

Phuket Gazette

Volume 15 Issue 9

News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

March 1 - 7, 2008

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

25 Baht

The Gazette is published
in association with
The Nation

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Officer charged over tsunami funds scandal

By Gazette Staff

BANGKOK: The Royal Thai Police Disciplinary Division has charged a high-ranking officer in the Foreign Affairs Division over alleged improprieties in the use of funds for the Thailand Tsunami Victims Identification (TTVI) center.

Col Chaiyaporn Wannaprapa, deputy commander of the Disciplinary Division of the Royal Thai Police, on February 12 announced that Col Pornprasert Karnjanarin was formally notified of the investigation against him just two days before a resignation letter he had tendered was set to take effect, on February 10.

Col Pornprasert, deputy commander of the Royal Thai Police Foreign Affairs Division, will have his pension benefits seized unless he is able to prove himself innocent, Col Chaiyaporn said.

"The investigating panel has issued Col Pornprasert a two-part summons ordering him to appear and hear the charges against him and also notifying him that if he fails to appear within 15 days a decision will be rendered and punishment imposed based solely on the facts already collected by the panel," Col Chaiyaporn said.

"From our investigation, we believe that Col Pornprasert cannot prove his innocence and had thus been trying to avoid the consequences of his actions by reporting in sick until his resignation took effect," he added.



Col Pornprasert Karnjanarin seen at a press conference in December 2005. Col Pornprasert has been charged after being found as "likely to have been involved in misappropriation of donated tsunami funds", according to the Royal Thai Police Disciplinary Division.

Col Pornprasert said that it was important that justice be proved in the case because the image of the Royal Thai Police was at stake.

The Disciplinary Division will have one year to conclude the case before the statute of limitations runs out, he said.

It was also reported that since the alleged impropriety, which first came to light in 2006, Col Pornprasert had changed his first name to Paramate.

The case made international headlines after the ambassadors of seven countries that donated funds to the TTVI requested

then-Police Commissioner Kowit Wattana to launch an independent audit of how 88 million baht in donated funds were used.

The TTVI center was based in Chalong until December, 2005, when it was moved to the Police Forensic Science Unit in Bangkok.

Problems began when former TTVI Chief Pol Col Khemmarin Hassiri was transferred to an inactive post in January, 2007, after the scandal broke.

Col Khemmarin has not been implicated in this latest development.

Senatorial race reaches climax

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PHUKET: Thais will go to the polls on March 2 to vote for their senatorial candidate of choice, who will then be sworn in as one of 76 senators to be decided in the election.

On the ballot papers will be Adirak Engchuan, a 46-year-old Phuket native who holds a law degree from Ramkhamhaeng University in Bangkok; Cherdchai Wongseeree, 47, another local lawyer; and Thanyarat "Gee" Achariyachai, who won the last senatorial election but was unable to take her seat because of the military coup of September 19, 2006.

The 76 seats will be elected to represent individual provinces, in addition to 74 seats already appointed by the Election Commission.

Advance voting held in Phuket on the weekend of February 23 and 24 for the election saw less interest among out-of-town Thais than before the parliamentary election held in December.

PEC Director Supap Akkam said that of 30,291 non-Phuket Thais registered to cast advance ballots in the province, only 7,301 (24.1%) did so. Of those, 2,968 voted on the Saturday and 4,333 on the Sunday.

This was in contrast to December 15 and 16, when 25,956 voters (more than 85%) made their way to Phuket Community Hall to cast absentee ballots for the general election.

K. Supap attributed the low turnout to the fact that canvassing activities of Senate candidates are restricted compared

Continued on page 2

Runaway truck causes huge Patong Hill pileup

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

KATHU: Tailbacks several miles long streamed from both sides of Patong Hill on the evening of February 21 after a broken-down truck rolled backwards, setting off a chain reaction smash-up that left five cars and a motorbike damaged.

Maj Passakorn Sonthikun of Tung Tong Police in Kathu said, "About 5 pm, a six-wheeled truck broke down halfway up the hill on its way to Patong. So traffic police from Tung Tong Police Station started directing traffic around it.

"As the truck had broken down in the center lane, police were directing Patong-bound traffic past it in the left lane.

"However, a tour bus driver passed on the right side and scraped along the side of the truck," he explained.

"The truck was dislodged from the rocks that were being used as chocks behind the wheels, and the truck started rolling down the hill.



No injuries were reported in the latest multiple vehicle crash on Patong Hill, in which a motorbike was pinned to the guard rail.

"It rolled into a tuk-tuk that was right behind it, which was pushed into a Toyota Vios, which was pushed into three pickup trucks and a motorcycle," he said.

"The tour company has refused to pay for the damage to the other vehicles, so I have charged the bus driver with careless driving. The damage is esti-

mated at more than 300,000 baht. I think this bus was uninsured."

However, Maj Passakorn declined to name the tour company.

"No people were injured and the bus driver has denied the charge. We are still collecting evidence to present this case in court," he said.

AWD names top resorts

PHUKET: After three months of evaluating entries selected from more than 600 hotels on Phuket, Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort was named Best Beach Resort in Phuket and the Trisara was named the most Romantic Resort and the best Luxury Resort in Phuket in Phuket.Com's list of Top 10 Resorts 2008.

Kevin Rautenbach, Business Development Director of Asia Web Direct, which owns Phuket.Com, explained, "We used more than 50 travel professionals as judges for this project."

AWD's network of more than 100 websites attracts some three million visitors a month.

Missing monk found dead in PSU tin mine lagoon

KATHU: Police are treating as a case of accidental drowning the death of a monk whose body was found in a pond at the Phuket campus of Prince of Songkla University on February 24.

Maj Passakorn Sonthikun of the Tung Tong Police identified the monk as Phra Thawat Theerawiniyo.

The body of the 29-year-old monk, originally from Nongkhai province, was discovered by a female university student about 1 pm, he said.

The same student said that she saw a man swimming naked in the pond two days earlier, but was not sure whether the body was that of the same person.

Phra Thawat, known as Thawat Sansup before his ordination, had been a monk at Wat Pa Aram, near Mission Hospital on Thepkasattri Rd, for about two months, he said.

K. Thawat was apparently an itinerant monk who moved from temple to temple, practicing solitary meditation before moving on.

His body was recovered by a Kusoldharm Foundation volunteer and had been sent to Patong Hospital for examination, Maj Passakorn said.

An initial examination failed to find any wounds or other evidence of violence or struggle, he added.



Phummisak Hongsyok (left) receives a congratulatory bouquet from Phuket Vice-Governor Tri Augkaradacha.

Khun Phummisak appointed to Senate

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: Former Phuket City Mayor Phummisak Hongsyok has been named by the Election Commission (EC) in Bangkok as one of 74 appointed senators who will serve in the 150-member upper house, the EC announced February 19.

The new Senate will convene after the March 2 election for the other 76 seats. While the elected 76 senators will serve a six-year term, the selected 74 will serve only three years before a new selection takes place, according to the new Constitution.

Many well-wishers stopped by that morning to congratulate K. Phummisak at the head office of his Anuphas & Son Company on Thepkasattri Rd.

K. Phummisak is one of eight former members of the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) appointed to the new Senate, which is empowered to remove ministers, appoint and re-

move members of independent agencies, including the EC and the Constitution Court, and to scrutinize laws passed by the House.

In his capacity as president of the Phuket Real Estate Club, K. Phummisak was one of 15 appointed senators chosen to represent the private sector.

K. Phummisak, 61, thanked the Phuket Chamber of Commerce for nominating him and told reporters he would do his best.

Noting that he served as a member of the NLA's committee on tourism, he said he would continue to represent the needs of Phuket and the Andaman region's tourism industry in the national assembly.

The only other nominee from Phuket was lawyer Sarayuth Mullum, whose name was put before the EC by the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA).

K. Sarayuth, who was not chosen by the seven-member selection panel, is one of five PTA vice-presidents.

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Gloves come

On February 19, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit chaired a meeting to address the issue of the non-scheduled seaplane shuttle service operated by Destination Air.

The meeting followed a previous request by Gov Niran, made on February 12, for Destination Air to land its aircraft further from the shore.

Somnuek Wijitsarat, chief of Phuket Provincial Information and Communication Office, said after the meeting that Gov Niran had asked those at the meeting to collect evidence in the form of formal complaints, references to laws and regulations that might apply, and previous court rulings involving seaplane operations in Thailand.

Gov Niran also asked for a copy of the valid permits issued by the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) and the Ministry of Transport that give permission for Destination Air to operate until November 6, 2011, at 31 authorized landing sites in the region, he added.

On February 25, Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai, after a meeting with Destination Air Manager Pat James on February 20, told the *Gazette* that the dispute was still unresolved as the management of the Amari Coral Beach Hotel, which occupies 60 rai onshore from near the Destination Air landing site, continues to receive complaints from guests about noise.

In his meeting with Pat James, he conveyed Gov Niran's request that Destination Air begin using a "boat guard" to clear the landing area before landing, instead of doing a "safety flyover".

Complaints about noise were from guests near the landing site offshore from the Amari Coral Beach and not inshore at the Star Cruise seasonal floating dock, to which the plane taxis disembark their passengers, he said.

Although Destination Air's

Through a series of recent meetings, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit has been trying to find a settlement to an ongoing dispute over whether seaplanes operated by Destination Air should be allowed to continue landing at the south end of Patong Bay, where there have been complaints of noise pollution and threats to public safety.

Gazette reporter Pathomporn Kaenkrachang and News Editor Stephen Fein report.

permit allows pilots to use their own discretion in choosing appropriate landing sites in the bay, the Phuket Marine Office would like them to establish a fixed location – and has the authority to force them to do so, he said.

K. Somnuek added that if efforts by Gov Niran's office fail to settle the dispute, the case will be handed over to the Transport Ministry.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch, who previously pointed out the shortcomings in the law, about who could be charged if there were any accidents involving a seaplane, mentioned that allowing non-scheduled seaplanes to operate without having to submit passenger lists to local authorities presented security risks.

The service could be taken advantage of by smugglers, he noted.

"I think this is a major issue that cannot be overlooked," he said. "When they are in the sky, the local authorities have no way of knowing where they are coming from or where they might be going," he said.

After meeting with Vice-Gov Smith on the morning of February 20, Mr James told the *Gazette* that he felt "vindicated".

He also admitted that his aircraft were still landing at the same location as before.

"Our landing site really has not changed, as it has always been far enough offshore from a

safety standpoint. The complaint was originally about noise created when we taxi in to the transfer point for passengers, which is the seasonal floating pier used by Star Cruises.

"I think it was a big part of the misunderstanding that the noise was on the takeoff and landing. In fact, no-one even knew we were there until we were about 100 meters offshore [from the Star Cruise pier]."

"Right now, we are only doing about two flights a day in general, sometimes three. One is usually at about 9:30 in the morning and the other is in the afternoon, sometimes at about 3:30 pm. None of them are at night or in the early morning... Even the governor could not understand the noise side of it. We are not waking people up. The governor flew on our plane and saw our standard takeoff and landing locations. Quite truthfully, our noise level cannot compete with that of the longtail boats or the jet-skis," he said.

"These seaplanes... are certified to go into the most pristine national parks in North America, where restrictions on environmental and noise impact are the strongest in the world. For them to come in and say we are leaving an oil trail is so ludicrous that you know there is a motive behind it," he added.

The *Gazette* asked Mr James whether Destination Air is required to use a boat guard to clear the area before takeoffs and

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The Destination Air seaplane uses the seasonal Star Cruise floating dock to disembark its passengers at the south end of Patong Bay.

Photo courtesy Amari Coral Beach Resort & Spa.

landings, as is described in the company's Initial Environmental Evaluation (IEE) report issued in June 2006.

Mr James said the request was impractical under the circumstances.

"They have asked us to put a warning boat in the landing area, but it is not part of our license requirements. The area is supposed to be assured as safe for landing. The pilots do a non-obtrusive flyover to see the waves, wind and other conditions that could affect flight... They asked us to put a boat there, with a loudspeaker asking everybody to get out of the way. We clear the area before landing. Many times, the pilot will make a low pass to make sure there aren't any sticks or logs in the water," he said.

Noting that Destination Air is licensed to operate as a non-

scheduled carrier, but in fact advertises scheduled flights on printed brochures, the *Gazette* asked Mr James if he was concerned about the possibility of having his permit revoked by the DCA for lack of compliance to the terms under which it was granted.

"We are a non-scheduled carrier: you call and we haul. We do not want to be a scheduled airline. There are many non-scheduled companies in Thailand – GA for example – that are non-scheduled but are flying regularly to places like Chiang Mai and Hua Hin. They have been doing it for a decade now. It is standard practice," he said.

While operations in Patong Bay would cease at the start of the monsoon season, Destination Air is a year-round operation that is here for the long term, he said.

"The monsoon does make

the conditions a little bit more variable and we are not able to fly every day during the monsoon season, but our destinations are mostly islands and these mostly have a leeward side that we can go into and out of. Patong is only operational for about six months of the year. Once they take the pier, we cannot operate there again until November," he said.

He added that Destination Air, which now employs 20 people, has seen business pick up gradually.

"The main thing is the educational process. Everyone has the mentality of boat transfers to the islands at the moment. We are bringing a new dimension to the hotels. We are here to service the resorts primarily, not the individual tourist. Our future will be when the resorts include the cost of seaplane transfers when book-



Destination Air's goal is to fill an important niche in the high-end, luxury-tourism market. But the reality in Patong Bay – where longtail boats, jet-skis and parasail speedboats operate with little or no regulation – is a little different than at more-remote locations.

Image courtesy Destination Air.

ing holiday packages. In the Maldives, Greece and Indonesia, that is already the way it is done. It will take three or four years to get everyone to understand the concept," he said.

"I was satisfied with the meeting. The government has always been supportive of what we are doing. There are, of course, some individuals with interests in Patong who have their own agendas for stirring things up.

"We had the environmental people and the marine department with us yesterday – and they all understood our side of it. The Governor and the Vice-Governor seemed to be in total agreement. I feel positive," he added.

As far as the management of the Amari Coral Beach Resort & Spa is concerned, however, the arrival of the Destination Air flights some three months ago has been less positive.

Resort General Manager Warakorn Jarusirikul said he had recently spoken to Gov Niran and intends to send a formal letter of

complaint to him. He estimated the distance to Destination Air's preferred landing site from the hotel grounds to be just 100 meters.

"Since November, at the peak of the high season, they were landing about five times a day – now it is less, about two or three times a day," he said.

"They [Gov Niran's office] have never asked us to attend their meetings, which is strange because we have evidence such as a CD recording of the sounds of the planes landing and taking off. It starts early at 8:30 or 9 in the morning, when the guests are still sleeping.

"The first point of my argument is the noise pollution. Nobody wants to have a runway right in front of their home. The second point is safety. If the plane has an accident and hits my hotel, what is going to happen? Then what about the boatmen, snorkelers, jet-skis and swimmers out there?"

Continued on page 6

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From page 5

Seaplane debacle rages on

"The pilots have never done flyovers to ensure the landing area is all clear, he added.

"They come straight down, they never circle first. Circling would be dangerous to the people on the beach. They should land and take off in the middle of the bay to avoid the noise disturbance, then taxi in," he said.

"This has gone on for three months now and they have never changed their landing site [despite Gov Niran's request]. My owner is willing to sue them. We will never give up on this issue. We are among the top tax-paying hotels in Phuket.

"I don't want to stop them from flying, because I know they have a license from Bangkok, but they should solve the problems they create for others. We have been here 24 years. How would you feel if you woke up one morning and found your front yard had been turned into a runway?

"They have held three meetings, but they haven't been able to solve the problem. Even though they have a license, this is a local problem that needs to be dealt with by the local authorities, such as the Kathu District Office," he said.

Noting that the flights had only a few passengers at a time, he said he thought it was not worth it to inconvenience a large number of people for the benefit of so few.

K. Warakorn added that he had spoken to the managers at a few other resorts nearby and was told that they agreed that the flights were a nuisance and safety risk, but that they still were unsure who to complain to about the matter.

Queer News

Mischievous monkey meddlers meet their match

SRISAKET: A man was arrested in the early hours of February 21 for kidnapping monkeys from a popular tourist spot in Rasi Salai District. Police believe the monkeys were to be smuggled to Korea, to be eaten for perceived health-giving benefits.

At 3:30 am, Pol Lt Col Wisanu Reuang Sri, an investigating officer at Rasi Salai District Police Station, received a phone call from Rian Phobutr, a resident of Village 5 in Tambon Wan Kham.

K. Rian, 58, said that a gang was catching monkeys at the

nearby Wan Village Monkey Forest, a popular tourist attraction with a thousand-strong population of primates.

Col Wisanu rushed to the scene, where he found three people setting traps for the monkeys.

Also found was a cage containing three monkeys that the gang had already caught. Police arrested one of the gang but the other two managed to escape into the forest.

Police collected as evidence two monkey cages, 20 nets, a selection of various traps, hunt-

ing equipment, nuts and some bananas, which were used as bait. Police also seized a Toyota sedan belonging to the gang.

Arrested gang member Arun Kertphetch was taken to the police station for interrogation. Arun, 38, claimed that he was just the driver and had nothing to do with the monkey poaching.

The other two men had paid him 2,000 baht to drive to the forest and he assumed they were just going there to relax, he claimed.

If he had known what they were up to, he would never have agreed to take them, he said.

The only reason he had been caught was because he didn't want to run away with the others and abandon his car, he added.

Arun said that when they got to the forest, he overheard the other two men saying that they would catch monkeys and export them to Korea, where they fetched three to five thousand baht. Some Koreans believe that monkey flesh, brain tissue in particular, is a strong tonic.

Police, however, found Arun's story a little hard to swallow given that the gang had a plethora of professional monkey-catching equipment that Arun must have noticed as they were loading it into the car.

Police charged him with hunting a protected species without permission and being in possession of a protected species without permission.

Police said they would hunt for the other two members of the gang and expand the investigation to bust the entire monkey-to-Korea export ring.

Veterinarian Chitsanu Tiya-charoen, deputy president of the Wild Animal Rescue Foundation of Thailand, said that the belief held by some Koreans that eating monkey brains is good for the body is completely false and that the Korean government is trying to wipe out the practice.

K. Chitsanu has a stern warning for anyone interested in discovering the alleged healing properties of monkey brains: "Eating monkey brains brings nothing but problems," he said.

"Some people eat them and die soon afterwards because monkeys are very similar to humans and we can catch deadly diseases from them, such as hepatitis B and meningitis."

Source: Kom Chad Luek

From top brass to bogus bobby

BANGKOK: Impersonating a policeman to make a little cash on the side is hardly a new phenomenon in Thailand, where there have been countless stories over the years of opportunists dressing up as officers and setting up roadblocks to collect on-the-spot "fines" from unwitting drivers.

A police impersonator in Bangkok seemed to be aiming a little higher recently, when he walked into the headquarters of the Crime Suppression Bureau wearing the uniform of a police lieutenant general, the second highest of the 16 ranks in the Royal Thai Police system.

Officers became suspicious when they noticed an unfamiliar general dining in the Bureau canteen. They alerted Lt Chaoalit Jindarat, an investigating officer at the Bureau, who came to find

out who the new bigwig might be.

Lt Chaoalit noticed that some of the badges and epaulettes on the new general's uniform were not positioned in quite the right places, so he approached the man to question him. Apart from the uniform, the man also had a pair of handcuffs, as well as a briefcase marked with the Crime Suppression Bureau insignia.

When challenged to identify himself, the man said his name was Sommat Titathan, 51. He was unable to produce any official police identification. Sommat claimed that he had come to report for duty as the new commander of the Crime Suppression Bureau, which had recently undergone restructuring.

This came as a surprise to Lt Chaoalit, who had not heard of any changes at the top. He again asked Sommat if he had

been ordered to report for duty at the Bureau, to which Sommat, now somewhat less sure of his story, replied, "maybe I should go back to the Metropolitan Police Headquarters and have another look at my orders; they could have changed."

After speaking to Sommat for a while longer, Lt Chaoalit began to suspect that the "new commander" may in fact be a few satang short of a baht. He therefore instructed Sommat to change out of the general's uniform and into a safari suit that was conveniently found tucked into his briefcase.

He then called up Phahalayothin Police Station and asked them to send officers to collect Sommat and help find some relatives to come and pick him up.

Source: Kom Chad Luek

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Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej on February 22 defended the government's policy to get tough on drug dealers, while Interior Minister Chalerm Yoobamrung said it would "be natural" if more than 2,700 people were killed during the crackdown.

Asked about the revival of the government's "war on drugs" and the possibility of many more killings, PM Samak said, "Should we do nothing because we are afraid that someone is going to criticize us for silence killings that may occur?"

The war on drugs launched by the Thaksin Shinawatra-led government saw more than 2,800 allegedly drug-related deaths. Police claimed that those murdered were drug traffickers targeted by fellow traffickers to prevent them from speaking up.

However, several reports later showed that many victims were not linked to the drug trade.

Bombing suspect sues police.

A man wrongly accused over the 2006 New Year's Eve Bangkok bomb blasts has sued the Royal Thai Police for 50 million baht as compensation.

Pratya Preechawet filed a civil lawsuit in the Phra Khanong Court that names the Royal Thai Police, national police chief Gen Seripisut Temiyavej and his deputy, Gen Patcharawat Wongsuwan, as defendants.

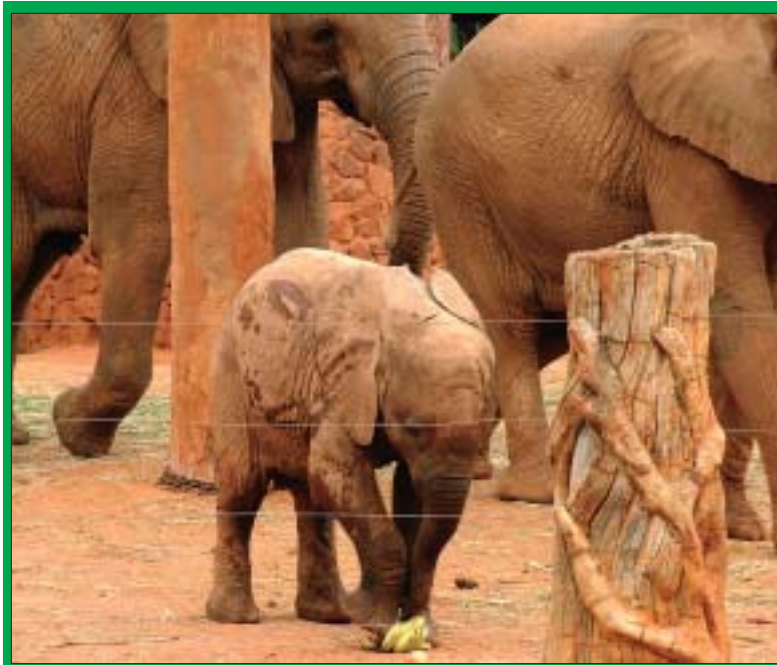
Gen Patcharawat headed the investigation into the six blasts across Bangkok on December 31, 2006.

K. Pratya, a 34-year-old musician, claims sloppy police work led to him and his friend Yutthapong Kiti Sriworaphan being accused of planting a bomb at a shopping mall and that the issuing of a warrant for his arrest had tarnished his reputation, put him out of work for a year and caused his family to break up.

The National Human Rights Commission has already ruled that the police's actions had violated the pair's human rights that the police should compensate the men for the damage done to their reputations.

Nefarious nanny. A Bangkok

Samak voices support for new 'war on drugs'



BABY BOOMER

Tongchai, the first African baby elephant born in Thailand, celebrated his first birthday at Nakhon Ratchasima Zoo February 21.

court sentenced Boonreung Katsarn, 36, to two years and six months in jail for assaulting a baby in her care, leaving the infant with brain damage.

The court also ordered her to pay 8 million baht in compensation to the infant's father.

During the trial, the court heard that from March 18 to 20 last year Boonreung had bashed the 22-day-old baby's head against hard objects several times, cracking his skull, bruising his brain and causing bleeding.

She also hit the boy's back, chest, stomach and legs, resulting in broken bones.

The boy remained unconscious in Bumrungrad Hospital's intensive-care unit for more than 20 days.

Boonreung at first said the boy's injuries were an accident, but later confessed that she had struck him out of rage when he cried.

The court initially sentenced Boonreung to five years in prison, but halved the sentence after she confessed.

Pattaya pandering. The Criminal Court sentenced a 61-year-old American man to 16 years in jail for luring two underage girls into performing lewd acts, which he videotaped.

Police told the court they had received a tip-off that some tourists were molesting Thai girls in a bungalow in North Pattaya.

They arrested Glen Allen Richard, 61, at his hotel room on February 17 last year.

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

The case emerged after police were alerted that four foreigners including the defendant had gathered at Pattaya Beach for lewd acts, with a middle-aged

woman procuring Thai girls for them.

The other three defendants will be put on trial separately at a later date.

Peppy promos. Starting March 25, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will take action against companies that promote caffeine-containing beverages by randomly offering prizes to consumers.

If convicted, offending entrepreneurs face a large fine, a jail term of up to one year, or both.

FDA Secretary Gen Siriwat Tiptaradol encouraged members of the public to call the FDA Hotline 1556 or alert provincial Public Health offices if they found campaigns for the caffeine-containing beverages included lucky draws or any random prize offers.

According to Gen Siriwat, the FDA ban took effect from December 25, but violators were given a three-month grace period to end the practice.

Sex-ed expansion. The Office of Basic Education Commission (Obec) will expand sex education to 5,000 more schools nationwide in an effort to teach children self-esteem and promote sexual abstinence.

The sex-education classes will focus on activities that make children aware of their values and honor, said Obec Secretary-General Khunying Kasama Varawarn.

Currently, Obec is also holding public hearings to gather opinions on how best to develop its central curriculum.

"We are gathering opinions in the North, the South and the Northeast," she said.

Dengue danger. The Public Health Ministry will impose regulations including fining home-owners whose houses incubate mosquitoes, following four dengue-fever deaths and 2,824 patients in just 40 days already this year.

Disease Control Department chief Thawat Suntrajarn expressed concern over the increase in the number of dengue cases this year, which stands at 2,824 patients compared with 1,700 during the same period last year.

K. Thawat said that the number of dengue patients usually peaked in the rainy season from June to August, thus the authorities must quickly implement measures to control mosquito incubation grounds.

The department might resort to allowing local administrative organizations punishing the owners of homes where mosquitoes incubated, he said.

If they refused to co-operate, homeowners could face a 2,000-baht fine and/or six months in jail, he said.

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

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FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND

By Max Rogers

Boat operators on Samui have come under fire after a speedboat carrying tourists sank on its return from an excursion to Angthong Marine Park just off Koh Samui.

Surat Thani Governor Winai Buapradit has announced that tighter measures will now be put in place after the accident was kept secret for more than a month.

According to reports, the boat had been traveling at high speed when a large wave caused the bottom to crack and split, sinking the vessel.

The passengers, who were all wearing life preservers, were rescued after the crew made an



A speedboat carrying tourists sank on its return from an excursion to Angthong Marine Park (pictured) just off Koh Samui.
Photo used courtesy of Tourism Authority of Thailand.

emergency call to Angthong Marine Park Headquarters.

There were no reported injuries.

The accident was kept quiet by authorities, who were concerned that the incident would negatively affect tourism.

Marine and Tourist Police, as well as tour operators, have been instructed to follow all safety regulations with regards to passenger limits, safety equipment and keeping a strict log of every journey.

As tourist numbers dwindle

Seni Phuwasethaworn, head of the Koh Samui Tourist Association, said that hotels are reporting a large number of no-shows this high season.

Many hotels claim that only 70% to 80% of bookings are being honored.

Resort managers are putting this decrease in tourist numbers down to the lack of transport available to those trying to get to the island.

K. Seni said that there are 15,000 rooms available on the island, but that the number is set to increase with an additional 2,000 rooms this year.

However, even with the increase in available rooms, the number of visitors remains the same or lower than in previous years.

Phanu Woramit, chief of Tourism Authority of Thailand, said that Koh Samui has to improve its infrastructure to attract more visitors.

He added that complaints about road conditions and drainage systems continue to mar tourism. The agreement between Thai Airways and Bangkok Airways is a welcome one.

The twice-daily flights, which began February 15, should bring in an additional 300 visitors a day, he said.

Eight arrested for drugs. Two drug-related busts took place this month with eight people arrested.

Four people were detained after 0.3 grams of yah ba (methamphetamine) were found in a house near the airport.

Police were tipped off about the residence and raided the premises January 19.

Arrested at the house were Sakorn Jawong, Kamron Phan-khao, Thaweesak Khauphiboon and Somrak Thongmak.

On the same day, four arrests were made in connection with a seized shipment of marijuana weighing over 49 kilograms, reported to have a street value of more than 980,000 baht.

The four men told police they had brought the shipment into Thailand from Laos. Police were unable to give any further information as they are still investigating the case.

Illegal migrant workers rounded up. On February 17, officers from Koh Samui Immigration, as well as about 30 officers from the Royal Thai Navy, led boats to block access to and from Koh Tao before raiding the island and arresting all persons suspected of working there illegally.

The round-up led to 140 arrests, mostly of Burmese workers, at construction sites, hotel establishments and restaurants.

Most of the detainees were taken to Koh Pha-ngan Police Station before being deported.

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Chalerm raises possibility of talks with insurgents

After another spate of attacks, Interior Minister Chalerm Yoobamrung said the southern insurgency could not be ended without holding talks with insurgents.

Speaking on February 22, Chalerm said, "I dare to say that the problems in the Deep South will never end unless we hold talks with the insurgents."

Talks would lead to the end of violence and are necessary for changing the attitude of the insurgents, he said.

However, he did not go into detail about any plans for discussions or specify who the government would be prepared to talk with.

The new Interior Minister has previously voiced the possibility of autonomy for the region, but later retracted his remarks after coming under fire from other members of the government, including Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej.

Chalerm's latest suggestion came after another week of violence in the Deep South. That morning, insurgents detonated a bomb planted outside a window of the Science and Agriculture Technology building of Yala Rajabhat University. Two people were killed.

A day earlier, three people were seriously injured when two insurgents opened fire at a wedding party in neighboring Narathiwat province.

PM Samak Sundaravej told a TV audience during his weekly Sunday morning address that he would deploy Army engineers to continue building four-lane roads in Yala and other southern border provinces.

An audience member called Samak's talk show to ask him what he would do now that private construction firms dared not



About 200 village and tambon chiefs receive military training, including counter-ambush drills, from the Army in Pattani's Nong Chik district on February 14 following a spate of insurgent attacks during the preceding weeks.

resume the construction of roads in the region.

Samak said he had talked to the army commander-in-chief, who agreed to deploy army engineers to continue the construction.

"I hereby promise that the four-lane road construction in Yala will be completed," PM Samak said.

Responding to another caller during the same show, he insisted that his government would not establish a special administrative zone for the Deep South.

PM Samak admitted that the idea had been discussed in small groups, but said his government had no policy to set up such a special zone.

30-baht shooting. A man was shot dead at a gas station in Songkhla's Rathaphum district on February 20, after a dispute with the gas station attendant over a payment of 30 baht. The attendant later gave himself up to

the police, claiming the killing was in self-defence.

The victim, 28-year-old Sophon Chuaydam, suffered gunshot wounds to the chest and arm. He was rushed to Rathaphum Hospital, where he later died.

Witnesses reported that Sophon drove into the gas station on a motorcycle with two passengers at about 4 pm that afternoon. He asked pump attendant Forn Khunphetch for 50 bahts' worth of gas, but when asked for the money he said he had only 20 baht. He promised he would come back to pay the rest later.

An argument ensued, with Sophon and his two friends fighting with Forn. Outnumbered and on the receiving end of a beating, Forn then drew a .38-calibre pistol and shot Sophon twice before running away, witnesses reported.

Later the same day, Forn walked into Rathaphum District Police Station and told the duty officer that he had shot Sophon in self-defence. Forn said that it

was about the fifth time that Sophon had filled up his motorcycle and been unable to pay in full. Every time he would promise to pay later, but never did, Forn said.

Forn had the missing money deducted from his own paycheck, he added.

This time, he insisted Sophon pay, which led to his being attacked and forced to use his gun in self-defence, he claimed.

It was not reported what police will charge him with.

Terminal tragedy. A terminally ill man killed his blind son and then himself in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Chawang District on February 19.

Relatives of the pair called police to a house in Tambon Nakacha Village 5, where they found the body of 12-year-old Jaturon Phonphichai. His throat had been cut.

Relatives told police that the boy's father, 33-year-old Sonthaya Phonphichai, had been taken to Tham Phannara Hospital after he had been found bleeding profusely from a deep cut to the throat. Next to him was found an almost empty bottle of weed killer.

Sonthaya, who had fallen into a coma, was transferred to Maharaj Hospital in Nakhon Sri Thammarat City for further treatment, but doctors were unable to save him.

In the house, police found a letter apparently written by Sonthaya saying that he was in the final stages of terminal cancer and was worried that no-one would look after his blind son once he had died, so it would be better if they died together.

Lt Col Chetarat Chatarak, an investigating officer from Mai Rieng Police Station, said that police believe Sonthaya cut his

son's throat and then drank the weed killer. The pain from the weed killer was too much to bear, however, so he cut his own throat as well, they surmised. Neighbors found him and took him to hospital.

Compensation seeker. Trang Hospital Director Dr Somnuek Chuetong said Tawan Janmud would receive an initial 200,000 baht in compensation under the national healthcare scheme after his 30-year-old wife Uraiwan died under mysterious circumstances. She had been admitted to the hospital after a minor motorcycle accident on February 13.

K. Uraiwan was first admitted to Nayong Hospital and then transferred to Trang Hospital, where she underwent a brain scan.

K. Tawan said a doctor told him his wife was safe but had a blood clot in her brain that needed to be treated with clot-dissolving drugs. The doctor expected his wife's symptoms to improve in three days.

After the initial check-up, the doctor wanted to insert an oxygen tube into the patient's mouth, but decided to conduct a laryngectomy and deliver oxygen through a hole in her throat after she complained of discomfort.

Two days later, K. Tawan said he saw his wife drooling, so he called for a nurse. When he was ignored, he decided to wipe her clean himself. As soon as he came back from washing his hands, he found K. Uraiwan was not breathing.

He believes his wife's death was caused by malpractice and says he will take the hospital to court.

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

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While many spend their free time relaxing by the pool, organizing their stamp collections or discussing the implications of Kolo Touré's injured calf on Arsenal's chances against Milan, there is one small Phuket group that has found another pastime to fill their precious free hours.

If you happen to be in the vicinity of the Green Man Pub, Chalong, you might possibly see members of this group wandering aimlessly around the gardens mumbling to themselves.

They riffle through sheaves of paper as if searching for the answer to life, screw up their faces and curse, "Damn! I knew all this last night!"

Such is the fate of many who join this cohort – and as daft as they may look while fervidly learning their lines, they're all hoping to be a lot funnier come opening night.

The Green Man has become the de facto base camp for a crazy gang of boys and girls dedicated to treading the boards and creating great theater. Drawn together last year to perform the pantomime *Mother Goose*, the group has now grown slightly, given itself a name – The Andaman Players (TAP) – and is forging ahead with a production of short comedies, set to take to the



Left: Andaman Players (from left) Molly McGill, Tony Kelsey-Stead, Russell D Russell.

Above: Howard and Vicky Digby-Johns pose in costume. Photos by Dan Miles

ROAR OF THE... GREASEPAINT

stage on March 7, 8 and 9.

For TAP founding member Tony Kelsey-Stead, the formation of the group filled a void in his otherwise contented island life.

A retired school teacher from the UK, Kelsey-Stead was also a serious amateur thespian

and theater devotee back home.

Finding Phuket theatrically barren, he took the initiative to create a group to perform the Christmas pantomime at the Green Man, hoping it would develop into something more.

A trickle of support last

October soon became a small deluge as others with thwarted theatrical ambitions flowed towards the theater behind the Green Man.

"I am so pleased that these guys have all turned up to be part of this drama thing," he said. "They are such a lovely bunch of people. I am very lucky."

Some say it was just a panto. Yet those who were not a part of that inaugural exhibition of actorly activity would not appreciate what was being generated behind the scenes.

The camaraderie of the troupe was such that they even began to create their own language.

For the six weeks leading up to the panto, emails between group members were written in rhyming couplets.

A month after the Christmas show, Michael Flynn was still referred to as Charlie – his character in the panto – some of the group had forgotten his real name, others assumed he was called Charlie until they read the show program.

That level of dedication, that energy, could not be allowed to dissipate and so, once the New Year's hangovers subsided, TAP regrouped to rehearse another show.

It should not be forgotten that most of those involved in

TAP have, for want of a better term, "real jobs."

Teachers, editors, architects, designers (even writers) – have all given generously from their limited free time to join in the theater experience.

Families and loved ones have learned to accept that several evenings a week, their significant others will be leaping around on a stage for no better reason than to enjoy the art of acting.

Come the second weekend of March, audiences can experience this art brought to life in two short comedies – A.R. Gurney's *Scuba Lessons* and an energetic offering set in Phuket entitled *Night in a Bar Room*.

Interspersed between these will be a series of classic comedy skits and songs.

Audiences at the Friday and Saturday shows will also be fed, courtesy of the Green Man's kitchen, while Sunday's matinee performance offers a more traditional theater experience.

So has the power of the panto carried through to this new endeavor? Well, if the crying, screaming, cursing, singing and laughter at the rehearsals are anything to go by, you can be sure it's going to be another energetic and entertaining performance from the Andaman Players.

Find details of upcoming performances on page 21 in the "What's on" section of this week's paper.

For tickets and more information, contact K. Nui at the Green Man. Tel: 076-281445. Email: info@the-green-man.net



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Fine Italian dining – minus the ketchup

Who on earth dislikes Italian food? I don't know anyone who would turn down a plate of steaming spaghetti or a hunk of delicious pizza with melted cheese dripping off it. And who could deny that Italians are a warm and friendly people who make their dining experience such a positive, albeit calorie-laden, one? Italian food is a winner.

That is, of course, until you order in a Thai "pizzeria" and receive a sachet of ketchup to spread over the gobs of sweet cream and chunks of squid as a topping. This lends a certain birthday-cake-gone-wrong-with-ketchup experience to pizza consumption. Along with graft and bad driving, one of my pet hates in Thailand is pizza-desecration.

Limoncello, a fine-dining Italian restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina, is the real deal. It's in a top location, right alongside the motor yachts and aquatic toys of the mega-rich. Inside the restaurant, there are more columns and arches than downtown Florence, but it's all tastefully done with lots of space and light, lending a clean, airy feel. The ambiance is perfect.

At the restaurant with my grandson Darren, who is celebrating his ninth birthday, we sit down and anticipate the meal we are about to eat. "Actually, for me it's my eighth birthday, grandpa. I



Limoncello, a fine-dining Italian restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina, is the real deal. It's in a top location, right alongside the motor yachts and aquatic toys of the mega-rich.

don't remember much about the first," says Darren.

For starters, we plump for salmon carpaccio and fresh mozzarella chunks with cherry tomatoes along with green salad and in-house bread. Darren orders a classic spaghetti bolognese.

The wine list is one of the heaviest in Phuket – and I'm not speaking metaphorically. It's about two kilos of pages of Italian labels, with eight red- and seven white-wine

regions listed. Prices range from 1,400 baht to a 20,000-baht Comptes de Champagne Tattinger. We opt for Chianti Colli 2004 by the glass.

The wine list also identifies the grape type, along with its alcoholic content. If you're driving your 1924 Bugatti, best stay off the Amarone 2000, which packs a whopping 15%.

Next up is a dish of tagliatelle. It's almost perfectly al dente and the meat is so lean and of such fine quality that I forget my obsession with fish and tuck in. The wine is spreading a rosy glow through my bones and the surroundings are so agreeable that

it seems impossible that la vita could be anything but bella.

Until ... a distant 80's melody furtively slides out of the sound system, slithers across the floor, climbs up the table leg, jumps onto my shoulder and slips into my ear like a greased eel.

Next thing you know, I'm listening to Simply flipping Red with old Micky boy warbling on about how much he hates Mrs Thatcher.

I consider ordering a couple of bottles of Tattinger, but pragmatism prevails. After all, 40,000 baht for a couple of over-sized earplugs is excessive, even by RPM standards.

We decide to take a look around and discover a VIP room to the side, along with a wine-tasting salon and al fresco dining area overlooking the yachts.

What looked at first like an open kitchen turns out to be a kitchen workspace separated from the eatery by a huge plate-glass window.

In the distance, I glimpse a white-clad figure dancing and frolicking in and out of RPM's central plaza fountain.

So that's where Darren got to when we were getting distracted by the tagliatelle ... and he said he was going to the toilet.

Just how to explain to his parents why their birthday boy has returned home soaked after eating at an Italian restaurant named after a cocktail is a challenge. I'll have to deal with that later.

Limoncello is an elegant, spanking new, ambitious eatery in a romantic setting. The staff are attentive and well trained, complemented by a young and ambitious management team, making the whole experience a decidedly fine Italian one.

Pastas typically go for upwards of 300 baht, mains 500 baht, salads up to 270 baht and desserts upwards of 250 baht. Sachets of ketchup are nowhere to be seen.

For further information contact Limoncello Restaurant. 63/202 Village 2 Royal Phuket Marina. Tel: 076-360869. Email: info@limoncello.co.th Website: www.limoncello.co.th

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SKIPPERS

Happily Ever After

Recent weddings in Phuket

Napat Piromrit and Nontapong Nichanont were married at the Phuket Ballroom of the Royal Phuket City Hotel.



Malin Mukka and Shane Doolin were married at Impiana Phuket Cabana Resort & Spa, Patong Beach.

The angel of

By Sompratch Saowakhon

Few of us can imagine what it is like to live with a hearing or speech impairment. Speech therapist Juree Kosakul, who works with visually- and speech-impaired children, is one of the few who can. She offers an amazing insight into the world of the deaf.

"It's difficult to teach deaf children to speak," she said. "Force is not the answer. It won't help them learn how to talk. It has to be done with love."

"You have to try and understand them in your soul."

K. Juree, a Phuket native, has taught deaf students for more than 28 years, including the last six years at the Phuket Panyanukul School in Pa Khlok.

She teaches some 70 students, half of whom are completely deaf while the rest are hearing impaired to some degree. "No two cases are the same," she explained. "In order to help them you need to know each individual's background. Where they come from, what their home



life is like. You have to be able to relate to them."

Each student has his or her own story of suffering. Some students are orphaned and live with their grandparents who might be at work for most of the day, so K. Juree often fills the role of both teacher and parent.

"The work is hard and progress can be very slow," she said. "Sometimes I get so disenchanted with students because they do not seem to make any progress despite my efforts."

"To succeed you must give it your all, and then some more. In some cases just the tiniest progress is a great victory."

Their inability to hear has not hindered their communications skills, however. "Some students have great difficulty speaking."

"Some can't speak at all. But I can tell what mood they are in or how they are feeling just by looking into their eyes. It's a kind of sixth sense I guess. You develop it after a while."

"These children are special. Often, just by touching them gently or stroking them they know what you are saying," she said.

"The touch tells them something about who you are. They might not be able to hear or see you, but they can feel you. They are brilliant readers of facial expressions, too," she continued.

"The moment you walk into the room they read you. They will know immediately if you are having a bad day. You cannot fake it with these children," she said.

"In the past I was tempera-

mental. I would get angry and frustrated. Working as a speech therapist has made me calmer, more placid. Finding the tolerance needed to do this job is hard for most people," she said.

"You have to have an element of emotional honesty in you – be prepared to share yourself."

"Most people would not like to do my job. When I applied to university I did not tell my dad

which subject I was specializing in. I knew that he wouldn't approve. But I don't regret a thing. I love it. I love helping them – seeing their victories."

"My parents are both teachers so the profession was a natural choice. Before embarking on this path I actually did not know anyone with such disabilities. I just felt an urge help these students."

K. Juree wasn't always so sure of her career choice. In her first job as a speech therapist in Songkhla, in 1980, she said, "I cried myself to sleep every night because I did not know sign language."

"It was very hard and communicating with my students was difficult. But amazingly they, my students, taught me. Though it was not an easy process I kept at it and slowly I learned to speak with my hands."

"You are what you love," the angel of the deaf said.

"When my students learn to say my name – I always feel so incredibly proud. 'Kru Juree'. It feels like when your own child says 'mom' or 'dad' for the first time."

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the deaf



LEFT: 'You cannot fake it with these children,' said K. Juree (right), who is teaching about 70 students to speak, including Fon (left).

BELOW: Some of the educational resources K. Juree uses while teaching.



"The parents are happy, too. Often the child speaking is a new thing to them. They are very proud when their child calls them 'mom' and 'dad'."

K. Juree's efforts have not gone unnoticed. She has won several awards from the Ministry of Education, including the provincial "Teacher Award" in 2004. She was also honored by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn in 2003.

What does the future hold? This month, K. Juree plans to open a speaking club for hearing

and speaking impaired children on weekends. It will be free of charge for anyone wishing to attend. Volunteers are welcome.

"I am hoping that parents of the students will volunteer and some of the teachers from the school, but really everyone is welcome," she said.

The project is funded by the Ministry of Education. For more information call K. Juree at 083-2805389 or the Phuket Panyanukul School at 076-260448 ext 206.

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This week



FLOWERS FROM LA FLORA: General Manager Sawai Sombat (center) and the management team of La Flora Resort Patong visit Tourism Authority of Thailand Southern Region 4 Office Director Suwalai Pinpradab (in white blouse) on February 18 to announce the resort's soft opening before its official opening on April 1.



MINISTERS MEET: Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Anongwan Thepsutin (right) is welcomed to the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket by General Manager Jan Kirstein on February 13. Minister Anongwan and key ministry officials convened for a meeting at the resort's Andaman Ballroom.



IN-TENTS CLEANUP: Ken Donaldson, executive director of Nestlé Ice Cream (2nd from right) presents 70 beach tents to Patong Deputy Mayor Voranat Thongyon (center). The donation was part of the latest project between Nestlé (Thai), Patong Municipality and local vendors to keep Patong's beaches clean.



A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES: Bangkok Hospital Phuket Director Dr Kongkiat Kespechara (3rd from right) and eye specialist Dr Khemawan Vettayawaikoon (2nd from right) open the hospital's new Lasik Center on February 16.



TIGERTHON: Friends, family and fellow shareholders of the Liquid Lounge gather to celebrate Tiger Lee's first birthday on February 15. Master Tiger is the venue's youngest shareholder.



AFFORDABLE LUXURY: Alan Hoppen (center), managing director of Cherry Wood Homes Property Investment & Management, hands a bouquet to The Heritage Village Project Director Tanan Tanphaibul (left) and Director of Sales Suttida Tanphaibul (right) on February 15 at the opening of The Heritage Suites condominium project on Phra Phuket Kaew Rd.

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Nissan's supercar makes a splash

At the recent 40th Tokyo Motor Show, Nissan unveiled its long-awaited new supercar, the dramatic and meaty GT-R.

The GT-R incorporates the world's first independent 4WD transaxle, which packages the dual-clutch transmission, transfer case and final drive at the rear of the vehicle, enabling the weight to be evenly distributed throughout the car.

Under the hood, the new GT-R features an all-new 3.8-liter, twin turbo V6 with plasma-sprayed cylinder bores and a special free-flow exhaust system.

Delivering almost 480 bhp (353 kW), and maximum torque of 588 Nm between 3,200 and 5,200 rpm, although the manufacturer will not release accurate figures, the new Nissan is expected to be good for more than 290 kmh with acceleration from a standstill to 100 kmh in under four seconds.

Despite its bulk, Nissan engineers have managed to reduce the drag coefficient to an amazing 0.27, combined with high front and rear downforce. Built from a combination of steel, carbon fiber and aluminum, the GT-R's body is highly efficient, giving exceptional levels of grip, thanks to a race car-inspired underbody diffuser, while allowing reason-



The new GT-R features a 3.8-liter, twin turbo V6 with plasma-sprayed cylinder bores and a special free-flow exhaust system.

traveling at high speeds. A large center-mounted tachometer, with gear display on its upper right, as well as easy-to-read graphics of the display, gives instant detailed information to the driver.

The unique

allows the driver to adjust gear shifts, shock absorbers and the vehicle's dynamic stability control settings: normal, comfort or high performance.

Entertainment is provided by a quality Bose sound system. All speakers are mounted in rigid aluminum, die-cast panels.

To support GT-R owners, Nissan has established special Nissan High Performance Centers, where all certified technicians and advisors have received extensive training.

Support takes the form of engine, transmission and wheel adjustment or alignment every 12 months, free of charge.

The new GT-R went on sale in Japan in December – with the first three months' production

completely taken up. Though not yet officially launched in Thailand, *The Nation* reported that "gray-market" importers began selling the model in January at a sales price of 9.9 million baht. It will be available in Europe and the US

able fuel economy at "normal" speeds and low wind noise.

Although the engineering of the body is a considerable step forward, the engineers and stylists have managed to retain the aggressive stance of the previous GT-R.

This is the first major change to the model in five years and clearly a great deal of thought and research as gone into it.

Designed by Hiroshi Hasegawa, who was also responsible for the Infiniti sedan and coupe, the GT-R production model is

clearly based on the 2005 concept car exhibited by Nissan.

The interior has received a makeover, designed to balance functionality, comfort and usability.

Sculpted bucket seats give the driver and passenger a comfortable, yet secure ride, while soft padding is used on the dash in front of the passenger for increased safety.

The instrument panel surrounds the driver, with all meters and the multi-function meter at a uniform height, to minimize the driver's head movement when

multi-function meter shows both mechanical and driving information, including accelerator opening, brake pedal pressure and steering angle. It also features an "optimal gearshift map" to emphasize economical driving.

"Adjustability" is the key to the daily-driving mode and a special "set-up" switch, located in the center of the instrument panel,



By Jeff Heselwood

later this year.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netnavigator.com

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Project owner: L.H. Muang Mai Co., Ltd. Managing Director: Khun Pitaya Tantipiriyakit. Registered capital: 900 million baht (paid in full). Location: Chaofa East Road, Chalong District, Amper Muang, Phuket. Title deed no: 1922, 1574-5, 1606, 2414, 3822, 1580. Operation license no: 21/1998. Environment study: January 16, 1998. Project area: 415 rai. Financial institution & obligation: Siam Commercial Bank Public Co., Ltd. Construction started: January 1996. Expected completion: 2007. After full payment is made, transference will be made within 7 days. Clubhouse area: 8.5 rai (approx). Clubhouse is now open.





Above: Punchline Pugilists Ricky Grover and Glenn Wool.

Photo by Lee Starnes

Pulling punches with punchlines

Punters were in stitches on February 20, when three hilarious stand-up comedians brought their raunchy, blue humor on stage to a packed-out venue at the Holiday Inn Resort, Patong.

The Punchline Comedy Club hosted London Comedy Store standups brilliant Brightonian Stephen Grant, controversial Canadian Glenn Wool and 'eavy Eastender Ricky Grover.

Stephen Grant was first in the lineup, picking on punters with volleys of comical verbal abuse. No nation was spared; he had something to say about each nationality, including the British. Glen Wool dared the audience to laugh at his controversial material about boys behaving badly while taking pops at religious fanatics.

Nearly larger-than-life Ricky Grover claimed to be recovering from a bout of e-coli brought on by a coconut. His cockney brand of foul-but-funny humor inspired the audience to demand an encore, at which point he stripped down to his string vest and delivered another funny five minutes. Always leave them hungry, Ricky.



Singing the blues

Twelve international and local blues bands put their hearts and souls into rocking Karon during the 2008 Phuket International Blues Rock Festival presented by HotelTravel.com at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa on February 22 and 23.

Musicians jammed with energetic performances that had the audience out of their seats in the biggest and best Phuket Blues Festival since it began in 2005.

Friday night's performers included Li'l Willie & The Fabulous Hepcats, Georgia Blues Band, Full House and the night closed with returning headliners from the US, The Rich Harper Band.

Saturday's lineup included The Groove Doctors; Boy Blues Band; The Blues Machine; Cannonball and Bonnie Anderson; and Shari Puerto.

Profits from the event went towards improving local children's education.



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Photo by Lee Starnes



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Working girl gets the works

After sitting in an office every day with my feet dangling just above the floor and my right hand permanently attached to a mouse, my entire body felt on the verge of collapse. Not only did my shoulders hurt, but also my back and legs.

I decided a spa treatment was in order.

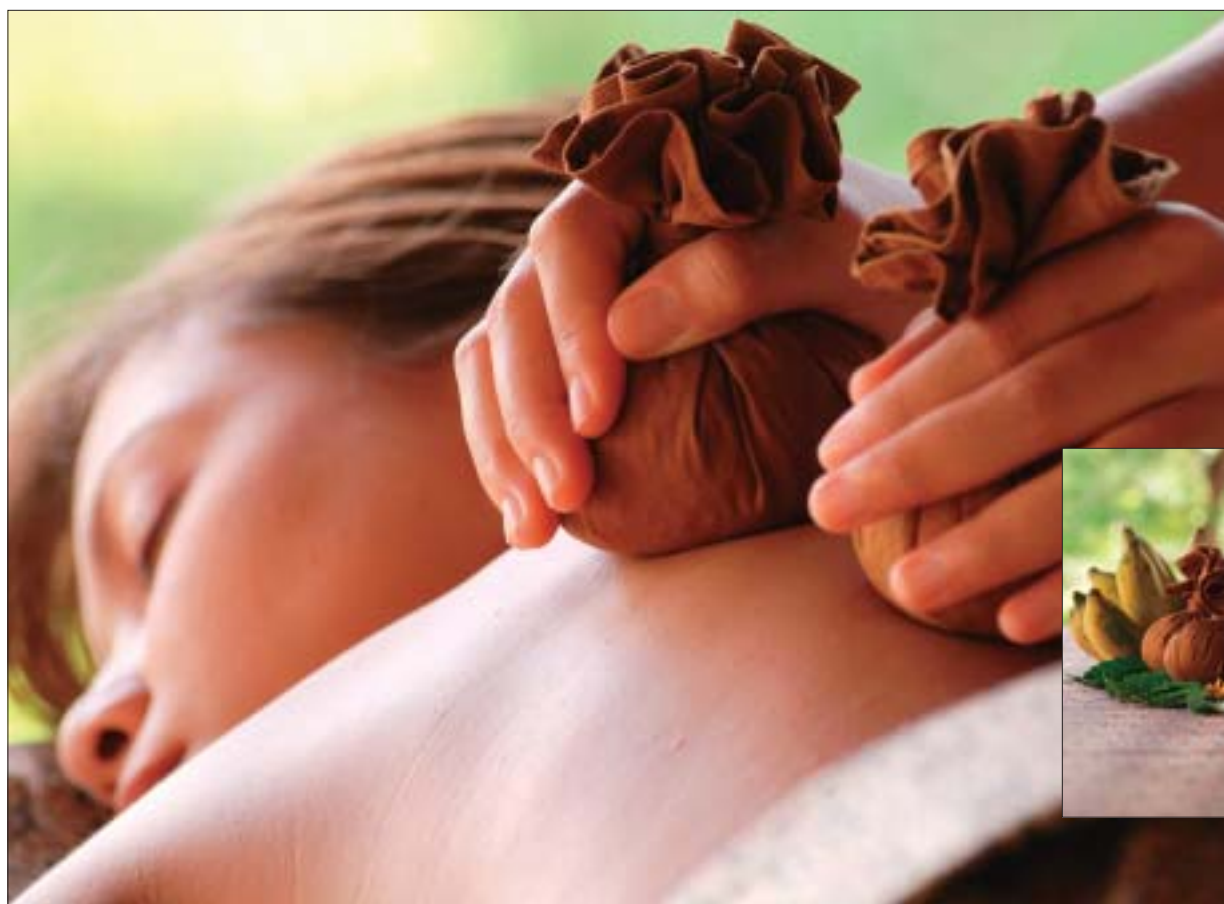
I drove to the Zense Spa, which is located in the recently-opened boutique resort Villa Zolitude at Soi Nai Trok, Chalong. I was welcomed by the resort's Director of Sales Siripen "Kung" Amornsirichutipon.

While I was sipping a glass of fresh orange juice, K. Kung explained that the spa has been open since November last year.

The spa serves resort customers and walk-in guests, she explained. "Though we are fairly new on the scene, we are already gaining in popularity with Korean honeymooners. Their wedding season runs from early March until June," she added.

The honeymooners' spa program offers two hours of treatment for a couple.

Feedback has been positive thus far. "Our market plan in the



Coconut oil plays a large part in the hot-compress massage at the Zense Spa.



near future is to attract not only more Koreans, but also Singaporeans and customers from Hong Kong," K. Kung said.

One option on the Zolitude

menu is the Soul Relief program, which includes a Thai therapeutic massage followed by a Thai herbal scrub.

Also on the menu is the

Timeless Romance treatment. The program comprises an aromatic massage combined with a skin-care treatment and an aromatherapy bath. Package prices start at 3,700 baht, with special offers available to couples.

Other treatments include body wraps, body scrubs and a series of facial treatments, as well as services from the beauty salon. Prices start at 300 baht up to 2,100 baht, explained K. Kung, as she walked me through the premises.

I chose the spa's signature treatment: a hot herbal compress combined with a hot coconut-oil massage.

The 90-minute, 2,900-baht treatment was concocted by K. Kung and her team to offer something different from hot-compress massage treatments administered at other spas.

"We wanted to do some-

thing innovative. Lots of spas use herbal compress packs.

"Our idea was that since we are living on an island symbolized by the coconut, why not let that play a part? Our customers like this treatment very much and sometimes request to buy the coconut herbal mix we use. We can't sell it because we make it fresh every day," K. Kung said.

Therapist K. Puk began my treatment by applying hot coconut oil to my back. I had requested the deep tissue massage and felt a

pleasant sensation of pain as her hands made their way down my back, applying pressure to my sore muscles and strained tendons.

K. Puk patted my back and shoulders with two hot herbal ball compresses that gave off a seductive aroma of coconut milk.

The balls used in the treatment are made from mill-roasted sesame seeds and are mixed with fresh coconut flakes.

Though I was in some pain, I closed my eyes and listened to the sound of the wind merging with the noise of crickets.

After 90 minutes of pleasure and pain, I retired to a sofa on the adjacent balcony where I was served hot jasmine tea.

Sipping away, I noticed that the tension had disappeared from my muscles and the pain I had felt in my body was now nothing but a distant memory.

The Zense Spa is located at Villa Zolitude Resort, Soi Nai Trok, Chao Fa West Rd, Chalong. The spa is open daily from 10 am to 7 pm. Tel: 076-521333. Email: spa@villa.zolitude.com Website: www.zolitude.com



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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

March 1. Last day of the 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

March 2. PC Group Therapy – Patong.

Join *Windows for Dummies* author Woody Leonhard and his band of techie irregulars in a wide-ranging discussion of computer topics from 10 am until noon.

If you can't get your Windows to work right, if you need to find a decent Internet connection, if you're going to buy a computer in Thailand or if you need to get one fixed, this is the place to be.

At the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong.

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

For more information con-



The second Triballistic triathlon will have senior athletes completing a 600-meter swim, 22-km cycle and a 6-km run.

TriBallistic Bor Saen Challenge Race 2 of 4

March 14-16

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

tact Barry Payne. Tel: 086-9764998. Email: bpayne@montpeliergroup.com Website: www.montpeliergroup.com

March 7-9. Andaman Players Theater at the Green Man.

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

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

Matinee: Sunday, March 9.

From 4 pm: Matinee performance of the three short comedies. 350 baht.

For details contact Nui at The Green Man. Tel: 076-281445, 085-7903652. Email: info@the-green-man.net Website: www.theandamanplayers.spaces.live.com

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.

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 8. Special BBQ Buffet Dinner at Wine Connection Bang Tao.

A special BBQ buffet with grilled meats, seafood, salad bar, desserts, cheese, Parma ham, coppa and much more. Live band. 650+ baht per person. 6:30 pm until 11 pm.

For more information contact Pascal. Tel: 087-8896074. Email: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th

March 12. Mom Tri's Boathouse Writer's Night.

From 7:30 pm to 9 pm, Mom Tri's Boathouse in Kata will host an evening with well-known crime-fiction writer Jake Needham, Asia's most stylish and atmospheric author. He is the writer of bestsellers including *The Big Mango*, *Laundry Man* and *Killing Plato* – a story set in Phuket and starting in the Boathouse's own Galley Bar.

Jake will hold an informal and undoubtedly entertaining discussion, with an audience Q&A session afterwards. Drinks available at special prices.

Contact Lisa Sol for details. Tel: 076-330015. Email: pr@

boathousephuket.com Website: www.boathousephuket.com

March 9. PC Group Therapy – Laguna.

10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Laguna.

March 15-16. Aussie Bush Barbeque & Music (much of) Night.

From 7 pm to 1 am at the Phuket Sport & Tennis Club Rawai. Feature for the night will be a performance by the legendary Mal Clarke of the famed Australian band Bullamanka.

He's fresh from a four-month season at The Ayres Rock Resort Hotel, where he entertained thousands of visitors.

Mal will be joined by many other local and international performers in what promises to be the greatest jam session with a bush-country-rock flavor in the history of Phuket.

Please register early to make your booking.

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For more information call Stafford or Pat at 081-6072805 or 081-5696569 (Thai). Email: phuketsquash@e-mail.in.th Website: www.phuketsport.com

March 16. PC Group Therapy – Chalong.

10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong.

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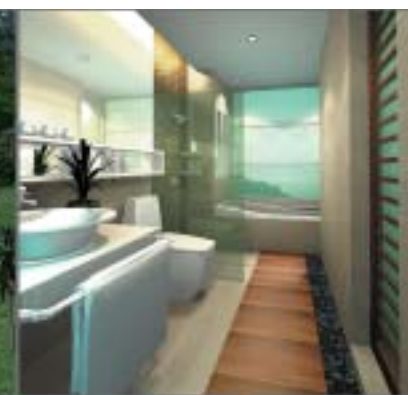
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Phuket Gazette



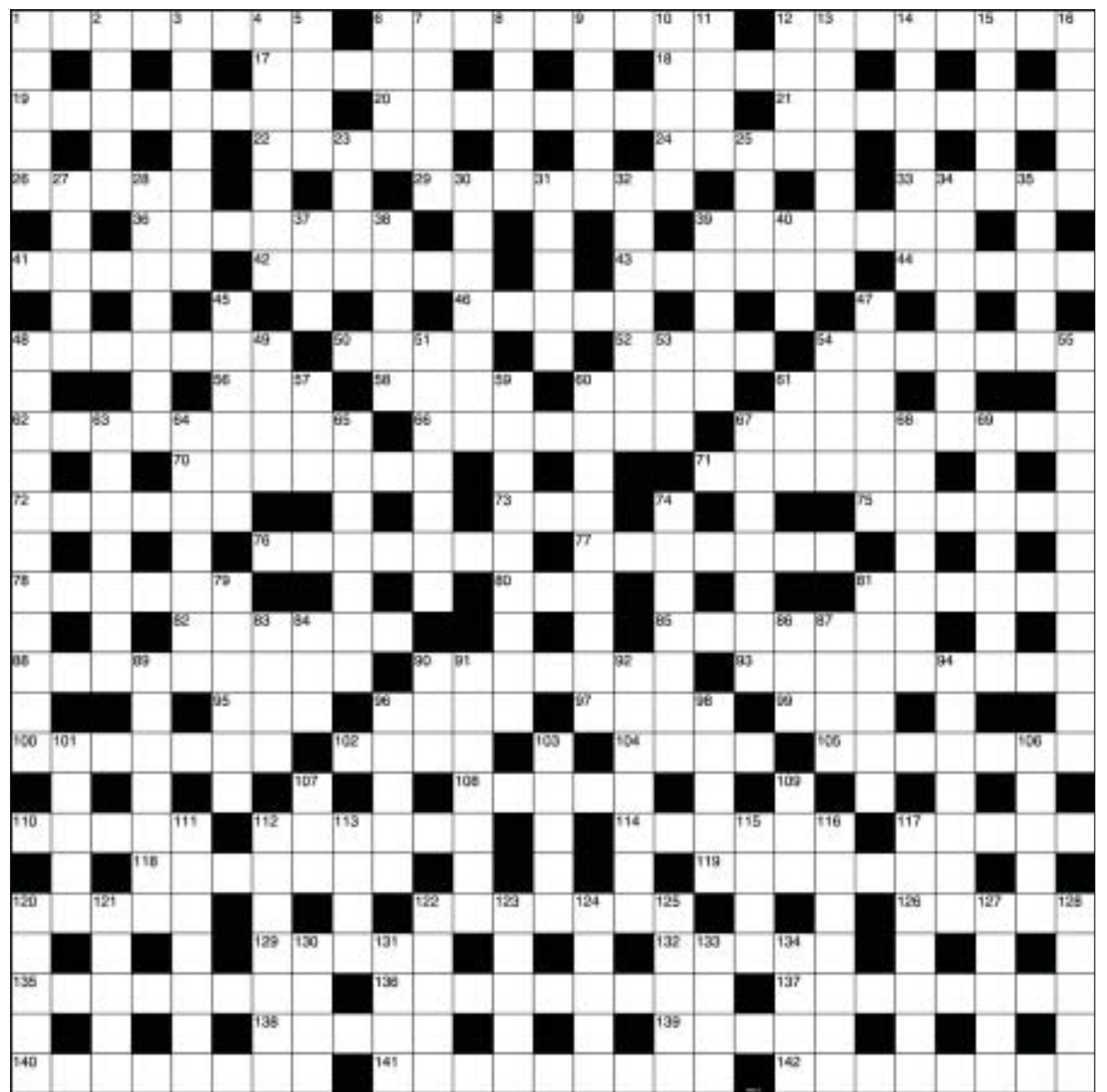
Puzzles

The BIG Crossword

Spot the Difference



Can you find the seven differences between the two cartoons below? And can you find them faster than the rest of the family?
Solution on the next page.



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Across

1. Respectably
6. Senior churchmen
12. Spanish
17. Artist's stand
18. Shade of brown
19. Outward
20. Rio ..., Brazil (2,7)
21. Plundering
22. Mention, ...to
24. Encourage (3,2)
26. Type of chutney
29. Chatterboxes
33. Young stallions
36. Digit
39. Partially refunded
41. Scares (off)
42. Canine illness
43. Get nearer to (4,2)
44. Poet, ...Thomas
46. Circle (planet)
48. Frozen drips
50. Mast pole
52. Holy statue
54. Grinds (teeth)
56. Inflatable vest, ...west
58. Fraud
60. Actor, ...Sharif
61. Refill, ...up
62. Rationally
66. Without help
67. Computer units of storage
70. Heating coil
71. French painter, Pierre Auguste...
72. Mutter
73. Mother
75. Harm
76. King Kong animal
77. Cheats, tax...
78. Common

80. Permit to
81. Baas
82. Tennis star, Pat...
85. Muster (troops)
88. Cherished
90. Put oneself through
93. Without hearing (5,4)
95. Sitcom, ...& Stacey
96. Clarified butter
97. Santa's bag
99. Japanese money
100. Protection
102. Easiest choice, ...option
104. Endorse
105. Metric
108. Intestine
110. Desert wanderer
112. Blood component
114. Internet messages
117. Goodbye
118. Tent support (3,4)
119. Stuntman, Evel...
120. Fight off
122. Flower seller
126. Summarize
129. All together, en...
132. Atomic device (1-4)
135. Switchboard worker
136. Demonstrator
137. Nation's aviation jurisdiction
138. Athlete's foot
139. Document, The ...Carta
140. Stabilized
141. Clumped
142. Enveloped

Down

1. Sleeping vision
2. Push in (3,2)

3. Tense
4. Trainee
5. Ivy-League college
6. Surrender (land)
7. Warning, red...
8. Speak slowly
9. Nephew &...
10. Entices
11. Pollution haze
12. Brave man
13. Persian
14. Frolicked
15. Irresistible star, Sam...
16. Aviaries
23. Loose flesh
25. Narrow valley
27. For a specific purpose (2,3)
28. Pasta dumpling dish
30. Loser (4-3)
31. Round door handles
32. Pre-jazz music style
34. Arduous journey
35. Track down
37. smell a...
38. Speech defects
39. ...mortis
40. Carton
45. Male &...
47. Due (of bill)
48. Enlightened
49. Auction
51. Sharply
53. Rotter
54. 60s pop dance (2-2)
55. Thrilling
57. Shady tree
59. Orange-rind spread
60. Car distance gages
61. Roman X
63. Eucalypt
64. Crypts
65. Craved

67. Shooting stars
68. Writing you feel
69. Sweet bun
74. Suspended bed
79. Set afloat
81. Prohibited
83. Unfettered
84. Actor, ...Danson
86. Pig pen
87. Cultivated (ground)
89. Standard
90. TV frequency band (1,1,1)
91. Women's court sport
92. Prison warders
94. Gradually diminish
96. Honking bird
98. Inuit boat
101. Call up
103. Curse
106. Stadium
107. Arab organization (1,1,1)
109. Boxer, Muhammad...
111. Simpleton
112. Raise in rank
113. Chimpanzees
115. Data
116. Belgrade citizen
117. Spray can
120. Plant anchors
121. Section
122. Savage
123. Promises
124. Distribute
125. Topic
127. Crushes
128. Appeal
130. Dry
131. As a gamble, on...
133. Actor, ...Pitt
134. Lion's neck hair

Answers on next page

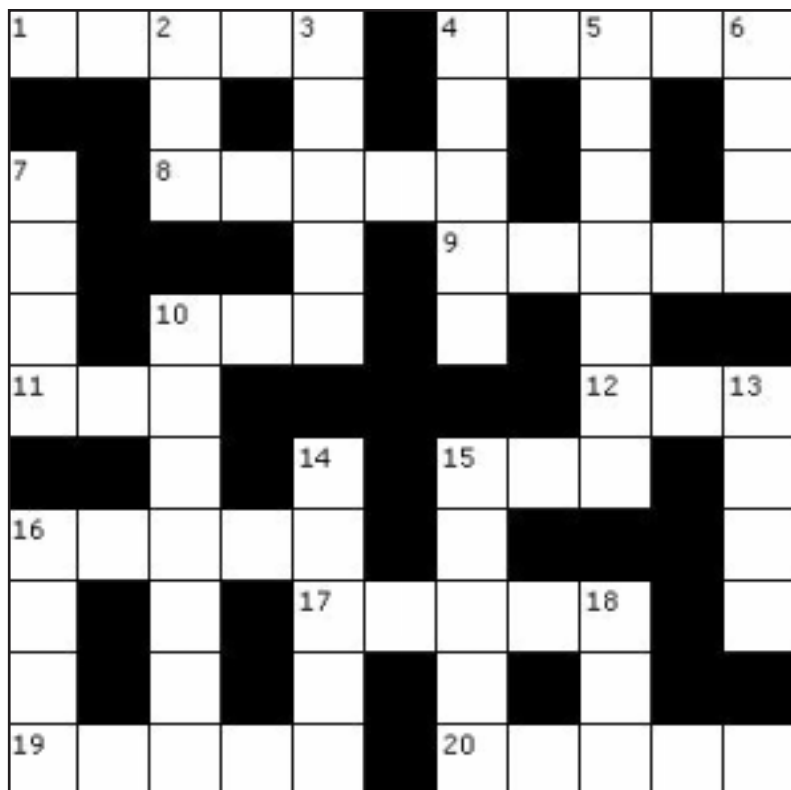
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Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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



Quick Crossword

Across

1. African country
4. Oranges and lemons
8. Consume liquid
9. Precise
10. Zwei
11. Stop living
12. Plaything
15. Burned wood
16. Work to work
17. Church
19. Annoying
20. Dance

Down

2. Move head to agree
3. Mexican friend
4. Phony person
5. Dig up
6. Something written
7. Give temporarily
10. Dull
13. Relaxing practice
14. European country
15. LP
16. Used for cleaning
18. Type of vegetable

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



1. Who wrote the acclaimed novel *Treasure Island*?
2. In which country was ex-England cricket captain Tony Greig born?
3. What was Tom Jones's first number-one single?
4. Which South American country lost its coastline to Chile in 1879?
5. What flavor is the liqueur crème de cassis?
6. What was the first product to appear in a UK TV commercial?
7. Which artist is famous for painting a portrait of his mother?
8. Which famous singer was known as the "Force's Sweet-heart"?
9. What does a lepidopterist collect?
10. What was Genevieve in the 1953 film of the same name?
11. In which UK cathedral is the Whispering Gallery?
12. What are blue mountain, caturra and mocca types of?
13. What was the name of the family in the popular TV show *Upstairs Downstairs*?
14. Which type of monkey is found on the Rock of Gibraltar?
15. In the human body what is the trachea more commonly known as?
16. What does an acrophobic have a fear of?
17. Entomology is the study of which creepy creatures?
18. What is the pole called that is used for propelling a barge or punt?
19. What is war veteran Rambo's full name?
20. What color are the flowers of the flax plant?

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Robert Louis Stevenson; 2. South Africa; 3. It's Not Unusual; 4. Bolivia; 5. Blackcurrant; 6. Toothpaste; 7. James Whistler (the painting is Whistler's Mother); 8. Vera Lynn; 9. Butterflies and moths; 10. A classic car; 11. St Paul's; 12. Coffee; 13. Bellamy; 14. Barbary Macaque; 15. Windpipe; 16. Heights; 17. Insects; 18. A quant; 19. John James Rambo; 20. Blue.

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

DECENTLY	CARDINALS	HISPANIC
RUE	EASEL	RUMBER
EXTERNAL	DEJANEIRO	RAVAGING
AI	VREFER	WCEGGON
MANGO	NLTALKERS	LI COLTS
D	NUMERAL	LNA
SHOOS	RABIES	O
O	C	F
ICICLES	SPAR	S
L	H	MAE
LOGICALLY	UNAIDED	MEGABYTES
U	U	ELEMENT
MUMBLE	A	E
I	T	L
NORMAL	N	Y
A	E	R
TREASURED	UNDERGO	STONED
E	V	NED
DEFENCE	SOFT	S
V	R	H
NOMAD	PLASMA	E
K	GUY	ROPE
REPEL	O	E
O	I	L
OPERATOR	PROTESTER	AIRSPACE
T	C	R
STEADIED	CLUSTERED	ENCLOSED

Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



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คอนโดสไตล์ทรู 17 ห้อง
ราคาเริ่มต้นที่ 1.9 ล้านบาท



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It was 11 pm at Phuket Airport and my father and I were ready to depart. Our destination: China.

I couldn't believe I was going to China, the country that has predominance over so much of the world. We were going to Guangzhou – a city of more than 11 million people and the third-largest city in China. It is also known as the “City of Flowers”.

In Guangzhou, everything I saw was new. While riding on the bus to our hotel, I kept thinking, “How cool! Chinese houses. Oh! A Chinese shop. Hey, look! A Chinese kid with his Chinese dog!”

When we arrived at our hotel, everything was written in Chinese. The staff were wearing suits and uniforms that I had only seen before in movies.

I was ready to say a sentence in Chinese from notes given to me by my Chinese teacher before departing, but unfortunately I had left them in another purse, so the only word I could say was “*ni hao*”, which means “hello”.

The receptionist answered with a smile. It worked! Immediately I tried to start a conversation, but it was a mess.

The confused receptionist called another member of staff, then another, until four people were standing there trying to understand me asking, “What is your name?”

I never learned the receptionist's name and I thought to myself, “If my Chinese doesn't improve, I will never know the name of anyone during my trip.” Nevermind; it was a good start.

The first two days were nothing special. In the mornings, my father and I spent time in a factory near our hotel. My father

Teen Queen goes green in the City of Flowers



The City of Flowers has some pretty impressive veggies, as Giulietta discovers in her travels around China's third-largest city.



wanted to know more about some machines that he intends to import into Thailand.

One afternoon, we explored the downtown area of the city. Everything was too normal and too quiet to be in this immense city that I had heard so much about.

I was becoming more and more disappointed with the trip. Before leaving Thailand, my father had explained to me his reasons for going to China and the importance of the equipment he wanted to buy.

He told me about geo-exchange, a free and clean type of energy taken from the ground [that can be used to heat or cool a structure], but, to tell the truth, my mind was focused on other things.

On the second day, it was the same: boring. I had heard 100 times the phrases “saving energy”, “renewable energy” and so on. I have always been interested in global warming and am proud to have a father working in the environmental field, but at that particular moment, I was too disappointed in what I had seen: practically nothing.

The following day, my father had to visit another company and I was worried I'd have to

again listen to the same old stories. The only difference this time was the location: closer to the downtown area and the real Guangzhou.

We were picked up from our hotel and when we reached the Denron offices, all my worries disappeared. Green all around, fountains of clean water, oranges used as decorations – a great environment. It is also a technological university.

My mind changed and I started to listen carefully to the words of my father. I began to better understand the meaning of our trip. After starting to listen to all the technical conversations, I was surprised when Denron's boss said, “We must have lunch. To eat and stay healthy is the most important thing.”

He took us to a luxurious

restaurant. I was excited about eating some first-class Chinese specialties, but on the menu I found only Western dishes and so I decided to have spaghetti.

I wasn't too disappointed because the meal warmed me up. However, I never thought I'd eat spaghetti in China.

After lunch, work began: meetings with engineers, looking at strange machinery, visiting testing rooms and classrooms.

I learned a lot by listening to everybody and I understood better the importance of keeping our planet clean.

After work, the overseas manager, Jane Zhao, became our guide and also a dear friend. We visited a wonderful temple with more towers than a video game. It was impressive.

Finally, we went to Beijing Rd, which runs through the heart of Guangzhou. An impressive and busy street between towering skyscrapers, the road's modernity was mixed with ancient tales.

In one section, the ground became glass, giving a view of the ancient road that runs under the modern road we were walking on.

We got lost on the way to the airport and had a confused and funny conversation with two policemen. One gave us directions and insisted that we should go one way; the other policeman said to go another way.

Denron's boss, who was helping us get to the airport, asked my father, “Who do you believe?”

My father, although worried about being late and understanding nothing of what the policemen had said, started to laugh and confidently said, “The first one.”

I thought the boss was a bit crazy to believe my father, but we followed his directions and it was the right way. We all started to laugh

when we saw the sign pointing to the airport and we made it there in time for our flight home.

My father found what he was looking for and I got to experience China.

I took a lot of photos, I learned more about the environment and I made a new friend. It was a good end to my fantastic adventure.

Youth 'n ASIA

By Maria Giulietta Consentino

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Gothic melodrama in Vietnam

Denis Johnson is a triple threat: poet, playwright and novelist. The 58-year-old American has written seven novels, six plays, three books of poetry and a book of global reportage. When he won the 2007 National Book Award for his latest novel, *Tree of Smoke* (Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, New York, 2007, 614pp), he sent his wife to attend the ceremony in New York because he was too busy in Iraq.

I confess to having read only Johnson's second novel, *Fiskadero*: a slender, post-apocalyptic tale set in the Florida Keys, published in 1995. I was impressed by how he can paint visual horror as only a poet can.

Tree of Smoke is his attempt at an epic novel about the Vietnam War. There have been great non-fiction books about Vietnam – Michael Herr's *Dispatches* and Neil Sheehan's *A Bright Shining Lie* spring immediately to mind – but despite a huge number, no great Vietnam novels. The closest might be *The Thirteenth Valley* by John Del Vecchio, writ-

ten about the Ia Drang campaign, but he tried to cram too much in with long historical and philosophical dialogs by exhausted soldiers, who in real life would have craved sleep.

Tree of Smoke takes place in eight sections, year by year from 1963 to 1970, opening with the assassination of John F Kennedy and ending with a coda in 1983.

The center of the action is Vietnam, but the plot also wanders about the Philippines, Hawaii, Arizona, Malaysia and Thailand.

There are two groups of characters: the mystics and the grunts. The grunts are two brothers from Phoenix, Arizona. Bill Houston starts off in the Navy in the Pacific. Younger brother James joins the Marines at 17 and ends up as an LRRP (Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol) scout in South Vietnam.

Both brothers wind up in prison back home. There is an awful lot of drunken, repetitious, obscene dialog at endless cross purposes. Pages and pages of it, in fact, proving how the lives of the



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

grunts are aimless and meaningless.

The mystics are two CIA agents: Colonel Francis X Sands, a WWII veteran, Flying Tiger pilot and escaped POW from the Japanese; and his nephew Skip Sands, a freshly-minted, idealistic recruit. Here is Saigon's famous Continental Hotel, seen through his eyes:

"In the large, frantic lobby, they sat in rattan chairs under one of the multitude of whirling fans. Around them beggars and urchins crawled at the feet of exiles and campaigners – at last, a wartime capital, a post lobby full of sagas, busy with spies and cheats, people cut loose and no longer accountable to their former selves. Deals struck in a half-dozen languages, sinister rendezvous, false smiles, eyes measuring

the chances. Psychos, wanderers, heroes. Lies, scars, masks, greedy schemes. This was what he wanted."

As a poet and playwright, Johnson's skill with description and dialog is heroic, but as a novelist, he trips up on plot – and it's a long fall for a 600-page novel. The plot moves along in jerks and starts with little interaction among the characters. The only connection the grunts have with the mystics is James's temporary service at a mountaintop base created by Colonel Sands.

The mystics are augmented by two Catholic priests and Kathy Jones, nurse and widow of Seventh Day Adventist missionary. The two bursts of romance, in the Philippines and Vietnam, between Kathy Jones and Skip Sands form one of the few tenuous emotional connections in the novel.

Other than that, the plot is pure melodrama, punctuated by long, obtuse, mytho-religious dialog among the mystics on subjects like doom, evil, fate, death and the hell that is Vietnam. The country is one long Grand Guignol series of gruesome atrocities. The plot wanders through many nebulous by-paths ending, absurdly enough, with some sort of jungle-tribe sacrificial ritual and a gallows confession. This reader, at least, had tossed away his credulity long before the end.

Regarding a Word Court column earlier this year, you of all people should know that a public restroom is not a "bathroom".

If you can't bathe there, it isn't a bathroom. Why can't we say restroom when that is what it is?

Fran Casselman
Middleton, Wisconsin

Barbara replies,

I don't know about you, but when I go to a room of the kind we're talking about, it isn't to rest. Both "bathroom" and "restroom" are euphemisms. So are most of the words mannerly people use for such rooms.

Even "washroom" is a euphemism, though the rooms do have facilities for washing, and so is "lavatory," which is just Latin for "washroom" in the same way "dormitory" is Latin for "a place to sleep."

A "toilet" is really what it is. Asking the way to the toilet in a public place is polite in some countries but strikes many of us North Americans as unpleasantly

Entitled by any other name

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

blunt. Then again, when a grown woman asks the way to the "little girls' room" or asks where she might powder her nose may strike many people as silly.

"Bathroom" strikes a balance between the crude and the coy – or so it seems to me. Washroom or lavatory is also fine to say.

My dispute is with the use of the word "entitled", as in "according to a document entitled..."

Entitled means to have the right to something. "Titled" refers to the name of a publication,

speech, song or movie.

Andrew Squires
Shaftsbury, Vermont

Barbara replies,

I like to make the distinction you describe. I figure if "entitled" sometimes means the same thing as "titled" and sometimes means something else, it's only sensible to stick with "titled" for the first meaning and save "entitled" for the second.

But entitled has been a synonym of titled for as long as the two words have existed – at least 600 years – and correct English usage isn't always sensible. Even

though we have a sound reason for our preference, we can't call other people wrong if they don't join us in it.

What is the difference between a "memoir" and an "autobiography"? Aren't they both written by a person who wants to tell the world his or her life story?

Mary Ann Kollinger
Warren, Michigan

Barbara replies,

Dictionaries will tell you that a memoir can be an autobiography as well as other things, such as "a report or record of important events based on the writer's personal knowledge" or

"a narrative composed from personal experience."

By the same logic I used when I agreed with Andrew above, I'm in favor of using "autobiography" for a life story and "memoir" for books that are mainly about people the author knew or events he or she went through.

But of course people who write books are allowed to title – or, sigh, entitle – them however they want.

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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Police scandal rocks tsunami victim ID center

In November 2006, the heads of seven diplomatic missions in Thailand sent a letter to then-Royal Thai Police Commissioner General Gen Kowit Wattana requesting a financial audit of the work of the Chalong-based Thailand Tsunami Victims Identification (TTVI) center, which received 88 million baht in foreign-donated funds.

"The issue concerns indications we have received that there may have been some misuse of the funds given by our respective governments to support the disaster-victim identification process. We are sure you would agree that any such misuse would be an especially sensitive and distressing matter for all of us... To ensure that these suspicions are cleared up definitively, we request that the financial records of the TTVI/TDVI be professionally audited by a reputable and qualified private accountancy firm..." the letter read.

Soon after the letter was submitted, six more countries were added to the list.

Thanks to the persistence of a reporter with the *Gazette's* Thai-language affiliate newspaper *Kom Chad Luek* (see News pages), it has come to light that one high-ranking police officer has been found by a fact-finding panel in the Royal Thai Police Disciplinary Division as "likely to have been involved in misappropriation of donated tsunami funds" in the panel's report to current Police Commissioner-General Gen Seripisut Temiyavej.

The officer in question is then-TTVI Joint Chief of Staff Pol Col Pornprasert Kanjanarin.

Col Pornprasert was notified of the panel's findings on February 8, just two days before he was due to retire.

The *Kom Chad Luek* report provides few additional details of the findings of the Disciplinary Division, only that the panel has good reason to believe that Col Pornprasert used donated funds "in a way that did match the objectives of TTVI".

Whether this was the result of bad accounting, poor judgment or out-and-out embezzlement remains unknown – as does any estimate of the amount in question.

The report raises as many questions as answers, but it at least keeps the spotlight on the case; one of many embarrassments suffered by the Royal Thai Police in recent years.

If Col Pornprasert did embezzle any of the funds, his case should be forwarded to the Criminal Court before the statute of limitations runs out in one year so that he can be put on trial and held fully accountable. Simply seizing his pension benefits would hardly be enough.

– The Editor

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

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In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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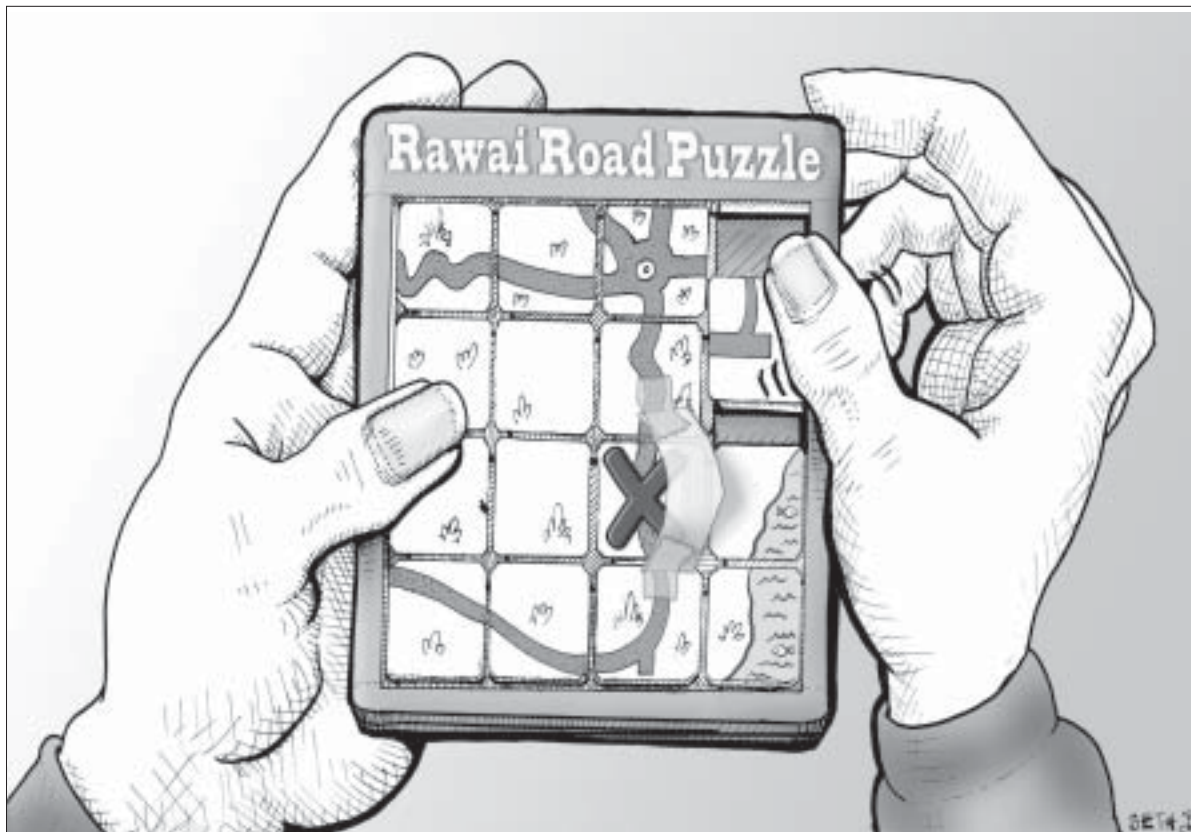
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Letters

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

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

No solace in sight for victims' families

It was very sad to hear about the Italian couple and the young Thai boy who were killed in January by a pick-up truck. Even more sad was reading Claudio Piccirilli's letter in the paper [The heartlessness of dying in Phuket, February 23-29] about the lack of progress in the police investigation of the incident.

I know this won't be much consolation to the friends and family of the Italian couple, but I know the family of the Thai boy who was killed and they have also had no help or contact from the driver – and they know him as a neighbor.

It's ironic that in the same edition of your paper an English tourist was charged for killing a Thai motorcyclist while driving a pick-up in Patong.

John Easton
Phuket

Dismayed at delays

On February 22 I went to Changi to take my Tiger Airways flight from Singapore to Phuket due to depart at 1:50 pm only to find the time had been changed to 5:10 pm. Why? Because of the Air Show.

Why wasn't that information on the company website that I viewed on February 21? Why wasn't the information available to the travel agent when she went to Tiger's website to book my ticket? I just checked and the website was quick to report about Singapore getting the Youth Olympic Games for 2010, but not about my flight delay.

There used to be a section on their website to register a com-

plaint, but the closest I got this time was this disclaimer on the contact page:

"Thanks for flying Tiger and please remember, staying lean and efficient helps us deliver those low, low fares."

Evidently, lean and efficient means horrific customer service.

This is inexcusable. Is Tiger Airways going to pay for five-plus hours of my precious vacation that I missed out on because of them? They also pulled the same stunt on the Wednesday morning flight from Phuket to Singapore.

Stephen Craig Evans
Singapore

Bamboozed by alcohol bans

Yet again there has been confusion over the serving of alcohol during the recent ban. In the Laguna area and Kamala, all bars were closed from February 21 to February 24 inclusive. On February 21 in the Laguna area, some restaurants were serving alcohol with meals; others were not.

On February 24, I went to Patong and all the bars there were in full swing. On my way home through Kamala that night, I noticed that the new bar on the hill part-owned by a high-ranking local policeman was open, but no other bars were.

Tourists here must wonder what on earth is going on, because as a resident, I certainly don't have a clue.

Bar and restaurant owners seem to be in the same boat. One bar owner told me they usually have no idea whether they can open or not until the night before, when they receive a letter telling them they must close. At the same time, other bars in the same

area remain open.

It would be useful if the *Gazette* could find out the situation in advance and place the dates on their events calendar.

Bemused
Cherng Talay

Blown away by blues

We are on holiday in Phuket and we went to Phuket Blues Festival at the Hilton [Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa]. We spoke to many people and found out that the *Phuket Gazette* was one of the main sponsors, so I want to tell you that we think you did a fantastic job.

We loved the music and we loved the festival – all of it. Please do it again next year and we will try to bring our blues-loving friends from Sweden.

Tomas Alfredsson
Sweden

Road rules, ok?

In reply to James Hair's letter 'Driving lessons or a question of attitude' [*Gazette*, issue of February 23-29], all the bad habits that James has observed are precisely why driving lessons are needed – to instill proper behaviors from the moment a learner driver gets behind the wheel.

The bad habits that James lists are not due to malicious intent or disregard for the rules, most of the drivers simply do not know what the rules are because they have never been taught.

Compare it with learning a musical instrument. Anyone can make a noise with a violin or tuba, but they will probably never play well unless someone teaches them how to play properly.

Terrance Pruess
Phuket

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

Power plan could be answer to Phuket's waste woes

Garbage will always be a problem for a community when it has no way of disposing of it. Not many months go by without the Thai press reporting some unauthorized 'garbage dumping', be it in Phuket, Bangkok or other cities in the country.

Asking private citizens and visitors to recycle garbage has proved not to be 100% viable and in many cases too costly.

In my native Sweden we have a different approach to garbage, with whole cities using garbage generated power from incinerators to heat houses and supply electricity for general domestic use.

In Phuket this system would be ideal for generating power to run water-heaters and air-conditioning units in residences and resorts around the island.

One incinerator for a single household costs around 100,000 baht, or less if made in Thailand. It has an isolated water tank with a capacity of 3-5 cubic meters, this can be made from any material capable of withstanding water-temperatures of 90 degrees Celsius. The system also has two to four water pumps and a temperature regulator.

A good chimney with quality filters is needed to ensure that

FIRST PERSON

Vivi-Anne Andersson is a Swedish national who has wintered in Phuket for the last 12 years. In Sweden she owns a series of homes that use garbage incinerators to produce power, which is used to heat and cool the residences.

Here she shares some of her ideas about how Phuket's trash problem could be transformed into a trash benefit, by using trash incinerators to heat shower water, gather scrap metal and provide power.



the cleanest possible air is emitted from the incineration process.

Around big plants, for example the Sävenäs in Gothenburg, Sweden, it has been reported that the people living close to the plant experience far less discomfort from odor and pollution from incinerators than people who live next to oil refineries.

I personally heat three houses, approximately 600 square meters combined, with a

combination of solar-power (used only in summer under good conditions), garbage incineration and firewood.

In the summer the sole use of a garbage-incinerator and solar panels is sufficient enough to provide the homes with hot water and electricity.

One large garbage incineration power-plant could supply all of Phuket with electrical power or a series of smaller plants

would be suitable for smaller communities or resorts. One medium-sized incinerator could power a cluster of villas, while a larger one could supply an area the size of Patong with hot water.

The garbage is not sorted before incineration and valuable metal remain in the ashes, which can be sold.

I estimate a city of 500,000 inhabitants can generate a net

profit of 200,000 baht a week from recycled metal sales. This money could be put into Phuket's schools and hospitals.

It would be unrealistic to expect every hotel to acquire its own garbage incineration system. For those who cannot, or will not build their own, hot water could be made available for purchase from local garbage-incineration plants.

It's important to insure water temperatures stay above 75 degrees Celsius to avoid incidents such as the Legionnaires outbreak that happened in Patong in February of 2007.

A few years ago I presented the idea to Phuket-Bangkok Hospital who had complained about the high cost of disposing of medical waste and other garbage.

I suggested that they build an incineration facility on the premises and a reservoir for hot water production. They replied that they do not use hot water.

I want to highlight how all of Phuket's residents and businesses could benefit environmentally and monetarily from something we are currently struggling to get rid of.

Garbage can be a goldmine for all of us. We just need to grab it and start reaping the benefits.

Welcome to the jungle

I have lived on Muean-ngen Rd (the road from the Amari Hotel to Merlin Beach Resort) for 12 years.

During my first years living here, the electricity supply was interrupted only by normal blackouts, but over time the supply improved to a relatively reasonable level.

Since New Year's Eve when there was a three-hour low-voltage "brownout", we have had more than 30 low-voltage brownouts or total blackouts.

Starting at noon one day recently, we had 140-volt supply for one hour followed by 160V supply from 5 pm to 6 pm. From 1 am that morning we had another one-hour brown out, this time with supply at only 110V. After supply had returned to normal, from 4 am that morning supply returned to 110V, after which we gave up and shut off the main supply to the house.

Why has the electricity supply gone down to these levels? And will it be fixed?

Steen Erik Jansen
Muean-ngen Rd, Patong

Luechai Sarobutr, Operations Chief, Patong Electricity Office, replies:

The electricity-supply problems in that area are caused by many animals touching the power lines, as there are many trees very close to them.

In that area are three-phase lines and when an animal touches a power cable, the current drops and affects all houses that are supplied by the power cable.

We are currently cutting down trees and branches that are close to the power lines.

I cannot guarantee that installing a safeguard box will solve your problem, because it is a mains-supply problem.

You can file a letter of complaint to Patong Electricity Office Manager, preferably in Thai language, at 187 Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150.

However, for faster and better service, I suggest you ask us to check your supply each time you have a problem by calling our 24-hour hotline at 076-345574.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

Sorting out Soi Axels in Rawai

We are having some problems here in Soi Axels, Rawai, and the adjacent sois where some of the roads between Soi Alingy and Soi Toehinkhao, east of Saiyuan Rd, have become almost unusable due to ruts that are up to 36 centimeters deep.

Access is extremely difficult for normal cars and we have been told that refuse collection vehicles will not collect any trash from homes in these sois because they consider the roads too dangerous. Builders' lorries, however, seem to manage to drive along them every day.

Most of the residents here have taken up the problem with the Rawai Municipality who say that they cannot take any remedial action as the roads are private property. This seems like purely an excuse, however, as I have documentary proof that Soi Axels, at least, is a public road, not private.

Perhaps someone in the rel-

evant authority could please explain why this terrible state continues to exist.

Michael Archer
Rawai

Rawai Municipality Mayor Aroon Solos replies:

The problem with the small sois off Saiyuan Rd is that many of them were constructed by private developers so they could then sell land and homes in their projects.

When they sold all of the homes in their projects, they didn't then pave those roads - they just handed them over to the local authority [formerly the Rawai tambon administration organization, or *OrBorTor*, before it was upgraded to a municipality] and said that they were now public roads, leaving us to find the budget to try and improve and maintain the roads that they had made.

Our policy is to provide all facilities, including water, electric-

ity, roads and garbage collection, to each and every resident in Rawai, but we must do this by priority.

We have put every road in our improvement plan and we are doing them one by one as we get the budget to do so. The same strategy applies to roadside drains, lights and garbage collection.

As for having your trash collected, this service costs 30 baht a month per residential address; businesses must pay more.

If you have paid this fee, call us at 076-288651 and file a complaint that your trash is not being collected.

You will need to give us your exact address and we will make sure that your trash is collected.

If you have not paid this fee, please call the same number and let us know that you want your trash collected and we will organize for it to be done.

Currently in town is Ms Grovella Meek, who has come up with a new concept in self-improvement therapy. I interviewed her at the Dionysus Sybaritica Resort.

Tsow: Ms Meek, welcome to Phuket. Could you please tell me about your new self-improvement program?

Grovella Meek: Certainly. It's called humility training. I developed it to counteract assertiveness training, a movement in self-improvement therapy that has gone too far.

Assertiveness training was a spin-off from the positive-thinking movement, which taught people to think they're wonderful – "I'm OK, I am fantastic, I can do anything, I have within me a sleeping giant who can be awakened to perform miracles." That kind of thinking.

Tsow: That makes sense – it's a survival mechanism. What's wrong with it?

GM: It results in a population of power sharks obsessed with dominating others: people like Genghis Khan, Tamerlane and Attila the Hun.

Only now they've been domesticated. Instead of wearing furs and armor and helmets with horns, they now wear suits and ties.

Instead of wielding swords, maces and battle-axes, they wield palm pilots and PDAs.

In the US, assertiveness training has given us a contentious society run by pitbull politicians. People like Karl Rove, Donald Rumsfeld, yes, and George W Bush, could

all use a good dose of humility training.

Tsow: But if you make them humble, they'll act like wimps. More aggressive politicians will steamroll right over them. Take George W, for example. If you make him humble, Vladimir Putin will eat him for breakfast.

GM: That's why humility training must be universal. Everybody must undergo it. Otherwise, the people who have become humble will be crushed by those who haven't.

Tsow: How will this affect political campaigns? Will politicians try to outdo each other in humility?

GM: Yes. Instead of boasting that they're the best candidates, politicians will brag about their own shortcomings.

Hillary will say, "Obama doesn't have much experience, but I'm even worse than he is. When have you ever seen me do anything but talk?" They'll vie to outdo each other in self-abasement. The electorate will be charmed by their modesty.

Tsow: Somehow I have a feeling this is not going to catch on. What does humility training involve?

GM: We have a Humility Boot Camp that

destroys our trainees' self-esteem through systematic degradation, the same way military academies do.

Dialog between our instructors and cadets often go like this:

Instructor: What is your miserable name, cadet?

Cadet: Sir! This crawling maggot is named Cadet Dogpoo, sir!

Instructor: Let's have an ontological status report, Cadet Dogpoo. How do you rate your wretched self today?

Cadet: Sir! Yesterday, this postulating scumwad was utterly worthless, hardly fit to be trodden underfoot and made into worm fodder.

Today, I am even more worthless, comparable in loathsomeness to cockroach droppings – and I'm talking about really low-class cockroaches, sir!

Instructor: Very good, Cadet Dogpoo. Henceforth your name will be Cadet Cockroach Dropping.

Cadet: Yes, sir! Thank you, sir!

Tsow: That's nice. I like the lyricism.

GM: We also make cadets clean out sew-

ers and lick the boots of their instructors. But after we've completely broken a cadet's ego, we don't build it up again the way they do in military academies.

We just leave it to fester and suppurate in a puddle of self-contempt.

Tsow: That sounds lovely. If you'd been around at the creation, I bet Adam would never have eaten the apple.

GM: That's true. Once our program has become universal, human pride will be extinct, modesty and meekness will reign over all and our species, formerly known as homo sapiens, will become homo humblus.



Tsow: It will certainly be a brave new world.

GM: Actually, it will be a cowardly new world.

S. Tsow can be flamed at stsow@yahoo.com, except when he's undergoing humility training for the cowardly new world.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

PISCES (February 20-March 20): The month of March will be a time for you to shine. Work becomes more pleasurable, possibly due to the arrival of a new colleague. There are indications that travel will be combined with romance if you are single.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): You aren't likely to be very active this week. Low energy levels are probably due to pressures experienced during February. Make this the month to recharge your batteries and attempt to offload certain responsibilities. It's time that family members realize that they aren't pulling their weight.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): As your spirits soar, cares and worries dissolve. Those of you who have been wondering whether

ambitious plans are feasible will receive clear signs to go ahead. This weekend, you get a chance to share your good mood with friends you haven't seen for a while.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): A fairly non-eventful week lies ahead. Treading water is your only option, no matter how impatient you are to get a new business project off the ground. Devote some quality time to updating personal administration and you may discover something to your advantage.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Money matters require a lot of attention this week. Those of you who have been ignoring the obvious since the start of this year will receive a wake-up call.

Wednesday is the best day for official finance-related discussions, but a second opinion from a sensible Sagittarian friend may be productive.

LEO (July 24-August 22): A new career is about to take off like a rocket for those of you who have changed jobs since the start of the year. Those of you who are content with your present employment are forecast to receive some sort of bonus early this month. Family matters are uncertain this weekend when someone springs an unwelcome surprise on you.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Physical activity is highlighted during the month of March. Those of you who allowed yourselves to get out of

shape since the start of the year should maintain a low level of activity to avoid problems. Wear a piece of rose quartz to encourage spiritual insight.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): The sun sets on a family argument this weekend, but this matter will be forgotten the next day. Those of you who are looking for attention will be happy when Pisces makes their interest known. Midweek, you discover a discrepancy in your financial affairs.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Those of you who have been seeking a more satisfying, spiritual path will meet someone who can help. As the month progresses, your attitude towards life is forecast to change for the better. The number 7 can bring some good fortune on Monday.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): A work-related secret is set to be revealed early

next week. Those of you who know that a business colleague was involved in shadowy dealings will be glad when this person is no longer on the scene.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Your down to earth outlook on life will come in useful this week. Family or close friends are about to make a drama out of a small problem and your wisdom will help put things in perspective. The number 9 could be lucky on Sunday.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Aquarians with their heads in the clouds could miss on important business development this week. Your dream of a perfect romance with Pisces will come true when elephants fly. In the meantime, Aries offers the stability you need. Money could cause a disagreement with a close relative mid-week, but you need to stand your ground. Wear a piece of light amethyst to encourage more wisdom.

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I have a confession to make. I started writing this column with every intention of warning you about the new service packs coming for Windows Vista (Service Pack 1) and Windows XP (Service Pack 3). I figured it was time to stop flogging the nagging Phuket-Internet-access-speed horse and bring in some important news from the outside world.

Then it happened.

About 7 pm on February 21, I hopped on the Web to see if I could rustle up definitive word about the details of Windows XP Service Pack 3, when all of a sudden – like a veritable bolt out of the blue – my Internet connection started working normally. I saw international download speeds of 1,400 to 1,500Kbps on a 2Mbps (= 2,048Kbps) line at 7 pm.

I picked my jaw up off the floor and decided to show you how and why some normalcy returned to my Internet connection, even if my state of divine grace only lasts for an hour or two.

If you've been following my column for the past weeks, you know that Internet speeds in Phuket absolutely tank at about 11 am, no matter which Internet service provider or connection package you have or how much you pay. Speeds stay really bad until at least midnight. International access speeds in Phuket took a nosedive on or about December 14, for reasons I don't begin to understand. They haven't crawled out of the dreck since.

Until this night, anyway. Maybe.

As you probably know, your Internet, uh, interactions get routed all over the globe. If you're sitting in Rawai and surf to a Web site in Anchorage, the packets going from your computer to Anchorage may end up winging their way to Bangkok, Hong Kong, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Calgary and White Horse before they get to their intended destination. The return trip may or may not travel the same route. At least theoretically, the packets coming back could route through Montreal, London, Milan, Vladivostok and Tashkent.

In practice, packets tend to stick to a well-worn path. The reason's simple: money. When you pay CAT or TOT or TT&T

Internet speeds make mysterious comeback

or Island Technology or Loxinfo or True for your monthly Internet service, part of what you pay goes to rent space on big data pipes. If, say, CAT doesn't have a contract with a particular cable or satellite company, CAT's data won't go down that company's pipes.

Many people think that CAT has a monopoly on international data traffic emanating from Thailand: if your packets go out of the country, some folks think the packets have to go over CAT's lines and are thus funneled into big international data pipes that are completely controlled by CAT. That isn't true and hasn't been for some time.

There's an eye-popping spaghetti chart of Thailand's international Internet connections that you can download and peruse. Go to internet.nectec.or.th/webstats/home.php and click on the button over on the right that says Internet Map.

That map, updated quite frequently, shows all of the major hubs inside Thailand (they're the ovals that are wider than tall) and the international hubs (the ovals that are taller than they are wide). Each of the networks is identified with a unique AS number, which is assigned internationally.

If you look closely – extreme magnification helps – you will see that, for example, True International Gateway in Bangkok (AS38082) has a 1Gbps line direct to UUNET (AS701) in the US, a 1.2Gbps line to ANC (AS10026) in Singapore and a 1.3Gbps line to DACOM (AS3786) in Korea. KSC (AS7693) has a 155Mbps line to VSNL (AS6453) in Singapore. TOT (AS38040) has a 1.244Gbps line to TMNET (AS4788) in Malaysia. And so on.

I count six major international gateways – CAT, TOT, True International Gateway, ADC, TTN TT&T and CS Loxinfo. So much for the myth



Outrigger to showcase West Sands

By Nick Davies

MAI KHAO: Lifestyle-property developer and management company Outrigger Enterprises Group announced on February 21 that it will manage West Sands Resort, Phuket, a new, mixed-use luxury resort and residential development currently under construction by Central & City Developments at Mai Khao Beach.

West Sands is seen by Outrigger Enterprises as a showcase resort as the company moves to establish a strong presence in the region. The partnership marks the first major mixed-use luxury resort and residential development in the Asia-Pacific region for Outrigger Enterprises Group.

Outrigger Enterprises is a 60-year-old, family-run resort management specialist, which operates a multi-branded line of hotels, condominiums and vacation-resort properties, including Outrigger Condominium Collection; Outrigger Resort Club by Fairfield; and Embassy Suites – Waikiki Beach Walk.

West Sands Resort, Phuket, is to be developed in two phases and will comprise a luxury 400-room, full-service hotel along with 98 villas and 336 condominiums, as well as stand-alone restaurants and the island's first water park.

Darren Edmonstone, Vice-President of acquisition and development for Outrigger Enterprises, told the *Gazette* that the project is the first of several resort developments planned for the region. A regional support office at Plaza del Mare in Cherng Talay will be fully operational by mid-March.

"We see Asia as the real growth area for Outrigger. I think a lot of people are looking for a

unique leisure and lifestyle solution, which we have the experience and know-how to offer. As a resort development and management specialist with 60 years' experience in the industry, the Outrigger brand is suited to this region and we are able to offer something different," said Mr Edmonstone.

"The West Sands project is currently our largest development in the region and it is a prime example of all the disciplines Outrigger brings to this kind of resort. It will be a great showcase for future Outrigger developments," he said.

Mr Edmonstone added that Outrigger is currently in contract negotiations for another development in South Phuket. Other plans in the region include a project on Koh Samui, two projects in Bali, plus a 500-room resort in Hainan Island, China.

West Sands will manage the sub-letting and sales of the condominiums and villas, with a quota available to foreigners as freehold.

"We have a great deal of residential management experience from similar projects in Hawaii. As Outrigger owns and manages similar properties around the world, we are sympathetic to the needs of our villa and condominium owners," said Mr Edmonstone.

Mr Edmonstone also expressed confidence in Outrigger's expansion into the Asia-Pacific lifestyle and leisure industry with a strong background in resort management and specially developed IT software to oversee operations.

Phase 1 of West Sands, to be completed by September, will comprise between 160 and 170 condominiums and villas, plus the establishment of a beach club.



An artist's rendition of the West Sands development, of which Outrigger will manage the 400-room resort. The project will also feature 98 villas and 336 condominiums and a water park.

The West Sands Outrigger Resort hotel facility is part of Phase 2 and is slated to open by the end of 2009. Resort amenities will include Phuket's first water park, a private clubhouse, fitness center, tennis courts, holistic fusion spa and a selection of retail shops and restaurants.

The 336 one-, two- and three-bedroom condominium apartments, of which Outrigger Enterprises owns 24 units, will be located in five-story buildings; each building with its own free-

form swimming pool. The apartments will include large balconies, high ceilings, kitchens and bathrooms. Ground-floor units will have their own gardens with private access.

"This is an exciting opportunity for Outrigger," said David Carey, president and CEO of Outrigger Enterprises Group. "We've had our sights set on Thailand – Phuket in particular – for some time now."

We're thrilled to be associated with such a prestigious

project and a team of experienced developers known for their high standards and quality projects.

"West Sands is Outrigger's first venture into Thailand, but it certainly won't be our only venture. We're looking forward to gaining a significant presence in Asia over the next few years," added Mr Carey.

West Sands is the first project in a series of lifestyle resorts planned for development by Central & City Developments Limited, whose principals include Sir Terry Leahy, a former European Business Leader of the year, and Paul Mercer, president of Central & City Developments.

"West Sands offers a superb environment, unmatched anywhere else in Phuket in terms of property and environment," said Sir Terry Leahy.

"We're pleased to have Outrigger as the manager of the hotel at West Sands and look forward to a successful project backed by Outrigger's exemplary reputation and expertise, global strategy, cutting-edge technology and proven customer service," he added.

Central & City Developments' company mission is to focus on lifestyle-property development that provides luxurious and affordable residences with comprehensive facilities and minimal ecological impact.

BoA continues Andaman expansion

PHUKET: Bank of Ayudhya PCL on February 18 announced the opening of three new Phuket branches bringing the bank's total number of outlets on the island to 22.

The new branches are in the following locations: One in Pa Khlok, about one kilometer east of the Heroines' Monument on Route 4027; one opposite Phuket Villa California on Chao Fa East Rd in Wichit and one on Yaowarat Rd in Samkong, Phuket City.

The branches add to the bank's already extensive coverage on the island, which is claimed to comprise about 21% of the total branch network of commercial banks in Phuket, not including Bank of Ayudhya's 109 ATMs and eight currency-exchange booths in tourist areas.


The expansion is part of the bank's mission to serve all three customer segments – corporate, SMEs and retail customers – across Thailand.

"Phuket is a very high potential area. Our business in Phuket has been growing well so we decided to invest more in the island," said Bank of Ayudhya President & CEO Tan Kong Khoon.

He also announced the opening of the bank's first Exclusive Banking Center in the province, on Phang Nga Road in Phuket City.

"Our distribution network of 22 branches places us in a leadership position in Phuket. In addition, we are also opening Phuket's first Exclusive Banking Center to provide specially-designed services to our local high net-worth customers," he said.

– Sangkhae Leelanaporn



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Fighting inflation and skirting recessions

We've just celebrated the Year of the Rat. With China developing an inflation problem, it will be interesting to see the average opinion of rats by the time this year comes to an end.

Despite repeated measures taken to reduce inflationary pressures, prices, as measured by China's consumer price index (CPI), rose 7.1% in January.

This was despite a rising currency, which, at least in theory, should be helping to contain inflation. The world has benefited from a weak Chinese yuan in recent years as it has meant that to trade with China is to import deflation.

Central bankers are confronting inflationary pressures in different ways. In the Euro zone, the European Central Bank (ECB) is holding its base lending rate steady at 4%. Inflation has reached 3.2%, which is well above the ECB's maximum target rate of 2%.

The ECB is hesitant to raise interest rates as it is well aware that economic growth is slowing. The ECB is forced by its founding charter to keep inflation below 2% without any reference to economic growth.

This makes life difficult for European central banks, especially when compared with their American and British counterparts who view inflation and economic growth in tandem.

The ECB's stance is understandable. Germany experienced hyperinflation in the 1920s when workers had to be paid twice daily in ever-increasing amounts just to put food on the table. Hyperinflation is a frightening scenario as it can almost instantly wipe out peoples' savings.

In the Euro zone, the European Central Bank (ECB - its headquarters in Berlin pictured here - is holding its base lending rate steady at 4%. Inflation has reached 3.2%, well above the ECB's maximum target rate of 2%.



Any country that has experienced hyperinflation remains vigilant thereafter to ensure that it is never repeated. When the European Union was considering a common currency, the euro of today, containment of inflation was the top priority.

There was another reason for the emphasis on inflation. Southern European countries would become members of the common currency and it was known that their record and attitude to fighting inflation was somewhat dubious.

Global demand for commodities ranging from "soft" com-

modities, such as wheat, to "hard" commodities, such as iron ore, is increasing at a rapid rate. The increase in demand has led to a substantial increase in prices and therefore inflationary pressures.

The US central bank, the Federal Reserve, is faced with two problems: a rapidly-slowing economy and rising inflationary pressures.

In view of its dual mandate to fight inflation while maintaining economic growth, it has chosen the latter as its first priority. Hence the rapid response in cutting interest rates from 5.25% to

3% in a very short period of time.

Many economists and currency-strategists have pointed out that never in history has the Federal Reserve moved so quickly and decisively in difficult times.

It is the speed of the reaction, combined with the Federal stimulus package of around US\$167 billion, that encourages many observers to believe that any US recession will be short and shallow. Others believe that the US will skirt recession with maybe just one quarter of negative economic growth. The accepted definition of a recession is two or more consecutive quarters of negative economic growth (economic contraction).

Here are some examples of views on the US economy expressed on business television channel CNBC. Bob Diamond, president of international banking group Barclays believes that the US economy will grow by the second half of 2008.

Craig Dunn, CEO of major Australian insurance company AMP, expects the US economy to be growing by year end but predicts more bad news in the meantime.

James Shugg, senior economist at Westpac, one of Australia's "big four" banks, believes that, at best, the US economy is "flat", with possibly one-quarter of negative economic growth.

Overall, he believes the US economy will grow at 2% or less in 2008.

He further stated that the

US banking sector is not in good shape. Because it suits their position, though, as bankers are making the situation sound worse than it actually is.

Shugg said he also believes that the US Federal Reserve will cut interest rates twice more in 2008.

Many economists are confident that the US economy will recover in the second half of 2008, or at least by year end. However, there are some who

warn otherwise. CNBC staffer Joe Kernan of CNBC's *US Squawk Box* pointed out that some predict that the US will suffer a much deeper and protracted recession than most expect.

The uncertainty surrounding the duration of the US economic

slowdown is what makes it difficult to judge when the stock market will recover. The stock market acts as a discounting mechanism; reacting to an improving situation about six months before it appears in reality.

In this case though, the "financials" (banks and related companies) are still experiencing problems. Until the financial sector improves, it is unlikely that stock markets can make much headway.

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



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By Richard G Watson

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LAYAN TARA PHUKET

CRICKET

PCC clinch low-scoring scrap

CHERNG TALAY: In match five of the 2008 Island Furniture Cricket League, neither team on the pitch shone as a messy battle ensued between the Patong Cricket Club (PCC) and the Phuket Cricket Association (PCA) at Cherng Thalay Witayakom School on February 10.

Mike Khan, skipper of PCA, won the toss and predictably chose to bat first. PCA got off to a steady start before Yatin Halankar was run out when the score was 19. Khan (9) soon followed with the total on 40.

A hard-hitting partnership between Sachin, who made 38 off 29 balls, and Robin (15) moved the scoreboard along to 85 before Robin succumbed to a fine catch by Richard Desmond off the bowling of Beeley. Sachin soon followed and after being 85 for three, PCA soon found themselves all out for just 112 off 20.3 overs.

PCC's Beeley was the standout bowler with five for 26 off four overs. Also worthy of mention is Joshi Kumar, who bagged three for 21 off four overs.

After a short break, PCC took up the task of chasing down 113 runs for a win and a chance to be at the top of the table for the first time since the first match of the 2006 season.

PCC skipper Martin Foster isn't known to muck around at the crease and went straight to work, knocking up 25 runs off 29 deliveries.

It was Desmond who fell first on just five runs after being bowled by Yatin. Jafar Ali joined the fray and moved the run rate along by scoring 24 runs from 24 balls. Runs were also added to

the tally by Matt Binstead (11) and Seemant Raju (20 not out) before PCC had comfortably passed the required total with five wickets in hand and 17 overs to spare.

Halankar, who had a good day with the bat, was also the pick of the PCA bowling camp after taking two wickets for 19 runs off six overs. Vipul and Rubal also picked up three wickets between them.

PCC made it to the top of the points table. How long it will last is anyone's guess. A fine bowling performance by Beeley played a part, but also pleasing to the PCC skipper was the fact that four of his seven batters made it into double figures.

For PCA, it was a disappointing finish to what was at one stage a promising start with the bat.

There were no matches scheduled for the following week as the Phuket Cricket Union representative side traveled to Chiang Mai for the CAT Inter Regional Cup 2008, organized by the Cricket Association of Thailand.

Last year, Phuket came third, while this year, more is expected from what is a stronger side.

Local league matches resume on March 2 when two matches will be played: one between the Phuket Cricket Association and the Island Cricket Club, the other between the Village Cricket Team and the Liquid Lounge Lizards.

For further information email Mark Whetton at scarfy@loxinfo.co.th



Athletes set off at the start of Laguna Phuket International Marathon 2007. More than 1,000 runners are expected to take part in the event this year.

Athletes prepare for Laguna marathon

CHERNG TALAY: Entries are open for the 2008 Laguna Phuket International Marathon on June 15, but runners have only until March 31 to take advantage of an early-bird offer on registration fees.

The Laguna Phuket International Marathon is expected to be another enormous success this year, with more than 1,000 participants anticipated to take part.

The event will be split into a 42-kilometer marathon, a 21km half-marathon, a 10km run and a 5km walk. There will also be a 2km kids' fun run.

Eco-marathoner and slow-running advocate Hajime Nishi will guide interested runners over the course, helping them fully

enjoy the course and interaction with spectators – without the pressure of having to achieve a certain finish time.

Hajime, who has taken part in more than 500 marathons, runs under the principle that "slow is beautiful".

The course for the full-marathon, which starts at the resort, takes athletes through Baan Don and Thalang, up to Phuket International Airport and past Mai Khao and Nai Yang beaches before returning to Layan Beach and onto the finish line at Laguna.

There will be water stations every 1.5km to 2km along the course. Gatorade will be provided

to runners after the 12.5km mark.

Toilets will be stationed along the course at intervals of 5km. Medical services will also be available for runners.

Registration fees for the full-marathon are: US\$50 (before March 31); US\$65 (April 1 until June 5); US\$75 (late or race-day registration).

To register your application go to www.phuketmarathon.com

Athletes must be at least 18 years old to enter the marathon or half-marathon and at least 12 years old to enter the 10.5km run.

Online registration, which closes June 5, is available at www.phuketmarathon.com

PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

February 19 results: Queen Mary* 8 Shakers 1; Dogs Bollocks 5 Market bar* 4; Piccadilly 6 Beach House* 3; Valhalla 4 Offshore* 5; Simply Red* 3 Sick Buffalo 6 (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Queen Mary (18 pts.); 2. Piccadilly (16); 3. Offshore (13); 4. Dogs Bollocks (9); 5.= Beach House, Sick Buffalo (8); 7. Valhalla (7); 8. Shakers (5); 9. Market Bar (4); 10. Simply Red (2).

March 4 matchups: Queen Mary v Piccadilly; Dogs Bollocks v Offshore; Sick Buffalo v Shakers; Market Bar v Valhalla; Simply Red v Beach House (home team first).

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Runners set for Phuket City race

PHUKET CITY: The Parents' Association of Plookpanya School will hold its eighth annual mini-marathon and fun run on March 9.

The event, which is open to runners of all ages and experience, is being held to encourage people to exercise and help continue foster a good relationship between Plookpanya School and the local island community.

Runners will start in front of the school on Satun Rd at 6 am. Entrants will set off northbound on a 10.5-kilometer mini-marathon, a 3.5km fun run or a 1.5km family run.

Those running the 10.5 km course will travel left onto Mae Luan Rd, take a left onto Chao Fa West Rd, then turn left again onto Soi Thep Anusorn and take another left turn onto Chao Fa East Rd.

From there, participants will head back into town via Patipat Rd and turn right onto Krabi Rd, then left onto Satun Rd to cross the finish line at the school.

Entrants running the shorter courses will start by following the same route, but they will turn left onto Wichit Songkram Rd at the Mae Luan Rd intersection, then left again onto Patipat Rd, turn right onto Krabi Rd and left once more at Satun Rd before finishing at the school.

The women's categories are 15 years old and under, 30 years old to 39, 40 to 49, and 50 and over.

The men's categories are 15 years old and under, 16 years old to 20, 30 to 34, 35 to 39, 40 to 44, 45 to 49, 50 to 59, and 60 and over.

The first five runners in each age category in the 10.5km race will receive trophies presented by Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit.

The first 300 runners to complete the 10.5km course and the first 900 to finish the 3.5km run will receive medals.

Registration will be on March 8 from 10 am to 6 pm in the Salaruanthai Room at Plookpanya School, as well as on race day from 4:30 am to 5:30 am at the school field before the races begin.

Entry for the 10.5km course is 200 baht per person, including a complimentary T-shirt; 100 baht per person for the 3.5km course; 300 baht per team for the 1.5km family run.

For more information contact the Parents' Association of Plookpanya School. Tel: 076-216288, 081-8946972, 089-8749724 or 081-8922081.

YFH C win league



The final matches in the Phuket Fair Play Junior League were played February 24, with all eight teams taking to the field at Youth Football Home (YFH) in front of about 1,000 spectators.

YFH C closed the season on a high note, beating Wat Thepkasattri School 7-1 and drawing with YFH B 3-3.

YFH C (pictured) were crowned champions of the league with 34 points, with British International School, Phuket, (28 points) taking the runner-up spot. YFH B (26 points) were third on goal difference and YFH A finished fourth (also 26 points).

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

International rugby returns to Phuket

KARON: International rugby 10s is set to return to Phuket this year with teams preparing to battle it out at Karon Municipal Stadium in the Coffin Dodgers veterans tourney and the competition for the Clive Williamson Memorial Trophy.

The Coffin Dodgers veterans competition is now full and there is one space left in the main competition. Any unregistered teams would like to take part are asked to contact organizers as soon as possible.

Pool games for the Coffin Dodgers competition will comprise 16 teams, with matches to be played on May 30. The finals will be held on Sunday, June 1.

Comprising 24 teams, the main competition for the Clive Williamson memorial Trophy will be held on Saturday, May 31 and Sunday, June 1.

Advertising space in the event program is being offered at 6,000 baht per half page or 10,000 baht per full page. Any companies interested in supporting the tournament are urged to apply as soon as possible.

Last year's champions The Emirate Flying Muppets will be unable to defend their crown, so a new champion is guaranteed in the main draw. The Philippine Volcanoes will be defending the title they won last year in the

Coffin Dodgers tourney. A number of teams will be returning to Phuket to take part in what is fast becoming one of the premier rugby-10s events in Southeast Asia.

All matches will be played under international rugby rules. Any queries regarding rules should be submitted to David Viccars (exeterdavid@hotmail.com) or Matt Oakley (matthewoakley@hotmail.com).

This year, 25% of the entry fees collected will be donated to the orphan scholarship fund administered by Asia Center Foundation (www.asiacenter.ac).

Funds will be raised over the weekend of play for this cause. Close to 1 million baht raised at last year's event helped fund the education of more than 150 children. Scholarship recipients will attend the tournament once again this year.

A number of social functions will be held over the weekend of play; the details will be announced soon.

Thara Patong Beach Resort, the official tournament accommodation, will also serve as the departure point for buses to the ground.

For more information about rugby 10s email phuketrugby@gmail.com or visit the website www.phuketvagabondsrfc.com

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A race to the finish for sellout housing project



This eight-meter-wide twin house is one of the three building types to be constructed at Chaofa Garden Home Project 5, which developer Kasam Sriratt (inset) says was sold out within a month.



WICHIT: Construction on the 1-billion-baht Chaofa Garden Home Project 5 is underway on 80 rai behind the Wang Talang jewelry showroom on Chao Fa West Rd.

The budget residential project began late last year and should be complete by late 2009, said developer Kasam Sriratt, president of Leelavadee Resort and Spa Co Ltd and also president of Win Pro Engineer Co Ltd.

Even though it is the fourth of such projects by Chaofa Garden Home group, the project is numbered "5" since the number "4" in Thai has a similar pronunciation to the Chinese word meaning "death".

Chaofa Garden Home 1 and 2 in Nabon subdistrict on Chao Fa East Rd were built in 2001 with a total of 700 houses, while Chaofa Garden Home 3 in Koh Kaew subdistrict on Thepkra-sattri Rd is still in development.

It will comprise 700 houses on 206 rai and is expected to be complete by the end of 2010.

Chaofa Garden Home Project 5 will comprise 144 units of single-story townhouses, each seven meters wide on 120-square-meter plots, and 220 single-story twin houses of two types: eight meters wide (92 units) and 10 meters wide (128 units).

Home prices range from 1.56 million baht to 2.76 million baht. All 384 units were sold out within a month after they went on sale in November last year.

"We usually spend about two years to complete a project but because this project sold out very fast, it will need to be completed fast too," K. Kasam explained.

"We expect that we can transfer the titles to customers by about August this year and expect to finish all the transferring

process within the third quarter of the next year," he added.

The infrastructure system including the roads, electricity, and water supply system to each plot is about 80% complete and all infrastructure work is expected to be completed by the middle of this year, he said.

The Chaofa Garden Home Project 5 homes' design is distinct from the other projects, with a Balinese style and roof shingles instead of corrugated roof sheeting, K. Kasam explained. Ceilings will also be higher than usual, about four meters high.

A feature that will appeal to car owners, he said, is that the roads within the project will be wider than required by regulation; 18 meters wide for main roads and 12 meters wide for secondary roads.

DENIED: Building permits rejected for three coastal projects

PHUKET: The Provincial Natural Resources and Environment (PNRE) committee chaired by Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima has denied building permits for three marine projects, citing Interior Ministry regulations prohibiting such construction in six sub-districts (*tambon*).

The projects denied building permits were an application by Trisara resort developer Three Dolphins Co Ltd to build a wharf in Chong Talay for boats under 20 tons displacement; a floating pier at Surin Beach planned by Twinpalms Phuket Hotel at Surin Beach and a request submitted by Pla Seafood restaurant, also at Surin Beach, to install a floating dock to serve boats under 10 tons as well as buoys to mark off a safe swimming area.

In denying building permits for the three projects the committee cited Interior Ministry Regulation 20 issued in 1989, which forbids such construction in a designated zone that covers coastal regions in tambons Sakoo, Chong Talay, Kamala, Patong, Karon and Rawai.

Starting 50 meters inland, the designated zone is 150 meters wide, extending another 100 meters offshore.

The committee also noted that the location of the proposed wharf by the Three Dolphins company fell inside the boundaries of Sirinath Marine National Park.

The committee gave its approval in principle for installation of intake and effluent pipes to a reverse-osmosis water-treatment plant that will serve The Yamu development in Pa Khlok, Thalang.

Although the PNRE committee has yet to receive the application to install the pipes, it was told that the application had already been approved by the Phuket Marine Office, the provincial office of the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry and the local office of the Department of Industry.

The committee asked the developer to submit documents from those agencies before granting final permission.

Other projects considered by the committee were two floating plastic piers to berth boats not over 10 tons gross at Koh Sireh in Rassada and a floating pier at Ao Makham by the Bavana Co Ltd.

The committee said that environmental impact reports of the projects' effects on coral would have to be studied before a decision is made.

The committee comprises representatives from 15 provincial offices, including the Phuket Provincial Marine Office, the Public Works and Planning Office, the Fishery Office, Phuket office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), and the Marine and Coastal Resources Office.



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The four bedrooms each have en-suite bathrooms and built-in closets, and the home's seven air-conditioning units are all ducted so they do not interfere with the streamlined, modern look of the house.

All rooms are decorated in a modern, tropical style with natural and locally sourced furniture pieces and art reflecting the Asian theme of the house.

The pool is 20 meters long and eight meters wide at the widest point; there is also a built-in Jacuzzi and poolside sala, the perfect place for alfresco dining.

Amenities and utilities include cable TV and the current



An open plan with easy access to the pool makes the most of the island's tropical climate.

owner is arranging for a phone line and ADSL capabilities to be installed.

Additionally, there is three-phase electricity supply with earthed wiring to all outlets and the house has been constructed using Q block, which helps keep the house cool.

There is a surrounding wall

encompassing the yard plus ample room for parking.

The home is situated on a plot of 2,200 square meters, near Rawai Beach. It is now available for sale at 25 million baht.

Contact Patrick Lusted for more info. Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com



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Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

Don't some things just go without saying? Do I really need to be told, as I remove another cigarette from the pack, that smoking isn't healthy? Is it really necessary, at the end of a radio commercial for Jack Daniels whiskey, for me to be told to "drink responsibly"?

I realize that it's not the manufacturers of these products that are to blame, but the nanny state that controls them. It appears that people are content to be patronized in this way; almost as if they need to be told that eating fast food and drinking a gallon of beer may cause weight gain.

I have a message for them: We know – that's why we're fat. We don't need to be reminded. In fact, constantly being told that we shouldn't do something is far more likely to encourage those of us with more childish tendencies to go out and do exactly that.

Britain is one of the worst offenders in the Nanny State stakes. Over the past few years, it has managed to fritter away more than a UK£1 billion (about 61 billion baht) in its pathetic attempt at social engineering; trying to recruit students from "disadvantaged" homes to attend university.

Well, that billion pounds has apparently been well spent. Nationally, no doubt due to the UK government's diligence and efficiency, the number of "working class" university students has risen by a grand total of 5,300. Do the math: that's £188,679 per "working class" student.

Also in the UK, the Avon Fire Service recently held "open" days for recruiting. The trouble is that the "open" days were not quite so "open", as white men were banned from attending.

The fact that if your house was burning down, you wouldn't give a care as to the genetic makeup of the people trying to save you and your house has escaped those in charge.

It seems they're worried about what they call "diversity" targets and have restricted the

MARIGOLD: The forgotten flower



A BLOOMIN' OMISSION: So prolific, colorful and easy to care for, the marigold is often overlooked in the horticulture scene.

"open" days in their aim for local fire brigade staff to be 15% female and have 3% from ethnic minorities. What about targets for reducing the number of fires?

Some things are so obvious we just don't see them. During all the years that I have been writing this column, I think I have not once mentioned the deferential marigold. An obvious plant in Phuket.

Marigolds are originally native to Central and South America. European explorers took the plant home and marigolds quickly spread across the continent and eventually to Asia.

Marigolds are typically or-

ange, though yellow is also fairly common. Other colors include red, maroon, and ivory. The common varieties at local garden centers reach about 30 centimeters tall, while some African species of marigolds can grow as tall as a meter.

Marigolds have herbal benefits, too. Marigold tea allegedly encourages healthy skin and good circulation. Stir in some honey and drink – fairly quickly, I suspect, as I can't imagine the concoction tasting pleasant. Sprinkle marigold flowers on a salad for extra color and flavor, if nothing else.

Growing marigolds isn't dif-

ficult. Plant seeds in about half-a-centimeter of potting soil and keep the soil moist.

Shoots will appear within days. When leaves have fully formed, transplant them to individual containers and thin them out as they get bigger.

When the plants are ready, plant them where they will get plenty of sun. Marigolds will need watering during the dry seasons, but as long as they have lots of

sun and well-drained soil, they will grow.

Pinch off spent blooms to direct the plant's energy to creating new flowers, but allow a few blooms to dry on the plant then harvest the seeds to plant later.

Marigolds are an excellent mosquito repellent. They are also effective in repelling various insects that attack vegetable plants.

Some marigolds have a particular smell that many insects and humans find objectionable. Insects generally prefer not to be around marigold flowers.

The smaller varieties of marigolds make great border plants and the larger strains make good bedding plants.

Marigolds look good in pots and even feature well in gas-station, emergency wife-placation bouquets.

For some reason, marigolds are now considered fairly ordinary and are often overlooked in selecting annuals and designing flowerbeds, but that's a bit unfair.

Marigolds offer a huge variety of plant heights, flower forms and colors. In fact, it's hard to make any general description of them as a group except that they all bloom – and some more prolifically than others.

Marigolds are probably one of the more obvious things you could grow in a Phuket garden. So obvious that I'd missed it. You're best off keeping that to yourself should you visit the UK – somebody with nothing better to do is likely to impose a marigold quota. Time for my pie and chips, I think.

Want to know more
about a plant
in your garden?

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A view to dine for



Even as day fades into night the soft, modern, relaxed ambiance of this hilltop restaurant remains intact.

For the designers of the restaurant 360°, perched atop the Phuket Pavilions Resort near Layan Beach, the challenge was how to take advantage of a spectacular view without overpowering it.

Designed as part of the resort by the late Tucker Bishop, the prominent architect responsible for several high-end projects on the island, together with property consultant Michael Cowan, it has become a favorite spot for evening dining and cocktails.

Frank Dreist, general manager of Phuket Pavilions, explained that the venue is a “modern Asian contemporary” design, in an easygoing style for guests to relax and enjoy the view.

Glass, concrete and wood are used to keep the look of the 40-seat restaurant bright and clean. The floor is of wooden planks in an unobtrusive natural brown color. A lighted bar of polished concrete topped by a glass counter dapples light onto the white sail roof, creating an intimate feel.

The shade sail roof was added after the restaurant had been open for four months, providing a durable yet light cover. The sail was chosen over other materials such as wood in order to match the overall modern and chic design of the restaurant.

Artificial rattan chairs and sofas in brown and cream provide comfortable, natural-looking furnishings that can withstand the elements.

The components of the restaurant’s design should not take away the beauty of the other surroundings, but integrate with the environment, Mr Dreist said.

All the colors reflect a Zen style that blends with nature. However, it’s not all toned down as the lighting and glass features add sparkle.

The finishing touch comes out in the evening – a candle-lit white lantern is set on each table as the sun goes down, adding an extra glow and a modern touch to the warm and inviting atmosphere.

360° is in the Phuket Pavilions Resort, off route 4030, west of Thalang Town.



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Chanote title, near Ton Sai Waterfall. Good road, 3-phase electricity, water supply. Located in quiet area. 2.2 million baht. Tel: 076-321062, 086-8194373. Email: pojjana@swift-mail.com

LAND NEAR LAGUNA

3 rai, 1 ngan, 68 wah of flat land (no fill-soil needed). 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-9520772. Email: michael@scuba-quest.de

LAYAN LAND (REF: SL0148-11-07)

5 rai 1 ngan 37 wah, scenic land plot in prime location. 5.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 076-304070. Fax: 076-304071. Email: phuket@plus.co.th For more properties, please see our website at www.thai propertyplus.com

KOH YAO YAI

Quick sale, 4 rai, Chanote, water, electricity, 5 mins to beach. 500,000 baht per rai. Tel: 081-8928208.

HOUSE FOR SALE



Approximately 478sqm. 3-story house with sea view offering a superior quality of living at Rawai Beach. Only 26 million baht. Tel: 076-3556945, 081-8945756. Email: nnapa thalung@gmail.com For further information, please visit: www.phukethome run.com

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Now to commence construction of 4 top-quality, pool-side, open-plan, 1-bedroom apartments. On very quiet natural site in the hills at the north end of Patong Beach. 2 mins from beach and center of Patong. Road access and good water supply. Starting at 4.9 million baht. For full details contact Andy. Tel: 081-8913466. Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

THAI-STYLE VILLA WITH POOL

500sqm, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Furnishings negotiable. Stunning villa in secluded hillside development. 29.95 million baht. Tel: 076-304070. Fax: 076-304071. Email: phuket@plus.co.th For more properties, please see our website at www.thai propertyplus.com

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Sea view, 3.2 rai, chanote, overlooking Phuket. 3 million baht. Tel: 081-8928208.

QUICK SALE

Gated community in Thalang. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 2.3 million baht, pay 700,000 and take over the payments. Tel: 081-8928208.

BEACHFRONT LAND

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Headland hill land, 3600 sea and town view. Close to Rassada Port. Located on Koh Sireh. 8 million baht/rai. Tel: 076-355-694-5, 081-8945756. Email: nnapa thalung@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.phukethome run.com

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Infrastructure completely finished. Fantastic sea and waterfall views. Tel: 086-2670157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

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2.3 rai, 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, fully furnished. Charming private villa with huge grounds and sweeping sea view. 45 million baht. Tel: 076-304070. Fax: 076-304071. Email: Phuket@plus.co.th For more properties, please see our website at www.thai propertyplus.com

RESIDENCE LAGUNA

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, garden. Golf course property. 24 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

BUNGALOW FOR SALE/RENT, B2.6M

Quiet, furnished, 1 bedroom, cable TV, phone, Internet. 264sqm of land. Tel: 087-9261381. Email: pakadog@gmail.com

KAMALA CONDO FOR SALE

1 serviced bedroom, common swimming pool. Only 2.3 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

LUXURY BEACHFRONT VILLA

in Samui. 5 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, fully furnished, swimming pool. 65 million baht. Contact for info. Tel: 087-830 2725. Email: monchai_ae@yahoo.co.th Website: www.thesamui villa.com

BEAUTIFUL GARDEN APARTMENT

2-bedroom, ground-floor apartment overlooking gardens and pool. 2 mins' walk to Bang Tao Beach. Fully furnished. 10 million baht. Please contact Thanisara. Tel: 081-8928259.

HOUSE QUICK SALE B2.8M



Moo baan Chao Fa Than. Detached house, 260sqm of land, community pool, 24hr security. 2-3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, large living room, fully furnished, garden. Tel: 089-6639669. Email: andrekant@hotmail.com

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.

JACUZZI VILLA

in Rawai for 3.5 million baht. Also, we can build you a house in 4 months in Rawai for 4.9 million baht. This includes land, 2-3 bedrooms, 5 aircons, kitchen, etc. Please contact to choose a plot and view show model. Tel: 085-7955383.

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HOUSE FOR SALE

House with 3 bedrooms, swimming pool and car park for sale. Located in Patong. Price: 12 million baht (negotiable). Please contact to make an appointment for viewing. Tel: 081-8918082. Email: goh.diane@gmail.com

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AO POR LAND, URGENT SALE



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

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

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Private estate. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 436 sqm of land, space for swimming pool. 5 mins from Heroines' Monument. 10 mins from Bang Tao Beach. 3.95 million baht. Tel: 076-379864, 085-2123244. Email: adrbaker101@yahoo.com

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Bang Tao Apartment Second floor pool view

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Ao Yon, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, terrace. 8,500 baht per month. 1 payment of 30,000 baht for furniture. Tel: 081-2717071.

RAWAI BEACH DUPLEX

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POOL VILLA IN NAI HARN

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LUXURY HOUSE

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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.

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

This new 3-story shophouse is available for long-term lease. Ideal for home office/shop accommodation. Inquiries at Tel: 089-6521473.

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT

In Soi Ban Krang, Chalong. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, fully furnished and aircon. 25,000 baht. Tel: 084-8746270.

CONDOS FOR RENT

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NEW CHALONG HOME

2-bedroom, furnished home for rent with phone, True TV, aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

KATHU HOUSE/RENT

opposite Kathu Temple. 2 bathrooms, 3 bedrooms, furnished. 9,000 baht per month and one-month deposit. Tel: 085-7839062.

SEAVIEW 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

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KATHU HOUSE/RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 aircon, furnished. 1 month deposit plus 1 month's rent. Tel: 085-7839062.

KAMALA HOME/RENT

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CONDO FOR RENT

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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). Tel: 089 4730990. Email: graymac@telkomsa.net For further details, please see website at www.phuket-land-paradise.blogspot.com Look for photo title PKT0002/07.

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To manage the existing infrastructure, maintain the resort's operations and give user support including, MS Server 2003/AD/Exchange 2007/Microsoft Office/Fidelio Version 7/Micros POS
- PURCHASING MANAGER**

QUALIFICATIONS

- Around 3-5 years experience in a similar position
- Good written and verbal command of English
- Willing to relocate to Koh Lanta

We offer very good remuneration plus other benefits, including accommodation.
Please send your CV along with your expected salary to lpkbv.hr@langhamhotels.com or apply online <http://career.langhamhotels.com/> and select job opportunity.

1 PERSONAL ASSISTANT WANTED

for General manager of Entertainment Complex.
Must have very good English skills and a driving license.

Book keeping skills an advantage.

Tel: 086-6109230.

Please send CV to Email: leigharris@hotmail.com

APARTMENT MANAGER

English speaking Thai with strong computer skills, commitment, urgency and loyalty. We have new projects under way, you will grow with us. Not just a job but a career opportunity. Up to you! Email: keith.wickers@gmail.com please see our website at www.kvrspa.com

TAPAS & WINE, KATA BEACH

Waiter/waitress with experience in Western-style restaurant needed! Good English skills and flexible working times are required. Recommendation letter from previous employer must be shown. Please call after 3 pm. Tel: 084-8382685. Email: mona@oceanicdivecenter.com

FREELANCE HOST(ESS)

Freelance host(ess) gezocht voor individuele reizigers naar Phuket. Graag met ervaring. Tel: 085-0483810. Email: edbeelaar@tiscali.nl

ROOM CLEANER

Some basic English needed, full- or part-time. Tel: 083-3915525.

DIVE SHOP STAFF

Dive shop needs office secretary. Salary depends on experience. Must speak English. Contact K. Andy. Tel: 085-7654677.

DRIVER WANTED

Dive shop needs Thai male driver to transport customers and take care of equipment. Contact Andy. Tel: 085-7654677.



Courtyard by Marriott Phuket

Great Workforce
Great Workplace

Courtyard by Marriott Phuket Job Fair

Marriott International is introducing its Courtyard by Marriott brand at three different locations in Phuket, Thailand.

At Marriott, we exude a warm and caring atmosphere that makes our workplace fun and unique. Our culture promotes and develops individuals and teams as well as provides possibilities for growth. Above all, we share the value of service with excellence and quality.

Here is your chance to be a part of this most impressive culture. We have openings for **VARIOUS LINE STAFF AND MANAGEMENT POSITIONS**. We are looking for Thai people with:

- Strong service & customer orientation
- Good communication & interpersonal skills
- Oral & written English proficiency
- Related degrees and/or experience in the position

Management positions:

Cluster Purchasing Manager
Cluster Training Manager

Front Office:

Duty Manager
Guest Service Supervisor
Guest Service Agent
At Your Service Agent
Concierge (Welcome Team)
Bellman

Food & Beverage:

F&B Attendant

Finance:

Income Auditor
Purchasing Officer
Accounts Receivable Officer
Accounts Payable Officer
Store/Receiving Officer

Housekeeping:

Housekeeping Clerk
Room Attendant
Houseman

Loss Prevention:

Loss Prevention Manager
Loss Prevention Officer

Human Resources:

HR Coordinator
Dormitory Attendant

Kids Club & Recreation:

Recreation Attendant
Kids Club Attendant

Kitchen:

Chef de Partie
Commis I- II
Chief Steward

Engineer:

Duty Engineer
Engineer Tech & Handyman
Engineering Clerk

Walk-in interviews March 8, 2008, 9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Venue: Phuket Polytechnique (วิทยาลัยสารพัดช่างภูเก็ต)

For more information, please contact us at:

Courtyard by Marriott Phuket at Patong Beach, (076) 325-726 or noppasorn.s@courtyard.com
Courtyard by Marriott Phuket at Surin Beach, (076) 325-000 or suwan.s@courtyard.com
Courtyard by Marriott Phuket at Kamala Beach, (076) 325-855 or nittaya.natsa@courtyard.com



Island Job Mart



Due to a recent expansion in our distribution channels, PGTV, the television production arm of the Phuket Gazette, is seeking to fill the following position:

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.

Qualified candidates will be Thai nationals who can quickly develop a sense for our English-language shows and tailor images to fit their tempo, cadence and purpose. Basic English is required. Knowledge of Adobe Premier would be an advantage.

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
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang
Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-236555

SALES POSITIONS

Wine Connection is looking for sales executives. 3 positions are available. Foreigners as well as Thais are encouraged to apply. Positions are available in Phuket, Khao Lak and Krabi. Salary, commissions and monthly support package offered. Apply today at Wine Connection Chalong. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-282411. Fax: 076-282414. Email: gmphuket@wineconnection.co.th

GOLF IN THAILAND LTD

Golf in Thailand Ltd is looking for a Thai national, male or female, age between 25 to 35 with good English communication skills and who enjoys meeting people. Experience is not necessary as training will be provided. Excellent basic salary + commission. Please send your CV to Email: franklin@golfinphuket.com or for further inquiries please call

Tel: 076-319019
Monday to Friday from 10:30 to 12 noon.
Location: 96/1 Vichitsongkram Road, Moo 7, Kathu, Phuket 83120, Thailand.

MARINE TECHNICIAN

Sailing yacht charter company looking for technical manager. Good salary for qualified candidate. Email: thailand@dreamyachtcharter.com

RESTAURANT MANAGER WANTED

Thai national with experience in marketing, management and food creation. Tel: 081-4326587.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Thai National with especially high administration, organizational and English-language skills. Will work directly with managing director and on his behalf as needed. Position requires a person who is mature, well-educated, refined and able to travel as required. Please submit a CV to pat@destinationair.com For details see our website at www.destinationair.com

ENGLISH-SPEAKING THAI LADY

Home help needed in the morning, 6 days a week. Must have own transportation, preferably a car. Please contact for more details. Tel: 086-7458832. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Some English and computer skills. Full- or part-time. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

CHEF & WAITRESS - JUNGCEYLON

Chefs and waitresses wanted for a restaurant/cafe opening soon at Jungceylon shopping center. Good location! Please contact K. Oh. Tel: 087-8810300. Email: thommm@online.no

POLICE VOLUNTEERS

Phuket Immigration Police are asking foreign residents with long-stay visas and clean records to volunteer for immigration and general patrol work under the Tourist Assistance program. We need people during the day and/or evenings. For further details or to apply, please contact us. Email: touristassistance.recruitment@gmail.com

SWEDISH FEMALE

travel consultant. We are an expanding travel agency located in Phuket city. We are looking for a Swedish female travel consultant, 25+. Computer/internet knowledge is essential, and a past in the travel industry. Pedantic organizational skills and a really good knowledge of Thailand much desired. Tel: 076-246427, 081-7879454. Please apply by sending email to: andersp@loxinfo.co.th

JOB FOR BOOK LOVERS



BOOKAZINE is Thailand's foreign-language book, newspaper and magazine importer, retailer and distributor with over 60 branches in department stores, airports and tourist attractions. We are planning to open 10 more branches and would like you to join us in the following positions:

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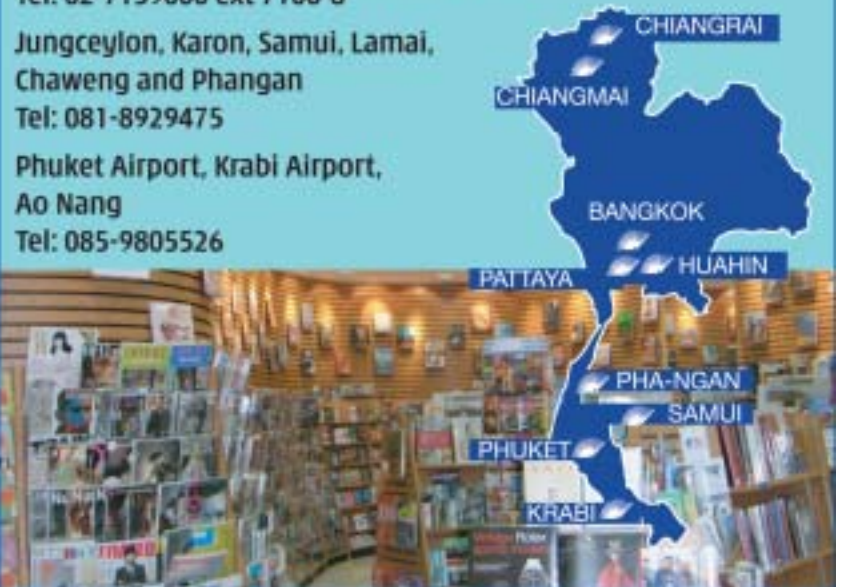
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Jungceylon, Karon, Samui, Lamai, Chaweng and Phangan
Tel: 081-8929475

Phuket Airport, Krabi Airport, Ao Nang
Tel: 085-9805526



HOSTESS FOR BOOTH

We are looking for a friendly and outgoing lady with a good appearance and good social skills to represent our company at our booth at Jungceylon. Must be able to learn quick and speak English well. We provide training, good salary and commissions. Thai nationals only. Reply by email or call Tel: 087-8822856. Email: annickenluc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

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 Send your CV by Email: wnammatapetersen@hotmail.com



All Seasons Nai Harn Phuket, ideally located on Nai Harn Beach, is seeking young and dynamic individuals for the following positions:

1. Human Resources Manager
2. Training Manager
3. Assistant Sales Manager - Pacific Rim
4. Executive Secretary
5. Chief Accountant
6. Executive Chef (Expat)

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT:
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
TEL: 076 289333, FAX: 076 289322
Email: hrm@allseasons-naiharn-phuket.com

MARKETING

Fly Adventure Phuket is looking for a creative and responsible person with an outgoing personality and travel agent experience to join our sales and marketing team.

Please contact Oliver for more additional details.
Tel: 085-3632325.

Employment Wanted

RESPONSIBLE THAI-CANADIAN

lady seeking Rawai job in child care, cooking or cleaning. Please contact for more additional details. Tel: 089-6483711.

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Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.phuketgazette.net/!

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

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16 x 16 x 30-inch long saltwater fish tank with stand and sub filter tank (also 16 x 16 x 30). Includes Bio Ball waterfall filtration, charcoal filtration sub pump, and protein skimmer. Plus extras. 17,000 baht. Tel: 087-2800659. Email: galinskig@yahoo.com

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Snooker table, 8ftx4ft. Only 19,000 baht. Tel: 089-871-8663. Email: davidhnelson@hotmail.com

FOR SALE

- 2 new APEX regulators CTX 50 with octopus and manometer. 30,000 baht for both.
- 1 BCD Poseidon Besen WZO S/W, 15,000 baht.
- 1 BCD Sequest Fusion S/W, 15,000 baht.
- 1 Panasonic video camera, MV-GS 17 mini DV, almost new. 10,000 baht
Moving to Europe. Tel: 085-4767314.

BEANBAG

New, white, stretch fabric, 160cmx80cm. 1,500 baht. Tel: 080-0416612. Email: hundewasserhaus@gmx.at

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Secondhand, coin-operated pool table for sale. Size: 3 ft x 6 ft. 40,000 baht. Free transport and installation. Phuket Pool Tables. Tel: 076-263687, 081-2901645. Email: tuang@phuketpooltable.com

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Casio TE-100 cash register. New: 12,000 baht. Will accept offers over 6,000 baht. Tel: 089-9456433. Email: kjralph@gmail.com

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Contents of a nightclub for sale. Including sound system, mixer, power amps, cross-overs, equalizer, guitar amps, microphones, effect lights, par lights, light controllers, fridges, aircon units, bar stools and tables. Tel: 081-7520275. Email: comfortablynumb_18@hotmail.com

KITCHEN SUPPLIES

All kinds of hotel, restaurant and kitchen inventory for sale as well as kitchen equipment. Call Jan Jensen. Tel: 081-9683882.

RELOCATING - ALL

furniture from Index for sale, only 2 months old:
- Red L-shaped sofa
- White computer work station w/ matching book shelf plus 2 matching book units
- 2 red office chairs
- Samsung Thai washing machine
- Noble king-sized mattress
Email: melkyriaco@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT FURNITURE

- Coffee machine, Saeco SE200, 2-piston, electronic
- Dosing grinder, model MS85 automatic
- Meat slicer
- Under-counter bar fridge
All 18 months old, perfect condition. Best offer will take all. Tel: 076-279297, 087-4619099. Email: orlandux72@yahoo.fr

WINE COOLER, BLACK with digital display, 10,000 baht. Pool table, classic, like new, 35,000 baht. Tel: 089-6503160.

WINDSURF BOARD WITH PADDLE

Used, old, for sit-on-top paddling. 6,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 080-0416612. Email: hundewasserhaus@gmx.at

Articles Wanted

SHOP TOOLS WANTED

Metalworking tools wanted: arc and gas welders, wire-feed, plasma cutter, high-speed hand-held grinder, drill press, vise. Woodworking tools wanted: table or radial arm saw, miter saw, jointer, brad nailer, etc. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-7972110. Email: iolare@yahoo.com

CHEAP LAPTOP

Secondhand laptop computer wanted. Must run windows XP and have wireless card. Cheap price please. If you have upgraded and have an old one lying about, why not give me a call? Tel: 081-2716250. Email: mattysiam@gmail.com

POOL/BILLIARD TABLE

7ft x 8ft. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-4424143.

SNOOKER TABLE WANTED

I wish to purchase a half-table snooker table in good condition with all accessories, including snooker and pool balls. Willing to pay handsome price for a good one. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-205282, 083-2806799. Email: barlowmaurice@yahoo.co.uk

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Tues 1 pm
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a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the good will of donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol (Tel: 087-4178860 or carol.fryer@piwc.info) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-2776948 or email: sue.arnulphy@piwc.info).

LIGHTHOUSE CLUB

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. Tel: 085-7952552. Email: info@naturalrockpools.com

Business Opportunities

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for lease or rent with all equipment included, in the basement of Fantasia in Phuket Town. Tel: 086-5930086.

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necessary! Partnership offers, starting from 250,000 baht. Email: adventuraintern@hotmail.com

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BAR RESTAURANT FOR SALE

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BARS AND GUESTHOUSES

on Bangla and Nanai, many business opportunities. For further details, please visit our website at www.janepropertyphuket.com

SEAVIEW GUESTHOUSE

and restaurant in Patong. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

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The only nightclub in the area of Kata, Karon and Chalong. Now for sale at 4.5 million baht or 50% partnership. For more info contact Paul. Tel: 084-645-5971. Email: paul.phuket@gmail.com

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Great location - 50m from beach, central Patong! Want to build a steak house or 1950s diner? 1.5 million baht buy in. 50% ownership, 12-year lease. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

BAR FOR SALE

Great Patong location. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY

500sqm of prime retail space. All licenses! Make the business of your dreams. 10-year lease with owner. All offers considered. Must sell. Tel: 084-6644050. Email: aadams007@yahoo.com

SPA FOR SALE

at Phuket Palace. Tel: 086-2812115.

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Earth Language School

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

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Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

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wanted. I will be relocating from Bangkok to Phuket this August and am currently looking for a hands-on investment opportunity based in Phuket. Email: stephancookca@yahoo.ca

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- Hotel for rent: best location in Phuket City. Please contact via email for an appointment. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

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for rent on the top floor of Sinthavee Hotel, Phuket City. Convenient for a restaurant or bar. Also, a discotheque on the 2nd floor (with license). Email: allservices29@gmail.com

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KATA-KARON RESTAURANT

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for sale. 150 meters from Yanui Beach. 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge, kitchen, 1-bedroom apartment with sea views. Room for expansion. 12-year lease, 2.8 million baht, rent is 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-0904378. Email: elliot09@excite.com

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