

Greek pipeline workers discover stone age homes



ATHENS (Reuters) - Archaeologists in central Greece have unearthed the remains of a Neolithic settlement discovered by workers laying a gas pipeline, the Greek Culture Ministry said. Ovens and pottery, rare decorated vases and bone tools found at the site near the city of Larissa show that its inhabitants were already skilled artisans nearly 7,000 years ago, the ministry said.

"The site was unknown until works for the installation of a natural gas pipeline started," the ministry said in a statement.

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Archaeologists said the red-colored ruins of the houses showed the settlement had burned down. The homes were made of wooden poles, branches and mud.

When they started excavating seven months ago, archaeologists also discovered 15 graves from Hellenistic times in the soil above the settlement. Last month, researchers in northern Greece unearthed the base of a 58-square-meter Neolithic house.

European Newspaper AWARD
NEWSPAPER DESIGN & CONCEPT

KUDOS FOR "ATHENS PLUS"

Athens Plus - the 48-page weekly newspaper in English published by Kathimerini and the International Herald Tribune - has won the award for Europe's Best Designed Newspaper, in the category of weekly newspapers, at this year's European Newspaper Award. A total of 236 newspapers from 27 countries participated in the 10th European Newspaper Award, which aims at fostering an exchange of information about the concept and design of newspapers across Europe.

The ten-member international jury was made up of journalists, scientists and designers from nine countries. Other prize winners include Sweden's Svenska Dagbladet, (category: national newspaper) Spain's Diari de Balears, (local newspaper), Switzerland's Basler Zeitung, (regional newspaper).

World Travel Awards give Greece 4 top European mentions

The 15th World Travel Awards, which are voted upon by travel agents and agencies around the world, gave top European rankings to a number of Greek destinations as well as numerous other honorable mentions. Greece won the top prize in the following categories:

Europe's Leading Boutique Hotel - Lato Boutiue Hotel, Herakleion, Crete

Europe's Leading Beach Resort - Minos Imperial Luxury Beach Resort & Spa, Greece

Europe's Leading Conference Resort - Grand Resort Lagonissi, Greece

Europe's Leading Spa Resort - Aldemar Olympian Village, Greece. After the top prizes were announced, there were further country breakdowns of other awards, Greece had 9 more awards and Cyprus had 4.

Laiki Bank announced Grand Prize Winner of Golden Ticket Competition

COMPETITION SUCCESSFUL IN ENCOURAGING SAVING HABITS AMONG CHILDREN

Laiki Bank today ended a very successful campaign to promote the benefits of savings in young kids by announcing the winner of the Space Zone Golden Ticket Competition Grand Prize Draw, Elpida Stavropoulos.

As the winner of the Grand Prize draw, Elpida has won a brand new Sony VAIO laptop worth \$1500. A student of year 9, Elpida was delighted to accept her prize from Helen Mathews, Branch Manager of Laiki Bank's Marrickville Branch.

The aim of the Golden ticket competition is to promote saving habits in young kids by rewarding them for making fre-



quent deposits in their Space Zone accounts. With every deposit, children qualified to enter into one of the three draws. The more regular their deposits,

the better their chances of winning. The competition started in February this year and concluded with the announcement of the Grand Prize winner.

THE BEST GIFT OF ALL – NO STRESS CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

With Christmas fast approaching and only 40 shopping days to go, consumers in every corner of the country can buy gift cards for some of Australia's biggest fashion, entertainment, book and music retailers from over 1800 plus conveniently located Australia Post and 7Eleven stores nationally.

This new style of gift shopping launched into Australia Post outlets last year and offers consumers the easiest way of buying a no hassle Christmas gift this year for relatives and friends. Developed by Blackhawk Network, the leading global provider of third party gift cards, 40 brands are now stocked in a handy one-stop shop display with a range of denominations. The gift cards are available throughout the country thanks to the combined network of Australia Post and 7Eleven stores.

With Christmas considered one of the most stressful events of the year with gift buying a major cause, it is predicted prepaid gift cards will become one of the hottest gift items of the season, helping to reduce shopping hours for everyone this year.

"Consumers are snapping up the gift cards because they are so flexible and convenient – especially at Christmas when the shops are chaotic and there are lots of people to buy for. Shoppers, including those in remote regional areas, can now access some of Australia's biggest brands for friends and family, simply by visiting their local post office."

"Giving gift cards is a great way to ensure that recipients will actually use your presents, instead of re-gifting, returning or throwing them away. People who receive the gift cards love them because they can choose exactly what they want – whether it's a book, music, fashion, electrical appliance, entertainment or a holiday experience," said Julia Varcoe, marketing director of Blackhawk Network, distributors of the cards.

Announcing the conclusion of the competition, Michalis Athanasiou, General Manager of Laiki Bank said, "My congratulations to all the winners and their parents. Competitions like these are very important in encouraging young kids to save. By rewarding them for regular savings, we are helping them develop a habit of saving, and shape their future as financially responsible adults."

Elpida is the third Space Zone account holder who has won a prize this year.

Marco Krantis from Adelaide won a \$200 rebel Sports Voucher as the winner of the first prize draw of the Golden ticket competition and Miele' Celine Bougessis from Adelaide, won a \$200 JB Hi-Fi Voucher by winning the second prize draw.

Space Zone is a savings account by Laiki Bank that makes it easy for kids to save, with no account keeping fees and high interest rates on deposits. Parents can have easy access to the account by using Laiki eBank or receiving regular account statements.