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American fugitive nabbed in Rawai

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

PHUKET (Gazette, Nation, Kom Chad Luek): A man wanted for child molestation by police in the US state of Missouri was arrested on the afternoon of February 12 and has been turned over to the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for extradition.

During questioning, the suspect, Earl Russel Bonds, tried to kill himself by cutting his left wrist with scissors, but police seized the scissors from him in time.

Bonds, 42, was handed to FBI agents at Phuket International Airport on February 13 and flown to Bangkok to await an extradition order to the US.

Bonds was with his Thai boyfriend when officers from Phuket Tourist Police and Phuket Immigration Police arrested him at a rented house on Soi Yanui in Rawai about 2 pm on Ferbaury 12.

Police said Bonds entered Thailand August 30 last year and worked as an English teacher. He later worked as a freelance columnist for an overseas publication.

Bonds did not resist arrest and admitted he was the person on an FBI wanted list, but refused to answer further questions, police said.

Police said Bonds asked for tranquillizer pills during his brief detention at the Phuket Immigration Office before FBI agents picked him up. He grabbed the scissors and cut his left wrist when a police officer on guard turned away to get him water for the pills.

A native of St Louis, Missouri, Bonds has been charged in the US with four counts of molesting an 11-year-old boy in 2003. He was charged in 2004 and fled after posting US\$10,000 bail, according to the popular St Louis



Bonds in custody at the Phuket Immigration Office, where he tried to take his life by slashing his wrists with a pair of scissors. Photo by Yongyot Preuksarak.

Most Wanted television show aired by the local Fox Television affiliate in that city.

Phuket Immigration Police Superintendent Pol Col Chanatpol Yongbunjerd told the Gazette he first received a report from Immigration headquarters in Bangkok that Bonds might have been hiding out somewhere on the island.

The initial investigation did not get far due to a lack of details and the fact that Bonds was listed as an African-American, which led investigators to expect him to have a much darker complexion than he actually does, Col Chanatpol said.

Immigration Police had visited his home once earlier, but did not arrest him because they thought he did not match the FBI's written description.

Further investigation with the help of the Tourist Police led finally to the arrest, Col Chanatpol said.

Bonds had been issued a work permit by the Phuket Employment Service Office as an employee of STN Company Ltd, which described itself as a "business management and development services company".

Police failed to locate Bonds at the address on the work permit, but subsequent investigation revealed that he had changed jobs and begun working as an Englishlanguage teacher and freelance writer, Col Chanatpol said.

At the time of arrest, Bonds had overstayed his permitto-stay issued by Immigration, he added.

Bonds last year applied for work as a travel writer with the Gazette under the name Chris Bonds and supplied as a writing sample a Web link to a fiction story that won him first prize in a local writing competition held by The Boathouse in Kata.

The story is a first-person account of a child who is subject to sexual abuse at the hands of his own father.

In a strange irony that hints at the cycle of such abuse, the story is entitled Escape From Home.

Heritage plan for Andaman Sea

BANGKOK (Nation): The Natural Resources and Environment Ministry plans to propose the Andaman Sea as a Unesco World Heritage site next year, a senior official said on February 18.

National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department Director-General Chalermsak Vanichsombat said his office had assigned Dr Sakanan Plathong, a lecturer on Marine Ecology at Prince of Songkhla University, and Chulalongkorn University experts to make a report of Andaman marine conservation areas.

The initial report should be completed within six months, while the world heritage site proposal will be made in 2009, he said.

The director of the National Park Research Division, Songtham Suksawang, said he had invited academics, marine experts and public representatives to discuss details of the

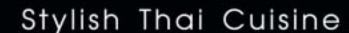
The Andaman Sea has the potential to be listed thanks to the biodiversity of its marine parks and the Moken (indigenous sea gypsy) culture. It covers 18 national marine parks, including the Phi Phi Islands, he said.

K. Sakanan said the Andaman was an outstanding candidate due to its natural resources, especially Phang Nga Bay's limestone cliffs and rare marine species such as dugong, leatherback sea turtles and the wormhunting cone snail known as Beech Cone (Conus betulinus).

The Fine Arts Department had also found some 500 pre-historic paintings in the Andaman region, he added.

His team would conclude and analyze the site's potential and formulate management plans within 12 months, he said.





Sea gypsies petition Governor over violence

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Villagers from the Rawai sea gypsy community have petitioned Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit, saying that their safety continues to be threatened by the bullying tactics of some tourism business operators.

On February 14, 10 sea gypsies led by Niran Yangpan submitted a formal letter of complaint addressed to Governor Niran and the Damrongtham Center at Phuket Provincial Hall, which serves as the provincial ombudsman's office.

The letter stated that on February 11 three tourists hired Rawai sea gypsy Pian Sae-ngor to take them to Koh Hei by longtail boat.

While the tourists were ashore and K. Pian was moored waiting for them to return, three other longtail boat operators approached him and forcibly removed the engine from his vessel, warning him never to return to the island, the letter read.

The engine was later returned when some witnesses to the incident intervened and negotiated a compromise, K. Niran Yangpan told the Gazette.

The Damrongtham Center arranged for the sea gypsies to meet with Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai Feburary 19.

V/Gov Smith called on Aroon Solos, president of Rawai Municipality, to help the sea gyp-

K. Aroon said that the problem was the result of a misunderstanding.

'The other boat operators who transfer tourists in the Rawai area are unaware that the sea gypsies are allowed to do the same business as them," he said.

A meeting between both sides is now needed, said K. Aroon, adding that he will organize the meeting. A date for the meeting has yet to be set.

SIPA called in to track visiting yachts

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: In the name of better security, the Phuket office of the Software Industry Promotion Agency (SIPA) has been given until the end of April to develop a device that allows Thai authorities to track yachts visiting Thai waters.

The proposal was announced on February 14 at a meeting of a special committee formed to review security, Customs and Immigration procedures at the "one-stop service center" at Chalong Pier for people arriving to Phuket on yachts.

Leading the meeting, Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima explained that as the Thai authorities physically cannot inspect every yacht that arrives – about 20 yachts a Hengcharoen. day during the high season - the device would help patrol boats keep tabs on vessels in local

The device would be issued when the yacht is checked into Phuket and returned when the yacht is checked out of the country, he said.

Every yacht arriving or departing Phuket must register at the Chalong center, where the Customs, Immigration and Marine Office (formerly called the Harbor Master's Office) paperwork can be completed.

"After the yacht and its passengers have been registered [as arriving], they can berth or moor at any marina around the island," explained Phuket Marine Office 5 Chief Olarn

SIPA was also charged with devising an IT system that cross-linked Customs, Immigration and Marine Office databases.

V/Gov Worapoj proposed that Chalong OrBorTor and the OrBorJor provide officers to help smooth the registration process.

The registration procedure at the onestop service at Chalong pier is complicated, with tourist arrivals filling in many forms, often causing problems, especially for non-English speakers, said V/Gov Worapoj.

However, V/Gov worapoj added, "The current system can't track those yachts, and officers on patrol boats can't check when boarding a vessel out on the water whether or not a yacht had been registered.

Brits charged over fake ATM-card withdrawals

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET CITY: A father, mother and son from the UK have been charged with using fake electronic cards to withdraw more than 100,000 baht from ATMs while on holiday in Phuket.

Capt Supachai Petchkul of Phuket City Police Station today told the Gazette that police received an anonymous phone call at 1:40 am yesterday reporting that two foreign men were behaving strangely in front of the Kasikorn Bank branch on Chanachareon Rd, near the Robinson department store.

Police arrived to find Mark Hubert Veerasawmy, 44, and his son Sonny, 19, withdrawing cash from the bank's ATM. Both were wearing white masks that covered the nose and mouth, Capt Supachai said.

The pair were found in possession of 15 withdraw slips, 10,000 baht cash and 35 fake ATM cards with a magnetic strip on one side and a two-digit number and a four-digit number handwritten on the other side, he said.

'We took them to the police station, but we forgot to take their phone, which they used to call Jennifer Anne Chapman, 31,



Mark Hubert Veerasawmy, 44, and his son Sonny, 19, were found in possession of 15 withdraw slips, 10,000 baht cash and 35 fake ATM cards. Photo by Yongyot Preurksarak.

from England," Capt Supachai explained.

After questioning the father and son, police moved to the Mukda hotel in the Phun Pol area of Phuket City to search the two rooms the family was staying in.

"We found his wife and baby girl in front of the hotel. We searched their rooms and found more than 100,000 baht in bundles," Capt Supachai said.

He alleged that the phone

call gave Ms Chapman the chance to dispose of the machine used to encode the fake cards.

"A taxi driver told police that [before police arrived] he saw Ms Chapman walking with a black bag, but she returned to the hotel without it," Capt Supachai said.

The three were charged with cheating by using the fake electronic cards.

They are now being held at Phuket Provincial Court.

Foreigner charged after Patong death smash

PATONG: An Englishman has been charged with careless driving causing death after being involved in an accident at the southern end of Patong on Feburary 17 in which a Thai motorcyclist died.

Lt Col Serm Kwannimit of Kathu Police today told the Gazette that Wayne Rooney, 38, was driving a pickup truck from Patong to Karon and had just turned from Prachanukhro Rd onto Sirirat Rd at 3:20 pm, when the accident occurred.

Col Serm arrived at the scene to find Rooney waiting beside his vehicle by the side of the road.

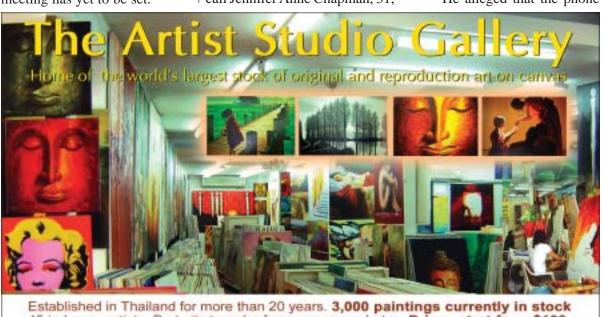
Motorcycle driver Wittaya Promboonta, 34, was lying dead at the scene.

The victim had been employed as a cook at the Baumanburi Resort and Spa on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd in Patong.

K. Wittaya suffered a serious head injury; it was not reported whether he was wearing a helmet when the accident occurred.

"Rooney posted 200,000baht bail," Col Serm said.

"He had been drinking [alcohol]," Col Serm said, adding that more charges may be filed.



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as 'suicide'

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PATONG: In what police are treating as a case of suicide, a German man fell to his death from the 20th floor of the Royal Paradise Hotel on the morning of Feb-

Kathu Police Superintendent Col Grissak Songmoonnark identified the man as Alexander Staubl, 35.

Police received a report of the death from hotel staff about 11 am.

Mr Staubl's body was found dressed in gray shorts and a blue T-shirt about 15 meters from the swimming pool on the hotel's third

He had suffered massive head trauma and is believed to have died instantly.

"He lived in Kata-Karon for a long time and was a partner in a dive company in Karon. We assume he decided to take his own life by jumping. We found no signs

of struggle or indications of foul play in his room," Col Grissak said.

Mr Staubl left a suicide note apologizing and indicating that he intended to take his own life, Col Grissak added.

Royal Paradise Hotel receptionist Yupawadee Thavornanumart, who booked room 2003 for Mr Staubl at about 10:15 pm on February 16, said that she recommended Mr Stauble take a 10th floor room at a cheaper rate, but that he had insisted on having the highest room available at the

"He told me that he had lived in Thailand for about nine years. He looked friendly and laughed as we spoke.

"I noticed that he checked in with just one very small bag, only big enough to hold a few items of clothing.

"He said he didn't need assistance and went up to his room on his own," she said.

One-Two-Go probe passed on

BANGKOK (TNA): A Thai-based committee responsible for investigating the cause of One-Two-Go Flight OG269 air crash on September 16 will now begin working, after the US government's National Transport Safety Board (NTSB) said it was unable to find causes of the crash because so much of the ill-fated plane was badly burned, a senior Transport Ministry official said.

The NTSB had earlier requested the department to help determine the cause of the accident involving the One-Two-Go aircraft crash at Phuket International Airport.

An investigation subcommittee headed by K. Wuthichai has now taken over the probe.

The cause of the accident would be known soon because the "black box" containing vital flight data up until the time of the accident is in the possession of the department, he added.



German death- More metered taxis to plunge treated serve Phuket Airport

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: A committee of tourism and transport officials on February 14 agreed to allow Phuket Taxi Meter Service to operate 23 more metered taxis out of Phuket International Airport (PIA), while a request by Phuket Mai Khao Company to operate 20 metered taxis was tentatively approved.

Chaired by Phuket Vice-Governor Tri Augkaradacha, the committee gave permission for Phuket Taxi Meter Service, which has been operating 42 metered taxis at PIA, to use 65 vehicles. Phuket Taxi Meter Service had applied to operate 46 more metered taxis at the airport.

Phuket Mai Khao Co had its request for permission to operate 20 metered taxis tentatively approved, awaiting confirmation that the company's concession from Airports of Thailand (AOT) has been signed by the AOT board.

On January 17, Phuket Mai Khao Co signed an agreement to allow the company to operate 20 limousine taxis and 60 vans at PIA. Sent to Bangkok to be signed by the AOT board, the contract has yet to be returned approved.

Phuket Mai Khao Co must

present the contract signed by the AOT board before permission to operate more vehicles can be granted, said V/Gov Tri.

The conclusions of the committee must now be approved by Phuket Gov Niran Kalayanamit.

Although it does not have a concession from AOT, the Taxi Meter Association requested to operate 30 metered taxis. The request was rejected.

The Taxi Meter Association is subcontracted by Phuket Taxi Meter Service to supply vehicles and drivers to provide Phuket Taxi Meter Service's airport taxi

Boat explodes, sinks at Boat Lagoon

KOH KAEW: Two Thai men are being treated for serious burns in the intensive-care unit (ICU) at Vachira Phuket Hospital after the speedboat they were working on exploded at the Boat Lagoon about 11:30 am on February 14.

Eyewitness Pisek Manasit said that the gas tank on board the 35-foot fiberglass speedboat Sakila 6 caught fire and exploded.

The men on board Sakila 6, Capt Amnart Suansan, 27, and



Elixir 1 ablaze at Boat Lagoon.

Nopparit Mahakarn, 19, managed to run ashore and were rushed to Vachira Hospital.

The fire spread to another

35-foot fiberglass speedboat moored alongside, the Elixir 1.

Six fire trucks arrived to put out the blaze, but were unable to contain the intense flames before they gutted the Elixir 1 and eventually sank the Sakila 6.

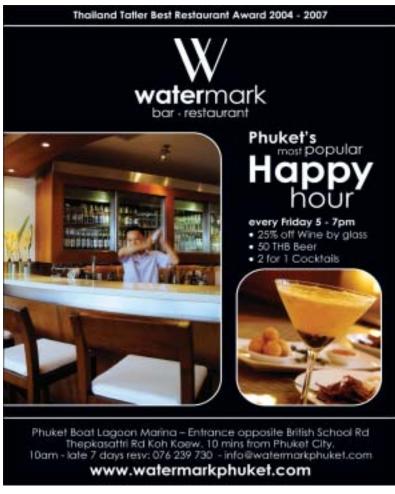
K. Pisek said that the owner of Sakila 6 is Nat Wongharn and that the boat was valued at about 2.3 million baht.

Elixir 1 is owned by a hotel on Koh Yao Yai, he said, adding that the boat was also valued at 2.3 million baht.









SMOKING BAN:

hailand's strict new antismoking regulation follows similar measures already in place abroad. Several US states, including Florida and California, have had bans in place since 2003, while both France and Germany put similar laws in place last month.

Since it was announced as a Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) notice posted on the ministry's website, the new measure has been a hot topic in the media. However, many business operators complain that this is their only source of information and that they have yet to receive any official notice of the new regulations from the government.

Phuket Provincial Health Office Director Dr Paisan Worrasathit told the Gazette his office is now launching an effort to let owners of bars, pubs, restaurant and markets in Phuket know what the new regulation will en-

"We need their support in implementing the necessary changes and understanding that the regulations are meant to protect people's health," he said.

Fines for violators are still a long way off, he admitted, as the the PPHO had not yet discussed with the Phuket Provincial Police how the measures will be enforced.

"We haven't started it yet, so I don't want to unduly alarm all of Phuket's bar and pub owners," he said.

Prapa Nakara, chief of the PPHO's anti-smoking unit, told the Gazette that from May 31, venue operators caught with guests smoking illegally on their premises will be fined 20,000 baht for each offence; the smokers themselves will be fined 2,000

hailand's Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) re cently issued a notice announcing that, effec tive from February 11, smoking is banned in all air-conditioned public places and restricted to specific areas in all outdoor public venues, including wet markets.

Expecting a backlash, the MoPH says it will conduct a high-profile public relations campaign until the end of May – after which time smokers and venue operators will face stiff fines for failure to comply. The *Gazette*'s Sompratch Saowakhon reports.

เขตปลอดบุหรื

โปธดชดสูบบุทธี่

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Smoking in this area

is prohibited.

Fine 2,000 Baht

"In Phuket, we want to warn smokers and venue owners about the new law first, so we will conduct a public awareness campaign before enforcing it," she said.

seminar on the issue in Surat Thani, K. Prapa explained that while all airconditioned public places and even privately-run workplaces will have to be 100% smokefree, non-airconditioned public places could still have designated smoking areas.

These areas have to be set up following

three rules, she explained.

First, the smoking area should not be in an area where the smoke could annoy nonsmoking guests; second, it is forbidden to establish smoking areas at entrances or exit points; finally,

the smoking area area should be somewhere that is not within easy view of non-smoking guests or clients coming to use an establishment's services.

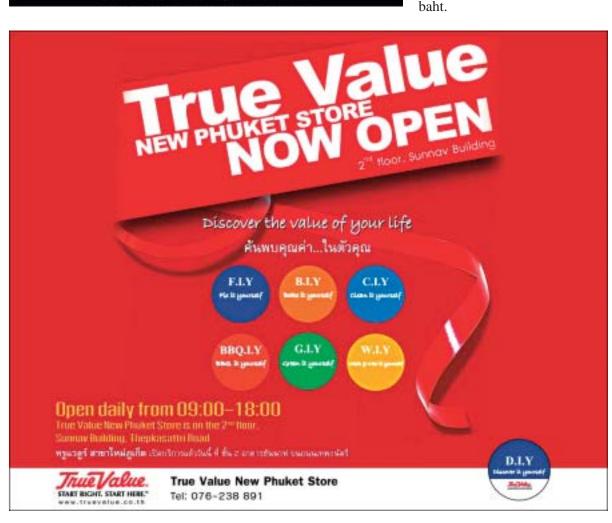
Markets, including any com-Recently returned from a mercial places of business where

> goods or services are on display or traded, must also ban smoking, but smoking zones can be set aside, she said.

A large part of the public awareness campaign will be the distribution of large nosmoking stickers (see photo) for business operators to display in areas where visiting customers will

notice them, she said.

Most nightclub operators the Gazette spoke to said that as a nightlife entertainment destination, Phuket stands to be greatly affected by the new measures, which could drive away tourists





Pure puff? Or common sense?

if the rules are enforced.

Somphet Moosopon, Chairman of the Patong Entertainment Association and managing director of dclub discoteque on Soi Crocodile in Patong, said he had yet to receive any information from the government about the new regulation.

His association has no intention of organizing a public protest, as it did against the announcement of a 1 am closing time for bars back in 2004, and that he would await a government announcement before deciding how to react, he said.

K. Somphet said he wished that nightlife operators could have been allowed more input into the new regulation, the announcement of which took many people by complete surprise.

While agreeing that the government was right to try and get people to stop smoking, K. Somphet said he wished the MoPH would allow air-conditioned venues like his own to establish smoking areas inside.

"This will initially have a large effect on our businesses and we may lose customers, but it could be a good thing in the long term. In any case, it has already been approved, so there is nothing much we can do to change it now," he said.

"I still worry about enforcement by police or any other agency made responsible for compliance. I don't think they are as serious about this issue as the people who put it in place," he noted

Noting that new laws and public-awareness campaigns aimed at reducing drunk driving or getting motorcycle drivers to wear helmets had achieved little, he said the new anti-smoking measures could likewise fail if

European style kitchen & open bar counter



they are not consistently and fairly enforced.

With this in mind, he said he hoped that the government would keep Phuket's special status as a premier tourism destination in mind – hinting that in this case, a lack of enforcement might not be such a bad thing.

"Perhaps it would be better if the the government put more focus on serious issues, such as drug abuse or organized crime," he commented.

On the issue of enforcement, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Gen Decha Budnampetch told a meeting of the Phuket Provincial Security Committee at the Katina Hotel on January 30 that he would like to see a special non-police unit put in charge of enforcing the new rule

He said the effect of the new regulation would be "huge"

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in Phuket and that it could overwhelm already overworked law enforcement officials.

"It may sound easy to simply go in and fine people who are smoking in prohibited areas, but this is going to be very difficult, especially explaining it to tourists," he said.

"There are far more people addicted to smoking than there are criminals and I think this will result in more people breaking the law than ever," he said.

The number of people who break the new smoking regulations might even exceed the number of traffic-law violators and be just as overwhelming for the island's limited law-enforcement resources, he said.

"I think every day people will report others smoking to the police and then start asking 'why don't you arrest them? Why don't you enforce this law in

Revellers at the popular KorTorMor nightclub in Phuket City party on despite the smoky atmosphere.

some areas and not others?' I think the whole thing will create a lot of questions," he said.

Gen Decha described the regulation as impractical for a tourist destination like Phuket, where so many

people visit but aren't aware of local regulations.

When the *Gazette* contacted Gen Decha again on February 19, he said he still had not received any orders from Royal Thai Police Headquarters regarding the new regulation or how it should be enforced.

"This notice was issued by the Ministry of Public Health, so it is their responsibility [to contact the Royal Thai Police Command]. We have never had any meetings on this issue, so the police don't know anything about it yet."

Most club operators the *Gazette* spoke to seemed happy to wait until receiving some official notice from the government before taking any action.

Sutthichai Sueyang, manager or the Timber Hut Pub and Restaurant in Phuket City, said he had not yet heard anything from

Laguna benefits & privileges included in the sale

any government agency about the need to stop his patrons from smoking inside the club.

As the entire club is air-conditioned, any enforcement of the regulation would have a large impact on the club, said K. Sutthichai, who has been with Timber Hut for more than 10 years.

Like operators of many airconditioned clubs, he said he hoped the authorities would compromise and let them establish a smoking area inside the club, he added.

While the new regulation is being greeted with doom and gloom by smokers, many nonsmokers think it is long overdue.

Phuket native Aoranoot Yutitham, a 33-year-old non-smoker, said, "I think it good and fair for non-smokers. Sometime when I go to open-air restaurants I have to put up with the smell of cigarette smoke from nearby tables as I am trying to enjoy my dinner," she said.

"I have heard that in countries like the US, smoking has been banned in bars and restaurants, so people have to go outside to light up. We shouldn't forget that the non-smokers outnumber smokers by more than two-to-one, so we should have regulations that protect the rights and health of the vast majority."

While many smokers the *Gazette* spoke with thought that banning smoking outdoors was taking it too far, many agreed that smoking should be banned in airconditioned restaurants and pubs.

One such smoker, a 26-year-old American man, said, "I smoke, but I think it is a good thing. You can still smoke in outdoor bars — and indoor clubs won't be boxes filled with smoke anymore."





good intentions bag the garbage and leave it next to a bridge over Klong Pakbang, not far from Patong Hospital, which can be seen in the background.

However, although Patong Municipality offices are only down the adjoining road, it has yet to notice the consistent pile of trash and boost collection times to keep the area clear.

Swede dies after seizure at Kata

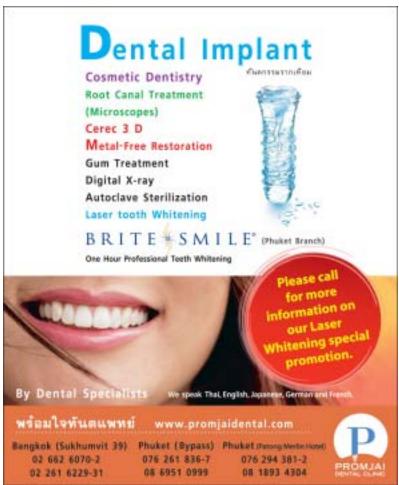
KATA: Swedish tourist Bernt Mikael Per Hakan, 49, died after being rescued from drowning at Kata beach about midday on February 14.

Mr Per Hakan was pulled from the water in front of the old Karon Municipal Building, at the southern end of Kata Beach, before being rushed to Patong Hospital by Karon Rescue Foundation volunteers.

En route, Mr Per Hakan went into shock. He was resuscitated and administered oxygen, but was later pronounced dead at Patong Hospital.

He is believed to have suffered a seizure while swimming, a hospital staffer told the Gazette.

"He was on holiday in Phuket with his wife, who collected his body about 2 pm on February 14. The embassy has already been notified," said Lt Col Chana Suthimas of Chalong Police Station.



150 couples take the plunge on V-Day

on Valentine's Day, with added incentive of the island's three District Offices offering gifts to newlyweds, including passes to Phuket FantaSea and dinners at restaurants on the island.

However, the figure was down compared with last year, when 202 couples wed on the international day of love.

As expected, florists had a field day selling roses, which fetched 100 baht each in Phuket City.

Primprao Jitpenthom, owner of Prim Flower on Yaowarat Rd, said students were paying top whack for the perfect bouquet.

"Our customers are mostly students and working-age people. In addition to flowers, we have other Valentine's Day gifts, including chocolates and

PHUKET: Many couples registered their marriages dolls. We have been really busy and have had many orders," she said.

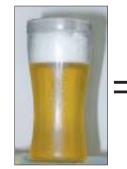
Eighty-one couples registered their marriages at Muang District Office, compared with more than 100 couples last year. Among the newlyweds were several foreign couples, as well as Thais with foreign spouses. The youngest couple were a pair of love-struck 17-year-olds.

At Thalang District Office, 35 Thai couples took the plunge. The newlyweds ranged in age from 18 to 53 years old. The office refused to accept applications for divorce this year.

Thirty-four couples registered their marriages at Kathu District Office, including one pair of foreign lovers. The youngest lovebirds were a 17-yearold bride and her 19-year-old groom.

Queer News







Tanked-up tiger taming leads to trauma

AYUDHAYA: Taming big cats, whether they are lions or tigers, generally requires a long period of dedicated training – and no small amount of skill and cour-

After a drinking session recently, one man in Ayudaya Province persuaded his zoo-keeper friend to let him have a go at taming a large tiger – with sadly predictable results.

Prasert Yomprakong, originally from Surin Province, went to visit his friend who worked at Pang Chang Elephant Village in Ayudhaya on the afternoon of February 12.

The two old friends bought some liquor and sat drinking the afternoon away outside the vil-

sert, his courage fortified by drink, soon began to express an interest in the village's tiger col-

He begged his friend to let him accompany him into a tiger cage so he could see how the tigers were fed and looked after. He also wanted to practice controlling them, he said.

After some browbeating, Prasert's friend agreed and the pair headed off to the enclosure of a female cat named Pinky.

Pinky, however, was unimpressed by having a drunken man staggering around her cage trying to tame her, so when Prasert's back was turned, she pounced and gave him a severe mauling.

After being freed, Prasert Thirty-eight year old Pra- was rushed to Phranakhon Sri

Ayutthaya Hospital to be treated. Dr Bantoon Bunmeesuk said that Prasert had to have stitches for severe lacerations in his cheek, neck and right thigh, but declared him out of danger.

He will be kept in hospital while the wounds heal so that doctors can keep a close watch for infection, Dr Bantoon added.

This is not the first time a visitor has been injured by a tiger at Bang Chang. Last year, a child was injured after taunting another tiger, imaginatively named "Tiger".

The manager of the park, Phaisan Ariwongsakul, said that he would pay for all of Prasert's medical expenses.

The manager did not say whether Pinky would be punished for her attack.

Source: Kom Chad Leuk



New tourism minister sets course

he Tourism and Sports Ministry is encouraging private investment in small and medium-sized businesses and has ordered the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) to categorize attractions within 60 days.

With the new government's Year of Investment and Tourism 2008-2009 campaign, the ministry aims to encourage investor confidence in the sector.

New Tourism and Sports Minister Weerasak Kowsurat said he will also suggest private investment in hotels and service businesses, particularly SMEs, in order to offer tourists more products.

The number of tourism-development projects fell during the term of the interim government despite the number of tourist arrivals rising.

The ministry is inviting all agencies to discuss strategies for tourism development, including talks with the Agriculture Ministry to reopen the Royal Flora Expo in Chiang Mai.

The TAT has been ordered to categorize all tourist attractions into at least one of five levels – provincial, cluster, national, regional and international – so that these can be promoted to the right target groups, K. Weerasak said.

TAT governor Phornsiri Manoharn said the authority would run its first regional campaign – Visit Issan Year – this year. It expects the campaign to boost tourism in the region by about 10% in 2008.

Capital consideration. The government will decide by April whether to jettison the 30% reserve requirement on short-term capital inflows, Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej said on February 15.

"[A study on] revision of the capital-control rules is underway and will take about a couple months for consideration," PM Samak told reporters.

The requirement for 30% of



A ROSE WITH A DIFFERENCE

An official inspects one of six containers filled with Siamese rosewood logs worth 8 million baht that were impounded by Customs at Bangkok Port on Valentine's Day.

short-term inflows, to be held on deposit with the central bank for a year, was imposed in December 2006 to slow the appreciation of the baht, but it triggered a massive stock market sell-off.

Finance Minister Surapong Suebwonglee recently said that a decision on lifting capital controls would be made before the policy roadshow that the government is planning for March or April.

The new government is pushing to scrap the controversial controls in order to resurrect the country's reputation with foreign investors.

Hands down. From May 7, any motorist caught talking on a phone without any wired or wireless headset while driving will face arrest and legal action.

If caught red-handed, the driver will have to pay a fine of between 400 baht and 1,000 baht.

To enforce the new law, traffic police officers will be

armed with small digital cameras or phone cameras to photograph drivers while talking behind the wheel.

Police are also calling on members of the general public to help catch talking drivers.

Death and deceit. Three civilian employees of the Office of Police Forensic Science in Bangkok have been charged with charging relatives of dead people for formalin injections that were never administered, General Police Hospital spokesman Somyos Deemak has announced.

Hospital Director Lian Huiprasert has filed criminal charges of malfeasance and corruption against the 21 police officers in the case, but has insisted that none of them had direct involvement in the paperwork process or the issuance of formalin injection bills to relatives of dead people who underwent autopsy operations.

More than 1.1 million baht has been misappropriated and the cheating took place between October 2004 and March 2006, according to the Auditor General's Office, K. Somyos said.

Employees received 900 baht from the relatives of each dead person, but pocketed 600 baht from each payment, he added.

Making tracks. Social Development and Human Security Minister Sutha Chansaeng is consid-

ering former minister Wattana Muangsuk's idea of arranging race tracks for youths who race motorbikes illegally on public streets

On his first day in his new job, K. Sutha said his ministry must find something constructive for youths to replace the thrill of illegal street racing.

The announcement followed the arrest of 33 street racers and the seizure of 20 motor-bikes by Talad Phlu Police in Bangkok on February 11.

Officers took 15 boys and four girls to a remand home to undergo a five-day shock-therapy rehabilitation program.

Gold-winning invention. Gold shops are a favorite target for thieves, but now a nifty invention by students from Surin Technical College can snatch those 18-karat chains away before a robber can.

"Hooks where gold necklaces are hung will retract immediately after you press a button and those necklaces will then move along a pipe when they fall down from the hooks. It takes just a few seconds to take your gold off the shelves in your shop," said Teera Deelerd, 18, as he demonstrated the process.

The invention was one of 179 created by vocational students who displayed their work at a national competition held earlier this month at The Mall Bang Kapi in Bangkok.

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





But after World War II,

The 12-hour trip, which

many boats were destroyed or

disabled and the locals had to rely

on the roads. A bus service was

started between Krabi and Trang,

the route being a bumpy dirt road.

takes just over two hours today,

was difficult in the rainy season

as the road would turn to mud. In

the dry season, the dust was so

bad that passengers would arrive

unrecognizable, their faces and

his children of taking the bus – a

converted lorry with one wooden

plank to sit on – to Trang. Upon

reaching a river with a bridge to

cross, all the passengers were

ordered off the bus and had to

not assured of the bridge's safety, then worked in tandem to get over

the bridge, with the assistant

walking in front of the bus in-

structing the driver where to steer

over the rickety, creaking wooden

businesses that made bricks and

sold wood and import construc-

tion materials. His factory was

located up the Krabi River, ac-

sight, sunning on the banks of the

cessible only by boat.

K. Sriphong started several

Crocodiles were a common

river, and tigers and

wild buffalo occu-

pied the forests.

During this time, K. Sriphong built the

first house in Krabi

The driver and his assistant,

K. Sriphong would later tell

hair covered in red dust.

walk across the bridge.

bridge.

ver the years this column has documented the development and ultimate commercialization of Krabi, and often the old-time residents, both Thai and expat, reminisce of the quieter days of yesteryear.

Although many of these stories stretch back 15 to 20 years, very few can tell the tales of Krabi before it became a tourist destination. A few families from that bygone era still reside here, and they can relate the history of the region from their firsthand experiences.

Human remains have been found in the region that date back 25,000 to 35,000 years and the area is thought to be the oldest permanent human habitation in Thailand. The "Krabi Man" is the proud symbol of this distinction, and his figure can be seen holding the traffic lights at the Vogue intersection on Maharat Rd in Krabi Town.

I haven't been able to find any of Krabi Man's direct descendants to interview, so I have had to enlist one of the longest residing families for their recollections of the more recent history of Krabi.

The Phukaoluan family has been living in Krabi since 1927. Family members have not only witnessed the many changes in the province, but actively taken

Where crocs and buffalo once roamed

part in the development of the region as well. Several generations have held government positions from village headman to mayor to head of the board of

The first Phukaoluan to arrive in Krabi was Sriphong Phukaoluan, who came from China as the only son of a poor family from Hainan. He arrived alone, at age 17, in the year 1927.

At that time, Thailand was ruled under the absolute monarchy of Rama VI King Vajiravudh, who had succeeded the popular and effective rule of Rama V King Chulalongorn.

Krabi was under the administration of Nakhon Sri Thammarat until 1875, when King Rama V made it a direct subordinate of Bangkok to become what is now a province. In 1900, the Governor of Krabi moved the provincial capital from Baan Talad Gao (Old Market) to the present location near the mouth of the Krabi River. At the time, the population was about 4,000.



30,000 YEARS **OLD, GIVE OR** TAKE: No, this is not a hotel porter carrying luggage, it's Krabi Man, the region's ancient inhabitant.

It was there that young K. Sriphong moved, living with an old couple and working in a tea and food shop at the Chao Fa Pier by the river. The houses and shops were simple bamboo structures and all motorized transport for people and goods was by steamboat. Krabi had no commercial banks or even a hospital.

The tea shop was a popular meeting place for the local government administrators, including the Governor. Over the years K. Sriphong came to know all the local residents and became well

he returned a lost parcel containing important documents and a large sum of money from government staff salaries.

K. Sriphong married in 1929 and during the 1930s opened several small businesses. In 1933, Krabi Town was upgraded to a municipality, and K. Sriphong was ap- By Gus Reynolds pointed village head-

man for Tambon Paknam, his first position in the local Krabi government.

During those early years, Krabi's infrastructure was primitive. Before World War II, the preferred method of travel was by boat, as the roads were "ru-

known himself when

the 1990s, when it moved to its present location on Maharat Rd.

bank while his son, K. Chuan, finished his studies in Penang and later London to come and replace







olice believe that a teenage girl shot dead in Nakhon Sri Thammarat early on February 16 was not the intended target of the attack

Wanitsara Suthisombun, 17, was visiting the home of her friend's boyfriend, Anirut Phakdeejitr, at 12:45 am when she was shot several times with an M-16 rifle. She died at the scene.

A friend of Wanitsara from a vocational college where they studied accounting together said that she and Wanitsara were going to visit her boyfriend when the shooting happened.

The 17-year-old friend, who cannot be named for legal reasons, said Anirut, 19, picked her and Wanitsara up from their dormitory on his motorbike and drove them to his house.

When they arrived at the house, Wanitsara jumped off the motorbike and went to open the gate as Anirut parked his motorbike round the side of the house. As Wanitsara was opening the gate, she was knocked to the ground by a hail of gunfire. The gunman then ran to a waiting pickup truck, firing another burst of gunfire into the air as he went, the girl said.

Police examining the scene recovered nine M-16 bullet casings.

Maj Somchai Muaydee, a Crime Suppression Inspector at Nakhon Sri Thammarat Muang District Police Station, said police believed the target of the attack was Anirut.

Anirut, who was out on bail after being charged with murder at the time of the attack, is suspected to be involved in the drugs trade. This could have provided a motive for the shooting, police said.

Anirut's mother is currently serving a two-year prison sentence for selling *ya bah* (methamphetamine), while his girlfriend was recently arrested in possession of 100 *ya bah* pills, Maj Somchai said.

The night he was granted bail and released from prison an attempt was made on his life, but the attackers missed and killed the son of a well-known local village chief by mistake.

VIDTEC TRANSTHERM

Girl, 17, gunned down by 'mistake' in M-16 drugs hit

Anirut saw the gunmen and was the chief prosecution witness in the subsequent murder case, Maj Somchai said.

"We believe Anirut, not Wanitsara, was the target of this attack. We think the perpetrator is likely to be the same person who tried to kill Anirut last time.

"We received reports that two or three men, all sons of an influential figure, had been roaming the area looking for Anirut in the days before the attack. We went to their house, but didn't find them. We hope to be able to request an arrest warrant in the next few days," Maj Somchai added.

Moving mountains. Six men were arrested after they were discovered removing large quantities of earth from a protected range of hills on February 16. Police believe local politicians were behind the crime.

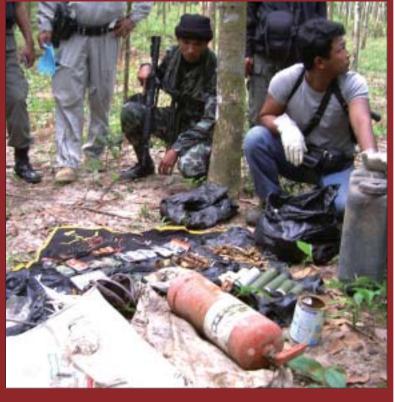
After receiving information that workers had been cutting down trees and excavating earth, a team of Border Patrol Police and forestry officers raided a spot in Khao Phrabat Hills in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Chian Rai district

At the scene, police found more than 10 workers using an excavator to load earth into a line of waiting dump trucks. On seeing the officers, the men fled into the forest. Police managed to arrest six of them. They identified the men as Somchai Nimthong, 34; Dusit Saman, 37; Nirat Jannual, 39; Wichian Khunnut, 49; Nukan Krailas, 53; and Withaya Saipheu, 39.

Police also seized a Kobelco excavator, two Hino 10-wheeled trucks and two Isuzu six-wheeled trucks.

Maj Panthep Panadit from Border Patrol Police 424 Division, based in Sichon district, said the gang had already excavated one hillside in the range.

KARCHER LEIFHEIT Wa Pavoni



Rubber danger

Security officers display bomb-making equipment found hidden in a rubber plantation behind Ban Dor Hae Mosque in Tambon Riko, Sungai Padi district, Narathiwat, on February 12.

After learning of the crime, Border Patrol Police notified the local authorities – but no action was taken. They therefore coordinated with the forestry department and arranged the raid.

Police believe local politicians and community leaders are behind the crime, Maj Panthep added.

The six men arrested were handed over to Lt Col Chertchai Musika, Chief Inspector of Karaket Police Station, to be charged.

Pugnacious pachyderm. A mahout was killed in Surat Thani's Phanom district on February 16 after his charge ran wild during a fit of musth and trampled

him to death.

Hatairat Pakit, 38, chained his bull elephant to a tree after it became aggressive after entering musth, a periodic sexual condition in bull elephants characterized by highly aggressive behavior.

The excited elephant broke the chains and chased after villagers, eventually catching up with K. Hatairat and repeatedly stomping him. When the elephant finished trampling K. Hatairat, villagers took him to Phanom Hospital, but he died on route.

At the time of the report, armed officers from Phanom District Livestock Office and rescue workers were still hunting for the elephant, which was believed to have run into Phanom forest.

Border insecurity. A junior policeman who was allegedly a member of the infamous "border patrol gang" accused of extortion and kidnapping many people for money, shot himself dead February 10.

Pol Sgt Jaroon Kaewkool was found dead at his shrimp farm in Trang province with a gunshot wound to the heart. His sister Chulee said that Jaroon had returned to this childhood home during three days of leave.

She said that Jaroon had repeatedly complained to her about his stress stemming from news reports about the police gang involving members of Border Patrol 42 based in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, to which he was attached.

She defended Jaroon, saying he never had enough cash to make ends meet and borrowed money from his mother and wife regularly.

"We are still poor. If he got a lot of money through crime, he would have supported us," she said.

Another six police officers still at-large were told that they face discharge from the service if they did not surrender by February 15, when a 15-day period for leave without permission ends.

Deputy police chief Gen Thanee Somboonsab said 66 complaints related to the gang had been made to police, accusing 27 people of various crimes, including murder.

Arrest warrants had been issued for 12 people but more evidence was needed to obtain warrants in regard to the other 15, Gen Thanee said.

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

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SEVERIM Rommelsbacher

By Semacote Suganya & Natcha Yuttaworawit

oh Tapao Noi is little more than an island with a lighthouse. Plans are in place for an eco-tourism project that will see an increase in the number of visitors to the island, making Koh Tapao Noi the latest attraction on the Phuket tourist trail.

Spread over 58 rai of land, the island falls under the responsibility of the Royal Thai Navy. The eco-tourism project, which is currently pending approval by the Navy and does not need a government permission stamp, was proposed by the Navy's Hydrographic Department.

The department reports on tidal and weather patterns, as well as seismic activity, from the island. The island is expected to be ready for tourists within two months.

The island's five sole residents are Navy employees, part of whose job is to keep a lighthouse alight to warn boats that stray too close to the shore.

Lighthouse Supervisor Suchin Rakchard told the *Gazette* that he is unsure how many tourists would visit the island per day, but he believes the influx of visitors will not disturb or effect the ecology of the island.

Two nature trails have also

Koh Tapao Noi proposed for eco-tourism site



Living on the island is the oriental pied hornbill (top, right), birds listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) as 'least concern'.

been proposed for the project. The first would be about 700 meters long, while the second would be

an extra 500-meter trail taking visitors from the end of the first trail up to a vantage point suit-

able for birdwatching, said K. Suchin.

Built in 1890 during the reign of King Rama V, the lighthouse, which will become another tourist attraction on the island, uses an acetylenic lamp powered by solar energy.

The light from the 11-metertall tower flashes every 15 seconds, day and night.

After spending some time on the island, the Navy officers saw the potential to attract visitors to Koh Tapao Noi.

Living on the island with the five Navy officers is the oriental pied hornbill, a type of bird listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) as "least concern", the healthiest status on the scale.

There are just 50 hornbill couples on the island. "It is not easy to find these birds in Thailand. They mate in February and March," said K. Suchin.

The Navy officers spend about 1,000 baht a month on bananas and rice to feed the birds. Becoming increasingly used to human contact, feeding the birds will be a primary activity for tourists visiting the island, said K. Suchin.

C a p t C h e t t h a Jaipiem told the *Gazette* that after surveying the island, a number of rare animals were found living on Koh Tapao Noi.

C a p t Chettha said that a committee visited the

island on January 23 and found it to have a "perfect environment". Some areas of the island, however, face development, with buildings and accommodation for officers needed, for which a budget has been granted, he said.

"The island's pier also needs to be repaired," he added.

"The deputy mayor of Wichit visited the island with us and we all agreed to do something to promote eco-tourism here. The project will involve the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization, environmentalists and Tourism Authority of Thailand."

At Koh Tapao Noi, the coral and shells along the shore are spotless, the sands are golden and clean, and the water is crystal clear. K. Suchin said that water-sports enthusiasts will be able to snorkel among the coral reefs.

"We have not yet set up a team to complete this project. We are in no hurry, but we definitely want to do it," said Capt Chettha.

Navy officers from the Hydrographic Department will work on Koh Tapao Noi as guides, sharing their knowledge of water, the weather and the island.

An entrance fee to the island has yet to be set. Even before completion of the eco-tourism project, it is possible to visit the island.

A boat from Ao Makham Pier takes about 10 to 15 minutes. A boat can be chartered for between 200 and 300 baht. Ao Makham is six kilometers away from Phuket City and can be reached by bus.



Wealth Management Evening For Expatriates.

Thursday 6th March, Dusit Laguna Resort, Phuket 7:00pm.

Welcome - Peter Davies, Managing Director, Montpelier (Thailand) Ltd.

Fund 'Hotpicks' for 2008 – Benjamin Lord, Portfolio Analysist-Montpelier (Thailand) Ltd. www.montpeliergroup.com

Beat Volatility with a Forecast Income Fund – Simon Phillis - LM Investment Management Ltd. www.lmaustralia.com

Break - Drinks

Matrix Asset Based 2 Fund – Jack Doueck, Principal & Chief Investment Officer-Stillwater Capital www.matrixgroup.co.uk

Regular Saving for Expatriate Investments – Chris Ivinson, Regional Sales Manager, Royal Skandia www.royalskandia.com

Sessions will end before 9.30 p.m followed by wine tasting

and a delicious buffet supper.

Reservations

The number of seats are limited, for reservations please email phuket@montpellergroup.com or call +66 2 661 5150 and speak to our event coordinator, there is no charge for this event.



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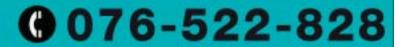
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Noodles or curry? Let's have both for just B6

ne popular dish throughout Thailand—but unknown to many expats residents living here — is *kanom jeen*. Even Thais who are tired of having to choose between curry and noodle soup dishes for lunch opt for *kanom jeen* as it combines the best of both.

Kanom jeen consists of a serving pre-cooked, round rice noodles topped with the key ingredient, a coconut-milk based curry sauce with either fresh fish meat or fishballs, along with vegetables and other seasonings which often include ginger, garlic, kapi (shrimp paste), shallots, galangal, lemongrass and chili pepper.

The sauces can vary greatly from region to region, but here in the south the most popular is *nam* yaa, followed by tai pla, the key ingredient of which is fish kidney – the quintessential southern Thai ingredient, most commonly found in kaeng tai pla (fish kidney curry).

The noodles are topped with the sauce along with a wide variety of additional flavorings spooned in from small finger

bowls. The same cast of characters one finds on a dining table during Phuket's Vegetarian Festival, these include fresh cucumber, fresh basil, boiled eggs, pickled turnips,

shredded cabbage, bean sprouts, small pineapple chunks – and many more.

By Natcha

Yuttaworawit



INFLATION-BUSTER: Auntie Suikee put the principles of HM The King's Sufficiency Economy theory into practice every weekday starting at noon. Inset: A typical six-baht serving at Auntie Suikee's *khanom jeen* stand.

The name *kanom jeen*, which literally translates as "Chinese sweets", is certainly mis-

leading: the dish is not a sweet – it doesn't even taste sweet – and its origins probably aren't Chinese.

In fact, kanom jeen is thought to have its origins in the ancient Mon king-

dom that dominated much of Southeast Asia for many centuries. Unlike modern Thai, in Mon language "kanom" simply refers to any food – including noodles – that happens to be made from rice flour

Kanom jeen also has a more formal name in Thai: kanom sen, where "sen" is the classifying noun for long slender things such as lines or noodles. The dish also goes by completely different names in parts of the North and Isarn.

As for how the Chinese appear to have nominally coopted the dish, one popular theory is that the name goes back to the Ayudhya period, when the former capital had a thriving Chinese market where the *kanom sen* were commonly sold.

Whatever its origins, kanom jeen is still sold as a cheap, nutritious dish at scores of roadside locations throughout Phuket – and now is it available than in Samkong, where one vendor is fighting inflation with hearty servings for just six baht per dish.

The no-name, roadside stall of about six tables is located at the three-way junction of Soi

Phanieng and Soi Phanieng 2, just across the street from one of the many abandoned tin mine ponds that pockmark the local land-scape.

The unpretentious establishment has been run for about 10 years by a kind woman named "Auntie Suikee", who has staunchly refused to raise her price of her tasty offering because many local students and low-wage laborers have come to rely on her.

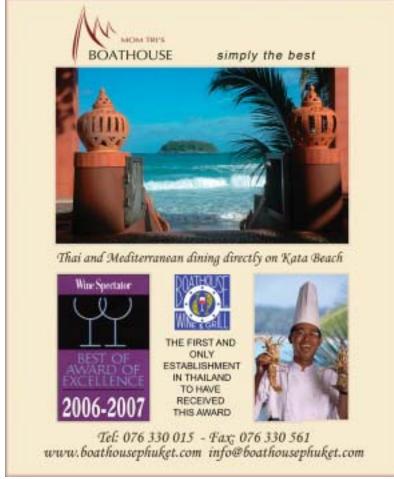
One of the few real practitioners in Phuket of the muchtalked-about "sufficiency economy" theory, Auntie Suikee told the *Gazette*, "I do not need much profit because I sell from my own house and I know the students who eat here do not have their own sources of income. I am just happy that they can come here and eat for only six baht per dish."

For those who want to splurge out more than 10 baht, Auntie Suikee also makes excellent *kanom krok* (coconut pudding snacks) – just 10 baht for 10, all served in an attractive ceramic dish. For drinks, there is fresh-squeezed orange juice and lime juice: just five baht per glass.

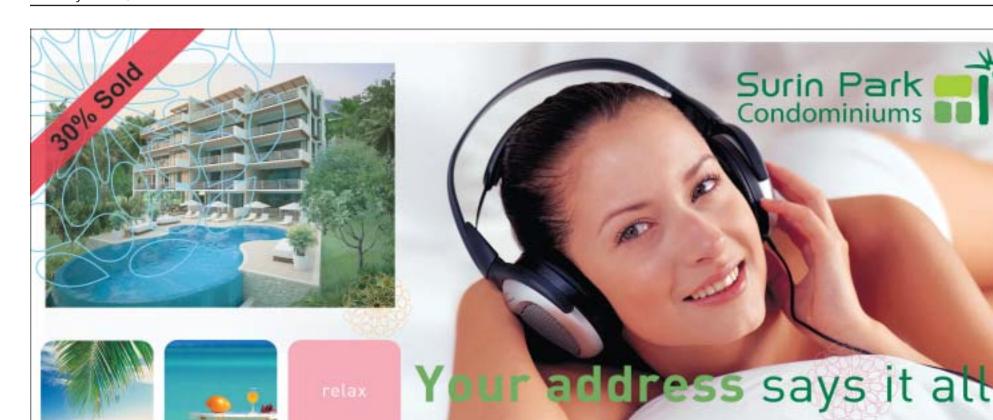
This might not be the right place to bring a girl on a first date — and there isn't much parking for your Benz or BMW, but if it's near the end of the month and you're living on coins until payday, Auntie Suikee's kanom jeen might be just the answer.

Open Monday to Saturday from noon to 4 pm or whenever supplies run out.





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Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket

Megu Lackey from Japan and Brandon Lackey from the US celebrated their wedding at Coco Palm of the Kata Beach Resort & Spa on November 24.



Phasiri Seasor and Samran Wimuttisuk were married at Pra Pitak Grand Ballroom of the Metropole Hotel on January 18.

Running man goes the extra mile

By Nick Davies

At 60 years old, Tawee Patarakul is still one of the first five runners crossing the finish lines in regional half marathons, regularly adding to his collection of nearly one hundred trophies and enough medals to sink a galleon.

K. Tawee's ultimate goal as a runner is not to line his walls with trophies, but to keep fit as an investment to ensure good health in old age and to encourage others to take up sports so they can make a positive contribution to society.

Being first is not what it's all about for Phuket's running ambassador; he just happens to win a lot because he loves running. His immediate concern is being healthy enough to look after his parents and not be a burden to his own children.

K. Tawee runs about three times a week, covering about 20 kilometers a week in total with individual runs of between five and 10 kilometers. He usually starts pounding the back streets



Being first is not what it's all about for Phuket's running ambassador, Tawee Patarakul; he just happens to win a lot because he loves

leading up the hills at about 5 am and will run no less than five kilometers each time.

He says running isn't just good for one's health, but it's also good for the mind.

"Keeping fit is like making a plan for the future. If we are strong we can easily help ourselves in an emergency and regular exercise helps us think clearly in everyday life," he said.

"I first started running when I realized that it's important to have time to ourselves, but that time must be spent constructively to have a positive effect on our lives and the lives of those around us, rather than spending all our time working then drinking and smoking or just sitting around watching TV after work.

"I thought to myself, why do I work so hard? For my children, right? But what my children really need is for their dad to have time for them and for me to be strong and healthy enough to spend quality time with them."

K. Tawee is no stranger to hard work. At seven years old, he was working as a rubber tapper to help support his family and his trade as a carpenter has left him minus a finger. Now he runs a corner shop on Chao Fa West Rd where beer and cigarettes are on sale - items in which K. Tawee does not indulge himself.

"I used to smoke cigarettes but I gave that up when my son was born and then I started running regularly. That's when I gave up drinking altogether. My advice to anyone wanting to give up smoking is to think of the person you love most in the world, and do it for them. That's what made it easy for me to give up," he said.

"I weaned myself off bad habits by spending time each day preparing for and doing some kind of exercise. I quickly saw the benefits of dedicating just an hour a day to exercise instead of drinking. Think how much money you save when you don't spend that hour drinking beer," he added.

"The great thing about the kind of people you meet at running events is that they are all sincere and down-to-earth people.

"The running society is a classless one. It doesn't matter whether you're wealthy or poor, whether you travel to a race by private car or bus, when we're out there running we are all on the same fundamental level. We eat the same food together and if the event is a provincial race, then we all sleep on the floor or camp together," he said.

"Race meets are also a way of contributing to charity. Races are usually sponsored by companies that will donate money to charity, so when I run in these







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races, it's like making merit because someone less fortunate than me will benefit from it."

K. Tawee added that when companies want to hold a charity race, ideally they should make them between three and five kilometers long. This way, he said, more runners will turn up for the event and it will be easier to generate sponsorship money.

Although races in Phuket are usually well organized with

people helping to line the routes and 'Keeping fit is like keep the runners' paths clear, K. Tamaking a plan for the wee admits that future. If we are Phuket's drivers strong we can easily are not the most responsible in the help ourselves in an region. "I used to emergency and actually run to the regular exercise race meets but as I heard about more helps us think clearly and more running in everyday life.' friends being hit by cars I now drive to

a safe place to run, such as Suan Luang park."

K. Tawee's first race was a seven kilometer run but he didn't make it to the finish line. He managed to complete five kilometers before he became exhausted and stopped. Unperturbed though, he trained regularly and was soon competing in and winning 10-kilometer races and half marathons of 21 kilometers.

Half marathons suit him

best, and at an age at which most people are retiring and taking it easy, K. Tawee is still competing regularly in half marathons and adding to his stock of trophies. In fact, he had so many

he had so many trophies taking up space on the back shelves of his shophouse that customers would sometimes think he made and sold sports trophies, prompting him to move the collection to a back room.

He considers full marathons a bit too long and shakes his head with an chuckle of exasperation when asked about the kind of people who compete in triathlons. That doesn't, however, stop him being proud of the photographs he has of the international athletes who have heard about Phuket's running man and taken the time to visit him.

There are about 30 regular runners from Phuket who K. Tawee sees at most race meetings, and about half of them are hardcore runners who never miss a race. There's always at least one running event in the region each week and K. Tawee will compete in most of them. If it's not being held in Phuket, he'll be running in either Phang Nga, Koh Kloy, Surat Thani or Nakorn Sri Thammarat.

K. Tawee says that when he or other runners from Phuket run in a charity event in another province, it's a wake up call for people in that area.

Although K. Tawee isn't motivated to run in races for the prize money, it can be lucrative when you

keep finishing in front. His first earnings for running were 1,000 baht for winning a Kathu race as part of an drug awareness campaign. That race was in the morning, and he ran again in the afternoon at Thalang, winning another 1,000 baht. The next day, he ran in another race at Saphan Hin, coming in second to win 500 baht.

K. Tawee's passion for running reflects his outlook on life, which is all about living within your means and knowing when

enough is enough. He uses the scenario of a food vendor as an example of people who think that "work work work work work to get on in life.

"Imagine a small restaurant owner cooking all day, not wanting to stop because there's always money to be made from hungry customers. They dare not stop cooking for fear of losing out on the next customer.

"By spending all their time making copious amounts of food and not stopping to reflect on their role as a parent or responsible member of the community, they are, in a way, committing a sin because of all the food they are making, which is far more than they'll ever need for themselves.

I say you're better off just running."



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This week



IN THE BAG: Voytek Klasicki (center), General Manager of Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas Krabi recently hosted a luncheon for Louis Vuitton Chairman & CEO Yves Carcelle (left) and Symphony Asia Holdings Chairman Anil Thadani (right) at the hotel's Lotus restaurant to entertain the executives while holidaying in Krabi.



WRITE ON: Irish Ambassador to Thailand Eugene Hutchinson (2nd from right) joined James Irwin (left) and President of The Nation Pana Janviroj (right) in congratulating Suthinee Thaeppunkulngam (3rd from left) of Triam Udom Suksa School and Patreeya Prasertvit of International Community School for winning the 4th Annual Junior IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards for Thailand, on February 12.



I.T. HIGH NOTE: Phuket Governor Nirand Kalayanamit (3rd frm left) and Lt-General Palangoon Klaharn (3rd from right) are welcomed by Thai Samsung Electronics Co Ltd Managing Director Kwang Kee Park (2nd from right) at the grand opening the first Samsung IT Space in Phuket, located at Central Festival Phuket, on February 9.



RIGHT ON TIME: FedEx Express Managing Director for Thailand and Indochina David B Carden (center), Senior Operations Manager Sura Waiyaburana (right) and District Sales Manager Julaluck Buranajunyakul (left) celebrate the opening of the seventh FedEx Express service center in Thailand at Phuketa Hotel and Apartments Thepkrasattri Rd, Phuket City, on February 15.



NO LEMONS HERE: Bangkok Hospital Phuket Assistant Director Dr Badin La-Ead (center) joins an 'Orange Night' thank you party for Phuket insurance companies at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on February 8.



WELCOME ARRIVAL: Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa General Manager John Kidd and staff welcome recently appointed director of Phuket International Airport Wicha Nurnlop. Also pictured are Front Office Manager Tawee Saengrung (left) and Marketing Communications Manager Nikki Tipaxsorn.

Hail the Great British Male

long with health scares, new celebrity diets and the love life of supermodel Kate Moss, the dire state of British men – and that includes all the British Isles – makes headlines roughly twice a year.

The trigger for this could be an American actress moaning about the inadequacy of her British boyfriend(s). Or maybe it is sparked by a shock survey sperm count down, self-esteem down. Whatever the cause it is a shame, as we would not have our men any other way. In fact, British men are one of the best reasons for having to endure British weather, parking regulations and the TV schedule - they make it easier to be "us".

To start with, British men do not expect us all to be goddesses of the waxed, wrinkle-free, nonperspiring variety à la Carla Bruni-Sarkozy. Some do adopt the European standard and insist on matching satin undies, but on the whole, the British male is unique in putting up with all kinds of slovenliness if he thinks you are fun and/or sexy.

Even better the BM is brought up to be suspicious of the high-maintenance female. He wants a partner, not a pedestal dolly. This does not mean that the BM is a feminist, however. Generally, his motivation is expedience – the BM wants a woman capable of carrying the shopping, restraining the kids and wielding

the lawnmower – but it takes the pressure off us.

And only in Britain would you find a man prepared to sit in front of the television tuttutting about how much better Posh Spice would look if she would only put on some weight.

Similarly, British men are relatively lack-

ing in vanity. Sometimes they are vain in a David Cameron way – as in, how to shine as a selfconsciously youthful leader of moved the peanuts from my



the Conservative Party – and reach to preserve my figure, a all bling and hair gel.

But we find all that quite amusing. It's the smooth, all- bloke who can crack wardrobe or ask you over tan, giant designer watch, cashmere in sorbet shades and blowdried hair that leaves

us cold. You can't help feeling a twinge of relief when the man

in your life is incapable of eating breakfast without getting some of it on his shirt.

You can't beat a

you up with his

impersonation of a

No woman wants to be less well turned out than her partner. Even among not-so-chic non-Brits there is a requirement for women to be ladylike, and you don't get that from the

average BM.

I once went on a date with a Scandinavian man who re-

sometimes in a footballer way – thing no British male would dream

of doing. In the same way as he wouldn't veto your to curb your language or your drink-

squirrel in a dress. In fact, I'm sure there are many who have cleared up after their loved ones following a severe

bout of over indulgence, in contrast to the Italian who split up with a friend of mine for sinking too much wine in front of his parents. Half a bottle, or so the story goes. Give me strength.

Similarly, Brits are unfazed by feistiness or borderline mad behavior. Americans, on the other hand, announce "You're funny" at the first sign of larkiness meaning, "I don't get it, you make me uncomfortable."

Plus, you don't have to dress like Bjork on a bad day for them to think you are mad and avoid you at parties. Brits may not be the most overtly attentive men, but the plus side of that is that they are more than happy to leave us to our eccentricities.

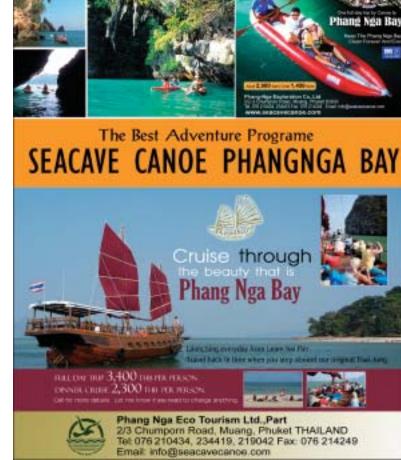
All of this, though, is the warm-up act to the main attracIrish dancing and so on. No humiliation is too great in the cause of making an audience laugh because they know it's the best weapon against boredom, shyness and insecurity – and enduring to women.

Charming, romantic, gorgeous is all lovely, but you can't beat a bloke who can crack you up with his impersonation of a squirrel in a dress.

In the end, we get the men we deserve and British women have done pretty well. We may not take priority over the football. We may be cursed with a generation of TV chef Jamie Oliver wannabes without the washingup skills, but at least we're allowed to be crazy and disheveled in the company of our own menfolk - and that counts for a

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







Rock solid solution to body odor

By Nick Davies

ou've missed your breakfast, you're late for work, you're trying to get dressed and you haven't even got time to take a shower. Disaster.

You pick up and apply to your armpits the stick of roll-on deodorant that you bought for 60 baht from 7-Eleven. The fragrance hits you like a bad night on Bangla and you begin flapping your arms in a desperate attempt to rid yourself of the sticky plight you've found yourself in.

There must be another way. Enter the crystal.

If you're looking for a nonperfumed deodorant that won't cause dryness, itchiness or other skin irritations, potassium alum crystals could be your deodorizing savior, keeping you odor-free through the day.

Potassium alum is a mineral. It occurs in crystal form and is a cheap, natural alternative to chemical-based deodorants.

Many people start using potassium alum crystal for its odorkilling powers after learning about the dangers associated with using chemical-based deodorants

and antiperspirants.

Virtually all commerciallyavailable deodorants and antiperspirants use aluminum chlorohydrate as a base to which scents and other ingredients are added to create individual products and brands.

The aluminum used in commercial deodorants and many other skin-care products is a "heavy" metal, similar to mercury, which is one of the suspects in the long list of elements that may cause cancer and other debilitating conditions, such as Alzheimer's disease and sterility.

Antiperspirants block sweat pores so that you don't sweat under your arms, whereas deodorants rely on their acidic content to kill bacteria. Neither of these are preferable odor-killing solutions because of the adverse side effects a person may experience.

The body absorbs aluminum chlorohydrate when it is present in products applied to the skin. The metal builds up in the body and is deposited in major organs. The brains of Alzheimer's sufferers, for example, contain high levels of aluminum.

Potassium alum crystals leave on the skin a thin layer of salt, which has natural, anti-bacterial properties. The molecular structure of the protective layer is too big to pass through the pores into the body, so the pores remain unblocked

Thais are familiar with potassium alum, *san som* in Thai, using it to kill bacteria and neutralize bodily and household odors.

Potassium alum is effective because body odor is a by-product created by the bacteria that Potassium alum, or san som in Thai, has been used by Thais for generations as a natural deodorizer due to its antibacterial properties, making it a harmless alternative to chemical-based deodorants and antiperspirants.

feeds on sweat produced under the arms.

Crystal deodorant stops bad smells by killing the bacteria responsible for making the unpalatable body odor.

Using a deodorant crystal is simple. All you do is make the crystal wet by dunking it in water or briefly holding it under a running tap.

You then glide the stone over your armpits. This method can also be used on feet or to rid hands of strong smells, such as garlic or onion after food preparation.

Crystal-deodorant products can be found on the Internet, but fortunately for us, the crystals are common in Thailand and can be found at market stalls where other kitchen and household products are on sale.

Crystals are usually sold by the kilo. One kilogram of potassium alum crystal is enough to last several months and costs just a few baht.

Potassium alum has other uses. Men can use it as an odor-less anti-bacterial aftershave to soothe the skin, or it can be used to combat various conditions, such as athlete's foot or even acne. Place a lump in the fridge or a drawer to absorb strong smells, too.

By using crystal deodorant, you are not only kind to your body, but also to the environment, as crystals are natural and biodegradable.

If you buy directly from a market, the packaging is minimal, so you won't be throwing away empty bottles every month, too.







Making SenSes

Shinawatra

Home Co.

hampagne flowed while a show of feisty hairstyles and fiery nails welcomed guests who turned out looking their best for the "Shining Star" cocktail party to celebrate the grand opening of SenSes Health and Beauty Salon at Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket on February 12.

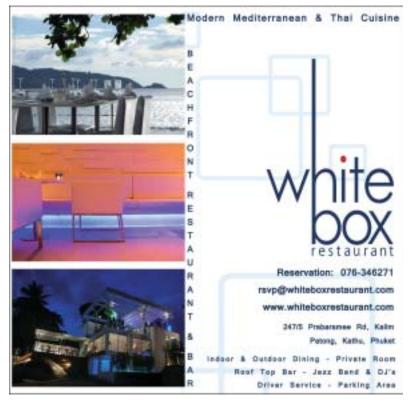
Joining Naranporn "Kathy" Namchoo of SenSes were host of guests, including Edward Powis, chairman of Jumeirah Phuket Island TGR Group Asia, and Ratana Wongnapachant, managing director of













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Mercedes on the move



Built in Bremen, launched in Frankfurt mid-September and already available in parts of Asia, the Mercedes-Benz C-Class Estate has set what would be a record for almost any automaker.

The new C-Class Estate made its debut at the prestigious Frankfurt show in mid-September, but examples of this excellent addition to the range are beginning to appear on our roads.

The sedan version is currently on sale in Thailand and the estate version is expected to follow shortly.

Just a few months after the market debut of the C-Class replacement, Mercedes-Benz added the Estate to the lineup.

As well as offering a maximum of 1,500 liters of cargo capacity, giving it a larger load-carrying area than any other premium-class estate in its market segment, the new C-Class also has a host of handy features for easy loading and safe transportation, such as a tailgate that opens and closes at the push of a button.

Power plants available with the latest model are various options of diesel or gasoline, but the diesel C200 CDI burns as much as 12% less fuel compared with the outgoing model.

Amazingly, Mercedes-Benz claims that this model can make



One tankful of gas will take you 1,000 kilometers. When the new Estate arrives, it will be an ideal cruiser- on and off the island.

a single tank of fuel (66 liters) last more than 1,000 kilometers.

To further its "green" credentials, the sedan version has been awarded an environmental certificate to attest that it conforms to international standards.

There is a choice of three models: Classic, Elegance and Avantgarde. Differing levels of equipment and comfort differentiate the three, while visually the Avantgarde line features a large Mercedes three-pointed star positioned in the center of the radiator grille; the Classic, as the

name implies, has the star on the top of the hood.

The load factor varies between 485 and 1,500 liters, depending on the position of the rear folding seats. Measured against the previous model, the new C-Class Estate's load capacity has increased by 146 liters

Mercedes-Benz says that its new Estate is able to accommodate four golf bags, including trolleys, nine large packing cases – it does not specify the size of the cases – or 44 drinks crates each containing six one-liter juice bottles. An odd grab-bag of statistics, indeed.

The new gasoline models are equipped with a supercharger, while the diesel engines are fitted with a turbocharger. The larger C220 CDI diesel produces a creditable 170 bhp (125 kW), 20 bhp up on the previous unit, while torque output is an impressive 400 Nm, available from just 2.000 rpm.

All engines except the topof-the range C350 gasoline model are mated to a six-speed manual gearbox; the C350 has a seven-speed automatic transmission

An interesting development on the car is the fitting of a standard agility control package, which features shock absorbers that automatically adapt to the current driving situation for a noticeable improvement in ride comfort when driving normally, or maximum damping when a more rigorous driving style is adopted.

Optional is a dynamic handling package that improves agility to that of a sports model. The driver is able to choose from two drive modes that determine the fundamental suspension characteristics: comfort or sport.

Within these modes, the shock absorbers at each wheel are regulated by means of an variable electronic control. In addition, the body is lowered by 15 millimeters and the suspension equipped with shorter springs a stiffer sway bars.

The package also features a new speed-sensitive power steering system.

A useful feature, standard on all models, is adaptive brake lights that flash to warn following vehicles of an emergency braking situation.

Currently the C-Class Estate is not listed on Mercedes-Benz Thailand's website (www.mercedes-benz.co.th) although the sedan is.

Keep an eye on the site if you want to find out more about the Estate. It's a car that would be ideal for Phuket.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigator.com





EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

February 23-29. Mom Tri's **Boathouse Short Fiction Con-**

Part one of the second Boathouse Short Fiction Contest, open to all, requires stories of 1,000 to 1,500 words containing key words: "the Boathouse", "Phuket" and "mango". Deadline is February 29.

Part two targets school-age writers, 15 to 18 years old. Wellknown author Jake Needham will conduct workshops at QSI and BIS March 11 and 12.

Students are to finish a Needham story posted at www. boathousephuket.com/short_ fiction_contest.htm

Three prizes in each category include vouchers for a luxurious stay plus wine and dinner at the Boathouse.

For information contact Lisa Sol. Tel: 076-330015. Email: pr@boathousephuket.com Website: www.boathousephuket.

February 27. A Taste of Italy at Puccini Restaurant.

Experience a match made in heaven. The perfect combination of luxurious Italian wines, personally selected and introduced by Steven Roberto in association with EnVision Phuket, all matched with the culinary creations of Executive Chef Alessandro Frau.

This journey through Italy promises to be a sensational

Starts at 7 pm at Puccini at Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket. 2,800 baht per person.

To make a reservation or for further information contact Adam Beasley. Tel: 076-324101. Email: fbreservation@sheraton phuket.com Website: www. luxurycollection.com/phuket

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

The Fobissea Games will be held at BIS, offering a wonderful opportunity to join a major competition and mix with like-minded students from other international schools in Southeast Asia.

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

February 29. Domaine E Guigal at the Boathouse.

An exclusive Domaine E Guigal wine dinner will be hosted at the Boathouse on February 29. Guigal is among the best and most highly sought-after wines from France's Rhône Valley.

The wine reception will be at 7 pm and the gala dinner will start at 7:30 pm.

Dinner, including all wines, is 3,000 baht++. Due to limited seating, reservations are strongly recommended.

The event is being organized in collaboration with Canpac Co, Bangkok.

For information contact Lisa Sol. Tel: 076-330015. Email: pr@ boathousephuket.com Website: www.boathousephuket.com

March 6. Wealth Management Evening.

Montpelier Group's first seminar for 2008 will focus on low-risk and capital-guarantee investing. The speakers and their topics will be:

Benjamin Lord of Montpelier Group on Fund Hot Picks for 2008.

Simon Phillis of LM Investment Management on Beating Market Volatility with a Forecast Income Fund.

Jack Doueck of Stillwater Capital about the advantages of using asset-backed funds and how they work to deliver consistent returns.

Paul Foreman of Friends Provident Regular Savings Plans for Expatriates.

A wine tasting and free buffet will follow the seminar with the opportunity to talk to any of the speakers.

For more information contact Barry Payne. Tel: 086-9764998. Email: bpayne@ montpeliergroup.com Website: www.montpeliergroupcom



International Blues Rock Festival this weekend at Karon.

Phuket International Blues **Rock Festival**

February 22-23

Presented by HotelTravel.com, the third year of Phuket's biggest international blues rock festival will be huge - expanded to 12 bands - showcasing 10 of Southeast Asia's finest acts and topping it off with an American headliner each night. We will have one of Australia's top blues bands, as well.

Returning is guitar phenomenon Rich Harper and his band from California, and another top US act will close the show on Saturday night.

Plenty of food and drink as well as games and a prize raffle. From 6:30 pm to 12:30 am, at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia

Shari Puorto and other top acts from the festival will be playing at Saxophone on Thaweewong Rd, Patong, from 10 pm on February 24. See full details at www.phuketbluesfestival.com

of the three short comedies. 350

baht. For details contact Nui at

The Green Man. Tel: 076-281445.

085-7903652. Email: info@the-

Comedy and Good Food.

Enjoy an evening of light comedy theater plus dinner at the Green Man, featuring the Andaman Players Theatre Group. Opening Night: Friday, March 7. From 7:30 pm: Cocktail reception on the lawn, threecourse dinner and an evening of three short comedies. 950 baht.

Core Night: Saturday, March 8. From 7:30 pm: Cocktail reception on the lawn, fourcourse dinner including wine, and an evening of three short comedies. 1,500 baht.

Matinee: Sunday, March 9. March 7-9. An Evening of From 4 pm: Matinee performance theandamanplayers.spaces.live.

green-man.net Website: http://

March 8-29. Light of Life Art Exhibition.

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

His landscapes focus on the interplay between shadow and light, together with the beauty and simplicity of rural and suburban Thailand.

Opening cocktail reception at 6:30 pm. Open daily 11 am to 7 pm. For details, contact Gem at Tel: 076-360867, 087-8875279. Email: gem@dgallery.co.th Website: www.dgallery.co.th

March 14-16. TriBallistic Bor Saen Challenge Race 2 of 4.

Splash 'n' Dash: Swim 50m, bike 1.5km, run 750m. Junior: Swim 200m, bike 6km, run 1.5km Senior: Swim 600m, bike

22km, run 6 km. Friday, 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm for race registration, pasta party and race briefing.

Saturday 8 am: senior race; 4:30 pm: kids' races; 6 pm: dinner and presentation

Entry: Adults: 1,500 baht. Children: 1,300 baht. Includes awards dinner party (drinks not included). Friday Pasta Party paid separate at 400 baht per person. Discounts for children.

Contact Shaun Boulter. Tel: 089-5902014. Email: tri@ triballisticclub.com Website: www.triballisticclub.com





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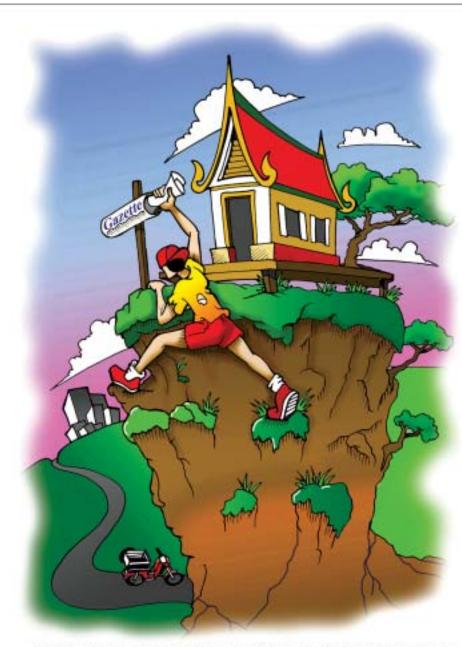
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Hidden Words

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

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V	J	С	K	R	Е	N	Y	В	U	A	О	В	U	Р
В	W	Z	K	R	Е	Y	С	S	S	U	L	N	K	F
P	A	R	Т	N	Е	R	M	A	S	В	Z	В	R	A
J	L	N	X	U	В	Y	Z	Е	U	R	О	Y	P	P

su|do|ku

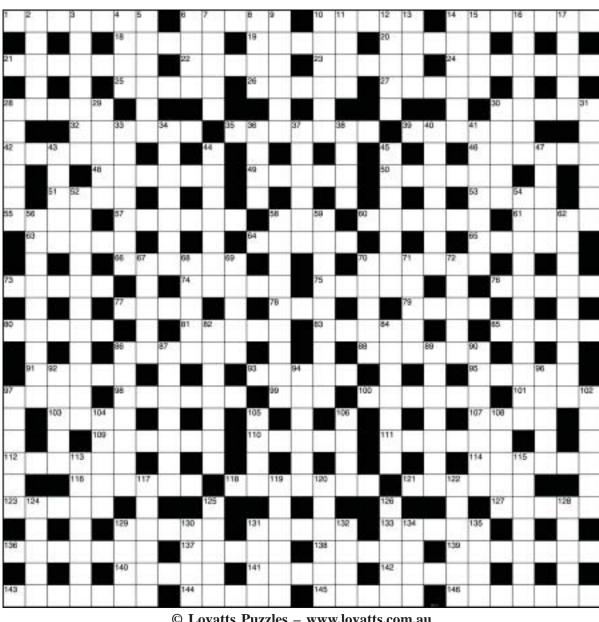
© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

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

The BIG Crossword



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Across

- Best-ever comp times
- Softens
- Current fashion
- 14. Biggest
- 18. Having an advantage (3-2)
- 19. Tired
- 20. Snooty
- 21. Predict
- The Press
- Fertile desert spot Nat King Cole's
- daughter 25. Obtain (funds)
- Gather bit by bit
- Track competitor
- From Houston
- Last Greek letter Dried grape 32.
- Fourth US president, 107. Playthings James...
- Strength
- 42. Trudges
- 46.
- 48. Sited
- 49. Takes notice of
- 50. Far 51.
- Spanish artist
- 53. Informal photo 55. Finished
- 57. Sounds
- 58. Task
- Bahamas capital
- Urges on, ...up
- Curved over 63.
- Facsimiles 64.
- Pop stars 65.
- Moaned sadly 66.
- 73. Wily tricks 74. Steal (power)

- 75. Cow offal 76. Challenger
- 77. Coffin stand 78. Cigar dust
- 79. Telephoned
- 80. Proclaim
- 81. Of the eyes
- 83. Outstanding (of debt)
- 85. The V of CV
- 86. Makes reparations
- 88. Worsen (of crisis)
- 91. Agrees to
- 93. Revolt
- 95. News slant
- 97. Hand-make (jumper)
- 98. Fancy necktie
- 99. Actor, ... Aykroyd
- 100. Circles (planet)
- 101. Actor, Alan...
- 103. Used to be

- 109. Put oil on 110. Diamond month
- 111. Soviet tyrant
- 112. Canine tooth
- 114. Companion
- 116. Uncelebrated (hero)
- 118. Continue doggedly 121. Messenger
- 123. Rubs with abrasive
- 127. Striped cat
- 129. Cougars
- 131. Overhanging edges of roof
- 133. Large spoon
- 136. Actress, ...Diller
- 137. Reworked
- 138. Urban
- 141. Majestic
- 139. Divorcee payments Reddish-brown color 140. At no stage

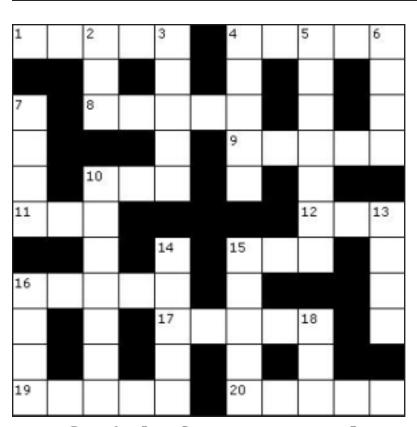
142. Actress, ... Streep

- 143. Liquorice-flavored
- seed 144. Daisy-like flower
- 145. Works at (trade)
- 146. Jockeys' seats

Down

- Grind down Bowling style
- (cricket)
- Achiever
- Skulks
- Mamas
- Fencing weapons
- Come to realise
- Made airtight
- 10. Rasps
- 11. Actor, ... Phillippe
- 12. Democratic Repub-
- lic of Congo
- 13. Famed lioness 14. Hermits
- 15. A distance
- 16. Actor, Kelsey...
- 17. Playground appara- 106. Charity gifts
- 28. Skin picture
- 29. Diaper
- 30. Times past, ...days
- 31. Ancient Mexicans 33. Isles
- 34. Needing a scratch
- 36. Dull pain
- 38. Depose
- 40. Unveils
- 41. Bodysuit
- 43. Ire
- 44. Sticks (to)
- 45. Marriage split (5-2)
- 47. Motivate
- 52. Arrange for maximum effect

- 54. Excruciatingly
- 56. Estimation of worth 58. Stuffed full (3-6)
- 59. Beatles & ELO hit,
- Roll Over...
- 62. Intensified
- 67. Ignoramus
- 68. Great Lake 69. Tubular passages
- 70. Stiff
- 71. Suit fabric
- 72. Comic, ... Wise
- 82. Punishment
- 84. Closest 86. Climbs up
- 87. Round of applause
- 89. Confidential
- 90. Beastlier
- 92. Flightless birds
- 94. Scottish infants
- 96. Noosed rope
- 97. Raps 102. Skilfully
- 104. Showers heavily
- 105. Child star, ...Lloyd
- 108. Start (of disea
- 113. Tiny pools
- 115. Compressed 117. Leftover (portion)
- 119. Library patron
- 120. Frozen polar cover
- 122. Relieves
- 124. Pallid
- 37. Fridge compartment 125. Callous opportunists
 - 126. Greasy mud 128. Drinking bout
 - 129. Fret
 - 130. Zone 131. Irish Republic
 - 132. Window ledge
 - 134. Experts
 - 135. Singer, ... Hooper
 - Solution on next page



Quick Crossword

Across

- 1. End of day
- 4. Italian food
- 8. Peace prize
- 9. Malice
- 10. Apply
- 11. Quick movement
- 12. Everything
- 15. Large battle
- 16. Annoy
- 17. Midriff
- 19. Obedient
- 20. Not late

Down

- 2. Weapon
- 3. Furniture
- 4. Heartbeat
- 5. Almost the same
- 6. Pain
- 7. No money
- 10. Sad
- 13. Woman
- 14. Gem
- 15. Compose
- 16. Long
- 18. Sticky, black substance

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. Which American state is the largest by population?
- 2. Which German pocket battleship was scuttled by her captain off Montevideo Harbor in 1939?
- 3. In which English county would you find Fotheringham Castle?
- 4. Which film starring Matt Damon concerns a janitor spotted as a mathematical genius?
- 5. In December 2000, which music magazine, merged with its old musical rival, the NME?
- 6. Dick York and Dick Sargent both played Darren in which series?

- 7. What phrase did Frank Muir coin about Joan Bakewell?
- 8. Who wrote *The Canterbury Tales*?
- 9. Who, when asked if he had anything to declare, replied "only my genius"?
- 10. What does STV stand for?
- 11. What famous London landmark was designed by David Marks and Julia Barfield?
- 12. Which "R" is a mild Swiss cheese?
- 13. Which Rocky movie did Hulk Hogan play a part in?
- 14. Sylvester Stallone will direct a biography of which American poet?

- 15. What do the British call a hickey?
- 16. Which classic book features a criminal called Raskolnikov?
- 17. Which is the only Scottish city whose name begins with "I"?
- 18. Which London attraction opened in 1958 in Marylebone Rd?
- 19. What is the name of the main stadium
 Stadiumat Flushing
 Meadow, home of the US Open?
- 20. Which "B" is a line on the London
 Underground that opened in 1906?

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

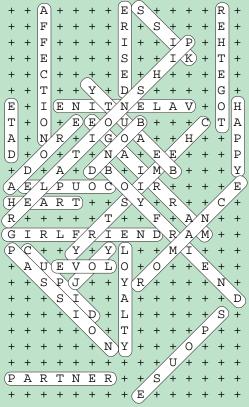
Solution to this week's Quick Crossword

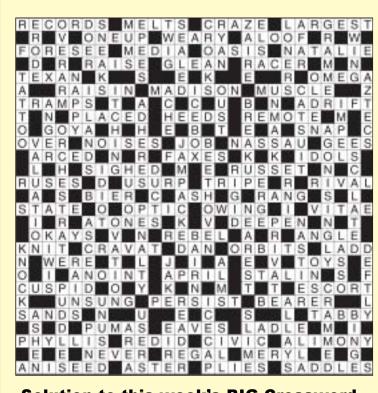


Monster Quiz Answers

1. California; 2. Graf Spee; 3.
Northamptonshire; 4. Good Will Hunting; 5. Melody Maker; 6. Bewitched; 7. The Thinking Man's Crumpet; 8. Geoffrey Chaucer; 9. Oscar Wilde; 10. Single Transferable Vote; 11. London Eye; 12. Raclette; 13. Rocky III; 14. Edgar Allan Poe; 15. Love bite; 16. Crime and Punishment; 17. Inverness; 18. Planetarium; 19. Arthur Ashe; 20. Bakerloo.

Hidden Words SOLUTION + A + + + + E S + + + +





Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

-	0	9	'		~	9	5	0
2	3	5	8	4	6	7	9	1
7	8	1	9	3	5	4	6	2
5	1	8	3	7	9	6	2	4
6	9	4	1	2	8	3	7	5
3	2	7	5	6	4	8	1	9
1	7	2	4	5	3	9	8	6
9	4	6	2	8	7	1	5	3
8	5	3	6	9	1	2	4	7

4 6 9 7 1 2 5 3 8

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ment of tin and its implications in shaping Phuket's evolvution.

This valuable commodity has helped bring wealth and prosperity to the island and its inhabitants for generations.

Tin has been in demand for thousands of years. On its own, the metal is nigh useless because it is very soft. However, mixing it with other metals can create useful alloys.

The primary use of tin in the ancient world was to create bronze by smelting the metal with copper. The perfection of this technique allowed ancient civilizations to create weapons that were hard and strong, such as swords, spearheads and arrows.

By the 18th century, the need for bronze to make weapons had diminished greatly with the availability of steel. Military use of bronze was limited to manufacturing cannons and other artillery.

However, greater use for tin was found, in the more industrialized countries by that time, where there were increasing demands for tin in industrial processes. One common use was as protective coating to prevent corrosion of iron and steel, since tin does not rust.

From the time the metal was discovered on the island, thousands of years ago, many techniques have been devised to extract and separate pure tin from

Then recounting the island's history, it is impossible to neglect the involvend its implications in ket's evolvution. aluable commodity ring wealth and prosisland and its inhabnerations. How tin forged its way in the involvend its implications in ket's evolvution. aluable commodity ring wealth and prosisland and its inhabnerations.



Miners sift through raw ore from water-laden pits in the search for tin.

Photo courtesy of the Indigo Pearl Resort.

its ore.

During the late 18th century, tin mining became prevalent throughout the island, despite the political instability that had plagued the region during the period. Siamese hegemony had been established in Phuket for hundreds of years, but recent Burmese invasions had threatened Siamese sovereignty on the island and the ensuing wars had forced many inhabitants to leave.

As a result, the island was sparsely populated and lacking the valuable labor force needed to yield high outputs of tin.

The 1834 publication by Peter J Begbie, The Malayan Peninsula, presents an account of how tin mining was done in Phuket in its early stages during the late 18th century.

According to Begbie, tin was found in greatest abundance on the southeast side of the island, which not surprisingly is the present location of Phuket City.

During the northeast monsoon, from November through April, inhabitants of the island from different villages would relocate southwards to commence mining activities.

Many mines were located in or around what is now Phuket City. According to Begbie, the mines near Phuket City reached depths of 50 to 70 feet. Closer to the coast, the tin was easier to access and depths ranged from only 10 to 30 feet.

A systematic method of mining the mineral was in place and the miners cooperated in order to extract the tin ore. Each pit was about four feet wide and employed four men for the operation.

The mining process was very simple. Two miners stayed in the pit where they filled buckets with tin ore. The bucket, which was suspended using a pulley system, was then pulled upwards when it was filled.

The ore, as it came up, was then thrown to the women sitting around the pit. They separated the mixtures of stone and clay from the tin ore

by either breaking the lumps using their fingers or twirling them around rapidly on wooden platters. This ensured that the ores were separated rapidly from the impurities.

At the end of each day, the ore was carried away to a running stream nearby in order to force out the finer sand particles that may have been left behind from the separation process.

Finally, the ore was carried to the smelting house where every 100 pounds of ore could be expected to yield 70lb to 75lb of pure tin after being melted in fur-

From explorer and Penang founder Capt Francis Light's accounts, a common miner usually received a "ticket" for every 40lb of tin he deposited. The tickets could then be exchanged for a certain amount of silver by the king's overseer.

Part of the revenue generated from exporting tin was sent to Bangkok as state revenue and the remainder was kept by the smelter, "who is a Chinese man that rents this privilege from the King of Siam".

During this period of the island's history, mining was still in its early stages, yet had started to evolve into an important industry, employing systematic operations and techniques.

By 1788, despite the small population resulting from the Burmese and Siamese struggles for island supremacy, Phuket was able to produce 500 tons of tin annually.

It was also reputed that ore mined in Phuket had one of the highest tin yields in the region, reflecting on the quality of the metal that comes from the island.

Because technology was not sufficiently advanced, many

LOOKING

By Anand Singh

mines were abandoned as soon as the miners hit some obstacle in the ground, for example rocks that they could not

dig past. If this happened, they moved on to other mines.

It meant that only the minerals at the surface were used, leaving the ore that was deeper down untouched. Begbie mentions that this was one of the reasons why Phuket City had been abandoned for a period of time – the mines there could no longer be used.

Anand Singh is an avid Phuket historian. He lived on Phuket from the age of 3 to 21. He is fluent in Thai and may be contacted at as.pkt@hotmail.com





n the eyes of most of the Western Judeo-Christian world, men who come regularly to Pattaya to indulge in the kinds of sexual activities frowned upon in their respective homelands are seen as aberrations of society.

A book entitled Human Instinct: How Our Primeval Impulses Shape Our Modern Lives, written by Lord Prof Robert Winston throws a different perspective on human relations. It may just be the men – and some women – who turn Pattaya into

their experimental boudoir are in fact simply acting out a sensible and practical biological scenario.

Prof Winston's thesis is based on the theory that while love and lust may lead to infidelity, the driving force is the strong biological instinct to propagate our species. Winston argues the practice of polygyny,

the practice of having more than one female partner at the same time, is practiced in 708 of the 849 human societies on the planet.

FROM

By Duncan Stearn

He writes, "It seems that, from a strictly evolutionary point of view, the competitive nature which pushes a man to pursue power and status is strongly related to sex – and the number of women he can have sex with."

It seems that men are genetically programmed for sexual variety. There's nothing we can do about it. Our innate desire is to spread our genes.

Anthropologist Laura Betzig points out that the practice of rulers, especially despots, to keep harems has been a fact of history almost since the dawn

In defense of infidelity

of time. Even the Romans, who had a reputation for monogamy, kept slaves for sexual gratification

Many historians have assumed the fathers of *vernae*, or child slaves raised in the master's home, were slaves, but Betzig argues these children were more than likely the progeny of the mas-

ter of the house.

In medieval Europe, the practice of polygyny was abetted by *jus primae noctis*, or "the right of the first night", a privilege that accrued to the local chief or lord, granting him approval to make love to a bride of lower class on her wedding night.

As Western society gradually

changed, large scale polygyny died out. Marriage, apart from being a religious institution, may have been devised to also be a way of curbing our naturally unfaithful tendencies.

The grip of marriage, even in modern times with spiraling divorce rates, still tends to lend credence to the words of the early 20th century author HH Munro – better known by his pen name Saki – who wrote, "We are firmly attached to the Western custom of one wife and hardly any mistresses."

It was the evolutionist Charles Darwin who propounded the theory of sexual selection, that some individuals are naturally superior to others in the competi-



tion for a mate.

His mistake was in believing females were naturally monogamous while males were not. Darwin, along with many others – all male, of course – doubted and even denied the possibility that a female could enjoy sex and achieve orgasm. If you agree with Darwin and his like-thinking colleagues, feel free to visit Pattaya and conduct your own epistemological study.

In fact, infidelity is now known to be common among women of all races and nationalities. According to anthropologist Marjorie Shostak, female infidelity is a way of a woman hedging her bets.

In her writings, Shostak described a native woman from the Kalahari Desert having a regular string of men with whom she had sex (the Kalahari woman, not Shostak), even though she is married.

Equally, female infidelity may be a way of strengthening her own bloodlines. If her partner is impotent, infertile, physically disabled or ill, adultery may be a way of introducing a new "strain" without causing the relationship to break down completely. In societies with relaxed morals about non-marital sex, women are considered just as promiscuous as men.

Psychologist Helen Fisher suggests humans are only designed to be monogamous for as long as it takes to raise a child through infancy, a period of around three to five years. She claims that marriage and divorce statistics that she has collated from more than 60 countries reveal a worldwide pattern showing divorce peaks around four years after marriage. Then it declines.

Apparently, these statistics are constant despite the variations in cultures, languages, marital practices, divorce procedures. Does all this sound familiar?

The two main reasons for marriage breakdown are adultery – particularly if it is by the wife – and infertility. Jealousy is at its most powerful when a woman has sex with another man. Divorce is common among infertile couples. Basically, we enter into relationships in order to produce offspring and anything that compromises this can be viewed as ultimately destructive to the relationship.

So now you know. It appears that humans are genetically programmed to be sexually polygynous. It probably explains why so many damsels of the chrome pole and their clientele can rarely be relied upon to remain faithful once their partners is out of sight... or should I say, out of bed.

In The Stars

PISCES (February 20-March 20): If you are celebrating a birthday this week, you will be over the moon when you open your gifts. There are indications that someone who has been paying less attention than you expect is abaout to compensate. If you're single, look forward to a year in which you will be spoiled for choice. A prospective partner is due to appear on the scene this week. Wear the color gold to add some glitz to your appearance.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): You could be feeling hot-headed this week. An annoying business situation will be compounded if your temper comes to the boil. Asking a third party to speak on your behalf could be a viable answer. Where romance is concerned, another Arian could prove to be the perfect match. An introduction this weekend sets your spirits soaring. Wear peppermint green to help cool your mood.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): As February draws to a close, you should be satisfied with what you have achieved. Success from creative pursuits is still highlighted during the coming weeks, so don't give up if your approaches have met a brick wall. The stars are ready to support your efforts to have more fun and this weekend offers chance to meet new people in unfamiliar surroundings.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): You need to make a serious effort to go with the flow this week. Your quest to find the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow is subject to delays caused by others' reluctance to cooperate. Leo is most likely to provide information that can be trusted; Aquarius is disorientated and lost at the moment. Your airy attitude towards romance won't be appreciated this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Working towards a common goal with your partner will enhance a relationship that has not brought satisfaction lately. Money could be tight as a family member is about to request a loan. You are advised to demand some security before parting with cash. Thursday is the best day for approaching bureaucracy, but answers won't be forthcoming as quickly as you want. The number six can be lucky early next week.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Personal relationships could suffer due to miscommunication this weekend. Ensure that your point of view has been properly understood before flying off the handle. Recent frugality begins to pay off as you notice your bank balance becoming healthier. This should coincide well with the opportunity to take a trip early next month. If you're single, you are forecast to meet an enticing Arian before the end of the month.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Your enthusiasm for a sport or other leisures will return. This rekindled interest will help to energize other areas of your life, making until near the end of March a fulfilling time. Work matters still require careful handling, particularly when a new colleague doesn't seem keen on accepting responsibility. The number 8 is forecast to be lucky on Thursday.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Family are about to demand your attention this weekend and you won't have much time to please yourself. Your ability to see both sides of the coin should be useful, but make it clear that relationships should be a twoway street. The opportunity to prove your worth at work comes unexpected next week and promotion is highlighted. Cream and strawberry red can help sweeten your mood.

A blast from your past makes it clear that they would be interested in picking up the threads of a relationship that never properly finished. You could be tempted, mainly out of boredom. As long as you maintain a light-and-easy attitude, fun is on the agenda. If you're looking for serious commitment, reject these advances. The number 9 could be lucky on Wednes-

by Isla Star

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): You shouldn't pass up the opportunity to leave your comfort zones this week. A venture into the unknown could bring new ways of making money and even if everything you touch doesn't turn to gold, there are signs that finances are about to receive a big boost soon. Where love is concerned, your tendency to blow hot and cold could cause a permanent rift in a casual relationship.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Self-confidence is once more a problem. This is an auspicious time to take a serious look at how far you've come in recent months. If you can believe in yourself more, there will be much more progress in the near future. Money matters concerning property are well-starred from now until the middle of March. Wear steel gray to encourage some magnetic appeal.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): It could be difficult to make money stretch far enough this week. However, taking out a loan under current astral conditions is not advised. Tuesday is best for asking someone whether a payment can be delayed. Finances should improve after the middle of next month. In the meantime, tread water carefully. Romance proceeds at a snail's pace, but most Aquarians will be glad there is no pressure to commit.

Phuket Gazette - Since 1994 -

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Weeding out the bad apples

Thailand's new Tourism and Sports Minister, Weerasak Kowsurat, has been quoted telling reporters that his first year in office would be a year of "tourism and investment", during which the number of foreign visitors to the country would increase to 15.7 million.

If achieved, the figure would represent an increase of more than 8% on last year, which turned out to be a very good year for the Thai tourism industry – especially considering the political situation, the insurgency in the Deep South, rising oil prices and the strengthening of the baht against the US dollar.

A legal expert, K. Weerasak on his first visit to the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) headquarters said that the new government would work with the agency to strengthen Thailand's "brand image".

Fortunately, the Thai tourism industry has over the years developed in a way that continues to appeal to a wide range of holidaymakers, from package tourists to affluent, long-stay tourists who buy second homes here. This is one of its greatest strengths.

Unfortunately, a negative byproduct is that current Immigration policies designed to promote mass tourism - most notably the granting of "visa exemptions" for those wishing to make short-term stays – make it inevitable that some undesirables are allowed in.

Perhaps the most high-profile example was that of Hambali, the former military leader of Indonesian terrorist organization Jemaah Islamiyah who was arrested in Ayudhaya in August, 2003. Hambali was nabbed by officials while he was planning a terrorist attack during the APEC summit in Bangkok in October that year. He was able to extend his stay here by getting visas and permit-to-stay stamps though the mail, it was reported.

Since his capture has followed a slew of extraditions from Thailand of alleged pedophiles, the most widely publicized of which was John Mark Karr, whose false confession to having killed six-year-old JonBenet Ramsey in the US state of Colorado in 1996 once again saw Thailand portrayed in the Western media as a popular hideout for foreign pedophiles.

More recently, the extradition of Earl Bonds to the US to face four counts of molesting an 11-year-old (see page 1) brings these perceptions even closer to home.

K. Weerasak's experience, background and legal expertise make him ideally suited to sit down with the Royal Thai Police Immigration Bureau and conduct a thorough and long-overdue review of Immigration policies and procedures that waste the time and money of law-abiding foreigners while doing little to prevent international criminals from moving and establishing a residence here. - The Editor

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

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Letters

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The Gazette is pleased to receive mail from read- | 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

Driving lessons or a question of attitude?

I have read and appreciated Mr Pruess's letter [Gazette issue of February 9-15] and I have compared it with my experiences in

Since 1998. I have observed how people drive and ride and what level of consideration they have towards other motorists and I think more driving lessons is not the exact solution.

After 10 years, nothing has changed; on the contrary, it has become worse.

On the roads, the real problem is the questionable attitude of the people who use the roads and the leniency of the authorities.

Driving and riding on the wrong side, parking motorbikes in spaces reserved for cars, running red lights, not wearing helmets if not in the presence of a police check point, turning right or left having driven on the lane used to go straight to avoid the queue, allowing the illegal three-wheeled carts [salaeng] that cause many traffic problems and are especially dangerous when carrying gas cylinders.

Stopping their motorbikes two or three meters over the stop line; riding on the roads carrying two or three people pillion, all without helmets; driving in the passing lane with no consideration of the other vehicles that are behind and obligating them to overtake on the left.

In more than 10 years I have never seen any policeman stop someone for such moving violations.

Mr Pruess, do you still think they need more driving lessons?

James Hair Phuket

The heartlessness of dying in Phuket

In January, an Italian couple riding a motorcycle and a Thai male, also on a motorcycle, were killed after their motorbikes and a pickup truck driven by a 75year-old local man collided.

I was a close friend of Anna Montone and Francesco Pilato, who were in Phuket on holiday. Their deaths have left me traumatized, not only from the tragic loss of life, but from the lack of care and compassion shown for the victims and their families after the accident.

From immediately after the accident to until the bodies were eventually repatriated, the family received no assistance from the Thai Police or the local municipality.

Ms Montone died at the scene of the accident but Mr Pilato was still alive when he was hastily lifted onto the back of a pickup truck and driven to hospital. Considering that his skull was fractured, his legs and arms broken and that he had suffered considerable blood loss, this rough handling of him might very well have been what finished him off.

What about a proper ambulance and the police? Why did they not attend the scene?

After a lot of confusion as to exactly where the bodies were taken, their repatriation was only made possible with the help of friends, relatives and Italian residents in Phuket. There was no official information on repatriating bodies and we had to find out everything on our own. Is it possible that no-one knows the proper protocol for repatriation of foreign nationals?

In addition to the lack of help

from the police, when we finally got to speak to them, the language barrier made it very difficult to communicate.

Despite numerous visits to the police station, we have seen no development in the case. It seems that no-one here in Phuket has entertained the thought that maybe the driver of the pickup truck should be held responsible for his actions.

We have not received a phone call or telegram from him, his lawyer or his family. To this day, the victims' families have yet to be informed of any official version of the accident.

Has the driver been charged with anything? Where is he now? Was he insured and, if so, why has no one contacted his insurance company?

Claudio Piccirilli Friend of the victims

Run, rabbit, run...

I recently started jogging at Suan Luang park again – this time in the mornings.

I woke at 7 am and headed over to the park and started my run. But before I made it 10 meters, a motorbike with sidecar nearly took away my legs. Less than a minute later, I dodged a Honda Wave cornering at 30kmh.

The park gate, which is fairly successful at preventing motorbikes from entering the park in the evening, had been lifted.

The park has become a mini-bypass road for motorbikes every morning. All I want to know is, why? Also, if I 'accidentally' clothesline a motorcyclist who's playing chicken with a jogger, do I still have pay his hospital bills because I'm a farang?

Loyd Banks Phuket City

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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.

MP shares his plans for Phuket

huket has many problems, but the first that needs to be resolved in traffic congestion – especially along the bypass road. To decrease congestion we may need to build tunnels at key intersections, such as the one near Tesco-Lotus.

The second cause for concern is environmental protection. We need to take urgent action to improve monitoring and get serious with hotels and restaurants, especially with regards to the release of untreated wastewater. These businesses must be made to prove they are treating effluent before releasing it to the sea.

There are many hotels and restaurants in coastal areas, especially along the beach in Patong and Bang Tao. Even though they reassure the government that they have working wastewater treatment facilities and are using them, we have to monitor them closely to ensure compliance with all

The wastewater problem has not reached crisis stage yet, so I hope to take effective action to protect seawater quality before the situation worsens.

This effort has to include discharge into the sea by small craft and boats working in the tourism industry. We must check them to see whether they are releasing oil into the sea or not.

On a recent boat trip I found bottles and plastic washing up along island beaches, especially those on the east coast.

FIRST PERSON

worn in on January 7, Phuket native Rewat Areerob, 42, became one of Phuket's two constituency members of the new Thai parliament. A member of the Democrat Party, he was the top vote-getter in provincial polling in the December 23, 2007 general election, with 93,004 votes.

A graduate from Phuket Rajabhat Institute [now Phuket Rajabhat University], K. Rewat served as a senior advisor to Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Anchalee Vanich-

Thepabutra from 2004 to 2007 and was a member or the Phuket Chamber of Commerce Special Activities Board until recently, when he resigned to devote all his time to his duties as MP.

Here the new lawmaker tells the Gazette's Pathomporn Kaenkrachang what he hopes to achieve for Phuket as a member of the national assembly.

Another major issue is the presence of many illegal aliens working at construction sites around the island, many of them from neighboring countries such as Burma. This is the result of a lack of Thai workers to do these

I have to push to ensure that all Thai companies employing foreign laborers do so legally, because illegal workers often avoid annual health checks and this could lead to [public health] problems if we continue to ignore the

A hot topic is the establishment of Phuket as a special administrative zone, one in which the populace would be able to elect their own governor.

[As opposition party mem-

bers] we can raise such important issues in parliament and push the government to take action.

All of these issues should be raised immediately with the new heads of the relevant ministries, together with proposals for effective solutions at the local level. I plan to raise matters directly to the relevant ministries so they can be put before the Cabinet.

Can foreigners own their own inherited land?

My wife is from Thailand, and our four-year-old daughter is also a Thai national. Our house and property in England is all nicely looked after by way of wills, so should one of us survive the other, property titles will be vested in the name of the survivor, or held for our daughter.

However, what happens here in Phuket? Our house and a plot of land are both held solely in the name of my wife. What would happen if:

1. My wife dies first and is survived by me and our "underage" Thai daughter,

2. We both die suddenly and our daughter is the only survivor?

What should we do to ensure that any survivors who can't currently own property in Thailand are safeguarded?

Paul Johnson

Rungnapa Putkaew, Lawyer of PK International Law Office, replies:

Under Thai law, foreigners generally cannot own land. So, if your wife owns the property in her name and she dies without leaving a will, the property will be inherited by your daughter and your wife's parents in equalshare ownership. You will have no rights to the property.

Similarly, if both you and your wife die and only your daughter survives, and there is no will expressly saying what is to be done with the property, your

Issues & ANSWERS

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

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

daughter and your wife's parents will equally inherit the property.

However, if your wife has a will, she can leave the property to be inherited by you and/or your

It is a long and complicated process, but if the Land Office accepts the conditions of the will that you – a foreigner – are to inherit the land, then the Land Office can apply to the Interior Ministry for special permission for you to own the land in your own name.

Note that this applies to property of up to 1 rai only. Larger plots are not eligible for foreign ownership.

If your daughter is named as the sole inheritor of the land, as her legal guardian, you can be named the executor of the property until your daughter reaches 20 years of age. However, during that time you and your daughter cannot sell the property without permission from the court.

To ensure that your daughter inherits the property, your wife should write up a final will and testament and have it registered at the District Office for the area where your wife's property is lo-

Alternatively, any law office

Buying a car as a tourist

As a tourist in living in Phuket and having an apartment on leasehold, can I buy and register a car in my own name? I'm currently staying on a 30-day tourist visa.

The car I'm interested in buying is in Pattaya. Do I have to complete the paperwork in Pattaya? Or can it be done in Phuket?

> Wushin Ludovic Phuket

Charot Klinmanee, Chief Registrar, Phuket Provincial Land Transportation Office,

Although you hold a tourist visa, you can buy a car and register it in your own name.

You can buy the car anywhere in Thailand and have its registration transferred to the car in your own nam

province in which you live - in this case, Phuket.

Ask the previous owner to go to the Land Transportation Office in the province where the car is registered and transfer the registration to Phuket.

Then, when you get the car registration book, bring the car and the book to the Phuket Provincial Land Transportation Office along with your passport, a letter from Immigration confirming your address and a Transfer of Ownership form signed and dated by the person selling the car and signed and dated by a witness.

You will also need to bring a signed photocopy of the seller's passport or ID card.

Then you can register the

How many foreigners live in Phuket?

We are trying to conduct a population study for the Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen of the Phuket Pronorth half of Phuket to see if there are enough people to justify a shopping center south of Thalang. It is very difficult to get a number of how many foreigners live in that area.

We would really appreciate any help the Immigration department could give, such as how many foreigners have applied for long-term permits-tostay and how many foreigners on any sort of visa are currently in Phuket.

Any help would be much appreciated. Matthew Chevis Bangkok

vincial Immigration Office replies:

We have statistics of how many tourists are registered as staying in hotels in the whole province and we keep a record of the foreigners who register their address, extend their stay or request a one-year-permit to stay with us.

These three figures added together show the total number of foreigners in the whole province. They do not indicate how many foreigners are living in Phuket.

We do not have figures of how many foreigners are staying in each area.

Exotic Thailand revisited

f you've lived in Thailand for 30 years, it seems a pretty ordinary country. The people look normal. It's farang girls, especially blondes and redheads, who are exotic.

An elephant walks down the street with a light reflector swinging from its tail and you don't blink an eye. It's when you go to America and you're in someone's car and a woman's voice on a machine starts giving you directions that you get spooked.

The great value of a coffee table book such as *Thailand: Nine Days in the Kingdom* (Editions Didier Miller, Singapore, 2007, 304pp) is that it restores your sense of how colorful and exotic Thailand really is.

The concept is that 55 great photographers – a dozen Thai and 17 other nationalities – fan out over Thailand for nine days to capture the country on film.

If this sounds somewhat familiar, it should. This is a reprise of a project done 20 years ago when 50 photographers filmed a week in Thailand in celebration of the 60th birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Now they're back for his 80th.

William Warren, the doyen of expat writers, writes in the opening text: "But though the basic aim was similar, the team of 2007 discovered fresh and innovative ways of achieving it and, in the process, reveal a very different Thailand from two decades earlier."

The result is an explosion of beauty,



grandeur, irony, warmth and wild contrasts roaming from the insane paradox of Bangkok and out into the North, Northeast and South. Warren gives an historical and cultural tour of the Kingdom and concludes:

"Among the images in this book are many of great beauty, and others display typically Thai humour and forms of entertainment.

"This book's fundamental purpose, however, is not to present an idealised Thailand, nor to entice tourists to its celebrated sights and pleasures. On the contrary, it seeks to mirror aspects of Thai society as they were, flattering or not, during the first month of 2007."

The first section is devoted to HM The King and the many images of him around the country from skyscraper walls to schools and shophouses.

We move then into grand photos of Bangkok – aerial photos of the Chao Phraya, the Sky Train and snaking superhighways – and its many small ironies: businessman in suit and tie on the back of a motorcycle taxi, an elephant threading its

way next to a bus on Silom Rd, the gaudy teenagers of Siam Square and bustling traditional markets, a trio of spike-haired punks making an alms offering to a monk at dawn after an all-night rave.

The theme then moves on to photos of Thailand's religious mosaic – Buddhist monks on their morning rounds, Muslim schoolkids, gorgeously attired Sikh women at a wedding – then on to for-

tune telling, amulet selling and mystic tattoos.

There's some grim reality, too. A black-and-white section called "A Human Touch" centers on an American priest and his work in an Aids hospice.

But we're quickly back into a lighter side of life: morning tai chi, aerobics, BMX cyclists, Thai massage, plastic surgery, *takraw*, Thai boxing, cockfighting, snake charming. Then jungle wildlife and the colorful denizens of Thailand's coral reefs, moving on to beaches and fishing boats of Southern Thailand.

French photographer Eric Valli reprises his celebrated series of photos of the swallow nest caves of Krabi while Charoon Thongnual offers a penetrating looks at life in the border provinces of the Muslim South.

A series of photographs about the Thai country music (look toong) scene segues naturally into intimate dressing room scenes of Bangkok bargirls and cabaret "showgirls".

The finale is a portrait series of some of Thailand's most famous people: singers Ad Carabao and Tata Young, movie director MC Chatrichalerm Yukol, photographer Manit Sri-

wanichpoom, actors Somchai Samipakda and Juree Osiri, pathologist Porntip Rojanasunan, *katoey* boxer Nong Toom, playwright and director Patravadi Mejudhon, dancer Manop Meejamrat, artist Pratuang Emjaroen, avant-garde filmmaker Apichatpong Weerasethakul and poet Naowarat Pongpaiboon.

Just for fun, the book concludes with four pages of hi-so portraits in all their lacquered finery.

In sum, this is the best book to give someone who has never been to Thailand, though at US\$50 it ain't cheap.

Time to think out of the box...

One of your past columns on the word "utilize" inspired me to share a list of words and phrases banned from use that I have compiled for my staff. As the corporate communications staff for a national health system, we are writing and editing every day, including senior-management-authored memos or presentations.

Inevitably, one or more of the following appear. We take it as an enjoyable responsibility to eradicate these words.

I have this list posted outside my door, and a few of our management people with a sense

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

of humor – or perhaps editorial sense – have submitted their own nominees.

Words and phrases banned from use: at the end of the day; utilize; white space opportunities; ramp up; granular; impact; robust; bandwidth; going forward basis; tipping point; paradigm shift; perfect storm; low hanging fruit; level playing field; deep dive; delta; juice to squeeze ratio, or 'Is there enough juice for the squeeze?'; passion; out of the box.

Stephen Shivinsky Farmington Hills, Michigan

Barbara replies:

Good list – and how heartening it is to know that someone somewhere in the health industry is committed to communicating in a jargon-free way.

The phrase at the top of your list, "at the end of the day," has such a bad reputation by now that I'd advise anyone who starts to say it to bite his or her tongue – unless, of course, the person means it literally, as in "I'm always glad to go home at the end of the day."

"At the end of the day" was also ranked No. 1 on a list of "Top 10 Clichés" in the US media in 2006. The list was compiled by the Factiva news-search service.

Factiva wasn't making a value judgment when it gave the phrase that ranking. It was simply reporting that "at the end of the day" turned up in print more often – a lot more often – than any of the other candidates it researched.

"Level playing field" and "low hanging fruit" also appear on Factiva's list as well as yours. One of theirs that is similar to one of yours is "think outside the box";



this one also appeared in a recent *Newsweek* piece about clichés in student writing.

Whether you think of them as jargon or as clichés, these are all good phrases to avoid.

What makes particular words and phrases annoying? It's not just that we hear them frequently. After all, we hear "Good morning" a lot, and that never turns up on lists of irritating expressions.

Words go wrong when expressions that once seemed fresh and clever become commonplace – as in "at the end of the day" or "think outside the box." Or when they try to make something ordinary sound important and special, such as "ramp up" instead of "increase" or "impact" instead of "affect". Or when they're needlessly obscure: "granular"? "delta"?

Naturally, the deepest circle of language hell is reserved for expressions that manage to have all these failings at once.

"White space opportunities" would be a perfect example, except that most people have never heard it. It's commonplace only in some business circles, where it means "new opportunities". Let's see... what's an everyday example? Can anybody top "not to put too fine a point on it"?

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

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ryptography, the science of writing in secret code, has been in practice for thousands of years. The first documented use dates back to circa 1900 BCE, when an Egyptian scribe used non-standard hieroglyphs in an inscription. Other early uses of cryptography ranged from diplomatic missions to war-time battle plans.

Perhaps the most famous example of passing secrets last century was the Herculean effort by the Allied powers to break the code of Germany's Enigma machine, illustrated brilliantly in Neal Stephenson's historical-fiction novel *Cryptonomican* (1999).

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines cryptography as "the enciphering and deciphering of messages in secret code or cipher", which should not be confused with cryptanalysis ("the solving of cryptograms or cryp-

tographic systems") or cryptology ("the scientific study of cryptography and cryptanalysis").

I regularly use two cryptographic tech-

nologies: hashing and public key. Hash functions, also called message digests and one-way encryption, are one-way algorithms that use no key and produce a fixed-length hash value.

By "one way", I mean that it is easy to produce the fixedlength output, but almost impossible to reverse the process by using the garbled output to reconstruct the original string of data.

The most widely used hash algorithm is MD5, which is not perfect, but good enough for most purposes. SHA-1 and AES are other algorithms that websites are starting to use for downloads.

Password storage on security-conscious systems uses hashing. When a password is created, the hash algorithm is performed on the password and then its hash value is stored. When a user provides a password, it is hashed and compared with the stored hash value. If they match, then the passwords are the same and the user or service is authenticated

Using this method, a bad guy or an administrator who obtains the password file cannot view the passwords – they are all encrypted and the one-way nature of the algorithm guarantees that it cannot be reverse engineered.

Hashing is used for file downloads. On a file-download page, you might have seen at the



Can you keep a secret?

bottom of the page "md5 sum" or "checksum" with a signature of mixed letters and numbers. The file to download has been hashed and the hash value is posted to ensure its integrity.

When you download a file, you should always run a program called "md5sum" that checks that the file has not been tampered with or injected with malicious code – the bad guys are always looking for different ways to take over your PC and this one has recently gained popularity.

For Windows, free command-line tools and other programs to calculate the hash value of a file (MD5 or other algorithms) can be found online. For Mac OS and Linux, these pro-

grams are included with the operating system.

Hint: for c o m p a r i n g lengthy strings, put one string in a text file, then open the file and

do a search or a find with the other string to check that they match – this will save a lot of wear and tear on your eyes and brain

Once you get into the habit of using md5sum, you'll never go back. Besides thwarting the bad guys, this method can check whether a big file that has been downloaded in fits and starts – something that Phuket residents have been experiencing way too often recently – is corrupted.

Calculate the hash value of the file after it has been downloaded and it doesn't match the value on the web page, then the download has been corrupted and it's time to start over.

I use md5 hashes even when backing up large files onto an external hard drive or burning to a DVD. If you don't do an integrity check, then you might find out later the hard way – and always when you need it – that your backup is corrupted.

Backing up important directories into a large zip file, a quick and dirty way to do backups, can be checked before and after moving with an md5 hash.

The other form of cryptog-



PGP, more easily remembered as Pretty Good Privacy, offers oneto-one document security by simply creating a private key that you never share and a public key that you give only to those people you want to read your files.

raphy I use daily, public key cryptography, is for when I want to send a file that contains sensitive information to somebody and I don't feel comfortable that the file is sitting on a Google or Yahoo mail server. I use a technology called PGP (pretty good privacy), which uses public-key cryptography (also known as asymmetric cryptography).

PGP works on the principle that two keys are mathematically related: one key is used to encrypt the plain text and the other key is used to decrypt the enciphered text

No matter which key is applied first, both keys are required for the process to work.

I use a free program called PGP (www.pgp.com) to implement asymmetric cryptography. When you set it up, it generates your public key and a private key.

You keep the private key to yourself. When you want to send a confidential file to somebody, they first send you their public key, which you use to encrypt the file

Then you email the file to them and they can decrypt it with their private key.

If you want to receive a confidential file, give the sender your public key, they encrypt the file with that, then you receive it and decrypt it with your private key. It's ingeniously simple but very effective.

Unfortunately, Network Associates does not offer free non-commercial versions of PGP, which it bought from its creator, Phil Zimmermann, in 1997. However, since then, OpenPGP has become a standard and a core; free implementation comes from

GNU called GnuPGP.

For Windows, a version is available that integrates with Outlook and Explorer, plus offers a full-blown email program with GnuPGP built in. The home page is www.gpg4win.org; download from ftp.gpg4win.org and choose gpg4win-1.1.3.exe

There are command line tools available from GnuPGP at www.gnupg.org

Besides ensuring confidentiality and integrity, asymmetric cryptography can be used to ensure another pillar of information security called non-repudiation, which means that if somebody sends something to you then you can prove it was from them and them only.

This is achieved by reversing the process outlined above: somebody encrypts a file with their private key, sends it to me, I decrypt it with their public key and then I know it has to be from them since their private key is unique to them.

There are more involved ways of using hashing and public-key cryptography together, but are beyond the scope of this article.

Ignacio Evans is an information security consultant based in Southeast Asia who tries to be in Phuket whenever he can. Email him with questions, complaints or comments at: iggy69.e@gmail.com





ON THE MOVE

Praisie Huang from Singapore has been promoted to Assistant Sales Manager of Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket.

She has a degree from the National University of Singapore.

Her experience in the tourism industry in Thailand during the past three years includes working as a Sales Representative and as Guest Relations Officer at the Laguna Holiday Club Phuket.



Briton **David Good** has been promoted to Vice-President of Operations of Centara Hotels & Resorts. Mr Good has a degree in hotel management from North London University and has completed postgraduate courses at Cornell University.

Mr Good has more than 20 years of international-hotel experience, including working for Dusit and Amari hotels and resorts in Asia.



Jeeranan "Nora" Sitthi**prom** from Udon Thani has been appointed General Manager of Phuket Island Property Services Co Ltd.

K. Nora graduated in accounting at Ramkhamhaeng University. After eight years as a restaurateur in Bahrain, she returned to Phuket as Administrative Officer at Damask Design International (Thailand) Co Ltd. Previously, K. Nora was a co-ordinator for Baan Thai Surin Hills.



he investment world is capable of surprising almost anyone. If asked about the state of the British property market in 2007, investors would have been correct to respond that both the commercial and residential markets were weak. They would have been wrong though, if they simply said that the whole property market was weak.

Surprisingly, the new frontier in British property is arable land. According to major UKbased real-estate services group Savills PLC, the average price for arable land rose by an astonishing 28% last year.

Well known real-estate group Knight Frank reported a boom in investors and buyers desperate to get into this market due to the dramatic rise in the value of cereal crops, such as wheat and barley, destined to be used as biofuels.

With very little agricultural land actually available on the market and the fact that investors rarely want to become farmers themselves, there is a problem of supply.

The solution, as with many other investments, is simply to use a fund. Blackrock Inc is the most prominent fund manager in this

Biofuel crops fuel UK farmland boom

area. The organization runs an agricultural hedge fund that owns agricultural land as part of its

The merger of Blackrock as part of Merrill Lynch makes it the largest manager of fixed-interest bonds in the world.

Farmers' enthusiasm to increase their acreage and to rent any extra land they have has attracted other investment groups to move into this sector.

UK agricultural land prices are relatively cheap compared with their European counterparts with similar climates. According to Knight Frank, agricultural land in the UK, on average, is less than half the price of similar land in Ireland or Denmark. Incredible though it may seem, the source of this strange investment story is the Wall Street Journal.

This year promises to be a difficult environment for investors

that will outperform "cash in the bank" without taking undue risk.

One alternative solution is the New Alternative Strategy Fund offered by private-banking specialist VP Bank. VP has its head office in Liechtenstein, a funds to deliver projected net re-

tiny principality between Switzerland and Austria, about one-third the size of Phuket. In reality, Liechtenstein banks are Swissrun, as Liechtenstein has a population of only around 30,000 and cannot spare people to regulate their banks. This task, by agreement, is handled by the

central bank of Switzerland - the Swiss National Bank.

VP Bank has been listed on the Zurich Stock Exchange since 1983. Total assets under management are CHF 39.6 billion (more than one trillion baht). The bank

Arbitration and Litigation

grade "A" credit rating from Standard & Poors.

Taking a conservative approach in setting up the New Alternative Strategy Fund, VP Bank selects between 15 and 25 hedge

turns of 8% to 10% a year. The fund is available in three different currencies: US dollars, pounds sterling and euros, and its investments are currently classified as 55% "Relative Value"; "Event Driven"; 12% "Equity Hedge" and 13% By Richard G. Watson "Macro".



In the words of the asset management company's manager, "The investment strategy uses a 'top down' approach that focuses on the global investment environment. Assessment of the global macro-economic factors

determines the relative attractiveness of the various asset classes.

Asset allocation is flexible and opportunistic, allowing risk capital to be allocated to the assets, sectors and regions that provide the most compelling risk/reward trade off."

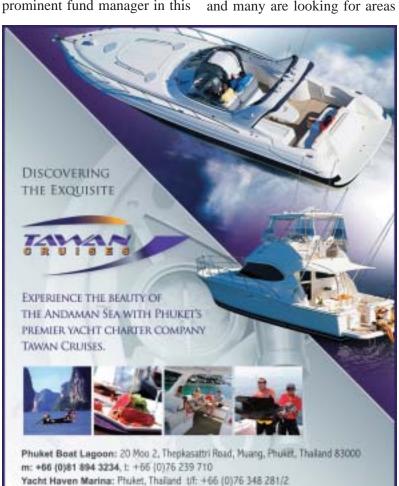
This fund was formed at the beginning of 2002 and has not yet had a negative performance year. Average net returns are 10.3% and the fund recorded a net return of 9.4% in 2007.

Available in US dollars only, the asset allocation at the end of 2007 was: Bonds 8%, Equity Hedge 3%, cash 37%, Greater China 6%, India 3%, Commodities 12%, Property 14%, Asia – Event Driven 5%. Global FX (Foreign Exchange) 12%.

At the end of 2007, the managers reported that they did not plan any major changes to allocations except an increase in commodity exposure.

Hedge funds are often misunderstood as high-risk investment vehicles. Perhaps it is useful to equate them with motor cars - yes, there are Ferraris and Maseratis, but most are Toyotas or Mercedes-Benz.

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



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Phuket-Macau flights set to take off in May

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: AirAsia is to launch direct flights between Phuket and Macau in May, announced the airline's Director & Group Chief Executive Officer Tony Fernandes in Macau on Febru-

The daily flights between Phuket and Macau are one of

Dec 2006

226,792

308,253

1,639

1,747

908

1,957

VITAL STATISTICS:

22% INCREASE IN INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS

Dec 2007

International Passengers (total)

Domestic Passengers (total)

277,999

325,460

International Aircraft movements

Domestic Aircraft movements

International Cargo movements

992

Domestic Cargo movements

1,849

2.371

three new routes to be launched this year by the budget airline, which already operates daily flights between Bangkok and Macau.

Mr Fernandes said that AirAsia will also begin operating daily flights between Macau and Jakarta in June and Macau-Chiang Mai in October or November.

Change

+ 22.58%

+5.58%

+12.81%

+35.72%

+9.25%

- 9.91%

Source: Phuket International Airport

The next high season will also see more direct links to mainland China, courtesy of Shanghai Airlines.

China's fifth largest airline has been operating a Shanghai-Phuket route on a regular charter basis since 2006 and will increase the number of flights on the route to four a week in December 2008.

About 1 million Chinese tourists visited Thailand in 2007 with Pattaya, Phuket and Koh Samui listed as their favorite destinations in the nation.

With the boost in direct flights between China and Thailand, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) expects the number of Chinese tourists to reach 1.3 million this year.

Director of the TAT Southern Region 4 Office Suwalai Pinpradub said that the additional direct flights from China will see an increase in the number of "quality tourists" visiting Phuket and staying at the island's fivestar hotels.

She added that the TAT expects to see an increase of Chi-



With the boost in direct flights between China and Thailand, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) expects the number of Chinese tourists to reach 1.3 million this year

The daily flights

between Phuket

and Macau are

one of three new

routes to be

launched this

year by Air Asia.

around the time of the Beijing arrivals seen in 2006, which was Olympic Games in August.

K. Suwalai told the *Gazette* figure of 51,078 arrivals. that Phuket welcomes Asian

tourists to Phuket all year round, whereas European tourists tend to come to Phuket during the high season between November and May.

"According to TAT figures released in January, the number of Asian tourists visit-

ing Phuket is growing," she said.

From January through September 2007, the latest available figures, there were 164,283 Korean arrivals, closely followed by Chinese arrival figures of 130,019.

Last year's Chinese arrivnese tourists visiting Phuket als are set to exceed the 155,648 a 200% increase over the 2005

COTTM, the China Out-

bound Travel and Tourism Market (formerly BITTM), an annual trade event targeting the Chinese travel and tourism industry sees the world's largest single consumer market as having enormous growth potential.

According to the COTTM, Chinese expenditure on travel is currently growing at 27% per year with the number of departures expected to increase from current numbers of about 30 million to a massive 100 million by



PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

PATONG: Queen Mary claimed a narrow 5-4 road win at Market Bar to take a one-point lead over Piccadilly in the Patong Dart League.

Piccadilly fell of the pace when they lost beer to Sick Buffalo.

The win marked Queen Mary's 25-straight match-winning streak, which is thought to be a record.

After a rough start, Dog's Bollocks got back in winning form with a 6-3 win over Shakers, but Shakers came back to win the beer leg and salvage a point when Greg checked out on a x15. Kevin of Dogs Bollocks took the highest score with a 133 (T19, T19, 19).

In the biggest upset of the week, a resurgent Beach House team playing at home took all three points from Offshore.

Please send match notes to darts@phuketgazette.net for inclusion in this weekly report.

February 12 results: Market Bar 3 Queen Mary* 6; Shakers* 3 Dogs Bollocks 6; Sick Buffalo* 4 Piccadilly 5; Beach House* 5 Offshore 4; Valhalla* 5 Simply Red 4 (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Queen Mary (15 pts.); 2. Piccadilly (14); 3. Offshore (10); 4.= Dogs Bollocks, Valhalla, Beach House (7); 7. Sick Buffalo (6); 8. Shakers (5); 9. Market Bar (3); 10. Simply Red (1).

February 26 match ups: Offshore v Queen Mary; Piccadilly v Dogs Bollocks; Shakers v Simply Red; Market Bar v Sick Buffalo; Beach House v Valhalla (home team first).



STARFISH SCAVENGING

KOH AEO: Crown-of-thorns starfish lie scattered around the coast of Koh Aeo.

On January 15, a group 23 reef lovers came together on a Phuket Marine Biology Center (PMBC) vessel for a special dive to remove the starfish from coral reefs around Koh Aeo, about five kilometers south of the PMBC headquarters at Cape Panwa.

A few weeks earlier, PMBC staff discovered an outbreak of the coral-eating predators around the island. The starfish is notorious for destroying coral by eating coral polyps.

Eleven Thai staff from the Sirinath Marine National Park, seven staff and volunteers from PMBC, together with five volunteers from the Greenfins Project took part in the cleanup.

In two dives, the volunteers collected 460 starfish. Members of PMBC collected 244 starfish earlier that week, bringing the grand total to 704 starfish collected around Koh Aeo.

PM Cup reaches climax

PHUKET CITY: The 4th Thailand Prime Minister's Cup 2008 football competition kicked off January 3 with 36 teams from throughout Southern Thailand battling it out for trophies and cash prizes.

Matches were played at Sanaam Chai Field and Saphan Hin Stadium until February 3.

Winners in each group will now go on to compete with other southern provinces between April 1 and 30 in regional tourneys.

Under-12s and under-18s winners will now go on to compete in a tournament in Phang

Nga; under-14s and the men's winners will go on to compete in Krabi; and the winners in the under-16s women's categories will compete in Chumphon.

Winners in the under-12 and under-14 divisions will receive 10,000 baht for first place, 5,000 baht for second place and 3,000 baht for third place.

Winners in the women's, under-16 and under-18 competitions will receive 12,000 baht, 8,000 baht for second place and 5,000 baht for third place.

The final in the men's open competition, between Tessabaan

Muang Phuket and Nong Mark teams, is scheduled to kick off at Surakul Stadium at 2:30 pm on March 1.

Trophies and prize money will be given out on March 1 after the final match has been played.

In the men's division, winners will be awarded 15,000 baht for first place, 10,000 baht for second place and 7,000 baht for third place.

Final standings:

Women's open: 1. Kathu Wittaya; 2. Sport Phuket; 3. Ratprachanukroh School.

Under-18s: 1. OrBorTor Cherng Talay; 2. Tessabaan Patong; 3. Fuengfah.

Under-16s: 1. Bangtao Youth; 2. Muang Phuket Municipal School; 3. OrBorTor Kamala.

Under 14s: 1. Chris Coppers team; 2. Plookpanya School; 3. OrBorTor Cherng Talay.

Under 12s: 1. Phuket Dragon; 2. Tessabaan Muang; 3. Tung Tong High Sport

YFH teams come out on top

PHUKET: Matches in the Phuket Fair Play Junior League continue to be held weekends on Friday and Sunday.

Now well into the season, the three teams from Youth Football Home (YFH) are occupying the top three spots in the league, with YFH C (21 points) in first, closely followed by YFH A (19 points) and then YFH B (18 points).

The Phuket Fair Play Junior League is organized by YFH, which is a charity that provides homes for orphans and destitute boys.

There are eight teams taking part in the league.

Full results:

Friday February 1

Baan Prujumpa School 0-1 British International School, Phuket Cherng Thalay Wittayakom School 3-4 YFH A

Wat Thepkrasattri School 0-3 Thalang Pranangsrang School YFH C 0-1 YFH B

Sunday February 3

BIS 3-1 YFH B

Thalang Pranangsrang School 0-0 Cherng Thalay Wittayakom School

YFH C 9-0 Wat Thepkrasattri School

YFH A 6-1 Baan Prujumpa School

Friday February 8

Wat Thepkrasattri School 2-5 YFH A

YFH C 5-0 Thalang Pranangs-rang School

BIS 3-1 Cherng Thalay Wittayakom School

Baan Prujumpa School 2-7 YFH B

Sunday February 10

YFH B 3-0 Thalang Pranangsrang School

YFH A 3-1 BIS

Cherng Thalay Wittayakom School 3-1 Wat Thepkrasattri School

YFH C 6-0 Baan Prujumpa School







S Raju of Patong Cricket Club (PCC) knocks one out to the boundary for four runs as PCC walk over newcomers to the league the Village ricket Team.

Foster hits ton to tame Villagers

By Mark Whetton

CHERNG TALAY: Match four of the Island Furniture Cricket League was played on February 3 at Cherng Thalay Wittayakom School. Coming all the way from Coconut Island, tournament newcomers the Village Cricket Team (VCT) joined the fray to take on the Patong Cricket Club (PCC), who were sitting comfortably in the number-two spot on the points

VCT had been mysterious up until the day of their debut. Rumors of numerous practice sessions and running triathlons prior to the match had other teams in the league concerned. A large crowd turned up to the ground to catch a glimpse of the Villagers.

The Villagers got off to a good start by winning the toss and the Village captain chose to field. PCC skipper M Foster was a relieved man and soon made the newcomers pay the price.

In what is to date the highest score in any cricket match on

dropped twice, went out and knocked up 163 runs, including four sixes and 20 fours. He was well supported at the other end by the likes of R Desmond (22), S Raju (36), J Ali (31), A Beeley (26) and I Lenton (13) as PCC went on to make 357 off their 35

This was also the first time PCC had batted out their entire innings without being all out.

For the Village side, the bowlers took a hammering, but Martin stood out with his three wickets off six overs, with Chris grabbing two off his 10 overs.

Unfortunately for the crowd, VCT failed to shine during their batting innings. With the very first ball of the VCT innings, P Cotter struck by bowling Bernie for a golden duck. Lenton also picked up a wicket before Heath from the Villagers made his way to the crease to put up some resistance with Martin.

Together they added about 40 runs before S Raju was brought on to stop the flow of ets in a match earlier in the season, made one better by taking five of the Villagers' wickets off four overs for 13 runs.

It was A Beeley, however, who took the prized wicket of Heath, who made 56 runs off 27 deliveries. With only Heath and Martin (13) making it to double figures, the Villagers could only manage 98 runs from 15 overs, just two runs shy of a bonus point.

For the PCC bowlers, Raju's five wickets won't hurt his chances at the end-of-season prize-giving night.

Beeley and Lenton both took two wickets. Some great catches by C Chelliah behind the stumps and a diving catch by Ali at silly point rounded off a solid day of cricket for PCC.

PCC walked away with a 22 points to move ahead of the Liquid Lounge Lizards. For the Village side, it may have seemed like a lot of effort for four points.

For details about cricket in Phuket email Mark Whetton at scarfy@loxinfo.co.th

the island, Foster, although being runs. Raju, after taking four wick-🛠 Starting from 4.25 - 5.59 M.Baht. 🛠 For more information, please contact: Develop and Management by : 3K Property Management Co., Ltd. Khun Anna Tel: +66 (0)86 682 1277 5/2 Soi Phasuk Chaofaa Road Talaad Nua Muang huket 83000 Thailand E-mail:info@layantara.com Khun Kawee Tel: +66 (0)81 648 1505

Golfers score two in one at Laguna



Irish couple Terry and Deirdre Lynskey show off certificates after both getting holes in one during the same round of golf.

CHERNG TALAY: It's usually a once-in-a-lifetime occasion for a golfer to score a hole-in-one, but for two golfers playing together to both get a hole-in-one, on the same round, is almost unheard of. Throw into the mix that the two golfers are married and the story becomes even more remarkable.

Irish couple Terry and Deirdre Lynskey achieved this rare feat at Laguna Phuket Golf Club on February 3.

Deirdre was the first to get a hole in one, sinking her tee shot on the 160-yard par-three seventh hole, a slightly downhill hole with a pin protected by water and a bunker to the right.

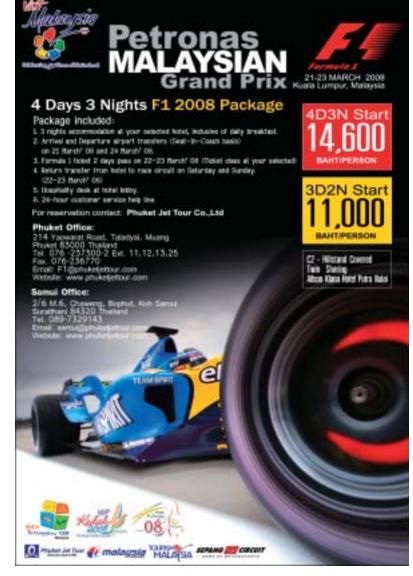
Feeling the pressure from his in-form spouse, Terry stepped up to the tee at the 135-yard par-three 16th hole and let one rip after a gentle reminder from Deirdre that this would be his last chance to achieve a hole in one.

Terry used his sand wedge to knock the ball from tee to hole, completing the unique double. Deirdre came within inches of the impossible as her tee shot at the 16th landed just half-a-foot from the tee.

The holes in one were witnessed by Ken and Patricia Jardine, who were playing with the Lynskeys that morning.

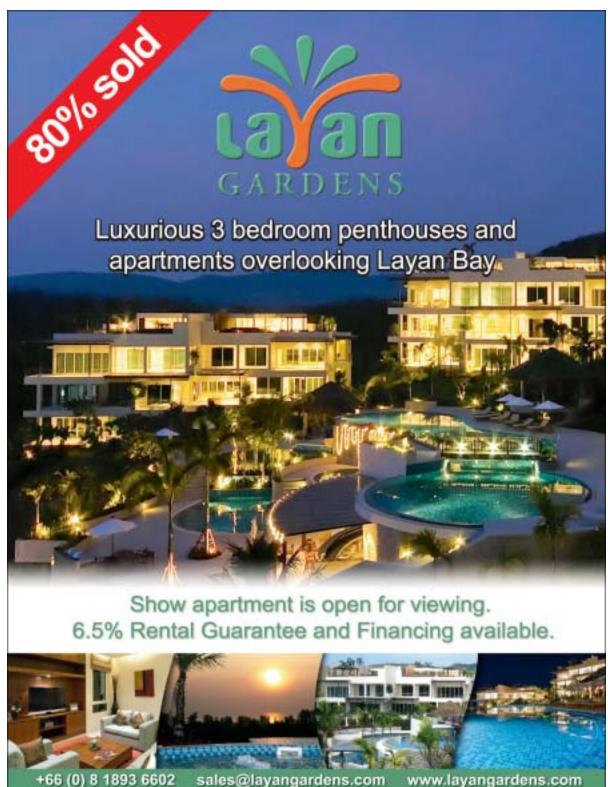
Terry and Deirdre are keen golfers who have played around the world, holding memberships at the Real Club de Golf Las Brisas in Spain and the K Club in Ireland, host to the 2006 Ryder Cup.

"We were delighted to have achieved this unique double-holein-one at our favorite destination in the world: Phuket," said Terry.



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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

Charity takes school project over the finish line

AO POR: Construction of a new building for Baan Ao Por school is 90% complete, and with the help of the Louise Willgrass Tsunami Fund Foundation, it will be open for the second school term that starts this October.

The foundation's president Eam Thavornwongwong presented a check to the school for 1.6 million baht on February 11.

The school, established in 1963, is located on nine rai in Ao Por village, tambon Pa Khlok. The grounds comprise four onestory buildings that accommodate 256 students from preschool through primary 6 level.

School Director Sakon Yeniit told the Gazette that the existing buildings are in poor condition; all will need to be replaced. The school earlier requested funds from the Phuket Provincial Basic Education Office and received 2.735 million baht to fund construction of a 400-square-meter building to replace the two oldest buildings on the site.

Due to the rising costs of construction material, however, the funds were not enough to complete the building, said K. Sakon.

The lowest price offered through a bidding process was 3 million baht by contractor Chalong Rangsan Civil Engineering Co Ltd. The school committee accepted this bid, then borrowed 265,000 baht from the school's education committee in order to start the construction last July.

The new building was originally set to house five classrooms on the upper floor and an open area on the ground floor, but as construction progressed it was decided that the ground floor area should also be divided into rooms for a library and other



A 400-square-meter school building, now 90% complete, will eventually house facilities including a library, media room, language laboratory and science laboratory thanks to a 1.6million-baht donation from the Louise Willgrass Tsunami Fund Foundation.

With higher budgetary needs, the school turned to the private sector and raised about 70,000 baht before receiving a visit from Louise Willgrass Foundation representatives on August

"They acknowledged our needs so they wanted to help us," K. Sakon said.

The 1.6-million-baht donation will help to install a library, media room, language laboratory and science laboratory in the new building, as well as a water filtration system.

It is expected that more improvements will be done after the new building is in operation.

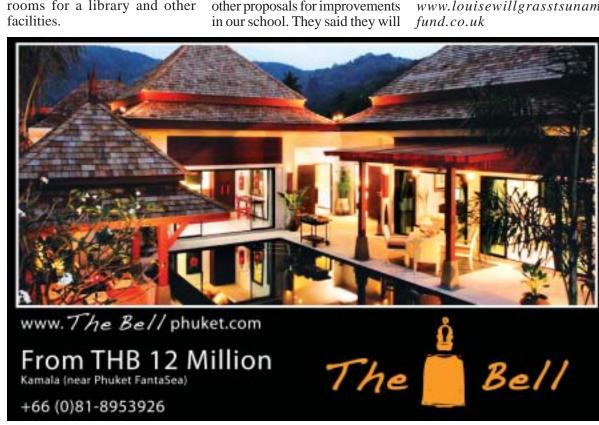
'We are happy that the foundation also told us to submit other proposals for improvements

approve an additional budget for that. We still need to improve the landscape, the roads, the drainage system and also the bathroom facilities," K. Sakon said.

Once the building is complete, the school's two oldest buildings, built in 1965 and 1969, will be demolished.

The Louise Willgrass Foundation was established in the UK by Nigel Willgrass following his wife's tragic death in the December 2004 tsunami disaster. Since its inception, the fund has raised nearly 800,000 sterling (50 million baht). Proceeds go to various school and community projects around Phuket.

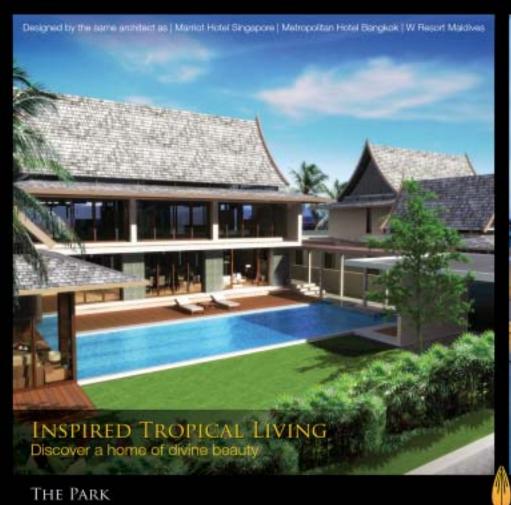
For more information visit www.louisewillgrasstsunami

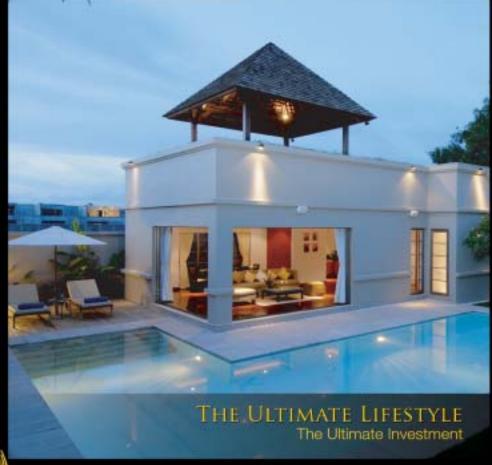






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Home of the Week

Rawai

ocated on 1.2 rai of landscaped gardens, this one-story property in Rawai, in a quiet neighborhood near Don's Café, is perfect for a family. Rawai and Nai Harn beaches are just a fiveminute drive away.

The house comprises four bedrooms and three bathrooms. The master bedroom has a dressing area and bathroom en suite with a terrazzo tub large enough for two people. The master bedroom also has a small garden area

The second bedroom has a bathroom en suite, while the remaining two bedrooms share a bathroom.

The living area is open plan, with a Western-style kitchen, which includes granite counter tops, teak cabinets and an integrated cooking top, oven and hood. An office area is connected to the living area.

Through the back door and out to the patio, there is a dining and entertaining area overlooking the 60-square-meter swimming pool, with views to the hills beyond.

To the left of the pool is a guest cottage comprising one bedroom with a small dressing area. The cottage has its own patio overlooking the pool.

A workshop and laundry room, which could be converted

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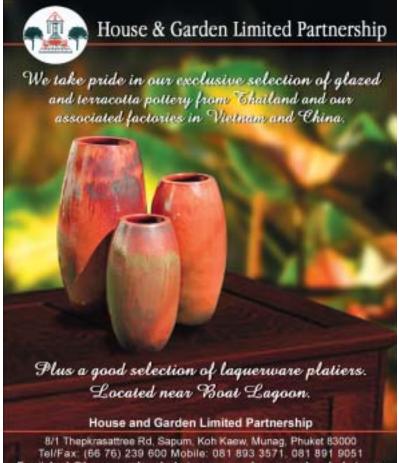


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Out with the new, in with the old

Phuket's property market grows up



By Bill Barnett

hether you are property buyer, seller or developer, it is important to figure out where you stand in the market cycle. Developing markets tend to evolve from a Wild West stage set into a more sophisticated and gentrified, older and wiser urbanite.

Risk and reward ratios tend to move counter to these patterns, while at the same time key indicators such as rental yields and capital appreciation usually stabilize.

Over the past six years, Phuket's demand has continually outpaced supply with capital appreciation averaging more than 20% per annum.

In many cases within pre-

Today, a scan of the

teeming number of

print directory property

publications,

newspaper classifieds

and real estate agency

websites shows that

resale properties are

becoming a market in

themselves.

mium locations, people buying off-plan have seen 50% to 100% returns after 24 to 36 months.

Today, a scan of the teeming number of print directory property publications, newspaper classifieds and real estate agency websites

shows that resale properties are becoming a market in them-

For buyers who were once limited to new products, secondary sales are becoming a market force often displacing initial sales in developments.

For existing villa, condominium or apartment owners who are contemplating a property



Sites such as this signal a growing trend in secondary property listings and offer consumers a wide variety of product, price and location.

transaction – to either take profits or upgrade their investment – the ground rules are evolving.

Local industry commissions were once 3% as a rule of thumb, but now minimum rates of 4%-6% are being levied for individual properties.

The trend for many of the

large, internationally-affiliated agencies and established local operations is to focus on the premium villa and lifestyle-investment, hotelbrand products—and to discourage listing properties valued at less than 20 million baht.

Welcome to the lottery that is the resale market. Many lone sellers who want to attract interest in their properties are searching for the right formula to stand out from the crowd.

Often a sliding scale of commission is offered with benchmark selling prices attached.

More recently, there has

been an unsettling trend towards cash bonuses or luxury goods being offered to people within an agency who close a sale.

Current choices for individual sellers remain somewhat limited to listing properties with as many agencies as possible, placing classified ads in newspapers or putting up signs at the property.

Along with selling the unit, obtaining legal advice once a prospective buyer is on board is the next step to closing the deal.

While sales and purchase agreements are not mandatory under the sales registration process at the Land Office, it is strongly advisable to create a well-drafted document covering all commercial details of the transaction.

Clarity and detail are the order of the day in such agreements.

While capital gains taxes are not applied in Thailand, a transaction tax remains commercially negotiated between the buyer and the seller.

As a starting point, wise sellers need to actively involve themselves in the process from the start: getting professional quality photographs of the propings to key agencies who specialize and cater to either their geographic location or their product.

More is often not merrier and selective targeting where only one qualified buyer is needed to complete a sale is much more effective.

No doubt other distribution channels will open once the agencies start to understand the depth of secondary products and sellers will benefit.

Looking at the current maturing conditions within Phuket's numerous property offerings, all things point to a growing buyer's market for the short to medium term.

Bill Barnnett is managing director of C9 Hotelworks (c9hotel works.com), a Phuket-based hotel and residentaial 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



erty, doing their own research on

market values of similar proper-

ties in order to price their units



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by Bloomin' Bert **Gardening**

t school, I didn't care for learning about the sciences. I didn't like school very much at all. I remember spending more time locating furtive spots around the school grounds to smoke a cigarette than actually learning anything that would prove useful later in life. I found some great smoking hideouts, though.

Let's face it: I was a bit of a tearaway. Through my schooldays, I managed to escape the inevitable result of serious wrongdoings: the cane. This feat wasn't achieved through lack of guilt, but by somehow being able to convince the man with the big stick that I was innocent on each occasion. Often, I just didn't get caught.

I didn't see the point in most of what I was supposed to be learn-

Lettuce be friends

ing. Seriously, who gives a rat's I wanted; what I bum if $4\text{Fe}(s) + 2\text{H}_{2}\breve{O} + 3\text{O}_{2}(g) =$ 2Fe₂O₃ + H₂O? This kind of nonsense used to drive me up the wall. My teachers did their best and tried to explain this by saying that iron, in the presence of water, combines with atmospheric oxygen to form a hydrated iron oxide. Well whoopy doo. Good for old iron and water.

It wasn't until it was pointed out that this otherwise ludicrous series of numbers and daft chemical compounds is why cars rust that this kind of stuff made sense to me. This is what

desperately needed. I yearned for practical applications of this abstract science stuff.

The term "symbiotic relationship", which is something I remember from my biology lessons, can be applied to plants in Phuket. It is only now I realize that plants do a fine job of defining the term. According to my

dictionary, it's a "close association of animals or plants of different species that is often of mutual benefit".

That's exactly how the water lettuce, or pistia stratiotes, works. It's a versatile, floating plant that looks rather like, well, a lettuce. Let's go back a couple of steps. You have a pond in your garden, which looks impressive enough, but there's a problem: it's full of mosquito larvae. How do you control them? You, fill the pond with fish, which then feed on the larvae.

Then you have even more work to do, as you need to feed the fish. This is where the water lettuce comes in. Put a few of these on the surface and you've saved yourself a long-term job, as fish are rather partial to the underwater roots that the lettuce puts out. The plants provide shade for the water, keeping the fish cooler. You then have a mosquito-free

The *pistia stratiotes* has 15centimeter-wide floating rosettes of ribbed, wedge-shaped leaves that look like blue-green lettuce heads. When young, the leaves have a rounded shape and become more squarish (spatulate, to use the proper term) as they grow larger. They have a waxy appearance, meaning that any water that meets the leaves beads

up and falls off. The base of the leaves is kind of spongy, allowing them to float on the surface of

When you bring your baby water lettuce home, you'll need to pull off all the damaged and old, yellow leaves. Bear in mind that if you rip them off too ener-

I know I have been

known to drone on

about how easy it is

to grow plants in this

part of the world, but

this one is a bit of a

joke. I'm not sure

that there are many

plants that are this

easy to get going.

getically, you will also remove their roots. They'll recover, but grow slowly. That's the other thing: leave all the roots there and make sure they're dangling freely.

I know I have been known to drone on about how easy it is to grow plants in this part of the world, but this one is a bit of a

joke. I'm not sure that there are many plants that are this easy to get going. Put a few of these in the water (green side up, for any Irish gardeners reading this) and leave them to it.

Many starter water-lettuce plants are grown under partial shade, so you'll probably want to give them some protection from full sun for a week or two. Full Phuket sun can bleach tender young leaves, but if you have starter plants that you know come from full sun, then ignore this paragraph.

Long term, water lettuce grow faster in full sun, but their rosettes stay tighter when grown in partial shade. In order to make more of themselves, the water lettuce grow tiny daughter plants

> off to the side, which are so small that you might not spot them at first.

Once they're established, you'll see a network of smaller water lettuce surrounding your starter plants, resulting in runners or lateral shoots that protrude from a strong mother plant.

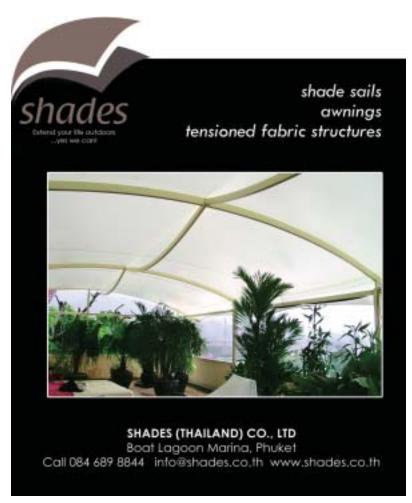
In this part of the world, wa-

ter lettuce do best in ponds, but they also thrive in aquariums, where they will be smaller.

It's about time I actually used some of the abundance of spurious information that my schoolteachers tried to force-feed me. The more I think about it, I vaguely seem to remember covering the chemical changes during the brewing process. Well, I remember the last bit anyway; the vital final stage: beer.



The water lettuce, or *pistia stratiotes*, is a versatile floating plant that looks rather like, well, a lettuce.





Want to know more about a plant in your garden? Email Bloomin' Bert at: bert@bloominbert.com



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Manik-Bangjo land, chanote. 4 rai at 2.7 million baht per rai. Located in residential area and close to road. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@ yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

House with 3 bedrooms. swimming pool and car park for sale. Located in Patong. Price at 12 million baht (negotiable). Please drop an email to make appointment for viewing. Tel: 081-8918082. Email: goh.diane@gmail.com

LAND FOR SALE **OR RENT**

1.) 360sqm corner plot with title and deed in Soi Cok Yang, Nai Harn for sale at 2.5 million baht.

2.) 2,344sqm plot and 2 furnished houses, 3-phase electricity, water and private road, also in Soi Cok Yang: 15 million baht. Can also lease long term at 250,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8921057. Fax: 076-288771. Email: info@ phuket-consult.com

SEA VIEW, 3.2 RAI

at north end of Bang Sak Beach. This land is between Thap Tawan Beach Rd and Bang Sak Beach Resort, 6km from Takuapa. Tel: 081-8947644.

RAWAI LAND

First to view will buy. 2-level plots with hill views in exclusive gated community. Road, 3-phase electricity and water. 1,009sqm for 4.4 million baht. 1,185sqm for 5.1 million baht. Tel: 089-9702745.

AFFORDABLE LUXURY



Immaculate villa. Private area, big lush garden, pool, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, big living room, Scandikitchen, huge patio, fully furnished, contemporary Bali-Thai style. Living area: 450sqm. Land: 1,400sqm. Near Heroines' Monument with scenic hill view. Chanote, 14 million baht. Tel: 084-6907057.

FOREIGN FREEHOLD

Rawai, condo, 27sqm. Close to bank, 300m from the pier. 580,000 baht, negotiable. Tel: 086-9408914.

MODERN OFFICE BUILDING

2-story office building centrally located in Chalong with the following facilities:

- 10 rooms on 408sqm of office space
- 3 toilets with showers
- Computerized central air conditioning
- Keyless card-access sys-
- CCTV monitoring and alarm system - Dedicated fireproof server
- CAT 5 cabling for Internet,
- electricity and telephone
- Conference room
- Private parking
- Internet, phone lines and fax installed
- Sea view on second floor
- Chanote land title

The building is suitable for any company that wishes to make a professional impression and operate in a central and safe location close to Chalong Circle. Asking price is 15 million baht ono. Great investment opportunity for the right company. Tel: 076-282-211, 081-8926251. Email: michael@origopub.com

FOR SALE IN PATONG



5-bedroom villa. Baan Benjamas, Soi San Sabai, 5-min walk to Jungceylon. On 440sqm of land, 270sqm living area. Western kitchen, living and dining room, TV lounge, 2-carport, 8 aircons. Price: 15 million baht. Contact the owner, K. Ew, for details. Tel: 081-7970092. Email: phuket 24@samart.co.th

LOCH PALM LAND

for sale, 2.5 rai, good location, can split. For more details. Call Tel: 086-2790837 or Email: bricothailand2@hotmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

13 rai in Pasak area located near Laguna, Phuket. Only 2.8 million baht per rai (Nor Sor3 Gor). Good-sized plot and no need for fill-soil. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@ yahoo.com

KATA BEACHFRONT REDUCED!

bargain price. Luxury 2-bedroom apartment. 210sqm, pools, spa, 5-star. Quick sale, price: 16.9 million baht. Tel: 089-9726017. For further details please visit our website at www.koumbele.com/kata2

LAND FOR SALE

10 min drive across Sarasin Bridge. Chanote title, 80 rai. Has road and utilities access. Suitable for hotels or residential projects. Nice location, just 300 meters from the beach. Only 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

MISSON HEIGHTS LAND

225sq wah or 900sqm for 1.8 million baht or best cash offer. Concrete road, 3phase electric, 10 mins from airport. Blue Canyon golf club. Call Khun So. Tel: 081-3444473.

KATA SEAVIEW **HOME**



3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, huge pool. Teak kitchen, ceilings and doors, marble and wood floors. 200sqm on 600sqm land. Self-contained guest suite. Quiet location, parking, overlooks Kata Beach. 13 million baht. Serious offers only. Contact us at Tel: 089-5926890. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

NAI HARN HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, cable TV, furnished. 3.9 million baht. Please contact me for further details. Tel: 083-1720876. Email: villawillis@gmail.com

NEW 3-BEDROOM HOUSE, CHALONG

Spacious, European-style, tropical garden, 4 bathrooms, large living area and terrace, laundry and garage, Western kitchen, 9.5 million baht. Tel: 084-8441486. Email: meeuwissenpaula@ hotmail.com

GREAT VALUE FOR MONEY



Moo Baan Chao Fa Thani, detached house, 260sqm of land. Community pool, 24hr security, 2-3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, large living room, fully furnished, garden. Only 3.2 million baht. Tel: 089-6639669. Email: andrekant@hotmail.com

SEA VIEW, 2-BEDROOM

apartment on top floor, north Patong. 20 steps to beach. Freehold. 9.7 million baht. Contact for photos. Tel: 086-2765117. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

SEAVIEW CONDO PATONG: B3.6_M

New, 2-room deluxe condos. Fully furnished, in best location in Patong, with pool and parking, 5 minutes from the beach. 3.6 million baht. Tel: 081-8928526. Email: info@ phuket-besthomes.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketbesthomes.com

Exclusive house and office for sale/rent



Chalong, 250sq.wah, 5 bedrooms en suite, 4x16 swimming pool with Jacuzzi, fully furnished, ADSL Internet, garden, home theater, office room, aircon. Buy 16.8 MB, For Rent 240,000 B/month

Tel: 087-0719907, 081-5698432 www.naraplacephuket.com



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



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



at very attractive pre-construction prices. Best location in Nai Ham Beach

FOR SALE, MAIN ROAD, KAMALA



Multi-purpose, detached 3story building. Approximately 2.5 times larger than the size of an average shophouse. Third floor is a large furnished apartment. The building is suitable for many commercial purposes: bank, insurance offices or for easy conversion to 3 large apartments to rent or sell. Previously 16 million baht. Now 14 million baht, for quick sale. Serious inquires only. Please contact owner. Tel: 081-8111067.

HOUSE FOR SALE

near Heroines' Monument, 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Cable TV, Internet, telephone, fully furnished. 24hr security, swimming pool. Asking price: 2.7 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

NEW RAWAI POOL VILLA

2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 300m from the new pier. 3.9 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 086-0760141. Email: than que4@gmail.com

PRIVATE SALE OF 1 RAI

next to Phuket Country Club golf course. The land has a new road and is in a very nice neighborhood. 7 million baht. Tel: 081-6766214.

LAND FOR SALE

22 rai (Nor Sor 3 Gor) near Mission Hills Golf Club, hotels and residential areas. Road and utilities access. Owner has done project layout, easy to start. 2.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

THAI-STYLE HOUSE **KAMALA**



on more than 1 rai of landscaped gardens. Lighted security walls, electric gate, three 10,000L filtered water tanks with local water plus ground well with automatic pump. Emergency generator, cable TV, 3phase electricity, 2 phone lines. Large swimming pool, waterfall koi fish pond, garden lighting. 3 or 4 bedrooms all en-suite, 4 aircons, 4 ceiling fans, 2 stories plus wine cellar/storage room. Teak walls and hardwood floors. Fully-furnished with many extras. Natural surroundings and mountain views with enough land for future expansion, eg. 3x 2-bedroom rental units. Chanote available through holding company for foreign ownership included. Asking 18 million baht walk-in walk-out. Willing to accept 50% down and 50% after 6 months. Includes Mazda 626 sedan car. Tel: 081-8922942. Email: gsantos

SURIN LAND PLOTS FOR SALE

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

3-STORY SHOPHOUSE KATHU

Brand-new, 5-meter-wide shophouse, excellent location on Wichit Songkram Rd, near Anuphas Golf Ville. Tel: 081-6065772. Email: pauljames@expathotel.com

SEA VIEW LAND KARON

Land located in the hills above the temple, 1,300sqm. Price: 7 million baht or highest bidder. Email for more info and pictures. Email: sverker_gustafsson @yahoo.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. Email: e-gjerl@online.no

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

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

and rent. For a more personalized approach to your property, please visit www. phuketproperties.com If you are a real estate developer or owner , you may list your properties with us. Contact Khun Noi or Julie. Tel: 081-8931360, 081-

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 160sqm living area, swimming pool, carport, sea view. 5.9 million baht. Tel: 085-6226324.

TROPICAL

in Chalong. Brand-new, spa-

POOL-VILLA

cious 2-bedroom villa with deluxe kitchen and large living area. Priced to sell. Tel: 089-6521473.

Houses / Condos Foreign freehold Available Coral Beach Located in Haad Yao (Long Beach), Krabi Make your next investment by this untouched beach www.krabisunset.com

email: sales@krabisunset.com

075-638338 081-2690742



SEAVIEW LAND

Chalong Bay View



Located in the heart of Patong, nearly one rai of incredible seaview land. Included is the costly and difficult to get building license plus plans and project website. Can build 5 to 6 homes (1, 700sq ft each) on this lot. Please contact for more information. Tel: 080-0680891. See website and plan: www.phuket-serenity

SEAVIEW APARTMENTS

Patong Beach, Kata Beach. Last seaview apartments available for sale. Stunning sea view, 1 or 2 bedrooms. Rental guarantee, financing available. Tel: 076-282394, 084-053-5780. Fax: 076-282395. Email: info@ayudhya.net For further details, please see our website at www.ayudhya.net

THE HEIGHTS PHUKET

1st floor, unit C-8, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 195 sqm. Beautiful pool at your doorstep. 22 million baht. Tel: 081-6144799.

RAWAI LAND 480SQM

20x24 meter plot, Chanote, close to Rawai beach. 1.6 million baht. Tel: 081-7284821.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE IN MANIK

Private estate. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Land of 436 sqm, space for swimming pool. 5 minutes to Heroines' Monument. 10 minutes to Bang Tao Beach. 3.95 million baht. Tel: 076-379864, 085-2123244. Email: adrbaker 101@yahoo.com

AIRPORT & BEACH AREA

1 rai (1,600sqm) with four 2bedroom houses. Includes 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, shared swimming pool, Internet. 19 million baht for all. Tel: 081-6919346. Email: sumon @ridethailand.com

BARGAIN SALE

WWW.CHALONGBAYVIEW.COM MOBILE: 087 898 7062

Ocean Views From 3.9m B



New house on a double lot, 800sqm with free form swimming pool in a gated community. 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, fully furnished and equipped. Ready to move in. Chanote title, company transfer to buyer possible. Price: 9.9 million baht! Payment plan acceptable. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-282542, 089-1235444. Email: pattochan007@ hotmail.com

BUNGALOW FOR SALE/RENT B2.6m

Furnished, private, telephone, cable TV, Internet. 264sqm. Soi Naya. Tel: 087-9261381. Email: pakadog@gmail.com

CHIANG MAI HOUSE

New luxury house for sale, ready to move in. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Total area:452sqm. Living area: 300sqm. 4.5 million baht for quick sale by owner who is relocating. Tel: 081-5369252. Email: sppcnx@gmail.com

KAMALA NICE HOUSE

Foreign Freehold Available



for sale. 2 bedrooms (possibility for third), 2 bathrooms, Jacuzzi, dining and living room, kitchen. Fully furnished, aircon, electric gate, all furniture included. 11 million baht. For more information, please call Tel: 086 - 2807400, +33624483630. Email: eaghold @yahoo.fr

GREAT OPPORTUNITY

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

KAMALA 3-BEDROOM

1.25 rai, quiet hillside location, 2km to the beach and shops. Tel: 081-8935626. Email: richard@amwso.com



LUXURY POOL VILLA



Laguna Townhomes II. 245sqm, 3 bedrooms with balconies, 3 bathrooms, large living/dining room, equipped kitchen, 2 car garage, 2 maid's quarters, pool, terrace and garden, Sala, overlooking golf course. Golf membership and Laguna privileges included. 23.95 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 076-271-904, 087-8967030.

LUXURY PROPERTIES for sale or rent in Phang Nga, Phuket. For further details, please see our website at www.jane propertyphuket.com

KATA BEACHFRONT **BARGAIN**

One-bedroom apartment, 75sqm, pool, 5-star spa. 8 million baht for quick sale. Tel: 089-9726017 or Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For further details, please visit www.koumbele.com/kata1

LAND FOR SALE

Bang Jo area. Road access on 2 sides of land. 4 rai and 18sq wah. Company owned. Nice square plot. Asking price: 4.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5369252 or Email: sppcnx @gmail.com

INEXPENSIVE LAND

0.5 rai house lots near airport and Mission Hills Golf Course. Chanote, underground electric. 1.06 million baht, full price! Contact Chris Fisher. Tel: 086-9421930

LAND FOR SALE

4 plots of land in Koh Sirea Park View, 480sqm each, Chanote title, concrete road access, 300meters from new yacht marina. Asking price: 1.7 million per plot. Tel: 081-5369252. Email: sppcnx@ gmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE



in Erawadee 2 Project, located near Khao Khad Viewpoint, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Only 1.5 million baht. Please contact to view. Tel: 087-2770978. Email: koyangle 99@hot mail.com

SEAVIEW VILLA



in 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.

1 RAI, 750,000 BAHT Rubber plant, 11 rai, Cha 1 rai, Rawai, B6m, center. www.phuket-no1.com Land plots any size. Tel: 081-5395454, 087-2849541.

HOUSE WITH POOL

in Land & Houses Park. 3 bathrooms, 4 bedrooms, European kitchen, 5 million baht. Tel: 081-0918908. Email: stein dokset@hotmail.com

LUXURY BEACHFRONT VILLA

in Samui, 5 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, beach front, fully furnished, swimming pool. 65 million baht. Tel: 087-830 2725. Email: monchai ae@ yahoo.co.th www.thesamui villa.com

FLAT LAND IN KAMALA

1 to 5.5 rai. Chanote, road and electric supply. Exclusive location a few mins from beach. From 9.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

BUILDING FOR SALE

PRIVATE PROPERTY **PROJECT**



(Kamala 1). Thai-style pool villa with sea view. Price: 28.5 million baht. Project Kamala 1 is 1km from the beach and 5 minutes from Patong. Details: land area 1,400sqm. Living area 450sqm. Fully furnished, aircon. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. 1 studio with kitchen, bathroom (staff room). 1 European kitchen, 1 Thai kitchen outside. Swimming pool 10mx4m. Thai-style sala. Fish pond. Thai-style parking for 2 cars. Storage room. Contact Manuel Pinto. Tel: 081-8923172.

SEA VIEW KAMALA

Small plots from 1 rai up to 20 rai, all have fantastic sea view. Chanote, good road access and electricity. Exclusive location, 2 minutes from the beach and the city center. From 7.5 million baht per rai. To contact call Tel: 086-2742308 or Email: kim@ kamalafalls.com

GATED COMMUNITY IN KAMALA

Small land plots from 500-600sqm. Exclusive location a few min from beach and city center. Price 14,000 baht per sqm. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

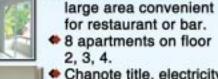
PLOTS ON MY ISLAND

Cherng Talay: 77 rai. Thalang: 106 rai. Chalong: 66 rai. Kata-Chalong: 6 rai. My name is Wellta. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: info@houseinphuket .com Please visit www.land inphuket.com

SEA AND MOUNTAIN VIEW

6 rai of hilltop land with view of Mission Hills golf course. Architect plans available, 4.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 087-9785804.

in busy area, Soi Sai Nam Yen, Patong Beach . 4 stories, first floor has



- 8 apartments on floor
- Chanote title, electricity
- 2 minutes to the beach

Asking price: 50 million baht.

Call 081-8687676, 087-2709093

LAND FOR SALE



135sq wah of flat land in Maneekram, between Chalong and Central Festival, 2road access to house, full public utilities, quiet area. Price: 2.6 million baht. Tel: 081-5697068. Email: sirio @tisco.co.th

FANTASTIC SEAVIEW



New seaview pool-villa overlooking Karon beach. Sale direct from Swiss builder/ owner. Very reasonable and favorable proprietary rights for foreigner. Documentation and photos available. Tel: 089-5938690. Email: ruen narayan@hotmail.com

HOUSE PLUS LAND FOR SALE

1.25 rai at Ao Nang, Krabi. 25 million baht. Tel: 089-6459759. Email: dkadell@ yahoo.de

PATONG HOTEL SALE

Paradise complex, 9 rooms and massage parlor for men only. Excellent turnover. No brokers please. Chanote. 2 units for 26 million baht. Contact William via email: info@ bluedolphinphuket.com

NEW VILLA, KAMALA

Built to highest standard. Four bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, detached 2-car garage, studio apartment, fully furnished, large pool, aircon. Save 1 million off list price. 17.5 million baht. Owner moving. Many extras. Tel: 084-8500568.

BEAUTIFUL GARDEN APARTMENT

Beautiful 2-bedroom ground floor apartment, overlooking gardens and pool. 2 min walk to Bang Tao Beach. Fully furcontact Thanisara. Tel: 081-8928259.

LAND FOR QUICK SALE

next to Mission Hills. Will take best offer. 1.7 rai. Tel: 087-2699206. Email: phkt5@ yahoo.com

SUPERB EXTENDED **HOUSE**



1km from Heroines' Monument, 147sq wah. Nice area, room for swimming pool. Large sala and many extras. European kitchen, etc. 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, utility room, fully furnished. Top quality, must be viewed. 7.2 million baht inclusive. Tel: 087-9785804.

KARON LAND FOR SALE



15 million baht per rai, chanote. Hillside panoramic sea view, quiet area. Contact for details. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: se rim@hotmail.com

KAMALA CONDO SALE

1 bedroom in central Kamala, ready to move in, maid service and communal pool. Tel: 085-7839062.

KAMALA LAND FOR SALE

Very nice for building a house. Gated lot with a hill view. Lease or buy. 3 million baht. Contact Larry. Tel: 083-9680662.

LAKESHORE LAND **OR HOUSE**

available for sale: 280sq wah of flat land for 14 million baht. House, fully furnished, 50sq wah, 8.5 million baht. Located at Land & Houses project. Great value for money. Call 081-5976195 or email: unique property@ hotmail.com

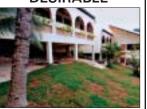
GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE

Reduced to 1 million baht. 6 rooms, busy bar, restaurant and tour desk. Nanai road. Good profit. Ideal for a couple. Only 2.8 million baht. Contact Andrew. Tel: 087-2825086.

THE HEIGHTS PHUKET

1st floor, unit C-8, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 195sqm. Beautiful pool at your doorstep. 22 million baht. Tel: 081-6144799.

DESIRABLE





unique and elegant home/ office. This ideally-located property (Samkong Rd, Phuket town) represents the ultimate comfortable home with adjoining office suite. Recently refurbished and tastefully decorated at a cost of over 4 million baht, this magnificent property is now available for discerning home buyers. The home consists of: master bedroom with balcony, elegant en-suite "spa" bathroom, large second bedroom with balcony and en-suite toilet/shower and a third double bedroom with balcony. The property also offers a maid's bedroom and separate toilet/ shower. The fitted kitchen features an adjoining breakfast/dining area. The home also offers a vast comfortable sitting room with contoured ceiling and atmospheric lighting. The adjoining 3-level office suite is ideally suited for numerous business opportunities. The property features an attractive garden and 2-vehicle car port. Asking price is a realistic 8.5 million baht. Call for details. Tel: 081-7191705.

SEAVIEW CONDO PATONG, B3.6M

New, 2-room deluxe condos. Fully furnished in best location in Patong, with pool and parking. 5 minutes from the beach. 3.6 million baht. Tel: 081-8928526. Email: info@ phuket-besthomes.com For further details please see our website at www.phuketbesthomes.com

MUST SELL, **END HOUSE**

Near Phuket Country Club. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, furnished, car park. 1.7 million baht. Chanote title. Tel: 085-4733409.

HOUSE FOR SALE

near Laguna. Thai-style house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, 150sqm living area. 650sqm of land. Tel: 087-8938590.

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net/classifieds

Properties For Rent



NEW 3-BEDROOM HOUSE, CHALONG

Spacious, European-style, tropical garden, 4 bathrooms, large living area and terrace, laundry and garage, Western kitchen. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8441486. Email: meeuwissenpaula@hotmail.com

RAWAI HOME WITH POOL

1 or 2 bedrooms, furnished, True TV, ADSL. 12,000 baht per month and up. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@ yahoo.com

PALAI GREEN HOUSE

with big garden. Fully furnished, 2 aircons, 2 bedrooms, hot shower, ADSL and cable TV. 12,000 baht per month. Chalong area. Tel: 081-8924311.

FOR RENT IN KATHU

3-bedroom house in private cul de sac, 3 bathrooms, refurbished, new Western kitchen. Delightful. Close to Loch Palm golf course and British International School. Rental 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-296072, 089-6498703.

CONDOS FOR RENT

Rawai, renovated, aircon, TV, DVD, kitchenette, hot water. Tel: 086-9456650. Email: phuketcomfortcondos@hotmail.com

THALANG HOUSE

for long-term rent, 2 bedrooms, aircon, 200sqm, near waterfall. 136/37 Pernjunvilla. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-6831147.

2-BEDROOM MAI KAO VILLA

Weekly or long-term, 2 min from golf course, beach, airport. European standards, aircon, True TV, Internet, garden and antique funiture. Tel: 081-7197015, 089-708926. Email: eanfievet@voila.fr

CHALONG HOUSE

New 2-story house in Thanthong Villa 7, near Villa 3 Mum Muang Market. Contact me for details. Tel: 081-0911610. Email: rkanjana005@hotmail.com

BOAT LAGOON

LUXURY

Waterfront townhouses for rent. 2 & 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, True TV. Long or short term. Pool, sauna included. Call So. Tel: 081-3444473.

KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS

Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Private, gated, parking with storage. True TV and ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing. Pool and gardener service. Daily rental offered: weekly: 40,000 baht; monthly: 140,000 baht. Contact K. Suchada Tel: 084-8436837.

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

This new 3-story shophouse is available for long-term lease. Ideal for home office/shop accommodation. Inquiries at Tel: 089-6521473.

RAWAI BEACH DUPLEX

Furnished, pool 12mx4m, close to bank. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

LONG-TERM LAND FOR RENT

1.1 rai on Sokdidest Rd. 256m x886m. Ideal for apartment or resort. In natural location. Tel: 081-8923340.

SEA VIEW PLACE

Excellent plot for a restaurant. Sea view, 640sqm. Water and electricity available. A deal not to miss! Tel: 081-7371585. Email: tailor@amorns.com

HIGH-END RENTALS WANTED

Siam Real Estate has clients waiting for good quality rentals now - both holiday and long term rentals. If you want to rent your property quickly and get top dollar, contact us urgently. Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com For further details, please see our website at www.siam realestate.com

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



In Soi Ban Krang, Chalong. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, fully furnished and aircon. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8746270.

KAMALA



2-bedroom, 2-bathroom villa with swimming pool. Private, all amenities. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8111067.

CONDO FOR RENT

in Rawai, sea view. 55,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-2812115.

NEW CHALONG HOME

2-bedroom, furnished home for rent with phone, True TV, aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

PATONG HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, access to pool, close to the beach and Jungceylon. Tel: 084-0566067.

HOUSE AT CHALONG

For rent near Palai Beach. 2 or 3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, phone line. Tel: 089-7288311.

BOUTIQUE VILLA FOR RENT

Bali-style villa, 2 bedrooms with a private pool. Available for short- or long-term rental. Tel: 076-282394, 084-053 5780. Fax: 076-282395. Email: info@ayudhya.net

PENTHOUSE IN CENTRAL KATA

for rent or sale. Rooms for rent, 3 bedroom house, Internet, cleaning. From 9, 000 baht per month. Contact for more info. Tel: 086-2766597.

HOUSE FOR RENT

in Phuket City. Location: on bypass road, Soi Soho Roast Duck. Fully furnished, cable TV, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, large kitchen, gas stove, rice cooker, toaster, kettle. Living room, hot water, 2 aircons, garden, parking, big fridge, high-speed ADSL. 1.5km (15 mins) to Patong beach. 15,000 baht per month (long-term, 1 year: 14,000 baht). Look for photo title PKT0002/07 on website. Tel: 089-4730990. Email: graymac@telkomsa.net For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-landparadise.blogspot.com

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New, fully furnished house for rent. Above average plot at end of a cul de sac in Phanason 3, Barn Porn, near Heroines' Monument. Less than 10 minutes to British International school, about 15 minutes to Lotus, Big C, Central and 15 minutes to airport. 2 fully-furnished bedrooms with aircon, living room with luxury sofa, European kitchen with fridge, 29" TV, DVD player and small garden. Please contact Pattama. Tel: 087-8207715. Email: pattamar@bcis.ac.th

SEA VIEW APARTMENT

Kata beach, beautiful sea view apartment, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms fully furnished. Available for short- or long-term rental. Tel: 076-282394, 084-0535780. Fax: 076-282395. Email: info@ayudhya.net

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opposite Kathu Temple. 2 bathrooms, 3 bedrooms, furnished. 9, 000 baht per month and one-month deposit. Tel: 085-7839062.

3 BEDROOM HOUSE

on Patong hillside available for long-term rent. Tel:086-9405187 (English), 086-9522070 (Thai).

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4-bedroom, 3-bathroom, large private villa on the quiet east coast of cape Yamu. 15 mins to BIS. Tropical gardens, pool, sun decks with amazing views, furnished, snooker room, sauna, study, exclusive secure development. No dogs. 80,000 bahtper month. Tel: 086-2796283.

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B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Call Tel: 081-6923163.

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near Laguna with pool. House has everything. 25,000 baht per month for 2 people; 30,000 per month for 3 people. Tel: 089-5944067.

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rental. New houses and 1 apartment for rent. 2 or 4 bedrooms, furnished, quiet near beach, maid service. 15,000 to 30, 000 baht. Contact Larry. Tel: 083-9680662.

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Ouiet and safe house for rent, long- or short-term. 5 km from Laguna Phuket. Furnished, True TV, telephone line, Internet, big garden, 3 bedrooms, 2 aircon, 2 big bathrooms, bathtub, hot water. 16,000 baht per month, or 13,000 baht if you pay lump sum for 1 year. Tel: 087-4172757 (English), 086-682-9804 (Thai).

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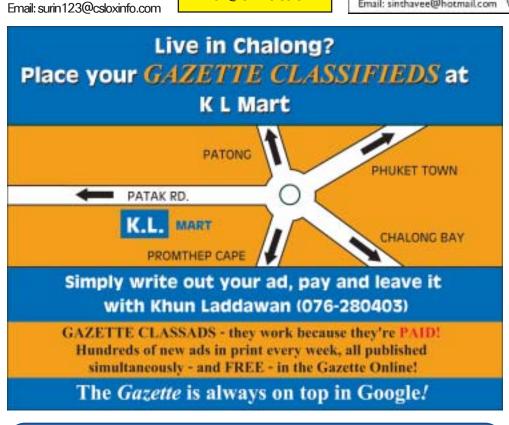
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motor sailor built of steel in 1998. 180hp, 6-cycle diesel. Diesel generator, good condition. US\$135,000.

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2-years old. Long speedboat in best condition. One Yamaha 60hp engine, one Yamaha 4hp emergency engine, trailer, fish finder, sundeck, anchor place in Bang Tao available. Only 250,000 baht. Contact Michael. Tel: 081-4151849, 089-4727137.

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snaidero

The COCOON Kitchen provides, Snaidero, the finest Italian kitchen designs, created by the world's foremost architects and designers while maintaining high standards of customer service. We are now seeking energetic, highly motivated persons for the following positions for our new showroom in Phuket:

- 1. Sales Manager
- 2. Sales Officers
- Draftsman/Interior designers
- 1 position
- 4. Accountants

2 positions

1 position

2 positions

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree or higher relative to the position.
- 2.1-2 years experience in the same filed.
- Good command of both spoken and written English required.
- Service-minded with good customer contact skills.
- Self-motivated, result-oriented with professional sales spirit.
- 6.Willing to work from Monday to Saturday from 9:00am 6:00pm.

Salary and commission can be negotiated for sales positions.

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We are an expanding travel agent located in Phuket City. We are looking for a Swedish female, age 25+, for an Internet sales position. Computer knowledge is essential, and experience in the travel industry and a good knowledge of Thailand desired. Tel: 076-246427, 081-787 9454. Fax: 076-246180. Apply by sending email to:

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Wine Connection is looking for Sales executives. 3 positions are available. Foreigners as well as Thais are encouraged to apply. Positions are available in Phuket, Khao Lak and Krabi. Salary, commissions and monthly support package offered. Apply today at Wine Connection Chalong. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-282411. Fax: 076-282414. Email: gmphuket@wine

SALES PERSONS

Real Estate, Samui branch requires dynamic sales persons aged 30-40. Thai national, fluent English, computer skills and result-oriented. Duties will be property scouting, telemarketing. Candidates will go through a 2-week probation training period in Phuket. Average salary 25-40,000 baht. Forward CV via email. Tel: 076-282394, 086-0043008. Email: angius@ayudhya.net

FITNESS STAFF

required for Eden Fitness. English speaking Thai, previous experience desirable but not essential as full training will be given. Email: keith.wickers@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.kvrspa.com

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Asia's leading vacht 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 profi cient in English and computer skills is a must. Interested candidates, please send CV and photo to phuket@simpsonmarine.com

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Due to our success and continued growth, we are seeking individuals who possess the following attributes to join our marketing team in Phuket.

Marketing/Sales Executive (3 positions)

- Smart and pleasant personality
- Good interpersonal skills and a team player
- Self-motivated and goal-minded
- Can work on his/her own initiative
- Good command of English
- Computer literate in Microsoft Office
- This is an excellent career opportunity and earning potential for

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lease apply in person or send your C.V. with recent photo to Marketing Manager at:

Sunparadise (Thailand) Co., Ltd. 149/5 Moo 4, Srisoonthorn, Thalang, Phuket 83110. Tel: (076) 527548-9 Fax: Ext. 12 Email marketing phuket@sunparadise

SALA Phuket Resort and Spa

SALA Phuket is an exciting new 5-star resort. The property has 79 villas and is located on Mai Khao beach, Phuket. SALA Phuket is the second SALA property with others planned in the near future.

We are looking for the following positions:

- Purchasing Manager
- Cost Controller
- Asset Officer
- Front Office Supervisor
- Guest Relations Officer
- Reservations Manager
- Room Attendant
- Spa Therapist
- Waitress/Waiter
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- Pool Attendant

If you have what it takes please forward your CV or contact our Human Resources dept. Contact details

SALA Phuket Resort and Spa 333 Moo 3, Mai Khao, Thalang, Phuket 83110 Tel: 66(0)76 338 888 # 2011-2013 Fax: 66(0)76 338 810 Email: hrphuket@salaphuket.com www.salaresorts.com

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To clean and cook sometimes. Ability to speak English and resume needed. Tel: 076-325755.

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Phuket Ocean Villas require experienced sales executive. Applicants should be fluent in English and Thai, and have good computer skills. Excellent salary and commissions. Tel: 076-527565. Email: cv@phuketoceanvillas.com

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Dive shop needs office secretary. Salary depends on experience. Must speak English. Contact K. Andy. Tel: 085-7654677.

MANAGER & STAFF NEEDED

- 1. Thai Female manager with 3-5 years experience in hotel or resort management. Must speak and write perfect English.
- 2. Electrical engineer. Must speak English.

Tel: 089-8736889 . Please contact for further information or send your CV by Email: wnammatapetersen @hotmail.com

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Siam Real Estate urgently requires a Thai national with excellent English and sales experience to sell holiday and long-term rentals. Must drive a car, know the island and have good administrative skills. Good salary and commissions. Please contact for more details. Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@ siamrealestate.com

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Waiter/waitress with experience in Western-style restaurant needed! Good English skills and flexible working times are required. Recommendation letter from previous employer has to be shown. Please call after 3 pm. Tel: 084-8382685. Email: mona@oceanicdive center.com

DRIVER WANTED

Dive shop needs Thai male driver to transport customers and take care of equipment. Contact Andy for additional details. Tel: 085-7654677.

RESTAURANT MANAGER WANTED

Thai national with experience in marketing, management and food creation. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-4326587.

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Tape Editor: Reporting to the Production Manager, the Tape Editor will be responsible for editing, in coordination with the TV News Editor and camera operators, each day's raw footage, as well as final edits of our daily program packages.

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Interested parties should send a resumé, cover letter and photo to Jib@PhuketGazette.Net, or hand deliver these documents to our studios at:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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We urgently require motivated persons for

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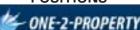
RESTAURANT MANAGER WANTED

Thai national with experience in marketing, management and food creation. Tel: 081-4326587.

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of Phuket, an American-style school, is recruiting qualified and certified teachers for the 2008/09 school year. We are looking for teachers who love children and believe that all children can succeed. We have the following anticipated vacancies for teachers who want to work in a small and safe school environment: preschool, middle and high school English (not ESL). Please respond by email to: alansiporin@qsi.org Please be prepared to present documented qualifications.

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- 2 Administration staff
- 2 Data entry
- 1 Maid/waitress

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2 POSITIONS 2 POSITIONS

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8 POSITIONS

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HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

214 MOO 2 TAMBON AONANG, AMPHUR MUANG KRABI B1000 CONTACT: KHUN SUKAN PUKAO

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Personal Assistant Accountant

Sales & Marketing 2) F&B Department

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Supervisor/Captain Waiter/Waitress Bartender

Food Runner Cashier

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Professional, experienced staff needed for sales and marketing of Destination Air seaplane services. Require own transportation, knowledge of Phuket and tourism market, and organization skills. Tel: 076-328505, 081-5362069. Email: pat@destinationair.com For details see our website at www.destinationair.com

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Phuket Branch:

Driver with driving license and minimum knowledge of English

Samui Branch:

Office staff with some knowledge of English and some computer

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- Red L-shaped sofa
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Phuket lighthouse holds a networking meeting for the construction industry every 4th Wednesday of the month at The Yorkshire Inn, Patong. We start at 7pm. All members and guests are welcome. Please contact for more information. Tel: 085-7952552. Email: info@naturalrockpools.com

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SHOPHOUSE

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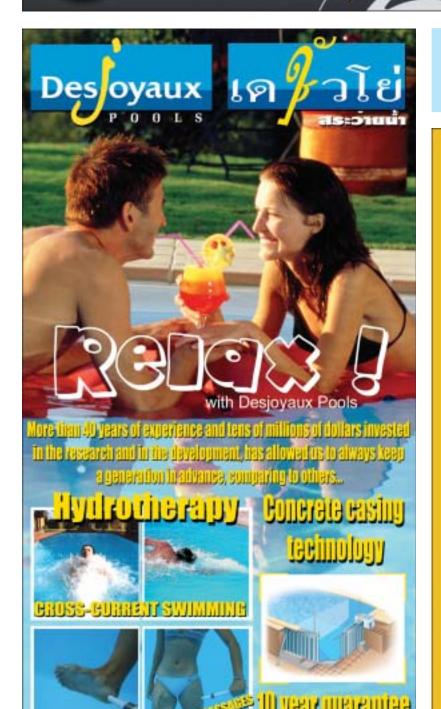




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