diseases in addition to dengue. In Thai, it is known as yoong laay (striped mosquito).

while explaining how Aedes neighbors' homes as well. Quite aegypti could survive and spread dengue in the desert city of Tuscon, Arizona.

Despite Aedes aegypti's remarkable abilities, the Gazette's source at the PPHO said the best way to keep a family safe from the mosquito is to empty all water containers in and around the home every seven days, as this is about the length of time it takes a newly-hatched larva to reach adulthood.

"It's very easy to do. Don't wait for us to come and spray," she said.

Water containers that need to be kept filled, such as those used for bathing or flushing traditional-style toilets, should also be kept covered when not in use, she added.

People who come down with possible symptoms of dengue, especially flu-like symptoms combined with muscle pain, should see a doctor immediately and refrain from using aspirin or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). These drugs can aggravate the bleeding tendency associated with dengue, she said.

As soon as the PPHO receives a report about a case of dengue infection, it takes down the patient's address and sends out a team to spray the area for mosquitoes, she said.

'We use a smoke spray inside and around the house to kill all the adult mosquitoes, then come back a week later and repeat the procedure," she said.

"We are supposed to apply the smoke everywhere within a 100-meter radius of the home, which in many cases means spraying inside the patient's often, however, neighbors refuse to give us permission," she said.

To help recognize the difference between dengue and a common cold, she said to look for tell-tale symptoms including high fever, headache, pain in muscles and bones, and bright red petechia – a small spot on the body caused by broken capillary blood vessels. Such symptoms all appear within two to seven days of infection, she said.

The dengue threat lessens considerably when monsoon conditions begin to abate, so I hope we can get through the next few months without another dengue death," she said.

PPHO Chief Dr Wanchai Sattayawutthipon told the Gazette that the rise in the number of cases this year was not unique to Phuket, but part of a nation-

"The situation now is dangerous, much more severe than last year. I would advise anyone who comes down with what they think is a common cold to see a doctor if the symptoms do not clear up after two days of rest and medication," he said.

Vachira Phuket Hospital Director Dr Jessada Chungpaibulpatana told the Gazette that of the 460 cases treated there so far this year, all were classified into three groups. Most were dengue hemorrhagic fever (344 cases), followed by common dengue fever (109 cases) and dengue shock syndrome (7 cases).

"This number of cases more than doubles that during the same period last year. By gender, the cases are evenly distributed among males and females. About half of the total fall into the 10- to 24-year age bracket," said Dr Jessada.

The figures show a relative increase in the number of cases involving adolescents compared to those in babies and young children, traditionally the age groups at highest risk, he added.

As there is no anti-viral remedy for dengue, patients need to

drink a lot of water to prevent dehydration. They should also be kept behind closed doors to prevent further spread, he said.

In some recent cases, patients have presented themselves without the classic dengue symptoms but instead with bleeding of the gums or abnormally high menstrual flow.

As did the PPHO officer, Dr Jessada also stressed that aspirin and NSAIDs should not be used to treat people suspected of having the virus.

Fortunately, the number of cases seems to have reached a peak in Phuket so far this monsoon season, Dr Jessada said.

One long-time expat resident of Phuket who suffered from a bad bout of dengue hemorrhagic fever while living and teaching in Songkhla about 8 years ago described his experi-

"I was surprised at how quickly it came on. I had just returned from my day job feeling normal and was getting ready to teach some private students at home that night when I started to feel sick. Within about 30 minutes my condition went from normal to bad – very bad.

"Not long after dragging myself downstairs to tell my students I couldn't teach I just laid down, hoping to sleep. I felt so bad that I was really afraid that if I fell asleep I might not ever wake up. I remember staring over at the phone knowing I should call an ambulance, but I just couldn't face being admitted to a hospital at that point. So I said a little prayer and went to sleep.

"Fortunately I did wake up the next morning, but the misery continued. It took me almost a month to feel normal again. I really felt like I had been poisoned. All of my senses were somehow different. I heard a high-pitched echo in my head and I felt like I had strong electric currents discharging in my brain because the headaches were so severe nothing like a migraine or a sinus headache.

"After about a week I tried to smoke a cigarette and it tasted like soap. I have had a lot of painful experiences in life – pancreatitis, motorbike crashes, severe back pain – but there is nothing like dengue for a total package of misery. I'll never forget the experience and hope never to repeat it," he said.





Bounty of bras reveal sad tale

ROI-ET: Stories of men dying in phannoh, 43, lying face down strange circumstances while dressed in women's clothing are not so unusual. A few years ago the BBC reported that an up-andcoming UK Conservative Party Member of Parliament was found dead with "a black bin liner over his head and wearing stockings and suspenders".

Police in Roi-Et Town, however, were initially left a bit flummoxed by the discovery of the body of a man who had dressed himself up even more exotically than the MP. The deceased was found wearing a black miniskirt with no underwear and no fewer than 15 bras of various colors and patterns. To top it off, he had a black women's undershirt wrapped around his neck.

The find was reported to Pol Maj Sumet Laoyonkham, Investigating officer at Roi-Et Muang District Police Station. Arriving at the scene he found Jaran Khat-

wearing the selection of women's undergarments.

Maj Sumet reported that K. Jaran had some blood coming out of his mouth and nose, but there was nothing to indicate a struggle had taken place or that he had been assaulted. The likely cause of death was a heart attack, police concluded.

What at first appeared to be some kind of sexual misadventure was, however, revealed by K. Jaran's elder sister Sawaeng Khatphannoh, 45, to be an altogether sadder tale.

K. Jaran had once been married and worked in an optical shop in Bangkok, his sister said. After living together with his wife for a number of years, she left him for another man. K. Jaran tried to win his estranged wife back many times, but to no avail.

Eventually he decided to leave Bangkok and move back to his native Roi-Et, taking all the clothes he had bought his wife back with him as keepsakes, K. Sawaeng said.

Living with his sister, K. Jaran picked up occasional jobs laboring. Every month he returned to Bangkok to see his wife, but she never returned to Roi-Et with him, K. Sawaeng said.

To relieve the anguish this caused him, K. Jaran began drinking three or four cups a day of coffee laced with painkillers, she added.

On the day of his death, K. Jaran must have missed his wife particularly intensely and thus decided to put on all her clothes so that he could feel close to her, K. Sawaeng speculated.

After doing so he must have drunk too much pain-killing coffee, which caused him to suffer a heart attack and die, she added.

Source: Kom Chad Luek



s part of the Development of Environment and Energy Foundation's Big Clean Up Day on August 15, municipalities, schools and private businesses around



the island rallied to clean up Phuket. The Gazette caught up with the action at Laguna Phuket (top picture), where Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima (center, in yellow shirt) and Monthip Srirattana Tabuganon (in black suit jacket), Deputy Director-General of the Development of Quality Environment Department, got the cleanup underway.

Taking part were officers from the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor); the Thepkrasattri, Cherng Talay, Wichit, Srisoonthorn and Kamala Tambon Administration Organizations (OrBorTor).

Staffers working for resorts at Laguna Phuket lent a hand, including those working at Dusit Laguna Resort (2nd picture).

Students from schools around the island also chipped in, with Baan Kamala School students cleaning along main roads in Kamala (3rd picture).

Congratulations and well done to everyone who took part in cleaning up our island. Next week, Trashing Phuket will return to its regular format with yet another pile for the good people of Phuket to pick up.

Wai the need for violence?

PHITSANULOK: Religious institutions are intended to be places of peace and goodwill, but a temple in Phitsanulok recently proved to be anything but when a monk who thought a nun had disrespected him responded by beating her.

At 9 am August 21, Maechi Phronchon Chomphukpan, 53, a nun at Wat Ban Khek in Nakhon Thai District, walked into the local district police station with her face swollen and covered in bruises. There she recounted to Duty Officer Lt Thanaphon Mekbut a bizarre story of intra-wat aggression.

Maechi Phronchon, who had lived at the temple for decades, said that the previous afternoon she had been walking to the bathroom behind the temple when she passed by a resident monk, identified only as "Phra Nom", who was sleeping in a hammock. Suddenly the cleric shouted at her, demanding to know why she had not graced him with a wai.

"Nuns have to *wai* monks whenever they pass them," he exclaimed allegedly in a drunken manner.

Maechi Phronchon apologized, saying that she had not noticed him. This was not good enough for Phra Nom, however. He launched into a tirade of insults so severe that Maechi Phronchon could only stand cowed, she said.

After his insults had run dry, Phra Nom de-

manded that Maechi Phronchon go and fetch her bankbook so he could "check that she had not been embezzling temple funds". Maechi Phronchon refused on the grounds that Phra Nom was just a rank-and-file monk, with no authority to inspect her financial records.

This only to enraged Phra Nom further. Jumping down out of his hammock, he slapped and punched her until she fell down, she told police. He then sat on Maechi Phronchon's neck and banged her head against the ground and wall until her face was bruised and bloodied.

Eventually Phra Nom ceased his assault and left. Maechi Phronchon called a relative, who took her to Somdej Phrayupharach Nakhon Thai Hospital for treatment.

Lt Thanaphon sent officers to Wat Ban Khek to track down the hot-tempered holy man, though Phra Nom was nowhere to be found. His cell was locked and he had told other monks that he had gone to visit relatives in town.

Police issued a summons for him to hear the charges against him. If he fails to turn up, they would request an arrest warrant from the court police said. No explanation was offered for his violent outburst. Source: Kom Chad Luek



fter a seven-year run that hit fever pitch earlier this year, demand for highly-touted Jatukham Ramathep amulets is expected to taper off next year with sales dropping to about 10 billion baht – a quarter of what has been quoted for 2007.

According to Kasikorn Bank Research Center, in 2000 the combined market value of the amulets was around 5 billion baht.

The market doubled every two to three years, rising to an estimated 10 billion baht in 2003 and 20 billion baht in 2005.

Anticipated total sales figures for 2007 could reach 40 billion baht, although the bubble burst in recent months with the amulets now available online for as little as five baht each.

The reversal of fortune has been attributed to overheated demand forcing up prices, frenzied speculation for quick profits and a subsequent boom in mass production that led to oversupply and falling prices.

"The bubble has burst. Demand for amulets is returning to normal, with only those who really have faith wanting them," said researcher Phaka-on Thipayadecha.

The charms were created at Nakhon Si Thammarat's Wat Phramahathat to pay respect to a local guardian god and former ruler of the Srivichai kingdom. Jatukam Ramathep was the name of one of its kings.

Former police officer Phantharak Ratchadej created the first amulet.

They started to gain in popularity after tales of miracles spread by word of mouth and Buddhist-amulet magazines.

Public image limited. Thais still have a negative perception of police, according to the results of a poll by Assumption University's Abac Poll Research Center that received responses from 8,613 members of the public and police nationwide from January to July.

Poll Director Noppadol Kannikar said most citizens (87%) thought police were under the influence of powerful politicians, while 77% said they discriminated while providing service to the public. Some 72% thought police extorted money and took bribes, while 67.5% said they thought police made payoffs to buy desirable transfers and positions.

Aspects that the surveyed police officers wanted to be reformed included a payment hike for low-ranking officers (96%), adjustment of police investigators' salaries to be the equivalent of public prosecutor pay (82%) and internal adjustments to accommodate current missions such as transnational crimes (80%).

Royal approval. HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej has endorsed the new Constitution, which was due to take effect on August 24, National Legislative Speaker Meechai Ruchuphan said.

His Majesty has signed a royal command endorsing the new Constitution, which was to be published in the *Royal Ga*-

Jatukham amulets losing their charm



REAP WHAT YOU SOW: Children from Anubal Sinserng School in Chiang Mai sow rice in a demonstration paddy field as part of the school's annual extra-curriculum activity held from August to December to enable kids to appreciate the work that farmers do.

zette before taking effect on August 24, K. Meechai said.

Plastic scam. Malaysian Maria Carton was arrested on board a Butterworth-Bangkok train late on August 22 after police found 108 fake credit cards on her.

Acting on tip-off, railway police and Haad Yai tourist police searched the train at midnight.

Carton, 29, was taken off the train at Haad Yai Railway Station, where police found 108 fake credit cards in her bag. The cards were imitations of cards issued by KasikornBank and several other banks.

Carton said she was hired for 5,000 baht to deliver the cards to a Thai customer in Bangkok.

Dumb domestic. A Lao house-maid was arrested for stealing valuables worth 307,000 baht from the home of Bank of Thailand Governor Dr Tarisa Watanagase in Bangkok's Bang Na district on August 25.



Responding to a report of a break-in at the home on Sukhumvit Soi 107, police were informed by housemaid Dedsuda Wangkachat, 27, that a thief had broken into the house while she was in the bathroom and stolen valuables worth 307,000 baht.

Finding no trace of forced entry, police searched her room and work areas and found the valuables in a clothes basket.

Although Dr Tarisa forgave the maid and said she did not want to file a compliant with the police, police said they were obliged to press charges because this was a criminal case.

Dedsuda was later found to be a Laotian carrying a false Thai identity card and was charged with forgery and illegal entry.



efits of nuclear power.

"What it is doing cannot

"What it is doing cannot even be called public relations. It is persuasion; it wants the public to believe only what it says," she said.

(OAP) is publicizing only the ben-

Nuclear energy is a controversial global issue and the public requires full disclosure of facts, she added.

Before there is a public debate on introducing nuclear power in Thailand people must be informed of the risks, but the military-backed government seems determined to press on with plans for nuclear energy, she added.

Tutor travails. Of the 14,189 teachers in 30 tourism-oriented provinces who took a standardized test to assess their Englishlanguage ability, about 75% scored less than 41 marks out of a possible 100, according to an Office of Basic Education Commission (OBEC) report.

Only about 10% managed to score between 60 and 100 marks, while just over 15% scored between 42 and 60 marks. The lowest score was 2.

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



Tell it to Homer. The govern-

ment's publicity campaign for

nuclear energy has been con-

demned by an academic, who

says it is hiding the facts from the

Chulalongkorn University's mass

communications department, said

the Office of Atoms for Peace

Ubonrat Siriyuwasak, from

ost people are content with just seeing the world and a few are intent on changing it. There are some who do

Koh Samui was an unexpected stop on adventurer Mick O'Shea's wild itinerary. The Australian-born explorer, author, filmmaker and environmentalist and his Thai wife, K. Yuta, decided to make Samui their home and pursue their plans of developing a "green" housing development, said to be the first of its kind on Samui.

Mick is no stranger to Southeast Asia. He has owns an adventure travel company that leads environmentally sound expeditions to regions of Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Tibet and Indonesia. The company is focused on delivering excitement and fun while preserving the region's precious natural beauty and cultural integrity.

During his eight years in this part of the world, Mick has explored at least 15 rivers that were believed to be previously un-navigated.

Listed among his accomplishments is an epic kayaking journey. He navigated the mighty Mekong River, from its source in the Tibetan mountains to its mouth at the South China Sea. This expedition generated intense global interest among the adventure community as it was the first time anyone had attempted - and accomplished – the feat.

The Mekong descent was an ambitious and dangerous mission that lasted 145 days, all the more remarkable because he was alone for nearly all of the jour-

During the course of the trip, not only did Mick satisfy his need for exploration, but also shot an award-winning documentary. The film highlighted the river system's incredible natural beauty and cultural richness while shedding light upon its fragile future.

Putting the paddles down,

Adventurer floats Samui eco-friendly development



he went on to write his first book, In the Naga's Wake, which further documents his adventure and discusses in depth the regions immediate environmental plight.

After the book was published Mick embarked on a book launch and film festival tour. The film, titled Exploring the Mother of Waters, won awards such as Best Film on River environment and conservation at the Telluride Mountain Film Festival in the US and runner-up for the People's Choice Awards at the Banff International Film Festival, Canada.

Mick has since founded the Mekong First Descent Foundation as a platform to raise money and awareness for the environmental causes championed in both film and book. The foundation places a high priority on addressing the environmental and social impact of the Chinese-built mega-dams, which Mick documents as causing insurmountable harm to the Mekong system and its river-dependent people.

Mick and K. Yuta met in Vientiane, where K. Yuta was managing a large hotel in the city. After Mick had been living in the Laotian capital for six years, the two decided to head for the beach and ended up on Koh Samui.

They noticed the abundance of housing developments being built on Samui and became concerned with how the rapid development was impacting the island's delicate eco-system and natural surroundings. Consequently, the couple have set in motion plans to build environmentally-friendly houses.

The project gives consumers in the holiday home market the option of investing in a property that has been built with the environment in mind – something residents can feel good about while enjoying their new home.

Called Villa Cascade, the project will have 10 villas located in the hills in the northwest corner of the island.

The homes will have lead-

ing sustainable energy products, including water self sufficiency from natural sources, intelligent

home communications technology, solar-powered pumps that reduce the workload of air conditioners by circulating cool water created by the projects 13-meter cascading waterfall and a long list of passive energy conservation measures integrated into the villa design and layout.

Through this approach, Mick hopes he will inspire more forward-thinking in Koh Samui's development industry,

which has been criticized for leaving a trail of environmental ruin in its wake.

Taxi driver arrested. The taxi driver on the run for reportedly attacking four tourists with a knife last month has been arrested in Nakhon Si Thammarat

Fax: 076 346 150

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province, where he had gone into hiding.

His next challenge is to

Australian Mick O'Shea takes

on dangerous white water in

Laos (Photo: Hutch Brown).

Samui.

FROM THE

By Max Rogers

build an eco-friendly resort on

Following his arrest, police

charged Korsak Jantharasena, from Trang province, 32, with assault, deliberately committing a crime and using a deadly weapon in a public place.

Korsak was reported to have attacked his passengers after they refused to pay him a 300-baht fare. Two foreigners passing the scene stopped to assist the holidaymakers. The driver then allegedly pulled out a knife and slashed at the four foreigners, who were

treated for a total of 50 lacerations.

The case has sparked a number of other accusations from passengers against taxi drivers which were previously unreported. Several other incidents in which foreigners have been assaulted are now being investi-

The cases further damage the island's poor transport reputation.

Constitutionally okay. Results in the referendum on the draft constitution indicate that the majority of voters on the island approve the new charter.

The poll revealed that 90.6% of voters are in favor of the new charter while only 8.18% rejected it.

There were 240 votes on the day that were deemed invalid.

There were 35,947 people eligible to vote. It's believed that 19,692 voters (54%) actually attended the polls on Samui.





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Translations

Police order end to blood feud

rime Suppression Bureau (CSB) police called a meeting with the leaders of two well-known clans in Surat Thani's Chaiya District on August 22 to try and bring an end to a bloody feud that has reportedly claimed six lives.

Col Phonsak Surasit, Superintendent of CSB Region 5, said that police were called in by members of the Sawetsin family. They were asked to try to bring an end to a cycle of violence that in the past 18 months has seen the deaths of several members of rival families the Sawetsin and the Yang-on.

From 6 am to 10 am August 22, more than 100 CSB officers under Col Phonsak's command, together with local police, searched seven houses in the district. They uncovered a small arsenal of guns, most registered to Tambon Takrop kamnan (tambon chief) Somphong Yang-on, 58.

The weapons were sent for forensic testing to see if they had been used in any crimes, Col Phonsak said.

Following the search, Col Phonsak called a meeting of the leaders of the two families – Surat Sawetsin and Somphong – to discuss their differences and prevent more revenge killings.

"Neither side is happy; both are on edge all the time. Somphong, who is a local politician, doesn't dare leave his constituency while Surat has to be protected by friends in the security forces. They are both as nervous as each other," Col Phonsak said.

"After the discussions, both men agreed to try and stop the killings, but I'm not sure whether they will hold to their promises or not,"he added.

The intervention of the CSB will not affect the investigations currently being conducted by Chaiya District Police into the series of killings, Col Phonsak added.

The origin of the feud reportedly lies in a dispute over use of public land at Chaiya Beach, which has a high potential for tourism development.

The first death allegedly connected to the dispute came in mid-2004, when Suwat Sawetsin, Surat's elder brother and Chief of Tambon Takrop Village 3, was shot dead.

This was followed by the killing of another of Surat's elder brothers, Sutham Sawetsin, who was gunned down in mid-2005.

In early 2006, Suphachok Yang-on was elected President of Takrop Tambon Administration Organization, defeating a member of the Sawetsin clan. In August of that year, Suphachok was shot dead while drinking in a karaoke bar with a local official who survived the attack.

In November 2006, an attempt was made on the life of Surat as he was driving his BMW. The bullets missed their target and killed Surat's wife Ratthana, who



The first day to submit applications for positions as teachers and teaching assistants in Narathiwat saw large numbers coming to apply, including many from other provinces – despite the fact that teachers have been specifically targeted by insurgents in the region.

was sitting in the passenger seat.

The next killing came in March of this year, when Kowit Yang-on died in a hail of automatic rifle fire while driving his pickup truck back from Somphong's house. After the attack, police collected 78 spent cartridges from an M-16 assault rifle they believe belongs to a military serviceman.

The latest case was that of Koson Reuangduk, a relative of the Yang-on's who was shot dead June 15 this year.

Club owner busted. Following an eight-year police investigation, the owner of two popular night-spots in Satun was arrested for dealing *ya bah* (methamphetamine).

At 11 am August 24, Pol Maj Gen Weerayut Sithimalik, Deputy Commissioner of Police Region 9, led a team of officers from Satun Muang District Police and Narcotics Suppression Bureau Region 3 in a surprise search of the Satun Town home of Samnao Charoensuk, 57, the owner of Hollywood Pub and Janthara Café.

In the house police found 2,959 *ya bah* pills and 167 grams of methamphetamine powder. Samnao was immediately placed under arrest.

ASK KHUN WANIDA! MOMMA DUCK

Problems with an extra-marital affair? Questions about Thai culture? Having communications problems? Need somebody to Love?

Read her advice in the Phuket Gazette



Fax 076-213971 or email momma@phuketgazette.net Police seized assets worth approximately 50 million baht belonging to Samnao including five houses, two 10-wheeled trucks and a large amount of cash.

Two of Samnao's associates – Pradit Monpak, 57, and Santi Langkorror, 70 – were also arrested in the raid.

Tough break. A thief got more than he bargained for when he snatched a gold necklace from a 55-year-old woman on August 21.

Channarong Cherdchim, 22, was hit twice by motorcycles and arrested after suffering two broken legs while fleeing.

"It was he who cut in front of my motorcycle, causing me to fall and then snatching the gold necklace from around my neck," Payap Sawekprom said when identifying Channarong.

The young thief quickly sped off, but K. Payap got up and went after him, she told police.

The first collision came after K. Payap decided to ride her motorcycle into his following a chase.

"I banged my motorcycle into his to stop him from escaping," she added.

Channarong managed to get up although he appeared to have hurt his leg, she said. "I shouted for help and another man came to my aid," said K. Payap.

Supap Injan, a 37-year-old civil defense volunteer, rode his motorcycle into Channarong to cut off his escape.

"With that both his legs were injured and other people restrained him so he would be arrested," K. Payap said.

Pol Sub-Lt Ekawit Kerdsiri of Nakhon Sri Thammarat Muang District Police said that Channarong confessed to his misdeeds.

Sub-Lt Ekawit questioned Channarong, K. Payap and K. Supap at a local hospital where all were treated for injuries suffered in the incident.

Courting complaint. In a dispute over the "Ruay Lon Fa" series of Jatukham Ramathep amulets, Nakhon Sri Thammarat residents on August 21 filed a lawsuit against a tambon chief, a

court official, a military officer, an attorney, a bank clerk and a state official.

Nakhon Sri Thammaratbased lawyer Wisanu Saowapa and 15 other residents sued Yongyos Kaewkhiew, Chief of Tambon Khao Phrabath in Chian Yai district, and five other people for fraud.

The five were Ratchaburi Provincial Court official Arun Khaosaeng, Lt Gen Chatri Thatti from the Defense Finance Department, public prosecutor Wichet Musikrangsi from the Attorney-General Office's special case division, Krung Thai Bank clerk Surat Srimai and Nakhon Sri Thammarat Educational Area 1 official Nipa Thongnok.

The six are accused of providing false advertising and using the provincial court's office to make reservations for the amulets in February, leading the public to believe the court had made the amulets.

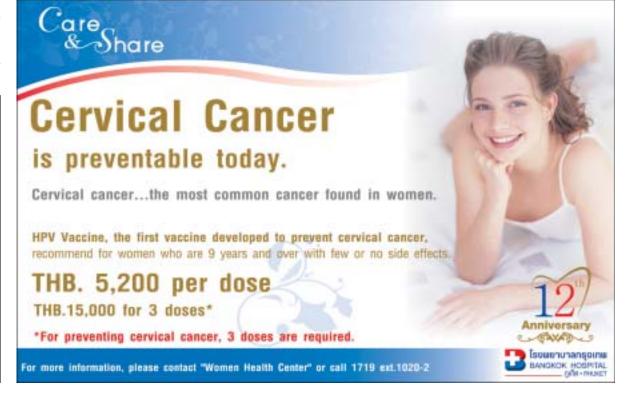
In addition to producing leaflets with different information regarding patterns, the number of amulets produced and the price, the group was accused of promising the public it would produce the amulets exactly as advertised.

When the actual amulets arrived they were found to be quite different than advertised, so the plaintiffs filed a compliant with Nakhon Si Thammarat Muang District Police Station.

K. Yongyos promised to refund the locals on June 30. However, no refund was paid on the day or the rescheduled date of July 16. Failure to repay left the dissatisfied with no recourse but to file the lawsuit, they claimed.

K. Yongyos declined to comment on the case, saying he would let justice run its course and that he did not want the case to result in conflict in the province.

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



ALL ABOARD! The L-

Mobile library, housed in a converted bus, has

been making its way round Phuket, stopping

take part in one of the many activities on offer.

BELOW: Budding cyber

computers that are also

students use laptop

available on the bus.

off at schools to give

children a chance to

On the road to literacy

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

hildren in Phuket who are reluctant to read now have one big reason to pick up a book – the L-Mobile library.

A collaboration between Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor), the Thai Library Association and Phuket Rajabhat University, the mobile library contains more than 3,000 titles in a converted coach that was officially unveiled at Saphan Hin July 13.

Decorated on the outside with pictures of books and cartoon characters, the mobile library's 6.2-million-baht budget from the OrBorJor paid for books, magazines, five laptops, newspapers and furniture.

Inside the bus is a counter where librarians can give information to children, a computer zone where youngsters can log on to educational programs and the Internet, and a number of reading areas.

Phuket OrBorJor President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr told reporters at the launch that she expects L-Mobile to attract about 200 visitors each service day; the library will travel to different areas on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm while school is in session.

After the launch last month, the L-Mobile library began making its way around to Phuket schools.

Chareon Prommin, one of the L-Mobile librarians, told the Gazette during a visit to Ban Prujumpa School August 1 that the project, an extension of Phuket's E-libraries, can service children out of town who don't normally have access to a library.

Udarat Chaikul, 11, of Ban

Prujumpa School, said, "I've been so excited today. I went to the library with my friends and played learning games, danced and sang songs. Then I did some drawing and coloring.

"I hope the library can come again because it is different from the school library we have here: the mobile library is air conditioned, has computers and lots of activities. It is much more fun."

Apisit Sittisak, 12, of the same school, was equally pleased with the library, saying, "Today I played on the computer, I had time to read a book and played chess with my friends. I'd like the library to visit us at least twice a month because I want to read the books and play the games."

"Librarians get the children to take part in many activities, such as playing games, drawing and coloring. We try to visit each school that wants its students to experience the L-Mobile library," said K. Charoen.

"When we came to Ban Prujumpa School, there were 210 children who wanted to see the library. We had to divide them into groups of 20 and give each group 10 minutes on the library. After that, everyone took part in activities outside with the librarians," he added.

"There are four librarians.

We have to prepare the equipment and activities, and arrange the books before for we go out every morning."

"This is a new concept for Phuket that will, little by little, get children closer to books. Since the launch, we have visited eight schools and are hoping to visit more schools outside of the main city where children don't have the opportunity to take part in as many activities as inner-city students do," said K. Charoen.

"The feedback has been great so far, with many parents and children asking us to stay at their schools even after the children were supposed to have gone home. Some of the schools have asked us to go back again," he added.

The L-Mobile database is connected to Phuket's four E-libraries – Muang District E-Library, Thalang E-Library, Kathu E-Library and E-Library at the Australia-Phuket Community

Center. Books borrowed from L-Mobile can be dropped off either at one of the E-libraries or back at the bus when it returns to the

The library does not yet have a set schedule of where the bus will travel.

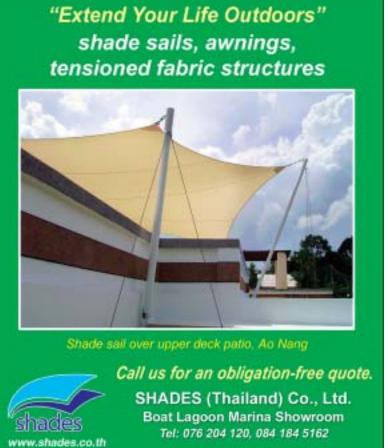
Students can look at the books and use the Internet free of charge when the bus visits

To check out books they must become members of the Elibrary system.

Membership is 200 baht a year for children, 500 baht a year for adults, or 1,500 baht for permanent membership for both adults and children.

The mobile library also holds many titles that would appeal to older readers as well.

For more information about L-Mobile or the forthcoming schedule please call the Phuket OrBorJor at 076-217087.





Looking for a little wordplay? Try our new BIG Crossword on page 23.

September 1 - 7, 2007 PHUKET GAZETTE 11



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12 PHUKET GAZETTE



Supersports The Biggest Sporting Goods Store In Phuket with 5 Branches @ Robinson Phuket, Ocean Plazza Bangla, Phuket Step Building, Central Festival Phuket and OUR NEWEST BRANCH JUNGCEYLON PATONG PHUKET.

ot only is the Burasari Udomkunnatum and her team recently opened the only Floyd's restaurant in the world with "Floyd's" over the door – it's also on the plates and the aprons for good measure.

Keith Floyd is a living culinary legend. Author of over 27 cookery books and veteran of 20television series, he's the doyen of celebrity chefs. Although he has had restaurants in France, Spain and Britain over the years, Phuket is now the home of his sole outlet.

Floyd has gathered a talented kitchen brigade under the leadership of Executive Chef Danny Ryan – formerly with Jean-Christophe Novelli in London, who in turn had previously worked for Keith Floyd - and a very competent and enthusiastic young team of service staff.

The restaurant is accessed from the street via Burasari's restaurant courtyard. Plants, trees and swinging love seats line one side of the path and the picturesque bar with its stained-glass lamps gives reason to pause on the other.

Floyd's open-air show kitchen, from where all but the desserts and Thai cuisine is produced, and into the low-ceilinged restaurant painted in relaxing shades of cream with pale French ceramic tiles on the floor. White table linens and dark wood chairs with plush red cushions intentionally add to the feeling of being in a Provencal auberge.

Mr Floyd has made several trips to Phuket to put together his restaurant. Due to his pleasing eccentricities, gregarious behavior and unabashed love of a

tipple, a plethora of anecdotes about him is readily avail-

My favorite is from Floyd's own wait staff who wear vivid red braces, or "suspenders" as they are called in the US, as a part of their uniform. The braces must be hanging "down" off the shoulders during restaurantpreparation time and "up" as soon as service starts. Any variation is not

be tolerated by Mr Floyd.

We started the Floyd's experience in the bar, in the charming and loquacious company of Burasari Resident Manager Conor O'Leary. Another convert to the culinary religion of Floyd, Conor guided us ably through the menu over a glass of wine.

On the

Alistair Why

Floyd's

Despite Keith Floyd's love of propagating the fun in eating out, this is serious fine dining. The portions are gargantuan and need a concentration of mind and gasoxygen starvation. Conor says

Not only is the Burasari Resort a great place to stay, it is fast becoming one of the trendiest spots in Phuket to dine out. Managing director Lily Udomkunnatum and her team Lidomkunnatum and her team



that fans of Floyd's cooking fly in from Singapore just for dinner.

The wine list is a genuine pleasure; well-balanced and exceptional value for the money

given the high standard of the surroundings. We chose a Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon, Carmenere Mapu Red, from Baron Philippe Rothschild; a snip at 1,100 baht.

Tipped off by Conor, we started with Poached Eggs Burgundy Style. The eggs are freerange, in a rich red lardons (pieces of bacon taken from

the rendered back fat of a pig) and croutons. Probably a cardiologist would have suggested a cholesterol check in advance of eating but it was absolutely deli-

Danny's Phuket Lobster and Fish Soup was the other starter and truly magnificent. I don't know of anywhere else that uses fresh Phuket lobster in their fish soup and the top quality of the ingredients was obvious from the first mouthful.

After a brief rest, it was on tric juices to get through without to the main course. The Fresh Phuket Lobster Thermidor uses

the whole lobster (actually the Phuket lobster was clawless and thus a crayfish) and the succulent meat is returned to the two half shells for serving. The dish is said to have been named by Napoleon after the month in which he first tasted it. Thermidor was the 11th month of the Republican calendar, used briefly after the French Revolution. Cooked to perfection, this dish earns its little red wine glass of recommendation on the menu. Tournedos Rossini is a classical meat dish, named after the great classical gourmet composer and Gioacchino Rossini. A tender fillet of beef in Madeira sauce is placed on a large crouton and topped with foie gras. A cornucopia of intense flavors and the wine sauce with beef just melted in the mouth. The accompanying fresh seasonal vegetables were cooked al just the way I like them.

> There is also a good selection of Thai dishes on the menu, Keith Floyd style of course, under the "Floyd's Bow Tie" section. Conor had the kindness to allow us to taste his Floyd's Red Duck Curry. Whilst spiced down for Western tastes, it was full of flavor and served with a pineapple and cucumber chutney to freshen the palette.

> The puddings apparently have such a reputation that inhouse guests of the hotel have been known to order just dessert from room service – not difficult

to imagine that enhancing a romantic weekend. The Chocolate, Prune and Armagnac Mousse would complement silk sheets and champagne in any suite.

Keith Floyd is much beloved amongst the kitchen staff for welcoming their recipes. The Coconut Pie is one such delight; chunks of fresh coconut reminding us of balmy evenings, swaying palms and our tropical-island environment.

Great food and wine at value-for-money prices in a restaurant with a splendid ambiance and a unique name over the door. No wonder Conor gently warns "You'll no doubt be in need of a reservation for your next visit."

Floyd's Brasserie at Burasari Resort, Soi Ruamjai, Patong. Tel: 076-370000. Average cost for two people, excluding wine, is 2,600 baht. Open daily 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm, Sunday brunch from midday to 4 pm. Reservations are recommended.

Email your restaurant recommendations, suggestions and comments to Alistair Why at alistairwhy@gmail.com

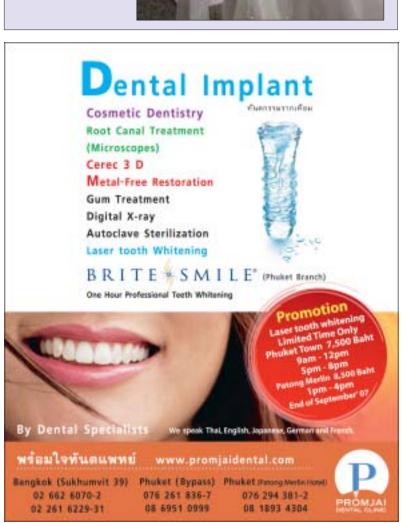


Recent weddings in Phuket



Chalitha Srifa and Phusit Phasee were married at the Phuket Ballroom of the **Royal Phuket** City Hotel on August 19.

Thalisa Petchmuk and Thanatharn Lakkhana were married at the **Phuket Ballroom** of the Royal **Phuket City Hotel** on August 17.



Happily Ever After Path to glory passes

Stephen Fein: You don't meet too many boxers that have brothers who are jockeys.

Michael Katsidis: Well, they are the same sort of sport, actually. They are both weight games. We both have to lose weight while maintaining strength. That's one of the hardest parts, both physically and mentally.

You have to be as big and fast and strong as you can for your weight division. That takes a lot of willpower. My brother has to lose three kilograms of fluid a week, then get on a big beast and race around a race track.

So it's the same sort of game, really. We are lucky that we are both gifted in that depart-

SF: Did you guys grow up with horses?

MK: No, we didn't. And I wasn't pushed into boxing either. I think boxing chose me. He had the opportunity to get on a horse one day when he was about 12 and he was just very good at it.

And ever since I was 11, I started taking myself down to the PCYC [Police Citizen Youth Club] because I wanted to. It was a gift that I found came naturally and I took advantage of it.

SF: When you started did you ever think you would get to this

MK: I am a person with a very strong will, and I set out to be where I am today at seven years of age. It is something I have always wanted to do because I believe in myself. If I can get up and win a world title and change my life, then I believe others can see that and change their lives

SF: Do you drink or do anything like that?

MK: As a fighter, I think it is very important to live and breathe fighting. Drinking does not take place in preparation for a fight. My health is something I pride myself in.

SF: Is your trainer Brendon Smith going to be here?

MK: Whenever my preparation begins my trainer is always with me. We have a very strong relationship. Our 15-year association has contributed very much to my success.

SF: You're the interim champ and he's the champ, right?

MK: [Juan Diaz] is the unified champion of the world. As champion for now, I must honor my commitment and fight my mandatory bout which is against Juan Diaz. My next fight must be against Juan Diaz.

SF: Why are you the interim

BO Interim Lightweight Champ Michael Katsidis is in Phuket for four weeks of training along with his older brother Stathi, 28, one of Australia's top jockeys.

September 1 - 7, 2007

Gazette News Editor and boxing enthusiast Stephen Fein recently caught up with him for a chat at the VIP Asia club on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd in Patong.

The introduction was made by VIP Asia General Manager John Bright, who knows the brothers from their mutual hometown of Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia.



In a definite boost to Phuket's growing reputation as a destination for fighters in training, Michael is probably the first world boxing champ to choose Patong as a place to train.

Here Michael poses with friend and fellow Toowoomban John Bright at the VIP Asia club in Patong, along with staff.

champ? I know the rules of boxing are pretty arcane but I always thought interim champs were for when the champ can't or doesn't want to defend the title.

MK: I became the interim champion when former world champion Acelino Freitas retired.

It is true an interim title is then put in place under conditions where the champion is forced into a position where he cannot commit to his mandatory defense.

In this instance, Juan Diaz has since beaten Freites, having come out of retirement, leaving me as interim.

Now, myself and Juan Diaz must fight as he is due to defend his titles.

At the end of the day the A, B and C's of boxing are irrelevant. I believe sooner rather then later the true champion will be proven regardless.

SF: So if Diaz has a mandatory title defense against you, when is the deadline for that?

MK: At this stage, all I can tell you is that we are negotiating to fight Juan Diaz – unless he relinquishes his title due to unification commitments.

SF: Do you have any interests in doing Muay Thai?

MK: No, not at this point. For me doing two things at once is like doing nothing at all. I want to stick to what I am doing now until I accomplish my goal.

SF: In your last fight, your opponent (Czar Amonsot) suffered some brain damage and won't be able to fight anymore...

MK: He's just one tough guy. I knocked him down twice and he took a lot of punches that would have kept most people people

He was that fit and that hard and that conditioned that he got up again. When your body takes so many hard shots you have to lie down but his will pushed him

I give him credit for the heart he showed during that fight. He had done his country

He has since been offered a position working with the government in the Philippines for his efforts. A true warrior.

SF: Has his injury affected they way you approach a fight?

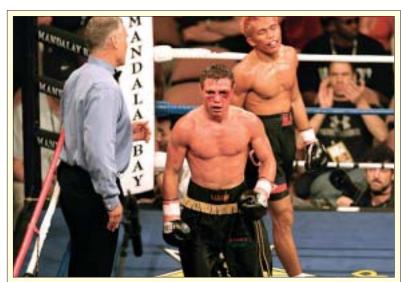
MK: When I fight, I fight. I cannot allow any distractions to interfere my with my mind. Amonsot would agree.

I am very happy he his alive and well. Our health is the most important thing we have.

SF: I know the Filipinos are crazy about boxing and they like you. There has been some talk about you fighting [WBC Superfeatherweight champ] Manny Pacquiao at some point.

MK: I recently captained the Philippines against Mexico in the

through Patong



Michael Katsidis (in black shorts) looks the worse for wear during his successful title defense against Filipino Czar Amonsot in Las Vegas on July 21, it was Amonsot who was forced into retirement after the fight with a brain hemorrhage.

MICHAEL KATSIDIS

Real name: Michael Katsidis Nickname: "The Great", "Rocky"

Wieght raing: Lightweight
Nationality: Australian
Birth date: August 15, 1980

Birth place: Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia

Stance: Right handed, orthodox

Club: Charlton Boxing Club, Toowoomba

Amateur Record: 75 wins from 81 fights Professional record: (23-0-0, 20 KOs)

World Cup at Sacramento, televised all over the world on HBO. This was a great honor.

As a result of my last fight with Czar Amonsot from the Philippines, I was their captain. It reminded them of where they come from and who they are.

All the Filipinos fought with heart that night. This created so much interest many are now interested in a fight between myself and Manny Pacquiao.

This would be a great fight, believe me.

SF: What is your impression of Phuket?

MK: I find the people are lovely and they have a great nature. I have fought a lot of Thais and I like the lifestyle and the way they train the fighters.

I've seen world champion Thai fighters eating rice off a plate on the floor. They are humble – something I have learned as a very important ingredient to being a fighter.

That is how a fighter should live, like they are going to war. Thailand has everything you need as fighter and more.

SF: Describe your training regimen.

MK: Every preparation is different, though in the past we have trained in many different ways to best suit the upcoming bout conditions

We've got a very 'old school' method of training. We follow the saying 'if something

isn't broken, don't fix it.' I've got a lot of techniques I use.

For power, I take a sledgehammer and bang it against a tractor tire.

I also push cars and wheelbarrows full of rocks for strengthening. Then I do technique work as well.

We are also open to learn things, too. I only spar as much as I have to with guys whose styles are suited to condition me for the guy I am fighting.

SF: Have you got any sparring partners lined up for your stay here in Phuket?

MK: At this stage, negotiation for my next fight is not final, so I do not know yet who will best be suited, though I believe Thailand will have a lot to offer for my preparation.

SF: In your training, is there anything specific that your are working on or trying to improve?

MK: As a fighter, I am always trying to improve. I will not ever underestimate anyone. Keeping consistency and balance is number one priority to me.

SF: For me, Patong wouldn't be the first choice if the focus were on keeping a balance or staying fit.

MK: Each has their own. Patong offers so much to a fighter. It has a very strong contingent of fighters making it easy to live and breathe fighting.



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This week



SCHOOL KHLOK: Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer Piya Bharatasilpin and representatives from Radi Medical Systems hand out scholarships worth 2,500 baht each to 78 students from Pa Khlok schools at the Pa Khlok Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) offices.



SOBERING START: Students from the Prince of Songkhla University Phuket campus launch their anti-alcohol campaign, discouraging people from drinking alcohol during Buddhist lent by handing out stickers and collecting donations for people affected by alcohol abuse.



NEW ARRIVAL: Pantuda "Koy" Jivavistnont, Deputy MD of All Seasons Naiharn Phuket Resort (2nd from left), gave birth to Porpiang "Paul" on August 16 at Bangkok Phuket Hospital. Offering congratulations are friends of the new mother, including Phuket Boat Lagoon Sales & Marketing Manager Sriya Yongsakul (in orange top).



INBRED BIRTHDAY: Gan Chii Mon (center), CEO of architectural and interior design company Inbred.dp, is joined by customers and friends at the company's fifth anniversary celebrations at the Pearl Beauty & Spa, Royal Phuket Marina, on August 17.



SOCCER STYLE: Marriott Phuket Beach Club Project Director Scott Ogg (left) presents a donation of 6,000 baht to Hongyogbumrung School Director Suriya Promdan after the first MVCI Friendly Football Tournament.



PANDAMONIUM: Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa General Manager John Kidd (next to the Panda) and Director of Operations Roger Branstma (right, in white shirt) cheer with kids at the Hilton Phuket Family Day 2007 to let children and spouses of employees have fun together and meet the hotel management team.



ubaru distributors Motor Image is set to launch the new 1.5-liter Impreza, an exciting addition to its line-up and one which the company expects to propel it into the mainstream market for family motor cars.

Prices have yet to be disclosed but the outgoing Impreza is around 1.4 million baht and the new version should be about the same.

Developed around the concept of new, more refined designs for comfort and performance, the third-generation Impreza offers safe handling and an excellent ride thanks to the Subaru Symmetrical AWD (All-Wheel Drive).

Mated to the unique, horizontally-opposed "boxer" engine, the Impreza has an active valve control system that hydraulically controls the timing of the intake valves, increasing combustion efficiency and improving low-end torque.

And thanks to low friction technologies, including lowering load in the valve springs, mirror surface machining and a molybdenum coating to the valve lifters, fuel economy and emissions reduction are greatly improved on the new Impreza.

Fuji Heavy Industries (FHI), the maker of Subaru vehicles, has a long history of technological innovation and its flat-four engines and symmetrical all-wheel drive

Impressive Impreza



With a sportier look and a slew of new features, the new Impreza is due for release in Thailand imminently.

manufacturers.

The new Impreza, FHI claims, achieves a reduction of an additional level of emissions than those set by Japan's regulators. Fuel economy has also been improved by as much as 20% better than the levels called for by Japan's 2010 standards.

Exterior styling of the new car is distinctive and certainly betare just two items that sets FHI ter balanced than the previous clumsy.

A flowing line from the tip of the bonnet through to the rear window, as well as the short rear overhang, highlight the agility of the new Impreza.

Sweeping strikes on the sides of the vehicle, along with gentle curves enhance its soft approach, while its sporting heritage is stressed by a standard roofmounted spoiler incorporating LED brake lights. A total of nine exterior colors are available.

Aluminumlook inserts in the center panels and door trim add a sporting feel and contribute a feeling of airiness to the interior.

The instrument cluster is now placed near the top of the dashboard for improved visibility and functionality, and incorporates a navigation screen and audio display.

A unique Subaru tradition

apart from more mainstream model, which tended to look is that when the ignition key is first switched on the needles of the three meters in the instrument panel swing up to their maximum positions before quickly falling back to their correct positions.

Urethane materials are introduced in the front seat cushions to better absorb vibrations, while the driver's seat incorporates newly-developed springs that support the driver's back and

hips to maintain a comfortable driving position.

The interior color is dark, almost black, reinforcing the Impreza's sporting image.

The automatic transmission on the new Subaru has been modified for faster, more accurate shifting, while fuel economy has been improved through reduced friction.

The sophisticated symmetrical AWD system incorporates an active torque split to improve driving feel and reduce torque steer in the front wheels.

An advanced ring-shaped reinforcement body structure brings high levels of safety to the new Impreza by creating a strong passenger cell and effectively absorbing impact energy in frontal, side or rear crashes.

The new vehicle also boasts low-impact features for pedestrians and other vehicles in colli-

All models are equipped with dual SRS airbags, while side and curtain airbags are optional. Furthermore, a collapsible safety pedal is fitted to reduce the risk of foot injuries in frontal impacts.

Motor Image's website (www.motorimage.net) currently lists only the outgoing Impreza, but it is only a matter of time before we see this new model.

It should sell well, of that there is little doubt.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigator.com



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Wine wonders overload senses

By Marque A. Rome

ome say sensory discrimination is linked to capacity for pleasure, or its opposite, which, as Immanuel Kant observed, involves sensation - but Kant obscures the obvious, as usual.

Superlative merit, then, is exhibited by objects engaging one's capacity for contemplation, perhaps causing hearts to race and eyes to widen.

Judged by such criteria, Fantinel's Verduzzo Borgo Tesis is certainly an eye-opener. The tangy dessert wine, imported by Phuket's Italasia, is special – not least because it causes no frowns in a land where wine prices are nothing to smile about.

Taste is subjective, or, as Kant observed, one man's canary wine may be another's Mad Dog 20/20. But experience shows that those susceptible to the decadent seductiveness of wines infused with the Noble Rot – of Chateau d'Yquem, for example – will find Verduzzo fascinating.

The experience alluded to

was brief – dinner at Starwood's Le Royal Phuket Meridien Yacht Club – but aesthetic. Alfredo Russo, proprietor of Michelin-Guide-restaurant, Dolce Stil Novo in Turin, supervised preparation of half a dozen dishes. Gourmands anted up 2,500 ++ baht for the experience of weltering in an evening of Piedmontese food and

superb Regatta restaurant, where service is... can I say "first boat"? Certainly; for it is every time. Guests schmoozed for half an hour, sipping ultra-dry Spumante made of Pinot Grigio and Chardonnay before the affable celebrity cook was formally introduced. He gave a brief speech and the gastronomes sat down.

First sample of his art was a shred of smoked salmon, served in a sealed glass – pop the top and discover why it has one: so the smoke cannot escape!

Russo's oeuvre is widely described in the gastronomic press as "playful". He agreed, saying, "My cuisine is marked by playfulness and surprise, [among]

the most distinctive aspects of the New Italian Style." Named The venue was Yacht Club's

"young restaurateur of the year" by Espresso Magazine in 2006, he has cooked for the International Olympics committee and the United Nations. His signature dish is beef liver with sour cherry

This was to be an evening of high-aesthetic purpose, with Piedmont's famous wines providing more serious accompaniment to the culinary high jinks.

Our star cook stayed an hour or so and then left, but Italasia's wines remained – worth noting, because Piedmont vintages include Italy's most sought after. Gaja Barbaresco typically sells at 7,000 baht bottle overseas and Thai taxes triple that. Ouch.

Italasia's Gian Carlo De Cesare, however, uncovers affordable yet characteristic wines from noteworthy appellations; as well as lesser-known bargains.

Mountainous Piedmont, in northwestern Italy, was once heart of the Kingdom of Savoy. Its denizens are unique. Of Frankish stock and free when Italy was otherwise still in thrall, Their wines differ, too.

Other Italians famously produced wine of no distinction save for funny containers (awkward chianti flasks gave the English word "fiasco") or ridiculous names (Est! Est! Est!). They trained vines into trellises or let them sprawl for ease of picking.

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The Piedmontese, meanwhile, cultivated their Nebbiolo grapes in the calcareous clays around Barolo, producing a wine still regarded by many as Italy's finest.

Barolo produced mostly sweet red wines until the 1850s, when vintners shifted to big, deeply-hued, dry reds that aged for decades. Recently, more accessible wines – for those who hadn't decades to wait – became the fashion. This led to "the Barolo Wars", a controversy that would prevail among the more than 1,100 producers.

Conservatives had left juice fermenting on the grape skins for at least three weeks, extracting chewy tannins that ensured vigorous old age. They then aged in large, wooden casks for years.

But "hedonistic fruit bombs" were preferred by American wine critic Robert Parker, whose influence is felt worldwide. So some vintners cut fermentation to ten days and aged in small, French oak casks. The market responded favorably, but the wine tasted no longer like Barolo and more like oak.

Today, the trend is back to long maceration on the skins, using a combination of small oak casks and large barrels for aging. The compromise works: our 2002 Barolo, served with braised veal and tomato, was redolent of pine tar and roses – uniquely Nebbiolo aromas – but not too tannic to inhibit taste.

Those leery of Barolo's pitfalls may like Barbera d'Alba. Barbera grapes produce half of Piedmont's red wine. Tannin content is low, but high acidity lends fruitiness and combines well with food. Alba is the center of the best production. Ours, a 2004 Barbera d'Alba from Sovrana, was vinted, wore a lovely robe of dark ruby red and tasted faintly of plums. Strong mineral and herbal notes marked the fin-

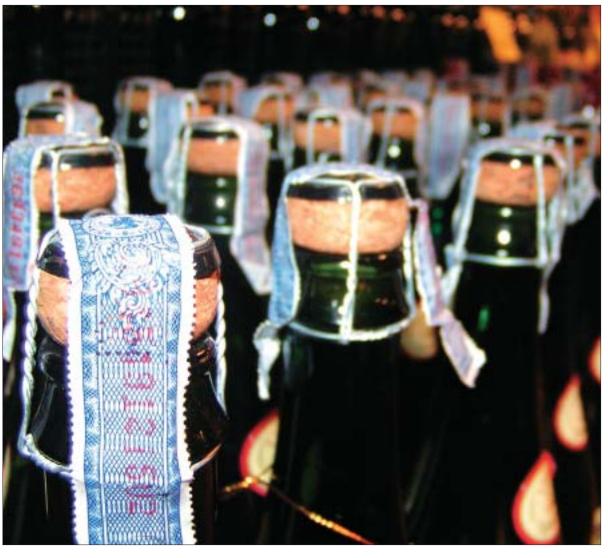
The evening's most appealing wines were white - the Verduzzo and a lively 2006 Gavi wine made from the little-known Cortese grape, Gavi dei Gavi Granee. The nose suggested pears, citrus and fresh herbal notes. Paired with cuttlefish carpaccio and lentils, it was just right; but this crisp, clean wine can be enjoyed anytime.

Dessert tasted of nothing so much as cappuccino – without liquid. But Alfredo surprised us again, announcing his charming concoction contained no coffee.

The intended aesthetic was enhancement of our dusky yellow Verduzzo wine, with which no dessert competes. It was sweet, bracing and smelled of acacias. Verduzzo is an old grape of Friulian stock, peculiar to Italy. Ours was a 2005 Verduzzo Borgo Tesis from Gruppo Fantinel – a wine to remember.

With the last drops ended another evening of sensory excess, the most recent of many, for the Yacht Club excels in providing the lucky few with dining experiences that happily marry art with food.

Italasia wines are at various locations in Phuket, including Carrefour in Patong. To contact Gian Carlo call Tel: 076-282561 or 084-0021963, fax: 076-378030 orwww.italasiagroup.com







Bangkok model Jeab Pijittra shows off an elegant piece from the Sangbun Boutique collection.



The Exotic Thai collection featured pleated dresses inspired by the attire of the hill tribes of Northern Thailand.



Thai TV star Warit Thipgomut strolls down the runway in a comfortable silk robe and



Paotong Boutique's latest line includes this casual earth-tone dress complemented by an intricately patterned vest.

DOWN SILK ROAD

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

n celebration of HM Queen Sirikit's birthday, Jungceylon held the "Thai Dresses for Mothers: Celebrating 75 years of Queen Sirikit" fashion show, focusing exclusively on the elegant use of Thai silk.

The show featured three highly-respected Thai fashion designers: Paotong Thongjour, dean of the faculty of fine and applied arts at Thammasat University in Bangkok; Sangmanee Sangbun, owner of Sangbun Boutique in Bangkok; and Komol Panichpan, professional designer and owner of The Exotic Thai also in Bangkok.

The designers showcased the outstanding properties that Thai silk offers, such as being resilient while still maintaining its light weight and comfort.

The sheen and elegance of the material makes it well-suited for daily wear or for delicately crafted dresses that stay wrapped in the closet waiting for a special occasion.

On the runway were Thai personalities Phathit Pisitkul, Jeab Pijittra, Phuket-native and Miss Teen Thailand 2006 Amelia Jacobs and Warit Thipgomut.

In addition, many Phuket people took part as models, including Monthawee Hongyok, Thanaphoom Hongyok, Yaowapapan Yaowiwat, Kanlayapa Panich, Phurita Pew-ngam, Kridee Chotitammaporn and Theerapong Pattaraworamanee among others.

Paotong Boutique highlighted their latest collection with chic full-length formal dresses made from solid-colored silk prints

by knee-length dresses in earth tones with burnt orange and shades of brown in abundance, paired with colorfully patterned

lection was inspired by the sea and sand of the tropics and featured loose-fitting, lightweight garments ranging in hues from deep burgundy to light tan and beige. They used silk generously to create comfortable, flowing pieces.

The more opulent-style gowns, made in dark gray and black silk, were coupled with more colorful coats to create upscale evening wear.

was inspired by the hill tribes of Northern Thailand and made use of pleats to create subtle, ribbed patterns across predominantly

angled cuts made the pieces versatile enough to be worn socializing with friends yet perfectly suitable for a business setting.

Although the day was devoted to honoring mothers, the

accented with gems.

These were complemented

The Sangbun Boutique col-

The Exotic Thai collection solid prints.

The simple design and



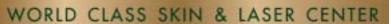
The ladies strut their stuff on the catwalk wearing the latest styles from Sangbun Boutique.

show also featured designs for men. Paotong Boutique featured long-sleeve, Chinese-style shirts.

Sangbun Boutique created dynamic and bright-colored silk pants, perfect for lazing by the beach. The loose-fitting pants were secured by extensions wrapped around the waist and tied in a knot.

The Exotic Thai collection had similarly designed casual men's attire.







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SUBLIME SLEEPY **HOLLOW**

he border town of Nong Khai is the epitome of less being more. Set on the banks of the Mekong River, the city is quaint and lively during the day yet grows sleepy as the sun begins to set. In the evening, the streets become eerily lifeless. It is a peaceful town and the perfect destination if relaxation is your main objec-

If you are looking for row after row of beer and go-go bars, go elsewhere. Nong Khai isn't Pattaya or Phuket.

While the town may not be beer bar central, there is always something to do in Nong Khai, including many festivals throughout the year: Anou Savari Festival (March), Rocket Festival (May-July), Candle Festival (July), Rowing Festival (October) and Chinese Dragon Festival (Oc-

The city is perhaps most famous for the Naga Fireballs, or Bung Fai Phaya Nak, seen each October. Mysterious, glowing fireballs appear to rise from the depths of the Mekong River and shoot upwards and eventually disappear into the sky.

The origin of the balls is a subject of great controversy. Some say the cause is methane gas bubbling beneath the riverbed, some believe the mythical Naga serpent produces them and others believe the fireballs are simply a hoax.

8,500 B.

Thailand TRAVELER

By Scott Mallon

Regardless of their origins, upwards of 10,000 travelers make their way to Nong Khai specifically to view the show.

Buses and trains headed for Nong Khai depart Bangkok several times a day and take about 12 hours to get there. An air-conditioned bus costs around 500 baht, while a second-class sleeper on the train will set you back 708 baht. If you want to travel firstclass, a ticket will cost you 1,217

Walking and bicycling are the probably the best methods for taking in the sights once you're in town, but for those who prefer a more leisurely method of transport, there are an ample number of tuk-tuks trolling the streets. There are no metered taxis.

Of the sights in Nong Khai is the Thasadej Market – a mustsee for any visitor. Also known as the Indochina Market, this recently renovated, 500-meter-long bazaar sits adjacent to the Mekong.

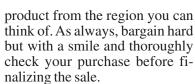
The market has Thai, Lao, Chinese and even Russian goods available: coffee, tea, silver, silk, gemstones, electronics, clothes and just about any handmade

Mobile 085-069-4757

www.phuketlaser.com

Open: Mon-Sat 10AM-8 PM

email: infolaser@phuketlaser.com



The Thasadej Market is open daily from 8 am to 6 pm. If you begin your shopping late morning, you can shop for a few hours before having lunch at one of the many restaurants in the market. Prices are reasonable and you can choose from Thai, Vietnamese, Lao and Western

Another must-see is Wat Kaek, or Sala Kaew Koo. This bizarre sculpture park is four kilometers east of Nong Khai, off Highway 212. A tuk-tuk to Wat Kaew will cost about 120 baht, depending on your negotiating skills. Admission to the park is a non-obligatory 10 baht and you'll need a few hours to take in the entire park.

Lao artist and spiritual leader Luang Pu Boun Leua Sourirat, or Luang Pu, founded the ancient-looking park in 1976, a year after fleeing his native Laos at the end of the Vietnam War. In the park he created enormous statues meshing Buddhism, Hinduism and Confucianism set amongst an assortment of tropical flowers and shrubs.

Luang Pu began creating his first sculpture park in Laos in 1958 but abandoned it after the 1975 Laos revolution. He created the park near Nong Khai in 1978 and passed away in August 1996. His mummified remains are available for viewing on the third floor of the Sala Kaew Ku building.

Within walking distance of the Thasadej Market is the Mut Mee Guest House and the Patanawee Hotel. The accommodations in Nong Khai are excellent value and as affordable as you would find anywhere in the country.

The religiously-themed statues created by Loa artist Luang Pu adorn the garden near Wat Kaek, just outside of the relaxing town of Nong Khai. The Mut Mee Guest House has been around for more than garden. 15 years and hosts a loose-knit

community of all sorts of travelers, ranging from weary backpackers to cool, intrepid wanderers to families with children. Be warned though, the accommodations are Spartan – single rooms consist of only a bed and a fan, and the bathrooms are shared.

Although certainly not for everyone, at less than 150 baht a night, it is difficult to complain. If you are willing to splurge, the Mut Mee offers rooms with air conditioning and private bathrooms at 700 baht a night.

A major selling point of the Mut Mee is the relaxing garden area with the river view. You can kick back and sip a cold beer while swapping war stories with other travelers or you can lie around in a hammock all day reading a book. It is difficult to

you're sitting in the Mut Mee's

One alternative to the Mut Mee is the Pantawee Hotel. All rooms at the Pantawee are air conditioned, have cable TV, a DVD player (movies available for 30 baht), Internet connection, and an en-suite toilet and shower with hot water. Some of the rooms even have computers. The Pantawee is the only hotel in Nong Khai with Wi-Fi.

Room rates range from 700 to 1,800 baht and the hotel has a swimming pool, Jacuzzi, restaurant, room service, travel agency and a spa and health center.

If you decide that the peace and relaxation of this drowsy town are too much to leave, then you would be happy to know that a recent survey by Modern Maturity, an American-based international retirement magazine, ranked Nong Khai the seventh best place in the be anything but relaxed when world to have a second home.



Handy Links

Transportation Department of Thailand (Buses) http://www.transport.co.th/Eng/HomeEnglish.htm

> State Railway of Thailand www.railway.co.th

Mut Mee Guest House www.mutmee.com

Pantawee Hotel www.pantawee.com



By Anand Singh

The Spa

he Spa at Grove Gardens, Cape Yamu is set in the secluded sur roundings of Grove Gardens; a pristine residential estate of 36 contemporary villas offering the peace and tranquility, just right for a spa.

The open air reception area relaxes and greets guests with a cool breeze, soothing music and the scenic blend of modern style architecture nestled in the surrounding greenery where not a single mechanical motor sound to

The Spa at Grove Gardens is a boutique spa with just two massage therapy rooms, The Spa Steam Room and The Spa Jacuzzi Room. The emphasis is on privacy and the friendly staff soon make guests feel at home. Guests are greeted and the treatment procedure explained to them by one of the professional therapists.

The decor in the treatment rooms is a contemporary blend of technology and nature in soothing earth tones. Everything is neatly laid out with robes and towels awaiting the guest, while the Getting into the Grove



Seclusion is key at The Spa, Grove Gardens, where there are only two massage rooms, both offering ultimate privacy and set in soothing, natural tones.

beautiful scent aromatherapy oil fills the air form its diffuser on the vanity set. The massage bed lies in the corner and a door leads to the digitally controlled steam room, while the alfresco shower area is designed to look like a bamboo jungle.

Guests change into their towels for the first part of the treatment in the steam room which is set at a temperature of

around 35 degrees, not very different from a typical Phuket afternoon but the steam is thick with a blend of fresh kaffir leaves, lime peels, lemon grass and other traditional herbs, which open the sinuses and skin pores so that the beneficial properties of the herbs can seep into the skin.

Guests spend about an hour in the steam room, occasionally hopping out for an icy shower or

to quench their thirst from the jugs of water and Roselle juice standing ready.

Next, the massage therapy is a combination of Indonesian, Swedish and Hawaiian massage techniques, starting on the back with sesame oil. The firm massage relaxes all the back muscles and alleviates any tension. The rest of the body is then massaged, from the feet to the head.

The floral scent of the oil enhances the relaxing atmosphere and with the curtains drawn and the lights dimmed, its easy to doze off. If your having a morning session, you'll feel even fresher than when you woke up.

The Jacuzzi therapies also use special blends of herbs in a bath that is prepared for the guest before they arrive, so that they enter the delicately scented room of mirrors and subdued tones and a half filled bath sprinkled with leaves.

Once inside, guest can easily leave behind the outside world and enjoy a truly relaxing treat-

The Spa is located at the Grove Gardens estate, Cape Yamu and is open from 9 am to 6 pm every day. Bookings are recommended.

Promotional spa packages are available at 2000 baht for a two-hour spa treatment. Prices are subject to 10% service charge and 7% tax.

Other treatments are also available to choose from, including facial massage therapy and traditional Thai massage.

For more information email frontoffice@grovegardensphuket. com, call 076-302600 or visit www.grovegardensphuket.com



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the Difference



Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?





su|do|ku

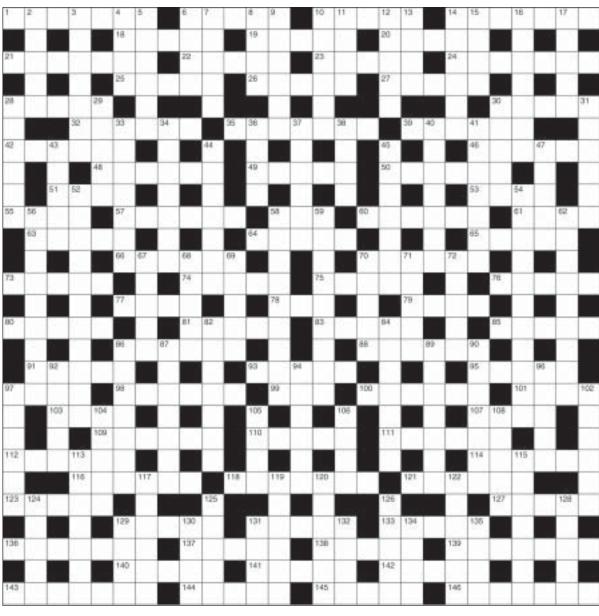
C Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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| 6 | | | | 8 | | | | |
| | | 9 | | 4 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 6 |

The principle of 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. Guess if you will, but each Sudoku puzzle can be solved using logic alone. Beware: this puzzle has only one solution, which is on the next page.

The BIG Crossword



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Across

- Sooner or later
- Espionage agents
- More appealing
- Clairvoyant's ...ball
- Group, The ... And The Papas
- 19. Creator
- Tibet's ...Lama
- Mothball chemical
- Store for future use 86. Glazed (look) (3,2)
- 23. Wizardry
- 24. Hollywood great,
- Steve... Rest on knees
- Salesman's patter
- Native American tent
- Seize (power)
- 30. Confection
- 32. Evades
- 35. Makes current Hunting canine (3,3)
- Actor, Mel...
- 46. Votes for
- Taper
- 49. Firmly cooked (of pasta), al...
- 50. 8th month
- 51. Acorn trees
- 53. Tiny island
- 55. Stepped (on)
- Works (dough)
- 58. Mum & ...
- 60. Icier
- 61. Portent
- 63. Proverb
- Beasts of burden 64.
- Urged, ...on 65.
- 66. Hate
- Resided 73. Repeat symbol
- 74. Smack

- 75. Dental thread
- 76. Tennis 40/40
- Dueling weapon 78. Martial arts legend,
- Bruce...
- 79. Like two ... in a pod
- 80. Bring together
- 81. Jewish minister
- 83. Sister's daughter
- 85. Snapshot

- 88. Spanned
- 91. W African nation, Sierra...
- 93. Publicist, press...
- 95. NW US state
- 97. Climbing vegetable
- 98. Sweet drink
- 99. Sink in middle
- 100. Blissful
- 101. Actress, ...Delany
- 103. Not new
- 107. Soviet Union (1,1,1,1)
- 109. Butt in
- 110. Fragment
- 111. Shabby hut
- 112. Roman statesman, Julius...
- 114. Supplement (3,3)
- 116. Ill-treat
- 118. Shattered
- 121. Stage whispers
- 123. Asian kingdom 127. Skin-diving gear
- 129. Feeble 131. Condescend
- 133. Digging tool
- 136. Tableland
- 137. Greater
- 138. Ultra-virile
- 139. Fleeing to wed
- 140. Spills 141. Weasel-like creature

- 142. Sprites 143. Silly remark
- 144. Draws back, ... away
- 145. Hangman's loop
- 146. Tarries

- Down
- Spoken exams
- Ceases
- In a frenzied state
- Told good story
- 6. Auction
- Bible song
- Large birds
- Drained
- 10. Mortar powder
- 11. Russia's
- .. Mountains
- 12. Prepares for publication
- 13. Hurry
- 14. Entered (stage) (4,2)
- 15. Paddy crop 16. Saveloy
- 17. Alter (rules)
- 28. Immediately vital
- 29. Cheap wine
- 30. Young male horses 115. Got away
- 31. Servile aides (3,3)
- 33. Uninvited 34. Spookiest
- 36. Spongy part of paws 122. Certainly
- 37. The A of AGM
- 38. Sheep
- 40. Irreligious
- 41. Hoped
- 43. Gore
- 44. From Stockholm
- 45. Artwork plans
- 47. Liqueur, ...de menthe 131. Quantity of medicine
- 52. Conversions
- 54. Quarreling, at...

56. Reasoning

- ...DeGeneres 125. Conflict

58. Baby farmbirds

(from college)

71. Colorado ski resort

68. Large pitchers

82. Embarrassed

86. Sexes of people

...toilette (3,2)

94. Painters' stands

102. Writer, ... Christie

104. Internet post (1-4)

108. Comic actor, Eric...

120. Dallas star, Larry...

96. Marx brother

97. Signaling light

105. Tinned meat

106. The B of NB

113. Spruce (up)

117. Disorderly

119. Tips off

124. Actress,

87. Pinball parlors

89. Noisy laughs

90. Weakened

92. Perfume,

69. Striped cat 70. More painful

72. Delight

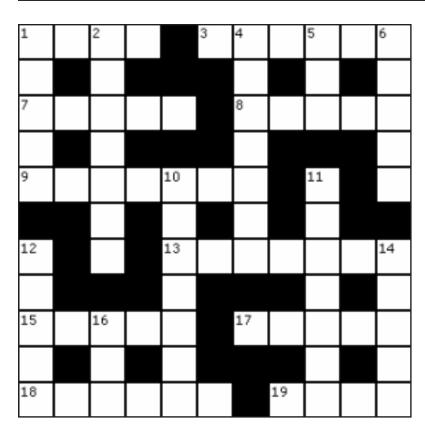
84. Revel

59. Ear-splitting

62. Teaching

67. Dismiss

- 126. Cricket trophy
- 128. Spree 129. Don't eat
- 130. Naughty kids
- 132. US/Europe pact
- 134. Warsaw native
- 135. Famed lioness
- Solution on next page



Quick Crossword

Across

- 1. Sleeve end.
- 3. Not perfect.
- 7. Floating vessels.
- 8. Pate poultry.
- o. I atc pourtry.
- 9. President Bill.
- 13. Faint (4,3).15. Organized noise.
- 17. P-start nut.
- 18. Cools.
- 19. Requests.

Down

- 1. Squared off.
- 2. Delicate.
- 4. Keys.
- 5. Alas.
- 6. Reside.
- 10. Current.
- 11. Wild horses.
- 12. Comedian.
- 14. Fork points.
- 16. Lanka prefix.

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

- 1. What is the name of the main character in the movie *Hellraiser*?
- 2. How many Bond movies does henchman "Jaws" appear in?
- 3. Whose voice was used for the villainous Scar in *The Lion King*?
- 4. Who played the sadistic sheriff in *Unforgiven*?
- 5. Who plays Saruman in *Lord of the Rings*?
- 6. Which villain's secret identity is Norman Osbourne?
- 7. Whose enemy is he?
- 8. In which movie is the villain Frank N Furter?

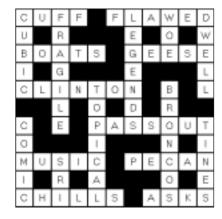
- . "You can't handle the truth!" is spoken by Jack Nicholson in which movie?
- 10. In which movie was Gregory Peck's only villainous performance?
- 11. What was the nickname given to Lee Van Cleef's character in *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*?
- 12. What was the belief system of the villains in *The Big Lebowski*?
- 13. What is the name of the evil woman in Stephen King's *Misery*?
- 14. Who played the Sheriff of Nottingham in *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* (1991)?

- 15. Who played the devil in *Angel Heart*?
- 16. Who played Clubber Lang in *Rocky III*?
- 17. Which British writer was the criminal mastermind in *The Italian Job*?
- 18. Robin Williams played twisted home wrecker Sy Parrish in which movie?
- 19. Who played a terrorist pursued by cop Sylvester Stallone in *Nighthawks*?
- 20. Who created the aliens for the movie of the same name?

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Pinhead; 2. Two: *The* Spy Who Loved Me and *Moonraker*; 3. Jeremy Irons; 4. Gene Hackman; 5. Christopher Lee; 6. The Green Goblin; 7. Spiderman's: 8. The Rocky Horror Picture Show; 9. A Few Good Men; 10. The Boys from Brazil; 11. Angel Eyes; 12. They were Nihilists; believing in nothing; 13. Annie Wilkes; 14. Alan Rickman; 15. Robert De Niro; 16. Mr T; 17. Noel Coward; 18. One Hour Photo; 19. Rutger Hauer; 20. HR Giger.

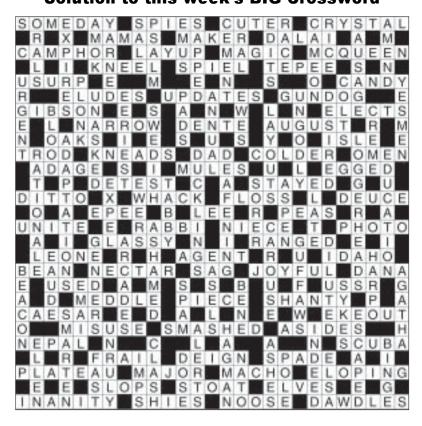
Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword



A look at the real Africa

any people in the West, especially rock stars, view Africa as a grim place of grinding poverty, war, famine and mass murder. Thus it's refreshing to read Purple Hibiscus (Algonquin Books, 2003, 307pp) by Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

The book is about the ordinary lives of urban Africans, businessmen and academics, who drive cars, watch TV and listen to high-life music on their stereos.

There are frequent gas shortages and electricity blackouts, but they are going about their lives with intelligence, wit and dignity. No handouts for them.

Adichie opens her novel with a dash

"Things started to fall apart at home when my brother, Jaja, did not go to communion and Papa flung his heavy missal across the room and broke the figurines on the etagere."

The reference is to Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe's masterful novel about colonial Nigeria. But this is the present and Nigeria has been independent for half a century.

The narrator is a 15-year-old Igbo schoolgirl, Kambili, the smartest girl in her

She also worships her father, who is the owner of fruit juice and biscuit factories, a pillar of St Agnes Catholic Church, publisher of *The Standard* newspaper and



fearless crusader against government corruption.

A classic African Big Man, he supports any number of poor students, along with a string of hospitals and schools. He's also a domestic tyrant, imposing his fanatical version of missionary Catholicism on his thoroughly cowed family.

Kambili and her older brother Jaja both love and fear him. Their lives are lived according to a strict schedule for prayer and study and Kambili is a mess of repression.

On a Christmas trip back to their ancestral village, Papa allows them only a fleeting visit to their impoverished grandfather whom he despises as a "heathen".

They haven't seen their Auntie Ifeoma or their three cousins in two years until this Christmas homecoming. The widow Ifeoma is a professor at the university in Nsukka and with her entrance

this rather slow-moving novel is suddenly jump-started.

"Her laughter floated upstairs into the

living room, where I sat reading. I had not heard it in two years, but I would know that cackling, hearty sound anywhere. Aunt Ifeoma was as tall as Papa, with a well-proportioned body. She walked fast, like one who knows just where she was going and what she was going to do there. And she spoke the way she walked, as if to get as many words out of her mouth as she could in the shortest time."

Ifeoma persuades her brother to let his two children spend two weeks of school holiday at her

house at the university in Nsukka. Suddenly Kambili and Jaja are liberated into a world of laughter, debate, music, TV and card games – all forbidden at home.

Kambili reveals the extent of her father's crazed brutality, only a third of the way through the novel, when he finds that Kambili has broken the Sunday communion fast. He takes off his belt and thrashes not only her but her mother and brother as well.

It becomes clear that acts like this and worse are eventually responsible for Kambili's complete lack of laughter, her

> pathological shyness and speech difficulties.

> At Ifeoma's house, Kambili also falls in love for the first time, with the family friend and charismatic priest Father Amadi who, ironically, will soon be sent to Germany as a missionary. He helps to break her out of her shell, teaching her to run and laugh at the local sports stadium.

> While watching him teach local boys the high jump, she realizes that Ifeoma had always taught her children to believe that they could scale the rod. "It was different

for Jaja and me," she reflects. "We did not scale the rod because we believed we could, we scaled it because we were terrified that we couldn't."

All this takes place in a background of a military coup, press suppression, student riots, doctors and nurses on strike, power blackouts, no cooking gas or gasoline. As the country falls apart, so does Kambili's family. But she is all the stronger for it.

EVENTS CALENDAR

August 31. School's Back Divers, Phuket's only PADI 5-Party & LCD TV, Notebook auction.

School's Back Party & LCD TV, Notebook auction at Watermark's Famous Friday Happy Hour, sponsored by Courts, 5 pm - 11:30 pm.

JVC 32" LCD TV & Acer Notebook go for auction at Watermark in an extravaganza of eating-drinking-dancing to raise funds for Rotary Club of Laguna Phuket. Happy Hour and complimentary bar snacks 5 pm-7 pm. Live music from 7 pm: Indian Chillout, then The FUZZtones rhythmbluespoprockcowboypunk – a great eclectic mix of hi-tempo tunes to get down to. Drink up, be merry and get the LCD TV you've always wanted. And it's all for charity!

Contact Stuart. Tel: 076-239730 or 081-737 6184. Email: stuart@watermarkphuket.com Website: www.watermarkphuket. com

September 5-7. KTO Junior Golf Challenge Golf Tournament 2007.

The inaugural KTO Junior Challenge Golf Tournament will be held at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club. This international tournament will host children players 6 to 17 years of age. Registration is closed. For more information visit www.kids-tee-off.com

September 15. Splash for Trash - Underwater Clean Up.

Take the plunge on International Clean Up Day, September 15, with Dive Asia and Sea Fun Star CDC Centers.

Participants must be certified divers and must pre-register due to limited space on the boats.

Participation is free of charge and everyone is welcome. Boats will leave from Chalong Tourist Pier at 8:30 am, returning

For more information call 076-330598 or 076-330124, email info@diveasia.com or visit www.diveasia.com

September 22. Tax Seminar for Value Added Tax (VAT).

Network Advisory Team Ltd (NAT) will hold a full-day seminar focused on VAT issues on Saturday, September 22. You will have a chance to learn and ask questions directly from the director of the Bureau of Tax Auditing Standards of the Revenue Department Head Office in Bangkok.

The seminar will be held at the Royal Phuket City Hotel from 9 am until 4:30 pm. Tickets are priced at 2,675 baht per person. Book before September 5 and reserve an early-bird ticket for 2,033 baht.

Any person who has attended a previous NAT tax seminar will receive a further 10% discount.

The seminar will be in Thai language only.

For more information please contact NAT, Phuket Branch, at 076-212 989, or K. Sriruan at 089-6523229.

September 22. The 8th Phuket

Upcoming events on the island **International Beer Fest.**

A celebration of probably the best beers and most ardent beer drinkers in the world at the Watermark bar and restaurant.

This is your chance to show to the world, or at least Phuket, your favorite beer. Yes! YOU supply the beer – in the hope that it wins the prestigious accolade of "Winner of The 8th Phuket International Beer Fest".

Each competitor must supply 12 bottles or cans of their nominated international beer. All entries are required to register in advance.

Entry fee: 12 beers plus 800

Tip: bring back the best beer

from overseas while you're traveling this summer! For more information call Stuart Bird at 081-

September 30. Phuket Yacht Club Sailing Open Day and

Phuket Yacht Club will hold its Family Fun Day, with barbecue and beach activities, at Ao Yon, Cape Panwa, from 10 am to 5:30 pm.

Sail on a catamaran, small yacht or dinghy. Come and see our junior fleet. Try Dragon Boat Racing sponsored by Sail in Asia.

The Phuket Yacht Club offers sailing training sessions for juniors throughout the year. Next sailing course starts October 7. Booking recommended.

For details contact Katy

Gooch. Tel: 085-215 9185. Email: ktfirmin@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.phuketyachtclub.info

October 11-19. Phuket Vegetarian Festival.

During this annual event, sacred rituals are performed at all Chinese temples in Phuket.

There are also processions from each temple showing spectacles of strict vegetarians, known as devotees, ostensibly possessed by gods, piercing their tongues, cheeks and other parts of the anatomy with sharp implements.



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Double bypass

With a new constitution approved by HM The King, most political observers in Phuket are already looking past the military-installed government and focusing their attention on the upcoming general election.

In the meantime, the government of Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont still has several months to work – and it will have to work hard indeed if history is to one day view it as a success.

Locally, much has been written recently about the failure of this government to approve funding for a second incinerator at Saphan Hin. Instead, we have been told that recycling and other eco-friendly strategies are the solution to the fact that we produce more than twice as much trash than we have the capacity to dispose of -a gap that continues to grow with each passing month.

To this end, a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was recently signed by all local administrative bodies, which have agreed to work with the Pollution Control Department and other agencies to finally get serious about recycling.

However, it is certainly optimistic to expect these organizations to change their spots overnight, especially when the only impetus to do so results from a non-binding agreement that would jeopardize existing contracts that are lucrative both for waste management companies and those who contract them.

While in no way discounting the need for environmentally friendly sanitation practices, the *Gazette* also recognizes that it is too late to expect any such changes be adopted in time to stave off a crisis – one that has already resulted in one environmental catastrophe with the mass death of fish being raised in areas near toxic lagoons that surround the incinerator.

On one issue, however, the Chulanont government does appear to be in a position to secure some sort of legacy in Phuket. By allowing the Phuket International Conference and Exhibition Center (ICEC) project to move forward with private funding, it now seems likely that Phuket will finally get the ICEC that has been talked about for almost 20 years.

Let's hope that the siting committee decides on the Anuphas and Sons site off Chao Fa West Rd. The central location is perfect for the project and is much closer to all the other facilities that conventioneers and other visitors to the island want and need. Increasingly, our beaches are not among them.

On this point, one telling irony is the fact that a new bypass road may need to be built to reduce traffic congestion along the existing bypass road if the site is chosen.

- The Editor

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

"Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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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 put only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, only in your views for put ers. Please write to your views for your views for your v

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.

Airport limo pit stop takes the piss

I'd like for you to address the annoying habit of the airport limo service at Phuket International Airport.

After paying the 550-baht fare for a direct trip to Patong, I have been subjected to a pit stop at a travel agents' offices about three kilometers from the airport.

The potential scam starts with the driver saying he needs to go to the toilet.

When he conveniently stops at the travel agents, you are accosted by a salesperson trying to book you for tours.

I thought this was an isolated incident and thought no more. However, on another trip to Phuket the exact same thing happened again.

This time I argued with the driver about going to the toilet somewhere else or waiting until after dropping off his passengers. He still stopped at the agencies.

Now when I visit Phuket, I tell the office no stops and ask the driver if he needs to go to the toilet before we leave.

Then I get attitude from the potential scammers.

It's bad enough when this happens to tourists using the minivans at the airport, but now I have to put up with it in a limo?

Phuket

Airport taxis are a nationwide shame

Peter Handel-Mazzetti's letter in *The Nation* about poor service by taxis at airports in Thailand is an issue that is allowed to continue by Thai regulators who clearly do not care about the poor and dishonest treatment that trav-

elers to Thailand receive with regard to taxis.

This problem is all over Thailand and it seems that the people who control the airport taxis are not the official regulators, but a rogue element that has the industry under its control.

This situation would never exist at other airports where visitors are made welcome and treated with good, honest service.

This issue is raised repeatedly but is never given any attention. For an even worse experience try the Phuket airport.

Stuart Cullen Bay, Australia

Recycling an idea

The answer to Puhket's problem with trash is very easy: trash could be reduced by about 75% through recycling.

But here's the catch: you would need to supply three trash cans per household: one for waste, one for plastics, glass and metal containers, and one can for green waste and food scraps for compost.

If this is done through a government waste management program, it would reduce the landfill area needed.

This is being done in California and it is working very well. You may want to pass this on to those in charge; they may be interested to know that it gives new sources of income simply from the recycling.

As far as the budget is concerned, the up-front cost of the extra trash cans required would be offset in the first year by the savings from recyclables that are collected and sold.

Another thing that would help make this work well is having trash cans for recycling set up around the beach areas so that tourists also participate in the program. At present, I am living in Bangkok and I hope to soon move to Phuket and enjoy the many beaches there.

Just think of how much space could be saved from landfills and how much plastic, glass and metal could be recycled and sold.

This is not to mention how much compost could be created and sold back to the public or even exported to other countries as mulch for farming or gardening.

It's just a thought, but the possibilities are endless.

Gary Costa Bangkok

Coup-makers kudos

Congratulations Thailand! It was a long, hard journey but you have successfully completed a violence-free election – again!

Having military leaders should inspire doubt among those with a passing knowledge of history, but so far I have been very impressed with the resolve and progress the government has made.

It might not perfect, but it has made some very smart steps where lesser governments would have crumbled.

Congratulations also to the people for maintaining the pressure on the government to fulfill its promises, and for fulfilling your obligation to vote.

At this rate, we'll have a real democracy in no time. Woohoo!

Now if we can just get a competent ITC minister, maybe I can stop being a such a political pundit and go back to watching kids crash into walls and light themselves on fire on YouTube again.

Conscientious observer

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

Counting on the difference

e had expected a high voter turnout of around 60% in the August 19 referendum, but unfortunately it rained heavily throughout most of the day. As a result, many polling stations became messy and muddy, so much so that we had to lay down planks for voters to walk over in some places. It was very inconvenient, as parking areas were muddy and some even

Many voters who arrived and saw the situation simply turned their backs and went straight home.

By around 1 pm that day, less than 40% of registered voters had cast ballots. We were becoming worried, so we started to call businesses and government officials in different parts of the province, asking them to help us urge voters to take part.

At 4 pm, when we closed the ballot boxes, the total turnout for Phuket had reached 58%. From 213,663 registered voters in the province, around 125,000 came to vote in the referendum. From that number, around 88.7% voted to accept the draft constitution, while 9.8% of voters rejected it.

Thailand's southern region seems to have the most support for the new constitution, with 86% of voters throughout the region accepting the draft, followed by the central region, where 65% of voters accepted it.

In contrast, voters in the northeast were not too keen with the new constitution; only 36% of voters there accepted the draft.

In the end, Phuket's approval rate put it among the top-10 provinces in Thailand for the percentage of people casting "yes" votes.

Also, voter turnout was slightly above the national average, which is quite satisfying given the weather conditions that

Unregistered population: We recently received updated statistics revealing that the number of unregistered residents living in Phuket is around 323,600.

There have been many plans to encourage unregistered residents to register themselves as residents of the province. One such project, which will be launched soon, is to commission mobile registration units that will go around the island registering residents who have not done so

These units are now being built and should be ready soon. The software we need, which will link the mobile registration centers to the registration departments, is also being created. There has been quite a lot of funding for this project, which should get underway soon.

Other policies include encouraging government officials from other provinces who are permanently working here to reg-

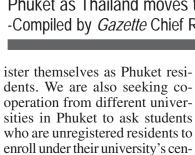
Governor's Letter

On August 19, voters nationwide took to polls in Thailand's first ever referendum to decide whether a draft Constitution should be accepted as the framework for future political development in Thailand.

With he new Constitution already approved by HM The King, Phuket will soon need to again hold elections – most likely by year's end. The polls will more highlight the huge gap between the number of

registered citizens and the island's actual population.

In his September letter, Gov Niran discusses these and other issues facing Phuket as Thailand moves to re-establish itself as a functioning democracy. -Compiled by *Gazette* Chief Reporter **Sangkhae Leelanapaporn** and trainee **Anand Singh**.



tral student register. We have also spoken to hotels and business operators all around Phuket, asking them to encourage their employees to reg-

I have asked the different local administrations in Phuket to set monthly targets. Within one year, we must ensure that at least a majority of the island's actual [Thai] population are listed as Phuket residents.

Once this happens, it will benefit us greatly in many ways. It will enable us to better estimate the total population of the province for the many elections that will follow with the passage of the

This information will help us greatly when it comes to project planning and feasibility studies that need to be conducted when requesting budgets from the central government for infrastructure development. It will also help with traffic planning to reduce the number of accidents and maintain safety and security.

We will yield numerous benefits from both knowing and authenticating population figures, so we will continue working on this with an immediate goal of of reaching a point where at least half of the Thais living here are registered.

Wet weather woes: Every year during the monsoon season, Phuket suffers flooding in lowlying parts of the island. This year the situation has improved considerably compared with previous years. This is in part because we have made good preparations for the monsoon season in terms of flood prevention.

Surveys to identify risk areas were conducted well before the start of this rainy season. The chief of Phuket's department for disaster prevention and mitigation was in charge of this survey, which also involved local agencies, such as tambon administration organizations.

They focused on areas that were known to have suffered flooding annually for the past five years, including parts of Mai Khao near Phuket Airport and areas in Tambon Thepkasattri.

They surveyed such areas to find points where water cannot drain off and where it remains stagnant during heavy rain. They also surveyed in and around housing developments to determine whether their drainage systems could cope with heavy rain. In cases where they couldn't, budgets were allocated to fix the

We managed to complete all the construction before the onset of the rainy season, which is why the island's drainage system network is now capable of channeling excess water to the sea. It has also been helpful that we have not faced many periods of prolonged, heavy rainfall so far

On the road again: The main reasons for our upcoming road show to the UK from September 6 to 15 is to promote medical services, health spa facilities and dentistry services in Phuket.

We aim to create a good understanding and present a good image of these industries to potential customers in Britain, where people are becoming increasingly interested in such services in Thailand.

It is a business strategy proposed by the Ministry of Public Health that aims to promote medical tourism in various parts of Thailand.

Representatives of the Bangkok Hospital group will also attend to promote medical checkup and dentistry services in Phuket. In the past, they conducted similar promotional activities in most of the Scandinavian countries, with good feedback. Now they would like to extend their markets to other European countries, such as the UK.

Europeans have a tendency to associate our comparatively low prices with low quality. Our aim is to change that perception by informing them about the insurance policies available and the international recognition our medical facilities have received for their high standards of practice.

On this visit to the UK we will also talk with a British company about building a trash incinerator planned for Phuket. Unlike the existing incinerator, the one planned uses advanced British technology that transforms more of the waste into useful

We will inspect an incinerator in the UK that uses this technology and assess the feasibility of using such technology here.

The cost of building this incinerator would be about 600 million baht, less than half the 1.3 billion baht needed for a conventional design.

While in London, we will also study the closed-circuit television system in operation there.

The surveillance system in the UK is very advanced, with six million cameras operational in London alone to ensure public safety and security.

Efficient CCTV systems make it easy for police to track down criminals who are caught on camera.



Niran Kalayanamit, Governor of Phuket

Retirement visa: documents or no documents?

Can you please advise what is the purpose of having people with retirement visas presenting themselves at Immigration every 90 days with many, many copies of documents that have already been inspected when the visa was

Other countries, such as Malaysia, allow a much longer period of stay, such as 10 years, and do not require these regular visits.

Is there some concern or reason that we are unaware of that requires the authorities attention every three months and that visas to be restricted to only one year?

> **Timothy Stevens** Surin Heights

Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen of

Issues & ANSWERS

Want to know how to get something done? Can't understand some of the dafter things that seem to go on in Phuket? Write to: The Phuket Gazette, 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Muang, Phuket 83000. Fax 076-213971, or submit your issue at www.phuketgazette.net

the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office replies:

It is national policy to maintain accurate records of foreigners living in Thailand, but I can't answer your question myself as to why the Thai government allows only one-year visas and permits to stay.

A retiree who has been

granted a one-year permit to stay can register, although every 90 days, at any Immigration office.

To register every 90 days is not complicated at all. You don't need to bring all the documents that you used in your first application. You only need to bring your passport to the Immigration office.

Compost compromise could end waste woes

ermany has long been a leader in manufacturing and industry, and took action earlier than most other countries in developing effective ways of dealing with the waste products from industrial processes.

Germany's municipal governments also understand that it's cheaper to sell municipal solid waste (MSW) to composting operators than it is to dispose of the waste themselves, creating a winwin situation for both towns and local composting contractors.

Post-war Germany saw the recovery of truckloads of toxic waste from garbage dumps that were dotted around the country, having appeared with no protocol in place to deal with them.

The clean-ups were expensive and led to the implementation of strict environmental laws. After re-unification, West Germany discovered much worse waste problems in the East, following a legacy of Russian military bases and highly toxic cesspools that were virtually impossible to clean.

Although sanitary landfills are expensive and complicated, the "just burn it!" incineration approach we have here in Phuket costs us twice as much as operating a sanitary landfill.

Incinerators are expensive to operate and require stringent maintenance. From a broad perspective, they only compound problems rather than solve them.

Even with high temperatures and proper filters, the ash,

dust and exhaust-cleaning system residue from incinerators is highly toxic, so there needs to be a special landfill just for the residue.

Trash separation is the key. Developed countries, including our neighbors Malaysia and Singapore, have been separating and recycling rubbish for decades. Recycling in these countries is not free though. Waste separation, sorting, treatment, transportation, disposal of residue costs money.

Thailand is lucky to have resourceful people working on the streets. Instead of looking down on them, we should call these freelance recyclers our environmental heroes because in Thailand, recycling becomes inexpensive, creates jobs and is environmentally friendly.

Bangkok creates about 11,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste per day with at least 90% going straight to landfill sites. Phuket creates about 520 tonnes of rubbish per day. Extrapolate the numbers and it's easy to see that each Phuket resident generates about one kilogram of garbage every day – and it seems as if much of this comes in the form of unnecessary plastic bags.

In Thailand, one tonne (909kg) of unprocessed municipal solid waste consists of about 650kg of organic material, including food residues, kitchen waste, fresh market waste and garden waste. These organics bring the MSW moisture content up to around 75%.

When we separate garbage



MAKING THE MOST OF A MOUND: Going green is as simple as separating organic waste for use as fertilizer – instead of costly and poisonous incineration.

with a waste collection system, almost all the organic material goes into a wet organic collection, so these organics avoid the incinerator (and resulting poisons and excessive fuel costs) and go straight to a composting plant.

It's estimated that it's possible to collect 273 tonnes of moisturized organics a day in Phuket – yes, that's "tonnes". Thanks to high moisture content, this waste requires a huge amount of fuel to burn, generating greenhouses gases with dioxins as an after-affect.

A commercial composting system daily accepting 273 tonnes of wet rubbish can generate about 300 cubic meters of high-quality humus fertilizer a day. That's an enormous volume; it would be enough to require a fleet of 10-wheel trucks to distribute the non-smelling, organic fertilizer around Phuket and our neighboring provinces.

Composting is not new, magic or highly specialized. Composting is a rapidly-growing industry in Europe and America, and it's a natural fit into traditional Thai culture. In most of Europe, municipalities actually pay compost operators to take their wet garbage.

Backyard rubbish fires are an additional lost opportunity. Today, all Phuket residents suffer

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Many Asian farmers burn fields and mountains so they don't have to clear them, robbing their land of nutrients and frying our planet in the mistaken belief that

burned ash will revitalize the soil. In fact, just burning green waste creates dioxin and greenhouse gases that could go into a compost pile.

Worse yet, plastic bags, bottles, house-hold items, tires and paint cans go into the fire too.

Garbage incineration is difficult. Garbage contains PE, PVC, metals, wood and paper in all sizes. A combustion

chamber must maintain a high temperature. Burning plastics and rubber creates dioxin, especially at low temperatures due to highmoisture materials.

In addition to generating dioxin, this overloads the filter system and results in a major public health risk.

Each local trash fire creates airborne dioxin and spreads ash.



Rainfall then contaminates the soil and groundwater.

In most of Europe, trash fires have been illegal for decades – even for farmers. Green waste goes to collection areas provided by government or private contractors.

A composting plant fed with separated garbage would immediately solve about 40% of Phuket's waste problems. Selling

wet garbage and plant matter to a composting operator is cheaper than building and running a second incinerator, and there are immediate public health benefits.

On the family level, a composting bin—two by two meters—is a fun, awareness-raising project and the simple science is great for kids. What could be better than transforming the family rubbish

into veggies on the dinner table and teaching the values of separation?

Composting makes sense for hotels and restaurants too. Hotels generate a considerable amount of rubbish every day. Converting organic waste into compost puts veggies in the dining room, reduces the industry's impact on local supplies, and it is a great marketing tool.

Every one of us contributes to that 520 tonnes per day, and reduction can only be accomplished on an individual level.

Anything we do collectively to reduce what goes to the incinerator reduces the city's petrol and incinerator-maintenance bill, reduces toxic byproducts and greenhouse gases – and the organic veggies you put on your dinner table taste great.





In The Stars

by Isla Star

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Longterm changes are set to start this month. Those of you who have not been motivated to move on will be filled with renewed vigor. If you are coming of age during the first week of September, prosperity appears likely during the year ahead. Those already in a relationship need to find ways of enhancing the time they spend together. Number 3 can be lucky this

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Pleasure is highlighted for you during September. If you've had a challenging time on the home front recently, problems are forecast to dissolve. The stars are smiling on your attempts to find more worthwhile employment too. Romance is not high on your list of priorities, but a platonic friendship with Aries brings the closeness you need. Wear a piece of coral to encourage lightheartedness.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): An amusing incident this weekend helps you to see the funny side of life again. If stresses and strains have been taking their toll on you lately, it would be beneficial to listen to advice from a Taurean friend. The month of September is forecast to bring health improvements, and you can smooth the path by cutting down on commitments. The number 7 can be lucky this Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Affairs of the heart are well highlighted this month. If you were tired of too many emotional ups and downs during August, the stars promise an easier atmo-

A week with the stars

you should make the most of these auspicious circumstances to find out what your partner expects from life as crossed wires have prevented this from happening. The color ivory can promote peace.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): September could become the most important month of the year. You should aim for the moon to succeed in business as people are prepared to pay the price it takes. Setting your sights too low will only result in more frustration. As money matters are so well-starred, this is the time to investigate new property possibilities. A new romantic interest continues to simmer.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): You aren't usually the one to make amends first, but you will be filled with a desire to atone for past wrongdoings during the coming days. Wiping the slate clean is the ideal way to embark on a new direction. As the month of September gets into gear, travel is highlighted. The opportunity to get off the beaten track should be snapped up. The number 9 is lucky on Sunday.

sphere for the weeks to come. However, **PISCES** (February 20-March 20): You should have good reason to count your lucky stars by the end of the first week of September. Those of you who have been on tenterhooks regarding a delayed decision relating to business will be celebrating soon. If you've been waiting to find out whether someone is seriously interested in you romantically, the news is also positive. Wear a pearl to encourage deeper understanding of your emotions.

> **ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Relaxation at the beach will soothe frazzled nerves this weekend. As September progresses, you will appreciate that things become more straightforward. The never ending circles that you found yourself turning in during August give way to a direct route. Money matters begin to improve as investments made earlier in the year show signs of paying off. The color seaweed green encourages a more open outlook on life.

> **TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Home and family will bring much satisfaction during September. During the coming days, try to work on relationships that have been

affected by a lack of understanding. A benevolent astral atmosphere helps you to make new friends easily; a new Cancer acquaintance could become a romantic partner if you take things slowly. The scent of roses adds to your natural charm.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): September promises to be an eventful month. As long as you are prepared to embrace the challenges ahead, much can be achieved. Your social life improves as you have reason to learn who your fair-weather friends are this week. Avoid confrontations on Sunday when Aries wants to cause an upset because they are jealous. Wear the color lilac to encourage a calm outlook.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Money matters are forecast to cause ripples in your personal life this week. As September begins, those of you who know you have been overly generous recently will need to make your financial situation crystal clear to a particular person. At least you will know where their heart truly lies. A Piscean friend has some advice this weekend regarding business, but you should wait until next month before acting upon it.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Affairs of the heart require a delicate approach this week. Those of you who are impatient to know whether a certain someone is really interested will have to wait to find out. In the meantime, there should be enough going on at work to occupy your attention; a lastminute decision will need to be made on Monday. The scent of sandalwood enhances your air of mystery.



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I am a fellow Phuket resident and owner of Tiger Muay Thai & MMA training camp in Chalong. I am contacting you as my hair continues to turn gray in dealing with Internet problems from the TOT.

I am trying to establish a wireless network for the bungalows that "stretch out" at my camp. From my office, where the connection and wireless router is, it is about 100-125 meters to the furthest bungalow. We have a series of three wireless routers to try and reach the last bunga-

My problems are that my Internet service is unreliable and goes on and off on a daily basis. In the mornings there is no connection. If it doesn't come back on quickly then I have to repair the connection and establish a new IP address or unplug and plug back in all the wireless-signal boosters.

It is a never-ending stream of time-consuming problems that have cost me customers and countless man hours in trying to establish Internet for our guests.

I would appreciate your advice or even to simply connect me with the right person or company that can help solve my problem. So far, the Thai service people I have spoken with and have come to the camp just keep selling me more modems, routers and signal boosters... yet still no reliable Internet.

The most recent attempt ended with about 200 meters of ADSL cable and two routers, one of which was left outside, uncovered and open to the elements. They strung the ADSL line through trees, over roofs and in through windows.

I pay for a TOT 100Mbps connection, which seems to always be having problems, and the TOT takes their sweet time to repair or to make a service call.

Chalong

My experiences with TOT ADSL are, uniformly, crap – although I know one fellow on the island who gets great service and excellent speeds with his TOT line. Go figure.

Three wireless routers

WIRELESS WISDOM WHIZZ BY ME



You will need a PCMCIA-to-PCI adapter, such as the StarTech model pictured above, to use CAT's AirCard with a desktop computer.

should be good enough to go 125 meters - I'm presuming you aren't trying to go through multiple concrete walls.

I'm confused about the ADSL line that you have. TOT sells a 1Mbps (or 1,024Kbps) line for 1,000 baht per month. Does that sound right? If that's what you're trying to live with, you have my sympathy.

CAT has a great, fast line for 2,600 baht per month that pretty reliably delivers 1,200 to 1,600Kbps. That should be your first choice, if they'll run a line

I've also just seen and heard that TT&T's new MaxNet service is actually delivering speeds almost as fast as the CAT's – for 1,000 baht per month. The line isn't terribly reliable just yet and the speed dips significantly in the afternoons, but a guy I know is getting 1,400Kbps in the morning.

I am running Windows XP and I have a few questions regarding AirCard installation. Is there a USB adapter that should come with it or only the one to install in the white slot on the motherboard? Once installed, I just go to Add Hardware in the Control Panel and it should find the AirCard, then install some

software and get going, correct? Also, CAT says they will not check the signal at my home anymore if it is not working. They also said that I will not get any money back in this scenario.

Last, I live just on the outskirts of Kata. Do you think this is a good location for getting a decent connection?

Micke Kata

I've looked all over Bangkok, Singapore and Hong Kong for a PCMCIA-to-USB adapter. I haven't been able to find them and I'm not sure why.

I picked up a few PCMCIA-to-PCI adapters during a recent trip to Bangkok, though. They're just regular PCI cards that you stick in a desktop computer. They don't require any drivers - stick the card in your computer and Windows XP installs them automatically.

Once the adapter is in, you plug the AirCard in the back. At that point, you have to install the AirCard's drivers – basically you stick a CD in your drive and follow the instructions, selecting all the defaults. It's very easy.

I didn't realize that CAT had stopped installing the cards. Are you sure about this? I've heard a rumor that they've run out of AirCards, so maybe that's what's happening. As for the money situation, they certainly will refund your money if the card doesn't work properly. I have that on highest authority.

You shouldn't have any problems in the Kata area, but, then again, you never know until you install it.

I have an apartment in Bang Tao and a PBX system was installed that allows only for a 56kbps connection speed. I know I can buy an AirCard and make it available to my tenants but that seems rather expensive at 12,000 baht up front and 1,200 baht per month.

but that would involve getting about 20 owners to agree on the same thing, which is highly unlikely.

The same hurdle stands in

the way of buying a satellite dish and broadcasting the service by way of wireless to all the own-

I recollect that you wrote something about CAT having a service that allows you to access the Internet through your cell phone and prepaid cards. Is there a name for this service?

Don

KHUN WOODY'S

COMPUTER Q&A

The AirCard is actually 12,000 baht up front and 600 baht per month. An outrageous amount at first but reasonable afterwards. Download speeds are typically 600Kbps.

CAT also has a service that's called 1X. It's a telephone that sits on your desk but there's no telephone wire. You can hook it into your PC and get download speeds of maybe 150Kbps.

The "regular" mobile phone Internet connection is called GPRS. Both AIS and DTAC have it. In fact, if you already have a mobile phone, you can get GPRS added for a monthly charge. You hook your mobile into your computer with a USB cable, which

LIFE BOOK SHOP

probably came with the phone, and get download speeds of about 40Kbps.

Sorry I couldn't get to your PC Group Therapy last Sunday. I've just been so busy as of late that I can't seem to find the time just to come down to the shop to clear up some questions and learn some new things. Perhaps things will settle down in the next week or two to allow me to attend. In the mean time, could you let me know where I can buy your book on Windows Vista.

I have two Vista books, Vista All-In-One Desk Reference For Dummies and Vista Timesaving Techniques For Dummies. I was shocked shocked! - to see a couple of We could upgrade the PBX copies of the books at B2S in

Central Festi-

There were some at the bookstore in the basement of Big C recently, but I'm not sure if there are any

left. I also have copies for sale at the Sandwich Shoppe.

I bought music through the iTunes store but the MPEG-4 files will not play in Winamp. Will changing the file extension, to make them open in Winamp, allow me play these protected music files? I'm afraid that if I convert them to MP3s then I'll end up with corrupted music files or I'll be stuck until Winamp comes up with a solution.

LM

Unfortunately, you've fallen victim to CRAP music. When you pay for music on iTunes – or almost anywhere else - you get a file with content restrictions that the music companies can alter without your knowledge or consent.

The only way to play the music you buy is to buy a CD and rip it into an MP3 format file since these files can't be "Digital Rights Managed".

I rant about this topic extensively. Changing the file name won't help achieve anything. You - and millions of other people are getting ripped off and the solution is to stop buying protected music files.

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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n early August, 2007, the US Federal Reserve, aka "the Fed", issued a statement to the effect that containing inflationary pressures was the office's top priority.

However, the subprime lending problem, which had spread to global credit markets, had become so severe in the following two weeks that on August 16 the Fed issued a statement that their primary concern had changed to unfreezing credit mar-

Simultaneously, they reduced the discount rate by 50 basis points to 5.75%.

This move was reported in the media as indicating an interest rate cut by the Fed. This is both factually incorrect and misleading. Certainly there was an interest rate cut, but not to the really important rate: the "Fed Funds Rate". The cut in the discount rate was aimed at banks requiring overnight financing from the Fed.

One retired Fed governor gave an excellent explanation of the situation. Conditions in the money market had become so "severe" that banks that routinely receive and pay out vast sums of money each day with little thought to each transaction were suddenly ensuring that they were able to maintain a positive liquid balance at the end of each busi-

This meant that the processing of large commercial transactions were being delayed on purpose as banks sought to maintain liquidity. Normally, banks with shortages simply borrow from their peers and accounts are settled the next day. The severity of the situation was threatening the liquidity of the entire banking system and simple injections of cash by the Fed into the banking system were not having the desired effect.

Traditionally, banks in the US are very reluctant to approach the Fed "discount window" for overnight funds as this

Banks move to avoid credit risk meltdown



The subprime fallout reached all the way to Germany, where banks faced losses running into hundreds of millions of euros. State-owned bank KFW, whose Frankfurt headquarters is pictured above, assumed €8.1 billion (about 365 billion baht) in losses.

has been usually interpreted as a month and stated that banking signal to their peers that the bank is in financial trouble. The Fed operated as a lender of last resort.

In an effort to change the attitude of banks, the Fed in its statement announcing the 50-basis-point reduction at the discount window also stated that any bank seeking liquidity via this route would not be considered to be of dubious credit quality. In fact, they said, the Fed would view it as a sign of financial strength.

Simultaneously, they increased the loan term from overnight – that is, 24 hours – to one applicants could use mortgages as collateral for these loans. The Fed was effectively opening the door to mortgage lenders and finance companies with banking affiliates to be able to access federal money.

To many casual observers, it would simply seem that stock markets were in trouble again. This time the stock market was an innocent bystander, the core problem was the American residential housing market and the money markets.

It is necessary to go back to 2000 to understand the whole story. In that year the stock market boom in the US economy started to go into a tailspin. The economy moved into recession in early 2001, the Fed started to reduce interest rates in their key lending rate: the Federal Funds Rate. This rate eventually fell to 1%, a rate not seen since the

Low interest rates meant that cheap credit was available even to those with poor credit his-

tories. This became known as "subprime" lending. In a typical subprime scenario the borrower would place little, if any, deposit on a property. Many appeared to be paying a 20% deposit but in reality even the 20% deposit was financed by what was termed a piggy-

back loan. The borrower By Richard G Watson was usually offered

low "teaser" interest rates for the naturally, approaching paranoia first few years of the mortgage but it was necessary for them to refinance the whole mortgage two or three years later. This route enabled developers to move property and mortgage brokers to earn fees. In a rising property market this was feasible, but in a falling market the whole situation fell apart.

After each mortgage was concluded other parties packaged these en masse and sold them onto banks, financial institutions, hedge funds and so on. Often other mixtures of loans were included in what became known as CDOs (Collateralized Debt Obligations). The credit rating agencies often gave these dubious entities triple "A" credit ratings, or at least high investment-grade credit ratings. This, in turn, made them eligible for purchase by pension funds and other investors.

The European Union is now conducting an investigation of how the credit rating agencies made such basic mistakes and there are claims that the rating agencies were paid for their decisions. It would be similar to issuing Zimbabwe an "A" credit rating.

The eventual marketing and packaging of these and other high-risk assets baffled bankers around the world. Even German banks displayed an appetite, including IKB Deutsche Industriebank AG, which admitted substantial losses due to subprime exposure. In total, the bank and its main owner, state-owned bank KFW, assumed €8.1 billion (about 365 billion baht) of these obligations.

Another state-owned bank, Sachsen LB, had to seek assistance and received a credit line from other state-owned banks and a group of savings banks for €17.3 billion (about 779 billion baht) to cover its exposure. A number of other German banks faced losses running into hundreds of millions of Euros.

The money markets suffered a crisis of confidence as they literally had little idea of what was the real quality of the commercial paper they were being

asked to trade. This led to a global freeze on normal wholesale banking transactions.

While injections of liquidity by central banks and the US discount rate

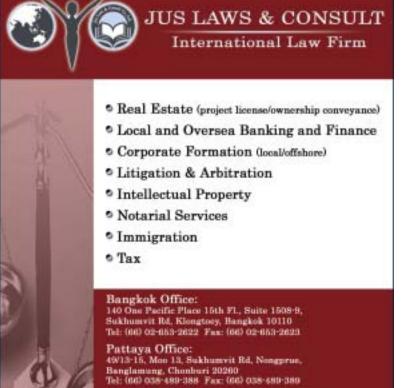
cut were part of the cause, the real underlying problem remains the quality of some of the "commercial paper" involved in the sys-

Banks are, as they can no longer rely on stated independent credit rating assessments.

Fortunately, now aware of the nature of the type of assets they have unwittingly acquired, banks will rapidly move to contain the damage. Banks are normally adept at assessing credit risks, but this will still take some time until money market conditions return to normal.

It is hoped that the world banking system is over the worst.

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Phuket Office:



Company registrations drop by 40%

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: The political instability in Thailand has reduced the number of new companies registered this year by 40%, according to Veerachai Tantiwanthanavallop, chief of the Phuket Business Development Office (BDO).

Due to investor trepidation while a new government is formed and the strict enforcement of regulations limiting the use of nominees in businesses, the number of new companies registered this year from January to July was 830, compared with 1,328 during the same period in 2006.

"The number of new businesses has fallen this year because investors want a clear political situation, but it does seem that it will get better now that the referendum was passed. I think the atmosphere of investment will soon return to normal," he said.

K. Veerachai said the strict enforcement of the nominee law added to the slowdown in the number of registrations. "Right now we are stuck trying to get new companies to register because for the past six months the



'It is lucky for Phuket that the number of new registered companies is till relatively strong,' Veerachai Tantiwanthanavallop, chief of the Phuket Business Development Office (BDO).

Thai partners have said they have no real money to invest in the businesses," he said.

However, he added that about 70% of the new companies registered in Phuket have had foreign investors as partners.

There has also been a wide variety in the nationalities of investors this year, including investors from Italy, Korea, Japan, Burma and Laos.

About 70% of the new businesses registered this year are involved in the property business, K. Veerachai said, including agents, decoration consultants, property buyers or shophouse builders.

"The market for property businesses in Phuket is nearly full. If you drive around Phuket now you see new properties and construction all the time, which I think

New registered companies

| <u>Month</u> | <u>2006</u> | <u>2007</u> |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Jan | 191 | 111 |
| Feb | 229 | 122 |
| Mar | 223 | 124 |
| Apr | 175 | 104 |
| May | 191 | 98 |
| June | 170 | 136 |
| July | 149 | 135 |
| Aug | 161 | - |
| Sept | 108 | - |
| Oct | 143 | - |
| Nov | 170 | - |
| Dec | 77 | - |

Source: Business Development Office (BDO).

is more than there is demand for.

"Many shophouses under construction don't have anyone to buy or rent them. I think it's really enough now," he said.

Despite the drop in the number of new company registrations, Phuket is still among the top 10 provinces for business registrations this year, and had more registrations than any other province in the South, he said.

"It is lucky for Phuket that the number of registered companies is still relatively strong. We are a peaceful province and we get support for SMEs from the national government and fast service for foreign investors," said K. Veerachai.

In 2005 the BDO collected 35 million baht in fees from new registrations and 40 million baht in 2007. As of the end of July 2007 revenue had reached 25 million baht. K. Veerachai hopes that the figure will reach 50 million baht by the end of the year.

The areas in Phuket that saw the most new registrations were Rawai and Pa Khlok, which in turn has raised the land prices in those areas, K. Veerachai said.

New investors must find some way to distinguish themselves, however, he added. "New investors have to do something different. One area they could expand into would be full-service hospitality or tourist services for handicapped tourists.

"This segment is under-represented and while these tourists have money and want to visit, we don't have anything in place for them," he said.

ON THE MOVE

Nisachon Techasoponmanee, from Bangkok, has been appointed Financial Controller at Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa. K. Nisachon graduated from Chulalongkorn University with a degree in accounting.

Her work experience includes working in accounting positions at Siam Intercontinental Hotel in Bangkok and Hilton Hua Hin Resort & Spa.

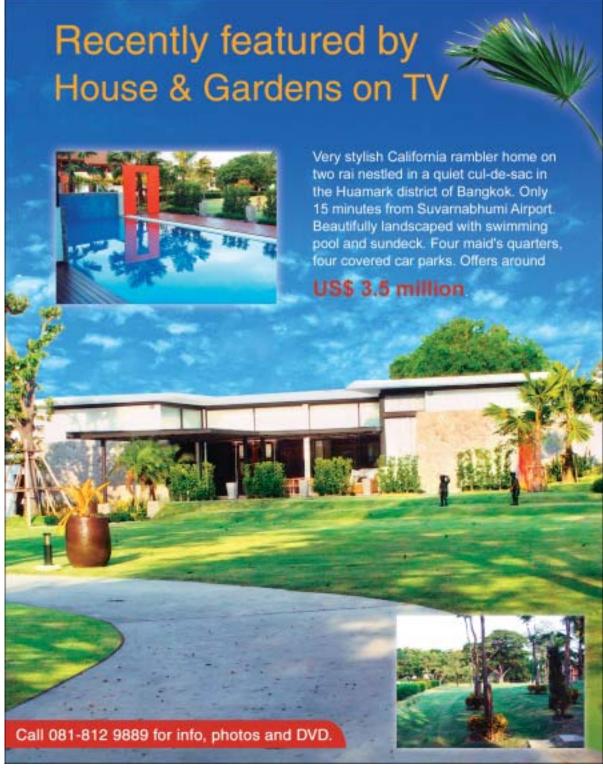


Jirapat Na Bangchang, 31, from Chonburi, has been appointed Public Relations and Communications Manager of Mom Tri's Villa Grand Cru and Mom Tri's Villa Royale. K. Jirapat graduated from Bangkok University with a degree in advertising. His previous positions include Public Relations Officer at Exact Co Ltd, Media Planner and Buyer at Blue Ribbon Advertising Co Ltd and Marketing Manager at Jungceylon.



Phuket native Chananya "Fon" Thipthep has been promoted from Airport Hospitality Center officer to Assistant Airport Hospitality Center Manager at Laguna Phuket. She holds a degree in hospitality management from Central Queensland University in Australia. Before joining Laguna Phuket, K. Chananya was Administrative Officer at Naga Concept Co Ltd.





Sor Siriporn retains title

BANGKOK: WBC women's light-flyweight (108 lbs) boxing champion Samson Sor Sirporn continued her fairytale journey, out-hustling Japanese challenger Anri Nakagawa (5-2-1, 1 KO) to make her first defense of the world title she won earlier this year.

Sor Siriporn, whose real name is Siriporn Taweesuk, gained considerable notoriety as the first prison inmate to ever win a world boxing championship, used a debilitating body-attack strategy and straight right hands to wear down her southpaw opponent and win a hard-fought, 10-round decision.

All three judges scored in favor of Sor Siriporn, 98-11, 98-91 and 99-91.

Thanks to help from former world champion and new trainer Khaokor Galaxy, Sor Siriporn displayed signs of improvement, controlling the ring and going to the body more often than in past bouts. Nakagawa, however, was still able to frequently land punches – far too easily.

Against harder-hitting opponents this could prove problematic, but against the light-hitting Nakagawa, Sor Siriporn was able to absorb the punches and press forward with her attack. Her lack of power is also another glaring weakness, exhibited in the seventh round when after scoring a knockdown, she was unable to finish her weary opponent.

Arrested at 17 for the intent to distribute 2,000 methamphetamine tablets, Sor Siriporn was handed a 10-year sentence, thus beginning her lengthy journey from convicted drug dealer to media darling.

Her first stop was Lopburi Prison, where she spent two years before transferring to the Women's Correctional Institution



PRETTY PUNCH: In defense of her WBC women's light-flyweight championship belt, Samson Sor Sirporn goes to work on Japanese challenger Anri Nakagawa.

for Drug Addicts in Bangkok.

When Thailand's prison officials initiated a boxing program three years ago to combat depression and give inmates an alternative form of exercise, Sor Siriporn jumped at the opportunity. She was eager for the chance to break the monotony of day-to-day prison life while learning a method of self-defense.

"We want the world communities to know we honor human rights, even in prison," said Nathee Chitsawang, director general of Thailand's Corrections Department. "We are promoting sport and providing vocational training for the prisoners. When they are released, it will make it easier for them to integrate into society."

In November 2005, another female inmate, 30-year-old Nongmai Sor Siriporn, attempted to become the first incarcerated

fighter to win a world championship when she challenged Nanako Kikuchi of Japan for the vacant minimum-weight (105 lb) title at Klong Luang Prison in Pathum Thani. The result was a shillyshally battle that saw Kikuchi eventually score a technical knockout in the seventh round of the scheduled 10-round bout.

Kikuchi then took on Samson Sor Siriporn in May 2006, deep inside the walls of Klong Prem men's prison, through five sets of doors and nestled tightly on a small concrete slab, just close enough to the inmate's cells so they were able to view the encounter.

Closed to the public, there were still over 1,000 people in attendance, excluding the 4,729 inmates. Once again, Kikuchi proved to be the stronger and more technically-superior fighter, out-boxing the younger of the two Sor Siriporn's to win a unanimous 10-round decision.

Three fights and 11 months later, Sor Siriporn got a second chance at winning a world championship when she squared off

against Ayaka Miyano of Japan for the vacant WBC light-fly-weight title. Miyano proved to be no match for Sor Siriporn – and Thailand had its first female boxing champion.

The diminutive champion is now one of Thailand's most internationally-recognized boxers. An estimated 1.5 million viewers tuned in to watch her fight with Nakagawa, more than any other show in August. Every major news agency has covered her at one time or another and Singaporean film company Three Six Zero Productions is currently producing a documentary of her life story for National Geographic.

Along the way, she not only picked up the world title but also garnered a handful of nicknames: "The Punching Prisoner", "The Punching Parolee", "The Black Rose" and "Samson".

Despite the ideal Holly-wood storyline, Sor Sirporn's boxing abilities are not yet commensurate with lofty title she holds. It takes years to mold a skilled, championship-caliber fighter. In Sor Sirporn's case, winning the world title was more a product of shrewd marketing and being in the right place at the right time, rather than extraordinary boxing abilities.

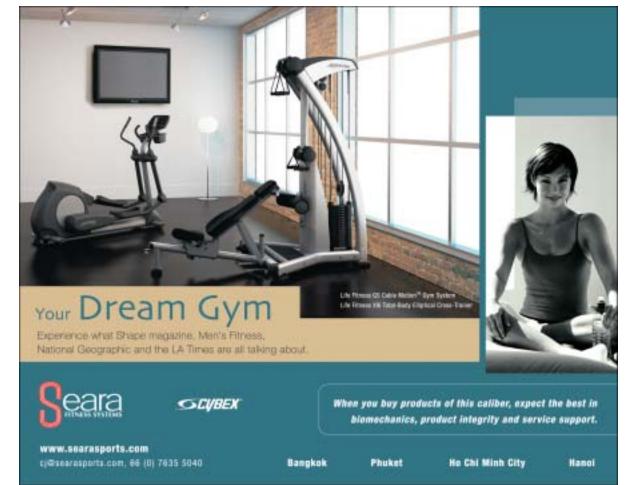
Of Sor Siriporn's eleven opponents, none has fought more than eight times. Seven were making their pro debuts when they stepped into the ring opposite her. Some have questioned—without response—why the WBC granted Sor Siriporn two title shots, while overlooking more deserving women in the division.

A month after Sor Siriporn won the title, arch nemesis, Nanako Kikuchi lost her minimum-weight belt to Carina Moreno of Mexico, dropping a 10-round, unanimous decision in the US. There are rumors she will face one of the two Sor Siriporn's later this year, giving one of them a shot at avenging their previous defeats

The WBC has directed Samson Sor Siriporn to face their mandatory challenger within 120 days of her fight with Anri Nakagawa. However, due to the politics of boxing, the challenger remains unnamed.

For now, the Siriporn Taweesuk story remains openended.

Scott Mallon is a freelance boxing writer and photojournalist based in Bangkok.







Soonthorn Prakobthun accepts first prize on behalf of his team from Chris Emms, assistant to director of quality golf management.

Locals win BCCC golf tourney

Winners of friendly golf tournament Blue Canyon Country Club Corporate Event 2007, Soonthorn Prakobthun and Somchai Navato from South Western Company received the first prize of 24 Taylor Made golf balls and a two-day stay at Blue Canyon Country Club with a complimentary massage.

The longest drive was by Anuroot Deelert from Club Thailand Company (Bangkok) receiving a prize of 24 Taylor Made golf balls.

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

Queen Mary licks Dogs Bollocks

PATONG: The new season of the Patong Darts League started with some confusion. One day after the Market Bar joined the league, Coyote were forced to withdraw due to having too few players. The match schedule for the new season was subsequently changed as follows: 1. All bye games will be played at Market Bar; 2. All games scheduled versus Coyote will now be counted as bye games.

However, should any bar be interested in entering a team to replace Coyote, contact Steen at Queen Mary or any other captain in participating bars or email: darts@phuketgazette.net as soon as possible.

Other confusion about league rules also surfaced after the first game, when some Dogs Bollocks players were unaware of the new rules regarding "guest players", three of which are now allowed during the low season and two in the high season, which traditionally starts November 1.

The league secretary confirmed with all captains and bar owners that all the play in that match was in strict accordance with what was unanimously agreed upon at the league meeting on August 14.

In his opening match of the new season, Steve of Piccadilly hit a 180 in the beer leg against Market Bar, but that did not scare the newcomers from taking the beer leg and salvaging a point after a 7-2 loss.

Reigning champions Dogs Bollocks and runner-up Queen Mary met at Dogs Bollocks. The individual games went to 4-4 in the singles matches, with Joy closing the last single to give Queen Mary a 5-4 win.

Joy also closed the beer leg, giving Queen Mary a 3-0 win overall in a very close game.

August 21 results: Market Bar* 2 Piccadilly 7; Dogs Bollocks 4 Queen Mary* 5; Beach House 4 Shakers* 5; Offshore* 6 Simply Red 3; Valhalla bye. (* = winner of beer leg)

September 4 match-ups: Market Bar v Dogs Bollocks; Queen Mary v Piccadilly; Beach House v Offshore; Valhalla v Simply Red. Shakers have a bye.



Southern students aim high in kicking contest

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

SAPHAN HIN: Students of Prince of Songkla University's Phuket campus organized a Southern Thailand takraw lawdhuang tournament at Saphan Hin sports complex on August 26.

Takraw lawdhuang, similar to takraw, sees teams of no more than eight players compete one team at a time trying to get a takraw ball into a net suspended above the ground.

The higher the level of difficulty taken to get the ball into the net, the higher the number of points earned. Each team has 40 minutes to score as many points as possible, with up to 20 points per basket.

Ten teams competed in the competition, including four from Phuket, and one each from Trang, Phattalung, Songkhla, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Koh Samui and Narathiwat.

The tournament was the brainchild of students of PSU's faculty of Human Resource Management and Business Administration as part of an initiative to promote local sports.

Money raised by the tournament amassed to 30,000 baht and will be donated to building a new cafeteria at Bang Yai School in Phang Nga.

Walking away with the firstprize trophy and a purse of 6,000



THE ONLY WAY IS UP: The Koh Samui team (pictured) racked up 365 points to take the third-place trophy and 3,000 baht.

baht was the team from Nakhon Sri Thammarat who ended their 40 minutes with 615 points.

A Phuket team finished in second place, winning a trophy phy and 3,000 baht.

and 4,000 baht prize money for their 565 points, while the team from Koh Samui racked up 365 points to take the third-place tro-

Volleyball tournament for Phuket youngsters

PHUKET CITY: Kids from around Phuket are invited to the first annual Aviation Radio Mini-Volleyball Tournament to be held at the Saphan Hin stadium from September 3 to 7.

The tournament, despite its name, will use regulation-size equipment, but is open only to children under 12 years old.

Registration is open until August 29 at Phuket City Youth Center, located opposite the Phuket Municipality's community swimming pool.

For more information, contact the center at Tel: 076-216866, 076-250163, or visit their Thai-language website at www.youthcentre.th.edu

(44,1819)

- Anand Singh



BySuganya Semcote



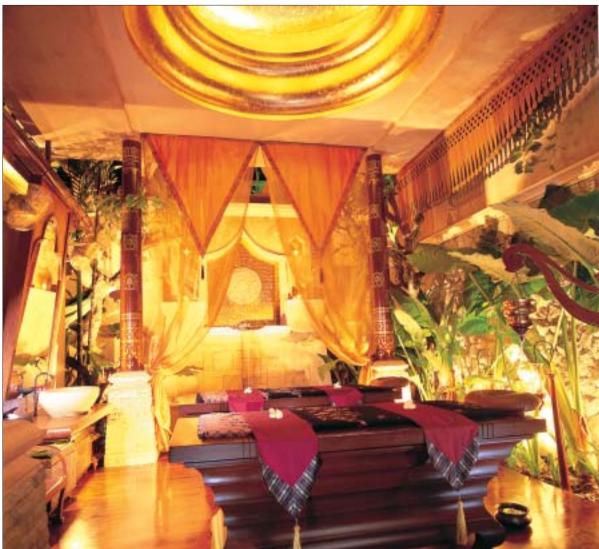
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Design



The Jakra room (from the Bali-Sanskrit word Jakaval, meaning universal power) at Baray Spa is doused in golden light under a dome in the ceiling, showcasing a fusion of Thai and Arabian styles.

Arabian infusion

aray Spa at Sawasdee Village, Karon, is a spa designed to be different by fusing Arabian and Lanna architecture, a concept brought to life by designer Jaran Jongcharoenkamol, who drew on inspiration from time spent in the United Arab Emirates.

Following the opening of the resort in 2000, Managing Director, Warayut Horkawe saw the need for a spa at the resort.

To design the spa, he called on Bangkok based freelance designer, K. Jaran, who was working in Dubai at the time, where much of his inspiration came

"I knew K. Jaran from my time working as a construction contractor at Thavorn Beach Village, Patong. I told him that I had a small village resort with about 40 rooms and asked him to help me out with the design concept," said K. Warayut.

He didn't even review the plans of K. Jaran's proposal as he was so impressed with the design. "When I first saw K. Jarans proposal I loved it because at that time nobody else in Phuket or Thailand had used this kind of design for a spa before," K. Warayut said.

The pair co-ordinated via email, working through each piece, one at a time. K. Jaran would send in the designs to K. Warayut, who organized the construction of the project; the whole process taking about eight months to complete.

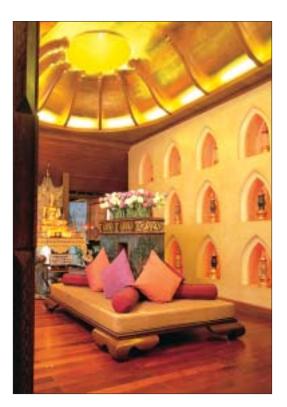
The fusion of Thai and Arabian styles is apparent in the orange-brown, earthy tones of the rooms, designed to be soft in appearance and instill feelings of calm. The choice of colors creates warmth and an ambiance that is so calming and cozy, many clients feel like sleeping, joked K. Warayut.

Taking into consideration the limited space available, K. Jaran designed the buildings with high ceilings like those he had seen in Dubai, which give an impression of airiness. The ceilings in the

main buildings measure four meters high, while in the massage rooms the ceilings are about three meters high.

The spa room ceilings are silver or gold plated and adorned with Arabian style symbols. Small star-shaped holes allow natural light to enter and add warmth to the rooms. The silver is calming and relaxing while the gold gives a feeling of strength and power.

The domed ceilings create a feeling of space and airiness, creating a natural reverb to the acoustics of music played; enhancing the feeling of spacious-



ness. Different styles of music are played depending on the type of treatment.

Ensuring that Thai influence was not overlooked with the overall feel of the spa, K. Jaran chose to use contemporary Lanna designs in the garden. Teak-wood flooring and lotus plants set the mood of the spa and pay tribute to northern Thailands artistic and cultural heritage.

Our clients are always impressed with the design here, as well as the services we have. The unique design offers an atmosphere that is very different to other spas, said K. Warayut.

Home of the Week

Ao Por

irst Class Residence is a unique five-bedroom villa with a panoramic view over Ao Por. It's a modern residence with an exclusive aura – and price tag – that will attract the world's elite. The villa is for sale for 140 million baht and under a special preliminary fiveyear bond agreement, a foreign buyer will be able to own villa freehold.

The house rests in an elevated location, snugly nestled among the natural surroundings on the cliff face. One of the unique selling points of the villa is the cable car lift large enough to transport a family with ease from the ground-level car park up to the house.

The master bedroom is an expansive 140-square-meter horseshoe design with the bed placed in the middle of the room, commanding sea views from the floor-to-ceiling windows. The bay can be seen from any room in the house. Whether waking to a blue vista, walking out onto the terrace or sliding into the horizon pool, the owner will feel on top of the world.

The beach is less than a minute away by foot; just a gentle walk down the slope and over the beach road gets you to the sands by the bay. The villa has two family-size Jacuzzis: one alfresco overlooking the bay and the other



With a magnificent all-encompassing bay view, this modern hillside villa is reserved for the world's elite.

master bedroom.

Norbert Witthinrich, managing director of SEA Properties and exclusive agent for the villa, is excited about the kind of buyers who will be attracted to the villa's exclusive location. "This villa is a priceless investment for the eventual buyer, not only because of the spectacular sea views from every single room of the home and the luxurious character of the surrounding area and properties but because the villa can be owned freehold, bought and registered in the purchaser's personal name," he said.

Norbert will be showing off privately secluded en-suite in the the property at Extravaganza

Moscow 2007, an invitation only luxury goods exhibition attracting some of the world's wealthiest people and their advisors.

The show, organized by London-based wealth management events specialist Shorex, displays the world's high-end real estate, cars, yachts, jewelry, antiques and wealth management consultancies.

The expansive building takes up 580 square meters on a 1,310sqm plot. When complete, the villa will be fully furnished and ready to move into. Although one would expect such a grand villa to have several bedrooms, the emphasis is on providing a spa-

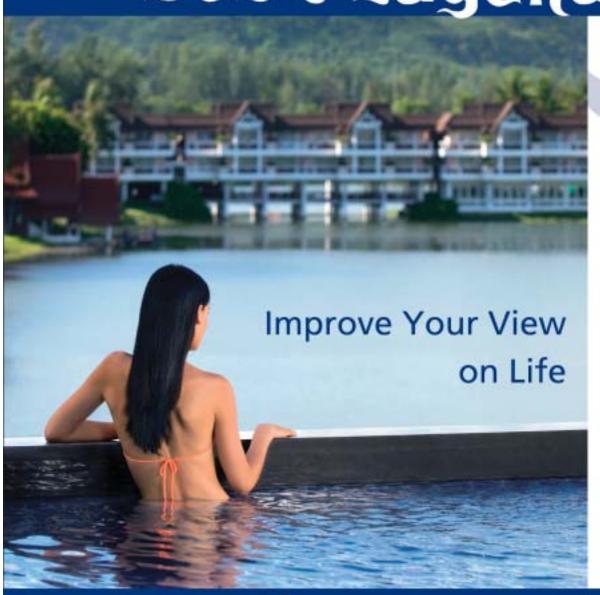
The buyer of this exclusive abode will must exercise a little patience and wait five years before owning the property outright.

The kind of person who can afford such a magnificent villa though, will probably have several dotted around the world and will be used to making this kind of investment.

For more infor-

cious living environment that mation about the property visit commands panoramic views from www.firstclass-residence.com

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with Bloomin' Bert

illy names are every where. People, places, anything in Dutch or Latin, you name it; silly names abound. In the people category there are a few crackers, which by all accounts are 100% genuine.

No silly names compendium is complete without the famous cricket umpire by the name of Dicky Bird. What were Mr and Mrs Bird thinking when they named their son Richard? Perhaps their faux pas is a little more excusable than all those Mr and Mrs Heads the world over who decided to honor their offspring with the same first name.

The shortened form of Richard is more than a little unfortunate, after all. NASCAR driver Dick Trickle, so-called "famous" jazz musician Dick Hyman, college basketball coach Dick Bender and major league baseball player Dick Pole are all blessed with epithets that would certainly have made their school days anything but boring.

Enough Dicks then. The English have some unlikely place names. Why would anyone name two neighboring Yorkshire villages Nether Poppleton and Upper Poppleton? Equally, I'm sure the Irish are honored to live in the

Latinus Makingitupus

lovely Donegal spot, Muff.

Norway has its Hell, and there's a village in Austria that's proud to be called F*cking. The main problem that they have is too many tourists stealing the town's signs. The mayor was even in the paper, whining about the influx of visitors. He was a little sick and tired of saying "No, we don't have any F*cking postcards". You couldn't make this stuff up.

Latin names for plants are another set of suspect titles. What were these botanists thinking? Surely the names are sound evidence of a committee of academics with nothing better to do than sit round and invent strings of words in Latin.

They would of course contend that there's a system behind it – the names are supposed to explain the family, genus and species, scientific origins of the plant and so on. That's what they say, anyway.

One plant in particular has convinced me that these academics got bored one day – the



The flower of the gloriosa superba have a near-Day-Glo instensity.

gloriosa superba, or what the rest of us call the glory lily. In Thai, it's called a *dao-dueng*.

To be fair, they weren't wrong... it really is glorious. This plant is magnificent and one that more often grows wild than deliberately planted in gardens.

Originally from the tropics

of Africa, gloriosa superba made its way to our part of the world and seems to be particularly happy here.

It consists of six narrow red or red-and-yellow petals that cluster together, with six stamens protruding at right-angles below. The color has Day-Glo intensity.

Watching these flowers develop is an amazing process, all stages of which you can usually see on a single branch. It starts with a small green lump that gradually turns yellow and develops into a miniature flower. This slowly grows bigger and develops full-blown Day-Glo petals.

The petals remain while the fertilization process occurs, then the petals lose their color and die. By this time a pod has formed beneath the flower, which grows as the flower dies off. The finished article is a seedpod, which eventually drops off the plant, starting the cycle all over again.

This is biology for beginners, and you can literally watch it happen. Sorry – I'm starting to funnier.

365QM MAID'S HOUSE

sound like my primary school science teacher.

Even the leaves are distinctive, giving the plant another common name – the climbing lily. From a distance, they resemble any other lance-shaped three-inch-long leaf, but close up you can see that the leaf tips have tiny snake-tail coils at the end. This is what they use to wrap around whatever is around them for support. This is not your average lily.

The glory lily is visually most dramatic when it seems to bloom out of some other plant. Because any green shrub can provide support, these flowers can seem to appear out of a totally unrelated hedge.

The vine itself is a bit weak and looks pathetic alone, so it's best combined with another vine on a trellis, a shrub or a fence along with morning glories or something similar.

You probably don't even need to plant it – there's a strong chance that it's already in your garden or nearby. I only had to walk 100 meters from my house to find one.

It's known as a tuberous plant, mainly because it grows from underground tubers. If you do want a glory lily for yourself, pluck off a well-ripened seedpod, take it home and allow it to dry out for a while. Stick the tuber on its side, a few centimeters below the surface, in some compost and wait a few days for the seedlings to appear. Nothing to it.

The only thing left to do is give it a new name. You can call it absolutely anything you want but please try to be a little more imaginative than the experts who came up with something so gloriosa-ly inane. I tell you what – let's call it Richard. Much funnier.









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Construction Update

by Nick Davies

RPM breaks ground for Aquaminium

KOH KAEW: Construction officially began on phase two of the Royal Phuket Marina (RPM), the Aquaminium, on August 8. The expansion will add duplex and triplex, waterfront cabanas and penthouses to the luxury residential and commercial buildings surrounding the marina.

The Aquaminium was conceived by developer Gulu Lalvani, founder and chairman of digital phone manufacturer, Binatone Telecom Group. His vision is to create a world-class marina on par with international resort communities in the Mediterranean, Caribbean and Florida, and to elevate Phuket to become the world's best boating destination.

"It is a dream of mine to put Phuket on the map as an exclusive boating destination. I am backing this vision with my own money; not a cent has been borrowed to undertake the construction of this project, which I am confident will become a hub for the world's elite," he said.

International consultants, developers and contractors involved in the project, include master plan architects P&T Hong Kong; specialists in urban design who have played a key role in other prestigious international projects, such as The City of Arabia, Dubailand. In Thailand, they developed Baan Setthasiri Sanambin Nam in Nonthaburi.

The project architect is Frantzen Design Consultancy from the UK and marine engineers for the project are Burchill

Specialists in construction of harbors and waterfront properties with berths and fuel facilities for mega-yachts, International Marina Consultants, Australia are also on board. Their previous projects include the Admiral Marina, Port Dickson Ma-

Head contractor is Bangkok based K-Tech Construction, whose Managing Director, Dom-



The Aquaminium luxury residences under construction at the Royal Phuket Marina promises to attract the world's elite and help elevate Phuket to a world-class boating destination.

inic Der Kevorkian, said, "We consider Phuket as potentially K-TECH's most substantial area of operations after Bangkok."

Akara Architect Co Ltd, Thailand are taking care of interior design and civil and structural engineering for RPM is overseen by Pyramid Development International, Thailand.

The Aquaminium has seven designs of unit; duplex and triplex penthouses, waterfront duplex. three-bedroom satellite, threebedroom marina view, and twoand three-bedroom cabanas.

The three two-bedroom and the one three-bedroom cabanas each will have an en-suite bathroom for each bedroom. The twocovers 183sqm.

to the private pool.

The two waterfront duplexes of 364sqm will each have a private yacht berth and occupy two levels with four bedrooms, each with en-suite bathroom, with direct access to the private pool deck and outdoor Jacuzzi.

The duplex and triplex penthouses are the most luxurious

units. The four-bedroom duplex penthouse will have a rooftop infinity-edge pool with Jacuzzi, rooftop garden and a sunken dining deck – altogether covering 528sqm.

The two triplex penthouses have four bedrooms, three with en-suite bathrooms, on three levels covering 772sqm. They will also have a rooftop infinity-edge pool and sunken dining deck with the luxurious addition of a private berth and yacht lounge with a bar and Jacuzzi.

Private elevators will give residents exclusive access to the duplex and triplex penthouses.

Moorings for residents' and guests' boats will eventually total 300 berths of up to 30 meters. The low-tide draft is 3.5 meters. Marina facilities for each berth include electricity and fresh water, broadband Internet, telephone lines and cable TV. The fuel dock provides diesel and unleaded petrol, as well as sewage re-

Hardstand facilities include a travel lift with a capacity of 60 tonnes, a forklift with a five-tonne capacity, cradles and a pressure washer.

Plans for RPM are in three phases and will eventually include eight five-bedroom waterfront luxury villas with private yacht berths, an additional 300 condominiums, 100 luxury villas and a five-star hotel, all of which is planned for completion by 2010.



Properties For Sale

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3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1story, fully furnished, new modern house on private road in Kathu. Electric gate, nice walled garden, large terrace, private parking, telephone and Internet. 6.2 million baht ono. Must sell due to move to Bangkok. Tel: 087-3865200.

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE FOR SALE





51.47sqm, in Chanakran Property Village, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Behind TOT Public Co Ltd (Chalong). The house is under construction and will be ready within one month. Price: 3.9 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 081-9562406.

SEA VIEW

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Sea, bay and hill views. Great location. Tel: 081-6932250. Email: lumpoon@loxinfo.co.th

BEACHFRONT POOL VILLA

Located on a private beach. Priced at only 9 million baht. Contact Tel: 084-4422510. Email: admin@thaisunshine developments.com For details, visit our website: www. thaisunshinedevelopments. com/sichon beach.htm

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Rural Ban Liphon, Thalang. 2 bedrooms with aircons, lounge, dining room, large back patio with garden. 8 mins to Boat Lagoon, 15 mins to the airport. 920,000 baht ono. Call Clare at Tel: 083-3906700, or evening Tel: 086-4702787 (English). Tel: 086-0918355 (Thai).

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Fantastic location near Chalong pier with sea view from top floor and road access. 3 stories with shutter gate. Call Tel: 081-5544140. Email: gunnar@oilcanvas.com



3-STORY HOUSE



near Chalong circle. 405sqm, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, aircon, garage for 2 cars. Good location for your business. Contact Tel: 089-8742960. Email: pwarunee@hotmail.com

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400sqm house, pool, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Garden and covered terrace. Price: 6.5 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop @yahoo.com

RAWAI BEACH DUPLEX

15-year lease, 107sqm duplex house, pool, carport, garden. Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

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Large 40 -bedroom house in Chalong. Up for urgent sale due to relocation. Selling at 10.5 million baht only. A bargain deal. Tel: 076-282211, 081tails, visit our website: www. phuketdreamhome.com

Please contact Ann 66 81 868 7676

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Immaculate villa. Private area, big lush garden, pool, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, living room, Scandi kitchen, huge patio, fully furnished, contemporary Bali-Thai style. Living area: 450sqm. Land area: 1,400sqm. Near Heroines Monument with scenic hill view. Chanote. 14 million baht. Tel: 084-6907057.

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140sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, close to the beach. 1.5 million baht. Call Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

BIG GOLF VILLA

Big luxurious villas for sale from 9 million baht. Only 25 meters to Loch Palm Golf Club. Please contact for details at Tel: 081-9685963. Email: m@bayproject.com

SIMPLY THE BEST

value in Patong. 12 studio apartments to be sold. Upmarket resort. 5 minutes to beach, Jungceylon, Bangla Rd and use of fantastic facilities. Great investment opportunity at 2.5 million to 2.7 million baht. Contact Jeff at Tel: 083-2807152.

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180SQM NEW **PENTHOUSE**



Panoramic sea view, 2-3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, large living room. From 8 million baht. Please contact me for a viewing. Tel: 081-9685963. Email: kuno@bayproject.com For further details, please see our website: http://www. bayproject.com/invest/ index.htm

RAWAI BEACH CONDO

Sea view, foreign freehold. 550,000 baht. Tel: 086-940-8914. Email: freeholdprop@ yahoo.com

KAMALA HOME @ **2.89 MIL BAHT**

Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Land: 200sqm. 100m to beach. Tel: 038-720980, 083-1206042. Fax: 038-720215. Email: cincharoen@exotiq.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

Located near Laguna area. Living area: 150sgm. Land area: 650sqm. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 087-8938590.

SHOPHOUSE IN CHALONG FOR SALE

As new condition, excellent location. Many extras. 4.3 million baht. Tel: 085-7987156 (Eng), 085-8831695 (Thai).

NEW 3-STORY COMMERCIAL

building. 2 bathrooms. Price: 4 million baht. Please contact Tel: 086-7432011.

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Two bedrooms including kitchen and aircon. 72sqm and beautiful sea view. Only 33 million baht. Tel: 086-0043008, 084-0535780. Email: info@ ayudhya.net

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Immaculate 126sqm condominium for sale overlooking Nai Harn lagoon and only a two-minute walk from the beach. 2 bedrooms each with en-suite bathroom, lounge, dining room with kitchen and balcony with stunning views. Fully air conditioned and tastefully furnished. 8 million baht. Tel: 076-388809, 081-084 9566. Email: nicholas@ idecnet.com

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Property Gazette

KARON LAND FOR SALE



15 million baht per rai, Chanote, hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Please contact for additional information. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: se rim@hotmail.com

SUPERIOR HOUSE

for rent or sale. Situated in a secure and most desirable estate off Chao Fa West Rd. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms (2 w/en-suite bathrooms). Living room, kitchen/diner, study. Laundry room, garage, fenced garden. ADSL/UBC. Price: 6.9 million baht. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

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1,760sqm. Chanote, quiet and exclusive area, private access. Located 1.2km west of Rawai Rd. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7827551.

RAWAI LAND

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LAND IN RAWAI

1rai 43 talang wah. Secluded high-end hillside plot. Private access. Superb location. Chanote. 4.6 million baht. Tel: 076-521005, 085-7827551.

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60sq wah, Nai Harn area. 2.5 million baht. Contact K. Pee at Tel: 084-0513731, 085-7864509.

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Large, quiet hillside location, 270sqm living space. 3 to 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, living, dining, European kitchen, aircon, wood flooring througout. Double carport, 4 balconies, small garden, partial sea views. 7.8 million baht. Tel: 087-2681170.

AMONG 500 HOUSES for sale, we've got what you're

for sale, we've got what you're looking for. Just ask Marc. Tel: 085-7839062. Email: sales@phuketmarbella.com

58 RAI BEACHFRONT LAND

on Koh Yao island. Chanote. Half the land is flat with 300 meters of beach front and behind a calm river crossing. Ideal for yacht pier. The rest of the land has a little slope with nice sea view. Thai owner. Price: 3.5 million baht per rai. Contact Sakorn. Tel: 087-6050365. Email: tim.kamalaparadise@hotmail.com

KATHU HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge, dining room, big kitchen, corner house. Firm price: 1.55 million baht. Tel: 085-4733409.

LAND INVESTMENT

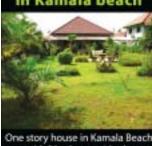
30 rai full of palm trees in Kapong, Phang Nga. Priced at only 120,000 baht per rai. Financing available. Email: bourlis@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



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HOUSE FOR SALE in Kamala beach



area with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom and 2 parking spaces. Separate maid's house. Living area: 120 sqm Land area: 1,400sqm. Big garden with hill view. 2-min drive to the beach. 7.8 million baht. Chanote title. Contact K. Dome. 081-1994356 or 076-386040-2.

or domeglover hotmail.com

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Nice 2-story house with open ground floor, European kitchen with ceramic cooking plate, dining, living, bathroom, storeroom, terrace and balcony. The upper floor has 2 bedrooms with balcony, 1 aircon, bathroom. Garden around the house, carport. Fully furnished. 4 mins to Big C and Lotus. Big house, small price. Only 3.2 million baht obo. Email: shd1@planet.nl For additional details, visit our website at http://home.planet.nl/ ~duang000/house.htm

AO POR LAND URGENT SALE

Chalong Bay View



150 rai, Chanote, panoramic sea view. From 2.3 million baht per rai. Contact for more information. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: se_rim@hotmail.com

KOH YAO YAI

1 rai, Chanote, water, electricity, close to the beach. Perfect vacation home. Price: 800,000 baht. Please contact for additional details at Tel: 081-8928208.

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in Rawai. 180-degree unrestricted sea view overlooking Chalong Bay and Rawai Bay. Only a few meters away from the shoreline of Chalong Bay. Best location of the 41 units in the project. 3.9 million baht. Call Mr Kuno. Tel: 081-9685963. Email: kuno@bayproject.com

LAND FOR SALE

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LUXURY VILLAS

Ocean Views From 3.9m B

WWW.CHALONGBAYVIEW.COM MOBILE: 087 898 7062



Close to Laguna. Best negotiable price. Brand new. 1,100sqm land, 4 bedrooms, pool, lotus pond & garden. Contact K.Gai. Tel: 081-7344324. For more info, please visit our website: www.phuket greenlandvillas.com

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Private, secluded, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, custom pool, located on over a rai. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 087-2095174.

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Flat land, 119 sq wah in Maneekram between Chalong and Central Festival. Access from roads on 2 sides. Full public utilities, quiet area. Price: 1.9 million baht. Tel: 084-8516115. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

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KATHU GOLF VIEW LAND

1.9 million baht per rai. Near Loch Palm Golf Club and BIS. The land totals 70.5 rai (Nor Sor 3 Kor). Quiet and scenic with access to water, electricity and road (800 meters is roadside). Please contact Sumon for details. Tel: 076-352069, 081-6919346. Fax 076-261028. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com

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Khao Lak. Bang Niang bungalow-apartment resort. 8 bungalows with 2 rooms and 2 bungalows with 3 rooms. 6m x 12m swimming pool. Sauna, Jacuzzi, restaurant. All rooms with aircon, TV, DVD player and ADSL. Parking available. 9 million baht. Tel: 076-346-065, 081-8914844. Email: joerg@phuket.ksc.co.th

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Direct from owner. 32 million baht or rent. No agents. Tel: 089-4742958. Email: tm thanida@yahoo.com

RAWAI POOL VILLA

2 bedrooms, 150sqm, furnished, ready to move in. Price: 4.3 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 085-7839062.

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for sale. 1km to the beach. Three plots: 20m x 22m (440sqm each), road access. Price: 900,000 baht. Call Tel: 089-7241140.

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Kamala: 15 million baht. Rawai Beach: 29.5 million baht. Both are ready to move in. Contact Marc at Tel: 085-7839062.

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Sea view over Rawai Beach with private access. Nor Sor Sam Kor. 7-3-81 rai at 6.5 million baht per rai. Contact Tel: 081-5384989. Email: mnobnorb@hotmail.com

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All with Chanote. 5.5 rai in the most exclusive area near Kamala center on flat land: 8.5 million baht per rai. Also, 6 rai with good sea view: 6 million baht per rai. 20 rai with best sea view in Kamala: 6 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

LAND FOR SALE

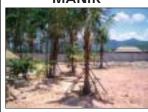
8 rai coconut farm near Tapee River in Surat Thani. 80m wide. Electricity and water. Price: 4.5 million baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 089-0927697. Email: matklang@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

2-stories in a most desirable and secure estate. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, living room, kitchen, laundry room, set in fenced garden. Furnished, ADSL, UBC. Price: 7 million baht obo. Tel: 084-8439579. Fax: 076-323421. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

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quiet home. Lovely outlook, 2 bathrooms, pool, kitchen, carport with storage. Land: 450sqm. 5.5 million baht. Tel: 086-2817605. Email: nigelnpixie@yahoo.com.au

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RAWAI LAND

Chanote, 1,446sqm. Flat, square plot. Mountain, woodland aspects in residential area. 3.5 million baht ono. Tel: 081-6910391. Email: info@liveandletdive.com

NAI THON LAND PLOT



2km from beach, ready to build. Price: 15,000 baht per sq wah. Includes permit. Tel: 084-0526400 (Martin), 086-6865304 (Narin). Email: martin@phuketvillage.se

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Condos, apartments, and townhouses. From 3.7 million baht. Tel: 087-2650118. For more information and photos, email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk, or visit our website at http://housesforsalephuket.blogspot.com/

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for sale. 1 year old, proven success. 18 rooms. Price: 60 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062, 086-2767510.

PATONG HOUSE FOR SALE

3 bedrooms with aircon, 2 bathrooms, Jacuzzi, equipped kitchen with cooker, garage. 26sq wah. Price: 5.3 million baht. Please contact K. Vi at Tel: 081-8443988.

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Profitable business, returning a healthy 12% yield. Apartment building, consisting of 21 studios, manager's cottage, mini mart and other associated businesses. Currently trading at 75% occupancy. A great business with scope to expand profits further. Tel: 087-9484300. Email: grants.construction@gmail.com

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE 4 bedrooms, big kitchen, open

4 bedrooms, big kitchen, open plan, near Wat Chalong. For details, Tel: 086-6831964.

NICE HOUSE FOR SALE

Perfect house, 4-5 bedrooms, ready to move in. Close to Central and Rawai Beach. Please contact Tel: 081-8915296. Email: hkthomesale18@yahoo.com For details, visit our website: www.jikkycar.com

LUXURY VILLA AT KATA HILL

Set in the exclusive gated estate of Beverly Hills, this villa comes with a pool, 3-5 bedrooms, modern Western-style kitchen and more. Show house is now open. Only one villa left with completion due in September. 15 million baht. Tel: 084-0639223, 081-7888280.

Properties For Rent

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Furnished, 2-bedroom home for rent with telephone, UBC, and aircon. Contact for price. Tel: 089-6521473.

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PATONG TOWER CONDO



Beautiful Patong Tower
Beach Condo with stunning
280-degree panoramic views
of the sea, hills and town.
Large outdoor patio and wrap
around balcony. Completely
renovated, Internet and washing machine. Available from
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Email: For additional details,
visit our website: www.
patongtowerrental.com

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RAWAI BEACH VILLA

Furnished house, pool, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, garden, terrace and covered carport, UBC, safe. Rent: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: freeholdprop@yahoo.com

BOAT LAGOON

Two bedrooms, lagoon-fronted townhouse, modern fully-fitted kitchen, use of communal swimming pool near international school, shops, etc. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8337836.

RAWAI BEACH STUDIO

Furnished, kitchen, ADSL, UBC, aircon. 4,500 baht per month. Contact Khun Noki. Tel: 086-6865567.

CHALONG HOUSE

for rent in Land & Houses. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, aircon, TV, UBC. Tel: 081-9560241, 089-4740645.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

New apartment with swimming pool and security guard. From 18,000 baht per month. Call for more info. Tel: 081-9685963. Email: m@bayproject.com

PATONG HOUSE

available for long-term rent. Two bedrooms, fully furnished house in central Patong. No smokers, pets or children. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6932759, 081-6932759. Email: wunhung@gmail.com

in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week! O: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd, 367/2 Yaowarat Road, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand. YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE for a full year - 52 issues! I hereby authorize payment against my Visa \(\simega\) / Mastercard \(\simega\) ☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!) ☐ Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket) ☐ Thai Baht 8,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand) Exp. Date: _ ___ Country: Issuing Bank: _ Signature: E-mail address: Please Deliver To: Street address

HOUSE FOR RENT



Already paid for 2 months. If you take it, you have to pay 8 months and then we will make a new contract. 1 million baht in furnishing. Possibility to sell furniture separately or as a whole. Located 600 meters from beach. Rent: 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-446-3002. Email: mariodiams @yahoo.fr

SERVICED APTS AT A GOOD PRICE

Large, bright furnished studios for rent in Chalong. Rooftop spa and pool. Aircon, Wi-Fi, sat TV, kitchenette, housekeeping. From 9,500 baht per month. Email for pictures. Tel: 086-2826221. Email: saneroad@yahoo.com

MODERN HOUSES, QUIET LOCATION

2 houses in Nai Harn for long-term rent only. 2 bedrooms, ensuite bathroom, UBC, ADSL, alarm, full aircon, ceiling fans, big terrace, tropical garden, fenced in, small pets allowed, garage w/ 100sqm storage. 5 minutes to the beach, beautiful view. Only 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-8744050. Email: happyjo@procom.in.th

PATONG BAY VIEW HOME

Enjoy the views from this 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom house. Full kitchen, dining area, pool, ADSL, UBC. The view says it all! Price: 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-8821963. Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

Kamala area. Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, garden, 2 aircons, hot shower, telphone + ADSL. 15,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 081-5377137. Email: app_wilawan @yahoo.com

SURIN/BANG TAO 2-BEDROOM

apartment. Aircon throughout. Open plan, newly furnished. European kitchen. Deck, swimming pool, 150m to beach, sports club/spa. From 29,000 baht for a 1-year contract. Available now. Tel: 081-8943839. Email: donandinge@csloxinfo.com

TOURIST INFO SHOP

Small shop for rent in Karon in front of guesthouse. Good location. Tel: 086-2718254.

BEACHFRONT HOUSE

for rent. 1-4 bedrooms. Contact for specific details. Tel: 076-381181, 076-381189.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

3 aircons, fully furnished, Western kitchen. Long-term rent: 12,000 baht. Tel: 081-3705956.

STUDIO APARTMENT W/ INTERNET

Modern apartment off Nanai Rd. Fully furnished including TV, DVD, large fridge, hot water, fan, aircon and kitchenette. From 7,500 baht per month. Internet an option. Tel: 087-2650652. Email: gisbert1@gmx.net

SECLUDED VILLA

One of three sharing a beautiful swimming pool and tropical garden near Rawai Beach. 2 bedrooms, full aircon, furnished, UBC, TV, telephone. Minimum 6-month lease. Price: 25,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 087-2810452, 087-8931180.

HOUSE FOR RENT



2-story furnished house, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2km from Lotus on the way to Patong. Located in safe ville. Tel: 089-6458463.

SUPER RENTAL OFFER

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, Cherng Talay area. 25,000 baht per month. Also, Laguna area for 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-7839062.

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with a wonderfully unique, breathtaking panoramic seaview. 2 stories, 220sqm, fully furnished, telephone, ADSL, sat TV, cold and hot water, only 20 meters to the beach, located in a very nice and quiet area (dead-end lane). Yacht owner has possibility to moor the yacht directly in front of the building. Master bedroom: 58sqm with seaview, Jacuzzi, wardrobe, bathroom, shower, toilet and a 40sqm terrace next to pool. 2 kingsize bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, storage, 1 bathroom with shower and toilet, guest toilet, 33sgm terrace (15sqm under roof). Private 7m x 4m pool, 4 aircons, parking space. Asking price: 89,000 baht per month. Minimum 1-year lease. Call K. Bhatayanond. Tel: 081-2596052. Email: surapong@gmx.de

HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, cable TV, ADSL. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-9732917. Email: brunuiviv@hotmail.com

KATHU HOUSE



3 bedrooms (2 w/ aircon), den/study, 2.5 bathrooms, storage room, washing machine, UBC, DSL, 15 minutes to BIS and Patong, 2 minutes to Central. Fully furnished. 18,000 baht per month. Contact for more information. Tel: 076-321-062, 086-8194373. Email: cswift1@swift-mail.com

NICE PATONG ROOMS

Aircon, ceiling fan, free Wi-Fi, cable TV, fridge, nicely furnished, restaurant and bar. Ideal for long-stay tourist. Daily rate: 500 baht. Monthly rate: 7,000 baht. Contact Andrew. Tel: 087-2825086.

KAMALA APARTMENT

Wi-Fi and other amenities. 150m to the beach. Long-term, 1-year rent: 10,000 baht per month. Contact Tel: 081-7193962. Email: bbq@loxinfo.co.th

PHUKET CITY CENTER

250sqm, all renovated perfect for a gift shop, art gallery or design furniture shop. Located in the heritage area of Phuket. Tel: 081-8924885. Email: claude@phuket.ksc.co.th

VILLA FOR RENT

Beautiful boutique villas with private pool, 2 or 3 bedrooms available on daily, weekly, or monthly basis. Contact Tel: 076-282394, 086-0043008. Email: info@ayudhya.net

LUXURY VILLA FOR RENT

in Patong. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool and spa. Available August 26. 60,000 baht per month. Contact K. Yeun. Tel: 087-8950362.

PATONG SEAVIEW APARTMENT

2-bedroom apartment with kitchen, aircon, UBC, swimming pool, quiet location. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2790837.

PALM GARDEN

New, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, located in Thalang gated community. 24-hr security, swimming pool, furnished, cable, phone line. 13,000 per month. Call Tel: 081-8928208.

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Attached to the Sands resort with the benefit of all resort facilities. Overlooking a lagoon to the front and national park to the rear. Living room, kitchen, toilet and yard on the ground floor. Two bedrooms each with kingsize beds, en-suite bathrooms, dressing rooms and balconies on the first floor. Private rooftop sala. Email: jackt@ardencraig.fsnet.co.uk For details, please visit our website: www.phukethouse rental.co.uk

PATONG HOUSE

available for long-term rent. Two bedrooms, fully furnished house in central Patong. No smokers, pets or children. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6932759, 081-6932759. Email: wunhung@gmail.com

BRAND NEW PATONG CONDO

Beautiful 1-bedroom condo in best location, quiet. Sea and hill views, all amenities. Long-term rent. Call for details. Tel: 081-9701479. Email: caltirol@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT OR FOR SALE

We currently have 2 houses available. Contact for details. Tel: 089-4740222. Email: mammos56@yahoo.com Website: www.thehotel deals.com/photos/

SPACIOUS HOME

Beautiful view, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, pool, aircon. Long term. Price: 60,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2817605. Email: nigelnpixie@yahoo.com.au

SEAVIEW HILLSIDE APARTMENT

5-star seaview studio apartment with swimming pool near Lotus. Daily, monthly, or yearly rates available. Only 12 units in apartment. Yearly rate: 12,500 to 44,500 baht. Tel: 081-8779292. Email: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com For further details, visit our website: www.gracegardens phuket.com

PATONG HOUSE RENT/LEASE

Beautiful house on 50 Pi Rd. 2 bedrooms, large living room with open kitchen, sea view, garden, parking, etc. Can take over the lease. 7 years and 7 months left. Buy the lease as an investment for 2 million baht. Minimum 1-year lease: 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-2802424. Email: mdamkvist@yahoo.com

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. Price: 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6923163.

STUNNING SEAVIEWS

Colonial mansion set in gardens with amazing views in every direction. Recently restored to high standard. 3 large bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, furnished, swimming pool. In Cape Yamu area, central east coast. 10 mins to BIS. No dogs. 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2796283.

PANWA BEACH HOUSE

2 rooms, nice terrace. For rent in September or for long term. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-2717071.

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Retired British couple presently living in Phuket require a 2- to 3-bedroom spacious villa or apartment with pool, all in secure environment. Internet and cable TV required. Must be of high standard and well presented. Your property will be very well taken care of! Contact via email: phuket graham@yahoo.co.uk

WOULD LIKE TO RENT LONG TERM

Nice condominium or house with access to communual swimming pool. Minimum 2 bedrooms. Rent up to 30,000 baht per month. Needed from February 1, 2008. Danish person, happy to receive details by email. Tel: 086-9974572. Email: jfridberg@hotmail.com

PATONG TOWER

condo with a sea view. Keen buyer ready to purchase. Please contact if you have one available for sale. Tel: 084-4471978. Email: diggerresort@ hotmail.com

KARON BUILDING PLOT

We want to purchase a building plot in or around Karon or Kata suitable for one small house or bungalow. 200 to 400sqm plot size ideal. Must have Chanote, electricity, water and telephone available. Owners only. Please email with your complete details. We will reply to all responses. Email: ken.devitt@ btopenworld.com

LAND WANTED

Suitable to build house, quiet area with trees, prefer sea view, near electricity/water, access to road, proof of ownership. Will pay up to 1.5 million baht. Contact David at Tel: 085-7908241.

LAND WANTED

Cash buyer would like to purchase around 2 rai of seaview land, preferably sea and island views, on the northeast coast of Phuket. Land must have electricity and good access road. Should not be overlooked and should be suitable for building a house. Immediate decision and payment offered for right plot. Prefer details by email. Tel: 086-9446288. Email: phuketgraham@yahoo.co.uk

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Installation, repair & maintenance of electrical, plumbing and boiling systems. Painting & pool cleaning. Reasonable prices. Contact for more details. Tel: 086-9487489 (Thai), 081-5384989 (Eng). Email: mnobnorb@hotmail.com

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Monthly: 8,000-25,000 baht. Daily: 600-1,200 baht. Contact receptionist at Tel: 076-512151-2. Website: brommathaihouse.com

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Ao Yon Beach. Small house, big fenced yard, parking, boat mooring. 20,000 baht. Rent either weekly or monthly. Contact Tel: 085-4734619, 089-5934125. Email: pirates pizza@gmail.com

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SURIN APARTMENT

1-bedroom apartment available now until Dec. Gated community, shared pool, small development, 24-hour security. Fully furnished. Please contact for competitive rates. Tel: 813-34517073. Email: hktkferg@hotmail.com

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Beautiful guesthouse with Wi-Fi. Best value. Tel: 081-8948446. Email: sfrkata@ gmail.com For more info, please visit our website: www.southernfriedrice.com

PATONG LUXURY

apartment in central Patong. 1 or 2 bedrooms. Tel: 076-341827. For information and photo, please email: suites247@yahoo.com

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New deluxe studio. Full kitchen, cable, DVD, great view, furnished. Long-term rent: 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-0571420.

NAI HARN HOUSE

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244sam land in the center of Kata for sale. Tel: 076-381755, 083-3888076. Fax: 076-381755. Email: preeyapong@hotmail.com

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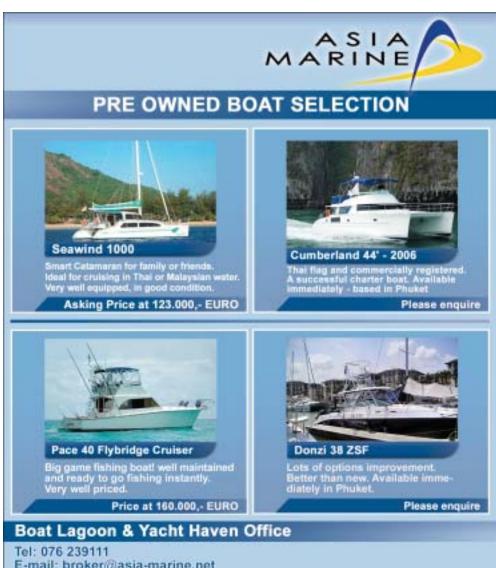
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17' twin 55hp Yamaha boat with trailer. Runs great. 215,000 baht. Tel: 085-473-4619, 089-593 4125. Email: piratespizza@gmail.com

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and Yamaha 140hp and 20hp auxiliary. 30 knots. 300L fuel tank. Excellent condition. 585,000 baht ono. Also, a 3.8-meter RIB with 5hp Yamaha engine. Contact Tel: 076-200730, 084-8394868. Email: arnulphy@bigfoot.com

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Brand new flybridge boat. Ideal for scuba diving, sightseeing. Without engines. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-8912895. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

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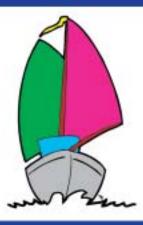
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Villa Operations Manager (Urgently required)

We are seeking a person with a strong hospitality and property management background for the above position. This person will be the main point of contact between the villa owners and villa rental guests, and must have experience managing a staff team, along with the ability to inspire, motivate, groom and roster staff. Good computer literacy, exceptional communication skills (both verbal and written, Thai and English), and an understanding of property maintenance

Assistant Villa Operations Manager (Urgently required)

We are seeking a person with a strong hospitality background to assist the Vilia Operations Manager in satisfying the demands of the Villa owners and guests. Food and beverage knowledge and housekeeping skills are essential, along with the ability to motivate and manage a staff team. Good computer literacy, excellent communication skills (both verbal and written, Thai and English)

Must have a broad range of engineering skills including electrical, plumbing and air conditioning; and able to supervise the team in the absent of Villa Chief Engineer.

Also have several positions are available that schedule to start on 1st November 2007;

Accountant Villa Attendant Gardener Supervisor Villa Cook

Purchasing Clerk Engineer Gardener

Driver Pool Attendant Villa Maid/House Boy







Contact in a person at Human Resources Department 60/1 Moo 6. Srisoonthorn Road, Thalang District, Phuket Tel. 076 310 354 Fax. 076 310 299 E-mail address hr@trisara.com

ENTHUSIASTIC PERSON

for small guesthouse in Karon. Take care of reception, staff, tourists, give info, etc. Contact Tel: 086-2718254.

STAFF FOR INTERNET

business in Rawai. Thai female staff wanted part time on Saturday and Sunday with computer skills and basic English knowledge. Good salary. Contact Mr. Rudi or Khun Nat. Please contact Tel: 076-288808, 081-0909640. Email:info@phuket-carrentals.com

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We have a number of opportunities to work in a expanding company in southeast Asia. Are you money orientated, goal driven, have confident & polite telephone manners? Interested in working abroad? If so, apply now by sending your CV to email: ronsmith99@gmail.com Native English speaker only. Flights and accomodations will be paid for. Tel: 087-773 1327. Email: ronsmith99@gmail.com

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upmarket hotel-apartments. We are urgently seeking the following team players:

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- Night auditor (male)
- Maids and roomboys
- Restaurant staff

Contact Tel: 076-343024-7. Fax: 076-343028. Email: manager@bydlofts.com

For further details, please see our website at http:// www.bydlofts.com

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IT development manager required. To be located in Bangkok. Male/female, Thai or foreigner, bachelor's or masters degree in information technology, computer science or related fields. Must have good knowledge in the following areas: Project management, XML, Web development, Java development, PHP development and SEO requirements. Must also be highly responsible, enthusiastic, self motivated, creative, and well organized. Good English skills are a must. Salary range: 50,000-150,000 baht, depending upon experience. Tel: 02-2338 2603. Fax: 02-2338152. Please send a detailed CV and recent photo to email: wired desheiko@hotmail.com For more details, visit our website: http://wd-travel.com

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General subjects for three children. 8 am - 5 pm, Mon -Fri. Please send resume to email: sutida@hotmail.com

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Vibrant Thai company with Australian expertise wants you and your energy, ideas and enthusiasm. Come and talk to us for more information. Tel: 084-1845162. Please visit our website: www.shades.co.th

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Siam Real Estate urgently require experienced copywriter to write up property listings. Preferably English and can work from home. Please contact for more additional detais. Tel: 076-288908. Email: richard@ siamrealestate.com

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Discovery Moto Tours is looking for experienced English-speaking guides to join it's fast-growing team based in Phuket. We offer full-time, year-round work, a great basic salary, a bonus scheme and paid holidays. If you hold a bronze-guide license, enabling you to travel throughout Thailand, have excellent communication skills and would enjoy looking after customers on luxury BMW motorcycle tours then call James at Tel: 081-8922781. Email: james@ discoverymototours.com

YACHT BASE **MANAGER**

for our new base in Langkawi. You must have experience in the yacht charter business and have good technical skills. Please send your resume via email. Tel: 081-9704020.Email: thailand@dreamyachtcharter.com

1. Zone Manager (2 positions)

Male or female, age over 28 yrs

building/estate management

· Male or female, age over 28 yrs

. Knowledge of Thai Labor Law

BA in Secretarial or related fields

· At least 3 yrs experience in

3. HR Officer (2 positions)

· BA in HR or related fields

Female, age over 28 yrs

or related fields

BA in Real Estate/Property Management

. Knowledge of Land Development Act,

At least 2 yrs experience in HR function

5. Department Secretary (2 positions)

· At least 3 yrs experience in secretarial work

Condominium Juristic Person Acts an advantage

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We need for our team

- Captain (Thai)
- Cook (Thai)
- Crew (Thai)

Work on our sailing catamarans. Tel: 081-9687564.

WEB DEVELOPER(S)

2 DreamWeaver developers with skills in either 1: PHP/ MySQL, or 2: dotNet, JavaScript & AJAX. Any CMS (Mambo, Joomla). OSCommerce experience also desirable but not essential. Tel: 085-2233921.Email: iibc.web@gmail.com

SALES **REPRESENTATIVE**

Energetic person w/outgoing personality and good command of English required for sales job. Good salary. Must be Thai national. Contact Tel: 076-282211.081-8926251. Email: mrsouza@hotmail.com

2. Estate Manager / Assistant Estate Manager (4 positions) Male or female, age over 28 yrs

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;

- BA in Real Estate/Property Management or related fields
- At least 1 yr experience in building/estate management or 3 years in management level
- Knowledge of Land Development Act, Condominium Juristic Person Acts an advantage

4. Receptionist (2 positions)

- Female, age over 22 vrs
- Vocational or higher in related fields
- At least 1 yr experience in receptionist front office
- · Familiarity with office automation

6. Accountant (2 positions)

- Male or female, age over 25 yrs
- BA in Accounting or Finance At least 2 yrs experience in accounting
- Familiar with accounting software with knowledge of MS-office especially Ms-Excel and Thailand taxation systems

Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resume, stating present and expected salaries, and enclosing a recent photo to Human Resource Department at the address below:

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 8151-8 Fax: 0-7631 8159 Email: chutima.ninlawan@th.knightfrank.com

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restaurant.com

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WHEN: Tuesday September 11th - September 13th, 2007 Time: 09.00-18.00. PLEASE BRING: 2 photos, copies of educational and training certification, references, a smile and a great service attitudel

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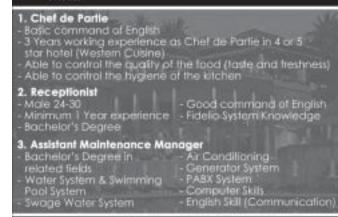
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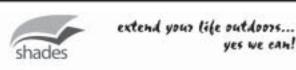
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PIWC GALA BALL

The Phuket International Women's Club announces the most prestigous event this year - the annual Gala Ball on Saturday, Novembei 24th at the Indigo Pearl in Nai Yang Beach. Watch for more details. Tickets will be in great demand. Contact Carol at Tel: 087-4178860, email: carol@aplusplus software.com or Sue at Tel: 087-2776948, email: arnulphy@loxinfo.co.th

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mission Hospital Phuket City Wed and Sun 7 p Bangkok Phuket Hospital

Patong Hospital Patong Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm Chalong Health Clinic-near Chalong Circle

Tues 1 pm For Phuket info (English) call 081-9564031, 081-8912895

Scandinavian speaking Group Wat Karon School-Karon Tue 7 pm Tel 081-2732053 (Nor) 087-2795636 (Nor) 086-7458910 (Swe)

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire at Tel: 02-2318300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email info@aathailand.org

BRITISH MAN MISSING

Searching for a British male, 68 years old, last name is Wake. Has tattoo of skull with dagger on right forearm. Two thirds of second finger on right hand is missing. Believed to have stayed in Chiang Mai from the end of April. Was due to fly back to UK on July 14th. No contact has been had since mid-July. Family and friends extremely worried, particularly as he suffers severe asthma, and depression. We urge him to contact his friends in the UK or the British Police. Any information regarding his whereabouts will be gratefully received. Tel: 019-1431-3493, 077-5824-1320. Email: wakebev5@hotmail.com

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