

Phuket Gazette

Volume 14 Issue 51 News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

December 22 - 28, 2007

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

25 Baht

The Gazette is published
in association with

The Nation

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SorPorKor eviction ruling upheld by Supreme Court

PHUKET CITY: (*Nation/Gazette*): The Supreme Court on December 12 confirmed an appellate decision to evict members of the Tantiwit family from a 69-rai plot designated for landless farmers in Kathu.

"The national-land-reform [*SorPorKor*] program is reserved for farmers.

"Non-farming individuals are not qualified to utilize land-reform plots," the High Court said in its verdict, read out at the Phuket Provincial Court Building.

The Supreme Court ruling was the third against alleged land grabs by Phuket tycoons who were previously granted plots under the *SorPorKor* program, created to make state land available for use by poor, landless farmers.

When it was learned in 1995 that many wealthy Phuket families had been granted *SorPorKor* land rights, the resulting scandal later brought down the Democrat-led government of Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai.

Two other wealthy landowners who lost land-usage rights in Supreme Court decisions handed down this year include businessman Charearn Thavornwongwongse and Tossaporn Thepabutr, who is running for a Phuket parliamentary seat for the Democrat Party.

For the Tantiwit case, the prosecution petitioned the eviction of businessman Banlue Tantiwit on the grounds that he had wrongfully declared himself a farmer in order to put his name on the land reform program.



Part of the 69 rai that was the focus of a 12-year legal battle between the state and the Tantiwit family is visible in the headland shown here, located between Tri Trang and Paradise Beaches at the north end of Patong Bay.

K. Banlue, former president of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*Or-BorJor*), died of a heart attack in October 2001.

His heiress, Arunrat Sawatthong, inherited the plot and thus became defendant.

The defense argued that the original owner sold the rights for land use to the Tantiwit family in 1980.

After the land-reform law was enacted, the plot was within the area designated for redistribution.

The family then suspended its plan to petition for a land-right document and allowed the plot to be part of the land-reform pro-

gram without contest.

K. Banlue applied for land use of his own plot by submitting his settlement on the land as evidence.

Land-reform authorities had verified his farming credentials before granting him the right to settle on and use the plot.

But the high court said the key issue was whether the defendant was actually entitled to the land-reform program.

A source close to the Tantiwit family said they they did not wish to comment on the ruling to the media.

The family's business interests include the Patong Resort and Patong Tower in Kathu.

DDPM launches road-safety campaign

By Semacote Suganya

PHUKET CITY: In its annual attempt to limit road carnage over the holiday period, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM-Phuket) will once again organize a multi-agency effort to promote safe driving during the "seven days of danger" period, from December 28 to January 3.

DDPM-Phuket Chief Chotenarin Kerdson (who recently changed his first name from Aroon to Chotenarin) said in an official DDPM-Phuket press release that the annual migration of holidaymakers during the period inevitably leads to an increase in the amount of road accidents.

The province will establish a number of traffic police checkpoints in key areas. The exact locations of the checkpoints were not specified in the release.

Each of Phuket's three districts (Muang, Talang, Kathu) will have "on average" three checkpoints and that these would be manned by about 10 officers.

As in previous years, the province has also been set with threshold numbers of accidents (41) injuries (32) and deaths (3) for the period. If actual numbers fall below these figures, the provincial effort will be deemed a success.

Phuket will be the only Thai province to utilize the power of stuffed toy animals to promote on road safety when 2,000 teddy bears will be distributed to motorists.

Named "Nong Prodpai" ("safe sister bear"), the bears will be given to motorists who demonstrate adherence to road-safety rules and regulations when passing through checkpoints.

Woman dies in cliff-side tumble

By Sompratch Saowakhon

THALANG (*Kom Chad Luek, Gazette*): Police have ruled as accidental the death of a 20-year-old woman who fell 20 meters down a seaside cliff near Nai Thon Beach on December 17 while she was on a motorcycle tour of the island with friends.

Lt Col Somkid Khaosang of Tah Chat Chai police station identified the deceased as Savittree Pinmuang, from Nong Bua Lumpu province.

Earlier that morning, K. Savittree had set off from her quarters in Patong on a motorcycle driven by a male friend, Anupong Pusri, 22.

They were accompanied by another

couple, Duangjai Suwannakham, 20, and Nara Uy-Thong, 27, riding a separate bike.

K. Duangjai told police that when the four reached the top of a hilly section of road about one kilometer south of Nai Thon Beach, K. Savittree led the foursome walking through a forested area to the cliff, just north of the Trisara resort.

Eager to get near the sea, K. Savittree began to descend a rocky cliff but lost her footing and fell some 20 meters to an inaccessible ledge below.

After being notified by a local resident, police arrived to find all three of the victim's friends crying by the roadside.

K. Savittree's body was recovered and taken to Thalang Hospital after a 40-minute

effort using ropes by rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation.

She suffered a massive head wound and broken left hand during the fall.

During questioning at the Tah Chat Chai Police headquarters, the victim's friends said they all lived and worked in Phuket.

That morning, they drank three bottles of beer together and set off north on a tour of the island with no particular destination in mind, hoping to find a quiet place where they could enjoy a view.

"I questioned them and didn't hear anything that might indicate this could have been murder. They were all upset. All three gave the same version of events, so I expect this case was an accident," said Col Somkid.

2,000 pills ya bah seized at Baan Bangjo

THALANG: Police arrested a young couple and confiscated about 2,000 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills on December 13, said Maj Anukul Nuket of Thalang Police Station.

The arrests were made after an undercover police officer posing as a buyer arranged to buy 400 *ya bah* pills for 90,000 baht from Sitthichai Prasit, 20, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat province, and Kanjana Chaiyaporn, 26, of Kamphaeng Phet province, said Maj Anukul.

Kanjana and Sitthichai, who Maj Anukul said are romantically involved, were arrested at 3 pm in possession of 400 *ya bah* pills on the road linking Bangjo Road to Bor Pla Hua Chang Rd in Srisoonthorn.

Police then escorted the couple to their home, near Bangjo Prison, where about 1,600 more *ya bah* pills were discovered, he said.

The couple were being held at Thalang Police Station, where they both admitted to possession of *ya bah* with the intent to distribute, added Maj Anukul.

"We are questioning the couple to find out who the source of the *ya bah* was. We believe it came from central Thailand," said Maj Anukul.

Land acquisition funds set for Chalong dam

By Sompratch Saowakhon

CHALONG: Some 160 million baht for the final land acquisition for the Klong Krata reservoir project has been approved and landowners will receive compensation payments within two months.

News that the funding had been made available under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives was reported during a project update meeting chaired by Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatwichai at Phuket Provincial Hall December 13.

Irrigation Department officer Tawin Jairak, who oversees land acquisition projects from the regional Irrigation headquarters in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, told the *Gazette* that the Phuket Irrigation Office recently received about 160 million baht to fund the final compensation phase.

Part of the funding will be used to compensate landowners with title deeds to their land, who will receive 100% of the government-assessed rate.

The remainder will be used to compensate people who have valid land usage claims – but not title deeds. These people will be compensated at 90% of the gov-



The 960-million-baht Klong Krata project will create a 5.7-million-cubic-meter reservoir behind a dam 25 meters thick.

ernment-assessed rate, which is based primarily on the distance of land plots to the nearest main road, Soi Luang Pusapha.

The 960-million-baht Klong Krata project will create a 5.7-million-cubic-meter reservoir behind a dam 25 meters thick and 730m long.

Of the project budget, about 300 million baht has been earmarked for acquisition of about 430 rai along the base of the Nakkerd Hills.

Land owners and people with usage rights to the remaining plots have 60 days to appeal to the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives if they feel the compensation they are due to receive is inadequate, K. Tawin said.

Currently, 11 parties with deeds or usage rights to a total of 30 plots are unsatisfied with the compensation offered, he added.

The Klong Krata reservoir is slated to be the island's third major water supply source.

Tsunami memorial services

PHUKET-PHANG NGA: To mark the third anniversary of the Asian tsunami on December 26, a number of services will be held throughout the region.

In Patong, there will a merit-making ceremony at Loma Park involving 108 Buddhist monks, along with speeches and a minute of silence in remembrance of the victims, from 10 am to 10:30 am.

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit will lead the ceremonies.

In the evening, Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) is organizing a "Light Up Phuket" ceremony, where more than 100,000 candles will be lit along Patong's three-kilometer stretch of sand.

Candles will be placed in the sand and lit between 5 pm and 7 pm while a standing vigil will be held.

Students from Tessabaan Baan Samkong School will perform songs and help light ceremonial candles that will be placed on the sand in Loma Park.

In Kamala, the Phuket Japanese Association will hold a memorial service from 10 am to noon at the Kamala Tsunami Memorial next to the Kamala Beach Hotel.

In Phang Nga province, there will be a number of services:

- At the Marine Ship Tor 813, Takuapa District, at 9 am, the Phang Nga *OrBorJor* is arranging speeches and flower offerings.

- At the Baan Namkem Tsunami Monument, Takuapa, from 8 am to 3 pm, there will be a multi-faith ceremony involving Buddhist, Christian and Islamic clergy.

- At Chong Fah Beach, Baan Bang Nieng, starting at 5 pm, HRH Princess Ubol Ratana Rajakanya will preside over a candle-lighting ceremony and the release of 5,395 lanterns in honor of the same number of people who died in the disaster.

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Strong turnout for absentee vote

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PHUKET: Ahead of the general election this weekend, there was a strong voter turnout in advance polling held on December 15 and 16, with 25,956 voters from around the country making their way to Phuket Community Hall to cast absentee ballots in their home constituencies.

Phuket Election Commission (PEC) Director Supap Akkam told the *Gazette* that the turnout exceeded 85% of the 30,394 out-of-town voters who had registered to cast absentee ballots in Phuket.

The figures more than doubled the number casting absentee ballots during the last general election held in Phuket in 2005, he said.

Advance voting for Phuket-registered voters unable to go to the polls next Sunday took place at three polling stations, one in each district: the Kathu Army Petrol Depot in Kathu, the Thalang Pranangsang School in Thalang and Phuket Municipality Meeting Hall.

A total of 6,546 voters, or 3% of all eligible voters, took the opportunity to cast ballots in advance. Most were in Muang District (4,717 voters), followed by Thalang (1,068) and Kathu (761).

There were no reports of spoiled ballots or illegal campaigning near polling stations while the voting was underway, said K.



Almost 26,000 voters, many of them migrant workers from Isarn, turned up at Phuket Community Hall to cast absentee ballot last weekend more than double the number cast in the last general election held in 2005.

Supap.

As for the charges of Election Act violations lodged with the PEC against some of the candidates by their rivals, these cases were being investigated by the Election Commission (EC), he said.

He was unable to say whether any of the investigations would be completed before voters go to the polls this weekend.

If the winning party is later found to have violated the Election Act, their victory will be annulled and by-elections called, he added.

As with the advance polling, a ban on alcohol sales ap-

plies during the poll on December 23, when alcohol sales will be banned from 6 pm on December 22 until midnight the following day.

Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Col Paween Pongsirin told the *Gazette* that police will strictly enforce the ban, the purpose of which is to prevent drunken behavior that could disrupt polling or lead to violations of electoral law.

Phuket convicts freed

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Provincial Prison on December 17 released 147 prisoners, 136 men and 11 women, at 9 am following a royal decree from HM King Bhumipol Adulyadej to mark his 80th birthday.

Also released from Baan Bang Jo detention center were two women and two men who had been detained there instead of paying fines.

The royal decree was issued on December 9 to give certain prisoners the chance to start a new life and re-enter society. The prisoners released included low-risk convicts who had one to

two years left to serve, seriously ill prisoners, females imprisoned for the first time who had served not less than half their sentence as well as aging and handicapped prisoners.

Buddhist monks presided over the release ceremony, during which the ex-convicts pledged to lead crime-free lives from now on.

Of the roughly 1,100 prisoners detained in Phuket Provincial Prison, 46% are serving sentences for drug-related offenses, 22.6% for vandalism, theft and burglary, 12.5% for violence and 4.5% are sex offenders.

Gambling tops crime statistics

PHUKET: Gambling topped the latest crime statistics released by Phuket Provincial Police, with 228 arrests in November.

Drug-related cases accounted for 109 arrests, of which 49 involved ya bah (methamphetamine) with a total of 3,170.5 pills seized.

Twenty-seven people were arrested for the use of cannabis, with 9.2 kilograms confiscated. There were 15 arrests for inhalant abuse and nine for possession of krathom (an indigenous Thai plant that acts as a mild stimulant) with 30kg seized along with an additional 200 leaves.

Eight people were arrested for possession of "krathom liquid" (a drink made from krathom leaves), and one person was arrested for possession of ya E (Ecstasy) with half a pill seized.

There were 110 cases of theft reported, three involving motorcycles, with arrests made in 68 of the cases.

There were seven reported attempted murders in November, with three cases "solved". Of 12 reports of assault, six arrests were made.

Eighty-one people were arrested for prostitution and 21 for possession of unlicensed firearms.

Two people were arrested in November for possession or distribution of pornography.

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Then and now:

December 26 marks the third anniversary of the Asian tsunami, which shook the lives of millions across the region. The statistics of the damage in Thailand (sourced from the UN Thailand) are staggering: 5,395 killed; 1,480 children orphaned; some 150,000 jobs lost in fisheries and tourism; 4,806 homes destroyed or badly damaged. Among the survivors are countless stories of loss, grief, despair, struggle and recovery.

Three years on, the *Phuket Gazette* revisits just a few of the many individuals who were affected by the disaster, to find out how they've rebuilt their lives since the waves hit.

Nasoot Boonsop Koh Phi Phi Don.

A native of Phi Phi, K. Nasoot was running a speedboat business until the tsunami roared in. He lost his grandfather, aunt, nephews, nieces, and cousins – more than 20 relatives in all, along with about 70 people from his village. He lost his home and, along with his relatives who operated small businesses such as gift shops and restaurants, lost his livelihood as both of his speedboats were smashed.

Right after the tsunami, K. Nasoot moved to the Krabi mainland to find work, but soon returned to Phi Phi.

With the help of government and private funding, he strove to rebuild his home and business. The government gave each person 2,000 baht in aid, while each homeowner was provided 30,000 baht.

K. Nasoot requested aid from the Department of Fisheries, and was granted, he says, about 40,000 to 50,000 baht. Each boat cost 1 million baht, so the remaining funding came from bank loans, he explains. He now has three boats.

K. Nasoot feels optimistic about the island's future. "Recovery has been fast here because there are many businesses, such as hotels and restaurants, and it's a tourist destination," he says, adding that the quick revival of many businesses had created a lot of job opportunities.

He has rebuilt his house, his business and says that although Phi Phi will never be the same, it

is still the place of his birth – his home. K. Nasoot says that his surviving friends and relatives have all helped him feel at home again, and recover from his losses.



Louise Arnold-Turner Yanui Beach, Phuket.

Louise's loss in the wake of the tsunami does not appear on a list of statistics. Her home remained intact. She and her husband survived. Their security business not only survived, but did better in the aftermath due to an increased concern over security.

She counts herself lucky, and yet her life was changed forever due to the loss of her close friend and neighbor of some eight years, Leone Cosens.

Yanui, a narrow slip of beach between Laem Phromthep and Nai Harn, was hit hard by the tsunami. The son of Louise's landlord saw the water retreating, knew it was a bad sign and managed to warn most people in the area in time to get to safety.

Leone had gone into her rental house on the beach and missed the warning. Her body

was found inland later that day.

Louise was on her way back from Bangkok when she heard the news. At first she cried a lot. "I cried every day for a month. Losing Leone, seeing people at the airport searching for relatives. It was very stressful, very sad," she says.

Though tears still well up at the thought of Leone, Louise says that time has healed. "Being a bit of a Buddhist has helped," she says. "I believe everyone goes when it is their turn. It wasn't about God being nasty or anything – it was just her time."

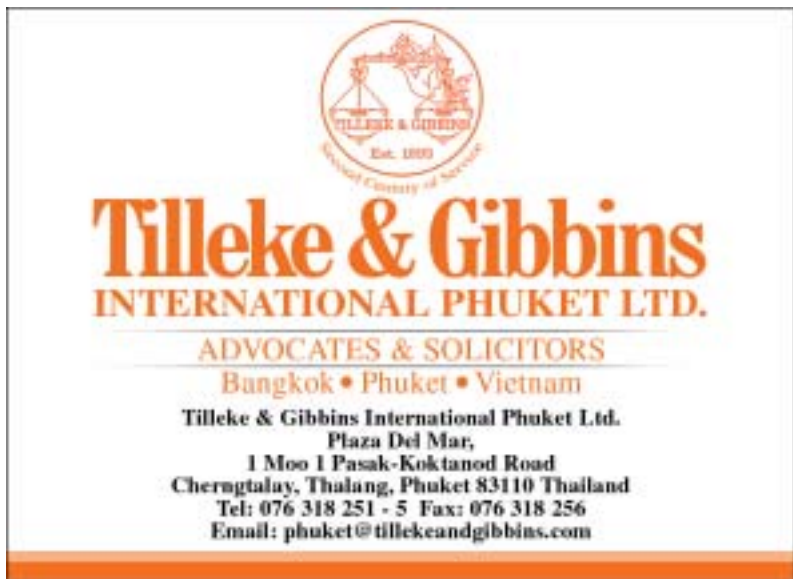
Continuing the dog charity work that she and Leone did together helps. "When you're helping someone else you don't feel so sorry for yourself," she says.

This month marked a milestone, of sorts, for Louise. For the first time in three years, she went down to Yanui Beach. Only a 100-meter walk from her home, but a long distance traveled in her recovery.



Thithiporn Panthip, Koh Racha Yai.

K. Thithiporn's family has



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five portraits of recovery



The shell of Leone Cosen's home on Yanui Beach stood as a testament to the power of nature until it was finally torn down. The site is now a popular picnic area since being converted to a public park.

a long tradition of commuting between Phuket and Koh Racha Yai, where they own coconut plantations and run tourist-related businesses at the beach. She, her husband and three children were on Koh Racha the morning the tsunami struck. K. Thithiporn was at her home inland, but her son, 13 at the time, was in her beach-front clothing shop.

He saw the wave coming and scrambled to gather up items from the shop in the hopes of saving them. Quickly realizing he had no time, he dropped everything and ran back from the shore, escaping the wave as it rushed in.

In the blink of an eye, K. Thithiporn's 100,000-baht investment was swept away. She has not yet rebuilt the shop. "I got 10,000 baht [in government aid] but I had to use it to pay for my kids to go to school," she says.

While she was distressed at the loss of her shop, she says she feels lucky that it was the only loss. None of her kids or any of

her relatives who live and work on the island were hurt or killed.

She and her husband have taken jobs in Phuket since the tsunami. "Now I am working as an apartment caretaker and my husband is working as a school janitor, so we have some money to support our family," she says.

"I hope next year I can go back to Koh Racha and set up the shop again."



Somsri Nuimuang
Pakweep Beach, Khao Lak.

K. Somsri was working as

a housekeeper at the Similana Resort on December 26 when suddenly many people began screaming and running. Not knowing what was happening, she ran after them, up the hill. The wave washed in and destroyed much of the resort, taking a number of resort workers and guests with it.

Safe on high ground, K. Somsri's thoughts went immediately to her son Nathapol, who was due to come visit her at work that morning.

K. Nathapol describes a harrowing journey. At a petrol station in Phuket, he had heard that something had happened in Patong but didn't think much of it.

As he reached the south end of Khao Lak, he saw bodies strewn among the resorts, then raced to try to reach his mother, further north.

The road to Pakweep was impassable, so K. Nathapol went to Bangsai Hospital in search of

his mother. On his motorbike, he searched the area for K. Somsri and finally, after three days, they were reunited.

K. Nathapol says that he lost 10 cousins and too many friends to count.

K. Somsri was without work for about five months while the resort was under repair, but survived with the help of many aid organizations during those lean months. She's now back working at the resort.

She says that she still thinks about the waves, but she has to make a living so she chooses to stay on at the resort. Others do not feel the same: "Many local village people and my neighbors moved away," she says. "For the village, the traditional boat-floating ceremony has not happened since, as they are still scared and remember that day. They sold their land and moved away."

"Many of my friends still have financial problems but they don't know where they can get help," she added.



Franky Gun
Bang Niang Beach,
Khao Lak.

Franky, the Khao Lak correspondent for the *Gazette*, was at his home on Bang Niang Beach when the tsunami struck. He recalls nearly drowning after being trapped in a nearby resort

bungalow and then swept about one kilometer inland. Both of his parents, who were with him in his home, died that day, along with his pets and many friends and neighbors. His home was destroyed.

He felt tremendous grief and anger in the initial aftermath. "The first three months were hard, searching for my parent's remains, emptying their flat in Germany and so on," says Franky. "Both my parents were identified in March and we gave them a proper burial at sea – closure – which was very helpful in recovering psychologically."

He found solace with his friend, a hypnotherapist, who helped Franky prepare emotionally for clearing out his parents' home back in Germany.

"I guess without his help I would have suffered more psychologically and would not have been able to deal with the tsunami issue that well."



Six months after the tsunami, Franky and his fiancée had a son, Martin, which he says was one of the happiest moments his life.

"From then onwards it was easy. I buried myself in work, which also helped, and helped my little family to survive the so-called aftermath."

Three years on, Franky says the disaster still affects him, but in a positive way. "I have made peace with the tsunami, the sea, Buddha, god and mother earth. I feel no anger regarding the tsunami and I feel sorry for the ones who are not able to let go and whose minds and thoughts still revolve around the tsunami. Life is too short to poison your soul with grief, anger and hatred."

And, he notes, he now lives 50 meters above sea level.

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Queer News

Going out with a bang

YALA: The risk of being blown to smithereens has become a fact of everyday life for people in the Deep South as attacks by insurgents continue to occur on an almost daily basis.

However, the insurgents are not the only threat in such a weapons-saturated environment. Even close friends can be dangerous, as five young men found out when their friend in the Rangers paid them a visit on the evening of December 15.

Theeraphat Bunla-iat, 22, Jakraphong Nudang, 16, Kamolphon Thepsuk, 20, Phichet Ja-iat, 20, and Yingyot Srisuwan, 20, were sat chatting in their house in Yala Town when Rangers volunteer Prachaya Nawabut, their 25-year-old neighbor, stumbled in after an afternoon of drinking.

Obviously unsatisfied and seeking to add a bit of a thrill to proceedings, he pulled out an M26 grenade and began to play with it.

Drunkards and weaponry

are always a potentially explosive combination, one best dealt with by a quick exit from the scene. Soon enough, the inevitable happened. The grenade fell from Prachaya's hands, the pin remaining in his fingers.

With drunken desperation, Prachaya scrambled on the floor to pick it up, but in his inebriated state was too slow. The grenade went off, taking both his hands with it.

His unfortunate neighbors, who just a few minutes before had been enjoying a civilized evening, were hit with a barrage of shrapnel; all five had to be taken to hospital for emergency treatment.

Prachaya, who took the brunt of the blast, died from his injuries.

There was no comment from his unit commander as to how volunteer soldier able to take a grenade out on the town with him.

Source: Khao Sod

Commemorative coins to honor HM The King's 80th birthday

PHUKET: Thailand Post has launched a set of commemorative, gold-plated coins in honor of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 80th birthday.

Each of the 9,999 sets comprises 25 coins.

The coins are adorned with a range of images that have been used on commemorative stamps in the past, including HM The King's portrait, various royal portraits, the first anniversary of HM The King and HM Queen Sirikit's wedding, the Golden Jubilee, Phu Phing Royal Palace and the Royal Barge *Narai Song Suban HM Rama IX*.

The coins were created through a painstaking process by a Swiss craftsman who enlarged the images of the stamps and then created plaster molds and a silver crucible for the gold plating.

Each coin in the set costs 5,400 baht. Coins are delivered monthly, unless otherwise specified by the buyer at the time of the order.

A complete set of coins comes with a decorative, wooden display box, a pair of gloves for handling the coins and a collector's book.

Coins can also be bought individually.

Any person who places an order and is unsatisfied with their purchase can receive a full refund by returning the goods within 14 days of receipt.

The coins are available now until stocks run out.

For more information or to make an order contact Stamp Thong Co Ltd. Tel: 02-9401500, 02-5791313. Website: www.thegoldstamp.com

Children's Day festivities at Phuket Aquarium

KHAO LAK: The Saphan Jai Community Festival will kick off with a concert, children's photo exhibition and cultural performances by Thai and Burmese children in Khao Lak on Sunday, December 30.

The free concert will feature performances by Thai folk-rock legends Caravan, credited with the creation of the *plaeng pheua chiwit* ("songs for life") genre of Thai music.

Also performing will be The Durgas, from Germany.

The non-alcoholic event in Khao Lak will include NGO and community booths selling handicrafts and food, as well as offering many games for children.

On Children's Day, January 12, the fun will move to Phuket Aquarium at Cape Panwa, where children will be admitted free and treated with ice cream.

The aim of the events is to build environmental awareness and foster friendship and respect among diverse cultures.

For more information call 081-4919983 or 076-391126.



TRASHING Phuket

Students from Phuket Vocational College turned out in droves to join the recent Phuket Clean & Green project organized by the Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

With bags, spades and saplings to plant, about 60 students went to work cleaning up the Saphan Hin beachfront from 7 am to 9 am on December 1.

After picking up refuse strewn about the area, including plastic bags, beer bottles, pieces of wood and discarded food containers, students went to work planting about 100 sea-pine trees along the beachfront.

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The government has boosted security to ensure public order in urban areas until the end of the general election balloting and holiday period.

Government Spokesman Chaiya Yimwilai on December 13 said the heightened security would remain in effect until the new prime minister receives royal endorsement.

As a part of the plan, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration is installing 1,300 security cameras throughout the capital.

K. Chaiya denied that the measures were in reaction to reports of a security threat before or after the December 23 election. "We are most concerned about New Year celebrations," he said.

Last year, a series of bombs went off in the capital on New Year's Eve. No one was killed, but one injured foreign tourist had to have her legs amputated.

Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont has emphasized that relevant authorities must closely monitor the situation in tourist centers, including Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Pattaya, Phuket, Haad Yai and Koh Samui, and swiftly take action if any violent incidents arise.

K. Chaiya said intelligence reports indicated there will be movements and rallies that "may be incited toward violence".

Singer stoned. Police in Kamphaeng Phet have issued an arrest warrant for one of two men suspected of throwing a rock at cafe singer Saowapa "Nong Beer" Petchlek, fatally injuring her.

Under questioning before the warrant was issued, suspect Ekkachai Joykaew, 25, maintained his innocence.

According to a witness, the 20-year-old singer had spoken rudely to a person named "Ek", one of two men on a motorcycle that drove past the cafe early on December 13.

The two men returned and threw a 1.5-kilogram rock at Saowapa.

She died later in Kamphaeng Phet Hospital.

Police believe they had suf-

Security beefed up for ballot, New Year celebrations



HOT SHOTS

Pilots of the Indian Air Force Surya Kiran (Sun Rays) aerobatics demonstration team put on an impressive aerial display in the skies above the Royal Thai Air Force Squadron 601 airbase in Bangkok's Don Muang district on December 12. The performance was held as part of HM The King's 80th birthday celebrations.

ficient evidence to prosecute Ekkachai for aggravated assault causing death. They are still searching for the other man.

Online scammers. The Department of Special Investigation (DSI) is probing the origin of several websites accused of luring people into bogus investment schemes and defrauding them of their money.

Col Piyawat Kingket, head of the DSI Office of Special Criminal Cases, said his agency was still gathering evidence in order to arrest the people behind the schemes.

If the websites were operated from overseas, his office would ask the DSI Office of

Technology and Information to help enforce the crackdown.

Meanwhile, the Office of Consumer Protection Board (OCPB) is planning to publish warnings about fraudulent investment schemes on its website, www.ocpb.go.th, following a boom of such scams recently.

"We will describe the suspicious schemes without identifying the company by name. This should help stop people from becoming victims," said OCPB Secretary-General Rasamee Vistaveth on December 16.

Bait and switch. Two French tourists were robbed after they took two transvestites to their rented room for sex and a mas-

sage late on December 10.

Annisie Rannane, 23 and Delil Secen, 18, were found tied up and naked in their rented room in South Pattaya at 12:30 am.

They told police that they met the two transvestites while walking back to their room and

the two offered sex and massage services.

But when they took the two transvestites back to their room, two Thai men with covered faces stormed into the room and robbed them, they said.

Simian savagery. A female monkey in Samut Sakhon's Krathum Baen district attacked and killed two-month-old Pongnarin Iamsam-ang, who was left lying unattended in his cradle on December 13.

Siriwat Paowongsa, head of the National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department's wildlife protection division said people had described the monkey as "rather fierce".

The monkey had been kept at the shop for years, but it went missing about a week before the attack.

The tiny victim sustained serious wounds to his head and died at Srivichai 3 Hospital the same day.

He was cremated the following day because his mother had no money to pay for a funeral service and already owed the hospital 50,000 baht in treatment costs.

The monkey's owner faces criminal and civil charges, police said.

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

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Nearly 300 residents of Koh Pha Ngan turned up in front of Samui's Municipal Hall to protest the planned construction of a Tesco-Lotus supermarket.

The organized protest was accompanied by a formal complaint lodged against the proposal of the British chain supermarket.

The rally was attended by small local retailers who claim the supermarket will threaten their livelihoods.

Similar protests were held on Samui before the building of the two current Tesco supermarkets and a third market in the chain is already in the construction phase.

It is unclear whether the protests have had any impact on the planning process.

Frenchman swallows drugs. Immigration police on Koh Samui arrested a French man who allegedly smuggled in 454 grams (one pound) of cocaine from South America.

Police Capt Narangpol Pimolsiri said the arrest came after receiving an anonymous tip. Alain Bellaiche, 40, was stopped when he arrived at Samui Airport.

Police then took him to the hospital, where x-rays revealed he had swallowed 65 packets of cocaine, he added.

Pha-ngan islanders fight to keep Tesco-Lotus out



HYPERMARKET HUFF: This may soon be seen on Koh Pha Ngan – but not if a group of residents have their way.

origin of the drugs and their intended distribution.

Car ferry to re-launch. After months of suspended service, the Koh Pha Ngan radio station has announced that the car-ferry service to and from neighboring islands will resume in 2008.

No date for the return has been set, but it is hoped that the

service will begin early next year.

Suspension of the ferry has caused major delays in construction and development projects taking place on Koh Pha Ngan.

Drug arrest. A Samui resident was arrested on charges of drug trafficking after police intercepted him with a large quantity of marijuana while traveling further south in Thailand.

Chumphon Phanompharai, 33, was stopped in Chumphon Province with 497 kilograms of marijuana worth a total of 6 million baht. K. Phanompharai told police he was delivering the drugs, which originated in Laos, to Phattalung province.

He confessed to police that he had been hired by a Laotian man to transfer the drugs for 100,000 baht. Although he admitted to the crime, he stated this was the first time he had been involved in any such activity.

Police on Samui believe the drugs were intended for distribution on Koh Samui and Koh Pha Ngan, where marijuana can command high prices, especially around the time of the major parties.

Police officials on Koh Samui and Koh Pha Ngan have been ordered to clamp down on drug activity this high season and during the upcoming elections.

Thieves caught on ferry. After months of reported thefts and break-ins all over Koh Samui, two

suspects were apprehended while trying to flee the island.

Pol Maj Sayan Satsree said the suspects were apprehended aboard a ferry arriving at Donsak from Samui. The suspects were carrying five laptop computers, four mobile phones, three wrist-watches and other items worth about 10,000 baht.

Police announced the arrests after much pressure was put on authorities to hold someone accountable for the crimes, which were becoming daily occurrences.

"Cars and trucks right in front of the police station were broken into and nothing was being done to stop it," said Darren Carries, a resident of the Nathon area, where many of the reported car break-ins took place.

Teeraphat Kawwnamyen, 24, and Vinai Boobsook, 22, were arrested and accused of being involved in at least 22 thefts around the island, many of which are believed to have taken place in broad daylight.

Steven Barrey, a victim of three house burglaries, said, "it gives [me] some confidence in the police efforts. It's horrible to think that these guys were getting away

with it for so long. It's hard to sleep at night knowing you could be a victim yet again."

Cars and houses have been targeted recently.

The suspects have been taken back to Koh Samui for questioning.



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By Max Rogers



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Police foil Khok Kloy assassination

In the latest in a series of attempts on the lives of Phang Nga politicians, three men were arrested on December 12 while allegedly on their way to assassinate a local politician and canvasser for the Democrat Party in Khok Kloy, just north of the Sarasin Bridge.

Police later arrested the man they believed to have ordered the attack.

The three men were stopped at 6:30 pm at the PTT gas station next to the Mitsubishi Phang Nga car showroom in Khok Kloy. Without license plates, the pickup the men were traveling in matched the description of a vehicle an informant had told police would be used in an assassination.

On searching the vehicle, officers found an M-16 assault rifle with 27 rounds of ammunition, a short-barrel shotgun with three cartridges and a fully-loaded .357 revolver.

Police also seized three mobile phones, three bundles of *krathom* leaves (an indigenous plant used as an illegal stimulant) and a pair of Krabi registration plates.

Police identified the trio as the pickup truck's owner Wichian "Moo" Chaisit, 32, from Surat Thani; Sujin "Iat" Chuaysathit, 36, from Ayudhaya; and Suchat Reuangphan, 51, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

One of the policemen investigating the case said that all three men confessed that they had been hired by Pracha Ong-aat, 56, to kill the president of a Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) in the area. The intended target was also a canvasser for the Democrat Party.

The suspects claimed they had met Pracha earlier that day and he had given them the M-16 and the revolver. When they were arrested, the men were due to meet Pracha again to be taken to the target and collect 40,000 baht in payment, the police source said.



READY TO VOTE

Students from Ban Yalutong School in Narathiwat's Ba Joh district encourage people to turn out and vote in a fraud-free general election on December 23.

On hearing that the suspects were due to meet Pracha, police loaded the men back into their pickup and rushed back to the gas station. Shortly after police arrived at the gas station, Pracha and a female companion arrived. When Pracha stopped the Toyota Corolla he was driving, police swooped in and arrested the pair. Police found 40,000 baht in cash in the car.

Pracha and his companion, named by police as Natalie Ketsuwan, 40, were taken to Khok Kloy Police Station to be questioned. Both suspects denied any knowledge of an assassination plan and claimed they were simple farmers.

Officers at Khok Kloy Police Station were later joined by Phang Nga Provincial Police

Commander Maj Gen Pricha Samutpaoraya and Takua Thung District Chief Chonsit Thanasana, who assisted in interrogating the suspects.

The case drew interest from the public, with a crowd of about 100 people gathering outside the police station to await updates. Police said that they would make an announcement about the case in the coming days.

This alleged attempt on the life of a politician was the third high-profile politically motivated crime in Phang Nga this month. On December 7, a member of the Phang Nga Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) from Kuraburi district was shot dead.

On December 5, an unknown number of gunmen

opened fire with assault rifles and shotguns on the house of Phang Nga *OrBorJor* President Bam-rung Piyanamwanit. No one was injured in the attack.

In 2004, two *OrBorJor* presidents were gunned down within six months.

Getting gyped. A man suffered severe burns to his legs while attempting to immolate himself in Surat Thani's Kanchanadit district on December 13.

Suriyan In-kaeow, 26, was protesting the transport of gypsum by dump truck from a nearby mine to the coast, which had destroyed the road running through his village and caused health problems for local residents forced to breathe in large amounts of gypsum dust.

K. Suriyan was part of a 300-strong protest that blocked the Tha Tong Mai-Ban Kradae-jae road at 3 pm.

After he poured petrol over his body and set himself alight, fellow protesters rushed to extinguish the flames. He was taken to Surat Thani Hospital, where he was treated for severe burns to the legs.

K. Suriyan said that he had set himself on fire to draw the attention to the problem and to repay his debt to his family and society for previously being imprisoned for drug dealing.

Protesters said that more than 100 trucks a day, some weighing more than 30 tons, pass along the stretch of road the protesters had blocked.

As the road was made for vehicles of up to 18 tons, the surface had been badly damaged. Almost everyone living near the road suffered from allergies and breathing problems, the most seriously affected being children and the elderly, protesters said.

About a month before the demonstration, villagers submitted a petition signed by more than 5,000 people to the local District Office. No action had been taken, they said.

The villagers said that they would hold their next protest outside Surat Thani Provincial Hall to attract the attention of Surat Thani Governor Winai Buapradit, who previously served as a Phuket Vice-Governor.

Gov Winai said that he had yet to receive a detailed brief on the problem, but would consult with Kanchanadit district officials on how it could best be solved.

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

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Phi Phi reefs get a transplant

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

As part of the celebrations to mark the 80th birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) on December 3 brought diving volunteers and students to the Phi Phi Islands to stage a beach and underwater cleanup and also to transplant fledgling corals to nearby reefs.

PMBC Director Wannakiat Tubtimsang explained that the Phi Phi Islands were chosen for the project because the clear waters and coral reefs around the islands are popular with tourists. According to a survey by the PMBC after the tsunami, about 10% of the nearby corals were destroyed by the devastating waves.

"The coral reefs at Koh Phi Phi Lei were among the worst hit by tsunami in 2004," said Dr Naline Thongtham, who heads the PMBC's coral reef rehabili-

tation program.

This was not the first time the PMBC had planted corals in an area devastated by the tsunami. In October last year, the center transplanted 1,200 fragments of coral at Koh Phi Phi Lei, again with help from local diving companies as well as volunteer divers from Bangkok and elsewhere.

"We grew tiny coral fragments in floating nurseries and now they are big enough to grow by themselves. Volunteer divers from local diving companies helped us transplant them," explained Dr Naline.

"The advantage of growing coral fragments in nurseries and transplanting them on natural substrate is that you don't have a lot of foreign matter on the sea floor. In addition, taking small fragments has little effect on the donor colonies," she added.

"Growing coral fragments in

floating nurseries is part of a research program we started two years ago. Transplanted corals are now thriving well. The activities at Koh Phi Phi Lei and Koh Phi Phi Don that we did on December 3 is one way to get the public involved in coral conservation and increase environmental awareness," she said.

"The PMBC will also transplant corals grown in nurseries at Panwa Bay at a later date. It will be a pioneer project using a coral species that can better tolerate turbid waters and sediments," Dr Naline added.

Konee Kongkhamliab of the Ao Nang Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), which is responsible for the Phi Phi Islands, told the *Gazette* that he felt proud that the PMBC and volunteers chose to help preserve the marine environment surrounding the Phi Phi Islands.

"Our underwater cleanups



A diver attends to a coral reef as part of a coral rehab program off Koh Phi Phi Lei.

are usually done through the local dive community, who are good in that they ask their customers to be careful and help preserve the coral reefs," he said.

K. Konee added that the coral reefs there have suffered very little damage by humans and that nearly all the damage to them was caused by the tsunami.

"We have about 5,000 tourists per day in the high season and we constantly let tourists know that they are not allowed to take any coral home as a souvenir," he said.

Dr Naline explained that so far about 80% of the transplanted coral has survived. "We check every two months for up to a year after the coral has been transplanted," she said.

She added that it takes about 10 months for the fledgling corals to grow strong enough to survive the transplant. "This type of coral can live in unclear water. If it is successful here, we will use

it to help recoveries in places with damaged coral, such as off Koh Raht [the island that is being promoted as Jumeriah Private Island Resort] and in front of the PMBC [at Cape Panwa]," she said.

The concept of using coral nurseries and transplanting coral came from Israel through a technology and expertise exchange program involving organizations in six countries and EU funding.

"The technique is from Israeli research. We have just adjusted their nursery technique to suit our environment," Dr Naline explained. "Each stick of coral costs 512 baht to grow and transplant. So far, we have planted 1,200 coral sticks at Phi Phi," she said.

"Next year, we might expand the project to reefs off Koh Phi Phi Don, but as many tourists and many boats go there, we will have to check whether it is worthwhile saving the coral there," she said.

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Profile of Time



Artist: Salvador Dali
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To showcase just how good, how creative, how varied their product menu is, and to jump-start creation of an informal chefs' association, Farang Food's managers Simon Callebert and Brice Ercoli threw a bash at the recreated Indigo Pearl Resort at Nai Yang, where their friend Chef Dion McGrath (late of the Four Seasons Cairo) holds sway in the kitchens.

Fifty or so guests assembled for hors d'oeuvres, sparkling wine and a fiery visual extravaganza put on by the Elementricks duo, Loch and Zazi, atop a sort of grassy acropolis overlooking the resort.

While servers bearing trays with wedges of fruit, salami and sweet, creamy or deliquescent confections scurried hither and yon among the torch lights, the pair, garbed in black, danced with fire, variously juggling or whirling to the strains of Pink Floyd and Enigma.

We might have been druids.

Chef Dion's kitchen and serving staff, who drilled for days before the event, were remarkably polished, serving nine courses to 50 persons, each simultaneously and each with a specified wine – all without a hitch. The extra-large glassware,



Chef Dion's kitchen and serving staff, who drilled for days before the event, were remarkably polished, serving nine courses to 50 persons, each simultaneously and each with a specified wine.

half brushed steel and half chromed flatware, brushed pewter hexagonal coasters, the very plates – all were uniquely attractive and functional.

Norwegian salmon, raw tuna and caviar with Angel's Hair pasta was our first course, accompanied by the smoky flavored (but flinty finishing) 2006 Chilean Terra Mater Sauvignon Blanc. Note that each item came from a different country, a pattern that continued throughout the dinner, perhaps to prove the boast that Farang Food Paradise offers near-boundless choice.

Second course was Seared

Foie Gras, Unagi Glazed Sea Eel and Mango-Ginger Salsa. The eel's strong flavor did justice to the salsa and the foie gras added texture and richness.

To wash it down, a deep golden 2004 Chardonnay-Viognier blend, a certified vins pays d'oc called La Chasse du Pape (The Pope's Hunt), was served, with nose redolent of mushrooms, earth and green bananas.

Next came a course one diner guessed was a culinary riddle: Steamed Mud Crab Claw in Creamy Lemon Grass soup. A partner in the press compared it

with clam chowder and expressed content that "the lemon-grass was not over done."

Key to the riddle was the accompanying Terra Mater Paso Del Sol Cabernet Rose, "To show transition between reds and whites," said an astute gourmand. It was a fine choice, for the tasty soup was likewise neither light nor dark.

Then came the Champagne Peach sorbet. Normally just a palate cleanser, the sorbet was transformed into a show-stopper by its presentation: spouts of charcoal gray teapots billowed steam from dry ice placed inside their bellies; the teapots' inverted lids served as bowls for the sorbet.

Everyone was delightfully

floored. Veteran Belgian airline pilot Pierre Van Impe, who has started the ironically named Icarus restaurant in Phuket City, was impelled to favorably compare Chef Dion's cuisine with that of Tour d'Argent and other Guide Michelin three-star restaurants.

The chef later revealed his sorbet idea was pioneered at one of the Grand Hyatt hotels.

Fifth course was New Zealand Scallops with Prawn Stuffing. Light red coconut sauce and crispy ginger enhanced the flavors, and La Chasse du Pape prepared the way for course six: Seared Monkfish and Chorizo-Tomato sauce. This was perfect, with the chorizo appealingly savory.

Now we come to the meat. Servers first poured 2004 "old vines" Moulin De Gassac Cabernet-Syrah-Mourvedre; others brought plates of enticing Pepper Encrusted Duck Breast on Glazed Pineapple.

The wine was deep ruby in color, with fat legs like a Rubens nymph and a come-hither nose of raspberry and herbs, but perhaps too structured on the tongue.

I'm a great fan of black pepper and duck, so, needless to say, the dish was satisfying.

Finally we arrive at the main course, Venison, the meat of kings, served blood rare in ¾-inch smoked medallions with Mushroom Risotto and Truffle Jus. The last-named was a sort of barbecue sauce. Tasty – no wonder kings like it. For dessert, we had Dion's Warm-Centered Chocolate Pudding and sparkling Prosecco Spumante.

To sum up, the dinner was wonderful and all returned home well-sated. I venture to add that it raised the bar for chefs who want to walk the walk and talk the talk of haute cuisine on Phuket.

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Phuket Christmas panto? Rawai not!

December 26 will be a day of family fun and frolics at the Green Man Pub in Rawai. Amateur dramatic group the Rawai Players follows English tradition by staging a Christmas pantomime production of *Mother Goose*. Fiona Stalker reports.

Mother Goose is a tale of love and friendship, good and evil, demons, fairies and a golden-egg-laying goose, with a strong moral undercurrent flowing through the tongue-in-cheek dialog and staged antics.

Parents and adult audience members will be kept entertained with the odd bit of innuendo and references to the hassle of 30-year leases in the village property market, but the day belongs to the children who will be seated close to the stage where they form the chorus.

The kids are encouraged to boo the baddies, cheer the goodies and warn the characters whenever ghouls, ghosts or goblins appear by yelling the famous panto line "Look out! It's behind you!"

This year the chorus has the added responsibility of looking after the character Charlie Goose's "magic plant" and will be rewarded with sweets for alerting him should any villagers wander too close.

Pantomimes have a long history of physical comedy and silly costumes, with roots in the



ENGLISH GAGS IN DRAG: The lively, interactive 'panto' theater is making its debut in Phuket.

Italian Middle Age theater of *commedia dell'arte* and links to early European festivals such as Saturnalia and Twelfth Night, when the natural order was meant to reverse meaning – the

leading panto lady has always been played by a man in drag.

The outrageous art form was further popularized in England during the early 1800s by the famous English clown Grimaldi, whose first big panto break also came with *Mother Goose* in 1806.

It is in these oversize foot-steps that the Rawai Players follow, headed by English expatriate Tony Kelsey-Stead.

Kelsey-Stead took early retirement from teaching and moved to Phuket 12 months ago, but missed his previous involvement in amateur dramatics and approached Howard Digby-Johns at the Green Man English Country Pub in Rawai.

"I had the idea for the Rawai Players, saw Howard and that was it. Bang done!" Kelsey-Stead said.

Kelsey-Stead recruited friends and Green Man patrons and adopted an all-welcome attitude and the drama group began to meet at the Tudor-style pub every Thursday at 7 pm to rehearse the first production: *Mother Goose*.

"I'm so happy that it got off the ground with the backing of



Howard and the Green Man," Kelsey-Stead said.

"Every rehearsal I've been absolutely gob-smacked at the talent we have," he added.

Magazine editor Molly McGill was one of the expats who jumped at the chance to dust

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off her acting skills but, hailing from Vermont, was at first unfamiliar with the strange entity that is a Christmas panto.

"When I first heard the word pantomime I thought, 'What's that?' and had visions of us with white faces miming," said McGill, who plays the part of Charlie Goose's girlfriend Jill.

"I was glad to hear it's a children's Christmas play because kids are a great audience. They're always honest and ready to giggle," she added.

The Players even have their own giggle-tester in the form of panto director Simon J Hand's five-year-old daughter who has attended rehearsals and confirmed that characters falling off chairs, singing and doing Irish jigs is funny to even the younger end of the age spectrum.

Englishman, long-time Phuket resident and father of two, Hand is relishing his directorial role and also the opportunity to bring something new to the island.

"It's nice to have something

more culturally significant than the Rawai Seashell Museum," Hand said, conceding that a panto might still be low on the culture scale but indicating forthcoming short-comedy evenings and other dramatic adventures.

So enthralled have the Rawai Players become with their panto antics that they send group emails written in rhyming couplets, championed by the Demon of Discontent, played by Russell D. Russell, who penned the following for readers of the *Phuket Gazette*:

Mother Goose is fabulous, and looks great in her dress.

Whilst both Charlie and Jill can't fail to impress.

The squire is simply awesome, and the Fairy is in the know, But we all know that the Demon, is the star of the show!

Altogether now: Boooooo!

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This week



FIRED UP: Adisak 'Dan' Pitukrojjananont (2nd from left), GM of Mom Tri's Villa Royale, welcomes Runjuan Tongrut (2nd from right), Assistant Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand Southern Region 4 Office, to the *Passion for Fire* exhibition of ceramic art by award-winning American artists Tom Radca (left) and Brenda McMahon (right). The exhibition runs until December 30.



PUCCHINI POUR: Australian winemaker Leigh Gilligan (center), in association with Brokenhills Estate Vineyard, hosted a Taste of Luxury, an evening of fine wines and dining, at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket on November 30. He is joined by (from left) Hotel Manager Torsten Richter, F&B Director Adam Beasley, Puccini Restaurant Manager Chakrist Polring, Marketing Communications Manager Ashleigh Brayshaw, Bangkok Fine Wine Managing Director Jonathon Glonek and guest.



FULL CIRCLE: (From left) Phuket Pavilions developer Gordon Oldham and Creative Director Samantha Jane join Dick Hoffman and Mark Seabrook at the Phuket Pavilions bar 360° for a sunset party featuring DJ Chris Samba, remixer of the likes of Donell Jones and Angie Stone, who flew in to play his trademark soulful Latino house sounds on December 1.



BEAUTIFUL BELLYFULL: Songkran Issara (center), managing director of Charn Issara Residence Co, is surrounded by a troupe of beautiful belly dancers who performed an energetic display of jangling gyrations at Sri Panwa's Baba Lounge Moroccan Night. The evening also included live Indian ambient music by Anand Jagota (in white).



ON PROMPT: Somnuk Wanleang (2nd from left), general manager of commercial property management, facilities and service company Prompt Techno Service, is joined by (from left) Sayan Inthawong, Srangsan Thongtan and Soonthorn Phoman at the opening of the company's Phuket branch on December 3.



A DECADE AFLOAT: Joshua Lee (right), Managing Director of Lee Marine, celebrates the 10th anniversary of the yacht brokerage company with Lee Marine broker Marcus Overman (center) and Pinrada Sukkraikiti, Guest Relations Manager at the Watermark bar and restaurant on December 7.



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CHRISTMAS EVE

Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th of December

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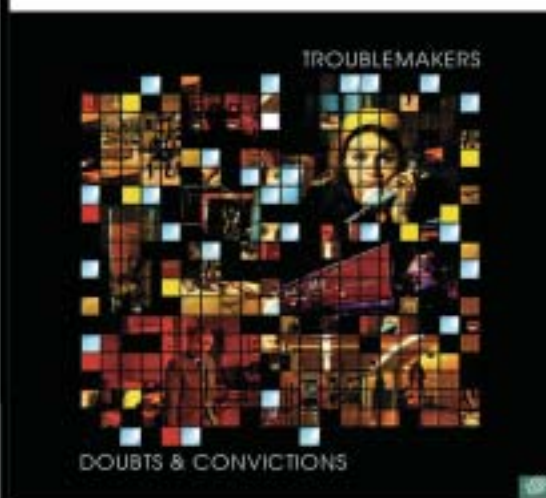
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All I want for Christmas is...

What does every teenager want for Christmas? High on the list is certain to be an iPod – the Walkman of the 21st century. A one-gigabyte iPod Shuffle, about 8 out of 10 on the hip scale, will set you back 3,800 baht.

The iPod Nano is what all the kids are raving about this year. The 4GB version costs 6,390 baht and the 8GB version is 8,590 baht.

If you really want to impress someone, buy them an iPod Touch for 12,590 baht. As well as featuring Wi-Fi Internet access, the Touch uses touch-screen technology. You can buy your iPods from i-Studio on the third floor of Central Festival.

Gold bracelets are still all the rage for Thai women. There are hundreds of gold shops on the island, but just for example, for 13,850 baht your loved one could

Christmas is here once again, but don't worry, you aren't the only one who forgot to do your Christmas shopping early.

There's no need go to Christmas dinner empty-handed – the trusty *Gazette* is here this festive season with a range of ideas that will delight wives with high expectations, husbands with no idea what to buy their wives and children with short attention spans.

be sporting this bracelet from Kittiporn Gold Shop on Montri Rd, Phuket City, with its 15 grams of pure gold that will make her the envy of her friends, family, the checkout girls at 7-Eleven, fruit vendors...

For all the people you want to send Christmas wishes, but don't have the budget for a gift, Christmas cards are a way to show that you've made some ef-

fort without going overboard. Perhaps you have so many friends around the world that you can't buy them all presents. Cards are here to help. Forget E-cards, too – who wants a Christmas card in an email? Buy the real thing at Zean Zone, Central Festival. Hallmark cards start at 14 baht a piece.

Although not the most exciting presents, pens are still

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What are you getting your loved ones for Christmas? No idea yet? Time to get a move on. Take your pick from Harry Potter book sets, gold bracelets, fancy pens, iPod Nanos and plain old Christmas cards in this *Gazette* guide to last-minute shopping.

popular Christmas gifts and they can serve as a reminder that long before the popularity of email surged, people did actually write on paper. Your gift may never be used as anything more than an ornament, but it does suggest that you think the person you are giving it to is intellectual – or they do a lot of cross-words. Cross has a pen on the market aimed at women.

The Autocross comes in five colors and has a leather shaft. It'll dent your wallet to the tune of 2,200 baht. The Parker IM pen features a black body, silver grip and costs just 385 baht. A cheap Parker pen should be given to someone who you are certain will not be disappointed with a mediocre gift.

At the other end of the scale, Parker's Sonnet Chissey Tartan has a textured silver body with black grip and costs 4,000 baht.

One for all ages and gen-

ders is the latest Harry Potter novel, *Harry Potter and the*

Deathly Hallows. Receiving books at Christmas is usually a bit of yawn, but with 325 million Harry Potter books sold worldwide, this one is an exception.

Books from the Harry Potter series can be bought from B2S at between 446 baht and 581 baht. For the ultimate Potter present, try the box set of all seven books for between 2,885 baht and 3,585 baht.

Wives, daughters, mothers, sisters and female cousins can be satisfied with something from the Body Shop.

Known for its organic-based products, items from the Body Shop are eco-friendly, useful and usually smell delightful.

Try the Body Shop special set, comprising shower cream, lotion and perfume, priced at 690 baht.

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Traditional Chinese Guasa massage is the latest ancient rejuvenating detox spa therapy to come to Phuket. The 3,000-year-old treatments are available at the much newer Kamala Royal Thai Spa.

The secret to guasa massage therapy is in the power of touch, using fingers and a special hand-held Guasa board made of deer antler. The board is drawn over oiled skin to stimulate acupressure points and meridian lines to revitalize the body in several ways.

There are a variety of body, facial and foot treatments available at the spa in an exotic fusion environment that comprises traditional and contemporary decor.

"Here, we use a combination of pressure-point massage and natural oils in treatments that are designed to revitalize the skin, blood, nervous and lymphatic systems by boosting circulation and strengthening the body," said spa manager Suchada "Ordy" Panomsingha.

"The all-natural oils used, such as coconut and sesame oils, come from organically grown plants in the north of Thailand and they are of a very high quality. They deeply penetrate the skin so there is no need to shower after a massage treatment as the oils will have worked their way into the body," she explained.

"In fact, these products are mainly exported to Japan where they are highly sought after," said one of the spa's partners, Chernporn Karnchanasaya.

"The treatments also use traditionally therapeutic Thai herbs, such as aloe, lemongrass, ginger and cumin," she added.

The spa building, which was once a house, has been converted into a distinctive open-plan retreat of solid wood pillars, marble floors and wall features. There are eight beds for oil massage, four beds for traditional Thai massage and an area that seats six for foot massage.

The private treatment

A therapeutic touch with ancient Chinese massage



A tropical garden setting in the reception area sets a relaxing mood before your treatment even begins.

rooms include a spa pool, sauna and shower room with separate male and female toilet facilities.

The spa is divided into two distinctive areas, each with a different mood and feel. The reception area is a colorful, open-air sala that has traditional Thai appeal.

Tropical plants, a waterfall and a small pond full of fish make for a relaxing place to browse the spa menu and decide on your treatment before stepping into the spa. Here, the therapist will advise on the best kind of treatment to suit one's skin condition.

The first thing to be done at the spa is to have your feet washed, which is done at the foot shower area before going through the main entrance.

Stepping into the modern, white-marble-walled treatment rooms is a whole new experience as the scent from incense diffusers circulates in the cool air-con-

ditioned rooms, which immediately helps you relax before the treatment has even begun.

The foot-massage area is naturally lit with a large window and is welcoming with colorful linen and drapery. "The light and color are one of the attractive features that draws passersby into the spa," said K. Ordy.

The spa's two-hour, 2,200-baht signature body and skin treatment is a rejuvenating oil massage that uses a combination of Swedish, ayurvedic, aromatherapy, shiatsu and traditional Thai massage for the ultimate soothing and pampering experience.

Other treatments include a detoxifying drainage massage for 1,600 baht and an energizing treatment using warm coconut and sesame oils.

The cheapest and quickest treatment is the 45-minute, stress-busting Refreshing Beach Zone treatment, which focuses on driving out tension in the back, neck and shoulder area with aromatic oils for 750 baht.

The Elegant Thai treatment aligns and balances the body's en-

ergy lines and pressure points to revitalize the body and mind with full body massage. This includes the one- or two-hour Siam Massage for 1,100 and 1,500 baht respectively and the Royal Thai Therapeutic treatment with a blend of special oils.

To relieve aches and pains, there is also the Thai Herbal Compress treatment that uses medicinal herbs, such as lemongrass, tamarind leaves, rock salt and kaffir lime.

Hour-long body-scrub treatments are priced at 1,500 baht and include a Tamarind Body Scrub to exfoliate and firm the skin. The Aromatic Salt Scrub will polish, nourish and revitalize the skin while relaxing the muscles.

The almost edible sounding "Lavender Cereal Scrub" gently exfoliates and smooths the skin while helping to balance moods. The Kamala Breeze body-mask treatment is popular with sunburned tourists. The cooling blend of aloe vera, cucumber and other Thai herbs in this treatment will soothe sore and scorched skin.

The private treatment room has a king-sized twin bed and includes a sauna and a shower. Treatments focus on the healing touch and the therapists are trained to pay attention to the smallest details.

Guasa treatment can be applied to both body and face treatments. Using the guasa for the

Lifting and Anti-wrinkle treatment helps improve the elasticity and firmness of the skin by increasing the flow of oxygen to cells, which helps improve the effectiveness of the immune system.

This facial treatment includes using a guasa to massage the face for 30 minutes followed by a 20-minute green tea facial mask.

Green tea is used for the face mask because it is gentle on the skin and draws out the toxins, creating a cooling effect.

The relaxing treatment and the tranquil surroundings make you drowsy, so the treatment is finished off with a leg and back massage to wake you up.

There are 60- to 90 minute reflexology treatments, ranging in price from 800 baht to 1,200 baht. They include a pressure-point massage, a Thai herbal compress to improve circulation and an aromatic leg

scrub and wrap to relieve tired legs.

Membership is available at the spa for 4,900 baht, which allows members free use of the steam or sauna for the year plus a 30% discount on all treatments.

The Kamala Royal Thai Spa is open daily from 10 am to 8 pm and is located on the Kamala beach road. For more information, see www.kamalaroyalspa.com or call 076-385345.

Spa MAGIC



By Sangkhue Leelanapaporn

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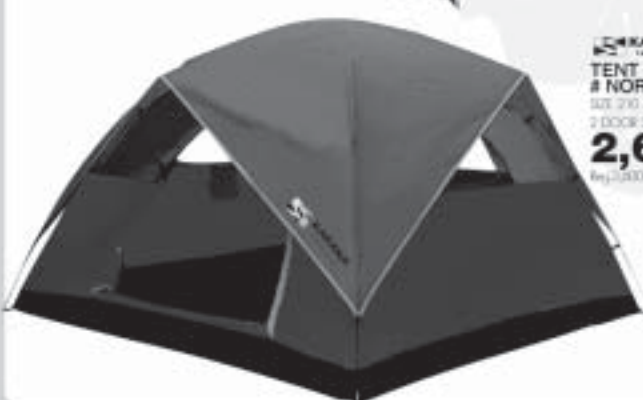
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More than 40 boats were on display at this year's PIMEX, along with 70 exhibitors and more than 100 brands represented.

New venue gives PIMEX expo a boost

By Skyler Swezy

The 2007 PIMEX boat show, an expo of international marine merchandise held December 6 and 9 at the Royal Phuket Marina, was attended by about 5,000 people. This year's venue shot new life into the expo, consolidating all the exhibits and display boats into one area and offering dining options to attendees.

"Venue, venue, venue. The new location, with the boardwalk, layout and restaurants helped make this year's show a success," said PIMEX organizer Andy Dowden. Last year, the show was held at Boat Lagoon.

The Royal Phuket Marina gave visitors the chance to ponder their next nautical purchase while dining in one of the nearby restaurants. "The restaurants did really good business because people came and actually spent the day instead of just looking at the show and leaving. All in all, [RPM] just created a much better atmosphere," said Mr Dowden.

Exhibitors were also pleased with the showroom shift. Craig Murphy, managing director of Max Marine Asia, said, "The location was a lot better. Before, you had to walk from the parking lot to the booths and then down to the boats, but now you walk out of where the booths are and the boats are right in front of you."

Mr Dowden said that he wanted the show this year to be family-friendly. On the Sunday (December 9), various inflatable games were set up for children to play on while parents checked out the latest vessels.

"My kids were there playing around and they really enjoyed it," said Mr Murphy.

He said that his company sold two boats at the show and developed a number of connections that could lead to business in the future.

Martin Holmes, general manager of Lee Marine, was also positive. "We had three displays: an in-water display of five boats, a whole brokerage section inside the exhibition hall itself and a boat on the boardwalk. This all attracted a lot of attention. We sold four boats at the show; we were very happy with that response," he said.

The variety of boats on display ranged from sleek water-shredding Formula Boats and luxurious, medium-sized motor yachts, through to extravagant superyachts.

"There was a good range of boats in the water, with a lot of new models from different companies, so that was encouraging, rather than having the same old boats all the time," Mr Holmes said.

Mr Dowden confirmed that PIMEX will be held at Royal Phuket Marina in 2008.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

December 24. Christmas Eve Wine Dinner at Wine Connection Chalong.

Christmas Eve six-course set dinner with aperitif, six glasses of wine, fireworks and live band – all for 3,300 baht net per person. From 7 pm until midnight.

For inquiries, please send an email to fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th or call Pascal at 087-8896074.

December 24-25. Special Christmas @ Watermark.

By popular demand there's a fantastic fill of festive cheer and a cracker of a menu to be had at the Watermark this Christmas. Special set menu available on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with a Champagne & Christmas canapé reception in the bar before dinner.

On Christmas Day only, all guests are also requested to bring a wrapped gift (max value 500 baht) to play a Secret Santa gift opening icebreaker.

Lots of fun, great food and a cheerful crowd – come and join us for a special Watermark Christmas.

Reservation & pre-payment required. Book now! Set Menu @ 2,500+ baht.

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

December 25. Traditional Christmas Dinner.

From 1 pm to 9 pm, at The Islander, Soi Patong Resort.

Three-course Christmas dinner, including prawn cocktail,

WORK ON BY**'These shoes are made for working' exhibition**

by Mia Gillow
Until December 28

A record of the restoration of Cariad, the largest, oldest gaff cutter in the world, being rebuilt in Thailand.

The result from this talented young photographer is an artistic view of the vessel's revival and the workers involved. Uniquely seen through the

eyes of a sailor and a yacht skipper in her own right, Mia has a rare and distinctive insight into the world of yachting.

The exhibition, on show at Watermark bar and restaurant at Boat Lagoon, goes below decks to highlight the extensive maintenance, craftsmanship and passion required, and the plethora of personalities magnetically attracted to it. Open 11 am to 11 pm.

For more information contact Stuart. Tel: 081-7376184. Email: stuart@watermarkphuket.com Website: www.watermarkphuket.com



roast turkey with all the trimmings, Christmas pudding with custard and a glass of house wine (red or white). 750 baht. Please reserve by phone or in person with cashier.

For more information contact K. Kanha. Tel: 081-8936072. Email: islander@loxinfo.co.th Website: www.phuketdir.com/theislander

December 30. Saphan Jai Community Festival and Live Concerts.

From 5 pm to 9 pm, at Khao Lak Youth Club (Book Tree).

Saphan Jai is an exciting cultural event with live concerts and presentations of beautiful photographs taken by children in

the Insight Out! Creative Workshop and Exchange Project.

Famous Thai band The Caravan and the world musicians The Durgas provide the frame for presentations of Saphan Jai stories and artwork.

The Phuket Aquarium partners with Insight Out! to raise awareness about the marine environment through creative techniques promoting youth leadership.

Come and join the most exciting end-of-year event in Khao Lak. Entrance free!

Saphan Jai continues on January 12 with the opening of the photo exhibition at the Phuket Aquarium.

Contact K. Pim for details.

Tel: 081-4919983. Email: snseak@yahoo.com Website: www.phuketaquarium.org

December 31. New Year's Eve Wine Dinner at Wine Connection Chalong.

See off 2007 with a New Year's Eve six-course set dinner, with six glasses of wine and a live band. From 7:30 pm until 12:30 am; 3,960 baht net per person.

Contact Pascal for more details. Tel: 087-8896074 Email: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th

Jan 3-8, 2008. My Awakening.

From 11 am to 11:30 pm, at Watermark bar.restaurant.

January 3 marks the date for K. Map's latest solo exhibition titled My Awakening "P". Join us for a glass of wine and some exotic color combinations.

Opening cocktail reception 7 pm. Exhibition dates January 3 to 30.

Strong, powerful paintings that stir emotions and appeal to the passions are Varaporn Ponrit's trademark. "When I paint," she says, "I try to touch people with what I do. I want to arouse their hopes, fears and passions. I

want to make people feel their emotions." (Michael Moore, Phuket magazine.)

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

January 12, 2008. TriBallistic Relaunch Party 2008.

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

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

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

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

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Puzzles

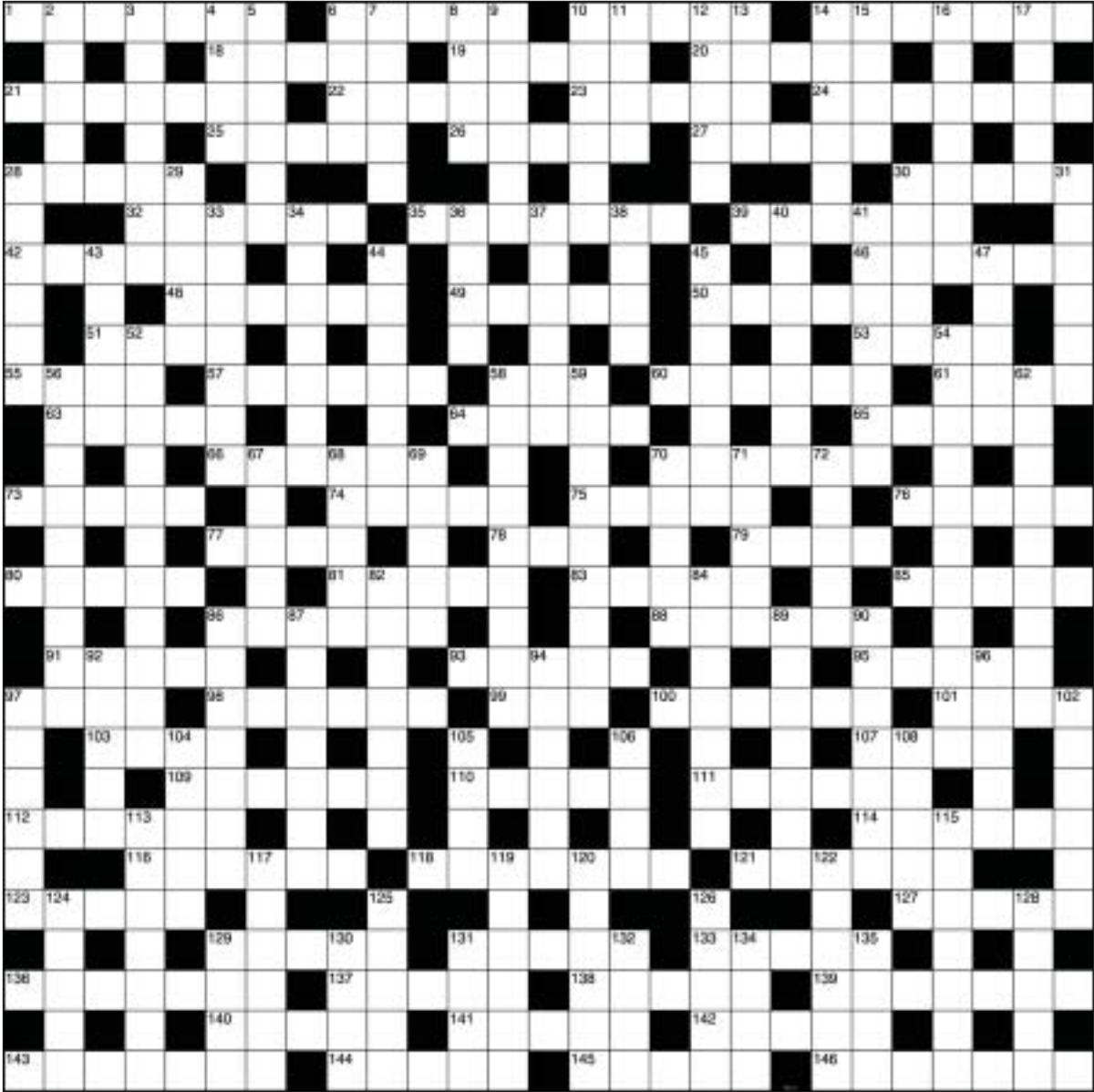
The BIG Crossword

Spot the Difference



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





© 2007 Lovatts Publications Pty Ltd

- Across

1. From Cornwall

6. Window material

10. Margins

14. Uncovers

18. Fatigued

19. Careful

20. Make reparation

21. Not apparent

22. Fine display

23. Attempt again

24. Scavenger

25. New England state

26. Meek

27. Disclose (3,2)

28. Argentina's Eva...

30. Drench

32. Pine tree leaf

35. Connects (gears)

39. US astronaut, Edwin "Buzz"...

42. Small mouthful

46. Mentally ill

48. Injure

49. Snares

50. Cattle sound

51. Confused jumble

53. Soccer net

55. Throngs

57. Jewelled headbands

58. Tomato colour

60. Also (2,4)

61. Tuber

63. Prickly desert plants

64. People from Bangkok or Phuket

65. Goes out

66. Restrains

70. Brown shade

73. Edna Everage, alias ...Humphries

74. Requested, ...for

75. Whinge

76. Remove paint

77. Large tea vessels

78. Immense period

79. Medication

80. Resonates deeply

81. Revises

83. Spirit contact board

85. Opera house, La...

86. Wax pencil

88. Hang loosely

91. Dogpatch cartoon strip, Li'l...

93. Shoe cords

95. Govt. corruption

97. Fit (in)

98. Even (2,1,3)

99. Simpsons' neighbour, ...Flanders

100. Actor, Al ...

101. Prompted (actor)

103. Knuckle of veal stew, ...bucco

107. Playthings

109. Natural

110. Marketplace announcer, town...

111. Joint inheritor

112. Live

114. Toppled Iraqi ruler, ...Hussein

116. In words

118. Totter

121. Indecent

123. Mexican currency units

127. Come in

129. Crowd

131. Bellows

133. Oyster gem

136. Gambling venues

137. Speedster

138. Vapours

139. Ground oats

140. Ermine

141. Of the nose

142. Purgative, ...salts

143. Blushes

144. Caster

145. Blyton character

146. Educates

Down

2. 1/16 of pound

3. London monument, ...Column

4. Did breaststroke

5. Messenger

6. Mum's mum

7. Ancient musical instruments

8. Scram!

9. ...away from

10. Making slip-up

11. Colored

12. Premature

13. Eyelid inflammation

14. Open out

15. Illuminating gas

16. Thinks logically

17. Quick looks

28. Tufted ball on hat

29. Requirements

30. Australian wild dog

31. Excused

33. Flexible

34. Fluid seepage

36. Note well, ...bene

37. Showy flower

38. More

40. Ungoverned

41. Curled hair lock

43. Ballroom dance

44. Comments

45. Detailed photo (5-2)

47. Apportion

52. Cliffs

54. Nobility

56. Eight-sided

58. Dog, ...ridgeback

59. Identified (ailment)

62. Fluctuate

67. Leaser

68. Actor, ...Affleck

69. Yarn bundle

70. Stiff

71. Four-door car

72. The same

82. Wealthy widow

84. Caribbean island

86. Singer

87. US cotton state

89. Legal writer, John...

90. Braggart

92. Blunders

94. Relinquishing (land)

96. Short-circuited

97. Agitate (4,2)

102. Less distinct

104. Facets

105. Kilted Celt

106. Factual

108. Speak publicly

113. Play piano, tinkle the...

115. Energetic

117. Uplifts

119. Unprincipled

120. Berlin language

122. Displace

124. Internet post

125. Demise

126. Chose

128. Exhilarate

129. Fire-fighter's apparatus

130. Tie for place

131. Actress, ...Russo

132. Grain store

134. Catch sight of

135. Limping

Solution on next page

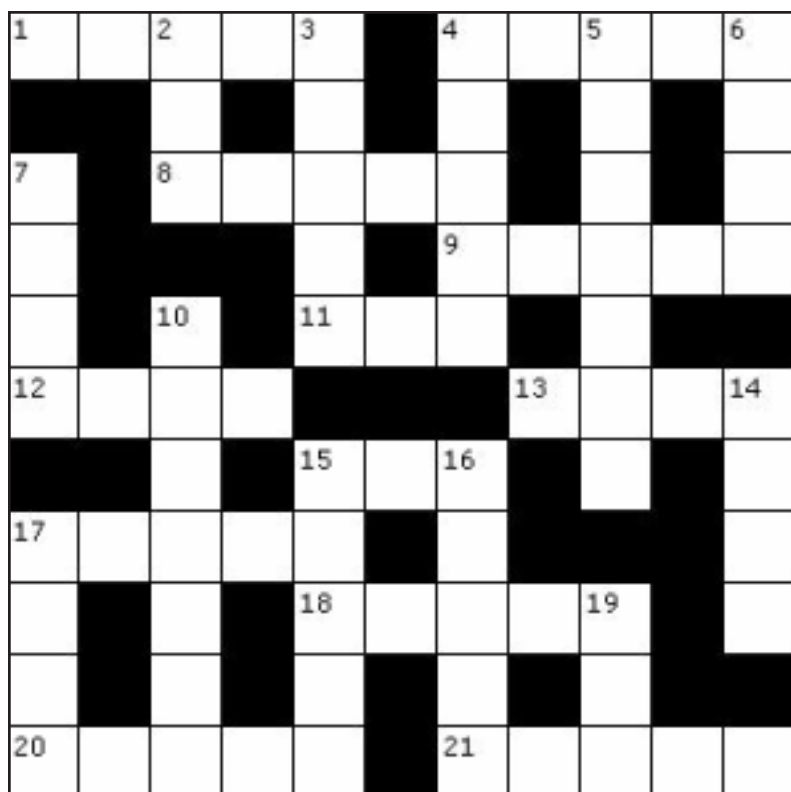
su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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.



Quick Crossword

Across

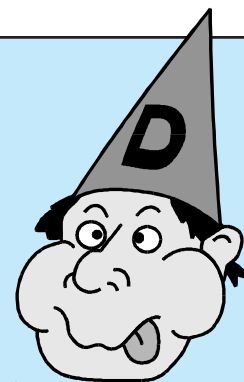
1. Selfishness
4. Army vehicles
8. Delete
9. Identical
11. Simpsons, ...Flanders
12. Inform of danger
13. Status
15. Corn on the...
17. Eject
18. Vegetable
20. Cloth bags
21. Keen

Down

2. ...of the storm
3. Empty
4. Fabric
5. From Mother Earth
6. Your inner being
7. Hook
10. Digital image
14. Used to get into your house
15. Wooden shoes
16. Groom's partner
17. Used for hearing
19. Pester

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 only whale that can bend its neck? | 8. What neck operation can be done with a penknife and pen shell? | 14. What chocolates were packaged in tubes during WW2? |
| 2. Honey and what are used to make Tej? | 9. Eight of the 10 lowest birthrates for countries are found on which continent? | 15. What is the term for a mechanical human? |
| 3. Bordelaise sauce gets its name from which ingredient? | 10. Which gland makes hormones by combining iodine and tyrosine? | 16. What continent has the longest mountain chain? |
| 4. What type of birth is associated with a Roman leader? | 11. What are the chances of five heads in a row when tossing a coin? | 17. What was last seen in the sky in 1986? |
| 5. What was Thomas Wright Waller's nickname? | 12. Who was the first Scotsman to appear on an English banknote? | 18. Which sea is the Sahara's northern boundary? |
| 6. Which island society collapsed circa 1500? | 13. On which island did Emily Rose Christian become the first baby born in 17 years? | 19. What is a katzenjammer? |
| 7. Five million people turned up in Cairo for whose funeral? | | 20. An early version of what game was called Chaturanga. |

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Beluga whale; 2. Mead; 3. Bordeaux (wine); 4. A Caesarian section; 5. Fats; 6. Easter Island; 7. Nasser; 8. A tracheotomy; 9. Europe; 10. Thyroid; 11. 1 in 32; 12. Adam Smith; 13. Pitcairn Island; 14. M&Ms; 15. robot; 16. South America; 17. Halley's Comet; 18. Mediterranean; 19. A hangover; 20. Chess.

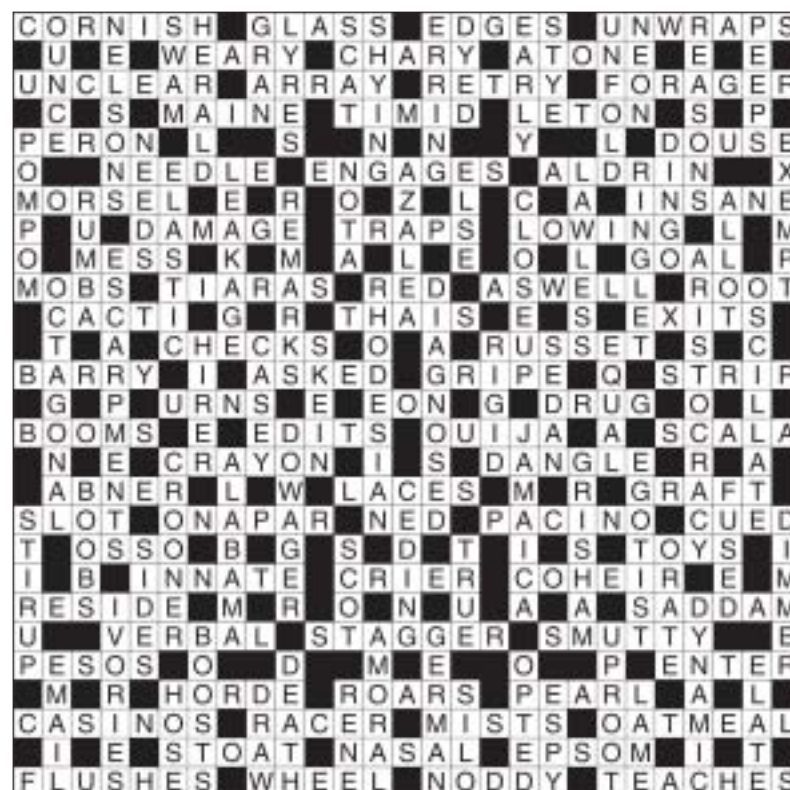
Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword





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Phuket Gazette



Great News from Lake Woebegone

Garrison Keillor is an American institution. He has been running the greatest radio show in America, *A Prairie Home Companion*, out of St Paul, Minnesota, since 1969, expanding it over the years into a variety show with music, comic skits and phony commercials: "Powdermilk Biscuits: the biscuits that give a shy person the strength to get up and do what needs to be done" and "Ralph's Pretty Good Grocery. If you can't find it at Ralph's, you can probably get along without it."

Fittingly, director Robert Altman's last movie was a eulogy to *A Prairie Home Companion*, written by and starring Garrison Keillor.

The highlight of the show is Keillor's monologue, *News from Lake Woebegone*, which is about a small town in Minnesota, much like his own childhood hometown. His tagline on *Lake Woebegone* is: "Where all the women are strong, all the men are good-looking and all the children are above average."

These monologues and stories originally printed in *The New Yorker* came together in his first book *Lake Woebegone Days* in 1985.

His current novel, *Pontoon: A Novel of Lake Wobegon* (Viking Adult, 2007, pp256) is the sixth in a series about the modern-day inhabitants of *Lake Woebegone*.



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Keillor's writing style is loose, colloquial and empathetic. He is fond of long, humorous tangents that build up energy through gloriously giddy run-on sentences. He is also adept at quirky characters like most of those who inhabit *Pontoon*.

The story opens in the present day with the death of 82-year-old Evelyn Peterson: "Evelyn was an insomniac so when they say she died in her sleep, you have to question that."

Probably she was sitting propped up in bed reading and heard the brush of wings and smelled the cold clean air and an angel appeared like a deer in her bedroom..."

She had three children: Bennett in penury in New York, Roger in luxury in California and Barbara languishing still in *Lake Woebegone*, an alcoholic divorcee

with a 400-pound boyfriend named Oliver.

Evelyn was a formidable figure, especially in the last years of her life after the death of her husband Jack, whom she consigned to exile in a lakeside cabin.

"Actually she looked great right up to the day she died, a Friday night in July," Keillor writes. "She had a long neck and a prominent nose and high cheekbones; after she kicked Uncle Jack out she looked even better, happier, looser, janglier, jaunty."

"She was tall and wiry and stayed limber by hiking everywhere and doing her Daily Dozen. She was an outspoken aunt in a family of murmurers."

Her body is discovered by her daughter Barbara who also learns through letters and phone messages that her mother has long been carrying out an affair with TV kiddie show star Raoul Olsen in St Paul, whom she had met in the early days of World War II and has since embarked on a giddy secret spree of dancing in Daytona Beach and gambling in Reno.

Her after-death stipulations: no funeral, just her ashes packed in a bowling ball and dropped into the lake. Her nephew

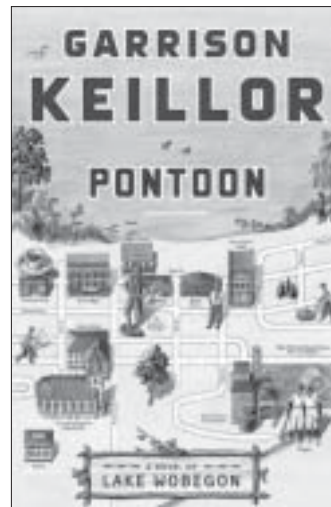
Kyle volunteers to do this while flying over the lake on his parasail. The other big event in *Lake Woebegone* is the return from California of bad girl Debbie Detmer, now rich from pioneering the field of aromatherapy for cats and dogs.

She has come home for a "commitment ceremony" (nothing as old fashioned as a wedding) with her fiancé Brett to be performed by her minister Misty Naylor of the Sisterhood of the Holy Spirit on a pontoon on the lake, featuring a hot-air balloon, a fleet of 18-foot, pedal-powered duck decoys and a parachuting Elvis Presley impersonator. You can see how this might generate plot complications.

There's also a busload of 24 Danish Lutheran pastors exiled to America by an embarrassed bishop for doubting the divinity of Jesus Christ.

They're taken on a tour of a local pig farm and don't like it: "The obscenity of it aroused the Danes to a high pitch and they sat on the bus scratching and snarling about it in their skritch language..."

They also get into the final act.



ELECTRONIC LETTERS OF THE LAW

BE CAREFUL WHO YOU CARBON COPY

LAYING DOWN THE LAW



With Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma

Mr A is involved in a civil dispute with Mr B. At one point, Mr A sent an abusive email to Mr B with some remark alleging a disparaging reason for Mr B's marriage to the daughter of his employer.

At the end of the message, he used the words "f*ck you", which was interpreted by the receiver of the message as a serious defamation.

Mr A not only sent the email to Mr B but also sent a "CC" of the email to a third party, Mr C.

Mr B discovered that the

law allowed the email to be used to file a defamation charge against Mr A. The case has been accepted by the courts.

As the email had been written in English, a translation in Thai has been provided, along with a translation and explanation of "f*ck you".

The third party, Mr C, has had to appear in court to certify his understanding of the words used and to explain his understanding of the email.

The charges in this case have been put forward under Section 326 of the Criminal

Code, which states (sic):

Whoever imputes anything to the other person before a third person in a manner likely to impair the reputation of such other person or to expose such other person to hatred or contempt is said to commit defamation, and shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding one year or fine not exceeding 20,000 baht, or both.

Section 328 states (sic):

If the offense of defamation be committed by means of publication of a document, drawing, painting, cinematograph film, pic-

ture or letters made visible by any means, gramophone record or any other recording instruments, recording picture or letters, or by broadcasting or spreading picture, or by propagation by any other means, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding two years and fine not exceeding 200,000 baht.

The outcome of the case is still pending a decision by the Appeals Court.

One should be careful about the language used in email, especially when sending a CC to other people.

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Election dry spells leave tourists no choice

One of the hottest topics among Phuket's expat community in recent weeks has been the ban on alcohol sales before, during and immediately after voting in elections.

While a ban on alcohol sales around election time is nothing new in Thailand, most of the grumbling stems from the extension of the ban under the new Election Act to include the two-day advance voting period.

By the time balloting in this general election is over, five nights of nightlife trade will have been lost in a single month in the middle of the peak season.

Hardest hit are bar operators, who need to make hay while the sun shines – especially in Phuket, where many businesspeople consider simply breaking even during the low season a success.

Others forced to suffer unnecessarily are the foreign tourists who arrive in Phuket excited about the prospect of experiencing the island's world-famous nightlife, only to find the streets dark and their only option to wet their thirst are hotel room minibars and mom-and-pop stores, who are the only real winners during the ban.

Given that the extended alcohol ban is just another step by authorities to attempt to modify the behavior of citizens through excessive regulation, it is unsurprising that an Abac poll found that more than 60% of voters were undecided about who they would vote for just a few weeks before the election.

Also, while turnout in Phuket with its legions of migrant workers was strong for the advance voting, there was no evidence that the alcohol ban was any more responsible for it than the nice weather.

In few places is the futility of the alcohol ban clearer than Patong, with fewer than 10,000 registered voters but 12,129 registered hotel rooms.

A sobering thought is that if any of the complaints against candidates filed with the Phuket Election Commission are held valid, then tourists will have suffer even more dry spells.

Another disheartening aspect of the current electoral activity is that none of Phuket's candidates seem to grasp the concept that the primary role of a parliamentarian is to legislate – not to fix roads, deal personally with local waste disposal issues or go on taxpayer-funded junkets abroad under the guise of tourism promotion.

A good place for those elected to represent the people of Phuket to start would be to overturn or amend parts of the Election Act that hurt the local economy, such as by exempting nightlife areas popular with foreign tourists from the alcohol sales ban.

– The Editor

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

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Letters

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

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

Warning: Attempted muggings continue

Yesterday, my boyfriend and I experienced an attempted mugging while driving past the Green Man pub and shooting range towards Chalong Circle.

Two bikes both with two Thai men on attempted to grab my handbag from my shoulder and then push us off our bike. We managed to stay on, but both bikes circled us and chased us.

We also think they may have put something on the road to give us a flat tire as this occurred right when we drove past them and it slowed us down as we tried to escape their attack.

Apparently, these types of attacks are very frequent, particularly along that road.

Perhaps you could warn your readers about that stretch of road and not to have handbags on their shoulders when driving there at night.

Unharmd
Rawai

Banning is barmy

With two consecutive high-season weekends sacrificed to the cause of democracy. ("Bars must close this weekend and the next", online Gazette, December 13).

Please. This law does not advance gdemocray. h. The cause being advanced is perpetuating stupidity and resentment.

Alcohol bans (as well as ridiculous taxes) do not prevent some people's poor behavior when intoxicated. All this law does is hurt bar and restaurant businesses, shifting those sales to retail outlets that sell alcohol (prior to the ban), increase litter from people drinking outdoors (during the ban), anger tourists

and locals alike, and prove once again how shortsighted and counter-productive the government can be.

Langdon Ulger
Phuket

Vote for Desmond

In an attempt to lighten up the rather dull election campaigns that have been taking place recently, my friend and I decided to drive around Phuket and stick up billboards with pictures of our mate Desmond on them.

On the billboards, Desmond's smiling mug has been cunningly placed next to a large tick box.

We figured that if we put enough of these billboards up, people would naturally decide to vote for Desmond when they go to cast their ballots.

So far, we have erected more than 5,000 of these billboards around the island and the response has been phenomenal. Every day when Desmond wakes up, he has hordes of people waiting to greet him outside his front door. Women and children walk for miles to present him with baskets full of bread and cheese.

Desmond has even enlisted the help of the Thai boxing pickup truck that usually drives around Patong proclaiming when the next fight is. Instead of "Thai boxing to-morrow night", people are now treated to "Des-mond! Des-mond! Des-mond! Des-mond!"

Despite having no political ideology or policies other than those conveyed by his rather vague "Phuket is good" slogan, Desmond has stormed to the top of election polls in a survey conducted by a local university.

Desmond is now so popular that there are calls for him to be made prime minister immediately, even before all of the votes have been counted.

This is a great step for democracy. There will surely be riots when people go to vote and find that Desmond has been mysteriously stricken from the ballot papers.

Bill
Phuket City

Knudsen killers still free for 2008?

Nearly three months after Simen Knudsen was stabbed to death near Kata Viewpoint, his killers remain free.

As the months pass, the shock of his death is replaced by new stories of tourist attacks and stabbings.

This letter isn't a "Phuket is becoming violent and frightening" diatribe of hysteria, I just want to know if the police or "detectives" are doing anything to catch his killer(s)?

Was the person(s) who did this a homicidal genius or dumb lucky? Have they long ago fled to a distant province and started new lives? Are there any suspects, leads or helpful evidence?

Perhaps the authorities are conducting an intensive investigation and a suspect will soon be named. It just doesn't seem likely.

What's to keep criminals from attempting motorbike-bag-snatchings, when others have got away with robbing and stabbing a man to death?

I'd be surprised if I'm the only Phuket resident who wants an update from the police, not to mention justice.

Dieter Heinrich
Phuket

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.

Keeping tabs on Buddha images

We still have the Buddha images, such as statues and figurines, that Phuket Airport Customs donated to us, but we have not put them on display at the museum because most of them are just replicas.

However, there was one stone image of the Buddha's head that has been confirmed by the Fine Arts Department in Bangkok as being about 1,000 years old. This artifact will go on display in the museum at a later date.

All of the Buddha images that Customs gave us are objects of art and the Customs seized them under the Act on Ancient Monuments, Antiques, Objects of Art and National Museums B.E. 2504 (1961).

Although this law generally stipulates that any sacred objects from the Ayudhaya period or older cannot be taken out of country, it is used specifically to prohibit any complete Buddha image, or even a part of a Buddha image, such as just a hand or the head, from being taken out of Thailand.

However, replica images, not original artifacts, can be taken out of the country. These must be complete images of the Buddha, not just a part, and the person taking them out of the country must first obtain written permission from the Fine Arts De-

FIRST PERSON

Customs officials at Phuket International Airport last month donated to the Thalang National Museum 93 Buddha images seized from departing tourists over the past year, including one 1,000-year-old stone image of the Buddha's head.

However, nearly all the other items would have been allowed to be taken home by the tourists – if the tourists were given the correct permit to do so.

Here, **Atjima Nookong**, chief of Thalang National Museum and chief of the Phuket Provincial Fine Arts Department, calls for shops to apply for permits allowing their customers, namely tourists, to take Buddha images out of the country – long before the tourists even walk into their shops.



partment and the governor of the province.

Even with the appropriate permits, however, no more than five complete replica images can be taken out of the country by any one person at one time.

In Phuket, the Fine Arts Department office is at Thalang National Museum. If there is no Fine Arts Department office in the province, permits can be ob-

tained from the local provincial Cultural Office.

It is much easier, however, for tourists to simply ask the shop owners selling the images to obtain the permits for them.

A permit must be issued for each and every image, which means that local Fine Arts Department officers must inspect and approve each item. Also, the permit must be approved by the

Governor or an officer on his behalf. All this usually takes only one day.

The problem is that many of the items that Customs seized would have been allowed to be taken out of Thailand if the shop owners had applied for permits.

The tourists didn't know what the law requires. Also, many the shops sold items to tourists that cannot be taken out of the

country, such as images of only the Buddha's head or his hands.

The law also stipulates that vendors must have a permit to sell Buddha images. This is where we can use the law to help vendors sell Buddha images so that tourists can legally take them home with them.

These permits are renewed annually and expire every December 31

In issuing these permits to sell Buddha images, Fine Arts Department officers must inspect the shop. When doing this, we always remind the shop owners that only complete replicas of the Buddha's image can be taken out of the country.

We explain to them that it is best to tell the tourists that if they do not have the proper permit, Customs will seize the image at the airport. We say that it is better to explain this to the tourists than the tourists being angry at the shop owner for not telling them, and when the tourists get home, they tell all their friends about their bad experience – and this, in its own way, can have an adverse effect on tourism here.

With each shop in the big hotels and each new shop opening in Phuket, we explain that they must first register their shop with us and register with us what Buddha images they have to sell.

Then, because we have inspected the shop and the artifacts already, we can issue permits for the items to be taken out of the country even before they are bought by tourists. That way the tourists can buy the image and receive the permit immediately.

I would like all shops selling Buddha images to do this, because it ensures that tourists can buy images that they are allowed to take home with them.

I also urge all tourists to check with the shop owner whether the item they want to buy can be taken out of Thailand. If the shop owner is not sure, then check with us.

The Phuket Provincial Fine Arts Department is at the Thalang National Museum, located on the road to Pa Khlok east of the Heroines' Monument. Open Monday to Friday, 8.30 am until 4 pm. Tel: 076-311426.

Happy to see the U-turn at the bypass road sealed off

Issues & ANSWERS

The Phuket Gazette, 367/2
Yaowarat Rd, Muang,
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213971, or
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I notice that a temporary barrier has been set up on the median strip along the bypass road near Index Living Mall to stop south-bound traffic from cutting across the northbound lane to get to Bangyai Rd.

This road runs past Big C and connects to Wichit Songkram Rd.

I applaud this move, as the old option to make a U-turn or crossover there created a very dangerous situation.

However, there is still enough room for motorbikes to squeeze through a gap there. My questions are:

1. When and why was the barrier put up? 2. Is this to be a permanent closure? 3. How many people have died and been injured at that very dangerous spot? 4. Was the gap motorcycles are



now using left there on purpose? **Stefan Faust Samkon**

Pol Lt Col Teerawat Leamsuwan, Traffic Inspector of Phuket City Police Station, replies:

The gap in the median strip along the bypass road near Index Living Mall was initially intended only for vehicles to cross onto Bangyai Rd, but cars and bikes often use it to make a U-turn onto the northbound lane of the bypass road.

Vehicles making U-turns at this point have caused many accidents, so it was decided to seal

off the gap in the median strip.

The gap has been sealed temporarily with a plastic barrier, which has been filled with water to make it heavy so that it can not be moved by motorists until

the Highway Office can brick up the gap permanently.

In the meantime, while the gap is only temporarily sealed off, I order patrols to check frequently whether the barrier has been moved.

We just want to stop the accidents occurring there. Even if those accidents don't leave people seriously injured or dead, we should at least do something to decrease the number of accidents.

Another spot where we are going to permanently seal off a gap in the median strip is in front of the Phuket Electric Station (close to the tantalum factory) on Thepkasattri Rd, as this is one of the most dangerous points.

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In The Stars

by Isla Star

Your stars for this week

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Even if you don't feel like ringing any jingle bells this weekend, the spirit of Christmas will eventually work its magic. The appearance of a long-lost friend will provide reason to kindle some party atmosphere. You might enjoy some unexpected mistletoe moments. On Thursday, those celebrating a birthday this week will catch a glimpse of good fortune to come in the year ahead.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): You are likely to accept too many invitations this week. Your enthusiasm for sharing holiday cheer could send reason flying up the chimney. If you're not single, remember that some quiet time at home can be more meaningful than staying out on the tiles. Santa is certain to deliver the goods and one gift will leave you speechless. Wear terracotta red to encourage a quieter mood.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Those of you who are weary of putting others first need to

make some distance from those who are draining your energy. A sparkling opportunity to further your career arises early next week, but you will need to get your skis on. Treat yourself to a day at a spa before Christmas to give your confidence a boost. The color jade green will encourage a more positive outlook.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Money matters require careful attention until early next week. You will be able to enjoy some celebrating without pushing the boat out. Cancer would like to meet you under the mistletoe, but Sagittarius is not ready for romance. Business agreements can be left on the back burner until the New Year, but keep contact with those concerned. The number 4 can be lucky on Thursday.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): This week, compile your wishlist for the New Year. The stars will smile on your creative abilities during the coming months, so shoot for the moon. Practical matters are less important than usual

this week and you will be tempted to take unusual risks. Christmas is the ideal time to extend an olive branch to someone you fell out with this year.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Others will see you as the life and soul of the party this week. Many Geminis will find they are responsible for organizing Christmas celebrations. However, rising to the occasion will present no problems. If you've forgotten to send holiday greetings to someone special overseas, find a way to show that you care.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): You could be prone to holiday stress, but you should be able to get away from it this weekend. Sunday is the perfect day for leaving communication devices at home and disappearing into the sunset. Virgo has a Christmas surprise in store that may make you feel guilty for not reciprocating generously enough. On Tuesday, wish upon the brightest star you see and you should receive what you desire.

LEO (July 24-August 22): A low-key Christmas will be appreciated, particularly by those trying to economize. Finalize work projects ahead of time as last-minute commitments are forecast at the end of the week. If you have recently embarked on a romantic journey, you will discover that your new partner's feelings are deeper than indicated. Wear emerald green to encourage more positive expectations.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): A relaxed Christmas could be hampered by your negative focus. Put your money worries aside and you could easily find that, by doing so, their importance diminishes. Aries is ready to offer a concrete proposition, but you will have to accept less freedom as part of the package. Pisces has plans to reveal their romantic aspirations this week.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): If you're looking for romance, stay in familiar surroundings as a platonic relationship is forecast to become something special. Your finances are about to receive a welcome boost, but this is not the right time to invest. Those of you in a relationship will hear good news from your partner during the holiday period, which means that a much-needed holiday can be planned. Number 5 is lucky on Tuesday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): If you thought you would be spending this Christmas alone, you will be pleased by friends' efforts to include you in festivities. Energy remains low this week, but by New Year's Eve, you will be ready to party into 2008. Until then, pay careful attention to health and resist enjoying too many mince pies. Wear holly-berry red to enhance your energy levels.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Last-minute rushing could cramp your style this week. Those of you who are subject to absent-mindedness should make lists ahead of time. Your enjoyment of the holiday period will depend on good organization. A romantic interlude is forecast to take place at a Christmas party, but mixing business with pleasure is also on the cards. The scent of pine sharpens your ability to spot a good opportunity.

The default conversational gambit in England, whence Sid hails, is the terrible state of the weather. In Phuket, it is the terrible state of the driving – and the resulting carnage. In both cases, various wags often observe that, "Everybody talks about it, but no-one ever does anything to fix it!"

Well, there is something you can do to help gain a better understanding of Phuket drivers and what to expect from them: pay attention to the semiotics of what the other vehicles you encounter on the island's tortuous roads are really telling you about their occupants.

Semiotics is the study of communications via subtle, symbolic cues. Breaking down the "car body language" of what your fellow road warriors are aiming at you at 150kmh will help you react as safely as possible.

There's a peculiar cultural edict at play within all this. Most Phuket residents, Thais and foreigners, are the nicest people you could possibly meet, bathed as they are in the gentle constraints of a peaceable belief system and socially hierarchic prescriptions of good behavior. Face to face and in groups, it's all deference, wais, bows and smiles. What a wonderfully helpful way of conducting human interaction. Welcome to the Land of Smiles!

But place these same well-mannered folk in a sheet of rolled steel with fully-tinted windows and the pent-up beast within is released in all its marauding glory.

It has been theorized that it is these very same social strictures that result in the apparent release of the devil incarnate when the perceived freedom of the open road beckons.

Whatever the reason, it is a fact of life in these parts – and well worth remembering before you attempt to take on the locals at road warfare.

Here is a guide to some of the main pieces of road artillery you'll encounter around our highways; what each weapon system is really telling you about their drivers; and what to do to maximize your chances of survival.

A nice gentle one to begin with...

The culprits: The weaving, swerving, run-down motorbike with noodle-cart sidecar. Although small and light, they can be deadly as they swerve Kami-kaze-style into your path without the slightest provocation or signal.

Who's in charge? While there will be at least eight family members of Clan Noodle clinging to various parts of the heav-

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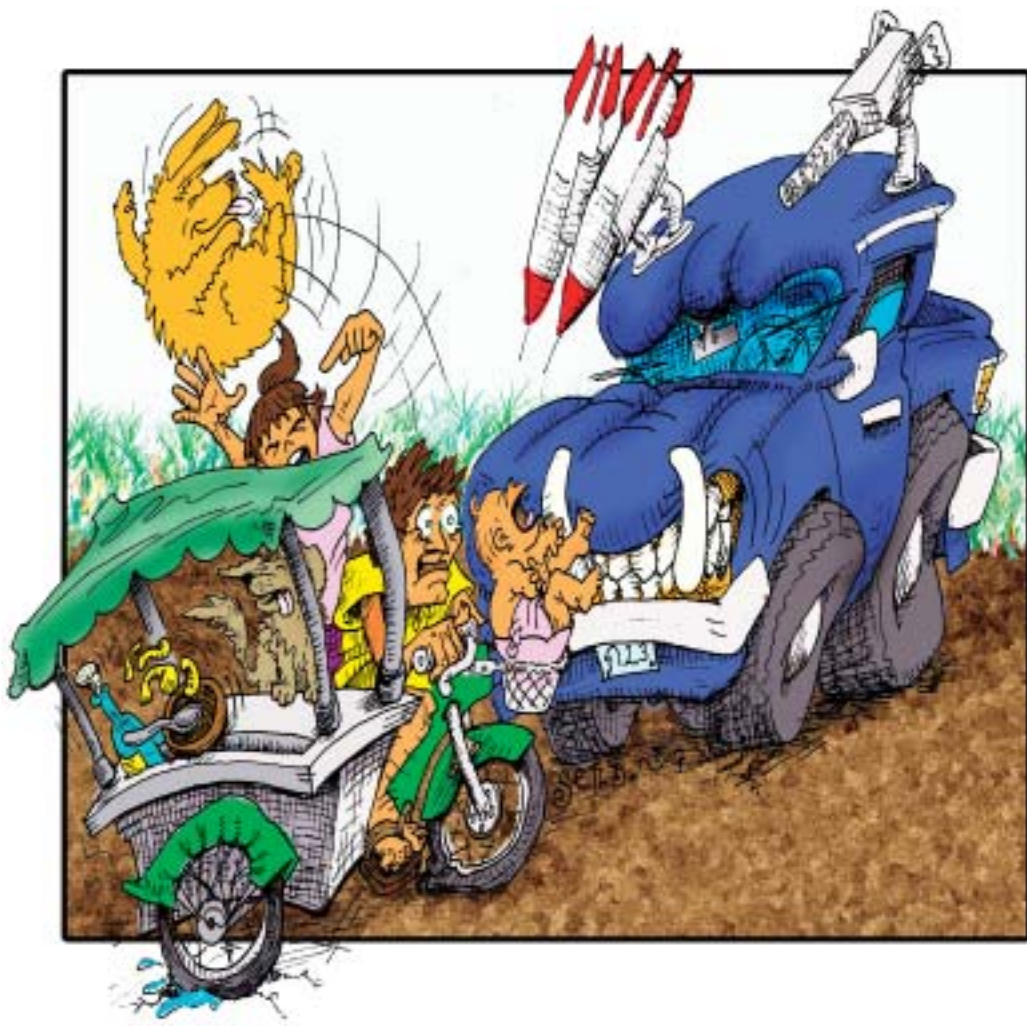
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Full Metal Jacket

Car body language on Phuket's roads

ing contraption, including two babies and a dog, it's always Mrs Noodle who wears the pants in this army.

Watch for her left-hand up-percut into hubby's exposed mid-ribs to send the entire catastrophe hurtling into your nearside chromium.

Damage limitation: When seen up ahead, it's best to pull into the nearest roadside hostelry and hunker down with a glass of the amber and a plate of *somtam* until the whole weaving carnage-trap has pootled off into the distance.

Now let's get down to some serious business...

The culprits: It's Monday-morning rush hour at Chalong Circle and we find a ring of huge, black, Isuzu Muck-Blatter pickups, each with a latticework of bull bars, vying for position.

Not for the faint hearted, this scene. Each Muck-Blatter owner has considered the lesser firepower of the Toyota Splat Gut,



ANDAMAN
BY SOAPBOX SID
RANT

the Honda Shriek Devil and even the Ford Bush Ranger, but decided that "might is right" and the Muck-Blatter's slicing wheel blades and twin-mounted machine guns justify the reduction in fuel efficiency to zero miles per liter.

Hell, who needs fuel efficiency when you can scare people witless?

Who's in charge? A point of debate. Is it Khun Phu Yai, or his spoiled progeny, with the

highly-dangerous connections... and don't you forget it.

Damage limitation: There are two ways to go with this one:

a) Try to negotiate the roundabout in a civilized way; get mowed down and run off the road and then make an ill-considered hand gesture at Khun Phu Yai, leaving you with the only option of driving straight to the airport, boarding the first international flight to South America and living out your days in Patagonia disguised as a yak; or
b) Wait patiently at the roundabout for an opening, which will eventually appear about 11:30 am, when all the Muck-Blatters have long gone, leaving you to arrive at the office just in time for lunch.

Car body language in Phuket is a complex and scary subject. Sid will be back in a future rant to continue deconstructing the hell on wheels awaiting your every adventure onto the island's roads.

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The future of PCs seems as clear as bottled water: PCs are quickly becoming our home entertainment centers, as well as the way we buy and store our music and videos.

The ideal cheap gadget for improving the sound on your PC, or even your portable radio or CD player, is the CmoY headphone amplifier, named after the inventive, inspired gadget guy Chu Moy.

The CmoY is particularly useful for people with hearing problems, weak speakers, tiny cheapo headphones, MP3 players or music and games that they

want to listen to at loud volume. Even high-end PCs with great speakers might get a surprising jump in sound quality. Almost

everyone can benefit from it, yet few people have ever heard of the humble CmoY.

Today's computers rival the best TVs in picture quality, but the audio is still not quite as good as a middle-range-quality stereo. Part of the problem is the weak hardware typically used to amplify PC sounds.

The power and signal being delivered to your speakers is often squashed and distorted by hardware that isn't up to the task. The amplifier in your PC is almost certainly underpowered. Most laptops and portable music players rob their amplifiers and speakers of power to conserve battery life.

Even on a really good PC, when you use software on the screen to turn up the volume, the software may be making promises that your hardware can't handle.

Software and hardware are like a choreographer and ballerinas in a room with a low ceiling. The choreographer can ask for three-meter-high leaps and pirouettes, but the ballerinas are

Little gadget makes big, beautiful waves

smacking into that ceiling every time they jump. What you get is low-volume thumping noises, headaches, grumbling and something that isn't quite "art".

The size of a sound wave is its volume. The shape of the wave is what makes a cat sound different from a car horn. A good amplifier simply increases the height of the wave without

distorting the shape.

A bad or underpowered amplifier is like that low ceiling: when those ballet dancers start smacking the ceiling, the shape of their flight pattern is radically altered. A picture of their motion wouldn't look like the original waves. Instead, it would look like a mountain range with the peaks cut off flat, halfway up from the valley floor.

When this happens to sound, you get a medium-loud square wave. Whether you're listening to a CD of opera, or kittens or a roaring soccer stadium, what you hear is a medium-loud, unrecognizable car horn kick-boxing with an angry kazoo.

Chu Moy, a clever guy with a soldering iron and an offended ear, came up with a simple gimmick to fix the underpowered amplifier problem. In essence, he said, "Hey, we're talking about only a few volts and a little amplification. I could put a finger-nail-sized amplifier chip in a box with a volume knob and a battery and put it on the wire between the PC and speakers. I'd



From cute toy mopeds to packets of 'Patong galoshes', the homemade CmoY headphone amplifiers can be made to fit nearly anywhere.

get sweet, loud sounds without distortion."

He slapped one together, plugged one end into his PC and the other end into his headphones and made history, beautiful music and magic. He posted the plans on the Internet and next, everybody was making and selling these little gadgets as kits, parts and completed boxes.

For 400 to 1,100 baht, everyone's bargain-basement PCs and cheap, little speakers were producing big, beautiful sounds. People with a Tweety Bird budget were making sounds to rival Pavarotti.

Want one? Search Google

or eBay for "CmoY". There are free circuit diagrams, 400-baht kits, 700-baht completed circuits without the fancy box or 1,100-baht ready-to-go boxes. If you're handy with electronics, find parts in Phuket City and the basement of Big C for 400 baht.

Maybe you're not proficient with a soldering iron, but you still want the fun of making something yourself, here are a few ideas:

If you're feeling artistic, you can buy the circuit already assembled and put a handmade case around it. Someone reasonably handy with a pocket knife and a bottle of glue can have real fun sticking these Cmoys into un-

expected housings.

Here in Phuket, my friends and I have put Cmoys into TV remote controls, cellphone cases, candy boxes and plastic toys. One Phuket scamp even put his CmoY into an empty box of... ummm... "Patong galoshes".

If you have any questions, want to show off what you've done or want to talk to people who've made Cmoys here in Phuket, visit the free Phuket Computer Discussion Group at www.ozvisual.com/phuketcomputerclub

For more details on the CmoY, check out these Internet resources:

History of the CmoY: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CmoY

The original D-I-Y article by Chu Moy: www.headwize.com/projects/cmoy2_prj.htm

Circuit diagram (PDF file): tangentsoft.net/audio/cmoy-tutorial/misc/cmoy-tangent-sch.pdf

Do-It-Yourself tutorial: tangentsoft.net/audio/cmoy-tutorial/

Parts list: tangentsoft.net/audio/cmoy-tutorial/parts.html

Assembled CmoY circuits for sale on eBay: stores.ebay.co.uk/WalkingWolf-Amps-Stuff

Completed Cmoys for sale: www.evillfire.com

Seth is an illustrator, SEO specialist and web designer who has been living in the Pacific Rim area since 1991. He can be contacted at sethness@tessellations.org or through the Phuket Computer Club's forum at www.ozvisual.com/phuketcomputerclub/

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ON THE MOVE

Anut "Jaja" Samantamit, 28, from Trang, has been appointed the new Administration Manager of the *Phuket Gazette*.

She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Faculty of Communication Arts from the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce.

K. Jaja previously worked for the BBDO Bangkok Agency before moving to Phuket, where she has been working with the *Gazette* for four years.



Porntiwa "Jeab" Hongwongpaisarn, 24, a Phuket native, has been appointed the new Assistant Manager-Classified of the *Phuket Gazette*.

She graduated with a bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Science Management at Phuket Rajabhat University.

She has been working with the *Phuket Gazette* for two years and was promoted from the position of Classified Administrator.



Sanya Thotong, 35, from Buri Ram, has been appointed Chef of Thai Brasserie Blue Elephant in Jungceylon, Patong.

He began his career 12 years ago and has five years experience in Bangkok's Busaracum Thai restaurant, followed by two years at the Twin Tower Hotel Bangkok.

He was appointed First Chef at Blue Elephant-Bangkok in 2002. K. Sanya is also a professional fruit and vegetable carver.



Honda showroom ready for business

By Janyaporn Morel

WICHIT: Honda dealer Anuphas Vividhkarn Co Ltd will open its 370-million-baht showroom and service center on Chao Fa West Rd on December 24.

Claimed to be the biggest Honda showroom service center in Southern Thailand, the center occupies 14 rai of the 1,630 rai that is slated to become the Anuphas and Son's Chao Fa City development.

Anuphas Vividhkarn managing director Montree Hongsyok said that of the 14,500 square meters of the new center's usable area, the service workshop with 54 service bays will occupy 3,500 square meters, the spare parts warehouse will occupy 350sqm and there will be parking space for 195 cars.

The showroom, which has been under construction for the past 18 months, will have space to display 10 cars at a time and the service center will be capable of servicing up to 150 cars a day, he added.

The new center is to soak up the trade from the original



The new Honda service center, with 54 service bays, is expected to cater to up to 150 cars a day.

Anuphas Vividhkarn Honda dealership on Phang Nga Rd, in Phuket City, established 19 years ago under the management of K. Montree. The service center section will close for renovation from

April next year.

K. Montree explained that although the Phang Nga Rd service center will close, the showroom will remain open.

The Phang Nga Rd showroom was the most successful Honda dealer in the country in 2004, selling 2,006 Honda cars that year.

K. Montree said that because of rising fuel prices, a slow-

down in the economy and the unstable political situations, the company will miss its sales target of 1,600 Honda cars this year. So far this year 1,280 Honda cars have been sold in Phuket.

However, he expects Honda sales to improve by about 9% next year, he added.

"Our service center on Phang Nga Rd is actually overcrowded," K. Montree ex-

plained. "We can service 50 cars per day, but after the new showroom opens we expect to service 200 cars per day through both centers," he said.

The Phang Nga Rd service center is scheduled to resume full services from the beginning of 2009.


K. Montree added that expansion plans for the site of the new showroom include developing a total of about 50 rai, including the Honda showroom, into an automotive services center.

The center will include Mazda and Ford showrooms and service centers occupying about eight rai each, and 20 rai has been set aside for other automotive businesses, such as sound system dealers, automotive accessory stores and secondhand car services.

Anuphas Vividhkarn also opened a dealership in Khok Kloy on February 27.

The Honda showroom opening ceremony will be on December 24, coinciding with the launch of the new Honda Accord.

For more information contact 90/8-3 Moo 2, Chao Fa West Rd, Wichit, Muang, Phuket, or Anuphas Vividhkarn Co Ltd at Tel: 076-214700-1, 076-214716 or 076-214751 or at Fax: 076-213583.



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Investors are frequently baffled by the ever-increasing range of choices available. The following are some of the categories of investment products:

Money market funds. These are investments in cash or short-term money market securities. The advantage for investors is that – because of the large amounts invested in the funds – they can get wholesale investment rates that would normally not be available to the average investor. There are large numbers of these “funds” available in a wide variety of currencies.

Banks usually offer two types of money market funds: up to six months and between six months and 18 months. Most of these investments are on a daily call, that is, they can be withdrawn without notice and interest accrues on a daily basis.

Bond funds. These come in many shapes and sizes and in total cover trillions of dollars, euros and other currencies. Bond funds are often more complicated products than they first appear.

Funds may invest solely in one currency for their bonds or invest in a wide range of currencies. Every fund has a “base” currency but may use the issues of other currencies to enhance returns. Currency-hedging techniques may or may not be used. Investors should examine the investment strategy in advance.

High-yield bonds.

In general, this means that the manager of the fund is prepared to invest in bonds of a lower-grade investment rating or even in bonds that are not of investment grade to enhance returns.

One recent case involved a very large investment group, GE, which offered short-dated bonds to investors, giving them the same feeling of safety as would be expected in a money market fund.

Unfortunately, the fund included some structured investment vehicles (SIVs). Investors received only 96% of their capital back. Fortunately, no members of the public were involved – there were 14 institutional investors affected. The fund was

Spend it like Buffett: Invest in what you know

thereafter immediately closed.

It was a very unusual case. GE is one of the largest corporations in the world. The losses, as the fund was not large, amounted to only US\$10-15 million. For the sake of their reputation, perhaps it would have been wiser for them to have taken the loss on their own balance sheet.

Asset-backed lending. This is an area where investors have to be careful. What are the quality of assets? That is the primary question.

In an era where securities have been listed as “double A” or even “triple A” by credit-rating agencies only to be downgraded to sub-investment grade/speculative investment grade or “junk” within months must leave investors, including sophisticated institutional investors, wary of credit-rating announcements.

Simply, the global credit-rating agencies have been caught completely off guard over the past six months by a wave of SIVs, CDOs (collateralized debt obligations) and other complex “paper”.

Credit-rating agencies are claiming that ultimate responsibility for assessment lies with the investor. However, considering the high credit ratings

given to some poor-quality investments recently, it can be only a matter of time before many cases end up in court, especially in the US.

Credit-rating agencies have taken a serious blow to their credibility, and it will take them years to recover.

For example, it was standard operating practice for Swiss banks to offer their clients a selection of bonds with the credit rating included as basic information. Now they include opinions of other broking houses and en-

sure they are dealing with “pure” bonds, and not some opaque investment.

Many other global banks have found themselves in the same situation.

Structured products. Many strange products have been foisted onto an unsuspecting public by the private banking operations of many of the world’s banks. These are often the private banking operations that advertise in the most exclusive magazines and financial publications together with six-figure watches, eight-figure properties and the finest products and services for the ultra-rich.

Often, these private banking operations hint that they really do not serve clients with less

than US\$10 million. Not for the “riff raff”.

Some of the products they sell are firmly of the “heads we win, tails you lose” variety. Just as there are screams from “sub prime” borrowers in the US housing market that they did not understand the contract, the rich victims of private banking operations also did not understand the nature of their investments. However, they are generally too embarrassed to discuss these matters.

The simple remedy is: if you do not understand a financial product, leave it alone. You will not be alone in your decision – many high-flying or crashing investment bankers have learned that if a financial product is not absolutely clear it is to be avoided.

The new term in global financial circles is “transparency”. It is only common sense. However, how many millions of investors keep on forgetting that?

We only have to look back to 1999 when Warren Buffett, the world’s wealthiest investor, said that he did not understand the business model of many dot.com startups or their valuations.

Michael Bloomberg, the founder of Bloomberg, also stated in an interview in the late 1990s that many dot.coms did not have a viable business plan and had never even shown a profit. How many people were listening then?

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Oleydong Sith-
samerchai in the
early rounds of
their bout on
November 29
in Bangkok.



Oleydong grounds Eagle

By Scott Mallon

When WBC mini-mum-weight belt holder Eagle Kyowa (18-2, 6 KOs) decided to return to his native Thailand after seven years of fighting in Japan, it was intended to be a homecoming party. Instead, he found himself traveling back to Japan sans belt, now questioning whether he'll be able to recapture the title he held for more than two years.

The past year in Thailand has seen an increasing number of promotions involving Thai-versus-Thai main events: Napapol Kittisakchokchai V Saenghiran Lookbanyai, Sirimongkol Singwancha V Thong Por Chokchai, and Kyowa V Oleydong Sithsamerchai.

Early next year, two of Thailand's best super bantams, Somsak Sithchatchawal and Poonsawat Kratingdaenggym, will step into the ring together to see who is more deserving of a shot at one of the alphabet trinkets.

While mismatches continue to be a problem in Thailand, pairing the best the country has to offer is at least a step in the right direction.

Although televised on Thai TV Channel 7, the bout between Kyowa (now calling himself Den Janlapan) and Oleydong Sithsamerchai drew a huge crowd to the makeshift outdoor arena, with fans keen to see the highly-regarded Kyowa defend his title against the undefeated Sithsamerchai (25-0, 10 Kos) of Trang.

Sithsamerchai made it clear from the opening bell he would not stand in front of Kyowa, electing instead to move side-to-side.

The 29-year-old champion fought aggressively, smiling continuously and advancing without fear while launching the straight right at his southpaw opponent's head.

For the first three rounds, the bout was tit-for-tat, with Sithsamerchai, 22, scoring with short, sneaky lefts then sliding to his right, and Kyowa landing sporadically with his jab. Kyowa pressed forward, relentless in his attack, but relatively ineffective against the quick-footed Sithsamerchai.

By the fourth round Sithsamerchai looked to be tiring, his face showing signs of wear from the stiff jabs of the champion. It was in the middle rounds however when he would do his best work and tally the necessary points to get the victory.

Under the WBC's open-scoring policy, the scores after four rounds have to be revealed. These showed the bout as almost dead even: 38-38, 38-38, and 39-38 in favor of Sithsamerchai.

By the sixth, Sithsamerchai

had caught his second wind and was landing his jab-cross combination more often.

He continued to stick to his strategy of moving side-to-side, deftly sliding out of range of Kyowa's increasingly wild punches. After eight, the judges had the bout in favor of Sithsamerchai, 78-75 twice and 78-74.

Recognizing the upset was within his grasp, Sithsamerchai stayed up on his toes and stuck to his game plan – unceasing movement. Whether because he was simply too quick or the champion was too slow, Sithsamerchai managed to make Kyowa look clumsy and confused throughout the bout. In the final rounds though, with Sithsamerchai slowing, Kyowa finally closed the gap and scored on the inside. It was too little, too late though and a stunned Kyowa could do nothing to retain his title.

All three of the judges scored in favor of Sithsamerchai: Fernando Estrella scored the bout 117-112, Brian McMahon had it 115-114, and Gerald Ritter scored it 115-113. Sithsamerchai will reportedly fight a tune-up bout early next year and then travel to Japan, where Kyowa will get a rematch.

"I'm proud of the way I fought today," said Sithsamerchai. "My opponent was good, he was strong. I knew he would come at me with everything."

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: With just one week of play left, Queen Mary remained undefeated by slipping past Simply Red 5-4 in a match that came down to the final doubles. However, Simply Red snatched a point in the beer leg when Ian closed out a x4 with the unusual combination of 1-1-x3.

All of this means that Queen Mary needs to take at least one point off Valhalla in the final week of play to eliminate defending champs Dog's Bollocks from the title run.

In other matches reported Shakers downed Valhalla 8-1. Shaun reports that the best throw came from Takis, who closed out on x2 to win the beer league for Shakers. Johnny of Valhalla hit a 120 to take the high score.

As both December 25 and January 1 are Tuesdays, the party will possibly be held on January 8, though that date will only be confirmed at

the season-ending captain's meeting.

It is still not too late for new venues to enter teams for the next league, which will likely start in mid-January. Contact Steen at Queen Mary as soon as possible for more information about the league rules and conditions that apply.

Send reports of high scores, high closes and other points of interest to darts@phuketgazette.net for inclusion in this article.

December 11 results: Market Bar* 3 Offshore 6; Beach House 1 Dogs Bollocks* 8; Queen Mary 5 Simply Red* 4; Valhalla 1 Shakers* 8; Piccadilly bye; (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Queen Mary (39); 2. Dogs Bollocks (36); 3. Piccadilly (30); 4. Offshore (27); 5. Shakers (24); 6. Simply Red (17); 7. Market Bar (20); 8. Valhalla (9); 9. Beach House (4).

Cyclists wrap up Tour de Thailand at Patong Beach



Wirat Sae-Kouy (left), representing the Max Foundation, receives a check for 350,000 baht from Tour de Thailand, presented by Christopher Byrd (center), managing director of Tour de Asia Bicycle Touring Co Ltd, with Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima (2nd from right). The money was collected through sponsorship of the 27-day bike ride that took cyclists from Chiang Mai to Phuket.

PATONG: The fifth annual Tour de Thailand charity bike ride finished at Patong Beach December 16. Local cyclists and international athletes took part in the grueling trial, which saw participants ride the final stage from Khao Lak to Phuket – a total of 118 kilometers.

The tour began November 20 in Chiang Mai and covered 2,300km across Thailand, with up to 500 cyclists taking part in the event along the various stages.

Now in its fifth year, the Tour de Thailand has raised about 3 million baht for charities in Thailand.

This year, 350,000 baht was raised for the Foundation of the Blind (Thailand) and the Max

Foundation, which helps patients suffering from blood cell cancer.

Speaking at Patong Beach at the end of the tour, Christopher Byrd, managing director of Tour de Asia Bicycle Touring Co Ltd, said, "I would like to thank the guests and riders who came for the 2,300km journey. Riders from the USA, Canada, Germany, England, Australia, New Zealand, Russia and France took part in this event.

"Along the way, we saw many Thai festivals, such as Loy Krathong in Sukhotai and the Sound and Light Show in Kanchanaburi. We have had great support from the local people. I hope you will join us again in 2008," he added.

Windsurfers prepare for inaugural championship rally off Phuket

PHUKET: The Eastern Windsurfing Club (EWC) is teaming up with Windsurfing Association of Thailand and Yacht Racing Association of Thailand to present Thailand's first international windsurfing rally championship from January 15 to 20.

Competitors will race along the west coast of Phuket.

The first day of racing (January 16) will take place from Nai Yang Beach to Surin Beach. On the second day, windsurfers will compete from Surin Beach to Patong. The third day will see competition move from Patong to Kata, and the final day will bring racers from Kata to Nai Harn Beach.

Winds of between eight and 25 knots are expected to propel the windsurfers along the coast in temperatures of up to 30°C.

Windsurfers from around the world will join local sailors for the rally.

Organizers hope that the rally will help boost tourism in Phuket. Leading sports networks, including ESPN, Starsport, Fox Sports and Espanol, will broadcast the event.

Entry for the event has already closed.

An international jury will be appointed for the competition.

The rally is being held in honor of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who turned 80 years old on December 5.

EWC has previously organized windsurfing competitions in Pattaya.

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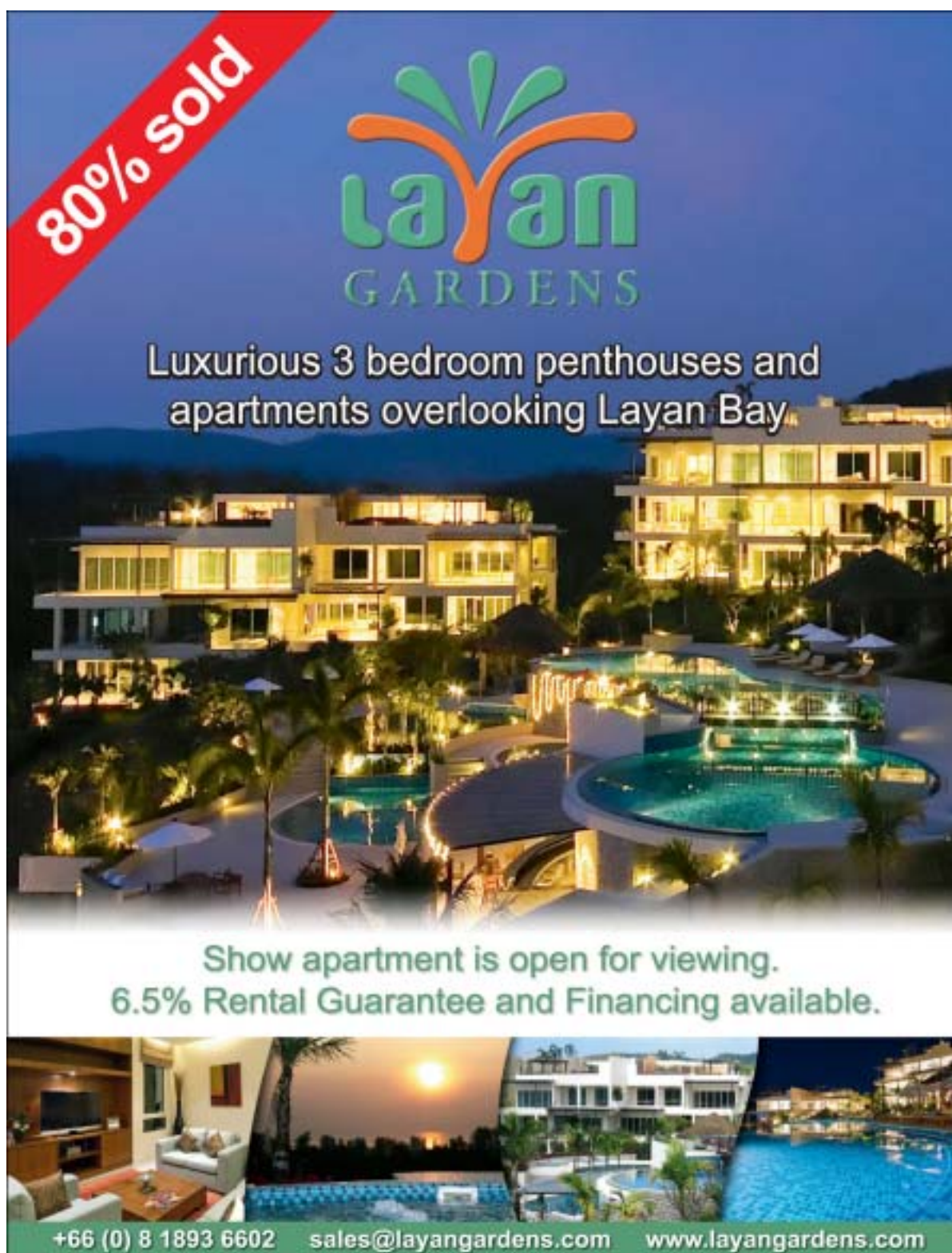
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Gardening

with Bloomin' Bert

Good golly! It's a jolly bush

So it's Christmas again, is it? I'm not sure, to be honest. I'm convinced that someone has miscalculated the date. Christmas 2006 was only a few months ago, wasn't it? I'm sure the years pass more quickly the older I get.

If it really is Christmas already, then I will at least try to be festive. So, assuming that it's that time of the year, then Christmas plants have to get a mention. The poinsettia is the most predictable and has been covered in this column ad nauseum. What about the Christmas palm? You know – the one with the red baubles hanging from it? Perhaps less predictable, but still pretty obvious.

None of the above fit the bill, but a sprig of something green, inedible and prickly, with a few red berries, would do the job perfectly. I don't do this often, but this week's aimless ramble concerns a plant not frequently seen in Phuket – holly.

It is possible to cultivate holly in Phuket, but you'll need to follow a few steps beforehand. Basically, you have a couple of options:

1. Fly to England, or somewhere equally inclement, buy a small holly seedling and plant it. Wait 25 years for it to grow to a reasonable size, then fly back to Phuket and show off the festive fruits of your labors to your friends and family.

2. This one needs a little background information for those who aren't from one of the more temperate regions of the world. A greenhouse is small, glass garden shed that makes conditions for plants more bearable when it's cold outside.

Anyway, what's needed to



You won't find much of this plant in Phuket, but with the holiday season approaching, Bert looks back at memories of holly.

holly, or *ilex aquifolium*. Unfortunately, I haven't a clue what it's called in Thai – I'm not even sure that there is a Thai name for it. Anyway, this type of holly likes full sun and well-drained acidic soil.

Holly bushes need to be pruned to produce a plant with lots of leaves. You can shape them to just about any geometrical design – just prune back the tips of the current season's growth.

One thing to remember is that holly doesn't like to be moved. Buy small plants and plant them in their permanent position if at all possible. If you want to transplant an established plant, you'll need to remove it carefully with a large root ball and move it to its new home quickly.

To germinate holly seeds, which are in the berries, you'll first need to remove the pulp of

the berries. Once the pulp has gone, you'll need to place the seeds in a stratification system. In a nutshell, this is just placing the seeds in layers of sand covered with leaves, soil or straw, and exposing the lot to winter weather.

Alternate freezing and thawing helps to crack these seeds, so you'll need a fairly advanced esuohneerg. The purpose of this is to keep the seeds either frozen or cool. After the seed coat has cracked, you then take out the holly seeds and plant them in compost.

If anyone has any success with the development of an effective esuohneerg, please let me know – it will also double as a useful beer cooler and storage unit. After all, you need to have something to do while you're waiting for the holly to grow. Oh, and... Merry Christmas.

Bloomin' Bert can be contacted by email at: bert@bloominbert.com

grow holly in Phuket is a greenhouse in reverse – an "esuohneerg". I'm not sure whether an esuohneerg has ever been built in Phuket, but the specifications are easy if anyone has the time or inclination – you just need to simulate conditions that are cold, wet and miserable.

Should you feel the urge to grow holly using either of the above methods (or even an alternative method of your own), then it requires fertile loamy soil and some shade. Holly grows best in a humid atmosphere. You'll need to be patient, because even in ideal conditions, it grows slowly.

Most holly varieties are evergreen and have red berries that attract birds, squirrels and even deer. The berries it's famous for don't appear spontaneously, though. In order to produce berries, female holly plants need a male plant growing within 10 to 20 meters away. They're dioecious, to use the technical term.

The leaves are bizarre.

They're stiff, with vicious pricks all around them – presumably a defense mechanism against being eaten by wildlife. Holly is usually bush-like in appearance, but there are far too many pricks in this bush to make diving in a pleasant experience.

The variety of holly that most people are familiar with at this time of the year is English

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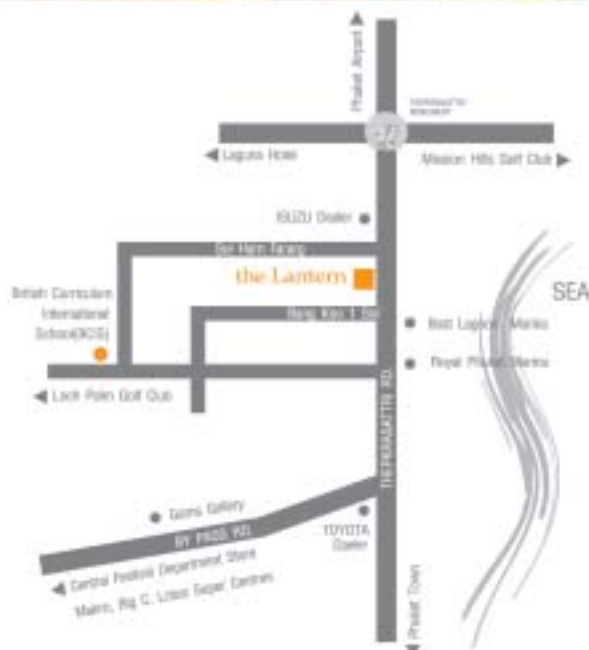
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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

KAMALA: The Bell housing development is the first project by Asia Orchid Group Co Ltd. Located on 6.5 rai about 1.5 km from Kamala Beach, the development is about 20% complete and on schedule for completion mid-2009.

Construction of the 200-million-baht project, located in Kamala Soi 10, also known as Soi Baan Hua Kuan or "Soi FantaSea", began in June. When complete, The Bell will comprise 17 single-story pool villas on plots ranging from 386 square meters to 506sqm.

There will be one two-bedroom villa, one four-bedroom villa, 14 three-bedroom villas and the largest villa, with five bedrooms, will be occupied by the project owner in order to oversee the housing development's services.

Project manager Anthonie Polfliet told the *Gazette* that after the homes went on sale at the beginning of this month, two were sold off-plan within two weeks.

"We are now doing the first phase of construction, which comprises a reception and office building as well as two show units and all the infrastructure. We are also building the five-bedroom villa for the project owner at the same time," he said.

"Construction of the first three-bedroom show villa is now finished. We are still doing the in-

terior decoration and gardening, which all will be completed around Christmas. The second show unit will be finished in January 2008," he added.

Construction is being carried out by Surin Pandin Tong Co Ltd and the homes have been designed by architects Roof Co Ltd.

The villas will be in contemporary-Balinese style, using cedar roof tiles from Canada to highlight the Balinese look. The contemporary style is exemplified by a color scheme using a combination of black, gray and white with wood highlights throughout the home.

Each three-bedroom villa will have a living space of 255sqm, with each bedroom having an en-suite bathroom and the master bedroom opening directly onto the 4m-by-8.5m pool.

As for the project name, "We wanted a name that was catchy and easy to remember – and also something that we could use to identify the project. We will use bells as decorative features in a small park to mark of the project's identity, too," Mr Polfliet said.

"We will arrange full in-house management services and



Homes at The Bell include large open areas with salas and surrounding infinity-edge swimming pools.

also rental-pool management for owners not using their villas. We will let them out on a daily-rental basis with full resort services. All services will be the same as at a hotel. We will have a facilities building where we can prepare food. We don't have a restaurant – we will deliver food to the villas," explained Mr Polfliet.

"We will also have maids, gardeners, swimming-pool cleaners and 24-hour security guards,"

he added.

"Our target customers are primarily Scandinavian. We are also targeting other European markets. We haven't done a lot of marketing, but we have received good feedback and we have had walk-in customers.

"We joined two exhibitions in Europe, one in Belgium and one in Netherlands. We had good responses at these expos and many interested people will be

coming [to see the development] very soon," Mr Polfliet said.

The houses are being sold on 30-year, twice-renewable leasehold arrangements, at prices ranging from 12.1 million baht for the two-bedroom villa, up to around 14 million baht for three-bedroom villa. The four-bedroom villa is available at 16.3 million baht.

"We want deliver the best value possible, with attractive, high-quality villas that are also practical.

"We are also aiming to create an 'outdoor living' home with a big terrace, large infinity-edge swimming pool and a sala. Everything has been created with functionally in mind," he said.

The prices include built-in furniture, kitchen, air conditioning, ceiling fans, lighting and wireless Internet access.

For more information contact The Bell sales office. 41/31 Village 5, Baan Hua Kuan, Soi Bell, Kamala, Kathu, Phuket 83120. Tel: 081-8953926, 081-8953956. Fax: 076-279412. Email: info@thebellphuket.com Website: www.thebellphuket.com

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The five three-bedroom properties that make up this development in Rawai are suitable as holiday homes or for investment. Rental, sales and maintenance of the properties will be the responsibility of an independent management team.

The show villa has been completed and the remaining four villas are available off plan.

The estate is located close to the main road, five minutes from Nai Harn Beach and Laem Phromthep.

Each villa is designed in an L-shape, wrapped around a 153-square-meter pool. Balinese and Thai styles have played a major part in the architectural theme. Natural materials have been used throughout each villa.

The villas, which each feature single-story and two-story pavilions, are aimed at buyers in the high end of the market who

demand properties constructed from high-quality materials.

Open-floor plans feature separate levels for the living and dining areas. Hardwood floors and tiles are used throughout each property. The ceilings are made of natural materials, including rattan, glass and coconut tree wood.

From the living rooms, two sets of stairs lead to the Western-style kitchens.

Water features in the outdoor areas, including small fish ponds and waterfalls, have been included to create an atmosphere of calm.

The bedrooms comprise hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings and glass doors, providing access to the terrace. The master bedrooms and second bedrooms have spa bathrooms en suite, complete with Jacuzzi bathtubs, natural tiles and rainwater showers.

The villas are located on plots of land ranging from

1,009sqm to 1,237sqm. Additional features include three-phase electricity, an alarm system and sensors throughout the house. The villa comes mostly unfurnished, with some built-in items included, such as closets and kitchen fixtures.

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Phuket has seen a flourish of economic growth this year. It has been a banner year for tourism with arrivals likely to exceed 5 million. Hotel-occupancy rates together with average room rates have now surpassed the pre-tsunami boom years. For the property market, though, the year has been a mixed bag given the military coup, foreign-business-act issues and uncertainty over the coming elections.

While the political landscape remains uncertain, the investment climate is buoyant with international investor-driven projects like the Shangri La, Taj, Raffles, Marriot Vacation ownership expansion, The Yamu and Jumeirah Private Island Resort.

Major hotel branding has continued with Accor opening the Mercure in Patong, Singapore's Millennium soon to come at Jungceylon and the opening of four new projects managed under the Marriott's core brand.

Tourism remains a key indicator for property, but the industry has had its ups and downs throughout the year.

The hotel market has hard data available on the number of hotel rooms and occupancy rates. In Thailand's property market, transaction numbers for mid- and upper-level properties are not readily available or on record to

Branding Phuket



the public. Given the preference of many overseas buyers to obtain leasehold property coupled with the number of projects where sales take place on share-purchase agreements overseas, tracking transactions through the land department is a daunting task.

In early 2007, there was a downward trend in sales, according to most of the larger develop-

ers here. This was to be expected given the political issues and removal of the prime minister in September last year. The fourth quarter is showing an upswing in activity, which is consistent with the arrival of high season.

Keeping track of trends is important in any business and our business does track the hotel market in Bangkok. In a market that caters to a good amount of

Jumeirah Private Island Resort is just one example of a local project teaming up with a well-known, international brand for maximum marketing power.

corporate business, the first three quarters of the year saw demand drop by 15% to 20%, but in the fourth quarter, there has been marked recovery and growth despite new accommodation entering the market.

Back in Phuket, new supply is increasing, judging by the number of building sites and billboards around the island. What was once a fledgling market has become an industry in itself. Other overseas markets are keen to use Phuket as a blueprint for their strategies. Within the past three months, we've seen groups from the private and public sectors of Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia and China scoping out the Phuket's mixed-use and property markets in search of practices to adopt in their own markets.

In Malaysia, the government has thrown open the doors to the foreign retirement market. In Vietnam, laws have been revised, moving long-term land leases from 50 years to 70 years.

Phuket has become an object of desire for many competing marketplaces in Thailand and in Asia. One key component that is needed is a way to harness the industry in tandem with tourism. While property has been domi-

nated by buyers from Hong Kong, Singapore, the UK and, now, Scandinavia, the key is for demand to keep pace with supply growth. Where will the buyers come from in the next three to five years?

Extending the reach of real estate into new international markets requires overseas marketing. The power of Phuket as a brand name and the diversity within the Phuket and surrounding areas is a unique offering compared with other markets in the region.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand covers too large an area and there is a lack of a Phuket-based organization promoting the common agenda of tourism and related industries, such as property.

There are examples of extremely efficient destination-marketing initiatives that has played important roles in tourism growth, such as the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board and Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau.

Phuket will hopefully receive a wake-up call soon. The island is so dependent on tourism and its off-spring industries.

To fill the new hotels with guests, provide the malls with shoppers and find buyers for the villas and apartments requires investment in collective marketing and a focus on developing new markets to help expand Phuket's market share in the competitive global economy.

Bill Barnett is managing director of C9 Hotelworks (c9hotelworks.com), a Phuket-based hotel and residential property consulting firm. With more than 20 years' experience in the region, he has played an active role in some of the island's biggest developments.



PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett



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LAND FOR SALE

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CHANOTE TITLE NATAI BEACH, NORTH OF PHUKET
20 MINUTES FROM PHUKET INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

CONTACT THE OWNER REPRESENTATIVE:

KHUN DEN

0818945726

WWW.DANNIEBKK@YAHOO.COM

AGENTS WELCOME

Property Gazette

BOTAN VILLAGE



Located 10 minutes from Patong, close to the British International School, gated community bordering a golf course. 350sqm. Villas on large land plot. Starting at 16 million baht. Tel: 076-209143, 089-7247211. For further details, please see our website at www.botanvillage.com

AO POR LAND URGENT SALE



150rai, Chanote, panoramic sea view. From 2.3 million baht per rai. Contact for more information. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: se_rim@hotmail.com

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

COCONUT ISLAND LAND



for sale. 4.5 rai, Chanote, hillside panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Bouddha for more information. Tel: 089-2900484.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Situated in desirable Choafa Thani, this 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom (2 en suite) house with living room, kitchen/dining, study, garage and laundry room is in a secure compound. Backs onto water and has mature garden. ADSL and UBC installed. Price: 7 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: bimvool@aol.com

CONDO IN PATONG

Centrally located in Montana Hotel, approximately 40sqm, fully furnished for the price of 2.7 million baht (negotiable). Call Vincenzo. Tel: 084-8485450. Email: enzoarturo@yahoo.it

HOUSES AND LAND

Magical views. 3 homes with pools. 2 plots: 970sqm and 732sqm. Priced to sell, keen vendor. For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-house-land.com

GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Due to health problems, I am offering two houses for quick sale - one on 1/2 rai of land and another on one rai. Both located in a good residential area 5 mins from the Laguna resort. Buy both for 15 million baht. Call Bepi for more information. Tel: 081-8930692. Email: toto@phuket.ksc.co.th

HOUSE WITH POOL IN RAWAI

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, 4 aircon units, fully-furnished. Sala, 8x4m pool, terrace on 2 levels, garden and parking. Wall and gate. Quiet area. Includes company papers and Chanote title. 5.9 million baht. Contact Thai-speaking Pop at 081-0770133, English-speaking Paul at 081-8941660. Email: cottrell@lox.info.co.th

MODERN UNIQUE RESIDENCE

An unusual modern property with a variety of uses. Includes 3 suites and swimming pool. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 081-7888280. Email: mauram7@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

Nanai villa, Patong. Exclusive villa, Thai-style, high standard, fully furnished, swimming pool, 200sqm living area, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Address: 154/13 Nanai Rd. 16 million baht. Tel: 083-1767676.

PA KHLOK HOUSE - BARGAIN



House, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, security grill. Only 2.1 million baht. (House alone worth 2.4 million). Contact Robert at Tel: 085-7833037 (English).

TOWNHOUSES AT LOCH PALM

Three townhouses for sale: one 2 bedroom partly furnished; one 2 bedroom fully furnished; and one 4 bedroom partly furnished with swimming pool. Tel: 081-9390176. Email: beaver@tstf.net

RAWAI BEACH DUPLEX

107sqm. For sale at 1.8 million baht. Pool, private parking, garden. Tel: 084-0579266. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

KHAO LAK LAND

Four rai for sale in prime location on main road to Ranong, on corner of public road, access to Pak Wib Beach. 8 million baht for quick sale. Tel: 081-6065772.

Platinum Residence Park



5 Star Services

VIP Mercedes Limousine
Grocery Delivery
Rental Services
24 Hr Security
Tour Bookings
Maid Service
Spa Services



5 Star Development

Government Approved
Underground Electrical
Landscaped Park
Foreign Quality
Serene Location
Wide Roads



from 9.5 million baht



076 388 593 or 086 686 2389

RIVER CITY GUESTHOUSE



By Andaman Sea, Phang Nga. 7 rooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, 5 aircons, restaurant, car park, sat TV, Internet. Private boat slip in front of your door! Sale: 680,000 baht. Tel: 081-9796011. Email: stefanmariaschmitz@yahoo.com

LUXURY VILLAS



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.phuketgreenlandvillas.com

WHEN YOU WANT LAND...

for commercial building or homes in Phuket, we have quality choices from a variety of locations for you. We try to do the best for you. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-2929095. Email: ppsr.property@gmail.com

SURIN LAND FOR SALE

1,016sqm: 6 million baht. 996sqm: 5 million baht. 5-minute walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 081-8687676.

PATONG OCEAN FRONT

3,600sqm land plot, stunning location. 3 million euros. Tel: 087-2849541.

RAWAI 2-STORY HOUSE

160sqm. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 1.3 million baht. 400m to the beach. Tel: 084-0579266. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

SALE: LAND AND 3 HOUSES

3.3 rai near Natai Beach for 200,000 euros, negotiable. Tel: 086-9523966. Email: wilawan87@hotmail.com

OCEAN-VIEW LAND

Karon Beach, 1 rai, 100sq wah. Only 800m from beach. Only 12.9 million baht. Tel: 081-6768717.

KATA RESIDENCE
Your opportunity to buy a new apartment in Central Kata **WITH FINANCE.**
Deposit just M-1 THB, with repayments from **ONLY B-48000 per month.**
(Offer expires 31.12.2007)
Kata Residence is a brand new apartment with full 5 star services inc parking, swimming pool, Gym and the popular Bistro Black & White.
Come and have a coffee and check out these luxury apartments.

KATA BEACH PROPERTY DEVELOPERS

Tel: 076 284 611 Mobile: 081 788 8280

PATONG CASTLE
From 3.5 M

Stylish contemporary tropical apartments of one, two and three bedroom solutions enjoying expensive terraces, beautiful ocean view with tropical sala and jacuzzi. 15% Rental guaranteed for the first three years and finance available to foreigners.

www.patongcastle.com

Kata Ocean View CONDOMINIUM
From 4.7 M

Mediterranean style ocean view apartments located in a natural beauty spot of Kata hills. One, two, three bedrooms apartments ranging from 72 to 162 sq.m. Foreigners eligible. Now on phase 2. Rental program available.

www.kataoceanview.com

VILLASUKSAN
From 9.8 M

New development of contemporary Balinese style Villas combining luxury, space and affordability. A choice of two, three bedrooms pool villas now offered at very attractive pre-construction prices. Best location in Nai Harn Beach.

www.villasuksan.com

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Property Gazette

AMAZING BEACHFRONT LAND



2 rai, Naka Yai island, 42m of beachfront, amazing white sand beach, clear water, next to Six Senses' new resort and the Jumeriah Island project. Facing west, great sunsets. 15 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2788300. Fax: 076-383978. Email: izzy_shifale@hotmail.com

LAND AND HOUSE



Lakeside pool villa in Land & Houses Park. Comes with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon and Western kitchen with appliances. Tel: 081-8921715.

SEAVIEW VILLA



Rawai-Nai Harn, Phuket. Price: US\$1 million. Land: 700sqm. 5 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, fully furnished, fitness room, swimming pool (communal). 1-minute drive to Rawai beach, 5 minutes' drive to Nai Harn Beach. Contact K. Sam. Tel: 085-1106449.

NAI HARN HOUSE, 2.9 MILLION BAHT

Two bedrooms, quiet, near beach, 264sqm, Internet, cable TV and phone. Tel: 087-9261381. Email: pakadog@gmail.com

OCEAN VIEW CONDO SALE

Tel: 081-5978904. Email: ranjit@phukets.info or visit www.phukets.info/ranjit.html

HAVEN LAGOON IN PATONG

offers 54 luxury condo units for sale ranging from 54sqm, 80sqm and 162sqm. Freehold available. 700 meters to Patong Beach. Our sales office is at the construction site near Phuket Palace Hotel. Construction well underway. 65% sold out. Call now ... Tel: 081-5976195. Email: unique_property@hotmail.com or see our website at www.thehavenlagoon.com

GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE

14 rooms, includes furnishings, restaurant. Urgent sale. 6 million baht ono. Karon area. Tel: 089-6493612. Email: franzen29@hotmail.com

URGENT SALE

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 and restaurant. All rooms with aircon, TV, DVD player and ADSL. Parking available. 9 million baht. Tel: 076-346065, 081-8914844. Email: joerg@phuket.ksc.co.th

AFFORDABLE LUXURY



Immaculate villa. Private area, big lush garden, pool, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, big living room, Scandi kitchen, huge patio, fully furnished, contemporary Bali-Thai style. Living area: 450sqm. Land area: 1,400sqm. Near Heroines' Monument with scenic hill view. Chanote. 14 million baht. Tel: 084-6907057.

NEW LUXURY PENTHOUSE



Beautiful panoramic ocean and sunset views over Patong Bay.

Large living room and balcony.

2 bedrooms, 2 en-suite bathrooms. Fitted kitchen, aircon, ceiling fans. Includes private roof terrace.

Total area: 245sqm.

Also includes lift, pool and private covered parking.

Perpetual lease.

Price: 12.9 million baht.

Tel: 087-8879070

Email:

ianscondo@yahoo.com

SEA VIEW LUXURY



freehold condominium, 2 bedrooms, 167sqm. 14th floor, corner apartment with panoramic sea views of Karon Beach from all rooms. 14.5 million baht. Call Jeremy at Phuket Landsearch. Tel: 081-8916174.

BEACH HOUSE FOR SALE

on Kamala beachfront. 2 bedrooms have spectacular interior and even more spectacular sunsets! Open-plan beachfront salas on each of the 2-stories. Western designed and engineered, concrete structure. 3-amp power conversion into access points. Walk-in off beach promenade and main shopping street. You can use it as a holiday home or an investment property. With our local property manager, fully-rented it gives you approx 6% return on your cost. Price: 12.8 million baht (255,000 euros). Tel: 084-8507706 (Jean) or 081-8943839 (Don). Email: donandinge@csloxinfo.com

RAWAI-NAI HARN

Spacious new pool villa, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, hi-spec, good road, private. 10.5 million baht. Tel: 081-4751404. Email: chris_carlier@yahoo.com

10 RAI ON KOH LIBONG ISLAND

10 rai on Koh Libong, 50m from the beachfront. Nor Sor 3 title. 3.5 million baht per rai. Contact me for further details. Tel: 089-8964939. Email: leebrook@access.inet.co.th

HOUSE FOR SALE 5.8 MILLION BAHT



100sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons. 10min walk to Patong Beach. Tel: 081-1248051, 084-8478626 Email: mingrestaurant@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



5 mins to Phuket Airport, close to the beach. 10 rai, 120 million baht. Must see. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: gyb_giff@hotmail.com

RAWAI BEACH FOR SALE

480sqm, Chanote. Walking distance to beach. Tel: 085-0330726.

1.6 MILLION BAHT PER RAI

Almost 2 rai near Nai Yang Beach, Chanote. Tel: 085-0330726.

FOR SALE

Large family house on one rai, beautiful and quiet land on hillside, lots of trees, near Rawai and Nai Harn. Price 6.5 million baht. Contact for info. Tel: 081-2525665.

PHUKET CITY HOME PROJECT



- * Detached house for sale
- * 105sq wah, 2-story
- * Upstairs has 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms
- * Downstairs has maids room
- * Living room, 1 bathroom
- * Laundry room
- * Dining room with one dining table
- * Remote control door
- * 3 aircons
- * Bathtub

Price 5.95 million baht. Contact K. Nathnarin at Tel: 089-9739873.

PENTHOUSE FOR SALE

5-minute walk to Surin and Bang Tao Beaches. 5.5 million baht or 110,000 euros. Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, common swimming pool. Perfect home/investment property with our local property manager fully rented. It gives you just under 7% return, after paying estate management fees of 4,000 per month. Tel: 084-8507706 (Jean) or 081-8943839 (Don). Email: donandinge@csloxinfo.com

LUXURY PROPERTIES

for sale or rent in Bang Tao, Yacht Haven. Please visit our website: www.janepropertyphuket.com

RAWAI HOME WITH POOL

93sqm or 186sqm. 1.5 million baht and up. 250 meter from the sea. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

RAWAI LAND SALE

172sqm in high-end location near Villa Suksan. Chanote. 4.6 million baht. Tel: 085-7827551.

RAWAI BAYVIEW CONDO STUDIO

27sqm or 54sqm. 360,000 baht and upward. In front of Bank and 300 meters from the sea. Tel: 086-9408914.

PORNSAWAN CONDOTEL

1 unit, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, 3 aircons. Call K. Soontaree. Tel: 086-6866003.

1 BEDROOM CONDO - KAMALA

In commercial center, use of shared pool. Only 2.3 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

SEAVIEW VILLA - RAWAI

Super-modern, 2-story with pool. Ready to move in. 12 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

44-ROOM CLINIC

4 rai of land, 6,500sqm of living space. Near airport. 38 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062. Email: clinicsale@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW CONDOS WITH SWIMMING POOL FOR SALE OR LEASE



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Luxury Tropical Asian Style House
Built in furniture and private pool.

from 7.6 Million Bath

Ready to move into now

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www.naraplacephuket.com

Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

HOUSE FOR RENT IN CHALONG



2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, dining room, laundry room, fully furnished, aircon in every room, carpark, swimming pool (shared), tropical garden. High-speed Internet and UBC satellite TV included. 25,000 baht per month, minimum 6 months. Tel: 087-1057320. Email: stefan@phuketit.co.th For details, see our website at www.chalongparadise.com

RAWAI HOME WITH POOL

2 bedrooms, UBC, parking, garden 20,000 baht/month. Tel: 084-0579266. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

DREAMHOUSE

For high-standard living, directly on beach, 260sqm, pool, sala, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, jacuzzi, ADSL, cable TV. Long-term: 95,000/month; short-term: 5,000 baht/day. Free from 20 Jan 2008. Tel: 081-2596052. Email: surapong@gmx.de

RAWAI SEAVIEW CONDO

Furnished studio for rent. Aircon, TV, UBC and ADSL. 5,500 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-0579266. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

RENT PERFECT HOUSE

Near Heroines monument, 3 bedrooms, 3 aircons, 2 bathrooms, hot shower, fully furnished, large kitchen with oven, fridge, washer and dryer, nice garden in corner. 25,000 baht per month or 23,000 baht (minimum 1 year). Contact at Tel: 081-8512280. Email: dennis.mo@hotmail.com

KAMALA

Executive villa accommodation. 2 bedrooms with ensuite bathroom, large living room, kitchen (50sqm). All teak custom built furniture, 4.2" plasma TV, ADSL, UBC. Private swimming pool, excellent security, maintenance and cleaning included. 40,000 baht per month for long-term only. Tel: 081-8111067.

HOUSE FOR RENT

New house for rent: 25,000 baht per month; or for sale at 4 million baht. Tel: 087-264-6808, 083-1743880.

NEW FURNISHED VILLA



Close to Laguna. 300sqm. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, living room, dining, kitchen and pool. 2 mins to Laguna. Long- or short-term rent. Contact K. Gai. Tel: 081-7344324 or see our website at: www.phuketgreenlandvillas.com

RAWAI BEACH VILLA

4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, UBC, ADSL, private pool. Rent: 45,000 per month. Tel: 084-0579266. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS

Fully-furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Private, gated, parking with storage. UBC & ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing. Pool & gardener service. Daily rental offered; weekly: 40,000 baht; monthly: 140,000 baht. Contact K. Suchada Tel: 084-8436837. For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-island-homes.com

SHOPHOUSE BLOCK

5 terraced houses for rent on the bypass road. 35,000 baht a month. Please call K. Vachira for more information. Tel: 081-3269495.

HOUSE FOR RENT SRISUCHRAT 2

Brand-new. 8,000 baht. Tel: 086-6903639.

PRIVATE HOUSE FOR RENT

Soi Ruam Nanachart Saiyuan, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big garden, aircon, furnished, telephone, ADSL. 5 min to Nai Harn beach, long-term only. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-215367, 081-5351570.

SINGLE HOUSE, 2 BEDROOMS

About 1,300sq ft of living/usable space on one floor, partly furnished. 4km to all shopping centers on Chalempokeit Rd, easy access to all areas around Phuket. 20,000 baht per month. Long-term preferred. Must view with owner for more details. Tel: 087-2715785. Email: mnswilson@gmail.com

THAI-STYLE VILLA



Tropical villa in Rawai, long-term rental. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 5 aircons, 42" cable TV, fully-furnished, lovely garden and large pool. 60,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-8916438.

COMFORTABLE HOUSE

in secure environment, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms (2 en suite), living room, study, garage, kitchen/dining room, fenced garden, furnished, UBC, ADSL. 35,000 baht per month. Near Wat Chalong. Tel: 084-8439579. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

HOMES FOR HOLIDAY

Near Laguna, 3 bedrooms, pool, spa. Cheap rates and weekly rates. Need car to access house. Tel: 089-5944067.

HOUSES FROM WELLTA

Do you want to rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellta. For info contact me at Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com www.houseinphuket.com

MODERN HOUSE, QUIET LOCATION

Fully-furnished Western house with large terrace and fenced-in tropical garden. UBC, ADSL, alarm, garage, 2 bedrooms with bathrooms en suite, full aircon and ceiling fans. Only long-term rentals. 28,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-8744050. Email: happyjo@procom.in.th

VILLA 2 BEDROOMS

3 mins to Mai Khao Beach. European standards, big sala, Internet, very charming antique furniture. 20,000 baht per week. Tel: 089-4708926, 081-7197015. Email: eanfievat@voila.fr

BANG TAO HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool and 2 living rooms. Tel: 084-8516121. Email: phuketmat@yahoo.com

HOUSE AT CHALONG

For long-term rent near Palai beach. 2 or 3 bedrooms, garden, aircon, fully furnished, phone line, car park. Tel: 089-7288311.

THALANG HOUSE

for long-term rent, 2 bedrooms, aircon, near waterfall. 37/136 Pernjun villa. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-6831147.

RAWAI BEACH FRONT



3 bedrooms, aircon, telephone, UBC, 1-year contract. Contact Gina. Tel: 089-6499939.

MINI RESORT - POOL

Luxury 3-bedroom homes and spa near Laguna. Reasonable weekly or monthly rates. Tel: 089-5944067.

2- AND 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Two-bedroom furnished house in Kathu, and 3-bedroom unfurnished house in Patong. Please contact me for details. Tel: 076-296301. Fax: 076-296301. Email: ampm_net@hotmail.com

MODERN HOUSE IN CHALONG

Fully-furnished home with 2 bedrooms and garden. Tel: 668-19561202. Email: poo@rnrdecor.com For further details, please see our website. www.rentthaihome.com/product.detail.php?lang=en&id=1055284

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT OR SALE

Fully-furnished villa at 3 soi 8/1, 70/76. Good price (private area). Tel: 081-5376045.

NICE, MODERN HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins to Rawai & Nai Harn Beaches. 162sqm. 2 bedrooms with private bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. 3 aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage service. 22,000 baht per month. Please contact K. Nui at Tel: 087-3830936.

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, cable, telephone, Internet, fully furnished, 24hr security and swimming pool. 17,000 baht per month. Near Heroines' monument. Tel: 087-8173019 (Eng), 083-1036578 (Thai).

APARTMENT KATA BEACH

Cable TV, furnished, Internet. Call Tel: 076-284065, 086-5958512. Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

WICHIT VILLA FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 3 aircons, brand-new furniture, TV, DVD, CD, ADSL Internet, dishwasher, washing machine, etc. 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-526597, 084-48494882. Email: brickjyon@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT



65sq wah, opposite public garden, 1.5km from Central Festival. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, bathtub, well/pump, 5 aircons, fully-furnished, garden, sprinklers. Contact K. Mongkon. Tel: 084-0628040.

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

This new 3-story shophouse is available for long-term lease. Ideal for home office/shop accommodation. Inquiries to Tel: 089-6521473.

CHALONG NEW HOME

2-bedroom, furnished home for rent with telephone, UBC, and aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

SEAVIEW VILLA FOR RENT

A stunning, 5-bedroom villa with infinity pool, vast deck, BBQ area and full housekeeping services. Perfect for a big family or a group of friends. Tel: 076-260468. Email: ops@theestategroup.com

NICE ROOMS

2 rooms for rent with own separate kitchen, UBC, TV. ADSL Internet optional. 500 baht per day or 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-279682, 086-2549466. Email: zaunotto@hotmail.de

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

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To ensure clarity, please attach photo. Do not Fax!

Boats & Marine

FISHING BOAT FOR SALE

13 meters, Thai-built, 185 Hino diesel, Borg warner trans depth and fish finder, wash-room. 1 million baht ono. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-388478, 083-5207308. Email: gerryb_foster@hotmail.com

SAILING TRIPS

Fishing, snorkeling and kayaking. Australian captain, reasonable rates. Tel: 081-6771641.

ONAN GENERATOR/ 12V FRIDGES

7KVA Onan MDK Series, 18 months old, good condition. Asking 285,000 baht. We also have three 12V fridges, various sizes, 6 to 18 months old. These are priced at 9,000-17,000 baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 083-3943291. Email: tomkat@phuket.ksc.co.th

WELL BELOW VALUE, MUST SELL

63' power cruiser, 4 double cabins, full aircon, water maker, GPS, radar, radio and much more. Must be seen and will give special price. Leaving country. Tel: 081-9390176. Email: beaver@tstf.net

ALUMINIUM BOAT

for sale: "Sessa", 3.9L Italian motor with 25hp Johnson. Includes trailer. Sale by foreigner. Tel: 089-7309608.

IMPORT/FIBERGLASS/ DIESEL

Beautiful 36ft, deep V, twin Volvo turbo, long-range cruising, 28kts, bar, cabin, head, shower. Free mooring or safe storage with trailer for 6 months if you buy for 3.6 million baht. Tel: 085-4734619. Email: piratespizza@gmail.com

JET DINGY

4.7 x 2.2m with 120hp Force Inboard Jet. New electric and trailer. 400,000 baht. Tel: 076-242091, 081-7370557. Email: dive_block@web.de

PERFECT FIBERGLASS

fishing boat. Tri-hull, nearly-new 55 Yamaha and trailer. Free storage for 3 months if you buy for 195,000 baht. Tel: 085-4734619. Email: piratespizza@gmail.com

MUSTANG 2800 SPORT CRUISER

2004 with 250 hours on Mercruiser V8. 3 million baht. Tel: 081-6932759. Email: wunhung@gmail.com

50-METER

luxury yacht. Licensed for 60 pax and can take 12 guests overnight. A perfect yacht for a luxury resort or hotel. Speed 16 knots and a 5,500km range. An extremely economical yacht at only 49 liters per hour. Tel: 080-1462877. Email: info@asiasuperyachts.com and see our website at: www.asiasuperyachts.com

5.8-METER RIB WITH TRAILER



with 140hp Yamaha and 20hp spare. New bimini and tube covers in excellent condition. Priced for quick sale, 480,000 baht. Tel: 084-8394868. Email: arnulphy@bigfoot.com

4-STROKE OUTBOARD ENGINES

For sale: 2 pcs Yamaha 40Hp eco-friendly 4-stroke outboard engines. Long-shaft, tiller control, perfect for RIB inflatable or fiberglass skiff. Brand new. Price: 170,000 baht each. Tel: 081-8913051.

PRE OWNED BOAT SELECTION

<p>Cumberland 44 Thai flag and commercially registered. A successful charter boat. Available immediately - based in Phuket. Please enquire</p>	<p>Sangermani A unique sailing vessel built by the world famous Italian Shipyard Sangermani. For distinctive owner only. Asking Price at 700.000,- EUR</p>
<p>Grand Banks 59' Aleutian Brand new boat delivered just few weeks ago. Owner already put her for sale as he wants to purchase a bigger Grand Banks. Asking Price at 2.450.000,- USD</p>	<p>Beneteau Oceanis 50' Oceanis 50' launched in april 2007 - brand new main sail delivered shortly. Yanmar 110hp. 2 cabin version with ensuite bathroom. Asking Price at 440.000,- EUR</p>

Boat Lagoon & Yacht Haven Office
Tel: 076 239111
E-mail: broker@asia-marine.net
www.asia-marine.net

Med 47

available for charter

23/112 Moo 2 Thephasattri Rd.
Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
THAILAND
(+66 076) 273 378
thailand@starshipyachts.com
www.starshipyachts.com

Grand Banks 36

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ford Lehman engines x 2 Air conditioning VHF radio and safety gear Recent engine service and antifoul 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New upholstery Thai registration Search light Long range fuel tank
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<p>Bavaria 47 Ocean 135,000 Euro</p>	<p>Bavaria 49 \$299,000 USD</p>	<p>Jeanneau Leader 805 3,250,000 THB</p>	<p>Sea Ray 460 \$550,000 USD</p>
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THAILAND'S LEADING BROKERAGE AND NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP

Available Exclusively through Lee Marine

<p>Dealership Office The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket Contact: Martin Holmes tel: 076 235 803 fax: 076 273 319 Email: info@leemarine.com</p>	<p>Brokerage Office The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 968 1437 tel/fax: 076 239 729 Email: brokerage@leemarine.com</p>	<p>Yacht Haven Marina Office The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket Contact: Jim Poulsen Mobile: 081 881 3237 tel/fax: 076 206 260 Email: yacht Haven@leemarine.com</p>	<p>Pattaya Office Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach Contact: Mark Heath Mobile: 081 7879408 tel: 038 235 061 fax: 038 235 062 Email: mark@leemarine.com</p>
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Dedicated Service Department **www.leemarine.com**

SIMPSON YACHTING

<p>Azimut 47 High quality Italian motor yachts from 60ft to 110ft. Outstanding craftsmanship from one of the world's leading pleasure yacht builders.</p>
<p>Sydney 43 Renowned French cruising and racer-cruiser yachts from 28ft to 43ft from the largest sailing yacht builder in the world.</p>
<p>Lagoon 400 Comfortable, spacious, safe cruising catamarans. Beautifully styled and finished in rich timbers and fabrics. Fast passages, water at anchor, perfect cruising!</p>

SIMPSON YACHTING (SEA) LIMITED
100/101 Moo 10, The Boat Lagoon Marina, Phuket 83000 Thailand
Tel: 076 239 729 Fax: 076 273 319 Email: info@leemarine.com

Island Job Mart

ERAWANA www.erawana.com



Erawana Co., Ltd. has developed over 100 villas in Phuket since 2003. To support our continuously growing business, we are currently seeking energetic, open-minded individuals who are highly motivated for the following position:

Assistant Sales Manager

- Co-ordinate preparation of sales materials
- Present projects to potential customers
- Support existing customers (after sales service)
- Improve relationship with other sales agents
- Assist with selling process (legal, land office, etc.)

If you are willing to work hard and are result-oriented, please send your resume to info@erawana.com. We regret that only short-listed candidates will be notified.

123/10 Moo 5 Srisoontorn Rd. Thalung Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-326257-9 Fax: 076-326256

YACHT CREWS UNLIMITED (Agency)

We seek male and female crews for our Luxury Motor Yacht clients, Asia / Europe

- Captains
- First Mates
- Engineers
- Chefs
- Stewardesses
- Deck Hands

(some English required)
Training available
Crews unlimited
Yacht Haven Marina
Phuket, Thailand

Send CV to
yachtcrewsthailand@gmail.com
tpimson@hotmail.com
+66897721516

ONLINE JOB APPLICATION
HOTEL - ACTING - SALES - IT - WEB DESIGN - F&B
www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com/JOB.htm

RENTAL SALES
Siam Real Estate urgently requires a Thai national with excellent English and sales experience to sell holiday and long-term rentals. Must drive car, know the island and have good administrative skills. Good salary and commission. Please contact for more information at Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com

LIVE DRAWING MODEL WANTED
Female required to sit for year-12 students to draw, preferably unclothed or with swim costume. On a Mon 1:20 - 3:20 and a Wed 11:15 - 1:15. To start Jan 14 for 5 weeks. Reasonable rates of pay. Professional and friendly atmosphere. No time wasters, please contact for more info at Tel: 084-8491323. Email: sfruin@bcis.ac.th

International Law Office, Patong Beach Co., Ltd.

Position:
Thai or Foreign Lawyer as Assistant to Senior Associate Lawyer

Qualifications:
Law Degree, perfect written and spoken English computer word processing skills and good references

Status:
Female or male over than 30 years old

Please send English resume with work experience, references, recent photograph and expected salary to the following email: manager_phuket@phuket-realestate-law.com

**DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE
LE MERIDIEN PHUKET BEACH RESORT**



Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort, a member of Starwood Worldwide Inc., is located on Phuket's western coast on a secluded beach.

We would like to invite candidates to apply for the following positions:

- Director of Human Resources
- Credit Manager
- Assistant Director of Events
- Sous Chef (Cold Kitchen)

We offer an exciting career for ambitious professionals along with a competitive benefit package.

Please submit your resume with recent photo by email to Human Resources; hr@phuketbeachresort.lemeridien.com.

LE MERIDIEN
PHUKET BEACH RESORT
29 SOI KARON NUI,
KARON, MUANG PHUKET 83100
T 076 370 100 F 076 340 479
lemeridien.com N 7°51' E 98°16'

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

Reporter

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car.

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to editor@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
367/2 Yaowarat Rd. T. Taladyai, A. Muang
Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-236555

MAID WANTED
For cleaning and cooking. Must have good English. Rawai area. Please contact for more information at Tel: 081-6585962.

PHAETHON CO LTD
needs 2 female staff with good spoken English and computer skills for our office near Lotus. For details please contact at Tel: 087-5278532, 084-8989274.

OCEAN ESTATES INTERNATIONAL

Phuket Branch.

We are looking for open-minded people who are seeking a challenging role within their career. Join our extensive international team and work for one of the world's market leaders in real estate. Our Overseas Chain of Estate Agents Network gives you the chance to enjoy both a successful career and a dynamic lifestyle. You will be working with our worldwide officers and global property exhibitions programme.

Opportunities Available:

► **Accounts Experience Needed**
Thai nationality, Enthusiastic and well organized candidate required. Office skills including accounting, computer database and good command of spoken and written English. You must have interpersonal skills. Be a team player and able to work under pressure.

► **Sales Executive**
Responsible for one-to-one selling to multi-national clients. You need to possess excellent communication skills and be willing to go the extra mile for our clients. Excellent earning potential for both dedicated and enthusiastic sales people. Basic salary + commission.

Email your CV with photo to adminphuket@oceanestates.com

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Corporate Headquarters • Avenida Julio Iglesias 3
29660 Marbella • Malaga • Spain

Professional Property Management Solutions

PIPS Phuket's premier property management company is looking for suitable, qualified candidates for the following positions:

Job Vacancy

- 1. Operation Supervisor (Surin Area)**
 - Excellent spoken and written English.
 - Experience in property management and operations.
 - Ability to manage and lead a team.
 - Computer literate.
 - Ability to demonstrate initiative and a high level of independence.
- 2. Operation Office Co-ordinator**
 - Excellent written and spoken English.
 - Secretarial administrative experience essential.
 - Ability to support and co-ordinate the admin and paperwork of the Operation dept.
 - Computer literate.

Please send your application with a recent photo to Human Resource Dept. Phuket Island Property Services Co., Ltd (PIPS)
393/2 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Road, Chergtalay, Phuket Thailand 83110
Tel: 076 270 750, Fax: 076 270 751, Email: hr@pipsphuket.com

APMS
Albar Property Management Service
Additional staff required in Phuket

No.	Client Service Manager	1 Position	Ref. / No. CSM-001
2.	Client Service Secretary	1 Position	Ref. / No. CSS-002
3.	M&E Engineer	1 Position	Ref. / No. MEE-003
4.	M&E Supervisor	2 Positions	Ref. / No. MES-004
5.	Building Inspector	2 Positions	Ref. / No. BI-005
6.	Driver	2 Positions	Ref. / No. DV-006

All positions require good English.
Send CV to APMS_2007@hotmail.com

EDEN DIVERS
Reservation staff needed. Must speak good English. Salary depends on experience. Thai female preferred. Contact K. Andrew at Tel: 085-7654677.

SPA THERAPIST
Hotel in Patong area requires a spa therapist. Immediate start. Please contact for more information at Tel: 081-8920038.

Island Job Mart



THE PARADISE KOH YAO

island hideaway near phuket

www.theparadise.biz

The Paradise Koh Yao, a contemporary 70 room Boutique Resort is located on Koh Yao Noi island, a 60 minute boat trip from Phuket. Catering to the experienced traveler looking for unspoiled nature in uncompromised luxury - away from the crowded tourist spots of Phuket and Krabi.

We are seeking a candidate with outstanding personality to be the leader of our motivated team with commitment to personalized, superior customer service.

GENERAL MANAGER

Covering all aspects of the operations, finance, local marketing - responsibility on bottom line results. Based at the resort on Koh Yao with regular visits to the Phuket office.

- * At least 5-8 years experience in 5 or 4 star Hotels in similar assignment
- * Leader personality, motivator
- * Results / Marketing oriented
- * Previous assignment in Thailand / Asia an advantage
- * Foreign or Thai National 35-55 years of age

Comprehensive remuneration / incentive package will be offered to the right candidate
Send your resume with recent photo, references and salary expectations to:

joeraess@theparadise.biz

Tel: 076 238 081 www.TheParadise.biz



RAYA VADEE
KRABI / THAILAND

RAYA VADEE, A PRESTIGIOUS, WORLD CLASS RESORT SITUATED IN THE PRIME LOCATION OF KRABI, NOW HAS VACANCIES IN THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

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| 1. GUEST ACTIVITY MANAGER | 1 POSITION |
| 2. SPA MANAGER | 1 POSITION |
| 3. GUEST SERVICE ATTENDANT (F&B) | 8 POSITIONS |
| 4. GUEST SERVICE ATTENDANT (NIGHT AUDITOR) | 1 POSITION |
| 5. GUEST SERVICE ATTENDANT (FRONT OFFICE) | 1 POSITION |

CANDIDATES FOR SUPERVISORY AND MANAGERIAL LEVEL POSITIONS SHOULD POSSESS THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

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- A TEAM PLAYER WITH STRONG INTERPERSONAL AND MANAGERIAL SKILLS
- ORGANIZED, RESULTS-ORIENTED AND EFFICIENT
- PLEASANT PERSONALITY, SERVICEMINDED AND GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- EXCELLENT COMMAND OF ENGLISH AND COMPUTER LITERATE
- ALL POSITIONS ARE IN KRABI

WE OFFER FANTASTIC WORKING CONDITIONS AND ENVIRONMENT AND A VERY GOOD REMUNERATION PACKAGE THAT INCLUDES ACCOMMODATION, UNIFORM, LAUNDRY, MEALS, LIFE AND GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE, PROVIDENT FUND AND STAFF TRANSPORTATION TO THE HOTEL. INTERESTED APPLICANTS ARE WELCOME TO APPLY IN PERSON OR SEND YOUR APPLICATION WITH COMPLETE RESUME AND RECENT PHOTO TO:

RAYA VADEE KRABI, THAILAND

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

214 MOO 2 TAMBON AONANG, AMPHUR MUANG KRABI 81000
CONTACT: KHUN SUKAN PUKAO

EMAIL: PN@RAYA VADEE.COM, WWW.RAYA VADEE.COM

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*Featured in the Conde Nast Traveller "Gold List 2005" of the "Best 108 Hotels of the World"

AN EXCITING CAREER AWAITS YOU

Our client operates an estate of luxurious private residence in close proximity to Nai-Thon beach and is currently seeking enthusiastic, well presented individuals to join the team.

Head Chef

- State of the art brand new kitchen
- Preparation of daily meals for friendly family and friends
- Thai, Mediterranean cuisine
- Applications for this position should include sample pictures of dishes

House Keepers

- Assist with general cleanliness maintenance and meal service
- Take great pride in work quality and continually strive for excellence
- Chauffeur and general assistance around property
- Additional skills such as massage or spa treatment a great advantage
- Attention to details is necessary

Concierge/Security

- Well presented and experienced
- Security monitoring
- Rotational position involving occasional night watch

Masseuse/ Spa Centre Manager

- Part time position
- Experienced in Thai, Oil and Sports massage
- Excellent personal presentation

Uniforms and meals will be provided.

Competitive salaries are available. All of the above positions require immediate commencement. Interested applicants, please email covering letter and detailed resume in English (with a RECENT photo attached) to sc@shangdumail.com

DRAFTSMAN WANTED

Electrical design and engineering firm needs a draftsman with experience in AutoCAD. Electrical or architectural experience a plus. English not necessary. Good salary plus benefits, Fax: 076-270662. Please send CV to email: wally@avcpuket.com

DELIVERY MAN OR LADY

Thai company in Kamala wants a man or lady for delivery of products in Phuket. Age not a problem, young or old accepted. Must have motorbike. Job is for Thai national only. 7,000 baht per month, plus gasoline. Tel: 076-385221. Fax: 076-279340. Email: giovannifrova@libero.it

TLI - OFFICE STAFF PHUKET

Tropical Landscaping International is currently seeking English speaking Thai nationals for positions within our growing Phuket office. The positions available are:
- Office Manager
- Office Assistant/Secretary
- Sales Staff

Tel: 076-325003. Fax: 076-324544. Email: ben@tropical-landscaping.com For further information, please contact us, and/or see our website at: www.tropical-landscaping.com

SALES AGENT

Sales agents/representatives for the most dynamic product on Phuket. Destination Air has three positions open. Must have own car and strong knowledge of tourism market. Please contact for more info Tel: 076-328505. Send CV to Email: pat@destinationair.com or see our website at www.destinationair.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Thai lady required, part time, flexible hours, must have good English and computer skills. Please call Tel: 086-2790837.

campbell kane

Campbell Kane (Thailand) Ltd. is the developer of Cape Yamu, The Yamu Hotel and The Bay Project. Cape Yamu and The Bay are two exclusive luxury residential property developments on Phuket's East Coast. With our unique peninsula setting, stunning architecture and the recent announcement of our five star boutique hotel project, we are looking for competent, enthusiastic and highly qualified individuals for the following vacancies to join our growing business:

Position	Junior Quantity Surveyor
Qualification	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Male or Female 2. Good command of computer skills : Primavera Project Planning (P3) or Microsoft Project (MSP) and MS Excel. 3. Must know the various activities in construction (structural/architectural/MEP) and its sequence/logic of construction. 4. Have knowledge in construction contracts and methods/principles of measurement. 5. Must have knowledge in Bill of Quantities (BOQs). 6. Must have knowledge in construction budget, cash flow, interim payment, variation work, payment certificate. 7. Must know how to take-off quantities from drawings. 8. Must know how to get actual progress percentage from site works. 9. Must speak fair English.
Position	Financial Controller
Qualification	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Male or Female age 30 years up. 2. Thai nationality 3. Bachelor's degree in accounting and qualified accountant. 4. Minimum 3 years experience in the construction and property development sector. 5. Fluent English. 6. Knowledge of local legals/ taxes/ accounting practice. 7. Usable knowledge in needed tools as Windows-Excel, Quick Books, Database, Outlook. 8. Motivated energetic individual.
Position	Project Secretary
Qualification	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Female, age not over 35, Thai national 2. At least 1 year experience in property development or construction. 3. Able to use email, Internet, Microsoft Office 4. Good command of English

Please send resumé with covering letter stating salary expectations to annie@campbellkane.com

Campbell Kane (Thailand) Ltd.

28/7 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew Phuket 83000, T: +66(0)-76-204-008-9, F: +66(0)-76-239-836

RESTAURANT, HOTEL & TOURS

Guesthouse in Patong with restaurant and tour business is searching for a cook, receptionists (day and night) and tour staff. Tel: 089-9325175. Email: wojkdowbengt@hotmail.com

HOUSESITTER

needed to look after a 3-bed-room house and dog in Kamala, also do shopping. Must be able to drive. Hours: 10 am to 6 pm, Mon to Sat. Please contact for more information at Tel: 086-5932722. Email: jamesreanet@hotmail.com

MEXICAN RESTAURANT

One cook and two waitresses wanted for new Mexican restaurant in Chalong. Must speak English. Please contact for more information at Tel: 089-1638166. Email: vjnjong@gmail.com

Island Job Mart



www.lagunaphuket.com

The largest hotel and resort group in Phuket, and a listed company on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, is currently seeking qualified candidates to fill the below positions.

ASSISTANT AIRPORT HOSPITALITY CENTRE MANAGER 1 POSITION

- Female, Thai Nationality
- Bachelor's degree or higher
- A minimum of 2 years experience in hotel business, service industry or related field
- Pleasant personality, self motivated and accountable
- Strong leadership and problem solving skills
- Excellent command of spoken and written English and computer literate
- Able to work in shift and during holidays
- Able to relocate to Phuket

AIRPORT HOSPITALITY CENTRE OFFICER 2 POSITIONS

- Female, Thai Nationality
- Bachelor's degree or higher
- A minimum of 1 year experience in hotel business, service industry or related field
- Pleasant personality, self motivated and accountable
- Good command of spoken and written English and computer literate
- Able to work in shift and during holidays
- Able to relocate to Phuket

We offer attractive remuneration packages and the opportunity for career growth.

Applicants are invited to apply in person at the Laguna Resorts & Hotels Office, or send your detailed English resume stating current and expected salary together with a recent photo to:

Human Resources Department

Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co., Ltd.

390/1 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Road, Chermgtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110, Thailand

Tel: (66-76) 271298-300 Ext. 32 Fax: (66-76) 271718

Email: monrudees@lagunaphuket.com

ENGLISH PROGRAM

Satree Phuket school requires native speakers to teach science or mathematics. Salary starts at 30,000 baht plus 8,000 addendum (under the conditions). Interested persons please call Tel: 076-211034 ext. 144 or send a resume to email: a_pupatanun@hotmail.com

ACCOUNTANT

Experienced accountant for immediate employment. Destination Air requires accountant for full-time employment at our Phuket International Airport Office. Tel: 076-328505. Fax: 076-328598. Send CV by email to establish interview: pat@destinationair.com For details, visit our website at www.destinationair.com

JOB VACANCIES

- * General Manager
- * Assistant to General Manager
- * Sales Manager
- * Sales Officer

Thais or foreigners invited to apply. English skills required.

Contact at Sinthavee Hotel Phuket.

Tel: 076-211186

Fax: 076-211400

Email: sinthavee@hotmail.com

www.sinthaveehotel.com

SIMPSON MARINE

ASIA'S LEADING

yacht brokers and new yacht sales company require the services of a professional receptionist. Candidate must be young, dynamic and outgoing with a service-oriented mind. Highly proficient in English and computer skills is a must. Interested candidates, please send CV and photo to phuket@simpsonmarine.com

RESERVATION STAFF

Diethelm Travel is looking for highly qualified and service-minded operation staff. Good command of English and computer skills are required; experience in tourism is a plus. Tel: 076-209163, 081-8927714. Fax: 076-209174. Email: max.t@th.diethelmtravel.com

Employment Wanted

SWISS SALES MANAGER

32-year-old Swiss Sales & Purchases Manager seeking new challenging job in Phuket. Over 11 years experience dealing with international customers. Very motivated, dedicated and reliable. Fluent in French and English. Tel: 087-2664583. Please contact for CV and further details email: chriscentivres@hotmail.com

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

TWO JBL SPEAKERS

New, 1000 WATTs. Two stands. Price value: 40,000 baht. I will sell for 33,000 baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 086-4192007.

CHEERING SOFT ICE

machine, 2 flavors and swirl. Brand-new, warranty! Only 45,000 baht, Sushi/cake cooling counter display, 150 cm. New warranty, only 16,500 baht. Tel: 086-5413629.

SELLING SAMSUNG 29" TV

Electronics and furniture, all 6 months old. Tel: 085-7888262. Website: http://users.actrix.co.nz/bvicker

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Wholesale prices. Custom made from durable shade cloth, 5-year guarantee. Be quick!

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of Singapore riverboat Quay by Se Lee, 1981, width: 95" X height: 75". Price: 20,000 baht ono. Email: hhhg14@hotmail.com

SOFA - HIGH QUALITY

Very comfortable, quality sofa, paid 83,000 baht new in Bangkok. Washable pillow cover, quality material, with two matching foot stools on wheels and many extra pillows. Email me for photo. Will sell for 25,000 baht. Tel: 086-9507788. Email: simon@kingsimon.com

GLASS DINING TABLE AND SOFA

Lovely, quality glass dining table set with six Pascal-colored dining chairs. Paid more than 100,000 baht new from Panache shop in Emporium Bangkok. Will sell for 24,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-9507788. Email me for lovely photos at: simon@kingsimon.com

OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Two sets, each comprised of 4 chairs, a bench seat and a table. Heavy duty. Ideal for a beer garden. 20,000 baht per set. Tel: 089-5915330. Email: absoluteautos@hotmail.com

WOOD FIRED PIZZA-OVEN



Artisan builders, since 1994. Made with refractory bricks in 7 days, any size or decoration. Ideal for pizzeria or in your garden for pizza or BBQs. Show oven in Rawai. Price starts at 120,000 baht including oven accessories. Please call to view oven - I speak Italian, English and Thai. Tel: 084-0603477. Email: attivaphuket@yahoo.co.uk

NEW 2 DUPONT LIGHTERS

for sale 6,000 baht. Please contact Mr Giorgio. Tel: 081-2945441.

SALE NEW PHILIPS

DVD player, HDMI1080P, USB, including HDMI cable. 9 months of warranty left. Tel: 086-1204290.

32" LCD TV & DVD PLAYER

Both new and under full warranty. For sale due to unforeseen circumstances. Only 15,000 baht. First to see will buy. Tel: 089-9087350. Email: jacek_fi@hotmail.com

Bulletins

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Wed and Sun 7 pm
Bangkok Phuket Hospital
Phuket City
Fri 7 pm
Patong Hospital Patong
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at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm
Chalong Health
Clinic-near Chalong Circle
Tues 1 pm
For Phuket info (English)
call 081-9564031,
081-8912895
Scandinavian speaking Group
Wat Karon School-Karon
Tue and Sat 7 pm
Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)
087-2795636 (Nor)
086-7458910 (Swe)

For info on other Thailand
AA meetings inquire
at Tel: 02-2318300
(for Thai language press 3)
www.aathailand.org or
email info@aathailand.org
phuketaa@yahoo.com

British International School, Phuket.

Boarding Administration Assistant

- Thai national, Male or female
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Good interpersonal skills
- Ability to work cooperatively with Thai and foreign staff
- Ability to be available at all hours in case of emergency
- Be able to work under pressure

Service Support Officer

- Thai national
- Bachelor's degree in related field
- Computer proficient, good typing skills in both Thai and English
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Ability to coordinate multiple projects; Housing Service, Shopping Matters, Ticketing and Accommodation Arrangements, Trip Arrangements, Transportation Coordination

Accountant

- Female, age over 25 yrs
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance
- Good command of English
- Skilled in MS office etc

Public relation officer

- Female, age 25-35 yrs, Bachelor degree
- Have some background in PR or marketing
- Based in Phuket, the school can provide accommodation
- Good english and computer skills
- Must be able to travel within and outside Thailand

Secretary Assistant

- Female, Thai national
- Bachelor Degree in English or related field
- Excellent English, Computer literacy and good people skills
- Able to coordinate with other departments

Maintenance Staff

- Thai National
- Diploma or Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering or related fields
- 2-years experience in related field is preferable

Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and e-mail/fax and telephone contacts of referees to: patcharakornt@bcis.ac.th or sirirats@bcis.ac.th
Tel. 076 238711-20 #2103, 2206, 1111 Fax. 076 238711-20 #1130



British International School, Phuket (BIS, Phuket)

59 Moo 2, Thepkasatri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000 Thailand

Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 750 Bangkok Tel: 02 636 8991-2 Fax: 02 636 8992

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Tout, Trader & Trumpet

A HORSE FOR CHRISTMAS??

HORSE LOVERS WANTED to join private English-style livery yard. Beautiful riding facilities will soon be available for 6 horses. 4 x 4m stables, 40 x 20m sand manege, 15m covered schooling ring, 50 x 50m show jumping paddock and 20 x 50m turnout paddock. Experienced live-in grooms, qualified dressage/jumping instructors, secure on-site riding and long beach hacks. Friendly, social atmosphere, new friends, wine and BBQs await like-minded residents. Assistance offered to parties interested in purchasing horses. Availability limited, members only, strictly closed to the public. Please contact Elizabeth for further information. Email: elizabeth@luckytiger.org

SPONSOR

a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of our donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor.

Contact K. Carol (Tel: 087-4178860 or carol.fryer@piwc.info) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-2776948 or sue.arnulphy@piwc.info)

Business Opportunities

NIGHTCLUB URGENT SALE

One partner leaving country, other moving to Chang Mai. Hence urgent sale required for a nightclub just off Bangla Rd. 180sqm, all new construction. 3-year lease with 3-year option. Excellent opportunity. All reasonable offers considered. Tel: 081-7520275. Email: comfortablynumb_18@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE

Bangla Rd. Please contact K. Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

BANGLA BAR/CLUB

New, fit-out, seats 90, aircon, 7 rooms. 4.9 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-8677940.

RESTAURANT KATA

60 seats, running business for sale. Tel: 086-1203660. Please contact for more information. Email: chilligarden@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE



The Chang Noi bar in Kamala. Fully operational with TV, Wi-Fi, etc. Seats 40. Rent paid until 2011. Asking 1.8 million baht. Tel: 087-8987437.

PATONG BAR, OTOPI

Welcome Bar for sale in Patong Otop. Please contact Loz at Tel: 084-6283503 or Craig at Tel: 089-6475895. Email: johncamel927@hotmail.com

CLOTHING SHOP, URGENT

Lease on Nanai Rd, Ban Kajana with furniture and bedroom. Owner moving overseas. Tel: 087-3809951.

PATONG SPA & SAUNA

for sale. Please contact K. Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

RIVER CITY GUESTHOUSE



Phang Nga on Andaman sea. 7 rooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, 5 aircons, restaurant, car park, Sat TV, Internet. Private boat slip in front of your door! Sale: 680,000 baht. Tel: 081-9796011. Email: stefanmariaschmitz@yahoo.com

DON'T MISS OPPORTUNITY

Nice curtain shop for sale with equipment and staff ready to start, located near Chalong. Tel: 081-8937068.

SOI TIGER BAR

For sale, in excellent location. For more info see www.janepropertyphuket.com

PRIME BANGLA SPORTS BAR

Profitable sports bar with pool table and 42" TV. Three floors, lady's room and furnished apartment. 4+ year lease. For 3 million baht. Email: gv1970no@yahoo.no (inquires only).

BAR/COFFEE SHOP

for lease on the main road in Rawai. Key money of 650,000 baht for 4 years; rental at 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-1964101. Email: richard_melen@hotmail.com

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Main street central, modern design, many repeat customers. Must see! Call Tel: 089-2553700. Email: markhigson497@msn.com

COFFEE SHOP RESTAURANT

Nanai Rd, low rent. Tel: 087-5912811. Email me for further info: vancesil@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL BAR

and restaurant for sale, prime location in Patong. Quick sale, only 2.2 million baht. Good business in high season. Tel: 081-6913029, 089-7286242. Email: purimas_re@yahoo.com

RESTAURANT IN NAI HARN

with 48 seats, good contract, fully-equipped and prime location. Tel: 081-9580542.

PRIME RETAIL SPACE

Center of Patong 1,350sq ft. Can divide into office, store or restaurant. Tel: 086-1588752.

PATONG NIGHTCLUB

Excellent location on Bangla Rd at the very heart of Patong's thriving nightlife. 180sqm. All new construction, the bar has a first-class sound system, a DJ booth and stage, seating for more than 100. 3-year lease with 3-year option. Genuine reason for sale. Excellent business opportunity at the start of the high season. Realistic asking price. Tel: 081-7520275. Email: comfortablynumb_18@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE IN PATONG

for lease. 21 rooms (deluxe & seaview) located on the beach road. Fully furnished, good revenue. Available for long-term lease. No agents. Tel: 081-6913029. Email: kris_silanachai@yahoo.com

PATONG BAR

Large bar & restaurant in prominent position 100 meters from beach. Good turnover and profits. For full details contact Wayne at Tel: 089-6529620, 617-38245397, 66-848494562; or Email: curtain_unlimited@hotmail.com

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Phuket Country Club membership wanted. Please call Tel: 083-7522666.

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Mares BCD size small. Mares Reg 1st & 2nd stage, octopus, depth gauge & compass. 4,200 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-7291099. Email: 1stlisa@gmail.com

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Taylor Made R7 TP irons 3-PW, Taylor Made 3 Wood Aldila Shaft, Taylor Made TP 56 wedge, Taylor Made golf bag (silver), Titleist Vokey 54 wedge, Nickent 5 Wood Aldila Shaft, Titleist Scotty Cameron Futura Mallet putter. Nearly new. 33,000 baht. Tel: 087-4632130. Email: steve@greenwoodsea.com

Miscellaneous for Sale

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Handheld VHF Marine radio Uniden Atlantis, as-new, 4,000 baht. Hutchwilco, 150N inflatable life jacket PFD type1, fits 60kg and over, as-new, 3,000 baht. MSR DragonFly ultralite camping stove, uses any fuel, 3,000 baht. Panasonic FAX copy/answer machine, 1,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8445868. Email: come_in2enjoy@hotmail.com

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Notice

Notice

As the Phuket Gazette offices will be closed over the New Year break, please submit your classified ads for the **January 5** issue no later than **Thursday, December 27**.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation and we do apologize for any inconvenience.

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Personal Services

THAI LADY

gives Thai language lessons. At your home or hers, Wat Chalong area. Prepared text books and introductory course of 10 lessons. I can also give English courses to your Thai staff or service personnel. Tel: 081-7971497. Email: churee77@hotmail.com

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Personals

BACKGAMMON

Retired businessman looking for backgammon players in Phuket. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-5778443.

Pets

REWARD: MISSING DOG



Taken from the Chalong Bay area 2 weeks ago, she is a bulldog cross and is from a loving and caring family home. She is pregnant and needs medication or she will die. Substantial REWARD for ANY information. Please contact Tel: 083-3884410 (Thai), 085-4732045 (Eng).

Take me home with you!



Soi Dog Foundation Tel: 081-7884222

Wheels & Motors

Saloon Cars

BMW 323I S.E 2002

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SKODA FABIA, DIESEL

5-door hatchback, 2002. One owner, silver, excellent condition, garaged, service history. 400,000 baht. Tel: 089-7280996.

HONDA CIVIC: 150,000 BAHT

3-door, 1994 model, automatic, red. Contact Khun Mon for further details. Tel: 076-288561, 089-8755477. Email: k_sripanya@yahoo.com

VINTAGE MITSUBISHI SPORT

Red, lancer, 8-month-old total rebuild to showroom condition (80,000 baht spent). Make me an offer around 130,000 baht. Must sell! Please contact for more info at Tel: 089-6518244.

MAZDA 3 SPORT

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TOYOTA COROLLA 1984

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DAIHATSU MIRA

Blue, 1995 model. Great condition, many new parts. Cheap to run, cheap parts and fun to drive. Only 90,000 baht. For details contact Mark at Tel: 084-8446028. Email: marksimonallen@gmail.com

TOYOTA VIOS TURBO



Special limited edition Toyota racing development. 143hp, turbo, inter-cooler, black, sport leather, Alcantara seats. Reg. 09/04, only 48,000km, new condition. Genuine reason for sale. I paid: 830,000 baht; sell for 580,000 baht. For details contact at Tel: 084-0603477. Email: attivitaphuket@yahoo.co.uk

NISSAN NV AUTOMATIC

Year 2000. Price 320,000 baht. Please contact for more information at Tel: 084-413633.

NEW CAMRY 2007

All options. 490,000 baht in cash or 36 payments of 29,700 baht. Please contact for more information at Tel: 081-0918908. Email: stein_dokset@hotmail.com

YARIS FOR SALE

S limited model, full options, 2006, auto, black, with 30,000km. Price: 575,000 baht. Please contact for more information at Tel: 081-1965212.

BEAUTIFUL MIRA

Green/blue, 1995, excellent condition. Comes with aircon and lots of new parts. Reliable and cheap at 82,000 baht. For more information contact at Tel: 089-7291099. Email: 1stlisa@gmail.com

TOYOTA ESTIMA

7-seater, first-class condition, automatic with new tires. Contact for more information at Tel: 084-4413633.

HONDA CITY VTEC

Engine 2 years old, manual gearbox, 7,700 km. Excellent condition, service history, still under warranty. 475,000 baht. Please contact more info at Tel: 089-9703697. Email: cuth22@hotmail.com

1992 BMW 318i

Professionally maintained, only one registration, manual transmission, aircon, central lock, leather, 152,000km. For more information contact at Tel: 084-4421957.

Pickups

PICKUP: 90,000 BAHT

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ISUZU DMAX 4-DOOR

2.5L Diesel, 58,000km, 2003, Carryboy sport lid, very good condition. 435,000 baht. Contact for more information at Tel: 086-1588752.

MITSUBISHI TRITON 2006

Blue, 2WD, mega-cab, CD player. Price: 400,000 baht. Please contact K. Barry for more information at Tel: 085-7959105.

PICKUP TRUCK 149,900 BAHT

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NISSAN NV FOR SALE

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ISUZU D-MAX CAB 4



2003. 100,000km, perfect condition, runs great, 3.0L, automatic, only one owner. Price: 510,000 baht. Contact for more information at Tel: 087-2709093. Email: anutsamantamit@gmail.com

NISSAN PICK-UP 4-DOOR

Turbo, year 2007. 395,000 baht. Please contact for more information at Tel: 084-4413633.

FORD RANGER

2005 with 13,000km. Diesel, open cab, first owner, TV, VCD and many extras for 330,000 baht. For details contact at Tel: 081-5395948.

1996 MITSUBISHI STRADA

2.8L. Excellent condition. 190,000 baht obo. Please contact for more information at Tel: 086-9719776.

TOYOTA HILUX TIGER

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Leather seats, 4L, automatic, deep red, very good, safe truck. New tires, brakes, suspension linkage etc. 200,000km. 300,000 baht ono. Contact for more information at Tel: 086-0071505, 084-8514541.

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2.7 VVTi, auto, 2005, silver, 47,000km. 850,000 baht. Please contact for more information at Tel: 089-5944017.

FORD RANGER

2005 with 13,000km. Diesel, open cab, first owner, TV, VCD and many extras for 330,000 baht. Tel: 081-5395948.

ISUZU 4 WHEEL/ AUTO

6-disc CD changer. 2004 with 85,000km, blue/aluminum. 490,000 baht. Please contact for more information at Tel: 089-6503160.

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Excellent condition. 11,000km. Custom paint, 3.0L turbo diesel, manual, extended cab, ABS, air bags. New: 720,000; Sell: 600,000 obo. Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

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2001, manual, 3,000cc diesel, grey, 75,000km. ABS. Airbags. 3rd insurance. Excellent condition, runs great. Price: 470,000 baht full payment or 70,000 baht and take over the monthly payments. For more info contact at Tel: 087-2709093. Email: anutsamantamit@gmail.com

FORTUNER EXCLUSIVE

White, 2006. Price: 1.15 million baht or can finance. For info call James at Tel: 081-2722008.

TOYOTA VIGO 4WD

Automatic, 4-door, black. 2 years old, 1,000km. 680,000 baht ono. Tel: 086-6831964. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

TOYOTA VIGO

2004, 4x4, 3L automatic, 34,000km. Like new. 715,000 baht ono. Or I can swap for condo/land anywhere. Email for photo. Tel: 089-9945503. Email: warren1001@hotmail.com

ISUZU D-MAX 4WD

For sale, 2003, 4WD, full of extras, perfect condition. 450,000 baht ono. Tel: 087-2781784. Email: bourlis@hotmail.com

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