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INSIDE



DJ Nakadia

Thailand's first international diva of the decks, DJ Nakadia, talks to the *Gazette's* Dan Ogunshakin.

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Medium's dream leads to discovery of ancient artifact

By Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn SRISOONTORN, PHUKET: Residents of the village of Baan Bangjo have found, buried in a field, the gnarled remains of what they claim is a 200-year-old boat made from Malabar ironwood. But in a supernatural twist that is sure to cause debate between sceptics and believers, the discovery came after a local medium was told about the location of the object in a dream – or so villagers claim.

Issaraporn Summai, her husband Suchart Phromdan and another man, Thin Pungsorn, claim to have found the artifact on February 4 after Mrs Issaraporn had a dream the night before in which a female spirit asked her to help lift a boat out of the ground.

A practising medium, Mrs Issaraporn claims the spirit was that of the tree from which the boat was carved. Malabar iron-wood trees can live for 1,000 years and the belief that they are inhabited by female spirits is held by many Thais, particularly in rural areas.

After Mrs Issaraporn had her dream, Mr Suchart got permission from the owner of the land to try and dig for the boat, claiming that the landowner told him they could keep whatever they managed to find.

Remarkably, the three claim to have found a boat exactly where Mrs Issaraporn said it would be. Local people and officials from Srisoonthorn Tambon Administration Organization soon found out, with the discovery causing quite a stir in the village.

The artifact was left in the ground until February 9, when it was finally lifted out of its hole. The artifact is approximately 7 meters long, 0.8 meters wide and 0.5 meters high.





LEFT: The remains of an ancient boat made from Malabar ironwood were uncovered by Issaraporn Summai (right) and her husband after she was visited in a dream by the vessel's spirit.

Villagers claim that there used to be canals in the area a long time ago and that the boat could be 200 years old.

Not everyone who has seen the object is in agreement that it is, in fact, a boat. Capt Bunyarit Chaisuwan, an archaeologist at the Fine Arts Region 15 Office in Phuket, said the object was too narrow for people to sit inside and was therefore probably just a hollowed-out tree trunk.

Capt Bunyarit did say, however, that if the object was a vessel it must have dated from the Ayuttahaya period when the area was more developed, suggesting that the villagers' estimation of the artifact's age could be correct.

But Mrs Issaraporn and Mr Suchart's extraordinary tale does not end with the discovery of the object.

They claim that on the evening of February 9, after the boat was lifted out of the ground, she was possessed by the female tree spirit, who then revealed

more to Mr Suchart.

"The spirit told me the boat contained the Malabar ironwood tree's spirit as well as the spirits of 30 military guards. She did not want to be kept in the Thalang museum as she did not like the dark. She would like to stay somewhere light where sunlight can get through," Mr Suchart said.

"She said that if they still bring the boat to the museum, the museum will have no visitors and close," he added.

Mr Suchart claimed that men could not touch the boat because the female spirit forbade it and that the boat had to be respected.

Mrs Issaporn told the *Gazette* she has been possessed many times, and works as a medium, helping local people using herbal medicine and massage. "I have been a shaman ever since I was 20 years old. It started while I was studying," she said.

Of her experiences of spirit possession, Mrs Issaraporn said,

"When I get possessed by a spirit I feel like I can't move, and I can't feel anything either. My husband tells me that I start speaking in an old-fashioned language that I never learned before. After the spirit leaves me, I always feel tired. I trust the spirits that possess me, they come to help us live longer."

Mr Suchart also claimed that some time after the discovery he was approached by a police volunteer and questioned aggressively about the remarkable find.

"He told me that I could not bring the boat home. He said it belonged to the government and it was a part of Thai heritage. Actually, I think the boat should belong to the landowner. And the landowner already let us dig and keep the boat," he said.

"If Srisoonthorn TAO and Thalang Museum do not want it, we will keep it inside our house. Everyone can come to pay respect," Mr. Suchart concluded.







Koh Phi Phi risks disqualification from New 7 Wonders vote

KRABI: Koh Phi Phi may be suspended from the New 7 Wonders of Nature campaign if it does not assemble an "Official Supporting Committee" (OSC) to represent it, according to the campaign's organizers.

The New 7 Wonders of Nature campaign is searching for seven natural "wonders of the world", as voted by members of the public worldwide.

Koh Phi Phi has already made it to the second round of voting, which will select the top 77 wonders, before the third and final round chooses the winning seven.

The island is currently number seven in its category, putting it within the 77 most popular nominees.

However, New7Wonders, the non-profit foundation behind the campaign, warned that without an OSC, Koh Phi Phi "risks rapid disqualification", potentially leaving Thailand without a nominee for the campaign.

New7Wonders said it sent letters on February 2 to Tourism Authority of Thailand Governor Phornsiri Manoharn, Tourism and Sports Minister Chumphol Silpa-archa, and Tourism and Sports Ministry Permanent Secretary Sasithara Pichaichannarong, asking them to create or support the formation of an OSC.

Tia B Viering, Head of Communications for New7 Wonders said, "It is important for the fast-paced and powerful global campaign that each nominee has an OSC to communicate and work with New7Wonders. Only thus can a country take advantage of the great opportunity offered by this worldwide platform

- best results are achieved when New7Wonders can work closely with a local representative for each natural site. We hope to soon welcome Ko Phi Phi Island as an Official Supported Nominee in this extraordinary global campaign."

Second-round voting will close on July 7 2009, with the results announced on July 21.

There will then be two years



Koh Phi Phi faces disqualification if an "Official Supporting Committee" is not assembled soon.

of voting – with the organizers expecting one billion votes to be cast – before the New 7 Wonders of Nature are announced in 2011. The New 7 Wonders of Nature

campaign follows the New 7 Wonders of the World campaign, which in 2007 saw Chichen Itza in Mexico, the statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro, the

Colosseum in Rome, the Taj Mahal in Agra, the Great Wall of China, Petra in Jordan and Machu Picchu in Peru voted the "New 7 Wonders of the World".

Six Senses to cut executive pay

PHUKET: Bangkok-based hotel operator Six Senses Resorts and Spas recently announced that it will cut its executive salaries 10 per cent as part of cost-reduction measures.

CEO and chairman Sonu Shivdasani said the group wanted to retain all of its staff during these difficult economic times. It will cut salaries of those in the "inner sphere" and at the "core level" by 10 per cent while making up the difference in company shares.

While the programme is mandatory for foreign executives at its facilities abroad, Thai nationals may also opt to take advantage of the offer. All will have a limited option to purchase additional shares at the same time.

"As with other companies in our sector, we must weather the storm", he said.

Unlike many companies in the hospitality and travel sectors that are making cutbacks and laying off staff during the economic downturn, Six Senses has introduced an innovative, industry-first alternative.

"The sophisticated traveller will be watching to see who in the luxury-services industry - where highly trained people are so key, to the point of being almost sacred - will lower their standards," he said.

Director of Public Relations & Communication, Six Senses Resorts and Spas Ms Benjawan Sudhikam confirmed that the initiative is mandatory for all expatriates (international hosts) who are based out of the Bangkok hub (head office). "Individual properties will have separate initiatives. The opt-in/out period is still open for Thai Inner sphere hosts," she said

The shares can be sold back to the company after 12-24 months, with a guaranteed buyback price not less than the shares' value at the time they are received.

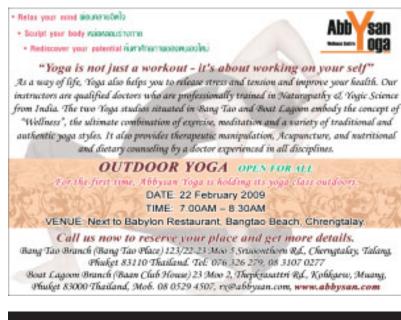
"In these times, there is no guarantee that shares will appre-

ciate, anywhere. However, Six Senses will grow significantly over the next two years and we believe that the group looks quite robust. With the buy-back share price set at the opt-in price, participants cannot loose, even if the share price was to decline," she added.

Asked to comment on how have employees have reacted to the alternative to cutbacks, Ms Benjawan said, "Quite frankly, we have not made a big deal of it at the hub and we have not taken the pulse of reaction amongst the hosts."

"The international hosts who have taken the reduction have been very accepting that some measures may need to be taken during these times. It has in no way affected morale," she added.

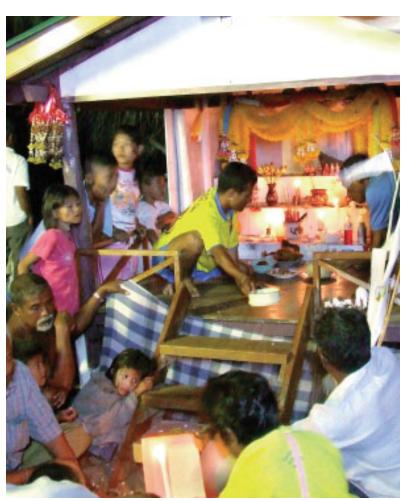
Six Senses manages resorts under the brands Soneva by Six Senses, Six Senses Hideaway, Six Senses Latitude and Evason, plus Six Senses Spas and Six Senses Destination Spas.







Sea Gypsies convene on Mai Khao Beach for traditional festival



Celebrating *Nawn Haaad*. As part of the ceremony, Sea Gypsies lived in temporary houses on Mai Khao Beach for three days and three nights.

MAI KHAO, PHUKET: The beach at Mai Khao played host to countless makeshift homes from February 7 to 9 as part of an age old festival.

These temporary houses, made from tree branches were built by sea gypsies, who spent three days and three nights living in them in an annual tradition, known in Thai as *Nawn Haad* (Sleeping on the Beach).

Over 500 Sea Gypsies gathered in Mai Khao from all over the Andaman, including Phang Nga, Krabi, Ranong as well as Phuket, for a tradition that dates back over one hundred years.

The Sea Gypsies, whose ancestors spent their lives roaming the seas, hold their New Year

festival on beaches each year.

Most of today's Sea Gypsies spend most their lives on the land and no longer observe their own New Year festival, yet the tradition of holding beach parties continues in the form of *Nawn Haad*.

The ceremony is an opportunity for Sea Gypsies from around the region to meet and participate in spiritual activities, traditional performances and games.

Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan on February 9 visited the Sea Gypsies and took part in a tree-planting ceremony.

Sea Gypsies, who speak their own language related to Bahasa Malay and Indonesian, are a minority ethnic group living in southern Thailand and Burma.

Bad week for dwindling dugong population

CAPE PANWA: A top marine mammal researcher is drawing up a national action plan for conserving the country's dwindling dugong (manatee) population after three were found dead on February 1 and 3.

"We have a national action plan for dugong and seagrass in Thailand: to conserve the seagrass habitat, reduce mortality, continue monitoring numbers and study behavior," she said.

Miss Kanjana was quoted by the state-run Thai News Agency earlier this week saying the dugong faced extinction in local waters within 20 or 30 years if the government does not take urgent action to protect seagrass beds, their natural habitat.

About 200 manatees remain in waters along the Andaman Coast, mostly in Trang, Krabi and Phang Nga.

Setting up the action plan would lead the way to Thailand's signing of an international memorandum of understanding (MOU) on dugong conservation, which has already been signed by 42 countries.

"The MOU was established by the Australian government after meetings held in Thailand in 2005 and 2006. Then in 2007 there was a meeting for the first signings in Abu Dhabi, followed by another meeting in Bali in 2008," she said.

Thailand has not signed the MOU because it has to do more to co-ordinate the efforts of the six government agencies involved, including the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Fisheries and Marine Transport departments and the Foreign Ministry.

"I think Thailand is going to sign the memorandum very soon," she said.

Miss Kanjana added that coastal development and sedimentation is the main long-term threat to seagrass beds.

"If the seagrass habitat is reduced, then the dugong's food is reduced. For an individual dug-



The dugong faces extinction in local waters within 20 or 30 years if the government does not take urgent action to protect seagrass beds, their natural habitat.

ong, the greatest threat is from human activities and various kinds of fishing gear."

"We are just now dissecting a dugong carcass from Satun. This has been a very bad week for us," she said on Saturday February 7.

An examination of the first two carcasses revealed that the manatees had thick blubber – indicating that they were healthy at the time of death.

"The second one was still fresh. There were no traces of outside trauma and the pericardium was full of liquid, which indicates a sudden death, possibly from shock. So we guess that it went into sudden shock and died, probably drowning from fishing activity," she said.

Overall seven manatee deaths have been reported to the Phuket Marine Biological Center in the last six months, she added.







Unregistered masses affect HIV positive figures

By James Goyder

hailand received plaudits worldwide for its effective response to the AIDS epidemic of the 1990s and in Thailand HIV is currently in decline. Bearing this in mind you may have been surprised to read in the Gazette that Phuket now has the second-highest HIV infection rate in Thailand

Could HIV be more prevalent in Phuket than in northern provinces such as Phayao, where the infection rate in 2001 was 13.7%, or Chiang Rai, which had an infection rate in 2001 of 12%? In a bid to discover the truth I visited the Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO) to discuss the current situation with Dr Wiwat Sitomnoch.

Dr Wiwat believes that a major reason why Phuket has a comparatively high infection rate is due to many unregistered people living and working here.

"It is estimated that there are twice as many people living here as there are actually registered. If there are 300,000 people registered, but 600,000 people actually living here this affects the figures," he said.

When the Ministry of Pub-

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BANGKOK HOSPITAL DINA - PHUKET

lic Health calculates the infection rate they do so as a percentage of the population as a whole. Anyone suffering from HIV who has never been tested will not feature, that is the great unknown, but the percentage is calculated by taking the amount of people testing positive for HIV as a fraction of the entire registered population of Phuket. So if the actual population is double the registered population this will naturally increase the percentage figure. The dubious distinction of having the highest infection rate in Thailand went to Ranong. Dr Wiwat said, "Phuket is similar to Ranong because Ranong also has a lot of migrants. Most of the people in other provinces are residents, there aren't as many migrants, which affects the statistics."

Ironically the quality of health care in Phuket also has an adverse affect on these statistics. One of the reasons the infection rate here is higher is that a lot of people get tested [in Phuket] because access to health care is good. Also the figures are cumulative. If we don't treat HIV patients well they will die and the numbers will go down but we take care of HIV infected people very well in Phuket. Residents with HIV here are guaranteed



Dr Wiwat Sitomnoch of the Phuket Public Health Office believes that a major reason why Phuket has a comparatively high infection rate is due to many unregistered people living and working here.

access to the drugs free of charge. Non-residents just need to come and register first," Dr Wiwat revealed.

In this respect Phuket is a victim of its own success in dealing with HIV. 90% of HIV infections in Phuket occur through sexual encounters within the sex industry and the large number of nightlife venues perceived as being the cause. Dr Wiwat said that the infection rate here is higher due to the sex industry, because incidents of STDs and HIV are closely associated.

The majority of female sex

workers catering to tourists claim to be scrupulous in their insistence that customers use condoms. However, the reality is that any man seeking to purchase unprotected sex is unlikely to have to look too far in any of Phuket's major red light districts.

One Norwegian visitor to Phuket said, "I am 42 now, I am too old to be worrying about condoms. One girl wouldn't have sex with me without a condom but I managed to find two more who would."

A veteran bar girl, who gets regularly tested for HIV, said, "With customers I always try to use condoms but some *farangs* don't like to and I don't want to fight with them."

These conditions make the bars of Phuket a fertile breeding ground for HIV.

At present between one and two percent of bar girls in Phuket are HIV positive and this figure is likely to be significantly higher for brothel-based sex workers. However heterosexual sex is not a high risk activity in terms of HIV transmission. If you have unprotected heterosexual sex with someone who is HIV positive, the chance of you contracting the virus is estimated at around 0.1% per exposure, although this figure increases dramatically if either party has an STD. According to the PPHO, gonorrhea, in particular, is on the increase in Phuket. The presence of an ulcerative STD, of which gonorrhea is one, can make transmission of HIV three hundred times more likely to occur.

HIV is more prevalent in men who have sex with other men (MSM) and this might explain why there are consistently twice as many men than women testing positive for HIV in Phuket. "We have launched a campaign of education aimed at MSM but there is still a stigma attached to homosexuality, which has made it difficult to communicate with this group," Dr Wiwat said.

All pregnant women in Phuket hospitals get tested for HIV, and this is a useful barometer for Phuket's actual infection rate. 1.3% of pregnant women test positive, which is in line with the national rate of infection, currently between 1.2% and 1.3%.

The figure among teenagers in Phuket is similar, at 1.2%. For Dr Wiwat, this is a major concern. "Young teenagers now have access to the internet and I think they are having sexual experiences at a younger age, younger than when I was young. This is not just in Phuket, it's a global trend."

There is a danger that the perception that Thailand has already dealt with its HIV problem might have created a climate of complacency. Mechai Viravaidya, widely referred to as Mr Condom, is the senator who masterminded Thailand's successful anti-AIDS program of the 1990s. He fears that people think because HIV is not so visible here anymore that Thailand has beaten it, and they are taking risks again.

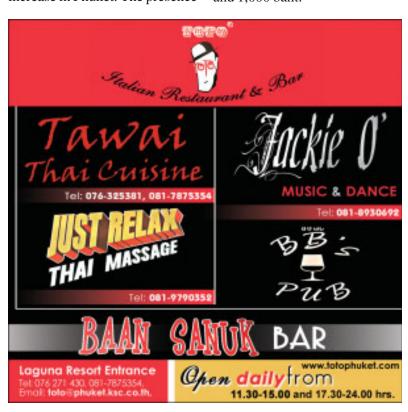
While the PPHO goes to great lengths to provide access to free condoms and education about the dangers of unsafe sex, the message is evidently not getting through to some. HIV in Phuket may be in decline but that does not mean it has gone away.

Anyone unsure of their HIV status can get a test at any hospital in Phuket and some doctors' clinics. A test costs between 250 and 1,000 baht.



Bangkok Haspital Phuket Tel. 1719 ext. 1021

Care Share



Drought hits parts of Koh Kaew, Pa Khlok

PHUKET CITY: As Phuket's dry season progresses, residents in many areas of the island are already suffering from water shortages.

Chotenarin Kerdsom, head of the Phuket office of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), said on February 3 that parts of Koh Kaew and Pa Khlok were already without water.

Water trucks and pumping equipment have been dispatched to the worst hit areas to provide temporary relief, he said.

Residents in many parts of the island, who usually enjoy adequate supply, are now forced to buy water from water trucks.

A representative of delivery company Numchai Namdeum Co Ltd said the cost of 14,000 liters of potable groundwater runs at about 1,200 baht, depending on the area. The company has five trucks operating on the island.

An initial survey by the DDPM reported that 40,605 people, spread across 53 villagers on the island, are at risk of shortages as the dry season wears on. The dry season in Phuket typically lasts about four to five months, with monthly average rainfall below 100 millimeters from December to March.

Both the Phuket Provincial Waterworks (PPW) and Phuket City Waterworks (PCW) rely on the Bang Wad Reservoir in Kathu as their main supply source, augmenting supplies using water from tin mines.

PPW water supply director Pichai Wetrangsri said water from the new 7.2-million-cubic-meter Bangneaw Dum Reservoir, completed last November, is already being treated and piped to residents in parts of Thalang (Pa Khlok, Baan Porn, Baan Bangjo, Cherng Talay), Kathu (Kamala) and Muang districts (Sapam, and Koh Kaew).

The treatment plant in Baan Bangjo, now about 30% complete, can already treat about 4,000 m³/day, about a third of its final design capacity. The plant, which first started receiving water from the reservoir on January 17, also treats water from the

nearby Hitlor and Manik tin mine ponds, he said.

Bangneaw Dum Reservoir now holds about 2 million cubic meters of water, while the Bangwad Reservoir still had 6 million cubic meters at the start of the second week of February, he said.

Water usage in the zone serviced by the Bang Wad Reservoir usually averages about 100,000 m³ to 120,000 m³ per day, but can go as high as 180,000 m³/day during the high season for tourism, which coincides with Phuket's dry season. In January, the PPW piped about 100,000 m³/day, he said.

Based on current supplies and future usage estimates, the PPW should have enough water to make it through until the full onset of the next rainy season in June or July, Mr Pichai said.

As for the .5-billion-baht reverse osmosis desalination plant built by REQ in Karon, the facility is still suffering from electricity supply problems and is unable to treat the 12,000 m³/day as required in its contract with the PPW.

The plant is currently producing 7,000 to 8,000 m³/ day of potable quality water for Patong and Kata-Karon.

REQ Managing Director Jaturong Sa-duangkarn said power supply disruptions are the main cause.

The equipment automatically shuts down whenever its sensors detect power disruptions, which most frequently occur at night and during the rainy season, he said.

After a shut-down, the entire system needs to be restarted in a one-hour process that includes bleeding air from the pipes and high pressure pumps. As the plant is already operating at maximum voltage, the best way to make up for the difference is to import more membranes and other equipment to increase the volume of water that can be treated while the plant is in operation, he said

REQ has ordered the necessary high-tech equipment from countries including Taiwan, the US, the UK and Germany. All of



FAMILIAR SIGHT: A water delivery truck filling up at the Srisuchart tin mine in Rassada.

the necessary equipment is due to arrive by mid-year, he said.

It should take about three weeks to install and one week to test, meaning that it should be ready at the start of the rainy season.

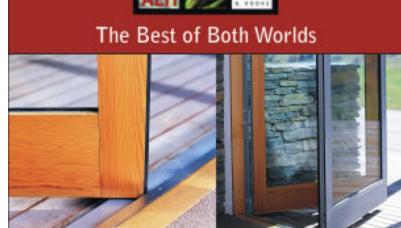
In a recent television interview, the DDPM's Mr Chotenarin asked residents to conserve water as much as possible, as the supply situation is likely worsen over the next few months.

However, there is little financial incentive for homeowners to do so – at least among users in areas serviced by the PPW and PCW. Both providers continue to supply water to most households free of charge under the national economic stimulus package introduced by ex-prime minister Samak Sundaravej last October and extended six months by the current administration in early January.

Governor Preecha Ruangjan has issued orders to each local administrative body, advising them of steps to prevent shortages. These include increasing supply to village supply systems by the pumping of groundwater, sourcing more water from tin mines located on Treasury Department land and buying water from tin mines on privately-owned land.

-Stephen Fein





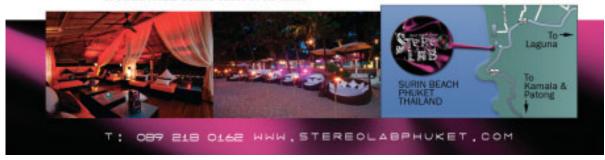
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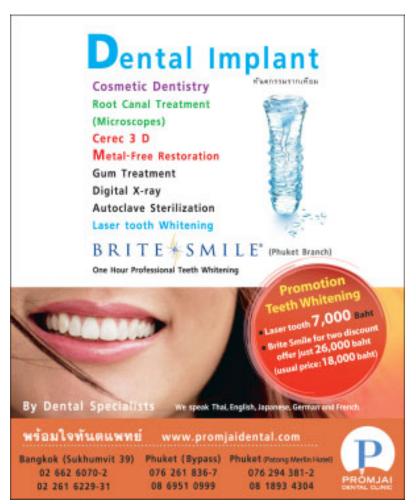
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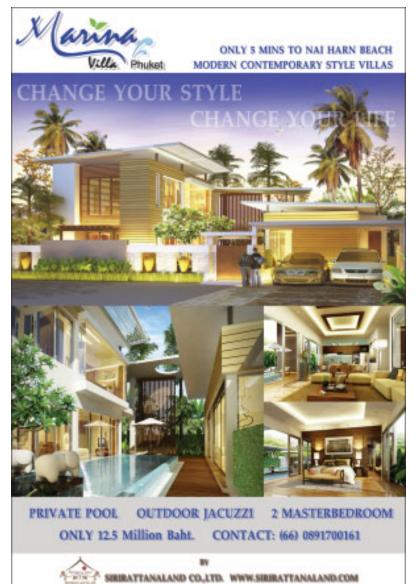




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Lord Buddha remembered

On Monday February 9, Phuket temples filled with locals and expats taking part in ceremonies to mark Makha Bucha Day. The special day on the Buddhist calendar falls on the full moon of the third lunar month and commemorates the Buddha's ordaining of 1,250 monks who had arrived unannounced from afar only seven months after the Buddha began his teachings. It is also the date the Buddha delivered his Fundamental Teachings – just months before his death.

Photos by Sakhorn Saengtongsamarnsin and Nick Davies.















Swingers arrested

BANGKOK: Christian A Richards, 54, has been charged with procurement and commercial sex advertisements. Sex parties were advertised through www.Bangkok.CraigsList.co.th, where Richards' wife goes by the name of Duang. They charged each participant 3.000 baht.

The 'swingers' caught in the raid were a mixture of Americans, French, Indians and Chinese. The Tourist Police arrived at the hotel suite to find the party just warming up and discovered condoms, 30 Viagra tablets and pornographic movies.

Police earlier caught Richards, a UK national, in January at a party for about 50 people in Bangkok's Huay Kwang area, but he claimed it was a birthday party and charges were dismissed.

Tourist Police commander Archayon Kraithong said the investigation suggests such activities have been going on for three to four years, attracting 25 to 30 people from many countries to each party.

Police issued a warrant for Richards' arrest on February 1, 2009. The foreign and Thai participants were released after paying fines, while Richards was still being held for questioning as this issue went to press.

If found guilty, he faces a jail sentence of up to 10 years or a fine of up to 20,000 baht.

Viagra case flops

The Central Administrative Court late last month dropped a case against the secretary general of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) over his decision to label Viagra as a controlled drug.

Pfizer, which manufactures Viagra, wants its product to be a prescription drug that can be sold at general pharmacies.

However, due to the order issued by the secretary general of FDA in 2003, Viagra is only available at hospitals in Thailand.

"The order is legitimate," Central Administrative Court Judge Chavalit Larpphol ruled.

The order is intended to protect consumers and the accused issued the order based on a recommendation from the Drug Commission, he commented As per the law, the Drug Commission had the authority to give recommendations on drug registration.

Pfizer can appeal against the court decision if it wants.

The company says Viagra is a prescription drug in at least 112 countries. The drug maker said Thai Urological Association also agreed that Viagra should be a prescription drug here.

'War room' to counter soaring dengue outbreak

BANGKOK: The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has set up a national war room to control the spread of dengue fever across the country after learning the situation is expected to be far worse than in 2008.

In January this year this year 1,675 people fell victim to the fever, with two deaths. The figure for the same period last year was 1,553 cases reported and two lives lost, Public Health Minister Witthaya Kaewparadai said.

MoPH permanent secretary Dr Paijit Warachit will chair the war room, teaming up with agencies including the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration's Health Department, the World Health Organization and the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

The agencies will jointly monitor the spread of the disease within Thailand and neighboring countries, meeting at least once a week to keep a close watch for possible outbreaks.



Dengue carrying mosquito *Aedes* aegypti.

All provincial public health offices, local administration organizations and health volunteers have been assigned to strictly control and monitor the transmission of dengue fever in their areas, Mr Wittaya added.

Local authorities have been advised to spray insecticide to eradicate the adult *aedes aegypti* mosquito, which bites humans in the daytime.

Residents should drain off any stagnant water to prevent mosquitoes from breeding and use abates sand, a pesticide, to destroy their larvae. The Central region was the hardest hit with 886 patients, the Southern region suffered the second worst outbreak with 546 patients and Bangkok, 303. Songkhla, Pattani, and Yala were the worst affected provinces. Nearly half the patients this year were over 15 years old.

Last year saw a total of 91,003 patients, with 65,581 cases in 2007.

In a bid for early detection of dengue fever infection, Mr Wittaya said he has asked the Department of Medical Services to study a test kit to screen patients. The Department of Disease Control will this month organize meetings to brainstorm on prevention and control planning in 30 high risk areas nationwide.

Mr Wittaya has asked the public to keep a close watch on people in their households and nurseries.

If anyone develops a high fever over a two-day period, they should be taken to a doctor for testing, he said.

New logo, programming approach for TV news

BANGKOK: The state-run television channel National Broadcasting of Thailand (NBT) will be overhauled to make it a truly national television station designed to broadcast infor-mation from the state to the people, Prime Minister's Office Minister Sathit Wongnongtaey said on February 8.

The station is holding a competition for the design of a new logo for Channel 11, which was the station's old name before switching to NBT, he said.

New programming will begin broadcasting no later than next month, he added.

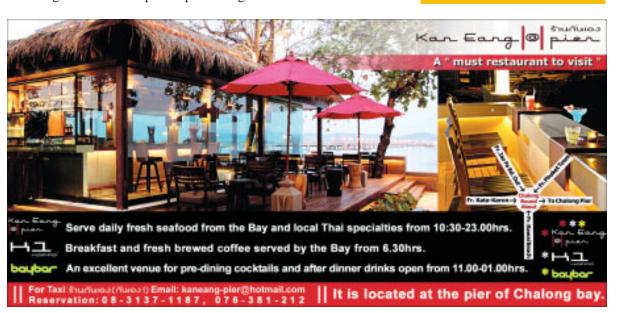
Stories Sourced from The Nation, Daily Xpress and Kom Chad Luek newspapers.

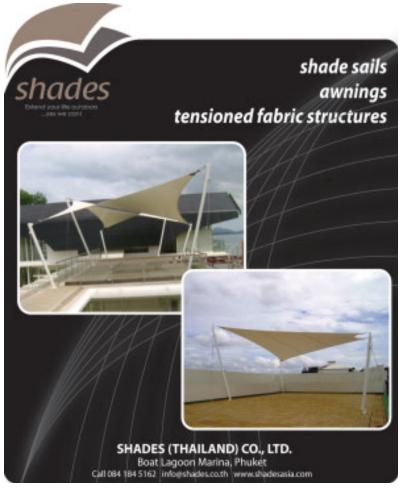
In respect of five radio frequencies operated by the Public Relations Department, a certain number of these frequencies should be reallocated for social broadcasting, Mr Sathit said.

A Cabinet resolution directing state-run television stations to confine their on-air advertising to social and corporate advertisements and not commercial products would be adhered to, Mr Sathit added.

In his weekly television address, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said he had given Sathit a brief on media reform to carry

adding that Mr Sathit had been put in charge of reforming state-run media to allocate more time for broadcasting geared social issues and children's programming.





One killed, two injured in highway shooting

TRANG: A man was shot dead he ran back to his truck. The gunand two passers-by injured in a shooting on a road in Trang's Wang Wiset district in the early hours of February 3.

The body of 53-year-old Chat Kaenkaow was found slumped over the steering wheel of his black Honda saloon by the side of the road in Village 8, tambon Wang Maprang Neua. He had been shot 12 times in the chest. A short distance from Mr Chat's car, police found a green Toyota pick-up truck riddled with bullet holes. The truck's occupants, 37-year-old Anan Kittibunyathiwakon and his foster daughter Chanita Manaso, 15, had already been taken to Trang Hospital to be treated for bullet wounds. Mr Anan was hit twice in the lower abdomen, while Miss Chanita was hit once in the buttocks.

Police believe that gunmen in a pick-up truck followed Mr Chat as he was driving home before pulling alongside and shooting at him at least 30 times. At that point police believe Mr Anan and Miss Chanita drove past and, thinking that the vehicles had been in an accident, stopped to see if they needed help. When Mr Anan got out of the truck, the gunman opened fire on him and men then fled the scene.

Superintendent of Wang Wiset Police Col Kriangkraiphop Athipativej said that he believes Mr Chat knew he was being targeted, was very careful in his movements and had removed the licence plate from his car. The two injured witnesses are now under police protection, Col Kriangkraiphop said.

Police are investigating whether the gunmen who shot Mr Chat are the same group responsible for other recent highprofile shootings in the province, including that of Wiroj Wisetphongphan, he added.

The owner of Say Yes Pub - one of Trang's most popular nightclubs – Mr Wiroj, was shot dead on January 17. Trang Provincial Police Commander Prasert Chansawang said that Mr Chat had a rather chequered history. In the late 1990s, he was suspected of involvement in a car theft ring as well as other theft and drug cases in Trang. He had recently returned to Trang after leaving the province in 2000.

Maj Gen Prasert said he believes that Mr Chat had recently been involved in a drug deal that turned bad and that this is likely to be the motive for his killing



Bomb squads and police collect evidence in front of a 7-Eleven shop in Yala following a bomb attack February 4. Suspected militants hid an explosive device in a garbage bin near the shop before triggering it remotely. The blast injured two.

Dispute over woman gets explosive

SONGKHLA: Bomb disposal officers narrowly avoided injury as a bomb they were about to diffuse exploded in Na Thawi district on the morning of February 5.

Despite Na Thawi being one of the three insurgency-hit districts of Songkhla Province, police believe the motive was a dispute over a woman. One suspect has been arrested.

At 11:30 am, police were called to the Netty Car Repair garage by the owner, who said he had received a suspicious package. The owner told police that the package was handed to him by a song taew (passenger pickup truck) driver who said that a man had paid him to deliver it.

A bomb disposal team sent to the garage examined the package and decided to perform a controlled explosion.

As they were retreating from the package it exploded before the planned detonation, at a distance of about five meters from the officers. No one was injured in the blast.

Na Thawi Police Superintendent Waraphong Prasettho said police had tracked down and arrested 23-year-old Reuangwit Singnu.

Mr Reuangwit confessed that he sent the package following a dispute over a girl with the owner of the garage.

Bt1m lawsuit filed over rotten fish for flood victims scandal

BANGKOK: The Foundation for Consumers, together with representatives of flood victims in the South allegedly given rotten canned fish on February 4, filed a Civil Court lawsuit against the Social Development and Human Security Minister, his permanent secretary, the manufacturer of the canned fish and a distributor. The group are claiming one million baht in compensation.

The minister was named as a co-defendant on the suit, along with the top bureaucrat at the ministry, executives of Thong Kingkaew Foods and their distributor Thai AD Foods. All were accused of violating the Consumer-Related Cases Procedural Act.

The allegedly rotten fish was included in the flood relief packages recently distributed to residents in several southern provinces, the first of which was Phatthalung.

Saree Ongsomwang, head of the consumers foundation, said the plaintiffs had not decided whether outgoing minister Witoon Nambutr, who resigned a day earlier over his involvement in the scandal despite denying any wrongdoing, or Issara Somchai, his replacement, would be held responsible.

'We simply named the title, it's up to the officials involved to determine who should be held responsible," Ms Saree said.

The foundation had not just filed the lawsuit for compensation alone, but more because they wanted to set a precedent for relevant state agencies to be more careful about the quality of products distributed to the public even if they were free, she said.

In response to the lawsuit, Mr Witoon said he approved of the legal action taken by the consumers group and felt the manufacturer should be punished for its bad quality products.

Meanwhile, Mr Issara said he would visit the province to get first-hand accounts and look into the matter himself.

He would do this in a personal capacity and not as a Cabinet member as his appointment had yet to obtain royal endorsement, he said.

Soldiers beheaded

PATTANI: Suspected militants killed, beheaded then burned two soldiers in Pattani's Yarang district on February 2.

Police found the bodies of Sgt Niasun Niwae, 30, and Volunteer Ranger Chue Chotirat, also 30 in the afternoon.

The investigation report showed that the victims were members of a volunteer ranger unit operating in the area. They were on their way to Pattani Town when attacked.



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First high-end beach club opens

visitors to the island have welcomed the latest 'hip' day and nightspot – The Beach Republic – which opened its doors to the public in January. The latest trendy Samui venue is touting itself as the island's premier seafront club offering a beachside pool, bar, dining area, gym, exotic spa treatments, and residential options in the luxury villas nearby.

The Lamai venture is part of the Royal Nirvana Resorts group, which has been develop-

oh Samui residents and ing the project since 2004. The both day- and nighttime weekly restaurant operates under the watchful eye of chef and longtime resident Jeffery Lord, who has a number of fine dining establishments on Koh Samui and across Asia. The architectural design gives the venue a striking modern tropical aesthetic that harmonizes the indoor and outdoor functionality of the space. Instantly recognizable, it garnered plaudits from many of the guests who attended the opening party.

The club hosts some of Asia's top DJs, performing at

parties. The hundreds who attended the opening party declared themselves impressed by the new venue, the complimentary fine cuisine and free-flowing champagne. An evening of pool- and beachside dancing rounded off the night's festivities. "The place is amazing!

It is very funky and is sure to attract the same sort of people. We're having a great time and will definitely be back," said Yuwares, a business owner and long term Samui resident.

killer confesses

FROM THE

GULF OF

By Bonnie Maclean

a German tourist on Koh Phangan, police are confident they have the guilty man in

Tiwar Kasemchoke, 29, is the attack was premeditated.

currently being held for further questioning by police over his alleged involvement in the murder of Astrid Assaad Schachmer, 45, whose body was found on a Koh Phangan beach in January 2009.

Police detained local tatoo artist "Tiwar" for questioning after reports that he was the last person to see the woman alive. The partially-clothed body of the victim

was found on the beach and had sustained significant bruising to the neck area. Forensic evidence and an autopsy revealed that she had died from strangulation. Police Superintendent Colonel Charoon Uchuparp commented

ollowing a confession that forensic evidence had ruled concerning the killing of out the possibility of sexual assault.

Under poice questioning, Tiwar confessed that he had indeed killed Schachmer and that

> "She told other foreigners that I fell for her and tried to rape her on several occasions," he said.

> The victim had known her attacker from a previous stay on the island in 2007 and had been staying on the island for a month before her death.

"I invited her to a party at a shop where I was working and then asked her to come with me to the beach where

I beat her and then strangled her," Tiwar told police. Following the confession and detention of the main suspect, it is hoped that fears among the tourist community regarding further possible attacks have been allayed.



Islanders welcome Chinese New Year

he tourism industry on Koh Samui was infused with a renewed sense of optimism during the Chinese New Year period as a surge of guests arrived on the island. Phanu Woramit, head of the Tourist Authority of Thailand (TAT) in Surat Thani, said the area was welcoming a large number of tourists – including many Chinese – to the island during the New Year festivities.

Phanu said the large influx of Chinese tourists may be a direct result of the recent visit by one of the TAT's representatives to mainland China to promote Thailand and in particular the

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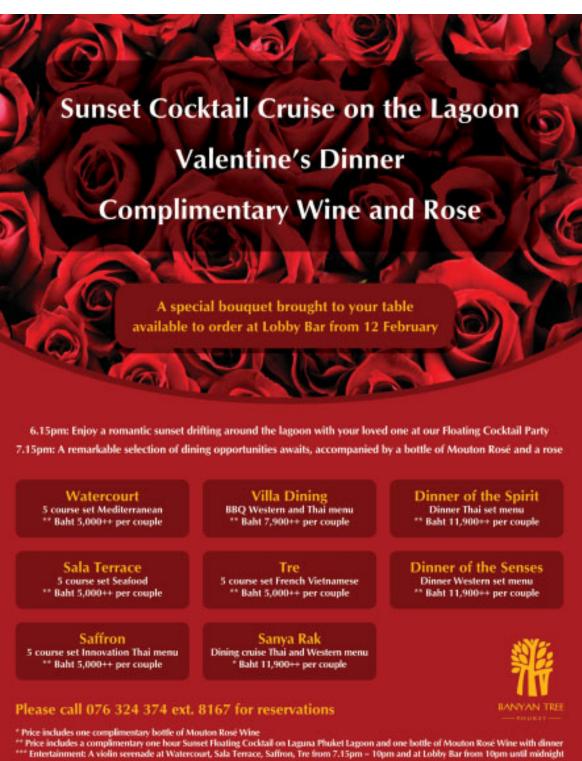
With numbers much lower than expected in the months leading up to January, the sudden increase came as a very welcome surprise. Political turmoil and the global economic woes have been blamed for low visitor numbers but TAT members are hoping the surge will encourage local businesses not to give up hope.

The increase in bookings at many of Koh Samui's hotels led to occupancy levels of 80 to 90 percent over the period leading up to Chinese New Year, while Koh Phangan and Koh Tao also reported higher numbers than usual.

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Thailand's diva of the decks



he story of DJ Nakadia is a well-spun yarn. Meeting a photographer online, she traveled to Europe to pursue a modeling career. As recently as 2001 she had never even heard of dance music but during her time in Europe she developed a passion for the genre, took up DJing and has since seen her career go from strength to strength.

One of Asia's top DJs and one of the busiest in the clubbing industry, Nakadia spends a lot of her time in the air flying from city to city, but still finds the time to come back to her roots.

Twelve months ago, Nakadia played in Phuket for the first time at Clublime. In the year that followed, the talented Thai has spent the time wisely confirming her status as a top international spinner. Diminutive and cute, effervescent and fun-loving with a permanent smile, Nakadia seems to embody Thailand's Land of Smile's spirit.

Returning to Phuket, thanks to the promoters at Clublime, who have recently brought a number of famous DJs to our shores, Nakadia spoke to the *Gazette* before her set.

Gazette: Since your last appearance in Phuket, what have you been doing over the past 12 months?

Nakadia: I've been touring a lot. I've been alternating between Europe and Asia, spending two months in each. During my last trip to Europe I played in 10 different countries including Croatia, Slovenia and Italy. I've played at lots of great clubs and last summer I played at the Love Parade in Berlin. It was amazing and so exciting. It was crazy to see so many people – they were like ants! The fact that I got to play for them was really exciting for me. I've also been in the recording studio and laid down a

few tracks. Early last summer I had three tracks released and then produced another two later in the year.

Gazette: How does it feel to come back to Phuket? Are you excited to be back?

Nakadia: It's always great to come back here and play at Clublime. The people are nice and

it's a great party every time I come. I have a lot of friends here and when I come back it feels like a second home. I love the landscape of the island and the beaches. It's a lot like Samui [Nakadia lives in Samui]. I'm always traveling around Europe and don't get that many chances to go to the beach. It's different to Samui, but still very nice. I feel like I'm on holiday when I'm here.

Gazette: When you have been in Europe for a couple of months what's the best thing about coming back to Thailand?

Nakadia: It's home. It's comfortable for me and I find being home relaxing. I'm always traveling in Europe. Even when I spend a few months there it's work, not home. It feels good to come back and play for my people. Also I can get food 24-hours a day! In Europe its tough to get food late at night.

I love the parties in Italy and they have the best food in the world but I can't get any food on the street when I need it. Sometimes I finish playing at 4 or 5 am and I'm hungry so I always complain to Sebastian [Nakadia's tour manager] if I can't eat!

Gazette: How do clubbers

differ in Europe compared with Thailand?

Nakadia: In different cities and different countries people have different tastes. Here in Thailand, there's a mix of people, but even the holiday-makers don't always know the club scene and don't go out that much. You have to teach them to understand the European style but I generally don't play as hard when there are a lot of tourists. Last year the people of Thailand had started to follow my music and they understood what I was trying to do. Still there are a few people who request hip-hop but more people who come here tend to follow the

Last time I played a softer set with some electro-house, but now there are a lot of people who follow me and my music and understand what I play. I can now play my style. Tonight will be a Nakadia set – tech-house not electro-house.

Gazette: Are there any upand-coming Thai DJ's on the scene?

Nakadia: There aren't that many that I know of but there is another girl, Magic Muffin, who plays really well. She's having a









lot of success in Bangkok. Sometimes I get a lot of bookings in Thailand and Asia that I can't make, so I pass them onto her. I was actually a judge in a competition that she took part in. She'd only been playing for three months but she thought "why not? I want to take part".

Gazette: Recently we had Judge Jules here on the island, and you played here before and have returned this year; but in terms of big name DJs that's it. Why doesn't Phuket attract more bigname DJs?

Nakadia: The top DJs are very expensive. They like to come to Phuket to have a break and just relax. In Thailand, the sponsors won't pay for DJs—they like paying for bands but not DJs. Thai people don't really understand DJs, they can't understand why you have to pay for one to play.

Sebastian: Many of the DJs come here to get married or holiday. About three DJs got married here last year.

Gazette: If you could play at any club in the world, which one would you choose?

Nakadia: At the moment I would like to play in Goa, in Rome or in Berlin at Panorama – it's a great club; that's my dream. For traveling, my favorite city is Rome. I've been there many times, and I never get bored. Every time I go, I always take a walk around and see the sights. DJing wise, I love going to Eastern Europe, especially Latvia and the city of Riga – they have the best clubs and brilliant sound systems.

Gazette: What are your plans for the next 12 months?

Nakadia: I think more producing this year and also I'm producing a reality TV show about my life as a DJ. It's going to air in Europe and on music channels in Asia.

Sebastian: When she played the Love Parade last summer it was broadcast to 53 countries worldwide and they made a feature about her. The guy who produced it said we should make a reality TV show, which they're trying to sell to as many countries as possible. One thing we agreed on, however, is that a Thai channel will be able to show it for free.

Nakadia: I want to show the Thai people about DJ life. They don't really care about DJs. The DJs are stuffed away in the corner and the customers only care about their own table. I want them to get to see and know DJs and I want to inspire young Thai people, especially the girls. I'm happy that I can be someone for them to look up to.

I'm also writing a book to teach them that although anything

is possible, they have to fight for it. Thai people often don't fight for it – I want to teach them to do something and make something of themselves.

Gazette: Girl power?

Nakadia: Not just the girls but the guys as well. Many Thai guys don't want to do anything except go out and get drunk.

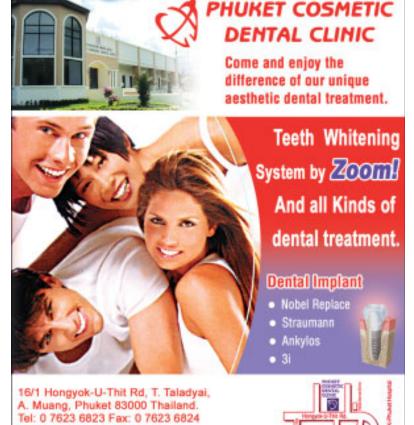
At the stroke of midnight, the queen of the Thai club scene

ascends to her throne and surveys her kingdom.

A thumping bass beat heralds her arrival and her loyal subjects look on in anticipation. As the track reaches a pulsating crescendo, she drops the bass back in and the crowd is hers. Then she smiles, and they are under her spell once more.

- Dan Ogunshakin





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a Cabane Restaurant is located in a pleasantly green environment situated off Wichit Road, 600 meters south of the Chalong debacle, sorry, circle.

As we settled in for our customary vodka martini aperitif the cicadas kick off, sounding for all the world like a broken air conditioning unit in a cheap west coast hotel and, being somewhat of an expert on cheap west coast hotels, they do a mean imitation.

The male cicada is one of the most misunderstood yet chivalrous tropical insects. After waiting 15 long years underground for his chance to mate, he has the good manners to wait for his allotted time before frantically yelling for sex. The selective mating call system apparently works as various species 'sound off' at different times of day. It's so scheduled that some locals claim to be able to tell the time from the differing pitches.

Cicadas, in spite of vibrating their bodies a thousand times per second, can't hold a candle next to the stereotypical recently divorced, alcohol fueled Caucasian male tourist at half-past midnight in a Patong nightclub. Just in case you think I'm wildly generalizing, I should state that I possess photos to prove this statement. Of cicadas, that is...

La Cabane is circular, with



La Cabane is circular, with an open kitchen, surrounded by birds of paradise, plants, banana trees and three traveler palms at the entrance.

birds of paradise, plants, banana the entrance. With plenty of room

an open kitchen, surrounded by trees and three traveler palms at

at Burasari

and overhead ventilation, diners can stretch their legs and kick back with some fine cholesterolbusting specials prepared by the expert hand of Chef Bouddha from Nice.

Bouddha has lived in Thailand for eight years now and he's Bouddha by name and a Buddhist by nature, hailing from a Vietnamese-French family. His grandfather on the Vietnamese side was a private chef to Prince Bao Dai – cuisine has a long tradition in his family.

The Anglicized-Thai, English, French and Thai-language

menu contains a veritable cornucopia of healthy, hearty and reasonably priced dishes. Our entrée – *poivrons* a la Provençale (oven-baked red peppers mari-

nated in olive oil with sliced garlic over the top, 260 baht) – draws an enthusiastic response from a fellow diner at first glance. "Wow, that's the thickest beef Carpaccio I've ever seen," he exclaimed.

Either he needs an optician a Cabane needs better lighting. Regardless, it was great stuff and accompanied by a humongous salade niçoise priced at just 250 baht. Chugging through all this olive oil, tuna, salad and whatnot I could almost feel the cholesterol packing its bags and leaving my body, hounded out by the overwhelmingly healthy Mediterranean fare. As Basil Fawlty declared, "ah forMIDable."

Meanwhile, the cicadas have politely moved on and we're served a bottle of Chilean Concho y Toro red that nicely complements the restaurant's signature dish: daube à la

Provencale (beef), a longtime fave with regulars and visitors alike. Even the 'rosbif' crowd have just enough common sense to appreciate Bouddha's healthy approach to southern French cuisine.

February 14 - 20, 2009

The buttery mashed potatoes that accompany this dish were incredibly creamy and immensely filling, so when the sautéed agneau aux olives (lamb shanks) arrives we're already a little 'bien servi', but the wine helps things along stoically and after an espresso we have time to recap on the early evening

Overall, the healthy and robust cuisine is a major plus point, despite the salade niçoise being a little rough around the edges. Still, if you're looking for

reasonably priced Western food in a pleasant setting, La Cabane is hard to beat.

WITH

Wilko

La Cabane Restaurant

Chef Bouddha doesn't advertise in island publications so you probably won't have read about him and his eatery, but he's well known among the island's discerning French community. There are daily specials and the restaurant offers set dishes for four people (order in advance – typically 580 baht) featuring couscous, paella and other Mediterranean dishes complemented by basic.

Italian house wines at 80 baht a glass, 375 baht for half a liter and 750 baht for a full liter. Overall, a good restaurant, with healthy and filling dishes.

La Cabane: 600 metres south of Chalong Circle on Wichit Road on the right hand side (opposite Fisherman Way). Tel: 089-2900484.



Floyd's Brasserie at Burasari Resort, Patong Beach, Phuket

February 14 - 20, 2009 PHUKET GAZETTE 13

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QURAN COMPLETED: Muslim Wittaya Phuket School teacher Ajarn Arun Wanaeeloek (2nd left) presents garlands to students during a fair held at the school from February 4 to 6 to celebrate the completion of *Thammath Quran* (religious teachings) by 201 Year Three students and 31 Year Six students. Deputy Education District Director of Phuket Mr Anurak Rungrueng presided over the celebrations.



TURTLE AID: Robert Lohrmann (2nd from right), Vice President & GM of JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, joins Michelle Mouillé (right), co-ordinator of the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation, to donate 618,000 baht to the Phuket Marine Biological Center. Marine Scientists (from left to right) Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong, Ukrit Sattaphumin and Kanjana Adulyanukosol receive the cheque for the center's Marine Animal Stranding Rescue Project.



SPORTING SWISS: Former Swiss professional football player Tony Perdon chats with budding athletes at Sainumyen Patong Municipality School after donating sports equipment valued at 150,000 baht to the school on January 24. The donations, from FIFA, Adidas, Füssball Corner, Kunzli-Saller and friends of Tony, included football shirts, shoes and food.



CARABAO PULLS CROWDS: Long-standing *Pua Cheewit* (contemporary folk music) legend Ad Carabao drew crowds at Phuket Brewery last Wednesday when he and his band Carabao put on a much-anticipated concert – the band's second Phuket gig.



SOUTHERN COMFORT: Students from the Faculty of International Studies at PSU Phuket Campus and former Miss Thailand Ariya Sirisoda took part in a project on February 2 entitled "Raising Spirit in Our Home Land". It featured the film *Our Southern Home*, directed by Mr Nok Nisa. The project and film presented stories of acts of kindness by people of the South.



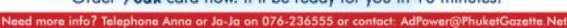
ZUCCARDI AT SALA PHUKET: Sala Phuket Resort & Spa hosted a Zuccardi Wine & Dine experience on January 31, accompanied by Argentinian cuisine created by resident Chef Jan Hollister. Pictured are Sala Phuket Food & Beverage Manager Tibor Baan (left) and wine maker Jose Alberto Zuccardi.



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Thai life through the lens

s the son of a Thai dip lomat, Dow Wasiksiri's childhood was spent in a variety of Western countries, depending on where his father was posted.

This multi-cultural upbringing has enabled him to view his own country and its people from the perspective of both a local and a foreigner. Dow attended school in Canberra, Australia before moving to Wellington in New Zealand, where he finished high school before going on to study architectural drawing at Wellington Polytechnic. It was in New Zealand, around the age of 13, that he discovered a passion for photography. He started out photographing people and popular culture, themes that have remained his principal areas of interest ever since.

In 1976, at age 20, Dow moved to Los Angeles, where he attended Los Angeles City College. He graduated with an Associate in Arts degree in Film and Photography and in 1979, studied for a Bachelor of Arts degree in Radio and Television Broadcasting at California State University, Los Angeles, graduating in 1981. Since returning to Thailand in 1983, Dow has been based in Bangkok. He began his professional career photographing for well-known fashion magazines. Back then, his "new wave" style caused quite a stir within the fashion industry. As well as his innovative use of colored gel filters, he would also shoot with underexposed tungsten film in pale light before sunrise to create a saturated bluish aesthetic.

of the first Thai photographers to seriously explore his inner psyche and transfer these ideas into surreal photography. Among his most celebrated series were 'Composition red [red rock]' (1982), 'Mysterious shells' (1993) and 'Dreams of lost childhood' in 1995. In 1983 Dow started his own studio, Persona, and has since focused on commercial photography. With his distinctive style, his work remains in constant demand, doing shoots for both local and international clients.

Dow still finds time for street



Despite his hectic schedule, Dow still finds time for street photography. Photo: Rear View by Dow Wasiksiri.

PAJERO SPORT

photography, mainly in Thailand. Over the course of his career, he has shown his photographs at numerous solo and group exhibitions, and his work now hangs in museums and private and public collections around the globe. As a successful photographer, Dow's knowledge and experience is highly sought after, which has seen him conduct lectures and



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A case of the blues

"It's 106 miles to Chicago, we've got a full tank of gas, half a pack of cigarettes, its dark and we're wearing sunglasses. Hit it..."



By Daniel Ogunshakin

or fans of the blues, the weekend of February 20 will see the annual Phuket International Blues Rock Festival return for its fourth installment with the 2009 event promising to be bigger and better than ever.

Once again, the festival will

be staged at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa, which has hosted the event every year since its inception. Organizer Andy Andersen and Tony "Chainsaw" Wilson, of Groove Doctors fame, talked to the *Gazette* about the festival, local talent and Tony's unusual nick-



Organizer Andy Andersen and Tony "Chainsaw" Wilson spoke to the *Gazette* about the upcoming Phuket International Blues Rock Festival.

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Staging the festival has not been plain sailing for Andy Andersen over the past four years.

The first event was disrupted by high winds and subsequently had to be staged inside, while last year's event coincided with the 100 days of mourning, following the death of HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana. This meant that the festival was unable to sell alcohol. This year, however, Andy is hoping for a smoother, stress-free ride.

"We are hoping for more people and more beer – last year we had a little problem. This year we are proud to have a real international folk blues superstar in Eric Bibb. He was born in New York but has lived in Europe for the majority of his life. He has played at a number of major festivals and tours all over the world," he said.

But was it difficult to lure such a big blues star to Phuket?

"Not difficult at all," Andy replied. "We just had to pay him enough money – its what all musicians want", he added wryly.

"He [Eric] was very excited as he's never been to Phuket before. He visited Thailand many years ago and has performed in Australia and New Zealand on many occasions; so when we offered him the chance to play here, he was thrilled."

Joining Eric Bibb is a host of international artists from a variety of countries including Sweden, Australia and the USA. With such international talent on display, it could be easy to overlook the domestic acts that contribute so much to the festival.

"There's a wealth of talent

in Phuket," said Tony. "I'd like to see more local Thai bands involved. I go to a number of different places on the island and 'jam' with a number of local musicians. We may have a couple of Thai guys joining us [the Groove Doctors] and you'll see the quality they possess. I'm always excited to play because I get to meet a lot of old friends from different parts of Thailand," he added.

The Blues Rock Festival is first and foremost a charity event and this year is donating profits to the Phuket International Women's Club Scholarship Fund, which provides opportunities for Phuket's underprivileged children. So, does hosting the event for charity create additional difficulties?

"The most difficult part is getting qualified people who will work for free. Many of the musicians come to play for free, which we appreciate. Some come from as far as Europe at their own expense just to play at the festival. The hardest part is to get the job done with the little money we have," Andy said.

The fragile global economy, which has had such an impact around the world, has also affected preparations for the 2009 festival.

"This year we don't have any major sponsors. We have been forced to cut corners, but we need to keep the quality on a par with previous years, if not higher

We have a bigger and better marketing program to attract more people – each year we have doubled our attendance – so we can increase revenue and begin donating money to our favorite

charities," Andy explained. Despite the financial hurdles, the festival is set to remain a highlight of the Phuket social calender.

Is there anything, however, that could be added to make future festivals even more successful?

"I'd like to see an acoustic tent," said Tony. "Something in the afternoon where anyone can go and have a jam. I've seen it at a number of festivals and it always works well," he added.

All of which leaves just one burning question...

Why is Tony Wilson known as 'Hacksaw'? "I'm glad you asked. It's not 'Hacksaw', its 'Chainsaw'.

It was given to me as a joke by Keith Nolan [of Cannonball fame] who decided to call me 'Chainsaw' because I was smaller than everybody else. At the Samui Blues Festival I was billed as Tony "Chainsaw" Wilson, but along the way it became 'Hacksaw'," he said.

"I've had them all, 'hacksaw', 'jigsaw', 'seesaw'. A Scouse (Liverpudlian) friend called me up the other day and said, 'Alright there, cold sore'. Eyesore' was the last one and that was the last straw – it's not hacksaw, it's Chainsaw," he in-

With so many quality acts confirmed to perform, the 2009 Phuket International Blues Rock Festival is all set to be the best yet.

All the way from Ibiza

By Nick Davies

runo Lepretre - aka Bruno from Ibiza – is a renowned international DJ and former resident of the world-famous Cafe del Mar, where he played for eight years. Still an Ibiza regular, Bruno now plays at additional exclusive venues on the island, including Blue Marlin, Atzaro and Nassau Beach.

Since residing in Ibiza, Bruno has released more than 10 Cafe del Mar compilation albums, of which Volume Seven has sold in excess of 600,000 copies.

In 2005, Bruno produced his first album, "Puzzle", and currently divides his time between playing in the world's biggest clubs and performing at fashion shows, corporate events and private parties, including appearing live with Daniela Mercury in Brazil and Lionel Ritchie in Dubai. As part of its first anniversary celebrations, White Box Restaurant in Kalim lured Bruno to Phuket to perform twice – on January 31 and February 6. Bruno is the latest bigname DJ to have performed on the island, following recent visits from Judge Jules and DJ Nakadia.



As part of its first anniversary celebrations, White Box Restaurant in Kalim lured Bruno Lepretre - aka Bruno from Ibiza – to Phuket to perform.

party-goers with his blend of for an international DJ. "Depend- Balearic island of Ibiza is still numhouse and electro, Bruno spoke ing where I play, I have to adapt ber one in his eyes. "There are

people in Europe know more citing," he explained. about club culture, which pre-

briefly to the *Gazette* about play- my style. That's part of my job – ing to different audiences across finding the right tunes at the right the world and how Ibiza still re- moment. The good thing about mains the best place in the world being an international DJ is discovering new countries, new cul-Echoing statements from tures and new music styles. It's you find such a nice mixture of previous DJs who have visited a big challenge to play for a new these shores, Bruno revealed that crowd but it's always really ex-

Before entertaining the sented its own set of challenges Phuket, Bruno insists that the best," he said.

many places to party on this planet; other destinations that pretend to have the best clubs but there is *nothing* like Ibiza.

"Nowhere in the world can cool people with positive energy. I have the chance to play in beautiful locations, amazing spots with As much as he enjoyed nice crowds but Ibiza is still the





EVENTS CALENDAR

Valentine's Day Specials

Valentine's Day @ Wine Connection

From 6:30 pm to 10 pm at Wine Connection Chalong & Bang Tao. Chalong & Bang Tao Wine Connection will treat you and your better half to a 3-course set dinner, including a bottle of sparkling Prosseco and a gift bag, for only 1,699 baht for per couple. Reservations recommended. Call 087-889 6074 for inquiries about this very special set dinner. For more information contact Pascal. T: 076-282411. E: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th

Valentine's Day Dinner at Royal Phawadee Village.

Come and join us from 12 pm to 1 am for an unforgettably romantic dinner with your loved one, either in La Boucherie Grill and Steakhouse or Mae Naam Restaurant at Royal Phawadee Village at Patong Beach. Only 2,000 baht per person. For more information and bookings contact Claude de Crissey. T: 076-344581. E: claude@phawadee.com. W: www.royal-phawadee-village.com.

Valentine's Day at Les Anges

Celebrate this special Valentine's Day with the one you love. Enjoy the ambience of a romantic night for two and a chocolate menu "Love by Chocolate" at Les Anges restaurant at Royal Phuket Marina from 7 pm to 10 pm. 1,750 baht net per person. For reservations and further information contact chef Peter Webber. T: 076-360803, 081-9680738. E: peterw@lesangesphuket.com. W: www.royalphuketmarina.com

Love at Puccini - Valentine's Day

Celebrate this special evening with the one you love at Phuket's finest Italian restaurant Puccini at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket from 6 pm to 10:30 pm. Enjoy an extravagant 5-course set dinner menu in a stunning poolside setting under a canopy of stars. 3,000 baht ++ per couple. Includes a glass of sparkling wine per person, a beautiful rose for the ladies and chocolates for the gentlemen. For reservations contact FB Reservation. T: 076-324101. E: fbreservation@sheratonphuket.com. W: luxurycollection.com/phuket.

February 15. Free Computer Clinic - Chalong.

From 10am to noon at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Is your computer driving you NUTS? Looking for a decent Internet connection? Need to get a new computer, or fix the one you have now? Join "For Dummies" author Woody Leonhard at his weekly Computer Clinic: help, news, tips, explanations and more, all in plain English, and absolutely free. Computer novices most welcome. Bring your questions. Bring your computer. Bring your lucky rabbit's foot. Sponsored by the *Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes. For more info contact Woody Leonhard. T: 089-1960940 E: woody@KhunWoody.com W: www.KhunWoody.com.

February 18. Flowering Body – Art Exhibition.

"Flowering Body" will feature a collage of dyed fabric on canvas by top female Thai artist Nitaya Ueareeworakul. This series is imbued with the touch of a woman's story that subtly conveys a sense of the role as a wife and mother. She is one of the founding organizers of the annual 'Womanifesto' event. Her exhibition at D-Gallery runs from February 18 through until March 18, 2009. Hours: Tues-Sat – 11am till 7pm; Sundays: noon till 6pm. For further information contact D Gallery at Royal Phuket Marina. T: 076-360867 E: info@dgallery.co.th W: www.dgallery.co.th.

February 20-21. 2009

Phuket International Blues Rock Festival.

The fourth annual top music event in Phuket features a star line up of international contemporary blues artists, including Eric Bibb, Californian Mitch Woods and his Rocket 88s, Swedish blues duo Bert Deivert & Janne Zander, soulful Australian singer KNIKI, Rich Harper (USA) and The Blues Machine, Bangkok's Cannonball and the Groove Doctors fronted by Tony 'Chainsaw' Wilson. Festival warm-up show on February 19 and post-event jam session on February 22. For further information contact Andy Andersen, Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa. T: 086-6822639 E: info@phuketbluesfestival.com W: www.phuketbluesfestival.com.

February 20. Seafood BBQ Buffet Dinner - Mercure Patong Phuket

Enjoy a variety of fresh seafood and gourmet meat straight from the grill as you drink in the views of Patong Bay from the rooftop. A live duo band ensures an evening of spectacular entertainment. 799 baht nett per adult and 399 baht nett per child with one complimentary glass of soft drink. Advance reservations are recommended. Hours 7pm – 10pm at Mercure Patong Phuket - Rooftop. For further information contact Mr Chonlathich Na nakorn T: 076-302100#1311 E: alespr@mercurephuket.com W: www.mercurepatongphuket.com.

Upcoming events on the island











Pol Lt Col Kanya Petch**prairoj** transferred to Phuket from the Immigration office at Don Muang Airport in December 2008. A native of Bangkok, her last assignment was as a visa inspector; checking people's visas entering and leaving the Kingdom. She worked for two years in this position before assuming her new role in Phuket as the inspector in charge of extension visas and as administration supervisor.



Bangkok native Pol Lt Col Pankosol Suparerk transferred from Samut-Prakarn Immigration to Phuket Immigration in December 2008. His previous assignment was as the Chief of Samut-Prakarn Immigration where he held the position for three years. In his role at Phuket Immigration, he is in charge of investigation within Phuket province. He graduated from the Police Cadet Academy in 1994.



Richard G Watson runs

Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a

Phuket-based personal fi-

nancial-planning service

and has over 25 years ex-

perience in this field. He

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0814611. Email: imm@

loxinfo.co.th Website:

www.global-portfolios.com

Ms Payao Taichiang was promoted to Financial Controller on February 1 at Allamanda Laguna Phuket, Laguna Holiday Club Phuket Resort, and Laguna Phuket Holiday Residences. Ms Payao's new position involves monitoring work in Finance and Accounting to ensure smooth operation, issuing and analyzing all financial reports and to ensure all operations are maintained under Laguna company policies and procedures.





MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

old has a long history as a store of value and a medium of exchange. In more modern times, countries that produce gold have issued coins specifically aimed at investors; Canada and South Africa being just two examples. In the latter, the gold coin issued is called a "Kruger Rand", which is legal tender and anyone, tourist or resident, can buy or sell at any major branch of "authorized dealers of the Reserve Bank" - in other words, any major commercial bank. The media in Thailand have recently been reporting regularly on public interest in the yellow metal and it seems that this is something of a global trend.

There are several aspects

All that Glisters

relating to the ongoing economic developments that favor gold. These include the near total absence of yield in major currencies, such as the US dollar and the Japanese yen. The term "yield" refers to the amount of interest that one can earn in any currency by investing in cash deposits, bonds, and so on.

One of the drawbacks for investors in gold has traditionally been the loss of an interest rate return by just holding the metal. This disadvantage has now been negated for many investors, obviously depending on currency.

Investors have, in the main, missed out on the quiet rally in gold prices that has taken place over the last decade or so. The price of gold bottomed in 1998 at around US\$250 per ounce. Since then, following a bumpy road, the value of gold has risen to around US\$900 an ounce. It did break through the US\$1,000 level for the first time in history in 2008 but quickly fell back on profit taking. There were anecdotal reports of village ladies in India – who traditionally have gold

bangles as part of a family inheritance or dowry – rushing to sell the "family gold". There remains a high level of fear around the

Fear and greed are reputed to be the only two human emotions that all investment markets are subject to. It is all too easy to see where greed has landed the

g l o b a l economy. Obviously, the world population is not responsible for the current crisis - nor is capitalism – often referred to as free enterprise - to blame. What has been sadly lacking, how-

ever, is the ability of governments, notably in the US and the UK, plus a handful of others, to enact sensible legislation to allow the economic cycle to continue without a "train crash".

Recessions form a normal part of the economic cycle, and the restructuring that takes place during a recession can be likened to pruning back plants; they emerge more vigorous and stronger, at least temporarily in the cycle. What we are experiencing at present is the aftermath of a credit boom that has seen excessive growth. Why? Two rea-

the wheel. Just as the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) acted with total ineptitude in the Bernard Madoff scandal, so too did they and the rest of the regulators either not care or not want to make waves over the massive, irresponsible credit bubble. "Money Talks" covered the subject of US Mortgage lend-

ing in an earlier article entitled "Is the US property bubble about burst?" (Phuket Gazette: issue dated July 16, 2005), which long preceded the crisis. It is difficult to have a great deal of faith that the

politicians and public servants will be able to easily turn this situation around.

What is certain is that trillions of dollars will be spent in the US, while virtually every other country will enact stimulus packages in an attempt to rescue their economies and financial systems. In any competitive sport, as in life, there are rules and regulations, which must be followed. When it came to lending, the rules were simply ignored.

In 1985, an opposition backbench MP in the British House of Commons made a stategovernment was weak. This same speaker - who later worked for almost nine years as Chancellor of the Exchequer before becoming Prime Minister was none other than Gordon Brown. His words that day certainly came back to haunt him. The UK regulator proved to be every bit as clueless as his transatlantic counterpart.

The populations of both countries became accustomed to living way beyond their means, while levels of savings were pitiful. The need to create massive amounts of liquidity to save economies and their banking systems from depression does not really seem plausible but without this injection of cash, we face the very real prospect of a situation similar to the Great Depression of the 1930s. Such remedial action typically runs a high risk of fueling inflation and could therefore be viewed as a reason to have at least part of one's portfolio in gold. There are, of course, various ways to hold gold; the easiest is a fund that simply has a corresponding amount of the physical metal. Naturally, for the more adventurous, there are gold futures or gold shares. Unless an investor has time and experience on his hands, a fund that covers futures or shares is the safer op-

Nevertheless, the stockmarket crash of 1987 offers an example of the problems associated with holding gold shares. Share prices on most of the world's stockmarkets had simply run ahead of themselves; it was not so much a crash but rather a major correction in a long "bull" market.

Gold shares were as out of fashion as virtually any other shares. Investors in the physical metal in 1987 were forced to remain patient as it would take another eleven years for the gold market to reach the bottom.









the Difference



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



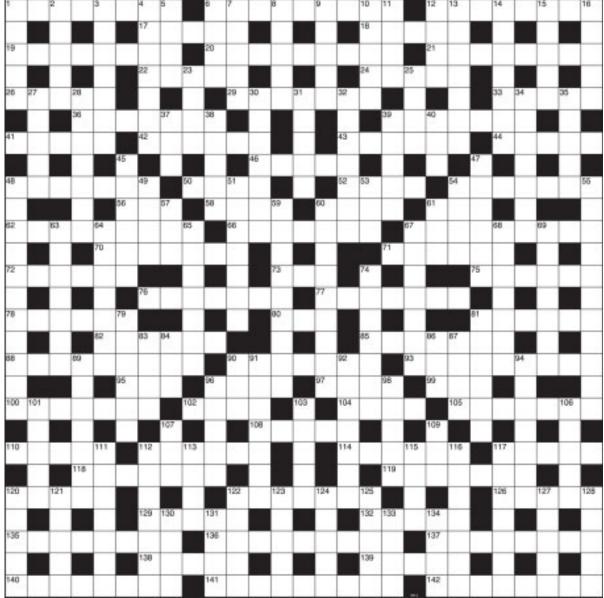


su|do|ku @ Puzzles by Pappocom

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

2 - 0		2-83	6			4		
2		7			9			
	6			7				9
			7			1	3	
5								7
	1	4			2			
9				2			5	
			5			3		8
		3			6			

The principle of Sudoku is very simple: each row, each column and each "box" of nine squares within the puzzle must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9 with, naturally, no repetitions. Guess if you will, but each Sudoku puzzle can be solved using logic alone. Beware: this puzzle has only one solution, which is on the next page.



The BIG Crossword

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5.

Across

- Warmed up again
- Withdraws from po- 88. Puts at risk sition (5,4)
- Coat-of-arms study 93. Without hearing
- 17. Tobacco roll
- 18. Disliked
- Sweet pepper
- 21. Powerfully
- Pallid 22.
- Jumped high
- Army clergyman Skilled performer
- 33. Men
- 36. Pressurised spray
- 39. Took the plunge
- 41. Rectify 42. Red salad tuber
- 43.
- Smears 44.
- Iridescent gems 46.
- Perfect 50. German Mrs
- 52. Clumsy louts
- 54. Loots
- 56. Angry 58. Alternatively, or...
- 60. Apple seeds
- 61. Spoil
- 62. Interbred Snake or lizard 66.
- 67. Cannibals (3-6)
- Juvenile 71.
- Savoy & Hilton 72. Derisive person
- 73. Meadow
- 75. Hurrah!
- 76. Condense
- 77. Sudden outburst
- (5-2)78. Slip by
- 80. Non-amateur

- 81. Cat cries 82. Being displayed (2,4) 6.
- 85. Barrier attendant
- 90. Artlessness
- 95. Octopus fluid
- 96. Metal in brass
- 97. Auction
- Reuse (building site) 99. Sheikhdom,... Dhabi 14. Mortified
 - 100. Go off at a...

 - 102.... Lang Syne

 - 104. Write on machine

 - 105. Timber-cutting fac-
 - tory 108. Bake (meat)

 - 110. In front
 - 112. Amount
 - 114. Chinese fruit

 - 117. Indian prince
- Prepares for painting 118. Nodes
 - 119. Thames royal palace,... Court
 - 120. Fragile
 - 122. Straddling
 - 126. Cricket trophy
 - 129. Closely follows
 - 132. Domestic servants
 - 135. Hair-stylist
 - 136. Zany
 - 137. Engravings 138. Beatle,... Starr
 - 139. Of kidneys
 - 140. Tried out
 - 141. Last-minute news
 - 142. Elongate

 - **Down**
 - Summarise 1.
 - 2. Desired 3. Ouzo flavouring
- South American republic

- Fades Uncovered
- Stadium
- Bent to pray
- Contests of honour
- 10. Entire
- 11. Scruff
- 12. Marijuana
- 13. Magazine chiefs

- 15. Marching practice
- 16. Spinning toys (2-3)
- 23. Legendary outlaw, Robin...
- 25. Film star,... Sandler
- 27. Carrying a gun
- 28. Festers
- 30. Reaccommodate
- 31. Pakistan's... Khan 32. Surface layer of
- earth
- 34. Insistent
- 35. Receded
- 37. Anti-terrorist group
- 38. 1000 mls
- 39. Huffs 40. Umpire
- 45. Make flexible,... up 115. Spy, Mata...
- 47. Scarcely
- 48. Incapacitated
- 49. Be concerned
- 51. Previously
- 53. Copy Horse's neck hair
- 55. Thrilling (novel)
- 57. Lair 59. Convulsions sufferer 127. Vague guess
- 60. Aprons
- 61. Small rug
- 63. Apple grove
- 64. Rancher's hat
- 65. Cow farms
- 67. Attacks 68. Mindless

- 69. Investigate
- 74. Mainly 79. Motor
- 81. Maintenance book
- 83. Volcano shaft 84. Peeve
- 86. Estimated touchdown time (1,1,1)
- 87. Throngs
- 89. Kabul currency unit
- 90. Nought 91. California's San...
- Fault 92. Gossiped
- 94. Debases
- 96. Natal people
- 98. Dawn of an era
- 101. Loathe 103. Melted ice
- 106. Charter 107. Genocidal Cambo-
- dian leader,... Pot
- 109. For now, pro... 111. Sad
- 112. Carrion bird 113. Jeans maker....
- Strauss
- 116. Biblical letter 117. Selfish driver (4,3)
- 120. Aspect
- 121. Elsewhere excuse
- 122. UK racecourse
- 123. Nincompoop 124. Lay to rest
- 125. Muslim rulers
- Sarandon
- 130. Very dry

128. Famous actress,...

- 131. Stages of journey 133. Unreturnable serves
- 134. Bargain
- Solution on next page

Quick Crossword

Across

- 1. Vegetable
- 3. Madonna movie
- 7. Unwell
- 9. Climbs
- 10. ...Gretsky
- 12. Good (ambience)...
- 16. Shape
- 17. Hurt
- 18. Not tight
- 19. Italian food

Down

- 2. Wound
- 4. Singlet
- 5. Question
- 6. In charge
- 8. Hint
- 11. Continent
- 13. On men's faces
- 14. Sport channel
- 15. Finishes
- 17. Friend

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with the

NSTER QUIZ

- Which is the only country in the world to have 2 other courtiers inside its borders?
- What was Milton's follow up book to Paradise Lost?
- Who is the president of East Timor?
- Which state is the White House in?
- What did Russia sell to America in 1867?
- Which singer starred in the film Desperately Seeking Susan?
- Who created Tarzan?

- Which rapper was shot in Las Vegas in 1996 following a Mike Tyson fight?
- By what name is Don Diego de la Vega better known?
- 10. What are the 4 ways to score in Rugby Union?
- 11. Which artist found fame with posters advertising the Follies Bergeres?
- Florida, Bermuda and Puerto Rico?
- 13. What name is given to the piece of metal that swings inside a bell?

- 14. How many riders are on each Tour de France team?
- 15. What signal did SOS replace in 1906?
- 16. What does SOS stand for?
- 17. Ickibana is the Japanese art of what?
- 18. When You Wish Upon A Star is a song from which animated film?
- 12. What is bounded by 19. In which country is cow fighting is an annual event?
 - 20. Who broke Muhammad Ali's jaw in 1973?

Answers below



Beef • Pork • Lamb • Chicken • Sausages • Burgers • Pies & Pasties Bacon & Gammon • Cooked Meats • Imported Groceries English Beer/Cider • Tea • Home Prepared Micro-Meals • Xmas Delicacies

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Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's **Quick crossword**



Monster Quiz **Answers**

1. Italy; 2. Paradise Regained; 3. Jose Ramos-Horta; 4. Maryland; 5. Alaska; 6. Madonna; 7. Edgar Rice Burroughs; 8. Tupac Shakur; 9. Zorro; 10. Conversion, Penalty, drop Goal, Try; 11. Henri Toulouse-Lautrec; 12. The Bermuda Triangle; 13. The clapper; 14. Nine; 15. CQD; 16. Nothing; 17. Flower arranging; 18. Pinocchio; 19. Switzerland; 20. Ken Nor-

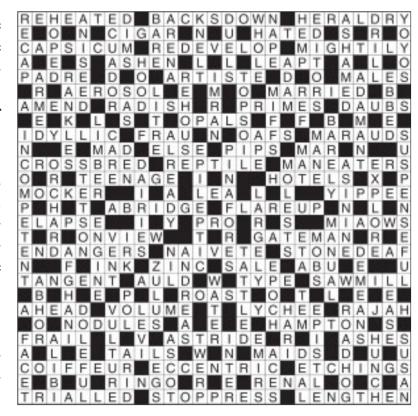
ton.

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

١	15	0	9	О	3	Э			2
	2	4	7		8		5		3
	3	6	5			4			9
ı	6	9	2	7	4	8	1	3	5
	5	3	8	9	6	1	2	4	7
	7	1	4	3	5	2	9	8	6
	9	7				3			
	4					7			
	8	5	3	4	9	6	7	2	1

1 9 0 6 3 5 4 7 2

Solution to this week's BIG Crossword



Solution to this week's **Cartoon Puzzle**



February 14 - 20, 2009 PHUKET GAZETTE

LOOKING

By Anand Singh

A tale of two cities

he historic town of Thalang served as the administrative centre of Phuket for many centuries, and the names of many renowned local Thais and foreigners are associated with it.

Legendary wars were fought to defend the town, and armies were held off at its gates. For many centuries, it was the most important settlement on the island. But at some point in history Thalang's significance faded. The town ceased to become the administrative centre of the island.

The decline of Thalang as one of the few large Siamese towns on the western coast came in a series of blows, particularly towards the end of the 18th century.

The locals of Thalang had successfully resisted a Burmese invasion in the year 1785 under the leadership of two brave sisters, Lady Chan and Lady Mook. The bravery shown by these two heroines of Phuket is still remembered and recounted by inhabitants of the island today.

However in the year 1809, Thalang faced another threat, when marauding Burmese armies returned to the region again. This time they destroyed and plundered many cities in the south of Siam. Thalang could not repel them for a second time and the town fell to the invaders. It was plundered and destroyed. Many local inhabitants were killed, while others fled the island together in search of safer places to settle. At the end of it all, few inhabitants remained on the depopulated island of Thalang.

Prior to the Burmese invasion of 1809, the ruler of Nakhon Sri Thammarat was granted administrative control of several towns on the western coast of Siam, although he was still obliged to send taxes and answer only to the King of Siam, whose seat of power was in Bangkok.

After the invasion of 1809 the Burmese chose not to occupy what remained of Thalang and other towns in its vicinity. Instead they left the region, carrying back with them spoils of war and many

After they left, the ruler of Nakhon Sri Thammarat appointed an elder noble of Thalang to become the next governor of the island. His job was to pick up the pieces of the mostly destroyed settlement and lead the few inhabitants that survived and did not flee the island. The man chosen was Luang Lam-Cherm. He was well respected and had much administrative experience.

Sometime during the reign of King Rama III, after the year 1824, Thalang was growing into a major settlement again under the sound leadership of Luang Cherm. The town was therefore upgraded and came under the direct administration of Bangkok. It was recognized by the central



A new town was established at the site of a small village called Ban Ket Ho with the purpose of setting up a centre for tin trade. This newly founded town was to become Phuket Town as we know it.

government as a major town once again. Luang Cherm was rewarded the title of "Phraya", which made him a Siamese lord, equal in status to the ruler of Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

During Phraya Cherm's governorship, he commissioned

Legendary wars were

fought to defend the

town, and armies

were held off at its

gates. For many cent-

uries, it was the most

important settle-ment

on the island. But at

some point in history,

Thalang's significance

faded and the town

ceased to become

the admin-istrative

centre of the island.

his son Kaew to establish a new trading settlement in the south of the island with the purpose of setting up a centre for tin trade. The area was still very abundant in tin ore at the time.

A new town was therefore established at the site of a small village called Ban Ket Ho. This new 1 v founded town

was to become Phuket Town as we know it.

Kaew was given the job of administering the new city by his father. He was granted the title of "Phra Phuket", which made him the mayor of the newly founded Phuket Town.

In the year 1849, Phra Phuket Kaew died and the job of mayor was passed down to his son, Thut, who became Phra Phuket Thut.

When he replaced his father as mayor, Phra Phuket Thut moved the site of the city from

Ban Ket Ho to a site called Thung Kha. A few years earlier, large reserves of tin had been discovered at Thung Kha. The town was relocated there so that the vast reserves of newly discovered tin ore could be exploited easily.

It was not long before Phra Phuket Thut

proved himself a competent mayor of the new town. According to Prince Damrong, a reputed Thai historian and brother of King Rama V, Phra Phuket Thut was a clever administrator and talented marketer. He campaigned abroad in Malaya and other places to bring Chinese

merchants and industrialists to Phuket so they could provide much-needed investment to further industrialize the island's tin industry. Because of this the mining industry in Phuket Town expanded rapidly and as a result the town grew and prospered under his rule.

After only four years in office, Phra Phuket Thut managed to gain royal approval in formally elevating Phuket Town to the same status as Thalang Town.

In 1861, a royal letter arrived in Phuket for Phra Phuket Thut. It started by recollecting what

Phuket Town was like during the third reign, when it was newly founded. People had only just started settling there and the town displayed little wealth or luxury. The town was therefore subject to the jurisdiction of larger towns.

After that the town prospered and grew considerably. Tax revenues sent to the royal treasury increased significantly over the years as trade and export grew.

The king further expressed his appreciation for the mayor's good work in developing the town's trade links and increasing the wealth of the townspeople.

The king also acknowledged the mayor's loyalty to the crown. As a reward a royal decree was issued, elevating Phuket to formally become a major town, its mayor answerable only to authorities in Bangkok, which meant it was no longer under the command of the governor of Thalang.

The king also rewarded Phra Phuket Thut with gifts of precious gems and other luxurious imports. It was a great honour for the mayor.

A year later, Phra Phuket Thut was promoted to the rank of "Phraya", making him lord and governor of the whole island. The island's administrative centre was moved to Phuket Town. Thalang's status was also reduced. From then on, it simply became a town under Phuket's jurisdiction, and has remained so ever since.

Anand Singh is an avid Phuket historian. He has lived on Phuket since the age of 3. He is fluent in Thai and is currently completing his degree in economics at the University of Birmingham. Anand can be contacted at as.pkt@hotmail.com.



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- Visa service

Translations

Legal consultation

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siamint@loxinfo.co.th

Company formations Tel: 076 346 149 Fax: 076 346 150 Email:

Work permits

Phuket Gazette - Since 1994 -

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Free water policy ill-conceived

As refugees from crueler climates will attest, Phuket is blessed with beautiful weather and abundant rainfall for most of the year. Rainfall data for 2008 show an island-wide average of just under 2,500 millimeters. A rough calculation reveals a staggering volume of water, about 1.3 trillion cubic meters, falling upon Phuket's 543 square kilometers every year.

Unfortunately, ever more of it is needlessly channeled into the sea thanks to the construction boom that has left much of the island covered in impermeable surfaces, further diminishing the island's limited groundwater resources.

Phuket's high season for tourism – when demand for water is highest - coincides with the driest period of the year, December through March. As a result, parts of the island annually experience shortages, especially the coastal areas that lie outside the service areas of the two main waterworks agencies.

While the Irrigation Department has done a commendable job in creating a second reservoir in Thalang, Phuket still looks set for a serious island-wide water shortage if the monsoon rains come later than expected [See page 5].

Supply shortages are an evident and ever-present burden to those suffering through them, but less obvious is the reduction in water quality that results from them. As levels in the Bang Wad reservoir are used up, the PWS replenishes it with low quality water from abandoned tin mines.

These tin mines, recharged by groundwater and surface runoff, can be contaminated by oil, road salts, organic wastes, heavy metals and other toxic chemicals.

Some tin mines used as water sources are located immediately down-gradient from one of the island's largest recycling centers in Kathu. One shudders to think how badly contaminated this water might be. And, unfortunately, there is no system to regulate or monitor the quality of water trucked to homes by private firms – a fact to ponder next time you are brushing your teeth or washing vegetables

Regardless, the stage appears set for the "water truck syndicate" to enjoy a banner year – no matter how low the quality of the product they dispense. With serious risk of a major drought before us, the government should be proclaiming one message loud and clear:

Instead, they are sending out completely contradictory signals by giving away water free of charge under the current "stimulus" package, which runs through Phuket's dry season into June. This policy is yet another example of how Phuket will continue to suffer from over-centralized government policies – no matter who is in charge at any given time.

- The Editor

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Letters

The Gazette is pleased to receive mail from read- | your views for publication in our next issue. ers. 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 are supplied.

We reserve the right to edit all letters. Pseudonyms are acceptable only if your full name and address

Reply to Plus-plus...

In answer to Andrew McInnes's complaint about restaurants adding ++ to the check [See Gazette Letters, February 7, Plus-plus equals a negative], all restaurants and businesses must pay taxes; this should be clear enough to everyone.

Really, what difference does it make where it's put on the

As for adding the tip, I am all for it as it's my belief that most visitors, especially those from Europe and the United Kingdom, simply do not tip.

Added to this sad state of affairs is the fact that the tip does not go directly to the waitress but is divided among the entire work force at the end of the month.

If the service has been good, I always place a few dollars directly into the hand of my server to ensure that he or she personally receives it. This I believe is good practice even in the smaller establishments.

Come on, Mr McInnes; loosen up, you're on vacation and don't forget to tip.

Frank Visakay Phuket

Danger for kids at disgraceful Park

Today I had the misfortune to take my 4-year-old daughter to the 'Little Phuket' playground in Suan Luang Park, Phuket City - and what a shock we got.

Almost all of the equipment is broken or in a state of dangerous disrepair.

The lighthouse was full of litter and used condoms, its wooden floor rotten and broken. The place is a disgrace and those responsible for its upkeep should be ashamed.

What a pity, considering the rest of the park is so beautiful.

Sally Williams Phuket

Why waste 150K on a simple survey?

Why are the Japanese funding a 'road death research project'? [Gazette, Around the Nation, January 24.]

I live in Krabi province. They could have given me the 150,000 baht and it wouldn't take me a year to work it out. One day would be enough: just open your eyes!

Speed limits? There are none. Traffic law enforcement? Nil. Speed cameras? Zero.

People driving with no lights on. People overtaking when they can see other vehicles coming. They don't wear helmets. They use phones while driving cars and bikes. They pull out without looking first. Or they pass you on the left, then turn right. I've seen 10year-olds riding four to a bike. People only know one speed: "like a bat out of hell".

Hit them with 1,000 baht fines; that should slow them down. If they can't pay the fines, take their cars and bikes until they pay up.

So now have I qualified for the 150,000 baht?

> Martin Kempf Ao Makham

OK to drink brown water?

I've been noticing the color of the water sold in large bottles that you can buy for about 15 baht. In the bottles I bought recently

from a shop near Chalong, the water has a brown tint and a taste to match! I've kept them if someone can test the water quality.

Does anyone inspect the water sold in these bottles?

Do they have a quality stamp or even a date stamp? (Hard to tell, as all writing on the bottle is in Thai).

There is a plastic wrap sealing the bottle cap, but that's no indication of the quality of the contents.

Do they come from a factory or is someone filling them behind the shop? I'd also like to know if I can get a refund on the unused bottles.

Has anyone else noticed or been getting bad tasting water?

Meanwhile, I'm going to spend a bit more and buy the clear bottles sold in most shops.

D. Robinson Chalong

Doctor misdiagnosed dengue fever

Last week, I came down with a fever, which began straight after I had eaten.

After two days of suffering from what I thought was food poisoning, I went to a doctor in Patong.

He gave me penicillin (this did nothing) and told me I had respiratory problems but after four more days, I was still suffering with a fever, so I went to another doctor.

The second doctor took one look at me and told me that I had dengue fever.

Is the moral of the story to get a second opinion before taking any pills in Phuket?

> Ken Wright 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.

Tackling transport and health care issues



FIRST PERSON

Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) President Paiboon Upatising talks about

current and upcoming PPAO projects to help the poor, improve tourism and meet other goals for the province.



Mr Paiboon recently donated UV flashlights to help Phuket market vendors detect fake bills.

egarding the issue of 'green buses' in Phuket City, the Phuket Provincial Authority Organization is planning to purchase 16 new Songtaew buses, which will replace 12 old ones.

The routes will remain the same, the first from Big C to Saphan Hin and the second from Supercheap to Laemchan Health

All the buses will be fitted with GPS technology to monitor the speed and location of the vehicles. The buses will also be serviced more regularly to enhance comfort and reliability. Students will be entitled to free use of the new service.

With the installation of the GPS system, free access for students, and having buses that run on time, I feel that the new service will become very popular and generate more income.

This revenue will be ploughed back into the service. The green buses will be reassigned to other public services.

I have already sent a report to the Traffic Police and the Department of Land Transport regarding the creation of additional bus routes.

We will meet soon to discuss these proposals in more detail. The new buses will also carry signs in English to make the service more user-friendly for foreigners.

I have already commissioned new mutli-lingual signs, as well as brochures and publicity

The ultimate objective is to have *songtaew* buses operating all over the island, including in the major tourist areas, where many people do not have access to their own vehicle. However, the new bus service is first and foremost targeted at serving the needs of poor people. With this in mind, the next route to be introduced will serve areas including the Keha Community Housing Project in Rassada and the Saphan Ruam Village on Koh Sireh.

PPAO Hospital: I hope to have repairs to the former Phayathai Hospital building completed by December of this year and have also held discussions with the management of Vachira Phuket Hospital about overcrowding.

It has been agreed that patients not deemed to be in critical condition wil be transferred to a new PPAO Hospital, which will be located in the Phayathai Hospital building.

The PPAO Hospital does not presently have the necessary emergency medical equipment to treat critical patients, and so will serve as a recuperative facility.

However, in the longer term, once the hospital has been fitted out with a full range of hi-tech lifesaving medical equipment, the PPAO Hospital will be able to accommodate all patients.

During the coming year, I will accelerate efforts to recruit staff to work in the PPAO Hospital and allocate a budget of around 400 million baht to repair and upgrade building and facili-

Home Health Care project: Our "10,000 beds" Home Health Care project will

support and service all three districts in Phuket. The primary aim is to help those patients who are unable to help themselves. We will offer ongoing support helping to ensure patients have access to essential medical equipment. We aim to establish a volunteer worker to patient ratio of 1:3.

All volunteers will be experienced in patient care, which will facilitate an efficient medical support service.

The volunteer workers will be supported by a team doctor and nurse who will provide professional and expert support with first aid, especially in cases where a patient is in serious condition.

The volunteer care workers will be required to write patient reports and submit them to the professional medical staff at Phuket Provincial Health Office, where information will be analyzed before advising on the next treatment steps.

We have to launch this project becasue Phuket doesn't have enough doctors. Furthermore, a number of patients are physically unable to get to hospitals for needed treatment.

In such cases a team has been set up to visit the patients in their homes. This project should be up and running by the end of

CCTV: A new closed-circuit television system (CCTV) center for Phuket City will be established with a budget of 20 million baht.

The governor of Phuket has proposed setting up the main monitoring center at Phuket City Police Station. The network of

CCTV cameras will enable the police to better gather information, monitor and regulate traffic and prevent and investigate

We also plan to set up small CCTV centers in all police stations around the island. The PPAO is recommending the use of fiber-optic cable to render the system faster and more powerful. We have already held meetings on this subject with the Phuket Software Association and SIPA and are in the process of analyzing budgetary require-

The PPAO will be responsible for laying the network, while funding for the cameras will come from the local municipalities.

Hotel room tax: Every hotel in Phuket is currently required by law to pay a 1% room tax to the PPAO. In 2008 this generated around 60 million baht in revenue. This year we expect that figure to rise to about 70 mil-

This month the PPAO will reveal the identity of "Phuket's favorite hotel", this being the hotel that has contributed the highest amount in room tax payments.

The winner in 2008 was Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort. The top 20 hotels on this year's list will all be officially recognized and awarded certificates.

Next year we will set up a PPAO hotel booking service, that will be significantly cheaper than booking through agencies, which traditionally charge a 20% fee.

The PPAO service will levy only a 1% booking charge. The software for the new system will be written by the Phuket Software Association.

All hotels that make room tax payments to PPAO will be entitled to participate in the new booking system.

Other issues: The Phuket Welcome Gateway project and checkpoint in Tah Chat Chai need to be brought together in the same place. I would then like to incorporate a green public area,

possibly designed for sport and recreational use by local people. The current overall design of the area is not suitable for Phuket. I have already assigned a government officer to conduct research concerning improvements to the

On the subject of waste management, I am working on a plan to establish a new fertilizer factory. The factory will collect organic and food refuse from local hotels to manufacture fertilizer. Food waste accounts for between 30% to 40% of the total waste stream on the island. The factory will be located in the Suan Bang Khanoon in tambon Thepkrasattri and the project will receive funding from City Hall. Government officials will be used to train up staff for the new facility.

Before March 13 we plan to stage a big 'Cleaning Day' festival, aimed at sprucing up the whole island. I have met with the governor to discuss how we can further develop this event. In the past, the PPAO has run this alone but this year I want all local municipalities and schools to get in-

The annual Thalang Victory Monument Festival will be held this year from March 13 to 15 at Khok Chana Mak. Whenever a major sporting event comes to Thailand, I will always try to bring it to Phuket.

The island has already attracted some impressive sporting events over the last six months, including beach volleyball; the Suzuki Cup and King's Cup football tournaments and an international triathlon. If I have the opportunity to bring a top sports event event here, I will seize it.

I plan to bring youth football, beach soccer and a mountain bike marathon to Phuket. Such great sporting events can be used to promote tourism to the is-

> Compiled by: Khunakorn Terdkiatkachorn

Can I bring my scooter to Phuket?

I would like to bring a G0-PED (a motorized stand-up scooter) to Phuket.

Is it legal to ride on the streets like a regular scooter?

Anon Phuket

An officer of the Department of Land Transport (name withheld) replies:

If the motorized standup scooter is more than 50cc, then it is not legal to ride it on the streets. It may only be ridden around the island's villages.

However, to be sure, it is better to take your scooter to the Department of Land Transport. They will also need to inspect the relevant documentation you acquired when purchasing the vehicle.

For further information call: 076-211019. Ext 2.

Issues & **ANSWERS**

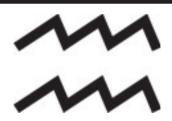
Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond to them.

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26 PHUKET GAZETTE February 14 - 20, 2009

Horoscopes

Isla Star



Aquarius - The Water Bearer

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): It will be a challenge for Aquarians to keep their minds on work this week. The unexpected arrival of a friend sparks off a wave of partying, but you also need to focus on business commitments. Valentine's Day should be particularly enjoyable for those who have been waiting for someone to make up their mind. Romance is a strong feature of the year ahead for those celebrating a birthday this week.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Pisceans are advised to put their interests first at work. Sagittarius is ready to take credit for your hard work and this could lead to serious conflict. In the world of romance, a new flame is unsure of your interest. Make Valentine's Day the time to show just how seriously you want to take this relationship. Discrepancy concerning a bill is highlighted mid-week, but your bookkeeping skills should ensure a positive outcome.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Arians who were dismayed to discover that they have been part of a love triangle will see the sunny side of life again this weekend. Someone born under a water sign will take advantage of Valentine's Day to express their interest. Your financial luck is about to be influenced by a positive astral atmosphere and gains are indicated by the end of February. Wearing the color midnight blue can sharpen your instincts.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans who thought that romance was passing them by at the moment should be pleasantly surprised when a Valentine's card arrives this weekend. Tracking down the secret admirer will require some sleuth work and your first guess is probably not correct. A Libran friend can help you get to the bottom of the mystery, but Scorpio's suggestion will only confuse matters. The number nine

Romance looks rosier for birthday Aquarians in the year ahead

can bring some good fortune on Monday. are advised to pay more attention to their partners' words.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Geminis' old-fashioned way of declaring their romantic interest this Valentine's Day is certain to impress. You also find the best way to negotiate a tricky business arrangement next week and this should guarantee successful future collaboration. A physical problem needs to be addressed during the second half of February – turning a blind eye isn't the right solution. Wear the color copper to encourage a more down to earth attitude.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Someone born under a fire sign would like to set your heart alight this Valentine's Day, but many Cancerians have interest in another direction. Your romantic questions are about to answered and this should leave you free to devote energy to other matters. A healthier bank balance ensures that travel becomes a real possibility and this could be the key to spiritual enlightenment. Your lucky number this week is seven.

LEO (July 24-August 22): A work-related project started recently brings less satisfaction than you had expected, but the situation will improve by the end of the month. Even if romance is the last thing on your mind this weekend, someone close is determined to create a hearts and flowers atmosphere. Single Leos should realize the way to an earth sign's heart is by a straightforward approach. The number five can bring some good luck on Monday.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): This may be the ideal time to take a weekend trip as single Virgoans' current desire for solitude could be compromised. A fire sign is convinced that you would be their perfect partner and is planning a direct approach to coincide with Valentine's Day. Those in a committed relationship

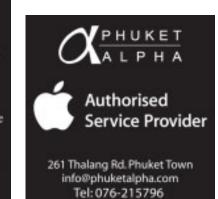
are advised to pay more attention to their partners' words. Wear the color rose red to encourage a sweeter mood.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Someone who is a rising star in your area of work is preparing to make an offer for you to join them in a new project. Librans who can't decide whether to leave their current employment are advised to stall until the end of the month when the picture becomes crystal clear. Romance is also subject to an unsettled atmosphere, but this weekend you realize that friendship is worth its weight in gold.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Dreaming up creative ways to make money is highlighted for those born under the sign of Scorpio this week. Your talent for undertaking hard work has been noticed by another earth sign and this person could prove to be the ideal partner. Collaborating with a Gemini friend is inadvisable because this person will use your ideas for their own gain. Romance is forecast to put a smile on your face this weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Sagittarians who don't know which way to turn regarding a property matter will be enlightened by the end of the month. A change of residence is predicted to happen within the coming weeks and although you are reluctant to pull up roots, it will prove to be rewarding. Secrets are set to be shared this weekend and you will be delighted to learn that your romantic aspirations are not in vain.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Capricorns coming to terms with a broken relationship may not think they're ready to move on, but a water sign has set their heart on getting to know you better. This Valentine's Day should be one to remember. You are about to find out that money can be made in ways you never considered before and your earning power will be strong during the coming weeks. Number four is lucky this weekend.





In this regular column, the *Gazette*'s agony aunt Madame Mali helps shed light on cross cultural issues by answering readers' questions about the right (and the wrong) things to do in relationships, especially those between Thais and foreigners.

How to deal with petty theft?

Dear Mali,

I am a foreigner with a Thai wife and mixed race child, age 3. As our daughter is an only child, an older girl who lives next door often comes by to visit and play with her and we often bring her along on our family outings on Sundays.

This girl is about 12 years old and is the niece of my neighbor, who is very close to our family and probably the closest person to my daughter after my wife and I. This girl is from a broken home, which is why she stays with our neighbor, but her mother also lives on the island.

Anyway, we recently caught this girl stealing small amounts of money from our house, mostly coins. However, we did a test and left some small notes out and they were taken, too. Our neighbor, the girl's aunt, has also reported some petty pilfering from her home.

This is otherwise a genuinely lovely girl and we were very shocked by all of this. My wife says we should just no longer allow her in the house and give no explanation, but I think she needs to be confronted with it. What do you advise?

Roger, Bang Tao

Mali replies:

Dear Roger,

My advice would be to confront her with the fact that you suspect her of stealing from you, but as you have no proof, despite the test, you must explain that this is only a suspicion. Explain to her the logic behind your thoughts and tell her that if it is true then it has to stop.

At her age, she needs to know what is acceptable behavior and as she comes from a broken family, it falls upon you to set her straight. Should she deny any wrongdoing then let it go for now but keep an eye on her. By not allowing her to visit you are not going to help her or your daughter.

Maybe you should offer her some pocket money for baby sitting or doing odd jobs around the house so that she does not need to steal. Hopefully the confrontation will already prevent her trying to steal, as she will know that it has been noticed.

Why all this ducking?

Dear Mali

I am on holiday in Phuket and have noticed that in the hotel and at restaurants Thai staff talk to me in a very soft voice and duck their heads when they pass me. A friend of mine tells me that this is a mark of respect, but I must say it makes me feel uncomfortable. Why do they do this in a modern country like Thailand? Why are Thais not more self assured?

George, Boston

Mali replies:

Dear George,

The behavior to which you refer is known locally as *Greng Jai*, which literally means having a timid or diffident heart.

Traditionally in Thailand, people are taught to show respect to those who are older, richer or to whom they believe are more important than themselves; you are witnessing the result of such an education.

Although this may make you feel uncomfortable coming from a Western background, the Thai person in question would feel equally uncomfortable if he or she were not able to show you these outward signs of respect.

Send your questions to: askmali@phuketgazette.net



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Volkswagen Concept BlueSport

t this year's North American International Auto Show in Detroit, while a number of leading manufacturers were missing – notably Land Rover and even Ferrari – Volkswagen came out all guns blazing with a new roadster. It was labeled a 'concept' but these days no automaker invests so heavily if it does not intend to

make it a production reality in the fairly immediate future.

The VW Concept Blue-Sport features a 'clean' diesel, common-rail injection engine, delivering 177 bhp mated to a six-speed dual-clutch transmis-

sion. Driving the rear wheels, the new mid-engined roadster reaches the magical 100 km/h from standing start in just 6.6 seconds, with a maximum of 226 km/h. The two liter turbocharged motor also produces a mammoth 350 Nm of torque from as low as 1,750 rpm – a remarkable ability in such a compact powerplant.

"The BlueSport is a compact and passionate car with a clear Volkswagen signature. The

t this year's North
American International Auto Show in
Detroit, while a numding manufacturers sing – notably Land ad even Ferrari – en came out all guns

car offers pure dynamics with a powerful 180 PS Clean Diesel engine that is combined with the characteristic Volkswagen philosophy of efficiency," confirmed Volkswagen's Chairman of the Board, Prof Martin Winterkorn in Detroit.

Volkswagen says that it defined just two objectives in the car's development: maximum driving fun and minimal fuel con-

sumption. And so a mid-engined sports car was implemented that makes no compromises, and aims at low weight and maximum agility right from the start.

Although it is best in its class when it comes to

body rigidity, the Concept BlueSport weighs in at less than 1,200 kilos. The result was better performance that is more than impressive for every life situation, in addition to the cited fuel economy and emissions advantages. Low weight was attained by consistent application of lightweight construction methods. The soft top – at 27 kilos – is the lightest in its class, and the front and rear hoods are made of aluminum.

HomePro at Tesco Lotus and a new HomePro at Ha yaek cha-long.

Despite all of the sports car fascination included on board, it still offers a respectable level of everyday utility. In the cargo area under the front hood the Concept BlueSport can stow 112 liters of luggage; its counterpart in the rear can handle an additional 70 liters of cargo volume.

Altogether that makes 182 liters – enough space for work documents or an extended weekend trip for two. Making a positive impact on the car's range, fuel economy and emissions are two technologies that could become more and more commonplace in the future and are part of the so-called Eco mode on the Concept BlueSport: an automatic start-stop system and braking energy regeneration.

When the car stops at a traffic light, for example, it automatically shuts off its engine. As soon as the light turns green again, just tapping on the gas pedal will start the engine immediately. Its entire operation is absolutely intuitive and saves up to 0.2 liters of fuel per 100 kilometers in the city. Furthermore, when the roadster is braked, energy is generated by the alternator, which further improves fuel economy. The Concept BlueSport – painted in Flex Silver and sporting an orange colored fabric roof - was designed



Volkswagen says that it defined just two objectives in the car's development: maximum driving fun and minimal fuel consumption.

by the team led by Klaus Bischoff, director of design for Volkswagen, and Thomas Ingenlath, director of the Design Center in Potsdam.

"The design of the Concept BlueSport," says Bischoff, "represents a perfect synthesis of technology and aesthetics. Its form is very clear and is reduced to essentials; the car body itself has a lean and linear structure." Thomas Ingenlath adds: "Emanating powerfully from this car body are the circular wheel housings, flared out in three dimensions as in a sculpture.

The radial surfaces, edges and blending of forms emphasize the wheels and thereby the agility of the BlueSport concept car. The lateral air intakes are identifying features of the mid-engine layout, their volume-reducing design offers visualization of the car's sporty low weight."

There has been no word on when the Blue Sport will make production, but it is a sure-fire thing it will, and probably within the next 18 months or so.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigator.com

www.homepro.co.th



Phuket prepares for 2009 Thailand Open

he Thailand Open makes a triumphant return to the Asian Tour schedule and Phuket this coming March. The Singha Corporation has signed an agreement as title sponsor, while Laguna Phuket Golf Club will host the four-day international tournament. The Singha Thailand Open will take place from March 5 to 8 and players will tee off for the coveted title and a share of the US\$500,000 prize purse.

The Thailand Open, first played in 1965, was an annual golfing tradition and has some famous names inscribed on the trophy, including Australians David Graham (1970) and Graham Marsh (1973), and Taiwanese golfers Hsieh Min-nan (1972) and Chen Tze-ming (1983 and 1986). Due to a lack of sponsorship, the Open has not been played since 2005, but organizers are happy to announce that the event is now back in full swing.

The tournament also welcomes the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) and PTT Public Company Limited as premier sponsors. Last year, the Thailand Golf Association (TGA) signed a memoran-

dum of understanding with promoter World Sport Group (WSG) to revive the Thailand Open.

WSG will promote the Thailand Open for three years and in another development, it will be broadcast live at the weekend on Star Sports and a local terrestrial channel.

"We are thrilled to have a title sponsor, venue and dates set in place for Thailand's flagship golf event and we are particularly grateful to Singha and Laguna Phuket for their enthusiastic support. I think everyone in the game can now breathe a huge sigh of relief that the Thailand Open is about to tee off again, not least the many great Thai players who have really missed its presence," said Rungsrid Luxitanonda, President of the TGA.

Chutchai Wiratyosin, Marketing Director of the Singha Corporation said, "To be able to announce that Singha Corporation will title sponsor the Thailand Open is an historic day for us. We are renowned for being at the forefront of golf sponsorship in Thailand, so to be able to title sponsor our national open gives us a sense of completion".

Laguna Phuket Golf Club is

an 18-hole, par-70 course, designed by Max Wexler and David Abell.

The layout features a wealth of scenic lagoons, coconut groves and undulating fairways against the dramatic Andaman backdrop.

"Everyone at Laguna Phuket is delighted the Singha Thailand Open will be played at our resort for the first time. We seized the opportunity to stage the event as the tournament, like Thailand's golfers, is so well respected," said Tim Haddon, Director of Golf, Laguna Resorts & Hotels.

"By hosting the tournament we hope to once again show golfers and holiday makers across the world the beauty of Phuket and the Laguna Phuket resort," added Haddon.

In another boost for the Open, US PGA Tour star Daniel Chopra will compete for the title alongside a full complement of Asian Tour golf stars. The Swede is a two-time winner on the US PGA tour, having claimed the Ginn sur Mer Classic in 2007 and followed his maiden Tour victory with further success when he won the Mercedes-Benz Championship in Hawaii in 2008.



Thailand's most famous golfing son Boonchu Ruangkit took the title in 1992 and 2004.

Natwut Amornvivat, President of TCEB said, "Supporting this world class event fits well with TCEB's fundamental strategies and helps greatly in strengthening the Thailand brand and image as a preferred destination around the world".

Coincidentally, the Thailand Open was last played in Phuket when Kiwi Richard Lee lifted the title in 2005 at Blue Canyon Golf and Country Club.

"The Thailand Open has been sorely missed and so we welcome it back with open arms. Our players are eagerly looking forward to teeing off at Laguna Phuket and I would like to thank Singha, the Thailand Golf Association and World Sport Group for their great efforts in reviving this great championship," said Kyi Hla Han, Executive Chairman, Asian Tour.

Unquestionably the most popular past winner of the event was Thailand's most famous golfing son Boonchu Ruangkit, who took top honors in 1992 and 2004.

However, he wasn't the first home player to lift the trophy – that memorable feat was achieved in 1991 by Suthep Meesawat. Suthep is the father of Prom Meesawat, currently one of the region's most exciting golfing talents.

Eye of the tiger

ustralian boxer Michael Katsidis got his career back on track by defeating Argentinian Angelo Ramirez in the Philippines on January 31 to claim the WBO Asia Pacific title.

Katsidis, Australia's number one pound for pound boxer, knocked Ramirez down four times on his way to winning a one-sided fight. Katsidis spent a month in Phuket preparing for the fight and spoke to the *Gazette*

ustralian boxer Mic- before leaving for the Philippines.

Asked why he had chosen Phuket for his training camp, Katsidis replied, "I came to Phuket because I wanted to punish myself. I was fighting and living in America and I wasn't really getting the results I wanted. I thought to myself, I'm gonna punish myself and come to Thailand to train."

When people think of Phuket they usually think of sun, sea and relaxation but probably not sado-masochism but for Michael, coming off back-to-back defeats in 2008, victory over Ramirez in Cebu City was crucial. His victory puts the pint-sized Antipodean back in title contention within the lightweight division, whereas a loss would have left his blossoming career in tatters. Katsidis feels that Phuket is the perfect place to train.

"I feel great. I think this is the best place I could be at this stage in my career and the training camp here at Tiger Muay Thai has been one of the best I've ever had. There's a great atmosphere here and everyone shares the same goals. It's been a really cleansing experience," he said.

It has also been an opportunity for Katsidis to be reunited with old foe Pratet Sor Thanikul, who he fought in 2005. Pratet, who lost to the Australian by vir-



Katsidis prepared for his Asia Pacific title fight at the Tiger Muay Thai gym here in Phuket.

tue of a second round KO, is one of the trainers at Tiger Muay Thai and has been helping Katsidis prepare for his fight.

So was his time in Phuket punishment enough for the Aussie?

"I've actually had a really good time. The weather here is great and I like the attitude of the people. I know I came here as a bit of a punishment thing but I've really enjoyed it," he said.

-James Goyder







Jumpers for goal posts

By James Goyder

oys from the British International School (BIS) and the Youth Football Home (YFH) may come from opposite ends of the social spectrum, but every Sunday they put aside their differences, both cultural and linguistic, in order to play the 'beautiful game'.

The contrast between the two schools could not be starker. The YFH is an orphanage for impoverished Thai boys all over the country who show an aptitude for football, whereas the BIS is an exclusive fee-paying school.

However, both establishments have joined forces to provide players for the Phuket Fair Play League (results below). The teams all contain an equal mix-



ture of boys from the YFH and BIS. For the YFH children it is an opportunity to learn and practise English on the football field, while the BIS children get to learn a bit of Thai and to enjoy playing alongside some of the finest footballers of their age group in the country.

Hannu Tuukkanen of the Youth Football Home said, "This is the league's second year. We tried to set up this league in conjunction with some local schools, but unfortunately they said they didn't have the budget for it and could not secure sponsorship."

"Daryl Orchard from BIS suggested that we have enough kids between us to set up a league with teams of just BIS and YFH children. It's the first time

there has been a junior league in Phuket and hopefully the YFH children will learn more English and the BIS children will learn more Thai," he added. Michael Hosking, a BIS parent, whose son Francis plays in the league said, "It's good to give the kids an opportunity to play sport on a regular basis. Hopefully this will be the start of things to come with all sport, not just football."

There are six teams in the league, each with at least nine players aged 12 years and under. Matches take place every Sunday at BIS or the YFH. There are still places available in the teams for four boys.

To qualify, they must have been born in either 1997 or 1998. For more info contact Hannu Tuukkanen at Tel: 083-644 7915.

Fighter gets back on track

LAS VEGAS: Mixed Martial Arts fighter Jon Fitch got back to winning ways in the Ultimate Fighting Championship in Las Vegas. Fitch, who recently spent a month training in Phuket, was up against Japanese fighter Akihiro Gonho at UFC 94.

In front of a capacity crowd at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Fitch demonstrated some of the Muay Thai skills he'd picked up at Tiger Muay Thai, with sharper striking; dominating his opponent in the clinch. Fitch hopes his victory, secured by a unanimous decision, will be a step towards earning another shot at the UFC Welterweight Championship.

-James Goyder

PHUKET FAIR PLAY LEAGUE RESULTS AND STANDINGS

Week One results		Week Two results		League table		Top scorers		
Lions v Tigers	3-0	Lions-Stars	0-1	Stars	10 pts	Nonthavit Onting 7 (Diamonds)		
Diamonds v Thunders	4-1	Diamonds-Gladiators	1-3	Diamonds	9 pts	Nattawat Onting 6 (Thunders)		
Stars v Gladiators	5-1	Thunders-Tigers	6-0	Gladiators	7 pts	Noppasit Paramacharoenroj 4 (Diamonds)		
Tigers v Diamonds	3-4	Diamonds-Lions	4-3	Thunders	5 pts	Sooksan Arsasook 3 (Gladiators)		
Gladiators v Lions	1-0	Tigers-Stars	0-2	Lions	3 pts	Aleksi Lahikainen 3 (Gladiators)		
Thunders v Stars	0-0	Gladiators-Thunders	2-2	Tigers	0 pts	Dunai Cangkaru 3 (Stars)		





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Home of the Week Rawai

Tropical life in private surroundings



The infinity edge pool and hardwood decking gives the poolside terrace an attractive finish.

entrally located in the Sai Yuan area of Nai Harn and Rawai, this property is situated in one of Phuket's quieter areas, with a large expatriate community and convenient access to many of Phuket's wide ranging amenities.

Spacious, elegant and sophisticated, this furnished house, built on 426sqm, consists of three ensuite bedrooms and a large open-plan living area, which contains the living room, dining room and kitchen.

The spacious living environment is fitted with sliding doors and large windows to offer a spectacular view of the private pool and garden. A large front door opens onto a pool terrace that adjoins the private infinity edge pool.

Panel ceilings with a resortstyle ceiling fan and granite tile flooring engender a feeling of space and luxury, while maintaining a cool environment.

The kitchen is conveniently located next to the dining area and has a gas and electric stove, large cabinets, and a microwave oven. Large windows allow for an abundance of light.

The master bedroom occupies the prime location at the front of the villa and offers beautiful

views of the private pool and garden. More sliding doors open onto the large pool terrace, providing the room with ready access to nature all year round.

The ensuite bathroom contains a large bathtub and an outdoor shower area.

This villa has two guest bedrooms – both ensuite – overlooking the pool and garden. Each bedroom is fitted with built-in wardrobes.

With a high surrounding wall, providing complete privacy, and an L-shaped floor plan around the infinity edge pool, the prospective owner will have the means and opportunity to fully





Spacious, elegant and sophisticated, this furnished house is built on 426sqm and consists of three en-suite bedrooms.

enjoy Phuket's tropical lifestyle.

The infinity pool has a decorative water feature and the hardwood decking gives the poolside terrace an attractive finish.

The back yard includes an ample lawn with tropical plants and shrubs, and the carport is large enough for two cars.

The villa is equipped with True Visions cable and ADSL internet, and there is three-phase electricity with earth wiring to all outlets.

Air conditioning is ducted

into all the rooms throughout the house.

This attractive property is available freehold for 9.75 million baht.

For more information about this property, contact Patrick Lusted at Siam Real Estate. Quote reference number: HSIL2214. Tel: 076-288908. Email: Patrick@siamreal estate.com.



Construction update

Phuket City

There's no place like Holme

ocated in the center of Phuket Town, construction of the Holme Place Condominium began in September 2008 and is scheduled to be completed in April of this year.

The development, comprising 183 local and foreign-owned freehold/leasehold condominium units, is being constructed on three rai on the hillside of Rang Hill, overlooking Phuket City.

Once completed, the properties will be available to purchase with Chanote land title.

The project is being developed by Ruung Sirichai Developer Co Ltd, which has successfully completed several commercial and residential developments in Phuket, Bangkok and nearby provinces.

Prices of the units range from 1.89 million baht up to 3.64 million baht.

Of the 183 condominiums, 28 are available for freehold ownership, in which 49% of the floor space can be purchased by foreign investors, while the rest is available to domestic buyers in accordance with Thai law.

The remaining 155 units are available with a 30-year leasehold



An artist's impression of the 183-unit Holme Place Condominium project.

that is renewable up to a total of 90 years.

The Holme Place development will feature three types of condominium unit; studios, deluxe suites and pool suites, laid out over seven floors.

The total floor space of a unit ranges from 30-60 square meters, depending on its classification, and features an open-plan air conditioned living area, bed-

room, pantry, bathroom with hot and cold shower, balcony and mini-garden.

In addition, potential investors will have access to WiFi high speed internet, cable TV, swim-



The simple design and tasteful furnishings give the condo units an elegant and stylish appearance.

ming pool, a car park, a gym and fitness area as well as laundry service.

The condominium will be protected by CCTV, 24-hour estate security and access to the building via a key card.

The Holme Place Condominium will also offer buyers the opportunity to partake in a management and rental program. Owners can rent out their unused property and will receive a return of approximately six percent on their investment in two years.

The management and rental program requires a payment of 40 baht per sqm per month and a one time payment of 500 baht per sqm, to be used for the building's maintenance and up-keep, which will be collected upon transfer of ownership.



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With the success of Phase 1 of The Lofts at Laguna Village, having sold out of all Penthouse and Loft units within one month, Laguna Property is proud to launch Phase 2. Comprising 27 Loft units and 3 Penthouses, Phase 2 of The Lofts delivers an innovative product into the Phuket property market offering top-of-the-line standard features including Poggen Pohl kitchens, Clipsal electronics, GROHE and TOTO sanitary ware, and many more leading brand names, plus several high-tech upgrade options. Prices start from only THB 7.9M!

For an appointment to preview The Lofts at Laguna Village, please contact:

Laguna Property Centre, Canal Village, Laguna Phuket. T. 076 362 333 property@lagunaphuket.com www.lagunalofts.com

Note: The above details including all parties are indicated information only. The final details are subject to change's inside by the Developer without group prior notice to the customer.

PHUKET GAZETTE

With Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma & Michael Greth International Law Office, Patong Beach Co. www.ilo-phuket.com Tel: 076-222-1915

case that started out in a local court and worked its way up to Lathe highest court in the land, the Supreme Court, ended recently with the judge ruling in favor of the defendant in the original case, Ms Somying.*

The decision came after a series of dramatic court appearances, which heard accusations of gambling addiction and shoddy house keeping from her husband, and the plaintiff, Mr Somchai.*

The trial between the married couple began amid allegations that Ms Somying was using property owned by Mr Somchai to settle gambling debts that she had accrued.

Mr Somchai declared to the court that he had filed for divorce and that, as the husband of Ms Somying, he was entitled to half Nuptials, lies and gambling addictions



of the marital assets. He stated that he was initiating divorce proceedings on the grounds that Ms Somying antagonized him by not taking adequate care when preparing his food and cited her gambling addiction as further grounds for a the separation.

It was the refusal of Ms Somying to accede to his demands that brought the case to courtroom, where the accused revealed that, technically, she had never, in fact, been married to Mr Somchai.

The judge heard evidence

that the plaintiff was already married to another woman and consequently, the 'marriage' between Mr Somchai and Ms Somying was null and void.

In the original case in the lower court, the judge decreed that, despite consummating their

'marriage', it was not legally binding as a result of Mr Somchai's bigamy. Controversy erupted, however, when the judge then ruled in favor of Mr Somchai, who was to receive a settlement for any properties accrued during their spell as 'husband and wife'. Accordingly, Ms Somying was instructed to pay 115,000 baht to Mr Somchai.

However, the matter didn't end there, as Ms Somying lodged an immediate appeal. The judge in the appellate court took into consideration the fact that that Mr Somchai had contributed less to the properties and as a result was entitled to a settlement proportionate allocation of monies.

The appellate court ordered Ms Somying to pay the lesser sum of 69,000 baht to Mr Somchai. Both parties declared themselves aggrieved by the decision of the court and duly appealed to the Supreme Court, which ultimately ruled in favor of Ms Somying.

*The names of the people in this story have been changed to ensure privacy.

-Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma

A lesson on the right way to make reservations

The Importance of Foreign Exchange Transaction Forms

otic holiday home to pure invest-

ment and the realization of siz-

very popular among for-

hailand, the Land of property outside their home coun-Smiles, has become try. More and more foreigners are choosing to buy property in Thaieigners as their location land for a variety of reasons, rangof choice for the purchase of ing from the acquisition of an ex-

able appreciation and return on investment: or even both. Having chosen the property of your dreams, your seller might ask you to sign a "Reservation", under which you are likely to be

> In this context, attention should be paid to the correct application and issuance of relevant documentation by and through the bank of your seller.

> required to make a first down pay-

ment, often called a "Reservation

This provides evidence of your transfer of foreign currency, equivalent to the amount of Thai baht as agreed with your counterpart.

In the event you have decided to buy a condominium in Thailand, then correct application and accurate issuance of 'so called' Foreign Exchange Transaction Forms (also known as FET or Thor Thor three) is often required. This is true when transferring at least \$20,000 US – or other relevant documentation if remittance of an amount less than \$20,000 is made – into a Thai bank account.

Such FET forms must be provided to the land department in the event of condominium unit purchase by a foreign buyer who has chosen the option of remittance of foreign funds into Thailand, equaling the unit's purchase price, as an instrument to qualify himself as freehold buyer in a condominium project.

The FET can also be used as evidence for actual payment of the purchase price if any kind of interest shall be registered against land with the relevant authorities.

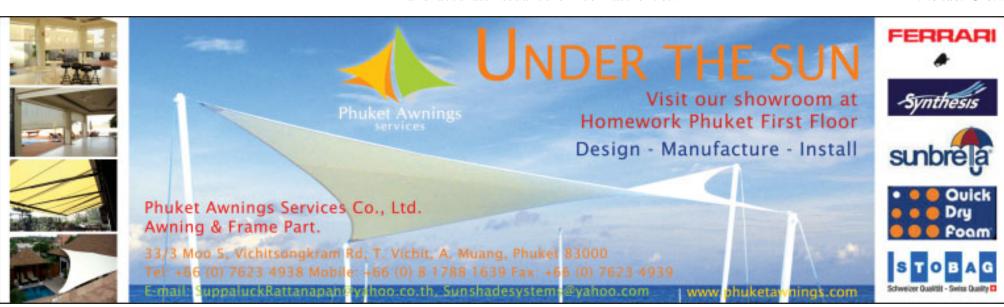
It can also serve as evidence as to the original source of monies to be later repatriated out of Thailand in the event of

Additionally, all taxes and regulatory requirements should be considered to ensure that all funds occurring from a re-sale could be taken out of Thailand and transferred back to country of origin.

The bank receiving the money will supply the relevant and accurate FET, always provided if the buyer, as money transferor, clearly disclosed and designated the purpose of the transfer of funds into Thailand and his full name under the payment instructions when instructing his transferring bank (e.g. Condominium Unit purchase by Mr. XYZ).

-Michael Greth





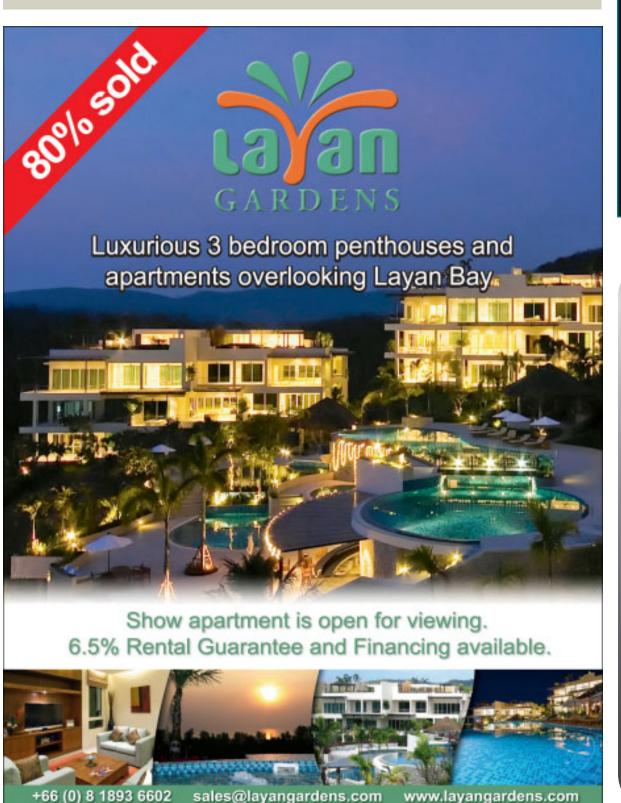
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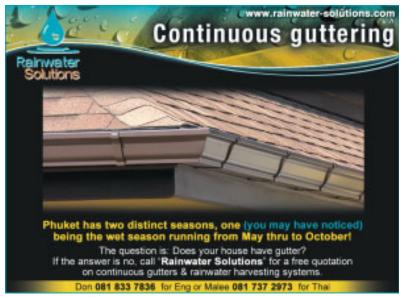




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Is Phuket property too expensive?

s we continue our voyage into "uncharted territory" – the favored catchphrase of every politician and multinational CEO with regard to current market conditions – nothing is at all clear. My days are marked by more jitters and swings of opinion than a visit to Surin park on a Sunday with my daughter, who loves going up and down on the teetertotter.

Of late the question of land values and, more recently, overall property prices has spurred a healthy and no doubt long-term discussion on whether property in Phuket is just too darn expensive, and, were it lower, whether there would be a faster market recovery.

Aside from the obvious answers, being yes, no or maybe, it's a complex and long-reaching question with no easy answer.

The island's property market is not a cohesive

single entity that can be easily discarded into a dumpster; as in recycling, you need to sort through the various elements and break it down into manageable chunks of information.

A vast majority of the mid (5 million baht plus) to upper tier (65 million baht plus) developed real estate is strongly dominated by foreign buyers. Research indicates this to be in the region of 60-70% owned by the foreign segment, with the remainder being domestic purchasers.

Taking this a step further, you have end users – those who buy a house and use it as their primary residence – and then others purchasing a holiday home, second residence or lifestyle investment unit which is often hotel-managed or rented out through estate agents.

The majority of these prop-

erties were purchased on a cash basis and there is limited exposure to local banks within this segment.

Despite its phenomenal growth over the past five to six years, Phuket remains a developing market - albeit one which has certainly moved further into its cycle over the years. The lack of available mortgages and debt, recent emergence of a scalable resale market and predominance of small private developers over in-

stitutional and listed firms would indicate it is still getting its legs in a broader global or regional marketplace.

From 2002/2003, when the market started an upward cycle of double-digit year-on-year capital appreciation, extremely favorable supply/demand ratios and prices have continued upward at a significant pace each and ev-



In the current economic climate, fence sitting is a popular pastime with investors. Many are waiting to see where the bottom of the market lies, however there might still be some bears out in the woods.

Take a reality check and you can see that the current slowdown did not begin with subprime. It commenced 24 months prior to that with the start of the political instability of the Thaksin government, a foreign business act scare and serious increases in supply of new developments at every conceivable price point.

Tracking the market during the last two years, certain segments have continued to perform well – the upper-tier luxury villa market, which has capitalized on an under-supply of product, and the lower-end condo market within the 2-4 million baht range, which has seen an influx of Thai speculative buyers who can leverage units with banks.

Mid-range condos, townhouses, apartments and the recent rash of smallish pool villas all within the 7-12 million baht band in tertiary locations have continued to come at rates far faster than they can be sold.

Arguably, there currently exists a robust supply of midrange product at a time where demand is flat, thus making speculators and industry firms, such as brokers, wonder how to spur an increase in transactions.

Unfortunately this comes at a time when every corner of the globe is facing severe crises that many experts are saying will continue to hold sway for at least 12-24 months. There is no easy quick fix.

Talking to developers and agents, prices, for the most part, are holding on property, although many buyers who are actually purchasing standalone units and smaller developments have received some discounts.

For the most part these are completed inventory where only a few units are remaining, and it's more a matter of businessmen who want to exit an investment and cash out.

It's a questionable strategy in this type of market to advocate large-scale devaluation of property in order to attract new market share, as, currently, there isn't a wider overseas market in existence.

The effects on existing purchasers of property, whose value has held against other diminishing assets, would create possible challenges in attracting new buyers in the future. It's easy to sell cheap, but at the end of the day, whether Phuket wants to go the way of Spain or other mass housing markets remains a key ques-

An overlooked key factor is

currency, which remains important when many buyers bring funds from overseas. Over the past year the Thai baht has depreciated 15% against major currencies and the current forecast is for a further five. This presents a 20% decrease for overseas buyers on property in Phuket.

New property launches are declining and the construction pipeline looks to be constrained for a sustained period.

While some discounting may take place on existing products, the market absorption of these excess units will be accelerated and we will see a more balanced supply/demand ratio going forward.

As pointed out in this column many times in the past, the key to growing Phuket's market remains in the availability of financing, which allows it to compete with developed markets, along with greater foreign ownership rules.

While many may argue that lowering prices may benefit short-term growth, long-term success and this market's sustained viability can only be achieved if stability and investor confidence are maintained without a knee-jerk reaction to the world around us.



PROPERTY

By Bill Barnett

Managing Director of

Phuket-based hotel &

residential property consult-

ing firm C9 Hotelworks.

Bill has more than 20 years'

experience in the region and

has played an active role in

some of the island's biggest

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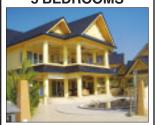
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Property Gazette

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DOUBLE VILLA IN



Panoramic sea views - 5

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270 9093.

APARTMENT

3rd floor apartment located at Karon Plaza. Comes fully furnished w/ telephone lines, ADSL, and cable TV. For further details, contact: John or Thanittha Johannesen at Tel: 076-396694, 081-691 4561. Fax: 076-396694. Email: gymworld@loxinfo.co.th

www.Phuket-villa-property.com We've got it... 08 72 72 03 03





BEAUTIFUL SEA VIEW LAND

VILLA + LAND

1 rai at Yamu Hills. Gated community, underground power/ water. Ready to build on. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 081-088 8271. Email: capt@loxinfo.co.th

CHAOFA GARDEN HOME

Koh Kaew. Bargain, 2 bedroom, 85sqm. List price: 4.9 million baht, now 2.8 million baht. Tel: 087-272 0303.

REAL ESTATE INVESTOR WANTED

Invest from 10 million baht and get a FREE beachfront villa! Email: admin@thaisunshine developments.com

HASIP PEE ROAD

Popular bar/restaurant, 40 covers, owner's 2-bedroom apartment + 3 ensuite bedrooms, and roof terrace -483 sq/m in total. Views over Patong Bay and jungle. Chanote title. 13.5 million baht. No agents. Tel: 084-842 1434. Email: colin.turpin @btinternet.com



Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Property Gazette

NEW HOUSE IN NAI HARN-RAWAI



for sale or rent. 3-story villa, sea view, hill view, garden, pool, 4 bedrooms with 2 en-suite bathrooms, 6 bathrooms, ADSL, Jacuzzi. Big living room, kitchen/ dining, laundry room. 5 aircons. 8m x 3.5m private pool. 2 parking spaces. Tel: 081-677 9837. 089-646 4786. Email: sync_koji@hot mail.com

3 BEDROOM POOL VILLA RAWAI

Full aircon, fully equipped, kitchen, 24 hours security, great location. For sale. Tel: 085-783 1890.

EXCLUSIVE POOL VILLAS

near Boat Lagoon marina. Tel: 089-873-1019. More details and pictures at: www. phuketexclusiveholiday.com

SINGLE HOUSE

for sale. Phuket Villa project (Chaofa Suan Luang), single house, 3 bedrooms, 76.4sq wah. In front of main entry. Down payment: 480,000 baht. Tel: 076-209155, 081-396 7117.

BEAUTIFUL NAIYANG LAND



9.5 rai, beachfront. 5 minutes to Phuket airport. Asking price: 120 million baht. Chanote. Must see. No agents. Please contact via by email: allservices29@ gmail.com

HILL HOUSE AT

for sale. Sea view, 600sqm for total area. Two-story house with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, parking, pool. Nice location, 5 minutes to Kata Beach. Can adapt for 2 apartments for rent. Please take a look and ask for price ono. Tel: 087-689

BANGKOK CONDO SALE

Located Soi Nana, 21st floor, pool, fitness studio room, 3 balconies. 70sqm. Price: 4.4 million baht. Tel: 081-446 0215.

PATONG CONDO 125 SQM

Must be seen. 2 bathroom, 2 bedroom with big living room. Western kitchen, terrace, pool and car park. Stunning sea/mountain views. Tel: 076-293149, 081-824 1385.

1 RAI FOR SALE

Located in Pasak, Cherng Talay. Sale or long term rent. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

TOWN HOUSE NEAR BIS

Sale or rent. 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2-story. Sale: 1.8 million baht or rent: 12,000 baht per month. Opposite Boat Lagoon. Tel: 081-979 3369.

KARON SEAVIEW



Located on the west coast of Phuket island. 10.5 rai with Chanote. Perfect location for business (hotel & resort). Price 300 million baht. No Agents!! Tel: 087-270-

NEW CONDO GOOD VIEW FRM 1.5 MIL

Rawai. 40sqm, 1 bed, 1 bath, big pool, 24h security. 1.5 mil baht. 60sqm, 2 bed, 1 bath, seaview. 2.8 mil baht. Call Kuno +66 (0)81-9685963. Tel: 076-381303, 081-968 5963. Fax: 076-381303. Email: maria@bayproject.com For further details, please see our website at www.bayproject

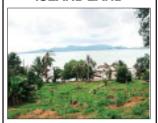
OWN YOUR OWN RESORT

Airport beach Nai Yang. 9 bungalow style cottages. Only 8 million baht. Tel: 086-076 0141.

CHALONG TOWN HOME

This immaculate 3 Bedroom home on a new estate is priced to sell. Tel: 089-652 1473. Email: anandaestates @yahoo.com

COCONUT **ISLAND LAND**



for sale. 4.5 rai. Chanote, hillside panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Bouddha. Tel: 089-290

NEW BUILDING FOR SALE





in busy area, Soi Sai Nam Yen, Patong Beach.

- * 4-storev
- * 8 apartments on floors 2, 3 and 4
- * Chanote title
- * Electricity, water
- * 2 minutes to the beach Asking price:

52 million baht. Tel: 087-270 9093, 081-868 7676.

ANDAMAN BEACH SUITE BUILDING

Feel luxury and comfort in the pearl of Andaman. Andaman Beach suite condominium, located in Patong Beach, is one of the most exquisite locations in Phuket. Condominium for sale on the 17th floors (all of 17th floors). Size 667.96 sqm. 2 Sea view Deluxe (3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1 livingroom). 6 Mini suite deluxe (1 bedroom). Sale by owner only. Contact us Ms. Wongduan Nannong. Email: littlereef_01@hotmail.com

BEST PRICED BEACHFRONT LAND

in Thailand. Prices from as low as 1.3 million baht per rai. Email: admin@thaisunshine developments.com For further details, please see our website at www.thaisunshine developments.com/ land_for_sale.php

NEW HOME. LAST CORNER PLOT

at Phuket Thanee Village. Direct from owner no agency fees. Ready to move, house 150sqm, land 230sqm, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big salon, aircon, kitchen, nice, garden, covered garage for 2 cars, green public garden at side, corner plot, in a security village close to any facilities at Heroine's Monument, airport, schools, Boat Lagoon, hospitals, beaches. Quick sale by owner: 3,300,000 baht or rent 22,000 baht/month for sale by owner contact 086-2734149.

TOWNHOUSE IN THE PROJECT 'THE INDY



at the entrance to BIS Townhouse is at the corner of and adjacent to the project's public garden. 2 floors, 6.5 meters wide, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Land: 32sq wah. Tel: 089-472 9118.

SALE/RENT **NEW CONDO**

Studio room, fully furnished. Near university & Phuket town. Rent: 8,000 baht per month or sale 1.3 million baht. Tel: 083-103 6578.

22 RAI FOR SALE

on Koh Yao Yai. 22 rai for sale + 8 rai tax paid land for free, (48,000sqm) on Koh Yao Yai with 150 meters beautiful white sandy beachfront and magnificent Phang Nga Bay views. The land has main road access at the back of the plot, with government water and electricity on the boundary. The land area is quite flat along the beach and rises up to about 60 meters in height gradually towards the back of the plot. All land has panoramic sea view of at least 180 degrees. There is a possibility to extend the land with another 11 rai on the beach. The beachfront will be 360 meters in total. Price 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-272-6508. Email: henkideainvest @yahoo.com

LAND AT PA KHLOK



49 rai, nice flat land. Chanote 2.5km from Heroines' Monument. 1.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 083-180 2143.

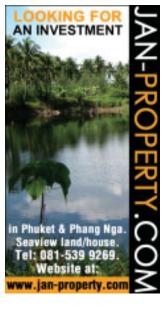
LAND IN PHANG NGA

for sale. 9.8 rai working fruit farm. 300+ trees, 5 fish ponds, 2 farm houses suitable for fishing park, 5 kms from Phang Nga, 45 mins to Phuket airport. Chanote title. Deed 5,800,000 baht Tel: 086-274 0056 English or 085-151 0823 Thai.

BEST BARGAIN IN PHUKET



Luxury, 5 bed villa with 10m x 5m pool and 5 separate bungalows all in 1 rai, tropical gardens. Thai company so buyer must purchase villa and bungalow. Only 14.9 million baht. Tel: 086-279 0837, 081-080 2930. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com



LAND IN AO POR

75 meters from sea, seaview. 13 rai 3 ngan 98sqwah. Nor Sor 3 Gor. Tel: 081-892 9592.

SEA VIEW 3.2 RAI

at north end of Bang Sak Beach. Take Thap Tawan beach road to Bang Sak Beach Resort, 6km south of Takuapa. Tel: 081-894 7644.

RAWAI: BRAND NEW HOUSE

2 storey, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, car park, landscaped garden and swimming pool. Very good location in Rawai Bangkontee. Available now. Asking price: 15.5 million baht. Tel: 084-851 1961. Email: rainier.vigneau@gmail.com

CHERNG TALAY LAND

900sqm, great location, Chanote title. Price 3.4 million baht. Tel: 086-047 2463. Email: jimi chance@hotmail .co.uk

MISSION HILLS LAND FOR SALE

Located close to Mission Hills Golf Course. Two 1.5 rai plots for sale only 2 million baht each. Tel: 081-891 1826. Fax: 076-238940. Email: keving@loxinfo

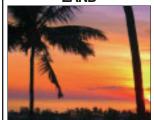
Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Live in Chalong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at K L Mart PATONG PHUKET TOWN PATAK RD. K.L. CHALONG BAY PROMTHEP CAPE Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with Khun Laddawan (076-280403) GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're PAID! Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously - and FREE - in the Gazette Online! The Gazette is always on top in Google!

Property Gazette

KATA SEA VIEW LAND



4 rai prime land. 30-50m above sea level, electricity, water. Price 11 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-273 5047.

AMAZING HOUSE, BIG POOL



near Nai Harn, Rawai. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. House 350sqm. Land 800sqm. Pool 12.5m x 4.5m, 1.7m deep. Beautifully decorated. Landscaped garden. Price 15.9 million baht. Tel: 085-212 1794. Email: lan@evo cation.net

3 BEDROOM HOUSE WITH POOL

in Chalong. 700sqm. Asking 5.7 mill baht. Agents welcome. Tel: 086-683 1964. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

BEACH LAND KOH YAO YAI

8 rai direct beach front land, 80m to the beach. Public road and water at the back. White sand, no rocks, beautiful view, with road side house on it. Priced to sell. Tel: 081-649 3557. Email: ken@phuketlifestyle.com

PATONG TOWER CONDOMINIUM

It opens up to the most stunning panoramic view of the bay, a view you can't find anywhere else.

- Mountain view deluxe (2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms) 147.75 sqm.
- Sea view deluxe (3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms) 242.05 sqm.
- Penthouse Duplexes (4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms), 378.08sqm. Sale by owner only.

Contact us Ms. Wongduan Nannong. Email: littlereef_01 @ hotmail.com

CHEAP LAND RAWAI

Flat land with Chanote title. 1,296sqm. Price: 4 million. Call Nico. Tel: 085-795 5383. For further details, please see our website at www. warmwaterland.com

KAMALA APARTMENT

Attractive forest setting, beautiful gardens, swimming pool. 2-3 bedrooms, living/dining room, kitchen, fully furnished. Price 6.5 million baht or 120,000 pounds. Tel: 076-317914.

AO POR LAND FOR SALE



150 rai. Nor Sor 3 Gor, sea view. Priced from 2.5 million baht per rai. No agents. Please contact by email: allservices29 @gmail.com

KHAO LAK VILLA

Newly built villa in pristine location 20 km north of Khao Lak. 2 Bedroom, 2 bathroom. Big community swimming pool shared by 9 houses. 600 meters to a true paradise beach. 4.25 million baht. Tel: 081-892 1097. Email: info@swethai-realestate.com

LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

The Sanctuary Phuket Condo, room 106. Current price: 1.6-2.14 million baht, private. Owner sell for 1.49 million baht. Lake view. Tel: 087-606 9756. Freehold, finance available! See picture on www.samui view.com

RAWAI BEACH HOUSE

2 bed, 2 bath with large loft just meters from beach. 2.7 million baht. Tel: 02-509 7872, 086-375 4711. Fax: 02-509 7874. Email: ben@LDSK.com For further details, please see website at: www.ldsk.com/ house

LOCH PALM POOL VILLA



600sqm land, 230sqm living space, garden, 4 bedrooms, golf course view, on main road. Ready in 3 months. Partly custom made, fully furnished. Price all in, only 14 million baht. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

KARON BEACH LAND

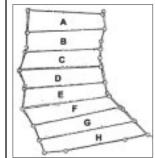
for sale or trade. Perfect to build a guesthouse with a sea view condo on top. Price 6.9 million baht. Beach 1 block. Tel: 081-446 0215.

KHOK KLOI HOUSE

2.9 million baht, 4 years old, 118sqm house on 904sqm plot. Quiet area, 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom, big kitchen, aircon, phone line, 2 car covered parking. Chanote. Tel: 081-728 4821 or 081-693 2759.

VERY NICE SEAVIEW LAND





same as Soi Villas Solitude, Na-Kok, Chalong. 8 rai land for sale, Chanote title. Can buy separate. Price 7 million baht per rai. Contact to see. Tel: 087-689 9679.

VILLA 4 BEDROOMS

5 mins to Yacht Haven, 2 rai land, Bali style, swimming pool, European standard furnished. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: eanfievet@voila.fr

KOH KHO KHAO LAND

for sale. Bargain price 2 3/4 rai only 6 million baht. Have full Chanote, only 2 minutes to beach. Perfect for resort or luxury home in an unspoilt environment. Tel: 085-655 4409

NEW DUPLEX CONDO, BANG TAO

3-4 bed Oxygen Condo with living room, kitchen, private pool and garden. 10.6 million baht. Tel: 076-289900, 081-968 3760. Email: nannapat @twovillas.com

TOWNHOUSE - BAAN BAI MAI

2 storey w/ 2 bed & 2 baths. 37sqw. Two Villas project near Bkk hospital. Price 2.9 million baht. Tel: 081-979 3369. Email: phudtheera@ phuketrealty.net

KATA BEACH HOUSE

2 mins to beach. Great location, 3 levels, quiet street. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 084-840 5834.

KARON BEACH LAND

for sale or trade. Land perfect to build, 4 guesthouse with a seaview condo on top. Price 6.9 million baht. Beach 1 block. Tel: 081-303 2202.

DIRECT FROM OWNER THE VALLEY 2

New homes. No agency fees, new house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, salon, covered garage for 2 cars, nice garden. Land 240sqm, house 130sqm. Close to Heroine's Monument, Surin Beach. All facilities in proximity to airport, British International School, hospitals. In a beautiful and peaceful green valley. 2,900,000 baht for sale by owner contact 086-273 4149.

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB



Duplex renovation project directly on 15th fairway for sale. Reduced price. See www.fairway15.com Tel: 081-894 1994.

HOUSE & BIG GARDEN

located in Thalang, 15 mins to town. Close to Phuket International Academy and the airport. Open for offers. Call 089-196 4567 or mail for further details. Email: toonandwate @yahoo.com

SPECTACULAR VILLA

with stunning ocean views. 3 bedrooms, main house and 2 pool-side villas, truly an impressive house with every amenity, 60 million baht for appointment. Wide choice of other villas for sale also. Contact Kingdom Realtys. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: info @ kingdomvillarentals.com

3 BEDROOM POOL VILLA RAWAI

for sale or rent. Full aircon, fully equipped, kitchen, 24 hours security, great location. For sale. Tel: 085-783 1890.

COMPLETED DEVELOPMENT



for sale/rent. Brown House III is situated in a secure and private area only 5 mins to Rawai/Nai Harn Beach. There are 2 Balinese style pool villas with sala for 9.75 and 9.95 million baht and a small office for 800,000 baht. Top quality finish. Furniture package can be arranged. All have Chanote titles and can be sold as freehold or lease hold. Ideal development for the small investor. More info Tel: 081-958 6723.

GOLF COURSE VIEW IN LOCH PALM

1) 4 bedroom, 5 bathroom, swiming pool. Sale for 41 million baht. 2) 360 degree panoramic sea view in Cape Panwa. Sale for 299 million baht. Contact Sompong. Agent welcome. Tel: 081-376 7395. Email: queen marines@hotmail.com

SMALL LAND/CHEAP PRICE!

Chanote Land, 280-396 sqm. Starting prices at 1.9–2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-537 7137. Email: khunapp@hotmail.com

PATONG GUESTHOUSE

Freehold guesthouse, Patong Beach. For sale at best offer. Call or mail for details. Tel: 086-588 8383. Email: sumalee 1955 @yahoo.com

HOUSE IN ANUPHAS FOR SALE



46sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. 3.7 million baht. Tel: 081-691 2526.

LAUNCHING NEW PROJECT

The only brand new houses (4) coming up soon in Rawai. Best location for living or vacation home. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, carpark for 2, swimming pool. Land size: 400 sqm. Financing available over 10 to 20 years for Thai and foreigner 70% down, 3% interest preapproved don't need to show anything. Call for more information. Tel: 084-626 8105.

WHITE HOUSE, GREAT LOCATION

Please contact for viewing. Tel: 076-273466. Fax: 076-273-466. Email: pen@phuket propertytrip.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketpropertytrip.com

APARTMENT IN PATONG

House also available in Benjamas Housing Complex. Tel: 076-344922, 081-892-6829. Email: jctailor@loxinfo. co.th

CHEAP LAND SALE

7 Rai Maikhao Beach. Chanote, public street, 1.9 million baht. Tel: 080-719 3785.

Would you like to in Phuket - the go Let us share it wit	ood, the bad a	and the bizarre?
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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

VILLAIN PARADISE



Stunning new villa near Rawai beach, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom. Guest villa, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, pool table room, full aircon, ADSL, sat TV, furnished, private pool, tropical gardens. Min 6 months, price 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-073 1180.

HOUSE AT CHALONG

near Palai beach for rent, 3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, kitchen, ADSL, car park. Tel: 089-728 8311.

VACANT ROOMS OR HOUSES

360 degree, panoramic sea view in Cape Panwa. 1,800sqm villa with 2,200 sqm garden. The room is monthly US\$1,500 or the house monthly, US\$ 25,000. Golf Course view in Loch Palm. The new house is 850sqm with 1,500sqm garden. The room monthly is US\$500/month or house monthly, US\$5,500/month. Include satellite, water, electric bill and management fees. Please call for details. Tel: 082-418 2188. Email: travelman.more @gmail.com

FLAT IN RAWAI

for rent. Fully furnished, private garden, pool, ADSL, Honda Jazz. Long-term. Only 28,000 baht a month with car. If rent only flat, pay 20,000 baht a month. Tel: 081-606 7410.

BOAT LAGOON

2, 3 or 4 bedroom unit/house/ pool villa for rent in Boat Lagoon and Koh Kaew area. High standards, furnished, WIFI etc. Please email for details at rolf@ andamanproperty.com

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot nower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

NEW SINGLE HOUSE

for rent. Yoo Charoen Village, 3km from Laguna Phuket, 2 telephone lines, ADSL, 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, warm water, aircon. Price 14,000-18,000 per month. (Eng) Tel: 087-417 2757, (Thai) 087-417 2756.

CHALONG NEW HOME

2 Bedroom home with telephone, cable TV and air-con. Tel: 089-652 1473. Email: anandaestates@yahoo.com

KAMALA BEACHFRONT **VILLAS**



Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Privately gated, parking and storage. UBC and ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing, pool & gardening service. Daily rental 8,000 baht, monthly rental 120,000 baht. Contact Khun Suchada. Tel: 084-843 6837. Email: suchada_villas @hotmail.com

LUXURY

houses & villas with a private pool is in Chalong/Rawai. From 3,000 baht per day (inclusive of maid/pool and gardening service). Move in today call 076-281084 daytime or call Tel: 083-107 3022 evening.

SINGLE HOUSE

for rent. Thalang monument, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Tel: 081-537 0033.

NEW HOUSE FOR



Close to Laguna. Fully furnished, 2 bed, 2 bath, hot water, washing machine, ADSL. 10 mins to Bang Tao Beach and Layan Beach. Mountain view. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-874 2960. Email: wawa.phuket@gmail.com

CHALONG APTS, 50% OFF

Chao fa West Suites is opening Feb 1 and offering a hot promotional deal. 50% off the first month's rent! Fully furnished, serviced apartments from 8,500-18,500 baht per month. Rooftop pool, maid, ADSL, cable TV, aircon. Tel: 086-282 6221. Email: info@ phuket-apartment.biz For further details, please see our website at http://phuketapartment.biz

PATONG TOWER CONDO

Two luxury 1-bedroom apartments with cable/satellite TV, Wi-Fi, full sea and mountain views, parking, pool and security. Ready to move in or rent. Tel: +44-247-6524051,+44-797-757 5685. Fax: +44-247-652 4051. Email: terrydv8@ hotmail.com

RAWAI POOL GUESTHOUSE



Private bedroom, bathroom, aircon, ADSL, Wi-Fi, cable TV. 3,500 baht weekly. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@ yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT/ SALE, RUNGRAVEE



Near Phuket Airport. Twinhome with 2 bedrooms. Ready to stay. Tel: 089-133 4447.

PATONG APARTMENT

300 meters to the beach, clean, modern, aircon, TV, fridge, double bed, pool, parking. Tel: 081-082 5707. For further details, please see our website at http://www.phuketaccommodation.info

PATONG POOL VILLA

for rent. Seaviews, furnished, Jacuzzi-spa. Tel: 086-270 7819, 084-630 1770.

PATONG CONDOMINIUM

for rent/sale. Furnished, internet, DVD, cable TV and kitchen. Tel: 086-270 7819, 084-630 1770.

LUXURY VILLA

for rent. Mai Kao, 4 bedrooms. Land 2 rai, Balinese style, swimming pool, beautiful view. Tel: 081-719 7015. For further details, please see our website at http:// eanfievet.spaces.live.com

BUNGALOW RAWAI

2 bedrooms, cable TV, ADSL, aircon, washing machine. Quiet location. Price 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279 0837.

NEW CONDO

28 sqm, furnished, 1 bedroom, aircon, TV, ADSL, fridge, kitchen. Great location on Thepkrasattri Rd. 12,000 baht per month (negotiable). Tel: 076-310334, 081-893 6414. Fax: 076-310296. Email: bb_powerz@yahoo.com

RENT BEACH HOUSE

fully furnished. 2 bedroom, aircon, dining, kitchen. W/C shower, H/C. Large terrace, sea side, quiet place. 10 minutes to town, 100 feet to beach, safe swimming. Long / medium term rent 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-079 2592. Email: jarbau19@hotmail.com

SEA VIEW APARTMENT



in Patong Sky Inn. Room with full equipement for long term, 9th floor (minimum 1 month) electricity and charges not included. TV, DVD, aircon, hot water, toilets, shower, fridge, microwave, and safe. Tel: 080-040 8622. Email: mavieen thailande@hotmail.fr Website: www.christianesblue.com

BANG TAO HOUSE

for rent, 2 bedrooms, car park. Price 18,000 baht a month. Tel: 085-674 6786. For further details, please see our website at www. phukethome.ws

KATHU HOUSE

for rent. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 living room, kitchen, 3 aircons, 14,000 baht, only long term rent. Tel: 083-395 7658, 083-395 7659.

GREAT VIEW AO POR

2 bedrooms, modern unit, community pool, all services, long term. Price 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-078 9707.

KATA LUXURY APARTMENTS

New, fully furnished, 1 or 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, full aircon. Large Western teak kitchen and bath, 130sqm, large seaview terrace, pool, parking. Weekly, monthly and long-term rates available. Serviced also available. Tel: 089-592 6890. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

RAWAI BEACHFRONT





house for rent. 3 bedrooms, aircon. True TV, furnished. Contact Gina. Tel: 089-6499939.

PENTHOUSE STUDIO

Overlooking Patong Beach. Short or long lets. More info Tel: 089-972 3861. See www.kiwibrian.com

BEAUTIFUL VILLA



near Rawai beach. 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, fully fitted kitchen, laundry, balcony, car park, private pool, tropical gardens, full aircon, ADSL, Sat TV, furnished. Rent min 6 months, price 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-073 1180.

RAWAI HOUSE

for rent. Long or short term, fully furnished, pool. For further details, please see our website at www.ferienthailand.com

THAI VILLA AND POOL

In Nai Harn, 1km to beach, very quiet location, stunning view, 2 bedrooms, en suite, Jacuzzi, open-plan lounge. diner, European kitchen, private garden with parking. Long term: 37,500 baht per month. Tel: 081-270 5126. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 toilets, living room, kitchen, garden, car park, wireless ADSL, fully furnished. 5 mins to Laguna. Tel: 084-051 1955, 080-521 9888. Email: sornin_s@yahoo.com

KAMALA HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished ,cableTv ,UBC ,ADSL Broadband private secure. Short term 30,000 per month. Long term 25,000. Tel: 089-867 5122, 087-883 6625. Email: sales@eldsat .com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-thailand.info

CHALONG TOWNHOUSE

2 bedroom, aircon, big kitchen, telephone, TV. Price 9,000 baht per month - utilities extra. 6 month min. Tel: 086-267 7245.

NICE AND COZY HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. 162sqm. 2 bed rooms with private bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. 3 aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage collection service. Please contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-383 0936.

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1, 2, 3 or 4 bedrooms, bathroom, aircon, ADSL, cable TV. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

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68,000 baht per month. Fully furnished on compound of 6 by Boat Lagoon. Private pool, WiFi, 4 cable TVs, DVD, security, maintenance, shared gym. Tel: 084-783 9054. Email: oggyowen@yahoo.com

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4 bedroom, 5 bathrooms, big pool, 4km to BIS. Overlooking Loch Palm Golf course. Quiet, on top of private hill. Furnished, Wi-Fi, True TV. Long term: 65,000 baht a month. Contact K. Noi. Tel: 087-269

PENTHOUSE PATONG

Andaman beach suite, over looking Patong beach. Tel: 089-972 3861. For further details, please see our website at www.kiwibrian.com

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Property Gazette

Property Wanted

BUY CONDO CASH

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GUESTHOUSE FOR RENT

German couple is looking for a guesthouse to rent in Phuket. We will arrive at the beginning of September, but will also be there in March for holidays. Email: haygen@gmx.de

CHEAP HOUSE/ **CONDO WANTED**

Max rental charge: 13,000 baht per month for long term (6-12 months). Must have separate bedroom (1 will do); be clean and furnished; and allow our small, well-behaved dog to be with us. Tel: 085-724 0796 . Email: danm_uk@yahoo.co.uk

FLAT OR HOUSE

from October 8 until March 2009. Could be in Phuket or Krabi, including Koh Lanta. The important things are seaside (or at least sea view) and a swimming pool. Two bedrooms, for a couple. No pets and no parties. Can be a quiet location. Email: office@neubrasilien.at

APARTMENT SWAP

I am looking to swap rental of my Sydney 2 bedroom apartment for a Patong apartment from December 15 to March 27, 2009 or part thereof. My apartment has aircon, cable TV, and Internet. Five mins to city and beaches. Tel: +61-2-99042073, +61-430-218110. Email: mbohlsen@gmail.com

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ANDARA RESORT AND VILLAS CO.LTD. - Human Resources Department The Plaza Surin 5/50 M.3, Cherngthalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110 T:66 76-386010-2 F:66-76-386014

Prize of Wood Industries is a leader in wood technology and products. We are the 1 stop shop for all wooden products inclusive Prefab Houses. We have currently 2 vacancies in Sales and

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- Age 25 35, female
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Island Job Mart

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VIP Company is looking for Playgirls. We are looking for girls who want to be models for us and become a high class female escort. Up to 40,000 baht/week Must speak English Can be available anytime. For casting contact: Mr Ben.

Tel: 084-309-7434 Email: vip.phuket@gmail.com

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Soi Gonzo, to take care of evening duties, expert etc. English speaking. Interested? Call Khun Simon. Tel: 085-7965767, 081-5806707.

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Female, Thai national. Must be reliable and speak good English. Tel: 081-892 1621.

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We are looking for a Swedish travel consultant, at least 25 years old. Computer/Internet knowledge is essential, as is a past in the travel industry. Pedantic organizational skills and a really good knowledge of Thailand are desired. Please apply by email. Tel: 076-246427, 081-787 9454. Fax: 076-246180. Email: andersp@loxinfo.co.th

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wanted Pakistani or Indian female. Age 20-40. Email: kornkamonat21@yahoo.com

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Outrigger Serenity Terraces Resort – Phuket Opening April 2009

With its absolute beachfront location on Rawai Beach, Phuket, Outrigger Serenity Terraces offers 78 accommodations ranging from rooms to pool suites.

The resort will offer guests personal attention through its butler service.

Resort facilities include a Well-Being Centre, A Signature All Day Dining Restaurant, Balu's Bar, and Private Dining. 'Serenity Toys' allow the adventurous guest to play on the sea with speed boats and kayaks that launch directly from the resort.

We are now welcoming passionate and friendly hosts to our family:

Positions Available:

Rooms

- Night Manager
- 2. Duty Manager
- 3. Butlers (Thai, Japanese, Korean)
- 4. Bell Boys
- 5. Telephone Supervisor
- 6. Telephone Hosts

Housekeeping

- Assistant Housekeeper
- Housekeeping Co-ordinators
- Floor Supervisors
- 4. Room Attendants
- Laundry & Uniform Supervisor Laundry & Uniform Attendants

- Spa Reception
- Spa Therapists
- Spa Beautician

Activities

- 1. Activities Hosts 2. Shop Cashier

Information Technology

Assistant IT Manager

Finance

Assistant Financial Controller

Human Resources

Training Manager

Food & Beverage

- 1. Executive Sous Chef
- 2. Chief Steward
- Steward Supervisors
- 4. Staff Chef
- 5. Chef De Parties
- 6. Commis Chefs Cook Helpers
- 8. Stewards

Restaurants & Bar

- 1. Restaurant Manager
- 2. Restaurant Supervisor
- 3. Restaurant Hosts 4. Bar Manager
- 5. Assistant Bar Manager
- 6. Bar Supervisors
- 7. Bar Hosts
- 8. In Room Dining Manager
- 9. Assistant In Room Dining Manager
- 10. Order Taker
- 11. In Room Dining Hosts

If you feel you have the necessary skills and experience to fulfill these positions, please send your latest resumé with recent photo, references and salary expectations by email to: lek.thammalertsakul@outrigger.com

RESTAURANT STAFF

in Patong. Marketing / waiter. English speaking. Tel: 080-125 8454.

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HOTEL MANAGER

Owner will be changing management of 18 room Kata Hotel during March. I seek an individual with experience as Hotel Manager or Ass't Hotel Manager in Thailand. I also require that the candidate be fluent in English and Thai. For further information, please contact me. If telephoning from Thailand, please dial: 001-1-202-319-8354. Email: edward.utyro@verizon.net

STAFF WANTED

Italian restaurant Surin beach. Hiring expert cooks especially for pizza. Contact Stefano. Tel: 085-2458180.

BOAT YARD MANAGER Yacht Haven Marina is pres-

ently planning a new haul out facility with travel lift able to handle 20 to 25 boats. We are looking for a yard manager with the following: marine engineering qualifications/or strong technical experience in this field, previous boat yard experience, strong communication skills & good command of written & spoken English. Computer literate, proven managerial skills with ability to create & implement systems and a sound all-round knowledge of boats & the industry. This is a full time position. Tel: 076-206704. Fax: 076-206706. Email: zara@yacht-havenphuket.com Website: http:/ /www.yacht-havenphuket.com

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NANNY TO WORK **ABROAD**

Thai lady, 34 years old do house work. 10 years now in Australia til February 2009. Prefer go Europe, Canada, USA or Phuket. Available from March. Email: cindy_siam@hotmail.com

CHILDRENSITTER 23

Nice girl, German + English speaking. Full or part time Patong. Tel: 083-639 9137.

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Articles **For Sale**

MOVING SALE

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CHEST FREEZER

very good condition. Trainer exercise new 20,000 baht, sell 9,000 baht. HP computer, Laptop and desktop. 1,000 DVX French movies. Tel: 081-294 5441.

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TO KARON B

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for sale. Adjustable teak chairs. 1-2 years old, need a varnish. New: 12,000 baht; now: 1,500 baht each. Contact Khun Poo. Tel: 081-091 3724.

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CITIZEN DIVER'S WATCH

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AQUA SCOOTER

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SAMSUNG SYSTEM

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3 seater sofa, 2 arm chairs, Italian suede leather, removable cushions. Aquamarine color. Original cost: 280,000 baht. Will sell for 20,000. Tel: 076-279346, 081-597 9744. Fax: 076-279 346. Email: peterb@ji-net.com

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DVD Players, Recorders, Titles, Home Theatre sets, etc. Email for details. Tel: 089-908 7350. Or email: wagner_fin@ hotmail.com

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Heavy duty, 2nd hand gas BBQ in good condition. 40,000 baht new; want 15,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 081-271 0496. Email: rlusted@hotmail.com

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2 fishtanks for sale: 300 liter with lights, pump, fish, plants. 150 liters with pumps, fish and plants. Very beautiful! Will sell cheap to good hands! Call to make an offer! Tel: 089-867 0424. Email: alikedive @hotmail.com

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GIFT SHOP CONTENTS

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KITCHEN EQUIPMENT WANTED

Restaurant/bar inventory. Call Rupi. Tel: 084-442 4143.

SALE SPEAKER BINS

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TO ALL FILIPINOS

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Tues 1 PM
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Krabi Hospital — Krabi
Vield 1 PM
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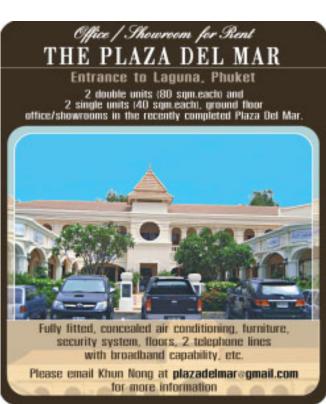
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290 7841.

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for sale, newly set up in Soi Sea Dragon. Probably the most

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- Fully equipped
- Rent 50, 000 baht/month
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084-06392 23 or 081-7888280

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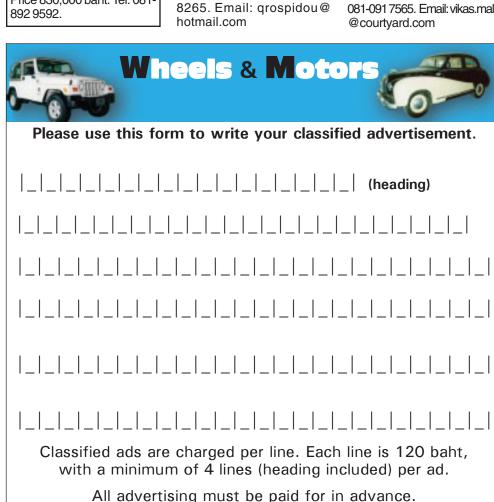
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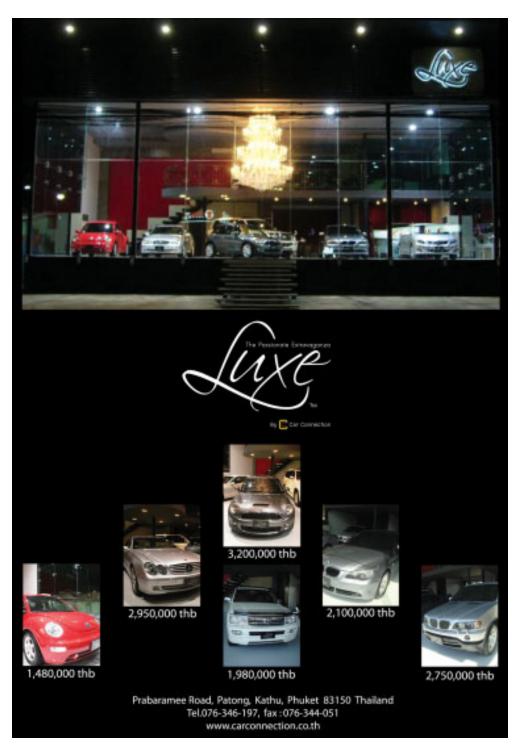
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