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Patong seaplanes under scrutiny

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PHUKET CITY: Destination Air seaplanes landing and taking off near the Amari Coral Beach Resort have left government officers in a spin about what to do with complaints about noise, safety and even fuel left floating in the planes' wakes.

At a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on January 30, Kathu District Chief Khantee Silapa said, "For nearly three months I have received complaints from hotels, restaurants, local people and tourists on Patong Beach about seaplanes landing on Patong Bay near the Amari Coral Beach Resort.

"I filed the complaints with the Governor's Office for consideration, which led to our initial meeting to discuss the matter on December 21."

However, Phuket Vice-Governor Smith Palawatvichai said, "Seaplanes of Destination Air Co Ltd have permission from the Department of Civil Aviation [DCA] and Phuket International Airport [PIA] to land at predetermined points from November 11, 2007 to January 17, 2008, under nine conditions."

The permit has been continued, he added.

"The sixth condition stipulates that the seaplanes cannot fly over communities or in no-fly zones, but I think they also have to avoid areas such as Patong Beach," he said.

Sumalee Sumpao, from PIA, presented the CAA's permission for Destination Air's Cessna 208 and 206 amphibian aircraft to fly between Phuket International Airport and 31 landing points in Phuket, Phang Nga, Trang, Krabi and Ranong.



Destination Air seaplanes like the one pictured have been causing a stir in Patong and have left government officers confused about how to deal with complaints related to the planes.

In Phuket, Destination Air has permission to land at Koh Racha Yai, Koh Racha Noi, Yacht Haven, Chalong Bay, Patong Beach, Cape Panwa, Koh Naka Noi and the north and south ends of Bang Tao Bay.

However, the permit does not specify the exact locations of the 31 take-off and landing points.

"This case is new for Phuket. We cannot just ignore complaints, nor can we ban the seaplanes from flying because they have permission," V/Gov Smith said.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Decha Budnampetch pointed out deficiencies in administrative jurisdiction on the matter.

"We have to set rules. We have received complaints, but the seaplanes are allowed to fly in Phuket, so I cannot charge anyone. I worry that if there were an accident between a seaplane and a boat, diver or swimmer, I wouldn't know under which acts

I could charge people.

"The seaplanes have permission to land and take-off, but the local administrative organization has no idea about granting permission to land," he added.

Pat James, managing director of Destination Air Co Ltd, explained that before landing the pilot is required to survey the landing spot and report to air traffic control whether he is clear to land.

Also, the pilot, with permission from the nearest air traffic control, has the authority to deviate from the scheduled flight path, he added.

However, Mr James said he would instruct his pilots to land further away from the shore and any hazards such as boats, but they will still land in Patong Bay.

The officers at the meeting were on February 2 taken aboard a Destination Air seaplane and shown in person exactly where the aircraft land - at no charge.

Continued on page 2

Plans laid for B1.3bn airport in Phang Nga

By Janyaporn Morel

PHANG NGA: The Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) will request a budget of 1.3 billion baht from the new Cabinet to fund construction of a domestic airport in Phang Nga province.

Plans have been drawn up for the construction of an airport that would cover an area of 1,400 rai on Koh Khor Khao, a 45,000-rai island in Takuapa district.

The DCA will submit plans, along with the results of public opinion surveys, to the government.

The results of several public surveys showing support for the airport have already been returned to the DCA, allowing funding to now be sought, Chief of Phang Nga Governor's Office Sakon Chaowanant told the Gazette on February 4.

About 84 % of those surveyed were in support of the DCA's plans, said K. Sakon, although he was unable to say how many people were surveyed, stating that the most recent survey was a questionnaire given to 300 randomly-selected residents in Phang Nga province.

The remaining 16% of those surveyed did not necessarily oppose the project, but cited that if an airport is to be built in the area, it should be designed to handle larger airliners, such as the Boeing 747, added K. Sakon.

With the current plans, the airport would be able to handle airliners as large the Boeing 737.

The airport would serve tourists visiting Khao Lak, Takuapa and Kuraburi districts, Surin, and the Similan islands, offering an alternative to Phuket International Airport, K. Sakon said.



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Reward offered for missing Danish tourist

PATONG: A reward of 10,000 baht is being offered for information that helps to find Danish tourist Henrik Rasmusen, 47, who was last seen about 10:30 pm February 3 at the Royal Paradise Hotel where he was staying.

Mr Rasmusen has a mental disability. He is tall, slim, has gray hair and a light gray beard and mustache.

Anyone with information that may help locate Mr Rasmusen is urged to contact his cousin, Helen Soerenson, who is staying at the Bel Aire Resort in Patong (Tel: 076-296600). Her Danish mobile phone number is (45) 3165 1660.

Alternatively, call Katja Pregaard at 081-4150217, or, for Thai language only, call K. Noi at 089-847 5941.

From Page 1

Seaplanes face fight or flight

On February 5, Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit said, "The radio waves from the seaplanes can sometimes affect the landing or takeoff of planes at Phuket International Airport."

"I recently discussed this matter with the new Chief of Phuket Air Traffic Control Chayan Glamhui. I have asked government officials to check over laws concerning this issue so that they will think carefully about who they give licenses to in the future."

"Some mega-yachts in Phuket have their own areas for parking small planes. We must ensure greater control of this or else in the future, these planes will fly to small islands around Phuket."

"I have heard that there is a small club of light-aircraft owners in a village in Pa Khlok. They have their own private runway. We must further discuss this because it affects the people who live in that area," he added.

Bomb scare puts Rawai Beach on alert

By Sompratch Saowakhon

RAWAI: Chalong Police closed the road along the Rawai beachfront at midday on January 29 for about 30 minutes while bomb squad officers attended to a suspicious package left on the footpath opposite the Mama Klong restaurant.

After local villagers reported the package to police, officers taped off a "safe zone" before moving in to disarm the suspected bomb.

The incident caused commotion and concern among local business owners and visi-

tors at the southern beach.

Chalong Police Superintendent Col Samarn Chainarong told the *Gazette* that "it was not a real bomb."

"It was nothing but plastic; it didn't even have a locking pin," he added.

However, Col Samarn declined to describe the "fake bomb" in detail, leaving doubt as to what exactly had caused such a reaction.

"I must ask the media not to show this news because it's not good... Although it's not a real bomb... please don't create a scare," Col Samarn said.

The following morning, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Gen Decha Budnampetch reported the incident to Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit at the Provincial Security Committee meeting at the Katina Hotel.

"The police checked the package and found that it looked like a bomb, but it was not a real bomb," Gen Decha reported.

Governor Niran acknowledged the report and responded, "Please help to take care of security because we are a tourism province and tourism is very sensitive to this kind of news."

Robber nabbed after fake-pistol stick-ups

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: Phuket City Police collaborated with Songkhla Police to bring in a robber who went on a one-month robbing spree around Phuket City armed with a fake pistol.

Satun-native Narathon Uraiwong, 30, who was arrested on January 26, admitted to robbing two grocery stores, one 7-Eleven and one tourist, stealing a total of 21,900 baht, said Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Col Sompong Boonrat at a press conference on January 27.

Narathon carried out the first of his robberies on December 29 at the Downtown Market on Ranong Rd. Armed with his plastic pistol, he robbed a foreign man and ran off with 900 baht, Col Sompong said.

On January 8, Narathon ventured into a small shop near the fresh market on Wat Naka Rd, where he held up the cashier for 13,000 baht before escaping on a motorbike, he said.

Narathon next tried his luck on January 22 at a small grocery store on Phun Pol Rd, this time making off with 4,000 baht, once again escaping on a motorbike, Col Sompong added.



Police watch as Narathon is made to re-enact a robbery of a 7-Eleven. During the actual robbery, a fake plastic gun was used.

— Photo by Yongyot Preuksarak

Narathon's spree ended with another 4,000 baht in his pocket after a January 25 heist at a 7-Eleven on Ranong Rd, said Col Sompong.

He added that several of Narathon's victims gave descriptions of the bandit and told police the license number of the motorbike used in the getaways.

Police traced the motorbike to an uncle of Narathon, who told police that Narathon had borrowed it from him, he said.

The uncle said that Narathon often stayed with his girlfriend on Phun Pol Rd, but that

he had fled to Songkhla after each robbery — where police found him, added Col Sompong.

"We then got a picture of Narathon from his girlfriend and showed it to all the victims. They confirmed it was the same man," said Col Sompong.

Police were able to locate Narathon in Songkhla after speaking with his uncle, he added.

After his arrest, Narathon told police that he carried out the robberies because he needed money to pay off 100,000 baht in credit card bills, Col Sompong said.

Gov calls for 'right' Tourism Minister

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit on January 30 called on the new central government to appoint a Minister of Tourism and Sports who will push through the "mega-projects" Gov Niran believes will aid Phuket's development.

At the Phuket Provincial Security Committee meeting at Katina Hotel, Gov Niran said that after seven years as Phuket Vice-Governor and one year as Governor, Phuket still has many unresolved problems.

Having the right person as Minister of Tourism and Sports to push through big projects would see an end to many problems Phuket is facing, he said.

"I push for solutions for all our problems, including garbage, the lack of an International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC) and growing traffic congestion," he said.

There is intense speculation in the private and government sectors in Phuket over who will get the sports-and-tourism portfolio, as no other Cabinet post is of such importance to the island, he said.

"This position is very important. If we have the support of the right person, one who shares our attitude, many projects we have planned could become reality," Gov Niran said.

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New airport director aims for expansion

PHUKET: Phuket International Airport (PIA) appointed 54-year-old Wing Commander Wicha Nurnlop as the airport's new director on February 1, replacing former director Squadron Leader Pornchai Eua-aree, who has been transferred to the Airports of Thailand (AOT) headquarters in Bangkok.



Wing Commander Wicha Nurnlop.

K. Wicha returns to PIA after spending the past four months as Director of Haad Yai International Airport. Before transferring to Haad Yai in October 2007, K. Wicha had been Deputy Director of PIA since 2004.

K. Wicha and his two deputy directors, Yuttana Chitrobaree and Suteep Saensiriphan, met with Gov Niran Kalayanmit on February 4, K. Wicha's first official meeting with the Phuket Governor since taking up his position as PIA's director.

During the meeting, K. Wicha said that plans to expand

PIA with a 10-million-baht budget are still under consideration and that he was unable, as yet, to specify exactly how the money would be used.

"As for the limousine-taxi problem, I want everything to end happily. I can't do anything for the moment as I've only just arrived and haven't received any orders from AOT yet, but we all would like to see positive developments that will benefit everyone involved in the dispute," K. Wicha said.

City Hall officer found hanged

PHUKET CITY: The body of Boonsri Sai-ngarm, 59, an officer at Phuket City Hall, was found hanged from a stair rail at her house on February 2.

A neighbor discovered the body and alerted police to the house on Mae Luan Rd, said Pol Lt Col Sompong Boonrat, deputy superintendent of Phuket City Police Station.

Initial reports suggest that K. Boonsri hanged herself over work-related issues, said Col Sompong. She had no problems with her family or history of mental illness, he added.

Two days before her body was found, K. Boonsri had been transferred from her position as a grade-7 financial and accounting officer to secretary of the chief administrative officer of Phuket.

She was one year from retirement.

"K. Boonsri's niece, who was living with her, told us that K. Boonsri was unhappy with her new position. She did not want to work as a secretary because it was unrelated to her old position," said Col Sompong.

Police are not treating the death as suspicious. "We found no wounds or signs of a struggle at the scene. She was found hanged by a green cloth tied around her neck," said Col Sompong.

Man charged for robbing Adrian Zecha's villa home

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: Police on January 29 announced that they had arrested a man for allegedly robbing Adrian Zecha's villa at the exclusive Amanpuri, which the mogul developed himself as the first Aman boutique resort.

At a press conference at Phuket City Police Station, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Decha Budnampeth presented Weerapol Laolang, 22, a resident of Soi Phaneang in Phuket City.

Gen Decha said that Mr Zecha filed a report with Cherng Talay Police at 9 pm on January 23, saying that many valuable items that he had kept in a safe in his villa had been stolen.

After inspecting the villa, police assumed that the thief was familiar with the resort, which has a tight security system.

Police found the safe and a shirt believed to have been worn by the thief left about 100 meters from the resort.

Gen Decha said that the shirt was part of a staff uniform at another well-known resort. After checking company records, police discovered that Weerapol had previously worked at both resorts and had only recently ceased working at the Amanpuri.



Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Decha Budnampeth points to the stolen items seized by police, some of which were later identified as belonging to Adrian Zecha, founder of the Aman boutique resort chain.

- Photo by Yongyot Preuksarak

Weerapol was arrested January 28 evening when he visited his family's home in village 5 in Rassada, where police were waiting for him.

Gen Decha said that Weerapol then confessed to stealing valuables from an Amanpuri villa.

During a search of Weerapol's room in Soi Phaneang, police seized two wallets, an Omega and a Tag Heuer wristwatch, a Nokia cellphone, two Blackberry cellphones, a

wedding ring, two digital cameras, 22 credit cards from several different banks, three foreign passports and two dossier satchels.

Some of the valuables were later identified belonging to Mr Zecha.

Cherng Talay Police Superintendent Col Peerayut Karajedee said that, from the evidence seized, he believed that Weerapol had been involved in many thefts and that police will continue their investigation.

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Phuket's past paradise

Khao Pra Taew National Park, a conservation area home to the last large, tropical rainforest in Phuket, provides ample trekking opportunities and a chance to appreciate what Phuket was like before it was transformed, first by rubber plantations, then tin mining and, more recently, property development.

Pongchart Chouehorm, chief of Khao Pra Taew Wildlife Conservation Development and Extension Center, told the *Gazette* that the park is much larger than most people realize, covering 13,925 rai, or about 4% of Phuket's entire 543-square-kilometer land area.

The park is a conservation area, with no hunting allowed under regulations of the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department.

The park features two waterfalls, Ton Sai and Bang Pae, which are located about four kilometers apart and are connected by a six-kilometer trail.

The park is also home to hard-to-find flora and fauna, most notably the majestic white el-

As an island ringed with famous beaches, Phuket's other natural attractions are often overlooked. Here, *Gazette* Chief Reporter Sangkhalee Leelanaporn and reporter Natcha Yutthaworawit take a look at Phuket's final remaining virgin forest inside Khao Pra Taew National Park in Thalang.

ephant palm (*kerriodoza elegans dransfield*). First discovered in 1929, the five- to seven-meter palm has large serrated leaves, the backs of which are a unique greenish-white color.

The palms grow cream-colored flowers from December to February and produce yellow fruit, which is eaten by some animals.

Although Khao Pra Taew is their only known home, interested park visitors can take back with them a small cultivated palm, free of charge, to grow after their visit.

Another star attraction for those lucky enough to catch a glimpse of one is the nocturnal waterfall crab (*phricotelphusa limula*), whose tiny size and bright-red coloring have led to it

also being called the "red ant crab".

Trails of 600 meters, two kilometers and six kilometers offer great trekking for people of all fitness levels.

The two-kilometer trek passes Ton Sai waterfall, the last of 14 "stations" along the trail, which have small explanatory signs in Thai and English. Other stations include the white-elf-phant-palm stand, a granite rock outcrop, giant-bamboo stand, a huge termite mound and lichen, moss and fern colonies.

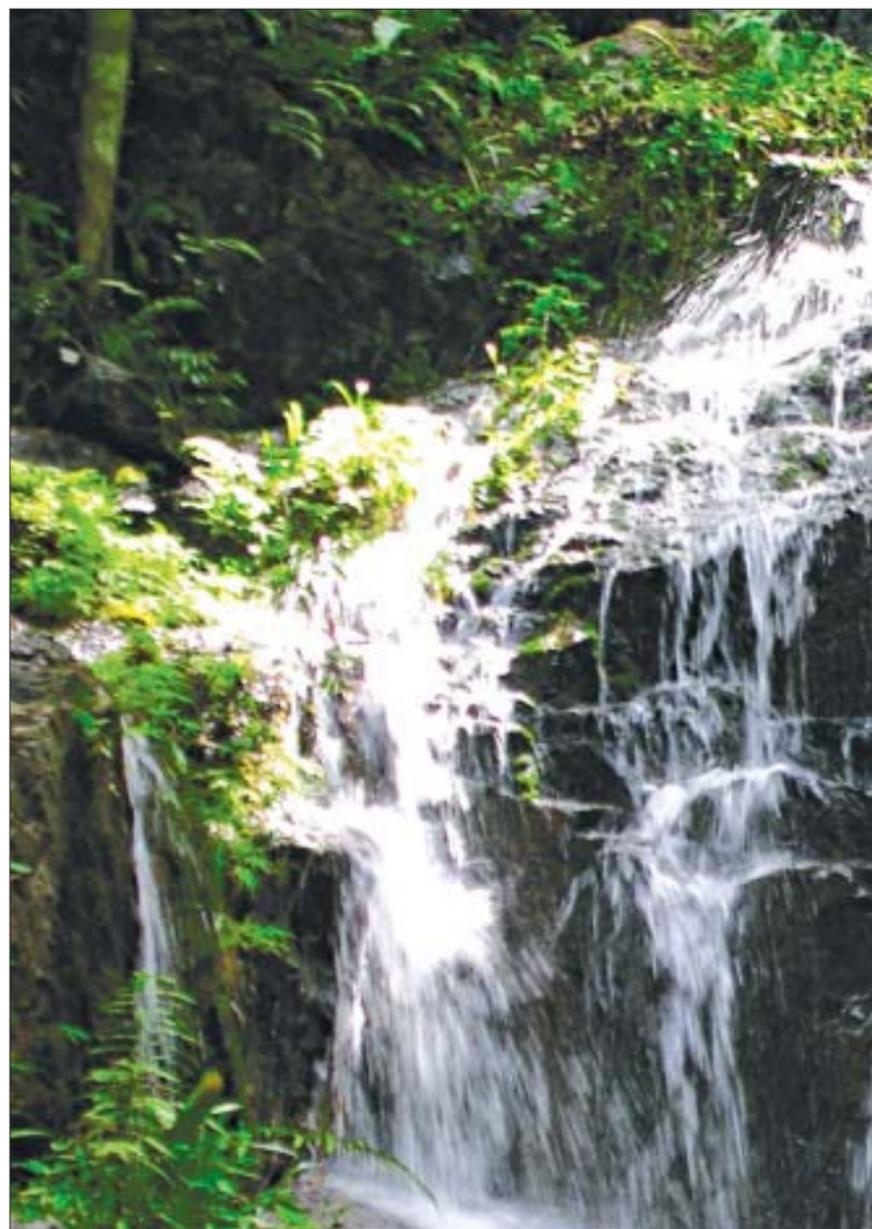
"Hiking is possible all year, but I think the best season for it is the rainy season, because the forest is at its freshest and most beautiful; its ponds full and waterfalls flowing heavily," said K. Pongchart.

Because of the high canopy, direct sunlight is never a problem during hikes, though the high humidity will cause most people to have a good, healthy sweat, he said.

The two-kilometer hike is popular with student groups from Phuket and nearby provinces, with about 10,000 students hiking at the park last year.

Hikers can educate themselves simply by reading the signs, or else a park guide lead the way and provide more-detailed explanations.

"Europeans are especially keen on trekking here because this forest is so different to the forests in their countries," he said.



Among the other wildlife one might see during a hike are a variety of birds, wild hogs, chevrotain (mouse deer), bats, monitor lizards and possibly even gibbons released into the park from the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (GRP), located on the park's border.

Unlike many national parks in Thailand, Khao Pra Taew is

free of trailside debris.

"We ask everyone to finish eating before they start trekking and not to dispose of water bottles along the way," he said.

This year, the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) is providing 4 million baht for the park to improve educational elements, fix footbridges and build a new bath-

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Khao Pra Taew National Park in Thalang features two waterfalls, Ton Sai and Bang Pae (pictured), which are about four kilometers apart and are connected by a six-kilometer trail.

A star attraction for those lucky enough to catch a glimpse of one is the nocturnal waterfall crab (*phricotelphusa limula*), whose tiny size and bright-red coloring have led to it also being called the 'red ant crab'.

year-old Jarinya Sawaengkit, said she had enjoyed her first-ever hike and would encourage friends back home to visit the park, which she had never heard of before her visit.

Phuket-native Panuwat Saeloo, 31, told the *Gazette* that he had never been trekking at Khao Pra Taew, although he had visited the waterfalls there a few times.

"As I remember, when I was young, my parents never took me to visit any of the jungle areas, as they considered them more dangerous than the beach. Also, I once got a bad, painful rash after playing in the water at Kathu waterfall.

"As I grew up, I never really thought about visiting the waterfalls here, which aren't as famous as some of the more well-known waterfalls in other provinces.

"The other problem with visiting waterfalls is that, if you are unlucky, you might get there and there isn't even any water falling and the only things you can see are some rocks," he said.

school field trips planned. He suggested calling the office in advance and wearing sneakers, long-sleeved pants and a comfortable shirt.

English teacher Aroonsri Sakareerak from Tab Pud Wittaya School in Phnag Nga was on a field trip with 40 students when the *Gazette* visited.

It was the third field trip to the park organized by the school, which arranges for the students to spend one night in Phuket before returning to the mainland.

"The students really like learning outside the classroom and I think this gives them a good chance to experience a complete rainforest ecosystem in its natural state.

"I'm really happy when I hear the students discussing animals, plants and other aspects of the forest," she said.

One of her students, 17-

The Khao Pra Taew Wildlife Conservation Development and Extension Center that administers the park is open everyday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Admission is 20 baht for Thais and 200 baht for foreigners. Children are entitled to a 50% discount.

To get there from Phuket City, take a songtaew from Ranong Rd to Talang and get off at the main intersection in Thalang Town, Near Wat Pranangsang, and cross the road. Then catch a motorbike taxi to the park center, located about three kilometers to the east. For more information call 076-311998.

room in southern-Thai style, he said.

The park has also applied to the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department to improve the trails by covering them with a hard surface, making trekking easier and safer while protecting the routes from erosion and landslides.

"Right now, the standing

area at each station is quite limited. We want to expand them somewhat, but in a way that won't damage or alter the natural environment," said K. Pongchart.

K. Pongchart, who has worked at the park for 21 years, said he is aware that covering sections of the trail with a material like cement or asphalt would

alter the park.

It might, however, be a worthwhile trade-off if it results in more people visiting the park and having their environmental awareness raised as a result, he added.

Another park officer, Bundamrong Meeklin, said the best time to start a hike is at 9 am on a day when there are no

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Queer News

Lustful teens get lewd in local library

NAKHON SRI THAMMARAT: Most parents would be happy to know that their teenagers were spending their free time hanging out in the library. What better place could there be to engage in some extracurricular learning and curl up with a good book? In Nakhon Sri Thammarat public library, however, teenagers have been curling up for some X-rated extracurricular activities – and the locals say it has to stop.

On February 1, a group of worried parents arrived at the Nakhon Sri Thammarat Journalists' Association meeting to call on the local media to draw attention to the worrying new trend of youngsters copulating in public places.

Withaya, a 38-year-old parent and former school teacher who asked for his surname not to be printed, said that he works opposite Nakhon Sri Thammarat Public Library.

"Youths, mainly students aged 13 to 15, both boys and girls, like to come and hang out and court each other, usually still wearing their school uniforms. Often the courting ends with them having sex.

"I and other parents have seen children openly engaging in sexual intercourse – with no shame whatsoever. We were embarrassed to see it and had to take a detour round it," K. Witthaya said.

Horny youths are often in fierce competition with each other

to grab the best spots inside the library, mainly on the second floor, where they can have sex, said Chok, 55, who is in charge of looking after the public square in front of the library.

The youths show no regard for people who go to the library for legitimate purposes, added Chok.

"Staff have warned the youths about their behavior many times, but staff can't be at all points in the building at all times. They have rearranged the second floor so there are fewer dark corners and better visibility for the staff.

"This has made it harder for the youths to find spots to have sex in," Chok said.

Somphong Yuthao, head truancy officer at Nakhon Sri Thammarat Area 1 Education Office, said that his staff often catch students acting inappropriately. For a minor offense, students are reprimanded and allowed to go home, but when they are caught engaging in heavy petting, they are reported to their school or college.

K. Somphong added that his officers are unauthorized to act if the youths are not registered at an educational institution.

As for the problems in the public library, it is the responsibility of library authorities to ensure that there are no corners where youths can engage in improper activities, K. Somphong said.

Source: *Kom Chad Luek*



Rotting produce lies among old bed sheets in this assorted pile of garbage dumped on private land next to Sri Sena Rd. There is no sign prohibiting dumping here, but the photographer was almost overcome by the foul stench rising from the trash pile and mingling with the smell of a nearby fishery.



Burasari confirms celebrity chef 'Keith Floyd is fine'

PHUKET: Following reports that 64-year-old British celebrity chef Keith Floyd collapsed with breathing difficulties during a trip to the UK, Burasari Resident Manager Conor O'Leary has confirmed that there is no cause for alarm.

Mr Floyd recently returned to the UK after spending four and a half weeks supervising his brasserie at the Burasari Resort in Patong during the peak of Phuket's busy tourist season.

He was taking part in celebrations for the re-opening of a Chesters pub, owned by friend Glenn Geldard, in Staffordshire when he collapsed and was rushed to hospital.

"Mr Floyd was working very hard when he was here.

"He had been extremely busy running the restaurant and organizing gala dinners during that time, so he was very tired," said Mr O'Leary.

"We've spoken to Mr Floyd's closest friends and he is reported to be fine.

"There is no cause for concern. Floyd's Brasserie will continue to operate as usual... Mr Floyd will return six to eight weeks from now," he added.

Floyd's Brasserie in Patong opened in March 2007.

After an illustrious career as a TV celebrity chef that made Mr Floyd a household name and a firm favorite throughout the West, his Patong brasserie at Burasari is the only Floyd's branch in the world.

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Wat Chalong Fair

CHALONG: This year the Wat Chalong Fair is being held from February 6 to 12.

The popular Phuket fair, which dates back to 1954, will open with Buddhist prayers at 1.30 pm each day.

Beginning at 4:30 pm fair attendees can stroll among booths offering Thai treats, merchandise and carnival games with prizes.

Musical performances by a slew of Thai country music stars (look thung) such as Suppachai Krailert, Looknok Supaporn, Monsit Khamsoi, Kasem Kom-san will take place at 7 pm each night.

The grand finale performance on February 12 will be a show by Mike Piromporn, a famous Thai country singer from Isarn.

Thailand's police have extensively abused human rights in the past 20 years, the Crime Reporters' Association of Thailand told a seminar on February 3.

Association records recorded 400 documented cases of abuse, with victims including prostitutes, the mentally ill, Buddhist monks, foreign tourists and amputee veterans in wheelchairs.

The youngest documented victim was a four-year-old boy, who in 1992 had his bottom boiled in hot water, was kept in a dog cage and was forced to eat fresh chili and boiling soup by a police officer, said Siroj Mingkhwan, chairman of the association.

The cases of abuse were documented between 1988 to the present - with a large number dying, suffering permanent injury or "disappearing".

Techniques used to frame suspects or innocent people, or to impose more serious charges for crimes not committed, included torture, humiliation and degradation, physical assault, blackmail, deliberate inaction or wrongful arrest.

In many cases, police negotiators urged suicidal people to jump to their death during rescue operations, while rape and sexual molestation were widely inflicted on women or female prisoners.

However, the rate of abuse cases decreased to 1.9 a month between 1998 and today, compared with two a month in the first 10 years.

The decrease was attributed to the new constitution and greater public awareness of human rights, said K. Siroj.

Total recall. The Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) may rescind the reward of more than 1 million baht it gave to Border Patrol Police Captain Nat Chonniwanich and his team for drug-related arrests.

"If we find that the convicts are victims of Nat's extortion we'll take the money back and Nat will be charged with fabricating evidence," said ONCB Secretary-General Kitt Limchaikij on February 2.

Nat claimed 219 drug arrests, with payouts made for more

Thai Police are rights abusers, seminar told



Picking poppies
A member of a special police and Narcotics Control Board team works on destroying two rai of opium poppies on Doi Suthep in Chiang Mai. Four people suspected of growing the poppies were arrested.

than 100 cases.

All the cases will now be investigated for frame-ups, Kitt said.

Nat and his men were arrested in Bangkok on January 25 on charges of kidnapping a businesswoman and her two sons and demanding 8.7 million baht in ransom.

A police probe has confirmed that Nat, who oversaw anti-narcotics operations in Chumphon, concocted evidence and rigged cases against drug suspects.

Since Nat was arrested, many people have come forward to reveal that they, or their relatives, have been falsely convicted and jailed.

Security squabble. Academics have warned that the outgoing government's resolution to stop

officials from using foreign email providers may be unconstitutional.

A letter dated January 7 issued by the Secretariat of the Cabinet informed all provincial governors that the Cabinet had made the resolution in December for government officials within one year to stop using private, and especially foreign, email providers to communicate official matters.

The letter stated that the resolution was made in order to "protect official information".

Critics said the Cabinet resolution would contradict the rights and freedom principals written in the Constitution and that email systems provided by government offices are unreliable and of limited capacity, she said.

Dr Thaweesak Koanantakool, former director of the Na-

tional Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC), defended the move, saying that many people who use free email providers have never read "privacy policies" that allow providers to read their users' emails and attached files.

A study last year and found that four out of every 10 government officials were using services like Gmail and Hotmail in communicating official matters, he said.

Pump peril. The Pollution Control Department (PCD) is planning measures to reduce the level of carcinogenic benzene vapors being released into the atmosphere, particularly at petrol stations.

PCD Chief Supat Wangwongwattana said a study over a six-month period found people working at gas stations were exposed to 25 times more benzene vapors than the average person.

The Medical Science Department studied benzene traces in 159 respondents in Nakhon Ratchasima.

Employees of petrol stations there were found to have benzene levels in their bodies ranging from 0.00mg/g to 29.24mg/g creatinine, while the general public had no benzene traces.

Service-station workers are at higher risk of leukemia and anemia than other people because their jobs expose them to benzene vapors.

Besides the installation of gas pit valve-controlling devices at petrol stations by 2012, related agencies and oil companies have pushed for the Energy Ministry to control the petrol production process to reduce the benzene content from the current 3% to 1%.

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

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Road checkpoints miss the point

Dry weather during the past few weeks has made sure that pedestrians and businesses, especially those in Bang Niang, have received their daily coating of dust from passing traffic.

Apparently, it is still not common sense for local officials to keep roads clean, especially with no VIPs visiting Khao Lak in recent months.

If local authorities put in as much effort into the upkeep of local roads and pavements as the local police do in fining motorbike drivers without helmets and drivers who have not paid vehicle tax and insurance, then this area could be miles ahead in regards to development and visitor numbers.

Local police recently set up a checkpoint near Bang Niang School, halfway between Nang Thong and Bang Niang beaches. Every motorist who wants to go from one beach to the other must pass there, hence truckloads of penalty fees must have been hauled in during the past few months.

What would make sense and really make a difference to



Amazingly, no-one was injured when this pickup careened off Patchkaem Rd and landed upside-down in front of a small, family-run minimart.

road safety would be if police checked vehicles for road worthiness.

But no, while the local lumberjack's 30-year-old, run-down truck – without doors and windshield, safety belts, functioning brakes or lights and, of course, without license plates, insurance or tax stickers – overloaded with several tons of timber passes unchecked, the tourist without a

helmet and without an international driving license is stopped and fined somewhere between 400 and 1,000 baht.

Other contributors to the ever-increasing wealth of the local traffic police are hotel and resort employees, well-dressed in their uniforms, riding with no helmets on uninsured motorbikes.

Although these people are

breaking the law, why stop and fine these workers while the local “garbage recycler” on his rusty, brake-less motorbike with sidecar is merrily waved through “free of charge”?

Is it traffic police policy to fine according to the wrongdoer's capacity to pay?

Does any of this make sense? Does it have to? Perhaps not. But while it seems that only those with money shall pay, ask yourself, “What happens if I were in an accident with one of these unroadworthy, uninsured vehicles?”

Well, the obvious answer is: you pay. “But what if it was not my fault?” you might ask. Then, the answer, my clever friend, is still the same: you pay. “On what charges?” I hear you ask. Well, how about being in the wrong place at the wrong time...

Regardless, despite that this appears to be just about money, the police can set up as many checkpoints as they like, but road safety will never improve while vehicles are never checked for road worthiness.

Fill 'er up. However, there is some good news for motorists. Khao Lak's – if not Thailand's – worst PTT petrol station, at the Tab Lamu-Petchkasem Rd intersection, has finally got what it deserves: a brand-new, shiny, functioning, friendly and customer-service-oriented competitor located right across the road, just 50 or so meters north.

The new Bang Jak petrol station opened in the first week of February and most likely will outperform the PTT station with ease, since every Khao Lak resident knows that the odds of getting any diesel or gasoline at the old PTT station are 90:10

against.

The PTT station used to be the only gas station within a 15-kilometer radius.

I have witnessed several nasty scenes there, including seeing some usually very calm Thai motorists shouting at the staff, asking why they even bother running a gas station when they never have gasoline or diesel to sell.

Dog death mystery. During the past few weeks, several pet dogs of Khao Lak residents at the southern end of Nang Thong Beach have been poisoned and died.

A local businessman, who asked not to be named, said that the dog owners who lost their beloved pets suspect local authorities, who – by trying to get rid of stray dogs – distributed poisoned chicken

meat all along the northern half of Petchkasem Rd between Khao Lak Laguna resort and the Nang Thong supermarket.

Dog owners are advised to never let their dogs walk unattended and to teach their dogs to avoid eating any food found on the street.

Parents of small children are advised to never let their children play unattended in any areas near Petchkasem Rd or any other main roads in the area.

As it is still unclear who distributed the poison, all Khao Lak residents are urged to report any suspicious activities to the local police.

Franky Gun is an expat writer, artist, designer, scuba instructor and businessman who left Germany in 1991 to live in Thailand. He moved to Khao Lak in 2001 and since calls Khao Lak his home. Franky can be contacted via email to: avalon@loxinfo.co.th



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Trang police face brutality probe

Two men have accused four Trang police officers and five Civilian Defense Volunteers (CDVs) of using excessive force after two men were allegedly beaten following a road accident, in the latest scandal to hit the embattled Royal Thai Police Force.

On January 25, Prawit Saengim, 30, and Chamnam Deephayap, 27, accompanied by eight witnesses gave a statement to Duty Inspector Lt Col Prasert Songsaeng at Trang Muang District Police Station.

K. Prawit said that about 10:30 pm the previous day, he had been driving along Khuan Khanun Rd in his pickup truck with K. Chamnan after a drinking session.

K. Prawit said that he felt a slight bump and thought he may have scraped another car, but wasn't sure so kept driving.

When he was close to his home, he stopped to check for damage to his car, he said.

Then he saw a police pickup truck pull up behind them and a group of men in uniform approached their truck, K. Prawit said.

Other witnesses said that in the cab of the police truck there were four police officers, including a lieutenant, while in the back there were five CDVs.

"As I was looking in the rear-view mirror, I saw a gang of tough-looking men in uniform approach. I don't know whether they were police or CDVs. One of them pulled me out of the car and forced me to the ground and they started kicking me," K. Prawit said.

"They shouted, 'phuak meung [you two] get out of the car and lie face down.' Then they struck me countless times with their fists, batons and boots. The clothes that I was wearing are covered in boot marks," K. Chamnan added.

The two men said they were not sure if the police officers had taken part in the beating



Inspecting the goods

Acting Director of the Central Institute of Forensic Science Thailand Dr Khunying Pornthip Rojanasunand inspects bomb-making equipment found at Nuradin Mosque, Village 7 Tambon Ba-ngo Sata in Narathiwat's Reu-soe District, for DNA evidence that could link the equipment to its owner.

themselves or just stood by and watched. However, they made no effort to stop it, the men claimed.

The officers then took K. Prawit to Trang Muang District Police Station and charged him with drunk driving. K. Chamnan was allowed to go free and headed straight to hospital.

"My whole body was covered in bruises. After I'd been to hospital, I told my boss about the incident and he said I should press charges as there were many witnesses," K. Chamnan said.

K. Prawit said that he had returned to the police station with witnesses, none of whom were relatives, as he was worried his allegations of assault against the officers would not be dealt with fairly.

He said that he was prepared to accept the charge of drunk driving, but wanted to be sure that the officers would be punished for their excessive use of force.

Col Prasert said that K. Prawit was fined 3,500 baht for the drunk driving offense.

As for the assault charges, Col Prasert said that the victims could identify only one of the CDVs.

Col Nukool Kraithong, Superintendent of Trang Muang District Police Station, said that a commission would be set up to investigate the incident and the four police officers involved would be removed from active duty until the probe had concluded.

Rubber raid. A gang of armed robbers in Phatthalung's Pa Phayom district held up a truck collecting rubber from plantations on January 28, making off with 60,000 baht.

At 1 pm, Pa Phayom District Police received a report of a robbery on the road through Village 12 Tambon Koh Tao.

Lt Col Phonphisit Hombut, an investigating officer, led a

team of officers to the scene, where they found an 18-wheel truck parked by the side of the road, accompanied by the driver, Thaweep Keuakhleng, 41, and Sumlarat Phengdual, 27, a clerk for the rubber merchant.

As soon as the police arrived, K. Thaweep urged them to put out a call to look out for the robbers' getaway vehicle, a Phuket-registered Mitsubishi pickup truck last seen heading toward Sri Banphot district.

K. Sumlarat told police that as they were driving through the village, a pickup truck pulled out in front of them, forcing K. Thaweep to stop the truck.

Three youths wearing balaclavas then appeared from the undergrowth by the side of the road and one of them

smashed the passenger window with a hammer and threatened her with a gun, K. Sumlarat said.

About 60,000 baht in cash and both her and K. Thaweep's mobile phones were taken, she added.

Police later found the pickup truck abandoned near a rubber plantation elsewhere in the district, but were unable to find the gunmen.

Far cough. Two youths were arrested in Yala February 1 in possession of 1,200 bottles of cough medicine thought to be destined to make the illicit drug cocktail "Four Times a Hundred".

Asuwan Waekaji, 18, and Sulkiflee Beeding, 19, were arrested as they were loading four crates of the medicine onto a pickup truck parked at a PTT gas station in Village 7 Tambon Sateng Nok in Yala's Muang district.

Police said that, during questioning, the pair confessed that they had been paid 5,000 baht to collect the medicine, which was sent from Bangkok by bus.

Their employer, whose name was not released by police, sold the medicine to local youths.

Police said that they were working to find the buyer and the source of the cough medicine.

Cough syrup is one ingredient of Four Times A Hundred, which has become a drug craze that has swept throughout the Deep South over the past year.

The syrup is boiled with krathom leaves (a prohibited plant with a mild stimulant effect) and sometimes with mosquito repellent coils before being consumed with cola.

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

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By Natcha Yuttaworawit

When it comes to beach activities, being buried in the sand ranks alongside paddle ball, Frisbee and building sand castles as an all-time favorite.

However, a group of people in Mai Khao believe that being half submerged in beach sand isn't just a good form of mindless fun – it's actually good for you.

Rouyjit Akethaweewatana-det has led a group of about 20 other local residents in operating an al fresco "sand spa" at Mai Khao beach.

In her 50s, K. Rouyjit claims that the group's regular sessions in the sand have kept her healthy over the years and will continue to do so, as sand immersion is a secret to longevity.

"I started experimenting with sand immersion treatments in different locations around the island about six years ago. I found that the nicest sand is at Mai Khao Beach, as there is no mud mixed with the sand here," K. Rouyjit said.

"When I was a child I used to watch my grandmother and her friends bury themselves in the sand. I remember them as being very healthy," she added.

Although there are about 20 local housewives and elders, in-

Want to live longer? Dig yourself a hole



cluding men, who regularly visit the area to be buried from their legs up to their chests, K. Rouyjit and three of her close friends are

the most hardcore believers that sand immersion therapy really works.

Every morning between 6

and 8 am they can be found digging holes for themselves or happily interred along the sandy shoreline.

"The early morning is the best time to go because the sand is still damp. We cover ourselves from just below the chest down to the feet so that it's still easy to breathe, as there is no pressure on the chest. I jog for a bit first to open the pores and get a sweat up before being buried. This helps prepare the body to expel toxins," she said.

"It's best to pick a spot about three to four meters from the water because the sand there is still damp.

"Stay buried in the sand for about 30 minutes, then move to another spot for another 30 minutes," she advises.

The moisture in the sand and its effect on the body is the key to the therapy's effectiveness, K. Rouyjit asserts.

"Covering yourself in this sand isn't a cure-all remedy, but doing it as often as possible is good for you. It could enhance a course of modern treatment prescribed by a doctor," she said.

"After about five minutes buried in the sand, the dampness

A group of people in Mai Khao believe that being half submerged in beach sand isn't just a good form of mindless fun – it's actually good for you.

begins to draw out the toxins through the skin.

"The toxins are in our bodies mostly from food we eat, especially pesticides used on fruit and vegetables," she said.

"People with painful joints also find that their joints are less stiff and painful after sessions in the sand," she added.

Asked if others who have tried the sand treatment also experienced improvements in their health, K. Rouyjit replied that an old woman who used to be paralyzed came to be buried in the sand regularly for about a year and saw great improvements in her health.

K. Rouyjit added that she no longer experiences the aches and pains she used to suffer from regularly – before she began burying herself in the sand.

"We do not advertise this project much, so not many tourists have come to try it. Most that do come are Thai tourists.

"The charge to be buried is 40 baht per person. Just bring an old pair of shorts and a T-shirt," she said.

If you are yearning to get away from it all experience the benefits of sand immersion therapy for yourself, take Thepkrasattri Rd north past the airport, then turn left at the entrance to Wat Mai Khao.

Head towards the beach, then turn left at Mai Khao Village. Continue along the beach for a few kilometers until you see K. Rouyjit and her sand-loving associates.

For more information or to set an appointment, contact Manoch Saithong, the English-speaking village headman of Mai Khao Village, at 081-8954833.



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The Italian job

Veteran Italian chef Attilio Vitagliano opened the Florentino restaurant in Rawai on January 22, bringing to the island his 30 years' experience in Italian and international cuisine.

Despite working for 10 years in England and four years in Germany, Attilio returned to serving his native Italian fare when he moved to Thailand and opened a restaurant on Koh Samui in 1994.

"I started cooking when I was 15. My grandfather was a pastry chef and I learned from helping him make cakes and pastries.

"My friend also worked in the bakery. I was fascinated by it and I did it for three years," Attilio explained.

"When I was 18, I finished school and started working at a restaurant in Florence. Then I went to England and started in the hotel business.

"It was while working in England that I started to learn about cuisine, working in different hotels and learning about international dishes," he added.

Attilio spent a decade working in England, using all the skills



Chef Attilio's shellfish soup (below) and fettuccine (left) are just two of the delightful dishes that can be sampled at the Florentino restaurant in Rawai. Attilio only serves Italian fare in his restaurant.



Guest chef

By Semacote Suganya

he had learned to do everything from baking cakes to preparing homemade pasta. He has now brought those same skills to Phuket. "We [at Florentino] make our own bread, pasta, cakes - everything. All these I learned to make from my grandfa-

ther," he said.

When he was 28, Attilio moved to Reutlingen-Stuttgart in Germany. It was during his stay there that he discovered Thailand. "My first visit to Thailand was just

a vacation. I arrived in Bangkok on February 18, 1992, and took a flight straight to Samui.

"At that time, Samui was not so popular. I liked it straight away: the lifestyle, the nice beaches, going out at night. I stayed two months, then it struck me to open my own restaurant there.

"I found a place on Samui and finally opened my first restaurant there in 1994. It had about 60 seats and was called Vecchia Napoli. I sold it last year," he said.

By 2000, Attilio was ready to expand and opened a restaurant called Florentino, on Sukhumvit Soi 23 in Bangkok. In the restaurant's first year, it was awarded Best Restaurant by Thailand Tatler magazine.

"Last year, I sold my restaurant in Samui and now I have settled in Phuket and moved my family here," he said.

Attilio has decided for Florentino in Rawai to specialize in Italian fare.

"I want to concentrate on Italian food because it's popular with tourists," he said.

"On the menu we have specialties that come from Napoli and

Florence. For example, pizza originally comes from Napoli, and we also have T-bone steak, which is a Florentine specialty.

"My style of cooking is Mediterranean," he explained.

Zuppa di crostacei (sautéed shellfish soup) Serves 1

Ingredients

1 clove	garlic
10, halved	cherry tomatoes
2 oz	white wine
4 oz	fish stock
10	clams
3	mussels
1	crab
1	king prawn
5g (1 sprig)	parsley
2 tbsp	extra virgin olive oil
To taste	white salt
To taste	freshly ground black pepper

Method

Put the olive oil and garlic in a pan and fry on medium heat - no hotter, otherwise the garlic will burn and have a bitter taste.

Remove the garlic once it has turned light brown.

Add the mussels, clams, crab and king prawn and add the white wine and fish stock. Seal the pan with the lid and let it simmer for three minutes.

Then add a pinch of salt and the parsley followed by the fresh ground pepper and tomatoes and simmer for another minute or so before removing from the pan from the heat.

Fettuccine florentino salsiccia of e funghi Serves 1

Ingredients

100g	fettuccine
150g, sliced	fresh Italian pork sausage
30g	shitaki mushrooms
2	Italian tomatoes
1 clove	garlic
1	dried chili
½ oz	white wine
1oz	meat stock
5g	Italian pastry olive oil
2 tbsp	

Method

Put the olive oil and garlic in a pan and fry on medium heat and remove the garlic once it has turned light brown.

Add the sausage and the chili, then add the mushrooms followed by the white wine, meat stock and tomatoes.

The whole process should take no longer than five minutes.

Half-fill a medium-sized pot with water and bring to the boil. Add the noodles and cook for 3 minutes, then serve with the sauce poured on top.

Florentino, at Rawai Seaview Condominium, Wiset Rd, Rawai. 200 meters north of Saiyuan Rd. Open daily, 11 am to 11 pm. Tel: 076-289883. Email: attivitaphuket@hotmail.com

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Happily Ever After

Recently married in Phuket

Edward and Fay Stuart from the UK were married at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket on January 8, 2008.



Puangmanee Khorkittipaiboon and Rakchart Songsiang were married at Pra Pitak Grand Ballroom of the Metropole Hotel on January 17, 2008.

The search for

In 1990, a sailing canoe six meters long by 79 centimeters wide was launched at a dock in Gibraltar and an old man's dream came true: Nils-Göran Bennich-Bjorkman, 78, from Sweden, has been sailing solo around the world since.

As a teenager, Nils dreamed of sailing the world's seas, drawing boat designs and concocting grand plans at the age of 17. However, his epic journey did not start until he retired from his position as an instructor at a sailing and boat-building school for children in Sweden.

For nearly two decades, Nils has lived and explored on *Peter Pan*, a small sailing canoe that he designed and built. The main mast and mizzen rise from a deck covered in five solar panels, supplying all his power needs, and a wooden rudder juts from the stern attached to a standing tiller. *Peter Pan* is also equipped with a two-stroke outboard, used only to navigate through marinas.

The cabin is a cramped hold of supplies and tools tucked into compartments using every inch of space below deck, with a bed

Now 78 years old, Nils-Göran Bennich-Bjorkman has been sailing solo around the world for the past 18 years – in a six-meter sailing canoe called *Peter Pan*. He quietly arrived in Phuket recently and will soon set sail for the Seychelles, some 2,700 nautical miles (about 5,000 kilometers) away.

Here, the *Gazette's* Skyer Swezy catches up with the aging mariner, who says he's just like his boat's namesake: he refuses to grow up.



The *Peter Pan* on the hardstand at Boat Lagoon.

squeezed along one side. There is a hideaway stove, a first-aid drawer of pills and bandages, a box of bolts of all different sizes, a mini-welding kit and ample supply of toilet paper.

Experienced in woodworking, welding, mechanics and simple electronics, Nils must be, and is, prepared for any type of mid-ocean repair short of the boat sinking. At sea, he wears a life jacket and has a safety line attached to a body harness at all times – if he loses the boat, he loses his life.

"People say, 'Why do you wear a life vest, it will only make the pain longer?' I tell them, 'The pain to live is one I want to have longer,'" said Nils.

On January 27, Nils looked slightly uncomfortable sitting in the classy Watermark Restaurant with a weathered yellow T-shirt and oil stained hands, and his worn leather Akubra in his lap.

Repeatedly rattling the ice in his empty glass, he recounted brag-worthy tales of the sea in a humble and matter-of-fact tone. "When I lost my rudder for

the first time in the south Atlantic, I was scared for only 15 seconds. I had no more time than that to be scared. I had to fix it," he said with a chuckle. "Three days I was swimming under the boat."

Then there's the time his main mast snapped-off late at night. "I only heard a knock like this," he said with a tap of the table. "I had left the Galapagos and had 3,000 miles to go before the next island."

Without the mast, he had to re-adjust the boat's ballast. "So, I threw the main mast overboard along with books and a lot of other things to make room for the anchor and anchor chain in the bottom of the boat," he said. Using only the mizzen, Nils took 30 days to limp his canoe the remaining 2,300 miles to the Marquesas islands.

With a solar-powered water maker, Nils reckoned his supplies – he is allergic to seafood – could last about five months at sea, if necessary. "That's why I have so many books," he joked.

Unless he's crossing an

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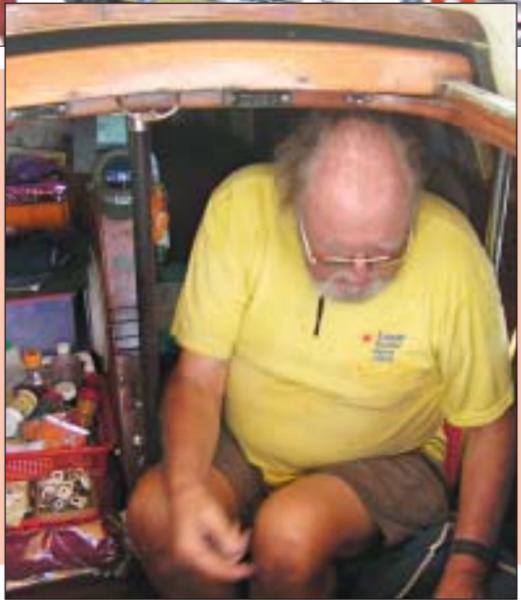
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Neverland



THE BOY WHO NEVER GREW UP: Nils and his seafaring soulmate, the *Peter Pan*.

CLOSE QUARTERS: Nils sorts out the cramped space below deck.



ocean, which he will be doing on his next journey from Phuket to the Seychelles, Nils usually docks every two to five days. This helps fight the loneliness. "If I can't live with myself for two or five days, I can't do it in the big city... in the big city you are even more alone."

Once in the Seychelles, a small island cluster 1,800 kilometers off the coast of Kenya, the aging sailor must make a tough decision.

He can head north, through the pirate-ridden Red Sea where poor sailing winds may require hiring a bigger boat to tow *Peter Pan*, or he can turn south and head around the Cape of Good Hope, where southwestern currents meet northeast winds, creating volatile 20-meter waves.

Either way, Nils will ap-

proach obstacles with a level head. "Sailing is like that: there may be bad weather or it's sunny and there is no wind. You can't get angry," he said. "You find there's always some wind, you just have to find it."

Nils doesn't know when his voyage will end; his only plan is to continue having adventures. Yet he's realistic about his age, hinting the end of the journey will coincide with his death.

"Maybe one or two years and then I'm dead, or maybe I'll return to Sweden; I don't know. That is one reason for the name of my boat.

"Peter goes to have adventures in Never Never Land and forgets everything else. I must be one of the lost boys," Nils said with a chuckle.



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This week



WALK ON THE WILD SIDE: Director General of the Department of Livestock Development Sakchai Sriboonsue feeds a tiger cub at the Tiger Jungle Adventure at Phuket FantaSea while on holiday.



ROYAL MEETS ROYAL: HRH Prince Michael of Kent (center) with Royal Phuket Marina's Director of Marketing Wilaiporn Pitimanaaree (left) and Public Relations and Events Manager Jeanette Skelton at RPM after a day of cruising around Phang Nga Bay.



FOUR STARS: Parisian One Star Michelin Chef Henri Charvet (center) created a special menu for a 'four hands gourmet dinner' at Mom Tri's Villa Royale on January 24.

Chef Henri was welcomed by Mom Tri's Villa Royale General Manager Adisak Pitukrojjanant (2nd from left), F-B Manager Mongkol Suwannahong (left), Wine Director Georges Ciret (2nd from right) and Chef Sura Putta (right) from Mom Tri's Kitchen.



CONTEMPORARY COMPANY: D Gallery at Royal Phuket Marina celebrated its official opening with a cocktail party at the contemporary art gallery, which predominantly promotes Thai and Vietnamese artists. Pictured among artists and guests are Gallery Director Robert Collins (2nd from left) and Managing Director Pornthip 'Dashy' Raksapiksu (white dress).



INDONESIAN INVITATION: M. Makmun Chalifah, Consul for Information and Cultural Affairs and Head of Chancery of the Republic of Indonesia presents a basket to *Phuket Gazette* staff on January 30 while promoting scholarships for Thai students to study in Indonesia. *Gazette* staff pictured are Managing Editor Chris Husted, General Manager Niladaa Mastanawattanukul (left) and Senior Reporter Janyaporn Morel (right).



CELEB CHECK-IN: Nikki Tipaxsorn, Marketing Communications Manager of Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa (left) and Sutan Piromnarg, Assistant Front Office Manager (right), welcome Thai celebrity Sunisa Jett (with bouquet), her mother Sunanee Ruchira Jett (in black shirt) and her uncle Narong Ruchira (center) to the hotel.

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I remember being quite an angry young thing as a teenager. I didn't really rail against my parents, nothing quite as domestic as that. Nope, I was pretty upset with the whole world. I marched for the miners in Britain and wrote letters for Amnesty International. I rocked against racism and organized sponsored silences for those poor whales.

More than 20 years on I still care – of course I do. But now I harass the local authorities with requests for a weed clean-up outside the house so we don't get infested by mosquitoes, and I have also developed a system of eye-rolling when greeted with poor service in restaurants. Forget the "big" issues – increasingly I find myself tooth-grindingly angry at the everyday incivilities of modern life.

I offer you a selection of those things that have wound me up this week: a trendy café where the "gastro" had more to do with -enteritis than -nomy, and the service was as lukewarm as the food; inconsiderate intolerable drivers in the morning when I'm doing the school run; dog owners who think pooch poop is like manna to my trainers when I go running; and the person who had his car radio turned up so loud outside my house that the windows rattled.

Oh well, at least that's one idiot who'll be deaf before he gets to 40.

I find myself saying "You're welcome!" in ringing tones to dull-eyed oafs who think it's their birthright when I hold the door open for them, or when I'm forced to hover patiently while

they try to work out how to enter or leave a shop or café.

Particularly like the expression "I see we're going to have to build an extension on that charm school", which a friend of mine uses for instances of spectacular retail and restaurant rudeness.

In my defense, I really don't care what goes on behind other people's closed doors. It's only when they take their shabby behavior into the public arena that I start to get riled.

As a student I may have lived in places that made the worst kind of dive look like a suite at the Ritz, but I would never have dreamed of taking my slovenliness outside the front door. I'd no more have dropped litter than I would have bought South African oranges.

Given my heightened sensitivities, it was perhaps not the wisest move to buy an office right next to a bus stop that's Rubbish Central for the litter-ati of Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus where I am at the moment.

Potato chip bags, beer cans, discarded cigarette packs – I have to wade through all of these just to get to my front door. I approached the place yesterday to see two teenage girls – all combats, high heels and lip gloss – standing by the bus stop ripping up paper into tiny bits and flinging the pieces on the sidewalk. I bent down and started picking them one by one. Above me, I could hear much

Livid about litter

The downsizing of my global concerns



sucking of teeth and snorting.

I looked up. "Me picking up your rubbish does not demean me, it demeans you," I said, realizing too late that they did not speak a word of either Greek or English.

Am I turning into one of those mad old bats we used to laugh at when we were kids in Britain? Like my old neighbor Mr Wallis, who ran out of his house in his vest every Sunday and drew his hand menacingly across his throat every time my friend and I played anything louder than Chinese whispers on the path that ran between his house and ours.

Maybe I am.

But before you think I'm becoming some sort of curmudgeonly grumpy old cow, I tip wildly for good service, write effusive thank-you notes at only the slightest provocation, and when I was last in London I astonished a homeless old guy so much by my generosity that he tore up his "Hungry and Homeless" sign.

And I strongly believe that virtue is its own reward, as all of these acts of kindness make me as happy as their recipients.

Is life too short to worry about a dropped potato chip bag? Of course it is, if that's all it is. Low-level anti-social behavior blights all of our lives every day in a way that some of the bigger issues might not. It makes us feel like aliens in our own space; vulnerable in the very places we should feel most at home.

We may all care about glo-

bal warming, but it does not yet – in me at least – induce the same heart-sinking feeling I get when I walk through my local park and see that all of the newly planted trees have been snapped off at the trunk by vandals.

My grandmother was right when she said that good manners cost nothing. Civility is cheap and it is also environmentally friendly. And it probably does more to knit together the fragile communities of little islands than any government-dictated urban renewal scheme.

Ambrosia Sakkadas, a UK-born Greek Cypriot and graduate of Central St Martins College of Art & Design in London, is an artist, designer and newspaper columnist. Her novel Greek Girls Don't Cry is still available from amazon.com

AMBROSIA'S

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SECRETS

I really don't care what goes on behind other people's closed doors. It's only when they take their shabby behavior into the public arena that I start to get riled.

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By Natcha Yuttaworawit

Dog day afternoon

They say every dog has its day, well, a group of Phuket's dogs had their day recently when they joined their doting owners for the first Phuket Dog Rally on January 27.

About 30 dog lovers and their four-legged friends from the dog-loving cyber community at phuketdog.com packed themselves into a convoy of 14 cars for a rally that took them from Saphan Hin to Nai Harn lake, with checkpoint challenges for dogs and their owners along the way.

The rally was organized by BMS Event Organizer as a way of building good relations between dog owners. The dogs seemed to get along too.

A group of chihuahuas spent the day barking at all the other dogs and a pair of bulldogs refrained from picking any fights but were "very naughty".

At the checkpoints, dogs and their owners played games and performed tasks, including searching for tokens that were counted up at the end of the day. People and pooch teams with the most tokens collected gift vouchers and prizes from sponsoring organizations.

Prizes included 200-baht discount vouchers from Santafe Café, 500-baht discount vouchers from the Korean Food Restaurant, free membership for Reddog shop, and a diary from Bosch Securitech Solution.

After stopping off at checkpoints at Chalong Circle and Baan Sai Yuan rally participants congregated at Nai Harn lake for fun and games with their dogs until 4 pm.

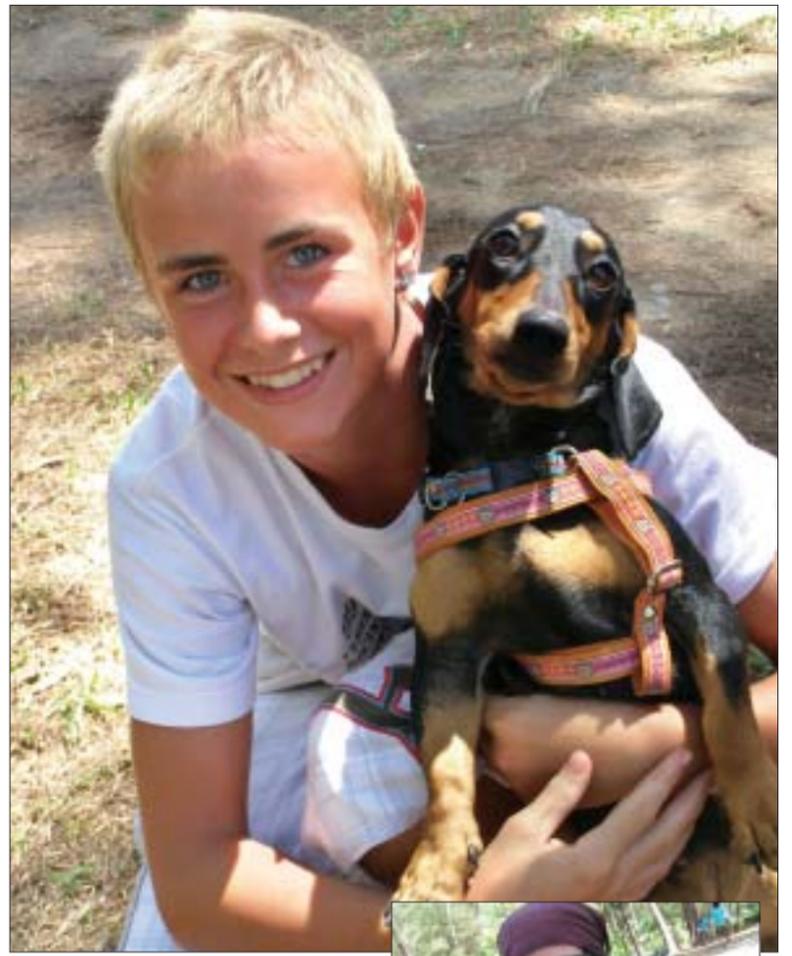
Danish teenager and dog lover Phillipe, 13, made his way from Patong to Saphan Hin so he could join the fun.

"I have a dog too but I couldn't bring it because I don't have a car. I love dogs so I asked a friend to bring me here so I

could see them. They are cute," he said.

A veterinary surgeon from Rung Hill Small Animal Hospital was also on hand during the day to give free rabies vaccination shots to the dogs and offer some canine health and happiness advice.

More dog rallies will be announced soon. People interested in joining future rallies with their pooches can keep up to date by visiting www.phuketdog.com



Above: Danish teenager and dog lover Phillipe made his way from Patong to Saphan in so he could join the fun and play with the pooches.



Left: Prizes for the winning teams included discount vouchers for the Korean Food Restaurant.



Right: Best of friends.

Below; Doggy's big day out.



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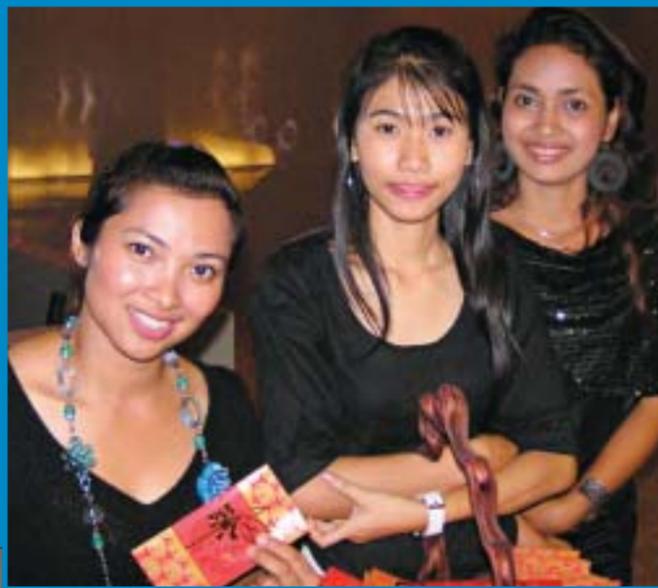


Let it... RAIN!

With a bit of light-hearted irony, precipitation sprinkled down during the grand opening of Rain-Hail restaurant and lounge, the latest high-class hangout in Bang Tao.

Guests dodged raindrops as they arrived and retreated to the sleek lounge where they sipped on soju and sake cocktails.

Fire-performers Elementricks put on a steamy show and a local DJ pumped out a selection of funk, soul and big beat sounds.



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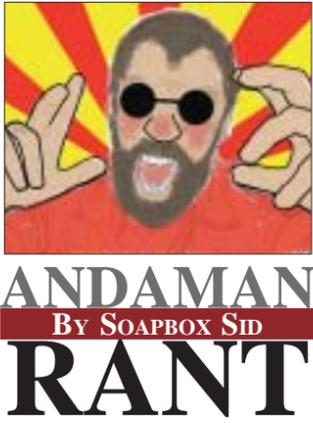
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Clothing calamities rupture rapport

Phuket offers an endless amalgam of bustling bars, busy restaurants, exciting beaches and off-shore islands populated by hordes of international visitors. Such a milieu offers the perfect hiding place for some of the worst criminals on the planet.

These nefarious villains come to Phuket and attempt to blend in with ordinary tourists and locals while perpetrating their foul deeds far from the watchful eyes of their home nations. We're talking much worse than John Mark Karr or Gary Glitter – welcome to the world of Phuket's fashion criminal.

If you were to judge Western fashion by what you see in Phuket, you would start to believe that hair beads, flip flops with socks and Red Bull tank tops are perennially the rage on the runways of Milan, Paris and New York.

By the way people dress here, one might conclude that there were no restrictions on showing dirty bra straps, that the navel was the acceptable point at which to stop buttoning shirts and that shapeless fishermen's pants were the height of chic.

Some concessions must be



made for the climate and for laid-back holiday styles (Burberry overcoats may be stylish, but dripping buckets of sweat is so passé), but that's no excuse for cut-off denim shorts.

Our Bureau of Dubious Statistics indicates that a fashion crime is committed in Phuket every 12.5 seconds.

As a public service to help reduce the style-crime rate, we went undercover and compiled

dossiers on the most common and grievous offenses.

Warning: The following article may not be suitable for viewing by those of a nervous disposition, the elderly or David Beckham.

Case File #22327: Forget dreadlocks, what about "cauc locks"?

The crime: white people with dreadlocks

Look at your skin before you start tanning. If your natural tone is anything lighter than a cup of tea with plenty of milk, then you are forbidden from having your hair in tight braids or dreadlocks.

Special dispensation is given to those with a recessive gene from mixed ancestry, but ample documentation should be carried at all times to be presented on

demand.

The usual suspects: Holidaying, middle-aged women attempting to pick up employees of reggae bars. Juvenile offenders are also common. While penalties are less harsh for those under 13, it is up to parents to get involved and prevent a cauc-locks problem before it starts.

The penalty: A two-hour session at a court-approved hair salon. Serious offenders, such as those caught smelling of patchouli oil, will be given a long bath and a mullet.

Case File #55732: A man's inner thighs should never be seen in public.

The crime: Speedos

The fiend responsible for entering the words "bikini line" into the male fashion vocabulary has yet to be found, though he is believed to be hiding somewhere

in Italy. That individual ranks number one on the all-time fashion criminals' most-wanted list.

Special allowances will be made for legitimate athletes, but only during training and actual competition. Thongs, "berrychokers" and the like are right out.

Similarly, women should not sunbathe topless in Thailand. Although some will violently defend their right to do so, the law and cultural sensibilities are usually against them for two major reasons.

First, different laws apply in different jurisdictional zones, even within Thailand. What is acceptable in Europe does not necessarily fly in this part of the world.

The second reason is the sad fact that the desire of most people to take off their clothing is inversely proportionate to everyone else's desire to see them naked. Since the law must be fair and impartial, err on the side of caution and refrain from letting the dogs out.

The usual suspects: Almost entirely European, although certain Asian women and surgically-enhanced ladyboys are now starting to violate the topless stricture with shocking regularity.

For people who spend most of the year in a climate that requires more layers than the plot of War and Peace, the desire to be free of threads is understandable, if not allowable.

The penalty: Offenders shall be locked in a sauna and forced to watch a looped video of Sumo Wrestlers in Heat Volume 5.

That's it for this week's rant, but the subject of fashion crimes is a weighty one. Look out for the next "Andaman Rant" when we will once again search for Phuket's garment offenders.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Until February 10. The Puravarna Phang Nga Bay Regatta.

The Puravarna Phang Nga Bay Regatta is held annually over Chinese New Year. A Krabi-Phi Phi race will be held on the 9th, while the final leg, Phi Phi to Nai Harn Bay, will run on the 10th. Updates available from www.bayregatta.com or by emailing Vicki Gregory at vicki@loxinfo.co.th

Until February 9. Chinese New Year.

Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the new year.

February 9. Super BBQ Buffet at Wine Connection Bang Tao.

Super BBQ buffet with cheeses and cold cuts galore, such as Parma ham, coppa and much more. 650+ baht, inclusive of live music. Reservations recommended. 6:30 pm to 11:30 pm.

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

February 10. PC Group Therapy – Laguna.

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

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

On February 10, the session will be at the Sandwich Shoppe Laguna.

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

February 14. Valentine's Day @ Watermark.

Wondering where to go? How to make it special? Valentine's at Watermark offers a sparkling reception with a glass of sparkling wine followed by a sumptuous seven-course elegant dinner with choices at each course – because we know you



VALENTINE'S DAY

February 14

AT SHERATON GRANDE LAGUNA PHUKET

Celebrate this special night with the one you love at one of Phuket's finest Italian restaurants, Puccini. Enjoy a five-course set dinner in a poolside setting under a canopy of stars. 3,900 baht per couple including two complimentary glasses of Moët & Chandon. 6:30 pm until 10:30 pm.

For reservations and more information contact Adam Beasley. Tel: 076-324101. Email: fbreservation@sheratonphuket.com Website: www.luxurycollection.com/phuket

have different tastes, so why choose the same meal?

Join us marina-side from 6:30 pm to 11 pm in the cool airy ambiance and let her be romanced in style. Book now to avoid disappointment and make this a Valentine's she'll never forget.

Price is 1,990 baht+ per person, including dinner and welcome glass of bubbly. Where else but Watermark?

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

February 14. Valentine Dinner at Royal Phawadee Village.

Come and join us for an unforgettably-romantic dinner with your loved one in a beautiful pool setting at Royal Phawadee Village.

Only 2,500 baht per person. 6 pm to 11:30 pm.

For more information and booking contact call K. Pond. Tel: 076-345576. Email: pond@phawadee.com Website: www.royal-phawadee-village.com

[royal-phawadee-village.com](http://www.royal-phawadee-village.com)

February 14. Valentine's Day at wine Connection Chalong.

Treat your loving partner with a candle-lit set dinner, including a bottle of Prosecco sparkling wine. 1,450 baht Net per couple. Reservations recommended.

From 7 pm to 11 pm.

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

February 16. Sweet, Sexy and Spicy at Sri Panwa.

It's the month of love and Sri Panwa is having a Sweet, Sexy & Spicy party. Come meet some singles or bring your lucky love. While you enjoy the tasty complimentary finger food, Katsue will be provide live music.

Shake your booty to the tunes of DJ Op later in the evening. Baba dining lounge is always a good time.

Come fall in love with it – again.

For further information contact Jared "Jay" O'Brien. Tel: 085-9181969. Email: jared@sripanwa.com

sripanwa.com Website: www.sripanwa.com

February 17. PC Group Therapy – Chalong.

At the new Sandwich Shoppe at Fisherman Way Business Center in Chalong.

February 20. Live Stand-up Comedy in Patong.

The Punchline Comedy Club brings comedy to the Holiday Inn, Patong. The three brilliant comedians, booked by the London Comedy Store no less, are Eastender Ricky Grover, Brightonian Stephen Grant and Canadian Glenn Wool.

There will also be a Silly Joke competition to enter for those who think they're funny.

Drinks are at normal bar prices.

Tickets available at all Woody's Sandwich Shoppes, Bliss Hot Yoga (3rd floor, Central) and the Royal Phuket Marina Health Club. Price: 960 baht in advance, 1,200 baht at the door.

For further information contact Phuket Comedy. Tel: 081-9565650. Email: info@phuketcomedy.com Website: www.phuketcomedy.com

February 21. Makha Bucha Day - Public Holiday.

Makha Bucha Day, which falls on the full moon of the third lunar month, 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.

February 22-23. Phuket International Blues Rock Festival.

Presented by Hotel-Travel.com, the third year of Phuket's biggest international

blues rock festival will be huge – expanded to 12 bands – showcasing 10 of Southeast Asia's finest acts and topping it off with an American headliner each night. We will have one of Australia's top blues bands as well.

Returning is guitar phenomenon Rich Harper and his band from California.

From 6:30 pm to 12:30 am, at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa.

Shari Puerto and other top acts will be playing at Tai Pan in Patong on February 21, from 10 pm, and at Saxophone on Thaweewong Rd on February 24, also from 10 pm.

See full details at www.phuketbluesfestival.com and check back for updates. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Email: phuketmusic@yahoo.com

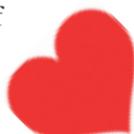
February 23-29. Mom Tri's Boathouse Short Fiction Contest.

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

Part two targets school-age writers, 15 to 18 years old. Well-known author Jake Needham will conduct workshops at QSI and BIS March 11 and 12. Students are to finish a Needham story posted on www.boathousephuket.com/short_fiction_contest.htm

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

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



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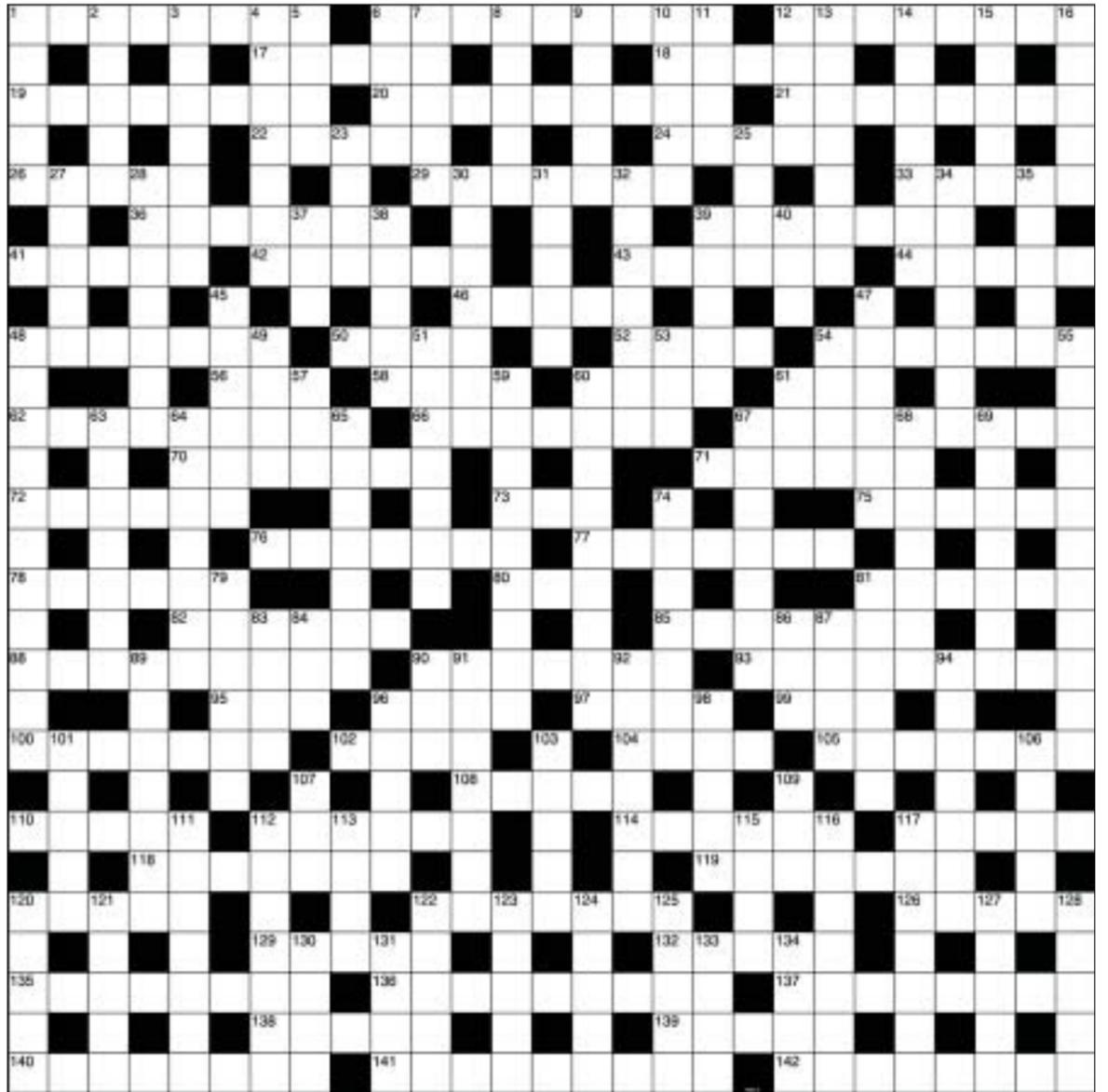
PUZZLES

The BIG Crossword

Hidden Words

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

W	C	R	C	S	K	D	T	U	N	O	C	O	C	E
D	N	H	U	R	O	H	E	Y	U	R	U	P	C	G
D	G	S	I	O	A	L	E	B	O	T	R	I	K	Q
V	H	H	F	L	K	B	F	N	V	N	R	Y	P	U
I	F	A	X	B	I	Q	O	E	C	A	Y	A	E	A
V	E	E	P	K	S	Q	G	Y	H	L	H	L	D	M
S	C	K	H	H	W	E	P	D	Q	I	J	L	U	M
U	M	T	I	C	T	E	C	H	O	C	O	T	Q	V
C	N	N	Q	A	K	L	L	G	E	Y	Y	W	K	K
I	R	I	B	R	M	I	N	P	D	I	U	Q	S	S
F	V	L	X	U	D	I	O	S	P	U	Z	N	K	O
I	E	N	G	N	A	L	O	A	Q	A	E	Y	O	U
S	L	M	F	H	H	Q	D	Y	N	T	E	F	O	P
N	Y	F	S	L	A	U	L	Y	F	A	N	N	C	X
W	Z	Y	U	Z	G	M	E	I	G	H	N	G	I	S
S	D	P	M	X	E	V	S	Z	A	K	W	A	Y	P
N	Y	J	D	B	A	J	G	C	C	M	B	G	B	G
W	V	C	E	G	A	L	V	R	H	F	S	Q	Q	O
A	H	E	F	H	P	M	A	P	O	I	G	B	P	B
R	F	Y	X	O	Y	Z	T	O	T	L	C	E	F	T
P	C	R	R	Y	X	O	C	O	P	E	P	K	I	Q
S	K	C	I	T	S	P	O	H	C	P	D	U	E	P
K	L	O	B	S	T	E	R	P	E	N	R	S	A	N
S	P	I	C	Y	S	I	Z	R	O	F	O	T	H	J
A	V	X	D	E	F	I	S	H	E	S	L	J	N	A



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- Across**
- Offered
 - Female children
 - Frenzied
 - Polite form of address
 - Dutch center of government, The...
 - Strapping
 - Storytelling
 - Raider
 - Early Peruvians
 - Postpone
 - Synthetic fibre
 - Physics or chemistry
 - Summons
 - Additively yummy
 - Odder
 - Join (to)
 - Drugging (horse)
 - Accustomed
 - Scrub hard
 - Approaches
 - Blemished (of skin)
 - Raise, up the...
 - Wild goat
 - Parked undercover
 - UK defense force (1,1,1)
 - Snow monster
 - Module
 - Former Chinese leader, ...Zedong
 - Served in army
 - Ran away
 - Mirror
 - Angriest
 - Links sportsman
 - Buffoon
 - Clamor, ...& cry
 - Despicable person
 - Submarine weapon
 - Newspaper subscribers
 - Playground apparatus
 - Wheel-shaft projection
 - Iran
 - Labeled
 - Honorary
 - Enigmas
 - Supervise
 - Photos
 - Film studio with lion emblem (1,1,1)
 - Dish, chop...
 - Body powder
 - A single entity
 - Local inhabitants
 - Enter (2,2)
 - Nicholas or Ivan
 - Removes silt
 - Permeate
 - Cotton cover
 - Underage people
 - Flora & fauna
 - God of Islam
 - Contradicts
 - Slope
 - School year
 - Untidy
 - Ticked over
 - Flagpoles
 - City, ...Janeiro (3,2)
 - Perpendicular
 - Perilous
 - Conferred holy orders on
 - Get rid of faults in
 - Tumble
 - Glittering objects
 - Friendliness
 - Stereotyped
 - March 21 or September 23
 - Posted via the Web
 - Mend (socks)
 - Actress, ...Delaney
 - Hoard
 - Herbal sachet, bouquet...
 - Fabled giant
 - US state, ...Island
 - Sensible
 - Get steamed up
 - Obtained more weapons
 - Subtle differences
 - Of oceanic flow
 - Heals
 - Zodiac crossover
 - Twice two
 - Ghastly
 - Neglected
 - Young swans
 - Balanced
 - Cookery
 - Ancient
 - Adult nit
 - Charged atom
 - Horse/ass hybrid
 - Silence
 - Conger
 - Menacing warning
 - Prison warder
 - Male executive
 - Length unit
 - Cuts new teeth
 - Make offer
 - Hooked fishing-stick
 - Anti-glare specs (4,7)
 - Bored, ...up
 - Skating ball sport (3,6)
 - Highest
 - Actor, ...Gibson
 - Writing symbols
 - Copy
 - Belittles
 - Actress, Julia...
 - Rubbers
 - Spicy sauce
 - Soft colors
 - Less cold
 - News journals
 - Rock concerts
 - Jewel
 - One, numero...
 - Territory
 - Back section (4,3)
 - French yes
 - Deer meat
 - Entirely consumed (5,2)
 - Nestled
 - Individual performances
 - Desert plants
 - Loathe
 - Tell off
 - Avoid (capture)
 - Small piece
 - Part of circle
 - Raining heavily
 - Artificial (3-4)
 - Butterfly catchers
 - Unwrap
 - Aged
 - Alive
 - Hands over
 - Great artery
 - Customary practice
 - Yellowish-brown
 - Bravery award
 - Rely on
 - Country, Sri...
 - Omitted to (4'1)
 - Beers
 - Gangster
 - Guessing game (1,3)
 - Dimwit
- Down**
- Duration device
 - Unpleasant

Solution on next page

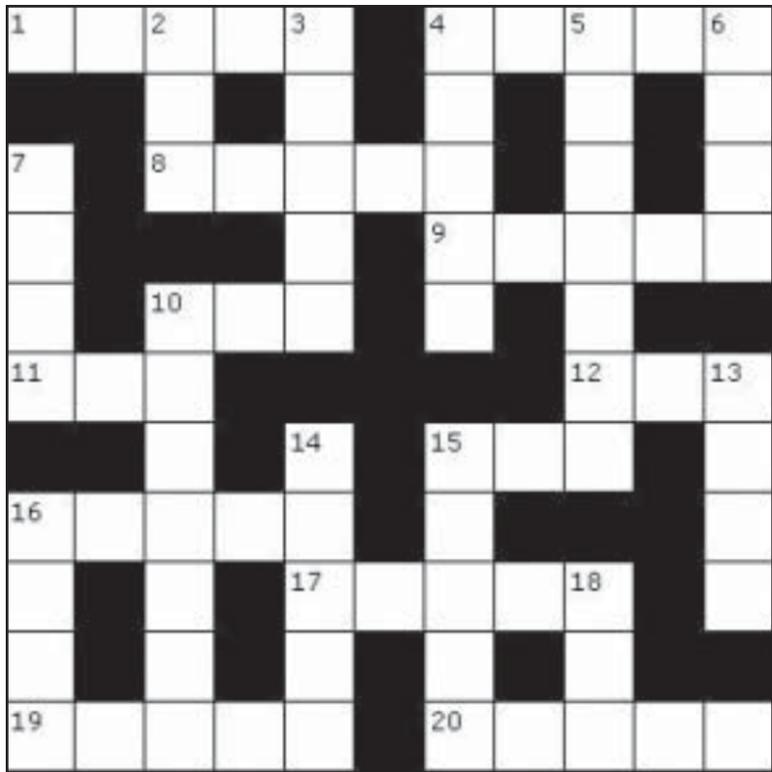
su | do | ku

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

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

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



Quick Crossword

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1. Frighten | 2. Beer |
| 4. Italian city | 3. Our planet |
| 8. Mistake | 4. Join in wedlock |
| 9. Measuring stick | 5. Nighttimes song |
| 10. Remains of a fire | 6. Close |
| 11. Legal rule | 7. Elevated area |
| 12. Wager | 10. Amazing |
| 15. Not wet | 13. Assignment |
| 16. Italian food | 14. Canoe |
| 17. Type of fungus | 15. End of life |
| 19. Talk | 16. Swines |
| 20. Wrestler, Hulk... | 18. Label |

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



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

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Which English football team is nicknamed the Rams? | 8. What "amazing" name was the most popular name given to baby girls in England and Wales in 2007? | 15. Which <i>Carry On</i> star died on the stage of the Sunderland Empire in 1976? |
| 2. Alfred Nobel, after whom the Prizes are named, invented what? | 9. Which actress gave birth to a baby girl called Suri on April 18, 2006? | 16. The doomed ship <i>Titanic</i> had two sister ships that weren't so unfortunate. What were their names? |
| 3. Who became the first UK act in the top 10 of the UK singles chart on downloads alone? | 10. Which football player has cost the most money in accumulated transfer fees throughout his illustrious career? | 17. Which type of animals find their way home using magnetism? |
| 4. Which sailor was born in 1758 at Burnham Thorpe in Norfolk? | 11. What colors are the Olympic rings? | 18. Which rugby union team won the 2007 EDF energy cup? |
| 5. Slovakia, Austria and Romania all border which country? | 12. In which tunnel did Princess Diana's car crash in 1997? | 19. Who sang "Walking in the Air" in the original version of the hit cartoon <i>The Snowman</i> ? |
| 6. What was the name of Hitler's girlfriend? | 13. Which country used to be known as Rhodesia? | 20. What would a German person do with his "handy"? |
| 7. In 2006, former KGB officer Alexander Litvinenko was poisoned by which chemical element? | 14. Who played Jennifer Cavalleri in the 1970 film <i>Love Story</i> ? | |

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

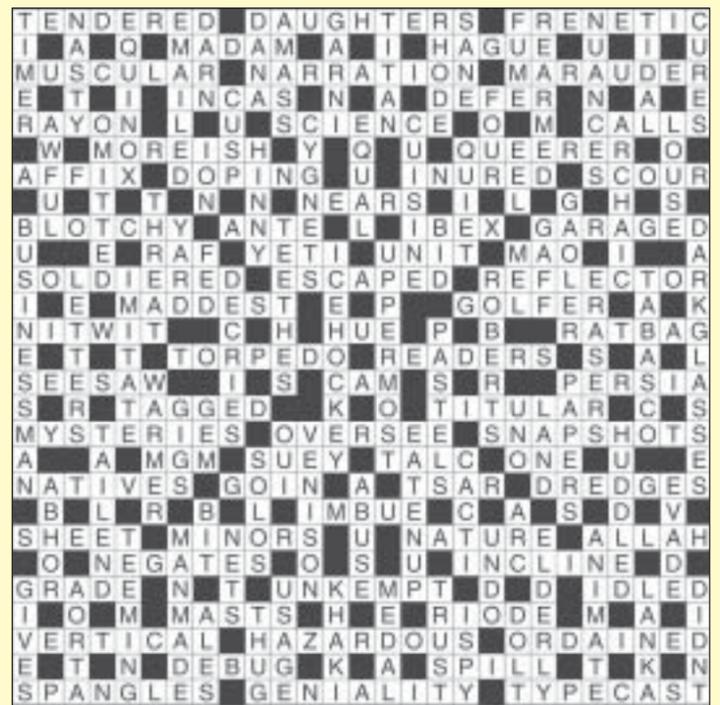
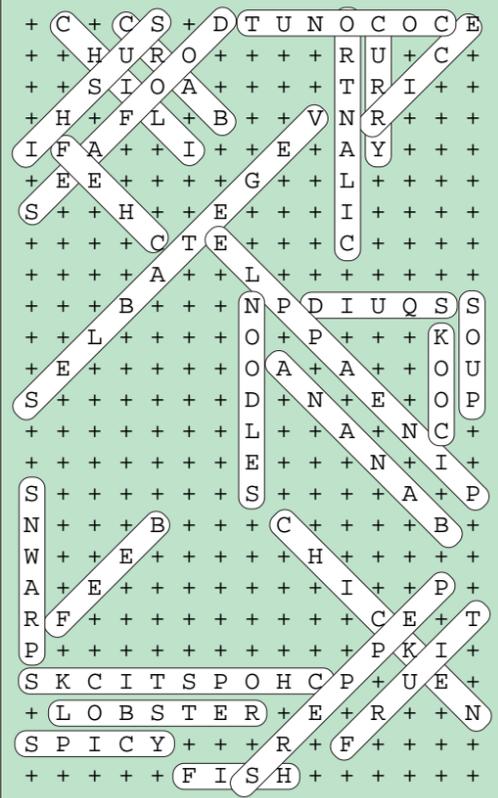
Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

- Derby County;
- Dynamite;
- Girls Aloud;
- Horatio Nelson;
- Hungary;
- Eva Braun;
- Polonium;
- Grace;
- Katie Holmes;
- Nicolas Anelka;
- Blue, yellow, black, green, red;
- Pont D'Alma tunnel in Paris;
- Zimbabwe;
- Ali MacGraw;
- Sid James;
- Britanic and Olympic;
- Molluscs;
- Leicester Tigers;
- Peter Auty;
- Make a phone call with it (German nickname for a cellphone).

Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

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ราคาเริ่มต้นที่ 15.5 ล้านบาท

คอนโดสไตล์ทรู 17 ห้อง
ราคาเริ่มต้นที่ 1.9 ล้านบาท



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SEA THIS: A view worth 20 million baht? Graham Doven thinks not.

Getting my 150 inches worth

I want to buy a house with sea views for 50 thousand dollars”, he says. “No problem,” I reply. “I’ll throw in a golf membership, a swimming pool, first-class return tickets to Las Vegas and a Ferrari.”

What is this thing with a sea view? You can go to the beach every day from anywhere on Phuket in a few minutes and look at the sea for free. My friend looked at an apartment with a sea view. He said that the apartment would be worth about 5 million baht in Bangkok. Here, it’s 25 million baht with the sea view. A 20-million baht view! What’s all the fuss about?

I lived on the beach a few years ago, and like anyone who works, I had a look out at the sea before jumping into the shower and heading off. Once or twice a longtail boat would go past, which was very exciting. When I got home at night, the view would be black. Fascinating; a sea view at night. In the high season, the excitement doubles, as you can also see the lights from a few squid boats.

Of course if you don’t have to work you can look at the sea for 12 hours a day. The occasional sailing boat breaks the scene,

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

perhaps a jetski or two. Otherwise it’s mainly sea, unless you’re at home for the sunset – a redeeming feature. You can still see the sunset for free if you go down to the beach though.

A sea view during the monsoon season is when the real fun begins. The sight of a big black storm front heading towards you across the ocean is quite exciting, especially as it gets closer and you start to see the trees bending over as the wind picks up.

It’s a great time of the year if you live here but eighty percent of the value is the view. I can imagine it may seem a contrast worth paying for if you’ve grown up in the Sahara as a roaming Bedouin all your life with only tents, camels, dates and sandstorms to see, but even so, eighty percent?

There is now another option. Huge, flat-screen TVs. At a London electronics show they

had 150-inch screens. With these “feature windows” in your home, you can live anywhere, even in my village, and still have a sea view. And these sea views can include a lot more. I could have the *QEII* sailing past, followed by the nuclear carrier *USS Ronald Reagan*, right in front of my house.

Paul Allen could have his superyacht moored in front of my house with a big banner hanging over the side saying, “Happy Birthday, Graham. Give me your account number so I can send you some money.”

Humpback whales and porpoises could glide past in an endless procession. You could have a great white shark attacking and eating Poms on jet skis; silencing them forever. That’s a pleasant thought. For a few hundred thousand baht, plus a couple of good computer programs, the possibilities are endless.

But there it is. People will pay for a sea view, and they pay millions for it – dollars, that is. As for me, I remember the famous lines from the great poet, Spike Milligan: “I must go down to the sea again, to the lonely sea and the sky. I left my vest and socks there – I wonder if they’re dry?”

www.phuketcomedy.com

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The Real Flashman

George MacDonald Fraser's recent death at 82 devastated fans of Flashman. In a series of 12 novels, Fraser's fictitious Victorian soldier won numerous campaign decorations from Afghanistan and the Crimea, to China and Ethiopia, despite deserving none of them.

Coward, cad, bully, braggart, drunk, lecher, Flashman bumbles from one hellish misadventure to another, always scrambling to save his own skin.

His exploits reduce middle-aged men to sniggering schoolboys:

"Remember when Flashman was on a horse-sled in the snows of Russia being chased by a wolf pack and, to lighten the load, threw his lover overboard?"

"Remember on that Mississippi riverboat when he sold the girl into slavery?"

A fellow Flashman fan passed on a book that adds some serious depth to the comic series: *Quartered Safe Out Here* (Harvill, London, 1992, 225p), subtitled "A Recollection of the War in Burma".

This is the story of his six months as an infantry private in the Burma campaign. The time is after the Imphal and Kohima

battles, which broke the back of the Japanese divisions invading India.

In 1945, the Imperial armies – English, Scots, Sikhs, Jats, Gurkhas, Africans – were racing in pursuit of the three shattered divisions.



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Two final set-piece battles at Meiktila and Pyawbwe were the last of World War II. Fraser was in the thick of them.

It's amazing how similar his narrative voice is to Flashman's. As in the Flashman series, we get a narrative overture to the key scenes of the story.

We also get a lot of asides and diatribes in the manner of Flashy the crusty old curmudgeon. The many scenes of violent combat and death are as vivid as in the novels.

He makes no bones about his hatred for the Japanese and despises the soft empathic emotions of the current day.

His life for six months was totally dependent upon the other seven men of his section: grizzled veterans of years of war. Of the battle at Meiktila, he writes:

"If the knowledge that they were surrounded and outnumbered by the most cruel and valiant foe on earth worried them, it didn't show, ever.

"Times have changed now, and it is

common to hear front-line troops, subjected to the disgusting inquisition of war reporters, confess to being scared. Of course they're scared; everyone's scared. But it was not customary to confess it, then, or even hint of it.

"It was simply not done, partly out of pride, but far more from the certainty that nothing could be better calculated to sap confidence, in one's self, in one's comrades, and among those at home... Nothing put more heart in me, young and unsure as I was – most of all, fearful of being seen to be fearful – than the fact that, being a Scot, it was half expected that I would be a wild man, a head case."

He does well in Meiktila, charging three machine-gun bunkers, tossing in grenades, shooting an officer wielding a samurai sword.

Eventually he's promoted as lance-corporal to lead his section.

The battle scenes are described with high brio:

"Hitting the deck, face down on the

scrubby earth, automatically whipping rifle to shoulder in the lying position, puffs of dust leaping from the ground to my left, Parker rolling over, yelling, the left breast of his bush-shirt blood-stained; a scream from the right, a blinding cloud of dust and gravel striking me in the face, the rattle of machinegun fire from the wood and irregular cracks of rifle-fire."

At Pyawbwe, Fraser and his section charge across an open field to take a vital railway line and massacre the Japanese who flee up the slope behind.

Old age has softened his anger at the Japanese.

Watching televised interviews with elderly Japanese veterans he was "conscious, despite

myself, of a sort of... not sympathy, but a curious sort of recognition of the old bastards... reminiscing in throat-clearing croaks about battles long ago.

"It crossed my mind: Were any of you on the Pyawbwe slopes, and lived to tell the tale? Well, if they did, at this time of day, I don't mind."

The premise of premises and trouble with the polices

The use of the word "premise" when the intended meaning is 'premises' sounds like fingernails on a blackboard to me. I have heard this mistake on TV and in radio commercials, and seen it written on websites. Please help slow this butchering of the English language.

James Kenny Mamaroneck, New York

Barbara replies: People are saying "premise" — which means a basic assumption — when they mean "premises," or "property"? Good heavens. Yes, I see on the web that they are, particularly in the combinations "on-premise" and "off-premise." That's ridiculous. "Premises" are as different from "a premise" as "glasses" are from "a glass." Everybody who's mixing the two up, cut it out!

A sign recently posted outside the city police headquarters reads: "Kingston Police is moving to" Should it not say "THE Kingston Police ARE moving"? Or "The Kingston Police headquarters is moving"?

James Griffith Kingston, Ontario

Barbara replies: The person

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

who made that sign must have thought, "'Police' doesn't end in 's', so it's a singular noun" — and so it is. Nonetheless, the Oxford Canadian Dictionary, along with the New Oxford American Dictionary, specifies that it should be "treated as plural".

The Oxford English Dictionary also includes a note to that effect — so I think we're safe in calling "is" in that sentence just plain wrong. And of course you're right that "the" is usual with "police," though perhaps we should forgive the writer for leaving it off a sign, where space is limited.

So, yes, "The Kingston Police are moving" would be an improvement. If you bring "headquarters" into it, that's a different story.

"Headquarters" is derived from the plural noun "quarters," meaning "residence" (which in turn is derived from regular old "quarter," meaning "a fourth," though this is probably not the

place to get into why).

"Headquarters" itself can be either singular or plural, according to both the Oxford Canadian and New Oxford American dictionaries. Now, that's handy. Either "The headquarters is" or "The headquarters are" would be correct.

The signs for express lines at Wal-Mart and Target [retail outlets] state "10 items or less," while Hannaford uses "10 items or fewer."

I believe Hannaford is cor-

rect. Do you agree?

Dominick DeCecco Delmar, New York

Barbara replies: I wish stores would all switch to "No more than 10 items" and we could lay this problem to rest. But in the meantime, yes, indeed, Hannaford is correct. "Fewer" is the opposite of "more" when talking about countable things.

So it is obviously the right word for items we're supposed to actually count before we get in the express line. "Less" is for amounts, or quantities, of something we can't count. So it's "fewer words" but "less writing," "fewer problems" but "less grief."

That has been the usual rule for a couple of centuries. Why? Because it's what tends to sound right to educated speakers. As far

as I know, there's no reason beyond that. Signs that say "10 items or less" don't confuse anyone. It's true that in rare cases, "less" and "fewer" can convey different meanings — or they could if we were able to trust they were being used precisely.

A reader recently wrote me about one such case: "less pesticide" versus "fewer pesticides". "Less pesticide" is less of any kind of the stuff; "fewer pesticides" means fewer different kinds of it. But wouldn't you know — what Richard actually saw was "These foods are grown with less pesticides".

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

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Simple solutions to Patong's 'zoom' zones

Complaints from hotel operators and other businesses about noise generated by Destination Air seaplanes (see page 1), not including safety and other issues, raises two serious concerns facing Patong: noise pollution and the long-standing need for better zoning of Patong Bay.

Given the mind-numbing cacophony that has long been part-and-parcel of any visit to Patong, it may come as a surprise that some people are actually starting to complain about noise levels there.

After all, noise levels in Patong are easily the highest in Southern Thailand, with thousands of stereo systems, sound trucks and annoying touts all competing with traffic noise, pounding from construction projects and shrill screaming by excited bar hostesses.

So bad is the ambient noise, the high-decibel alerts emitted by the three high-tech tsunami alert sirens went unheard by many people along the beach the last time they were audibly tested in July last year.

With the addition of turboprop seaplanes, the biggest losers are the resorts along the relatively quiet south end of Patong Bay, which until recently could pride themselves as offering tranquil hideaways just five minutes to the sonic bedlam of Soi Bangla.

As the seaplanes land, noise ceases to be the main issue. As the pilots navigate to shore to drop off passengers near the jetty at the south end of the beach, they join the unregulated mayhem of longtail boats, parasail speedboats, jet-skis and other recreational watercraft that have long since turned the bay into a danger zone where only the foolhardy dare swim.

The *Gazette* recognizes Destination Air shuttle as a professionally-run service that fills a small but important niche in Thailand's Andaman region tourism industry. A simple solution to the noise problem would be to have the seaplane pilots land further offshore.

As for swimming safety in Patong Bay, the simple solution – one that should have been adopted a decade ago – would be to rope off an area the entire length of the beach to a distance 100 meters offshore, from Phra Barami Rd all the way to the Prachanukhro Rd, then declare and enforce the entire section as a swim zone for the duration of the high season.

People who feel the need to risk their safety on jet-skis or with parasails would then be forced to do so in deeper water, where they would not endanger people who ask for nothing more than the right to swim safely at the beach while on vacation.

– The Editor

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

The Phuket Gazette

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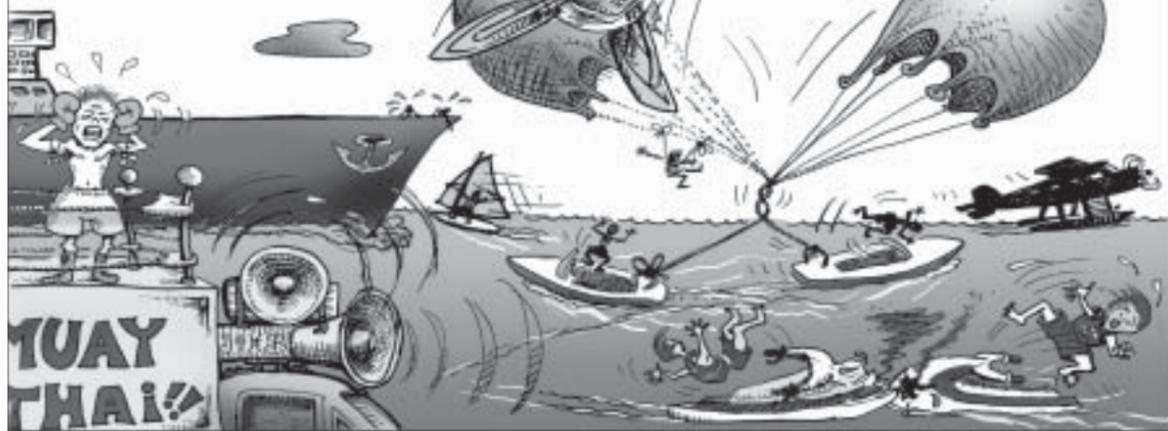
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OVERSIMPLIFICATION:

SEE PLANE.
SEE PLANE RUN.
SEA PLANE! RUN!!!



SEA PLANES IN PATONG: NEW SYMPTOM, OLD PROBLEMS.

Letters

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

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

Seaplane story shows holes in beach safety

I am pleased to see officials showing concern for the safety of locals and tourists around the Patong Beach area ["Officers befuddled by seaplanes in Patong", *Gazette* online January 31].

I have frequently watched these planes land. They always appear to fly over the area first, I would assume, to determine the safest approach.

It is a pity the officials involved do not pay as much attention to the safety of people with regards to the jet-ski and boat operators.

I hope they enjoy their free flight, maybe they will get a bird's eye view of the potential hazards.

Frank Tomenson
By email

Brits behaving badly

It was with great interest that I recently read an article by Andrew Spooner in the UK daily newspaper the *Independent*.

The writer claimed that Thailand was one of the most dangerous places in the world for British citizens. With the recent influx of tourists to Phuket, it's easy to see why: people lose their minds in this country.

Although I have never felt particularly unsafe in Thailand, I'm left wondering whether the problem is that Thailand is dangerous or rather that some of the people who come here are ignorant. Would people go to South Africa or Columbia and exhibit the kind of behavior we, as observers, are subjected to in Phuket? Surely not.

If stories about men who marry bar girls and end up dead

can make the English national press and provoke discussion about the dangers of Thailand, there must be something not quite right in the world.

Why is it that so many foreigners come to Thailand with rose-tinted glasses on and then complain when they are forced to see that Thailand isn't some haven made by Walt Disney for our benefit? Andrew Spooner's article only served to point out the obvious: that Thailand is a long way from home.

Perhaps the British government should warn its citizens against being idiots and marrying prostitutes; I think that is what Andrew Spooner was getting at.

Ted Branson
Rawai

Wasted police efforts are our own fault

As Phuket's roads become filled with more and more cars and the local constabulary spend more and more time directing traffic and clearing up the mess left by accidents instead of directing their limited resources to solving real crimes, isn't it time to give the police a break by re-evaluating the way in which traffic accidents are handled?

Today, I saw two cars parked on the side of the road after one had rear-ended the other. Someone had obviously called the police as a police pickup had just parked up behind them and a police officer was talking to the cars' occupants. There was hardly any damage to either of the cars and none of the occupants or drivers were hurt.

Surely, in a simple front-to-rear bump such as this, the respective insurance representative

could handle the paperwork. There is no need for the police to be involved, freeing them to patrol the streets and check on the real bad guys.

Drivers could also help by understanding the traffic laws, the abuse of which has got to be one of the greatest causes of the absurdly-high death toll on Phuket's roads.

I recently went to renew paperwork at the Transport Office. There, people were queuing up with their cars and motorbikes to take the driving license test.

What a farce. No wonder there are so many Phuket drivers who have no idea how to drive safely – they are never taught.

The only reason drivers wear seatbelts or motorcycle riders wear helmets is because they are afraid of being fined.

There is no form of driver's education that has to be taken before getting behind a wheel or astride a motorbike. The answer is so simple: driving lessons.

Terrance Pruess
Phuket

A Swedish salute

I am the news editor of a newspaper in the southeast of Sweden. My family and I visit Phuket at least once a year when our girls have their winter holiday.

When we are back home in Sweden again we follow what is happening in Phuket by reading the *Phuket Gazette*. I must say that you have got a very impressive paper and website. I just wanted you to know that you are doing a good job.

We will be back in Phuket in February, so until then, we will read the *Gazette* every day.

Ulf Carlsson
Sweden

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

Sustainable development key to a bright future

Thailand has a big problem with oversupply. When someone does something well, thousands of people suddenly follow that lead, which soon creates a surplus.

The same can be said about the attitude of some developers in Phuket, who have focused on certain areas such as the west coast as the best places to build resorts. There are many parts of the island still suitable for resorts.

We are always following others because we fear failure. Many of Thailand's developers are entrenched in standard building methods, unable to take the tropical climate and environment into consideration through long-term planning to ensure that a property will be viable in the future.

When developers are planning a new hotel, for example, they should look carefully at the demand and supply and whether there is really a need for the extra rooms they will be adding to the island.

Before commencing new projects, developers should also look at whether they will receive government support in the future, such as budget and plans for improving the infrastructure in that area.

As well as being creative and open minded, it is still important to be conservative when thinking about development. We should always make sure there is a way out if things go wrong. Why would anyone enter a place if they cannot see a way out?

Phuket is a special island and quite different from Bangkok, which has been developed with very little control or restrictions to a point of no return.

It's important that Phuket does not follow this lead and that

FIRST PERSON

Prominent property developer **Songkran Pissara** sees Phuket as having potential to become an international hub for quality tourism and commerce that could put it on a par with other Asian countries, such as Hong Kong and Singapore, but only if the right steps are taken to ensure sustainable development.

Here, K. Songkran shares his views on how Phuket should move ahead in various sectors, including property, tourism, commerce and education.



the authorities take steps to ensure Phuket grows in a way that preserves the things that make it an attractive place to live.

People in Bangkok often only see Phuket as a place where a lot of tourists go and where property is expensive, but that is a shallow view.

In reality, Phuket has a lot of potential as an international commercial hub. Singapore, for example, is about the same size as Phuket. Singapore's gross domestic product (GDP) is larger than all of Thailand's. There is no reason why Phuket shouldn't enjoy a similar status if development of the island is handled responsibly.

Each year, Phuket earns billions of baht for the country as a whole. Much of that money goes to Bangkok, but proportionately, we see very little reinvested in Phuket's infrastructure.

I believe that it is possible

to make money and ensure conservation at the same time. I am convinced that Phuket can be managed effectively without having to sacrifice our environment in the name of development.

The pace of development in Phuket is out of control just as much as it is in Bangkok.

A lot of development takes place without proper planning for the environment and the future, either by the developer or the people who authorize the developments.

The policing and security needs of Phuket are something the authorities in Bangkok also find difficult to understand. Phuket needs more police officers and surveillance cameras, but funding for these comes from Bangkok and is based on Phuket's registered population.

Instead, government budgets should be allocated accord-

ing to the actual number of people living, working and visiting the island.

A lot of foreigners see Thailand as an easygoing country where people are free to do what they want.

This may be attractive, but it does not benefit the country in the long run. This is the wrong concept of freedom; you can still have freedom even with restrictions in place.

Look at countries like the UK, where they are strict about the process of development.

The rules and regulations are in place for everyone's benefit and they still allow for creative and inspiring development.

Transparency and honesty are important. Anyone can make mistakes and things will always go wrong, but if we are honest with each other about problems then it is much easier to sort them out.

Phuket's success as a tourist destination has nothing to do with Thailand's economy being in good shape. At the moment, Phuket is still attractive to tourists and it is the income from them that keeps the local economy propped up.

Phuket has been lucky so far this year. The tourists are still coming, but I don't know how much longer they will keep coming if the development of the island is not properly controlled.

The convention hall will be a good addition to Phuket. It doesn't matter where in Phuket the convention hall is built. It will be a large facility for everyone's benefit that will bring people and income to the island.

International exhibitions can be held there in the low season to bring more visitors to the island when there aren't so many people here on holiday.

In these times, surveillance and security issues need attention. We need to be strict about security for people and cars entering Phuket by limiting the number of cars allowed onto the island.

Security and surveillance, such as searching cars coming into Phuket, is something Bangkok wants to have control over. Security and surveillance should be centralized and put in control of the police. This will boost public confidence.

Phuket could be a national and international hub for commerce and leisure. Many more boats would stop here if there were more suitable harbors and marinas for them, but at the moment, they are going to more accessible places in the region.

Phuket could also be an education hub. The island's commerce is geared to tourism, so it's logical that the island should be a regional center for vocational education, especially in the hospitality industry.

We already have luxury services and facilities here, plus the hospitality mindset, so we should be aiming to become leaders in this industry and providing the international standard facilities for hospitality training.

Foreigners studying for qualifications in the hospitality industry should be coming to a Phuket hotel school.

Phuket has potential to be developed as a quality international destination. It is rich in natural resources and we have a lot of space.

If we focus on quality and sustainability while being honest with each other and the issues we are facing, there is no reason Phuket can't enjoy the same kind of economic success and status as Singapore and Hong Kong.

Are children exempt from visa runs?

I have a two-year-old child who entered Thailand on a 12-month multiple-entry "O" visa.

I was told by Immigration that he doesn't need to leave Thailand every 90 days as they don't charge children under 14 with overstays.

However, a friend told me that she had asked Immigration and was told that her child *would* have to leave every 90 days. Which is correct?

Pete Aston
Rawai

Issues & ANSWERS

**Want to know how to get something done?
Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities?
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we'll ask the appropriate people to respond.**

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staying their permits-to-stay, it is still not good to have an overstay recorded on the child's passport.

If possible, you should take your child out of the country with you when you next go on a visa

run, as your visas should expire at the same time.

As your child entered Thailand with a non-immigrant "O" visa, which I guess is dependent on your non-immigrant "O" visa,

Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen of the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office replies:

Although children under 14 years old are not fined for over-

I suggest that you request a one-year permit-to-stay from Immigration for yourself and for your child.

This will enable you to stay without having to leave the country every 90 days. Your child will, however, need to report at an Immigration office every 90 days.

If, however, your child is a student, you can apply for your child to be issued an "ED-visa", with which he can be issued a permit-to-stay for the scholastic year.

You can download the requirements for qualifying for a one-year permit-to-stay online from: www.immigration.go.th/nov2004/2notice/rtp606EN.pdf.

Animal shelter nears completion

The Soi Dog Foundation has announced that a new dog shelter, animal hospital and education center will open next month in Mai Khao. Situated on 10 rai, the new facilities will not replace the current government-run dog pound in Thalang where the charity has been operating for the past 15 months.

A person from the foundation explained that in November, the charity received a letter from the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO) offering thanks for help with improving the pound at a time of financial hardship, but that the PPLO now had a budget to run the pound independently.

The foundation spent more than 2 million baht on new shelters, fences and drainage, as well as the construction of a clinic. Additional staff were employed along with a full-time vet.

In return, the PPLO allowed the foundation to house rescued animals and those in need of treatment at the pound.

With about 180 dogs in its care, the foundation made an emergency appeal to international supporters for funds to construct a new shelter. After a positive response, work commenced in November

2007 and is expected to be completed by the end of this month.

Gill Dalley of the foundation said, "We were overwhelmed with the response. The new center will operate differently to the current pound.

"As well as providing accommodation for the Thai veterinary staff and shelter workers, it will comprise an animal hospital incorporating two operating theaters, treatment areas and isolation units, an education center, and a number of hygienic enclosures to house animals rescued from abuse and neglect," she said.

"Dogs are treated and assessed. We hope to find new homes on the island for as many of the animals as possible. The majority of the dogs rescued would make ideal family pets. This is evidenced by the increasing number of dogs adopted by Europeans, North Americans and even Japanese. Approximately 200 dogs and cats were re-homed in 2007 by the foundation," she added.

"The dog pound is basically a place where local authorities can round up dogs to keep them off the streets.

"While we understand the motive, historically, such methods of population control have not normally worked as other

dogs rapidly take their place," said Mrs Dalley.

"The foundation believes that it is far better to sterilize a local population that will then guard their territory from outsiders without being able to increase their numbers," she added.

The foundation accepts that having seen a reduction in the dog population, numbers are creeping up again in some areas, particularly where sterilized dogs were removed, said Mrs Dalley, adding that it was because of a cutback for financial reasons in the number of dogs the foundation sterilized in 2007.

With the co-operation of the PPLO, the foundation is now looking to sterilize large numbers this year. Money will be raised through increased support from overseas and at least two major fundraising events planned for the summer, she said.

The foundation is dependent on support from companies and individuals as no financial aid comes from government agencies.

"We need more people like Evason owners Sonu and Eva Shivdasani who understand the problem and have not only donated personally to the new shelter, but have encouraged their employees to do likewise," said Mrs Dalley.

Other companies on the island are

starting to support the foundation after seeing the benefits to tourism and the community as a whole. "Sadly, many of the largest companies on the island, although quick to call us when they have a dog problem, shy away when it is suggested they contribute towards the solution," she added.

"We will always respond to calls for help when there is a problem with stray animals, but other than sterilizing them and treating any injuries or disease, we will not remove dogs or cats simply because they are not wanted there; the new facility would rapidly become overcrowded," she said.

When asked about what will happen at the dog pound, Mrs Dalley said that the foundation had received assurances from the PPLO that the foundation would be allowed to continue visiting the pound to provide veterinary treatment as required.

Although the foundation's methods may differ from those in other countries, the goal is to stop Phuket becoming like Bali, where tourism developed much earlier and there are now an estimated 500,000 stray dogs because of a prolonged lack of an effective neutering program.

To contact the Soi Dog Foundation, visit their website at www.soidog.org, email john@soidog.org, or call 087-0508688.



By Top Dog

In The Stars

by Isla Star

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Good news in the area of work is only the tip of the iceberg for Aquarians. Carefully made plans should guarantee imminent success with new projects. Be on the lookout for a dishonest Sagittarian who would like to steal your limelight. Pisces can be trusted to provide support.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): If you have doubted your capabilities recently, you will receive welcome confirmation that you are heading in the right direction. Where love is concerned, secrets come out into the open and this will enable you to make important choices. If you are footloose and fancy-free, a social outing this weekend could lead to a relationship with Libra. Money

matters are better started towards the end of next week; resist making agreements before then.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): An ongoing disagreement at work reaches boiling point this week. The best day for instigating a truce is Wednesday, but don't bend over backwards to placate the person concerned. If you have found it difficult to understand your partner lately, you should discover the true problem this weekend. A new exercise routine will do wonders to improve your energy levels. The number 8 can be lucky later this week.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): You can expect to be called upon to assist a friend in need this

weekend. Your down-to-earth outlook and advice will be much appreciated, but you should make your limits clear. Work commitments expand as the week progresses and it's possible that you could drain your batteries. Cupid will be on standby on Tuesday, so plan a date for that evening.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): A light-hearted week lies ahead for you. After recent hard work that has brought some stress, take advantage of opportunities to relax and have fun. Sultry Scorpio is becoming intrigued by you and could make a romantic lunge when you least expect it. This liaison has good chances of working out, but maintaining your independence must have priority.

The number 4 can be lucky on Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Welcome news regarding finances is forecast this week. Your plans for investment can now be put into action and rewards should prove to be better than first anticipated. You could discover that a new partner's interest is waning – it would be better to end this relationship before you are drawn into game-playing. Leo is waiting to make your acquaintance.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Getting sensible answers could be a challenge this week. Your learning curve is likely to bring you back to a familiar place, but by now you should have the skills to help you move on. Virgo is interested in what makes you tick and single Leos can look forward to some romantic roars. The number 6 is lucky on Tuesday.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Putting all your eggs in one basket is not the way to move forward at present. Practice the art of multi-tasking in order to take advantage of opportunities. A romantic tryst will improve your mood this weekend, but don't expect too much too soon from this relationship. Money matters require urgent attention on Wednesday when an error comes to light.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Life's a beach for most Librans this week. With pressing work matters behind you, the emphasis is on fun in the sun. Friends will appreciate the

chance to get together this weekend and your party-planning talents are sure to make the occasion a success. An affair of the heart is about to become more serious. If you're not ready for commitment, make this clear before the person concerned assumes too much.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): You may be surprised this week to discover that you have previously untapped talents. The chance to expand your horizons comes at a welcome time and the stars will support your attempts to branch out. The social scene is also set to improve as your sparkling wit impresses new acquaintances this weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Don't believe everything you hear this week. Gossip is liable to be rife with rumors and some of these could concern you. Stay cool to survive this rocky period. An intimate relationship benefits from quality time spent getting to know the person in question. Leo has a worthwhile tip on Thursday that could improve your finances.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): A dream is about to come true. Travel is highlighted during the coming weeks, so check that your documents are in order. Forgetfulness could be a stumbling block, particularly on Monday and Tuesday. Gemini would like to turn a friendship into something more meaningful, but another Capricorn is not as interested as they pretend to be. Wear a piece of onyx to help unearth the truth.

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- Moo Baan Irawadee, Samkong

Getting seen on the Web

A website is like a poster or a business card: it's useless if people can not see it. Twice this month, smart friends stunned me by asking if Google is organized alphabetically, like the phone book. If that were true, everyone including Zulu Zack the Zebra Zookeeper would choose website names like Aaaaa.com.

So how do Google and Yahoo decide which webpages to show? Google and Yahoo are search engines. The art of getting your website noticed on Google and Yahoo is called **OUT OF THE BOX** Search Engine Optimization (SEO).

Unless you're in a very competitive market, you can easily raise your website's "search results rank" above that of your competitors.

So, how do Google and Yahoo choose which webpages are the best match for search-words? The complete, real answer is of course a corporate secret, and the pros use guesswork, imperfect research and anecdotal experience.

However, the basic rules are well known and take only a few minutes to learn. Many are common sense, making them easy to remember and apply.

The first tip is create links to your pages from other websites. This might come as a surprise, but what you do inside your website shouldn't be your biggest concern. Neither is filling out a form and sending it to Google or Yahoo. Your goal should be obtaining quality links from other websites, back to yours.

Take a look at one of my websites, www.Tessellations.org. It's not pretty and it ignores some SEO rules. Yet, the front page has a Google page rank equal to the front page of Google.co.th (Google of Thailand). The site has between 8,000 and 18,000 visitors a day, and shows up first or fourth if someone searches Google or Yahoo for "tessellation" or "tessellations".

Why? Because thousands of public schools' websites show hyperlinks (clickable, blue, under-

lined text) pointing to Tessellations.org. Google guesses that if those worthy sites are willing to link to Tessellations.org, then my site must be valuable. This is the same strategy as choosing a girlfriend because she hangs out with nuns, rich folks, bandits or bar-girls.

How can you get other websites to link to you? You can post links to your site when it's an appropriate, natural part of the conversation in online forums or in a syndicated article.

Likewise, you can use a popular online business directory. Quite a few online business directories in Phuket have enviably high page ranks and are worth investigating.

You can trade links with other webmasters, but avoid useless or destructive links. If a SEO company promises to raise your Google rank by putting links to your site on a 1,000 "fake" websites or on random webpages in a huge pool of link-traders, your rank will skyrocket.

Then, also like a skyrocket, it will self-destruct. Google and Yahoo rightly consider it spam and penalize your website, blacklisting it for months or years.

Notice that I use the term "page rank", not "site rank". If a webmaster offers to put a link to your page on their site at www.JoeShmooVietnamVacations.com/thailand/links3.html, tell them, "Thanks, but no thanks." Even if their site has highly ranked pages, chances are "links3.html" is not one of them. Not to mention your link is most likely sharing the SEO value with 20 other links on that page.

Visitors to www.JoeShmooVietnamVacations.com are not interested in your business or the site is competing directly with yours for a limited number of vacationers. That link on Joe Shmoo's site isn't helping your



Smart pranksters made George W. Bush's resume at Whitehouse.gov the top Google search result for 'miserable failure' - all by search engine optimization.

business. Google may conclude that you're link-spamming - and blacklist you.

Remember: it's not a backlink if there's no link. I've seen a scam where tour agents devote an entire webpage to a famous charter boat, but don't provide a link to the boat-owner's site, thus don't send that boat customers. The agents use the fame of that boat in a "bait-and-switch" scheme. Their bait-and-switch page ranks higher than the boat-owner's page, so he's losing business to these scammers.

Choose link-trading partners that create synergy with your business. For example, if you run a scuba shop, then link-trade with a hotel, restaurant or airline that your customers use.

Also, ask your wholesaler to showcase you as a model customer, present your company's success story and links to your site on his site.

Perhaps get a popular online news service to publish a story about you, including links to your website.

Also, use your customers... in a nice way. Keen business people know the advertising value of parting gifts: a pocketful of pamphlets, an inexpensive trophy or certificate, maybe just a free T-shirt. Yet, most don't yet realize the SEO value of sending customers home with a CD full of

text-rich, link-rich photo gallery webpages. Such CDs are as easily copied and distributed as pamphlets, but they can also become part of customers' blogs. "See what I did this past summer: here's me in a kickboxing match and recuperating in Patong. Here are links to the kickboxing camp, bar and hospital..." Geddit?

It fails for 30-baht purchases at 7-Eleven, but for purchases worth several thousands of baht, adding the cost of a little picture-taking and some reusable HTML forms is good, cheap advertising.

The text in a hyperlink is vitally important. Google uses that text to determine what your website is about.

The perfect proof of this rule happened a few years ago when some famous bloggers put links on their site that pointed to George W. Bush's resume at Whitehouse.gov

What made their prank interesting was the text in the link: "My brother-in-law is a miserable failure. That Nicolas Cage movie was a miserable failure. A 'lead balloon' is a miserable failure."

Almost immediately, Google searches for "miserable failure" produced prominent links to George W. Bush's resume.

Of course, the words "miserable failure" don't appear at Whitehouse.gov, but Google considers links from other websites so important that the content of Whitehouse.gov didn't matter.

So, if you convince other websites to display links back to your website, make sure that they do it right.

Test yourself: You must have key search terms in the link text in your website's name and preferably in your company name. Test yourself below: Which link is best?

Free beer! Click here.

AndamanExclusive.com gives away free beer.

The best travel agency in Phuket, Andaman Exclusive, gives away free beer.

The best travel agents in Phuket, Kathu's own Andaman Exclusive Tour Agency, gives away free beer.

Each of these lines is better than the one above it.

Next time, I'll discuss the simple SEO changes you can make to your website. If you can't wait, read about this and other computer matters at www.ovisual.com/phuketcomputerclub/



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Stock market survival tip: Don't flee from the bears

With television business channels full of debates and discussions about the dismal outlook for much of the global economy, the present global scenario might seem far from positive. At times, it almost seems to be a competition between participants to win a prize for being the most pessimistic.

For investors, graphs are very useful tools; a graph analysis tells its own story. These graphs show the history of two major stock market indexes: the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the FTSE100 (The Footsie), expressed in their respective currencies, namely, US dollars and pound sterling. The base is the sum of 1000 initially invested in these currencies.

On the starting date, December 31, 1982, the market was in the early phase of a strong bullish period. Five years later was the "crash of October 1987". At the time, this event was of numbing proportions. Many believed that it would take years if not decades for markets to recover.

Sadly, many investors took flight, cashed in their holdings and regretted the day they had heard of stock markets. The media had a huge and chilling story to tell. However, the period is a mere blip on the graph, of little consequence.

The invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, followed by the Gulf War and the recession that continued through 1992 are all recorded.

Again, on the graph, the bad times look insignificant.

The volatility in markets that started in 2000 will also look like "small potatoes" in years to come. If investors had – instead of cashing out – added more money to their portfolio every time the

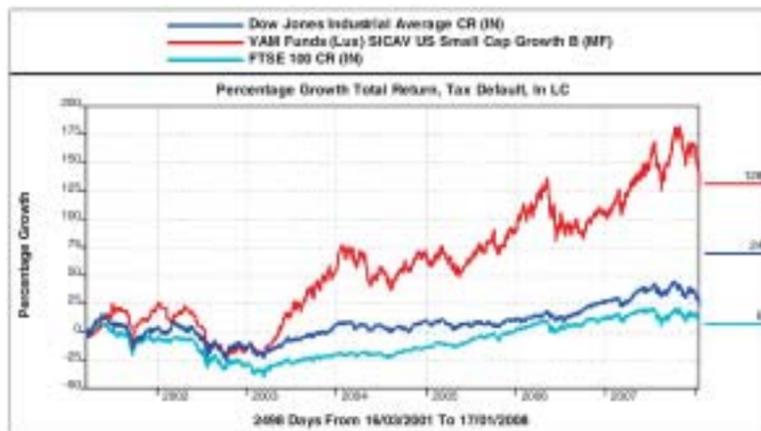
market fell, they would have substantially outperformed the respective indexes.

The second graph adds another component; namely, VAM Funds US Small Cap Growth. This shows the difference in performance compared with similar indexes where a talented manager is employed. The danger in simply employing a good fund manager is that a) the manager can be hit by a proverbial truck or, more likely, b) moves to different company. So, it's necessary to use an investment house that employs a standard investment discipline, regardless of individual portfolio managers.

The second graph also highlights the use of a small cap growth fund. Small caps are simply smaller companies that have a market capitalization of between US\$500 million and US\$2 billion.

Smaller companies that are well managed are inclined to have advantages over larger companies. They can often respond much more rapidly to changing market conditions and, in most cases, are less bureaucratic.

The disadvantage is that in an economic downturn or period of panic, small companies are less liquid, and their share prices may plunge further than large companies. However, over longer periods of time, assuming the same quality of investment management, small companies will out-



UP AND UP: Even severe economic downturns make barely a blip in the upward movements of stock markets over time.

ABOVE: The history of two major stock market indexes: the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the FTSE100. **LEFT:** The VAM US Small Cap Growth fund has significantly outperformed the markets over the long term.



MONEY TALKS

By Richard G. Watson



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perform. That is not to say that portfolios should not contain large- and medium-cap companies.

Stock markets are not always that simple. Consider the experience of investors in, say, Japan or Thailand. Investors who became involved in the Japanese stock market 20 years ago have still lost more than half of their capital and, in Thailand, the market, as measured by the SET index, is still less than 50% of the price of 1994.

This is why it is important that investors, especially in

emerging markets, use a regional approach; that is, Asean, Eastern or simply emerging markets. It gives the fund manager an "escape route" if necessary.

Stock markets as an investment destination are profitable – but patience is required. To sell when markets are down, which is the immediate instinctive reaction of many non-professional investors, is merely a guarantee of crystallizing a loss.

The chief investment officer of Driehaus Capital Management Richard Driehaus's comment that "It's Time in the Market – not

Timing the Market" is very true.

"Investors who missed the best 40 trading days in the last 15 years would have lost 90% of the potential gain in that market," press reports quote Fidelity International as stating, according to the fund company's research.

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By Natcha Yuttaworawit

Franchise giant maintains significant growth

PHUKET: Minor Group franchisee The Andaman Food Group (AFG), which operates several major fast food outlets in Phuket, reports continued growth in 2007 following a banner year in 2006.

AFG outlets include Oishi restaurants and services (Oishi Express, Oishi Ramen, Oishi Delivery), In & Out Bakery Cafe and The Pizza Company at Central Festival Phuket.

Managing Director Thanaseth Kulveeraaree said AFG is opening more outlets in Phuket after a healthy recovery from the slowdown in business following the 2004 tsunami.

The Pizza Company Phuket branch is one of 34 branches nationwide, K.Thanaseth said.

"The economic slowdown after the tsunami affected all our businesses in 2005. Total income for that year, from all the businesses under the Andaman Food Group umbrella, was only about 52 million baht," K. Thanaseth said.

Income increased dramatically in 2006, rising 60% to 80 million baht. 2007 saw more moderate income growth of 15% and a total income of 102 million baht. For 2008, the company expects a slight increase in revenue of 5%, with a total income of 110 million baht.

In line with expansion plans, the group invested 5 million baht at the start of the year

to expand the Oishi Express outlet at Index Living Mall and revamp a meeting room there by installing conference facilities which include an LCD TV, projector, public address system and Wi-Fi Internet.

"To increase our customer base, in February last year we also began targeting Korean tour groups. To cater to the extra customers, we expanded our facilities by 200 square meters, including a new meeting room for up to 50 people. We also added another 20 seats, bringing the total seating capacity to 250," K. Thanaseth said.

Including delivery services, AFG served a total of 420,920 customers in 2007. Of these, about 60% were Thais, said K Thanaseth.

"We hope to see a further increase this year as a result of TAT marketing abroad. This year's plans include importing frozen bakery products from Hong Kong to supply hotels and bakeries that do not have chefs on site," he added.

The group's latest venture is a 4-million-baht expansion into Thai fusion cuisine with the Simply Bla Bar on Soi Bangyai, op-

posite the Oishi Express at Index Living Mall. The outlet, designed to have a romantic atmosphere, seats 140. The target group is adults aged between 25 and 40.

"Expenditure over the past three years has been 70 million baht. Almost half [48%] of all income has come from Oishi outlets: Oishi Express and Oishi Ramen. Income from Oishi Delivery totals 10%, In & Out 7%, and The Pizza Company 20%. The remaining income comes from wholesale and catering services," he said.

About 45 million baht has been set aside for four more res-

taurants around Phuket. "We are currently looking for a suitable location to build an Oishi Shabu Shabu branch," he added.

AFG's General Manager for Marketing, Peerachsak Chunharatchapan, said 70-80% of the produce used by the group is sourced locally.

"We order from local suppliers as we want to support the local business community. The prices are good and the quality is high," he said.

"As part of our third anniversary last November, and as a way of giving something back to the community, we are planning

to contribute three police boxes to Phuket City Police. We see the serious traffic problems on bypass road and want to give the police officers assigned there some shelter," said K. Thanaseth.

"The police boxes will be at the Tesco-Lotus and Central Festival Phuket intersections, and at the Wat Naka T-junction.

"Although we are new to outside catering, we successfully served 3,000 guests during last year's King's Cup Regatta function at Jungceylon.

"We plan to continue expanding our catering services with the focus on mixing Thai, Japanese and European cuisines.

"We employ 200 staff members and are seeking to employ more as we expand. We estimate this year's growth to be over 5%. We are not rushing to overtake our competitors, just to do our best," he said.

VITAL STATISTICS			
Company registrations regain momentum			
Type	November 2005	November 2006	November 2007
Limited company registrations	103	53	71
Limited partnership registrations	19	24	18
Limited companies changed	310	370	359
Limited partnerships changed	30	35	33
Companies deregistered	42	24	37
Partnerships deregistered	18	11	10

Source: Business Development Office

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Loughland takes Lounge Lizards to victory

THALANG: In the 2008 Island Furniture Cricket League on January 27, Russell Loughland of Liquid Lounge Lizards (LLL) had an impressive day with bat and ball against the Phuket Cricket Association (PCA) at Cherg Talay Wittayakoim School.

For the first time this season, Loughland found himself opening the bowling after PCA skipper Firoz "Mike" Khan won the toss and elected to bat. It wasn't long before PCA found themselves in trouble when the top four of their batting lineup were back in the quadrillion with just 13 runs on the score-board.

Rishi Sadarangani then tore into the LLL bowling attack, blazing 58 runs from 26 balls, including six sixes and three fours.

Unfortunately, there wasn't much support at the other end for Sadarangani, apart from Yatin who chipped in with 17 runs. Once these two fell, the writing was on the wall and PCA were all out for 105 in the 17th over. Loughland picked up six wickets for 41 runs off eight overs.

After the lunch break, LLL got off to a shaky start by losing opening batsman Michael Ayling for a duck. Du Preez was next on his way back to the pavilion for just five runs. He was judged LBW off the bowling of Diwan Mydeen.

Out to the crease came Loughland, who proceeded to steady the LLL ship and steered the side home to victory in the 19th over.

LLL earned 17 points for their win, bringing their season total to 36 points. The PCA got their season off to a slow start by notching up just five points.

Darts legend lets loose

Three-time world dart champion John Lowe was recently in Phuket for a long stay on the island. Here, Gazette News Editor and darts enthusiast Stephen Fein catches up with darts icon Lowe, who was the first man to score a perfect nine-dart finish on television.

Stephen Fein: You had the first televised nine-dart finish (closing out 501 in the least possible number of darts – a perfect game). Do you still vividly remember that?

John Lowe: Oh yeah. You never forget things like that, because that's the perfect game of 501 and you have to do it in just nine darts, so it is something you never forget – ever.

SF: Do you get nervous and think you might mess up when you're going for a nine-dart finish?

JL: No, no. It's not going to happen very many times to anybody in their whole lifetime of playing darts.

All you are really doing is trying to throw nine perfect darts. Nine holes-in-one in golf – consecutively, that's really what it is. So, no, you don't think.

You know you are on a good game and you try to carry it on. If you miss with one dart, that's it – it's all over. So it has to be right all the way through.

SF: What are you up to nowadays?

JL: I do exhibitions and promotions around the world. I write books. I've got a website.

We are about to sign a contract to be on television in England, four hours every Friday night, for 10 weeks. That's big.

It's competitive darts, the Legends of Darts. It's like The

Seniors of golf. There will only be eight of us in it playing every Friday night for 10 weeks. There is a prize of around half-a-million dollars. It's quite good – it's worth practicing for.

SF: When you were consistently playing tournaments, what was your practice routine?

JL: It has all changed over the years. I used to play on my own, but now I practice maybe for just a couple of hours. I usually like to go to a bar to play – not at home – because I like the atmosphere at a bar.

So I get in there at about 3:30 in the afternoon, when there are only a few people around, and play until about 6 pm.

Usually I play with a mate of mine. If you play with someone else, you have to wait for him to take his throws. That's exactly the same as you do on television.

I can live on that now, because when you have played darts professionally for 35 years, you don't need to play six hours a day – you just need fine tuning.

SF: Tell me about your book *Old Stoneface*?

JL: That's my autobiography. It's been out about a year now, but it is still on the market. Anyone can get it online at The Legends website.

And I have a coaching manual coming out in October called *The Art of Darts*, which



From left: John Lowe, good friend and newlywed David Brook, who runs the Island Lager Bar at Sukhumvit Rd entertainment complex, and John's wife, Karen.

is the first ever by a top-line pro about how to play professionally. It's being published by the biggest publisher in Britain. That will be my fifth book.

SF: How old you were when you started playing?

JL: I was 21 before I ever threw a dart – just purely by fate. I used to race motorcycles and, well, one day I just walked into a pub and took my first throw at a dartboard and then I played ever after.

SF: What advice would you give to someone who wants to take his or her game to the next level?

JL: You only get out of it what you put into it – so you really do have to practice.

You have to make sure you have the right equipment, then you need competition – decent competition to play against, otherwise you tend to play at the same standard that you find yourself with.

If your standard is, say 33 darts for a game 501, you need someone who can push that to 26 darts, so that you need to go out in 25 darts to beat him. That's the only way to get better.

SF: Do you ever keep in touch with your old rivals? How about Eric Bristow?

JL: If you look on my website, you'll see me and Eric do The Legends exhibitions, so we work together doing those shows about 20 to 30 times a year, just me and Eric.

SF: Is it still just as competitive? Who's ahead?

JL: It's pretty even, I think. I'd say I am in front, but if he were here he'd say he was in front. That's good competition.

Note: This interview has been edited for space. The full interview will be available at the website: www.dartsthailand.bamboosiam.com

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Racers set off in a variety of categories starting at 8 am on a day featuring fine weather and strong support from local spectators.

Top turnout for TriBallistic triathlon

NAI YANG: Race one of four in the Malaiwana TriBallistic Triathlon Series was held at the Indigo Pearl Resort at Nai Yang Beach on Sunday, February 3 with almost 100 participants taking part in the event.

Racers set off in a variety of categories starting at 8 am on a day featuring fine weather and strong support from local spectators and friends cheering on fellow team members.

All race finishers received medals for their efforts.

Star of the race was Melisa Keegans, who managed to win the *girls* under-12 category despite falling off her bike.

"We were very pleased with the event and we had a great day. Everybody was happy with the

course and the police did an excellent job of helping us with the race," said race organizer Shaun Boulter.

Race two in the series will be held at Bor Saen Villa and Spa Phang Nga on Saturday March 15.

For further information about TriBallistic contact Shaun Boulter. Tel: 089-5902014. Email: info@triballisticclub.com Website: www.triballisticclub.com

Full results:

Splash 'n' dash (50m swim, 3km bike ride, 750m run)

1. Chelsea Keegans
2. Tim Schwab
- 3.= Pat Goeynsinsup
- 3.= Thad Goeynsinsup

Juniors (200m swim, 6km bike ride, 1.5km run)

- Under 8s
Male
1. Benjamin Gardner
Female
1. Lene Salia Daepler

- Under 10s
Female
1. Victoria Bird
2. Stephanie Stacey

- Under 12s
Male
1. Jonas Johansson
Female
1. Melisa Keegans
2. Alysa Bebbington
3. Marisa Fittheanorn

- Junior teams
1. The Greecers
2. Horizons
3. Tri Hard

Seniors (750-meter swim, 20-kilometer bike ride, 5km run)

- Under 16s
Male
1. Victor Kirstein
Female
1. Timana Hossack

- Open competition
Male
1. Richard Schildknecht
2. Nick Dobyn
3. Ray Jearanai
Female
1. Emma Morris
2. Bobie Donison
3. Michelle Hossack

- Masters 50+
Male
1. John Douma
2. Richard Cracknell
3. David Frost

- Senior teams
1. Tri Nations
2. Pathfinders
3. Sim Team

Rugby set to return to Phuket

PHUKET: Rugby fans in Phuket will soon have something to cheer about with the imminent landing of Phuket Rugby 10s once again.

Due to an increased level of interest in the Coffin Dodgers veterans' competition, play at Karon Stadium will be extended for an extra day. There will be 16 teams (14 confirmed so far) battling it out for the coveted old-timers title. Pool games will be played on May 30, with the finals slated for June 1 before the finals in the Clive Williamson memorial trophy division play.

Extinct Volcanoes, last year's winners in the Coffin Dodgers Vets competition, will be taking part once again, along with last year's runners-up Cottesloe Old Gulls from Australia.

The Clive Williamson memorial trophy will comprise 24 teams, with matches scheduled for May 31 and June 1. Twenty teams have so far confirmed for the tournament, coming from as far afield as the UK, Australia, China and Hong Kong. Singapore and Thailand will also be well represented.

Funds raised from the tournament will be donated to the Children's Scholarship Fund run in conjunction with the Asia Center foundation (www.asiacenter.ac).

Last year, more than 1 million baht was raised for the fund, which went towards the education of 150 children. The children from the fund will once again be watching the action from the sidelines this year. For more information about Asia Center contact K. Roelien. Email: roelienm@asiacenter.ac

Spaces are limited, but anyone wishing to enter a team for rugby 10s should contact Pat Cotter as soon as possible. Email: phuketrugby@gmail.com

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel



Work on the 7.5-million-baht Talingchan Pump Station is now about 20% complete. The sign in front apologizes to the public for any inconvenience the construction may be causing.

Flood-prevention project underway

PHUKET CITY: Work is now underway on a 20-million-baht project to reduce flooding in the city by building three new pump stations in key areas and upgrading pump capacity in others.

The first new station, now under construction, is being built on Klong Bang Yai at the Taling Chan Bridge, said Phuket City Public Works Director Mongkol Songkao.

The station will replace two manually activated-units currently mounted on the sidewalk in front of Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church on Talingchan Rd.

The two existing pumps will be moved to other areas after the new station is operational, he said.

The Talingchan Pump Station, now about 20% complete, will help relieve flooding across a low-lying downtown area of about one-square-kilometer that covers Surin Circle, The Metropole Hotel and other areas along Phuket Rd and Chana Jaroen Rd.

The 7.5-million-baht station will comprise a floodgate and two automatically-activated pumps, each with a 0.5 cubic meters per second capacity.

Another new pump station to be built along the Saensuk Canal on Phang Nga Rd Soi 4, next to the Royal Phuket City Hotel, will help pump off water from the same area.

The 3.2-million-baht station will also comprise a floodgate and a single 0.2m³/s-capacity, automatically-activated pump.

"With both stations, we will

be able to drain floodwater more quickly, but it does not mean the area will be free from flooding altogether," K. Mongkol said.

Work on both stations got underway last October by project contractor Hydrex International Co Ltd, which is still awaiting receipt of the pumps from Europe. Both the Talingchan and Phang Nga Road Soi 4 stations should be completed by the end of March, he said.

Also awaiting import of pumps is the Natthapong Tractor Co Ltd, which last October began work on a 10-million-baht pump station on Yaowarat Rd, near the Bangkok Hospital Phuket in Samkong.

This station will house two water pumps, each with a capacity of 0.7m³/s. Work is also expected to be completed by the end of March.

In total, the project will increase the number of pump stations in the Municipality to eight. The city already has five stations at Takuapa Rd, Tungka Harbor off Soi Khor Phai, Samkong, Komaraphat and Buddha Mongkol Nimit Temple.

Rising sea levels, land development and the filling in of tinmine ponds contributed to the flooding problems the city now faces, K. Mongkol said.

His office monitors the drainage system to ensure it keeps pace with local development needs.

The Tungka Harbor station will likely need a future upgrade, while another station might be needed in the Amphur Rd-Surin

Rd area to deal with increasing runoff from Toh Sae Hill, he said.

Another hillside area experiencing increased flooding is the Soi Samakhee area of Samkong behind Bangkok Hospital Phuket, he said.

"In the past, flooding wasn't so bad in that area, but the destruction of so many trees means water comes down the hillsides and floods areas below much more quickly.

"Possible solutions are to build a retention pond to connect with the main canal or to require any new developments to install systems for slowing down floodwater. We are still negotiating for the land to build a pond," he said.

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Create the right name – and guard it with your life

Johnny Cash touched on the subject of identity confusion in the song *A Boy Named Sue*, but intellectual property rights are no light-hearted matter.

At some point in between working on a business plan for your property development, grabbing another espresso and hitting the Range-Rover website to see which model was in Miami Vice, you realize your project needs a name.

Through any of the property papers on the island and the list of ongoing projects is now longer than the line at an ATM on payday. With Phuket catering primarily to resort buyers, names that use or combine terms such as “view”, “beach”, “ocean”, “sand” and so on, all blend into one’s subconscious. It has become difficult to distinguish one from another.

First, you will need to lodge an application to form a company to develop the project. In most cases, your lawyer will ask for two or three names in case one of them is not available.

It reassures potential buyers if a company’s name relates directly to the company’s projects. Once the company registration is complete, the next step is to look at marketing materials and a project name.

With a growing propensity to source potential buyers on the Internet, names that have keyword significance in search engines are important. A decent starting point is to jot down a few names that mix keywords and combine them with a distinct lead name.

Go to one of the web-domain registration sites, such as www.godaddy.com, and see which ones are available. Ideally, you want a “.com” address without hyphens. Imagine someone hearing the name of your project and being able to just type the name into Google to find your website. That’s what you’re after.

It’s important to highlight in a name unique selling points, such as sea views. References to architectural or design elements of a property will help you stand out from the crowd. Geographic identifiers are also useful, especially when you are located in premium areas, such as Surin or Bang Tao.



From one of the web-domain registration sites, such as www.godaddy.com (pictured), you can see which domains are available. Ideally you want a .com address without hyphens.

logo or graphic depiction unique to a project or company.

Imagine your project is a success and you are looking to take advantage of your brand equity by taking on institutional investors, going public or developing more projects under the same name. You need a legal right to your name, brand and logo. With so many developments entering the marketplace, there are people who would like to benefit from your hard work by copying you.

If someone is using your name or logo you should seek legal advice immediately.

Making sure you take your big idea to the bank can be made easier if you protect your intellectual property from day one.

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

PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett



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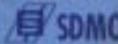
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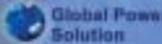
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War declared on Phuket's silent pest

We live at peace with untold millions of micro-organisms all around us. Without these tiny organisms, life on Earth would be impossible. Fungi, however, is one type of micro-organism that we should all be cautious about.

Whether they are in the food that we eat or hidden in the nooks and crannies of our homes, these tiny pests shouldn't be underestimated simply because of their diminutive size.

The word "mold" serves as a blanket term for microscopic fungi of many different types, all of which are a natural part of our environment.

Most of you will at some point have encountered mold stains in domestic environments. In moderate quantities they pose little or no threat to human health, but if allowed to spread, you might have a problem on your hands. A number of studies have shown that exposure to mold can lead to respiratory problems and allergies in humans.

While exterior mold exposure is one problem to be aware of, and often straightforward to identify, another area of concern is how much "hidden mold" we are exposed to in our daily lives. The food that we eat is one example. Studies have shown that there is a strong correlation between ingestion of food contaminated with mold and liver cancer.

When food is not properly processed and stored, it can contain a high concentration of aflatoxins, a naturally-occurring mycotoxin produced by a certain class of fungus.

In countries with subtropical climates, such as Thailand, aflatoxin-contamination is commonplace. As opposed to mold stains, this type of contamination does not necessarily leave any visible evidence. It is therefore not uncommon that the condition of the food we consume



Home WORKS

By Andy Ruthe

Whether they are in the food we eat or hidden in the nooks and crannies of our homes, these tiny pests shouldn't be underestimated simply because of their diminutive size.

remains unbeknown to us, as long as we fail to develop symptoms.

There are things that we can do minimize our exposure to these harmful micro-organisms. Firstly, be cautious when eating food containing nuts or dried chili powder. When I eat street food, I only use crushed chili powder. I check that the color is not dark brown to see if it is still fresh. When I order som tum, I get the vendor to show me the box of nuts. Nuts are a mycotoxin culprit, as there is no way of eliminating fungus from the shell.

Dealing with fungi in tropical climates can be a challenge. Especially in medical environments where sterility is paramount. I have found a device that allows decontamination of labs, operating theaters and other facilities, enabling germ-free settings.

This device cannot be purchased in regular stores – it costs as much as a small car and you need a technical certification to use it.

Placed in a room, the device emits a chemical that vaporizes germs and fungi in an area up to 20 square meters – without causing damage to textiles or electrical equipment.

The process takes about one hour, permitting an entire house to be decontaminated in less than a day. The product has proved a major success in Germany where it is used in schools and hospitals.

I suffer greatly from breath-

ing problems. In November last year, I caught a lung virus that severely affected me for three weeks. In December, I installed a small vaporizing device in my home. Using an automated timer, it emits propolis resin, an anti-fungal substance that bees collect to use as a sealant in their hives.

The device, about the size of a telephone, plugs into a wall socket.

I could feel the difference in just three days. Details of the device can be found at the German-language website: www.propolair.de

Another way to combat fungi in your house is to paint your walls with anti-mildew paint, such as Bioni Nano Paint. It is produced by the German paint-and-coatings manufacturer Bioni CS GmbH. This non-toxic paint is proven to kill germs and minimize infestation of both mold and algae.

Nanoparticles form the bulk of the antibacterial coating in "Bioni Nature", which halts the growth of mold. Mold spores that come into contact with this "Bioni Nature" are immediately eradicated.

Bioni guarantees effectiveness for at least five years and can be used both indoors and outdoors and does not pose risk to your health.

The paint is slightly more expensive than traditional paint. Details are available at www.bioni.de

If you don't want to splash out on the Bioni paint, VC175 Mould Killer is a product that can be bought and added to regular wall paint. This creates a coating that protect against mildew. It is often used in marinas.

All you need is a few drops. VC175 can also be mixed with Penetrol, a paint conditioner that hardens and protects most surfaces.

The last low season in Thailand was unusually wet; the next low season is predicted to be even wetter.

Dr Chirapol Sintunawa, an environmental expert at Mahidol University, recently pointed out that since mid-2007, a moderate La Nina effect (an ocean-atmosphere phenomenon that causes wet periods) has been apparent in Thailand and is responsible for increased precipitation, higher waves and floods.

This added moisture makes for the perfect breeding ground for mold. Anyone interested in

finding out more about the potential dangers of mold should check out www.mold-help.org

Andreas Ruthe is managing director of Technical Construction Materials Asia Co Ltd. He has lived in Phuket for six years. For further information about any of the products mentioned in this column email ruthe@tcm-asia.com or visit www.tcm-asia.com

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Decor

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Fishing for good fortune

One way of bringing a touch of nature to the inside of a home is to install an aquarium. Chaisit Nammanee Wong of Fish World, opposite Dowroong Witaya School on Chao Fa East Rd, said that most people install their aquariums in the living room, where the marine life is a colorful feature that always catches guests' attention.

In Asia, fish tanks are strategically placed to encourage prosperity and good luck, K. Chaisit explained.

According to *feng shui* principles, fish should be kept somewhere near the main entrance and where guests are received, such as the living room, to encourage good fortune. They should not be elsewhere in the home, such as in the bedrooms, kitchen or bathroom, he added.

Good fortune is also ensured by maintaining a clean, healthy environment for the fish, said K. Chaisit. "Fish should be fed twice a day, morning and evening, and about a third of the water in the tank should be replaced with fresh water once a week," he added.

Aquariums come in all shapes and sizes. However, whether they are on stands, part of coffee tables or even set into brick walls, K. Chaisit advised not to have rounded, or convex, glass as the distorted view from the inside disturbs the fish.

Inside the aquariums are the living decor – the fish themselves. In addition to the ubiquitous goldfish, which is believed to protect their owners from bad luck, one of the most popular choices of pet fish is angelfish, said K. Chaisit.



The price for each angelfish depends on its size and color, and they can be kept in the same aquarium as other species of fish. Red angelfish are believed to bring good fortune, and those with bigger heads than usual are considered even luckier, he said.

A less-social pet, however, is the arowana, which comes in five colors: gold, red, black, silver and green. Although the arowana is believed to bring good fortune and prosperity to its owners, it is also known to eat some of its less-fortunate fish tank-mates that it happens to dislike – or perhaps like too much, said K. Chaisit.

Then there's the Thai fa-

ABOVE: People fill fish tanks with all sorts of decorations, including a plastic Phuket frogman.

TOP RIGHT: Underwater plants are essential for creating a natural look.

RIGHT: Aquariums come in all shapes and sizes.

vorite, the sucker catfish. This little black fish is popular because it continually cleans the tank and all its contents from debris and muck left behind by other fish in the tank. It is this constant cleaning that has earned the fish the Thai nickname "tessaban", which literally means "local municipality" but is also short for the local garbage trucks that go

around collecting trash.

To keep their fish friends happy, many people add plants, shells and pieces of wood and dead coral, said K. Chaisit. But just as much for themselves as for their pet fish, they often add plastic frogmen, castles, treasure chests or anything else that tickles their fancy.

Setting up an aquarium can

be very cheap or very expensive, depending on the size, shape and contents of the tank, said K. Chaisit. For example, an aquarium measuring three meters by one meter and 80 centimeters deep costs 30,000 baht. The price does not include fish, but does include filter, pump, gravel and some shells, and installation, he said.

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next to Phuket Country Club golf course. The land has a new road and is in a very nice neighborhood. 7 million baht. Tel: 081-8915932.

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(Kamala 1). Thai-style pool villa with sea view. Price: 28.5 million baht. Project Kamala 1 is 1km from the beach and 5 minutes from Patong. Details: Land area 1,400sqm. Living area 450sqm. Fully furnished, aircon. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. 1 studio with kitchen, bathroom (staff room). 1 European kitchen, 1 Thai kitchen outside. Swimming pool 10 x 4m. Thai-style sala. Fish pond. Thai-style parking for 2 cars. Storage room. Contact Manuel Pinto. Tel: 081-8923172.

HOUSE FOR SALE



in Land & Houses Park, Chalongs. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 7 ensuite aircons, partly furnished. Cable TV, tel, Internet. 3.9 million baht. Tel: 084-6261799.

GUEST HOUSE PATONG



5 rooms with bathrooms. For sale, can use for a business or restaurant, Nanai Rd. Tel: 081-6767709.

HOUSE FOR SALE

2-story, 4-bedroom house in Chalongs. Western kitchen, aircon, quiet area. 3.4 million baht. Tel: 081-9795755.

SINGLE-STORY HOUSE

Pa Khlok. Built 2 years ago, 588sqm land, space for swimming pool. 168sqm inside, 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large European kitchen, dining room etc. Completely furnished, top quality. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 087-9785804.

SEAVIEW CONDO PATONG: B3.6M

New 2-room deluxe Condos. Fully furnished, in best location in Patong, with pool and parking. 5 minutes from the beach. 3.6 million baht. Tel: 081-8928526. Email: info@phuket-besthomes.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-besthomes.com

House for Sale or Long-Term Rent



3 mins from Heroines' Monument. Very private. Land: 134sq wah. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, dressing room, 2-car carport, 4x12 m. pool, teak pool deck, landscaped, automatic gate. Fully-furnished, 4 aircons, 4 TVs, gym equip, Tel, ADSL, UBC. Tel: (081) 895-7310

NEW HOUSE 5.5 MILLION BAHT



5 minutes to Bang Tao Beach, Laguna and Tesco. Tel: 089-8131447, 081-9274027.

LAND FOR SALE



Sea view, 1 rai, Chanote, in Chalongs. Tel: 085-7932718.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY

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

VILLA WITH POOL

3 bathrooms, 4 bedrooms, European kitchen. From 5 million baht. Tel: 081-0918908. Email: stein_dokset@hotmail.com

KARON BEACH

200sqm of land for sale one block from the beach. Also, a guesthouse with sea view. Both for 5.9 million baht. Tel: 089-8671955.

Exclusive house and office for sale/rent



Chalongs. 250sq wah, 5 bedrooms en suite, 4x16 swimming pool with Jacuzzi, fully furnished, ADSL Internet, garden, home theater, office room, aircon. Buy 16.8 MB, For Rent 240,000 B/month

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PATONG CASTLE From 3.5 M

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

www.patongcastle.com

Kata Ocean View CONDOMINIUM From 4.7 M

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

www.kataoceanview.com

THE SUKSAN From 9.8 M

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

www.villasuksan.com

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Property Gazette

HOUSE WITH POOL IN CHALONG



Beautiful house on 224sqm of land, with private pool. 2 bedrooms, big living room, bathroom with jacuzzi and shower, European kitchen. Fully furnished, 3 aircons. 5 million baht ono. Tel: 081-2720668. Email: gazette@glibber.com For details please visit our website at: www.phuket-property.info

AFFORDABLE LUXURY



Immaculate villa. Private area, big lush garden, pool, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, big living room, Scandi-kitchen, huge patio, fully furnished, contemporary Bali-Thai style. Living area: 450sqm. Land: 1,400sqm. Near Heroines' Monument with scenic hill view. Chanote. 14 million baht. Tel: 084-6907057.

HOUSE FOR SALE



Nanai villa, Patong. Exclusive villa, Thai style, high standard, fully furnished, swimming pool, 200sqm living area, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Address: 154/13 Nanai Rd. 16 million baht. Tel: 083-1767676. Email: e-gjerl@online.no

Chalong Bay View CONDOMINIUMS

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SURIN LAND PLOTS FOR SALE

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

PATONG HOTEL SALE

Paradise complex, 9 rooms and massage parlor for men only. Excellent turnover. No brokers please. Chanote. 2 units for 26 million baht. Contact William via email: info@bluedolphinphuket.com

FOREIGN FREEHOLD

Rawai, condo, 27sqm. Close to bank, 300m from the pier. 580,000 baht, negotiable. Tel: 086-9408914.

THE HEIGHTS PHUKET

1st floor, unit C-8, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 195sqm. Beautiful pool at your doorstep. 22 million baht. Tel: 081-6144799.

HOUSE FOR SALE

near Heroines' Monument, 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Cable TV, Internet, telephone, fully furnished. 24hr security, swimming pool. Asking price: 2.7 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

LAND FOR SALE

Kathu, next to Loch Palm golf course. Chanote. 3 plots: 1,260; 1,335; 1,557sqm. Each plot sold with company if required. Tel: 080-1435178. Email: kathuland@gmail.com

BIJOU APARTMENT IN KATA NOI

2 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, full sea view, 3 min walk to beach. Fully furnished, includes Honda Civic sedan and ultra-modern kitchen. Tel: 076-285307, 087-2658801. Email: ruckzuck98@hotmail.com or visit our website at: www.katanoi-condo.com

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

and rent. For a more personalized approach to your property, please visit www.phuketproperties.com. If you are a real estate developer or owner, you may list your properties with us. Contact Khun Noi or Julie. Tel: 081-8931360, 081-7192903.

LUXURY PROPERTIES

for sale or rent in Phuket and Phang Nga. Please visit our website: www.jane-propertyphuket.com

500 METERS FROM KATA BEACH

700sq wah of land for sale. 35 million baht. Call now. Tel: 089-7241505 or Email: unique_property@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE MAI KHAO

Built in 2005. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with shower, European-style kitchen, sitting room, study, entrance hall and large garden with carport. Total area 1,264sqm. All amenities included and close to main road, local shops, schools, etc. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 076-348435, 081-5380781. Email: blackbag01@yahoo.com

MUST SELL, END HOUSE

Near country club. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, furnished, car park. 1.7 million baht. Chanote title. Tel: 085-4733409.

BANG TAO LAND

880sqm. Company included. Well water, electricity and road. 2.2 million baht. Tel: 087-0490665. Email: starkey_rich@yahoo.co.nz

BIG HOUSE, HONEST PRICE!

New open plan, 2-storey, 4 bedrooms, great kitchen, 3 bathrooms. Agents welcome. 4.9 million baht. Tel: 086-6831964. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE B2.6M

Quiet, partly-furnished bungalow. 264sqm. Internet and cable TV. Tel: 087-9261381. Email: pakadog@gmail.com

FOR SALE IN PATONG

5-bedroom villa. Baan Benjamas, Soi San Sabai, 5 min walk to Jungceylon. On 440sqm of land, 270sqm of living area. Western kitchen, living/dining room, TV lounge, 2-carport, 8 aircons. Price: 15 million baht. Contact the owner, K. Ew for details. Tel: 081-7970092. Email: phuket24@samart.co.th

GREAT VALUE FOR MONEY

Moo Baan Chao Fa Thani, detached house, 260sqm of land. Community pool, 24hr security, 2-3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, large living room, fully furnished, garden. Only 3.2 million baht. Tel: 089-6639669. Email: andrekant@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW LAND CHALONG/RAWAI

Chanote. 1.16 rai (1.860 sqm). Paved road, 3-phase electricity, scenic sea views. Ready to build on! Sale direct by owner. Price: 7 million baht. Tel: 086-6829091. Email: marketing@tropical-living.se

KOH YAO YAI

4 rai plot, 800,000 baht per rai, chanote. Water, electricity, close to the beach. Tel: 081-8928208.

CHALONG HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, carport, living room, fitted kitchen, dining room, Internet, TV, Chanote. 2.45 million baht. Tel: 085-7827551.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Near Laguna. Thai-style house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, 150sqm living area. 650sqm of land. Tel: 087-8938590.

SEAVIEW, 2-BEDROOM

apartment on top floor, north Patong. 20 steps to beach. Freehold. 9.7 million baht. Contact for photos. Tel: 086-2765117. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

HOUSE RAWAI

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 8x4 swimming pool. 6.2 million baht. Photos available. Tel: 089-6666726. Email: lasonth@ksc.th.com

TROPICAL POOL VILLA

in Chalong. Brand-new, spacious 2-bedroom villa with deluxe kitchen and large living area. Priced to sell. Tel: 089-6521473.

MUST SALE LAND

in Thalang, near Ton Sai, just under 1 rai. No offers under 900,000 baht. Tel: 084-848-5704.

KATHU POOL HOUSE

3 bedrooms, all en-suite. 280sqm. 5 min to Patong. 5.9 million baht. Tel: 081-5379684. Email for photo: kathuhouseforsale@yahoo.com

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THALANG LAND FOR SALE

4884sqm (3 rai +). Chanote, filled land. Water and electric on site. 2.7km from Airport Rd, in Ton sai area, Thai company. 2 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-2734212. Email: coasters@earthlink.net

INDUSTRIAL BUILDING
Nai Yang. Clinic for men on 4 rai of land, 44 rooms, renovated. Only 38 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

LAGUNA RESIDENCE
with golf course view, 3 bedrooms, large, pool. Only 24 million baht. Please call Tel: 085-7839062.

NAI HARN PLOT
Lake and hillside views. Situated in middle of village suite, 3-bedroom villa. 3.75 million baht. Tel: 081-2710015.

KATHU POOL HOUSE
3 bedrooms, all en-suite. 280sqm. 5 min to Patong. 5.9 million baht. Tel: 081-5379684. Email for photo: kathuhouseforsale@yahoo.com

RAWAI POOL-VILLA URGENT



sale, lease or rent. Swimming-pool villa on 800sqm plot with 300sqm garden, fully furnished. Great opportunity. Tel: 076-388448, 087-4195576. Email: didier55@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE



in Erawadee 2 Project, located near Khao Khad View point. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Only 1.5 million baht. Contact to view. Tel: 087-2770978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

CHALONG HOT DEAL

Enjoy the morning sun in this cozy 3-bedroom house with big Western kitchen and private garden. 24hr security, clubhouse with pool. Reduced to 6.3 million baht. Tel: 081-8941804. Email: sanaralang@yahoo.de Website: www.bayoli.de

LANDPLOTS IN KAMALA

in gated community (24hr security), in a most exclusive area. On flat land from 500-1, 200sqm. Prices from 8 million baht. Please contact K. Sakorn. Tel: 087-6050365. Email: tim.kamalaparadise@hotmail.com

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Fully furnished. From 3.8 million baht. Tel: 087-2650118. Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk For more info and many photos please visit: http://housesforsalephuket.blogspot.com

SHOW HOUSE OPEN



4 plots available at Tewana Village. "The most beautiful house at this price". Robin Neale prestige. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 089-5930986.

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



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AO POR LAND URGENT SALE



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

GUEST HOUSES

Two guesthouse-restaurants for sale at Karon Plaza. Price: 4 and 6 million baht. Contact Sture at Tel: 084-898-5923 or Ingar at Tel: 087-282-0835. Fax: 076-396235. Email: sturemoen@hotmail.com For details, visit our websites at www.nicerresidencehouse.com and www.2vikings.net

LAND FOR SALE

99sq wah with Chanote near Rajabhat intersection. Access to road on 3 sides (Thepkasattri and Ku Ku road). Very good location. 15 million baht. Tel: 084-3091083.

3-BEDROOM VILLA FOR SALE

at Wichit Thanthong Villa 5. 3 brand-new Mitsubishi aircons, 2 kitchens, laundry, 3 bedrooms, ADSL Internet and cable TV. Fully tiled, excellent condition, Chanote title. 1.35 million baht. To arrange a viewing please call K. Kob. Tel: 081-5357767. Email: phuketjon@csloxinfo.com

CHEAP LAND 161SQ WAH

Corner block, very quiet, Maneekram estate. Tel: 085-0691327 Thai/English.

A BIGGER SPLASH



This new hill-view, Bali-style home has it all, 3 en-suite bedrooms, big living room, open-plan, Western kitchen, central aircon, separate guest suite, double parking. All surrounding a huge 62sqm sculptured ceramic pool. The 200sqm plot is set within a small gated resort. Lots of extra land available at only 3,250 baht per sqm. Hillside location near Wat Chalong. A Bangkok company is included in the 9.5 million baht price. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-5930986.

KARON BEACH

200sqm of land for sale one block from the beach. Also, a guesthouse with sea view. Both for 5.9 million baht. Tel: 089-8671955.

KAMALA CONDO

Located in center of Kamala, 1 bedroom, 65sqm, common pool. Only 2.3 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

LUXURIOUS 2-BEDROOM CONDO

for sale at Andaman beach condo building. 126.43sqm on 15th floor, freehold. Panoramic sea view, fully-equipped, covered parking. For details call Songpan. Tel: 081-7378662 Email: songpanpirom@hotmail.com No brokers please.

HOUSE FOR SALE

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

HEAVEN ON EARTH



5-bedroom, Thai-style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang Nga Bay view. 3 big bedrooms are en suite with sea view. Private swimming pool. 730.8sqm land plot. Construction area approx 573sqm. Full security service. Located at Rommai Chailay Estate. 27 million baht. Tel: 081-7191705. Email: layan@loxinfo.co.th

SEAVIEW VILLA



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

LAND ON KOH LANTA

1,100sqm land at Klong Nin Beach. 600m to the beach. Company included. 2 million baht. Tel: 085-6917668, 085-6917665. Email: malleangledal@hotmail.com

LUXURY VILLA SALE OR RENT

New villa with sea view in gated estate at Cape Yamu. Four en-suite bedrooms, open-plan living areas, etc. Basement gym. Fully airconditioned and furnished. Swimming pool, sala, garage and maid's room. For sale or lease. Email: gwrev@nl411.fsnet.co.uk

SHOPHOUSE IN PATONG BEACH

Patong, 80/9 Soi Wattana, by the beach road. 14 million baht. Tel: 087-3809181. Email: maxshop@gmail.com

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE FOR SALE



51.4sqm, in Chanakran Property Village, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Behind TOT Public Co Ltd in Chalong. Price: 3.6 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 081-9562406.

KARON LAND FOR SALE



15 million baht per rai, Chanote. Hillside panoramic sea view, quiet area. For details call Tel: 089-7727012 or Email: se_rim@hotmail.com

ALLAMANDA-LAGUNA-PHUKET

1-bedroom suite, approximately 84sqm. 1st floor, lagoon view, for sale by owner. The suite is presently in a hotel rental pool, which gives the owner 60 days of free use per year. Suite may be taken out of pool on 6 months notice. Membership to Laguna Golf Club included in sale! Please contact the owner. Tel: 080-0413019.

HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT

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Property Gazette

Property Wanted

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I am looking for 2 or 3 people to come along on my sailboat to Langkawi. The boat: 17-meter Roberts sailing yacht. Duration of trip: about 4 days. Expenses for food and drinks are shared. Please contact for more information on my mobile number. Tel: 086-2762626.

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Donzi, the famous US boat from *Miami Vice*. Full options. New boat with guarantee. 3 verados, 275 cv mercury, 45 knots, Tuna Tower. One of the most beautiful boats around. Belgian registration, UK company. Available in Royal Phuket Marina. US\$395,000. Ready to navigate. Price negotiable for empty boat. High performance motors. Contact for further information. Tel: 081-8935270, 085-2599590. Fax: 076-260152. Email: mrdupouy@yahoo.fr Web: www.tropical-house.net

IMPORT TRI HULL

V8 Volvo, 18ft, fiberglass tri-hull. Seats 8. Ski, fish, fun and fast. Very stable trailer. Free mooring or safe storage, 3 months for 350,000 baht (trades ok). Tel: 085-4734619. Email: piratespizz@gmail.com

NEW 27-FOOT CATAMARAN

Built with wood, fiberglass and epoxy. With 90hp Honda 4 stroke. 390,000 baht. Tel: 087-4618089.

FOR SALE

Fiberglass longtail boat, Caboda diesel engine, canvas roof, good for fishing and pleasure. Price: 75,000 baht. Tel: 085-7986929.

PRE OWNED BOAT SELECTION

<p>Outremer 37</p> <p>This boat is in pristine condition and could suit round the world couple.</p> <p>Selling Price 130.000,- EURO</p>	<p>Egg Harbor 42'</p> <p>Very little used. Excellent condition. 2 Detroit diesel 6V92 each 445 hp, 2 strokes.</p> <p>Selling Price at 299.000,- USD</p>
<p>Adam 40'</p> <p>This yacht has extensively cruised South Pacific/Asia last 10 years. Its very well fitted out and maintained, she is set up for short handed cruising.</p> <p>Selling Price at 150.000,- AUD</p>	<p>Pace 40 Flybridge Cruiser</p> <p>Big game fishing boat! Well maintained and ready to go fishing instantly. Very well priced.</p> <p>Selling Price at 160.000,- EUR</p>

Boat Lagoon & Yacht Haven Office
 Tel: 076 239111
 E-mail: broker@asia-marine.net
 www.asia-marine.net

Med 47

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Dealership Office
 The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
 Contact: Martin Holmes
 tel: 076 238 803
 fax: 076 273 319
 email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office
 The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
 Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
 Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 01 968 1437
 tel/fax: 076 239 728
 email: brokerage@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office
 The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
 Contact: Jim Poulsen
 Mobile: 081 891 3237
 tel/fax: 076 206 260
 email: yacht Haven@leemarine.com

Private Office
 Oceans Marina Jomtien Beach
 Contact: Mark Heath
 Mobile: 0817879408
 tel: 030 235 061 fax: 030 235 062
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Island Job Mart

SHERATON GRANDE LAGUNA PHUKET Thailand



Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket - part of Starwood's Hotels & Resorts' Luxury Collection portfolio - is located on the beautiful island of Phuket. Surrounded by tranquil lagoons on its own "island within an island" and facing the Andaman Sea, this five-star property offers 423 luxuriously appointed rooms and villas, plus 10 dining and entertainment outlets.

We are currently seeking qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

- Director of Human Resources
- Banquet Manager
- Grande Villa Manager
- Supervisor Camp Laguna
- Night Manager
- Secretary to Director of Sales & Marketing
- Tradesman (Electrician & Kenfix)
- Administration Manager

Please apply in person or send your resumé and recent photograph to:
Human Resources Department
Email: sglp.recruitment@luxurycollection.com



10 Moo 4 Srisoonthorn Road, T. Cherrngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110, Thailand
Tel: 66 76 324 101-7, Fax: 66 76 324 108
luxurycollection.com/phuket

QSI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

of Phuket, an American style school, is recruiting qualified and certified teachers for the 2008/09 school year. We are looking for teachers who love children and believe that all can succeed. We have the following anticipated vacancies for teachers who want to work in a small and safe school environment: elementary, high school science and high school English (not ESL). Please respond to alansiporin@qsi.org Please be prepared to present document qualifications.

OFFICE ASSISTANT WANTED

Skills required: 1. Able to speak English. 2. Basic computer skills (MS Office, Internet). 3. Basic accounting knowledge. The person we want: female, single, age 22-32. Reliable, healthy and hard-working. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 076-273379, 089-474 1246. Fax: 076-273379. Email: mick@octopusasia.com Please visit our website at: www.octopusasia.com

AUTOCAD DRAFTSMEN

AutoCad draftsmen needed. Experience in electrics or architecture a plus. Good salary and benefits. Please email or fax to arrange an interview. Fax: 076-270662. Email: info@avcphuket.com

TRISARA

Phuket's leading six-star international resort and spa and residential villa development is searching for a number of exceptional people to join our team in permanent positions. Trisara is a hospitality landmark and renowned for outstanding service, so if you have the skills and commitment to join us, please apply to our Human Resources Department.

VACANT POSITIONS

SPA	
Assistant Spa Manager	1 position
SALES & MARKETING	
Sales & Marketing Mgr. - Corporate/Event	1 position
Reservation Supervisor	1 position
FRONT OFFICE	
Assistant Manager/Resort Host	1 position
Library Attendant	1 position
HOUSEKEEPING	
Assistant Executive Housekeeper	1 position
Housekeeping Clerk	1 position
KITCHEN	
Commis Bakery	1 position
Chef de Partie (Western)	1 position
HUMAN RESOURCES	
Security Manager	1 position
RESIDENTIAL VILLA	
Pool Attendant	1 position

Contact in person at the Human Resources Department
60/1 Moo 6, Srisoonthorn Road, Thalang District, Phuket
Tel. 076 310 354 Fax. 076 310 299
E-mail address hr@trisara.com

BAR/RESTAURANT ACCOUNTANT

The selected person must have accounting experience and ability to track income, expenses, invoices, cash flow, taxes, VAT, manage all stock. Must be reliable, honest, fair and hard working. Salary ranges from 10,000-15,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-6305977. Please email CV to natanri@hotmail.com

SECRETARY REQUIRED

GM requires executive secretary. Thai female, 24-35, can speak English. Please fill out application at Wine Connection, Chalong. Tel: 076-282411. Fax: 076-282414. Email: gmp Phuket@wineconnection.co.th

Job Openings at Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket

Phuket Based

- Director of Sales & Marketing
- Director of Food & Beverage
- Restaurant Manager
- Events Service Executive
- Assistant Executive Housekeeper
- PR Coordinator / Graphic Designer

Bangkok Based

- Sales-MICE Manager
- Sales Manager

All positions offer attractive salaries and benefits. Applicants are invited to apply in writing with full CV starting present and expected salary, enclosed with a recent photos to the Human Resources Department.

Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket

509 Patak Road, Karon Beach, Phuket, Thailand 83100
Phone +66 76 396139. Fax +66 76 396150
e-mail : somnuk.chapin@moevenpick.com

www.moevenpick-hotels.com

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SALES PERSON WANTED

- Thai national, 25+
- A minimum of 1 year experience
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- Salary 15,000 + commission + petrol

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A. muang, Phuket 83130
Tel: 076-367395 Fax: 076-280023
email: pascal@taillard-electricity.com



www.arahmas.com

Arahmas resort & spa is a private resort on Nai Yang beach. We are currently seeking energetic and dynamic people to join our team.

We are seeking to fill the following positions:

+ Front Office Manager	1 position
+ Guest Relations	3 positions
+ Restaurant Manager	1 position
+ Bar Manager	1 position
+ Spa Manager	1 position
+ Asst. Spa manager	1 position
+ Head Butler	1 position
+ Butlers	5 positions
+ Beach/Activities Representative	3 positions
+ Chef de partie	1 position
+ Demi Chef	1 position

Human Resource Department
Arahmas Resort & Spa
92 Moo 3, Ban Na Tai, T. Sakoo,
A. Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-316000 Fax: 076-316095
Email: executiveoffice@arahmas.com

NANNY WANTED

If you think you are smart, affectionate, jovial & ready to look after a baby girl aged 2. Tel: 081-5976195. Email: unique_property@hotmail.com

THAI LADY FOR HOME HELP

English speaking. For mornings. Must have own transport and be punctual and smart. Contact for more details. Tel: 086-7458832. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

AQUAMARINE DIVERS

As part of its business expansion into day diving trips, Aquamarine Divers, the finest live-aboard operator, now has the following open positions:

- 1) Dive Shop Manager: Foreign or Thai with proven experience in diving industry. Must have strong management skills. English language mandatory, second language a plus.
- 2) Office Assistant/Booking Officer (2 positions): Female, Thai with proven experience in diving or tourism. Must have computer skills, a bachelor's degree or equivalent and good command of English. Must also have a pleasant personality and good presentation.
- 3) Accountant/Cashier: Female, Thai with accounting and bookkeeping skills. Must also have knowledge of tax declarations, etc. Computer skills a must; good command of English a plus.
- 4) Driver: Male, Thai national.

Interested candidates please send CV + photo to admin@philkade.com

MARINE TECHNICIAN

Sailing yacht charter co looking for technical manager. Good salary for qualified candidate. Email: thailand@dreamyachtcharter.com

RESTAURANT MANAGER WANTED

Thai national with experience in marketing, management and food creation. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-4326587.

TEACHER REQUIRED

to teach English, math, science, art, drama, social studies and health for ages 11 to 18 at Satee Phuket School, starting in May. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in relevant subject and TEFL cert. or equivalent. Starting salary: 30,000 baht per month. Native speakers only. Only qualified applicants need apply. Deadline: March 10. Email CV with cover letter to: liz_westgate@hotmail.com

RENTAL SALES

Siam Real Estate requires a Thai national with excellent English and sales experience to sell holiday/long-term rentals. Must drive, know the island and have good admin skills. Good salary and commission. Contact for more info. Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com

PRESCHOOL TEACHER

FT teacher needed. Prior experience required. Immediate start for right person. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-225942, 081-8951131. Email: edouardfam@access.inet.co.th

Island Job Mart



Due to a recent expansion in our distribution channels, PGTV, the television production arm of the Phuket Gazette, is seeking to fill the following positions:

NEWS Editor: Coordinating with Gazette newspaper editors and reporters, the TV News Editor will be responsible for:

- Sourcing and scripting daily news for PGTV's anchor and news presenters
- Assigning camera teams to cover our news stories on location
- Ensuring that footage obtained on site is edited and ready for inclusion in our Daily News programs, which are produced in our own studios and aired every evening
- Assisting the film editors in their final edit of each production

Tape Editor: Reporting to the Production Manager, the Tape Editor will be responsible for editing, in coordination with the TV News Editor and camera operators, each day's raw footage, as well as final edits of our daily program packages.

Qualified candidates will be Thai nationals who can quickly develop a sense for our English-language shows and tailor images to fit their tempo, cadence and purpose. Basic English is required. Knowledge of Adobe Premier would be an advantage.

Interested parties should send a resumé, cover letter and photo to Jib@PhuketGazette.Net, or hand deliver these documents to our studios at:

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang
Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-236555

URGENTLY NEEDED

We are looking for a baby-sitter. Some English required. Tel: 084-3061708.

STAFF WANTED

Small hotel in Patong is looking for a receptionist. Some English needed. Tel: 084-6470468.

DENTAL ASSISTANT

Dental clinic in Patong is looking for an assistant. Some English required. Payment depends on qualifications and experience. Tel: 076-296682. Email: info@dentalsea.com

ROCK CITY MANAGER

Rock City Patong Beach is looking for a daytime restaurant/bar manager with leadership experience. Working hours: 10am to 7pm, Monday to Saturday. Call for more info between 2pm and 7pm. Tel: 086-6864170. Email: fredrikphuket@yahoo.com For more information, please see our website at www.rockcity.cc

SECRETARY NEEDED

English and bookkeeping skills required. Thai national. Please contact me for further details. Tel: 087-0778454, 081-1371001. Email: solitude001@aol.com

KARIBI TEAK SHOP

is looking for 2 people. Must have experience in sales and speak English. Good salary. Also, looking for one deliveryman. Contact Alan for more information at Tel: 081-3826326.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

for Writers, Sales Reps and Admin/Accounting. Freelance and full time. Tel: 085-8877414. Email: rico@southernpartner.com

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& wellness. If you are fitness and wellness minded, have retail sales experience, speak English, are fun and trendy, then maybe this is for you! Tel: 086-2780007. Please send CV and photo to Email: info@powerplatethailand.com

NANNY WANTED PLEASE

Nanny required for 3 boys aged 2, 5 and 9. No English necessary. Must be energetic, kind and honest. Tel: 087-3831790, 086-972 8406. Email: nakhon@aol.com

BREAKERS BAR AND GRILL

We are taking applications for the following positions:

- General Manager (Foreigner)
 - Thai bartender and server (Must speak English)
- Good salary, great tips. Free room/meals. Tel: 081-9235743. Email: pangja_ja@yahoo.com

ROCK CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Rock City Patong Beach is looking for an assistant administrator. Monday to Saturday. Call for more info between 2pm and 7pm. Ask for Khun Oh (Thai). Tel: 081-8938332. Email: fredrikphuket@yahoo.com

JOB FOR BOOK LOVERS



BOOKAZINE is Thailand's foreign-language book, newspaper and magazine importer, retailer and distributor with over 60 branches in department stores, airports and tourist attractions. We are planning to open 10 more branches and would like you to join us in the following positions:

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SHOP LOCATIONS: Phuket Airport, Jungceylon, Karon, Samui, Lamai, Chaweng, Phangan and Krabi

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Thai nationals only, under 30 years old
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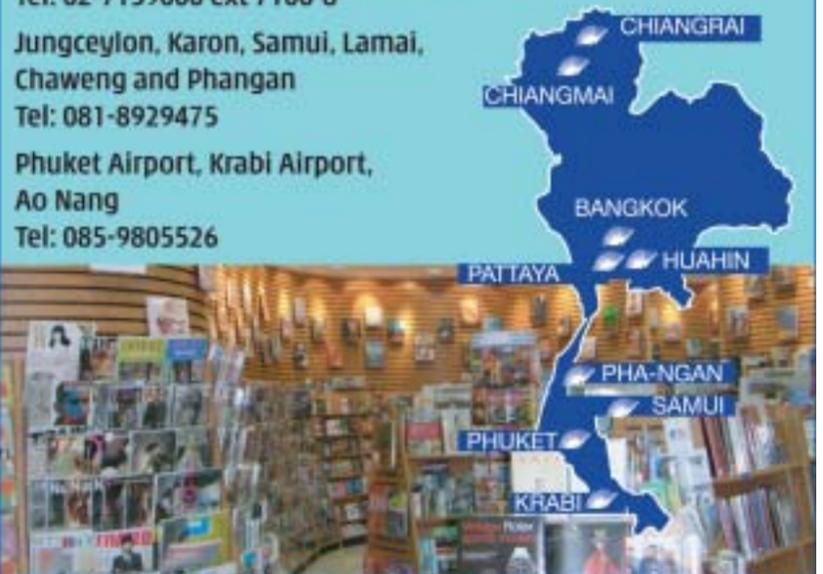
www.asiabooks.com/cs/service_opportunities.asp

HR. Division, Recruitment Section, BKK

Tel: 02-7159000 ext 7106-8

Jungceylon, Karon, Samui, Lamai, Chaweng and Phangan
Tel: 081-8929475

Phuket Airport, Krabi Airport, Ao Nang
Tel: 085-9805526



ACCOUNTANT REQUIRED

Accounting software company requires enthusiastic accountant for support and training of our products. Very competitive salary, 5-day week. Seeking: Thai national. 2 years' accounting experience. Able to speak English. Ability to drive a car an advantage. Contact Carol. Tel: 076-313137, 087-4178860. Fax: 076-313269. Email: carol@aplusplussoftware.com

ware.com

JOB OPPORTUNITY

for Writers, Sales Reps and Admin/Accounting. Freelance and full time. Tel: 085-8877414. Email: rico@southernpartner.com

Employment Wanted

GENERAL MANAGER

Resort, hotel general manager, who is highly experienced seeks position in Thailand. Have experience in southeast Asia. Available for immediate start. References available. Contact Graeme. for more information at Tel: 084-8476816. Email: duncangn@yahoo.co.nz

NEW CHALLENGE

Articulate, presentable, well-educated, well-travelled & experienced Englishman seeks lucrative employment. Hotel, media, marketing or property. Email: britonabroad@googlemail.com

CONSTRUCTION

German foreman with 2 years of Thai working experience. I can speak English and Thai. Contact for details. Tel: 085-7988669. Email: johann.phuket@gmail.com

THAI FEMALE FLUENT IN ENGLISH

Experienced in restaurant management, English teaching, sales and cooking Thai food. Will consider all jobs. Please contact Jay by calling Tel: 084-6459736.

UK SITE MANAGER

ready with 15 years' experience and work permit. Tiling, electric, plumbing, refurbishing, planning. Also, I can supply top-quality Western kitchens at low cost (supply + fittings). I can provide all references. Last project ending now. Contact Richard for more information at Tel: 083-1750485.

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Contents of a nightclub for sale. Including: sound system, mixer, power amps, cross-overs, equalizer, guitar amps, microphones, effect lights, par lights, light controllers, refrigerators, aircon units, bar stools and tables, etc. Tel: 081-7520275. Email: comfortably numb_18@hotmail.com

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Furniture from Index, only 2 months old:
- Red L-shaped sofa
- White computer work station w/ matching bookshelf plus 2 matching book units
- 2 red adjustable office chairs
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- Noble king-size mattress
Email for photos and prices. Email: melkyriaco@hotmail.com

WINDSURFBOARD WITH PADDLE

Used, old, for sit-on-top paddling. 6,000 baht. Call for details. Tel: 080-0416612. Email: hunde wasserhaus@gmx.at

BEANBAG

New, white, stretch fabric, 160 x 80cm. 1,500 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 080-0416612. Email: hundewasserhaus@gmx.at

POOL TABLE FOR SALE



Secondhand coin-operated pool table for sale. Size: 3"x6". 40,000 baht. Free transport cost and installation. For more information please contact Phuket Pool Tables. Tel: 076-263687, 081-2901645. Email: tuang@phuketpooltable.com

WINE COOLER, BLACK with digital display, 10,000 baht. Pool table, classic, like new, 35,000 baht. Tel: 089-6503160.

Articles Wanted

POOL/BILLIARD TABLE 7 X 8 feet. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-4424143.

SHOP TOOLS WANTED Metal working tools wanted: arc and gas welders, wirefeed, plasma cutter, high-speed hand-held grinder, drill press, vise. Woodworking tools wanted: table or radial arm saw, miter saw, jointer, brad nailer, etc. Tel: 081-7972110. Email: iolare@yahoo.com

SNOOKER TABLE WANTED I wish to purchase a half-table snooker table in good condition with all accessories, including snooker and pool balls. Willing to pay handsome price for a good one. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-205282, 083-2806799. Email: barlow maurice@yahoo.co.uk

CHEAP LAPTOP WANTED

Secondhand laptop computer wanted. Must run windows XP and have wireless card. Cheap price please. If you have upgraded and have an old one lying about, why not give me a call? Tel: 081-2716250. Email: mattysiam@gmail.com

Bulletins

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mission Hospital
Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket Hospital
Phuket City
Fri 7 pm

Patong Hospital Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun
at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm

Chalong Health
Clinic-near Chalong Circle
Tues 1 pm

For Phuket info (English)
call 081-9564031,
081-8912895

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Wat Karon School-Karon
Tue and Sat 7 pm
Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)
087-2795636 (Nor)
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For info on other Thailand
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(for Thai language press 3)
www.aathailand.org or
email info@aathailand.org
phuketaa@yahoo.com

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a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of our donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor.
Contact K. Carol
(Tel: 087-4178860 or carol.fryer@piwc.info)
or K. Sue
(Tel: 087-2776948 or sue.arnulphy@piwc.info)

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NIGHTCLUB KATA CENTER

The only nightclub in Kata, Karon or Chalong area. Now for sale at 5 million baht or 50% partnership. For more info contact Paul. Tel: 084-6455971. Email: paul.phuket@gmail.com

JUNK-RIGGED SCHOONER

with commercial license seeks investment partner. Tel: 083-1027801.

LOCATION NEEDED

Well established restaurant in Patong is looking for new space or an existing restaurant for sale in order to move. Tel: 076-344542, 081-8914381. Fax: 076-344542. Email: patongshakers@hotmail.com

PATONG GUESTHOUSE & INTERNET

6-room guesthouse for lease with busy Internet shop, fully-furnished, kitchen. Ideally situated 100m from Jungceylon, with company Ltd, website and staff. 5-year contract, 480,000 baht with monthly rate of 40,000 baht. Great opportunity! Ready to work. Tel: 087-9991845. Email: choual@gmail.com

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Fully fitted with pool table and music. Good location on main road next to traffic lights and 7-11. Rent only 7,000 baht per month. Good price for quick sale. Tel: 087-2723678. Email: jonhassall@aol.com

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BAR AT PATONG OTO

Bar for sale. 570,000 baht ono. Please contact Loz or Craig. Tel: 087-4611007, 084-6283503. Email: johncamel927@hotmail.com

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Thriving cafe/karaoke bar near Phuket town. Illness forces sale of all equipment. Furnished apartments. Minimum of 5-year lease, 950,000 baht. Tel: 084-8521977.

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Necessary! Partnership offers, starting from 250,000 baht. Email: adventurairntern@hotmail.com

BOOKS FOR SALE

Many language books and about 5,000 used books with shelf. For quick sale: 350,000 baht. Contact K. Pui. Tel: 084-1705552.

OFFICE FOR SALE

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NEW MINIMART

for sale opposite Loch Palm Golf Club in Kathu. Contact K. Lynn. Tel: 087-2799500, 084-3081853.

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Italian restaurant for sale in Kamala. Eight dining tables and full kitchenware. Near Krungsri Ayuthya bank. Contact Khun Na. Tel: 083-1802143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

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Super bargain, 4-story shop-house with chanote. Fully-equipped restaurant on 1st and 2nd floor. Fully-furnished apartment on 3rd and 4th floor. Valued at 6.7 million, now priced at only 5.5 million. Have to move out. Tel: 081-8915602.

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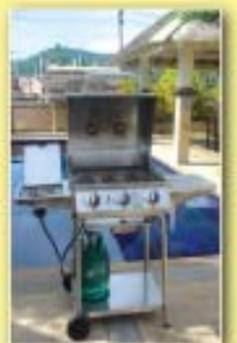
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