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Free bus route map



Need to get around? Our free map shows you where to jump on one of Phuket Town's pink people movers.

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Two men, one kayak and 14,000 miles to California



An epic adventure is about to begin from Nai Harn Beach. Find out why two kayakers are risking their lives to paddle from Phuket to California. Full story on page four. Photo by Fraser Morton

Raids begin on Phuket Town prostitute dens

RAIDS were carried out last week in Phuket Town on three well-known entertainment venues suspected of being brothels.

Volunteer cops and civil defense officers burst into the venues on the night of January 24 on the orders of Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop.

A provincial PR spokesperson said local residents had complained that the three venues – two massage parlors and a nightclub – were actually fronts for prostitution.

A total of 57 alleged female prostitutes, including at least one

Burmese girl under the age of 18, were rounded up by the special task force led by Phuket Deputy Governor (Palad) Chaiwat Te-pee, Phuket Provincial Defense Office chief Wirote Suwanwong, and volunteer police.

One of the venues raided is a long-established massage parlor that offers full service 'soapy' massages by sexily-attired women.

Evidence seized in a search of service rooms inside the building included used condoms, according to the spokesperson.

Phuket City Police did not take part in the raids. The women and some of the brothel operators

were taken by pick-up to the Muang District Office, where they were questioned and informed of the various offenses they had committed.

Most of those taken into custody were released after paying fines, but an unspecified number of illegal "aliens" were taken to Immigration Police for processing and possible deportation.

Despite the serious nature of the charges, there was no mention of any criminal charges against the venue owners.

Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop said the raids were just the first in what will be a

strict and ongoing crackdown on prostitution. According to official police statistics, there were a total of 1,588 people arrested for prostitution in 2009, up 13.3% year-on-year.

There were 225 arrests for prostitution-related charges in December 2009, just over double the figure from December 2008.

With the possible exception of the Burmese, however, it is unlikely that Sunday night's raids will be included in crime statistics since most of the alleged prostitutes were released without charge.

– Hasan Che-aware

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Scene from Soi Bangla, close to where the beating took place.

Russian beats go-go girl

A RUSSIAN tourist who assaulted a Patong go-go dancer walked out of Kathu Police Station a free man after agreeing to pay the woman 1,500 baht to cover her medical treatment.

Kathu Police Inspector Jakkapong Luang-aon received a call from the victim at about 9:30pm on January 20.

The woman, a 37-year-old dancer from a well-known go-go bar located on Soi Bangla, told police she had been beaten by a Russian tourist dissatisfied with her for failing to provide 'special' sexual services.

The woman confessed to leaving the bar with the Russian for the purpose of having sex. They went to a nearby apartment where she realized she could not perform the services demanded by the Russian.

As a result, the drunken tourist slapped and punched her, leaving her with wounds to the eyebrow requiring medical treatment, she said.

She ran screaming from the room to friends, who took her to Patong Hospital for treatment. Then she contacted police.

At about 10pm police returned to the room, where the drunken Russian remained.

A crowd watched as the Russian was escorted by police to Kathu Police Station for questioning.

The Russian confessed to the assault and agreed to pay 1,500 baht to cover her medical treatment costs.

He also agreed to give her an unspecified extra amount of cash to make up in lost wages while her wounds healed.

- *Sitthipong Nongkaew*

Paintin' the town pink

THE provincial council campaign to paint Phuket pink continues. The construction of 25 pink roadside pavilions at a cost of almost five million baht is complete, while Phuket Town's fleet of pink *songtaew* buses is about to double.

Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) President Paiboon Upatising announced the progress of his push for pink at a press conference on January 15.

Mr Paiboon, whose campaign color was pink in the last election, said the pavilions - known as *sala* in Thai - were aimed at keeping tourists dry.

"The pavilions are there for the convenience of tourists waiting for public or private transport to the beach, Thalang or the airport," he said.

Construction, begun on May 20 last year, took around six months and cost nearly 4.8 million baht.

Not the bright purplish pink of the fleet of eight *songtaew* rolled out last year, the pavilions are painted a more subdued combination of salmon pink and what might be described as 'eggshell'.

There are three designs, all branded with the PPAO's official 'Two Heroines' logo.

Meanwhile the pink bus fleet is about to double, with another eight of the pink people movers due in service by the end of January.



One of the fleet of pink PPAO *songtaew* buses that serve Phuket Town.

The first eight pink buses, which began service on two routes in September, have been a big success, Mr Paiboon said.

"We've had very good feedback from passengers," he said. "We're getting an income of more than 10,000 baht every day now - even though the service is free for students."

The pink buses run the same route as the long-serving green buses and are similarly priced at just 10 baht per journey.

The addition of the pink buses has reduced the maximum waiting time between vehicles to about 20 minutes. The additional eight will decrease the waiting time even further.

Mr Paiboon said he could not specify the date the additional services would begin because the Phuket Land Transport Office had yet to inspect and register the buses.

Plans are also afoot to add a third route from Koh Sireh to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town.

Another eight buses would be purchased for the route, Mr Paiboon said.

"I will soon hold a meeting with the PPAO committee to set the budget for the eight more buses, which should cost about 10 million baht," he said.

The PPAO is also improving bus stops along the routes in a bid to get more people using the service.

Mr Paiboon said he planned to have more than 100 bus stops built by the middle of this year.

As a service to our readers, a user-friendly English-language version of the PPAO bus route map has been included as an insert in this edition of the *Phuket Gazette*.

- *Gazette reporters*

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Meters mooted for troublesome tuk-tuks

IN a bid to end disputes between drivers and passengers over fares, the Phuket governor is considering introducing meters to Phuket tuk-tuks.

Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop said natural gas-powered tuk-tuks could also be rolled out in order to cut down on fuel costs.

Any metered fee structure would still have to reflect Phuket's status as an international tourist destination, Gov Wichai said.

"The prices aren't going to start at 35 baht," he said. "It could be 120 or 250 baht, but I don't know yet because we have to set up prices that both sides are happy with."

Gov Wichai was keen to stress the plans were 'just an idea' at this stage.

"It's my sincere desire to make this happen, but that doesn't mean it will. Nothing has started yet," he said.

Many hold Gov Wichai in high regard for his introduction of a mandatory insurance scheme aimed at ending disputes between tourists and jet-ski operators, the first of its kind in the world.

Imposing order on the island's tuk-tuk industry and developing reasonably priced transport options is expected to pose a much greater challenge, given the relative size of the two industries.

- *Kitima Pornmongkhonwat*

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Indians hand cash to terror victim's family

THE Indian embassy last week presented 140,000 baht to surviving relatives of Jirachat Kanmanee, the Phuket native killed in the terrorist attacks in Mumbai in November 2008.

Ms Jirachat was one of six Thais working as spa therapists at the Banyan Tree spa in the Trident Oberoi Hotel in Mumbai when the terrorists broke in and opened fire. She died of a bullet wound to the head.

Ms Jirachat was the only Thai casualty of the attacks that killed 184 people, including 26 foreigners from 14 different countries, according to Indian government figures.

Representing India at the presentation ceremony on January 22 was Umesh Kumar, defense adviser to the Indian embassy in Thailand.

At the event, held in the 98^o Lounge at the Millennium Resort in the Jungceylon complex, Group Captain Umesh presented Ms Jirachat's elder sister Omjit and her family with a bouquet of flowers and a check for 140,000 baht on behalf of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Ms Omjit, now pregnant with her third child, lives in the Phuket Villa Suan Luang housing estate in Phuket Town. She is the only surviving member of Ms Jirachat's immediate family.



Ms Omjit accepts a bouquet of flowers from Group Captain Umesh Kumar at the Millennium Resort at Jungceylon.

Her family was also given 350,000 baht in March last year.

A press release distributed at the event read as follows:

"On behalf of the Indian government, the people of India and the Indian embassy, Group Captain Kumar conveyed to the family of the late Ms Kanmanee our heartfelt condolences once again and assured them of India's determination to make every effort to ensure that the perpetrators of this heinous crime against humanity are brought to justice... The terrorist attacks on Mumbai in November 2008 were a barbaric act of wanton violence, not only against India but against all humanity."

Weeraphol Choochart, Ms

Omjit's partner and Ms Jirachat's brother-in-law, said the family was grateful to the Indian government and the Banyan Tree for their financial assistance and for returning Jirachat's body to Phuket for cremation services that were held at Chalong Temple on December 6.

Before her death, Ms Jirachat was planning to return to Phuket over the following Christmas holidays.

Mr Weeraphol, who works for the Phuket office of the Justice Ministry, said he wasn't worried about a similar terrorist attack taking place in Phuket because "...the Thai people are unified and at peace."

- Stephen Fein



Drills, thrills and headaches
Volunteer rioters attack police with sticks during crowd control drills outside Phuket City Police Station last week. A total of 310 officers from all eight of the island's police districts took part in the first of a series of monthly drills to be conducted by police forces in Police Region 8.

Mediation hoped to reduce case backlog

A NEW mediation center located inside Phuket City Police Station could reduce the number of cases in the provincial judicial system by up to 30 percent, police say.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong and Phuket City Police Superintendent Wanchai Ekpornpit officially opened the center on January 26.

Also present was Phuket Provincial Court Chief Justice Varangkana Sucharitakul, a well-known proponent of mediation.

She will take up a new post in the appellate court system in Bangkok in April, having served a year in Phuket.

Two new mediation rooms will provide people with a space in which to settle disputes by civilized discussion, rather than costly litigation.

Complainants in disputes for which mediation is possible - known as 'compoundable offenses' in legalese - will be encouraged to choose mediation over prosecution.

More serious 'non-compoundable' crimes, such as

acts of violence or crimes against the state, cannot be settled by mediation.

The Phuket Provincial Court's team of 38 mediators will help negotiate between disputing parties.

The mediators, all trusted community members, include police officers, local leaders and businesspeople.

In 2009, the mediation center at Phuket Provincial Court successfully mediated 90.6% of civil cases and 72.3% of criminal cases entered into the system. By offering mediation services right inside the police station, the court hopes to settle disputes before they enter the court system at all.

Col Wanchai said the center would relieve pressure on the overburdened justice system, saving time and money in the process.

Once in operation, the center is expected to reduce the number of cases processed by the police and related organizations, including the Provincial Prosecutor's Office, by 10 percent to 30 percent, he said.

- Atchaa Khamlo

Gazette readers' poll: CCTV won't help

MOST Phuket Gazette readers believe new CCTV cameras won't make any difference in the fight against crime, according to the results of our latest readers' poll.

The poll was prompted by the news that the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization is planning to spend 17 million baht on 53 new CCTV cameras in and around Phuket Town.

We asked readers whether they thought the scheme would make the island any safer.

Of the 722 people who voted in the non-scientific poll, almost two-thirds (63.9%) thought not.

Those readers agreed with the statement, "It won't make any difference. There are already many CCTV cameras on the island and they haven't been effective in the fight against crime."

Just over a quarter of readers (27%) agreed with the statement, "CCTV cameras are a good idea, but they should have started in parts of Patong and Karon, especially where tuk-tuk drivers congregate."

Finally, only 9.1% of readers overall gave full support to the expanded CCTV coverage.

- Gazette reporters

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“Our parents think we’re crazy, but this is our adventure”



Phuket-based kayakers Piya 'Mr X' Sukunthai (left) and Ryan Doran (right) say they will 'not give up' on their 14,000 mile sea paddling voyage.

Photos by FM

TWO Phuket kayakers are getting ready for a spot of exercise: the world's longest paddling expedition, a 14,000-mile voyage from Phuket to California in a 20-foot wooden boat.

American Ryan Doran, 26, and Phatum Thani born Piya 'Mr X' Sukunthai, 28, plan to leave Nai Harn Beach on March 10 – and they won't be back for a while.

During their paddle, which they expect to take 20 months, they will pass through Indonesia, the Philippines, Taiwan, Japan and Russia before braving a 217-mile leg across the Bering Sea, one of the world's most treacherous expanses of ocean.

If they successfully make the crossing, they will continue on to Alaska and Canada, and the lower 48 US States.

If all goes according to plan, the pair will port in Ryan's home city of San Francisco, California, a few pounds lighter and just in time for Christmas next year.

Their own parents have branded their trip "crazy and dangerous beyond belief", but for Ryan and Mr X the adventure is a life-long dream.

Currently in training, they can be seen most days paddling

off Nai Harn Beach, and Promthep Cape in their Phuket-made kayak, *Say-Lee* (liberty).

Some sea kayakers have paddled sections of Ryan and Mr X's planned voyage – but no one has ever gone the full way.

Hypothermia and huge waves will be their main concern when navigating through the South China and Bering seas.

The first to paddle across the Bering Sea was Jon Turk and his team, who completed the feat in 2000. Turk's team had to contend with 20-foot waves, navigate through ice shelves and withstand nine long days of sub-zero temperatures and zero visibility shrouded in a blanket of fog. They survived and the crossing is still heralded today as one of the world's greatest-ever kayaking expeditions.

Ryan and Mr X claim they will be able to paddle the 217 miles through the Bering Sea in under two weeks' time. A safety boat will tail them on this leg of their voyage.

"If we capsize in those conditions it will be extremely difficult to flip it back over, and huge waves and hypothermia are a very real threat," Ryan said.

But he added: "If anyone can do it, it's us."

Ryan said the pair are paddling for themselves; not to break records, but to quench their appetite for the ultimate adventure.

"People wanna hear like, 'oh you're paddling for breast cancer or you're paddling for Aids,' and the reason we're paddling is, we're paddling for us."

"This is our adventure, and it's what we want to do with our lives," Ryan said.

Expecting to paddle anywhere from 20 to 50 miles a day, the pair will sleep in shifts. They say they can store enough food for one hundred days and enough water to last two weeks. Food supplies of pasta, rice, and Spam will be used as a last resort, he said.

"We will fish every day for crabs and squid...Mr X is also bringing his slingshot in case any bird lands on our kayak," Ryan said.

The pair have been planning

the trip for two years. Relying on internet maps, they say they have '90 percent' of their landing points mapped and have been tirelessly studying advance weather forecasts.

International visa applications, organizing a support vessel for the Bering Sea leg, raising money for their two GPS units and marine radios has all taken time.

Earlier this month, the pair dispatched winter clothing and equipment needed to their 'land support' contacts in Japan and the Philippines.

They arrived in Phuket four months ago in preparation for their 20-month paddle.

Ryan, who has been kayaking since he was nine-years-old, arrived in Rayong Province in 2005. Working there as a tour guide and wake board instructor, he met Mr X and they became close friends.

Mr X, an avid kayaker since the age of 14, said pirates and huge waves were a concern, but not a deterrent.

"We will not give up on our journey, no matter what," he said.

Their kayak *Say-Lee*, cost US\$7,000 and was handmade in Phuket by a Hawaiian craftsman.

"*Say-Lee* is durable and light yet strong," Ryan said of the 38-kilogram vessel.

"Fiberglass would be 15 to 20 pounds heavier and we don't need excess anything on our trip."

As their departure date draws closer, Ryan and Mr X are preparing themselves both mentally and physically for the trip: meditating, paddling 15 miles a day and rounding up supplies and a sail rigging system to aid them on their incredible journey.

Ryan and Mr X are still looking for additional sponsors for their trip. So far, John Harris from Chesapeake Light Craft (CLC)Boats and Bennett Bar from the NRS Kayaking Team are official sponsors. *Phuket Gazette* is a media sponsor.

For more information contact Ryan on T: 0800855257 or E: rdoran66@hotmail.com.

For updates on this story see W: phuketgazette.net.

-Fraser Morton



Ryan and Mr X will be paddling in their 20-foot-long kayak *Say-Lee*.

A few stops along the way...

Ryan and Mr X are set to depart from Nai Harn Beach, Phuket (1) on March 10 bound for Koh Racha Noi. Then it is on to Indonesia (2 - 7) where they will be until August this year. After a fleeting paddle through the Philippines (8-11), they will land in Taiwan (12-13) and Japan (14-15). They plan to arrive in Russia (16-17) in March next year. They intend to cross the Bering Sea bound for Alaska, U.S.A (18 - 21). In the final leg, they will stop in Seattle, U.S.A (22) and arrive in San Francisco (23) in December next year.

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Queer News

Dial-a-death panic gripping the North

CHIANG MAI: People in Northern Thailand are scared to answer their cellphones following reports claiming calls from certain numbers are causing instant brain haemorrhages.

People are warning each other to watch out for numbers containing the sequence 3333.

If the gossip is to be believed, when calls from the numbers are answered, the phones send out a high frequency signal causing blood to explode out of the ear.

The deadly phone calls have reportedly been restricted to the North with reports from Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Lampang, Phayao, Phrae and Nan.

On January 21, 25-year-old Kanchana Khayan, a fourth-year student at Chiang Mai Rajabhat University, said her mother had warned her never to answer calls from a number starting with 083-333 and ending with 67.

A Tourist Police officer, who asked not to be named, said the 'death calls' are all people are talking about in certain districts of Chiang Mai.

In Phrae, the phone calls are rumored to have killed more than 40 people.

Deputy Superintendent of Song Men Police, Amnuay Na Lampang, said he asked his officers to investigate stories of people in his district dying after answering the phone.

Officers, however, could find no evidence of telephone-related fatalities.

Lt Col Amnuay said he believed the news had been spread after friends and relatives

in Chiang Mai had called up warning people to be on their guard.

Thanom Buaphat, from the Northern Telecommunications Center, said the suspicious numbers belonged to telecoms company AIS's north-eastern zone.

Mr Thanom said he had heard tales of mobile phones causing people to crash their cars or giving them brain tumours, but never causing instant death.

"The stories were probably just made up by youths for a laugh," he said.

Assistant Director of AIS's public relations department, Wilai Khiangpradu, said the news wasn't true as mobile phones could not send high frequency signals that were dangerous to health.

Finally, after collecting evidence from across the North, the *Khao Sod* news team plucked up the courage to try one of the deadly numbers themselves.

The reporters called 083-333-5xxx, reportedly one of the most dangerous numbers.

Instead of an explosion of blood from the ear, however, they got an angry young woman who complained she had been called more than 100 times that day by people asking if she had really been sending out high frequency death waves.

The woman said she had been using the 'beautiful number' since she bought it three years ago. The following day she would buy a new SIM card, she added.

Source: *Khao Sod*

Apologetic thief hands herself in

KAMPHAENG PHET: After an attack of guilt, a woman returned one million baht she had stolen from her employer.

Fifty-one-year-old Sommai Wanawong on January 21 returned the cash at Muang District Police Station. She was promptly placed under arrest for theft.

Mrs Sommai told police she worked selling stainless steel kitchenware for Lamphuan Sudprasert, 46. On January 10 after she and 15 co-workers had been out collecting money from customers, Mrs Sommai said she sneaked back into the house where the company employees lived. Once inside she broke into Mrs Lamphuan's room and stole the one million baht in takings.

After Mrs Lamphuan discovered the loss, her employees reported the theft to police. Police questioned the employees, all of whom denied any knowledge of the missing cash. Mrs Sommai said that as she was making the report, her boss broke down in tears.

She was overcome with guilt because Mrs Lamphuan had always been very kind to her and never suspected her of the theft, she told police. After more than a week, Mrs Sommai could no longer endure her guilt and decided to return the cash.

Mrs Lamphuan said she has forgiven Mrs Sommai for the theft, wants to allow her to make amends and will not press charges.

Unfortunately for the thief, burglary is a non-compoundable offences in Thailand and police have no choice but to continue the investigation and file charges against Mrs Sommai.

Source: *Thai Rath*

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Foodies flock to Saphan Hin



Phuket Town's second annual Food Fair, held in Saphan Hin, received rave reviews from attendees. Sponsored by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO), hundreds of families, music fans and foodies turned out for the five day event. Themed as family friendly, due to the prohibited sale of

alcohol, patrons delighted in the variety of a hundred booths offering favorite native foods like *oh tao* (omelette with clams), *khanom chan* (pink or green layered coconut dessert) and *khanom mo gaeng* (egg custard with fried onion). The Saphan Hin tin mining exhibition booth, sponsored by Phuket Vocational College,



Many desserts were offered by food vendors including bright pink *khanom chan* (left). Music students from Rajabhat Phuket University performed on the main stage (above). Photos by Elizabeth Branca

was a big hit with fair goers, as shirtless students, sporting black metallic body paint struck statuesque poses. Informational plaques were positioned throughout the booth detailing Saphan Hin's tin mining history and the effect of dredging on the island's ecology. The booth also displayed arrangements which were beautifully carved from fruits and vegetables.

While parents enjoyed the music, children gathered in a tented game area to paint ceramics, play *mak khom* (African mancala) and watch an ice carving demonstration.

Each night featured a wide range of staged entertainment, ranging from classical Thai dancing to bawdy cabaret by transgender performers.

Drama students from Rajabhat Phuket University crooned long into the night covering songs from Thai pop stars as well as American artists like Jason Mraz.

There was stiff competition in the race to win the Miss Andaman Beauty Pageant 2010 crown, but the honor went to Piraiphan Kreutpraphan of Phang Nga.

-Elizabeth Branca



All the fun of the fair (clockwise). A boy gets a lesson in ice sculpture. One of the many theatrical performers who thrilled the crowd with cabaret antics and two human statues at the Saphan Hin tin mining exhibit.

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Two stars of perfection in the hills of Bang Tao

On the menu

WITH
Scott Phillips

When resorts like Bang Tao's The Pavilion welcome guest chefs like France's two Michelin-starred Philippe Etchebest, those who sit down for a meal get to experience the best in both fine dining and inimitable atmosphere.

The Plantation Club – The Pavilion's restaurant overlooking Phuket's hills and the Andaman sea – was recently the place to offer such an experience.

Inspired by the colonial-era houses of Phuket's mercantile history, Plantation's antique-wooden tables, subtle lighting, soft music and cultural decor created an atmosphere that was a fitting complement to Etchebest's creations. His presentations bridge talent with taste to make dishes that are not only delicious, but artistic; crafted with colors and textures that paint the plate like a canvas.

The first course – duck foie gras – provided an engaging taste of things to come. Pan fried with



Strawberry mousse (above) and a Wagyu beef (right) were just two highlights from Chef Philippe Etchebest's four-day visit to The Pavilion in Bang Tao. Widely known as one of France's top culinary masters, Chef Etchebest makes a dining experience one that his guests will not forget.

a lasagna, with froth and shavings of black truffle, and accompanied by a 2007 Medaille d'Or, Alsace, it melted as soon as it hit the mouth.

The well-traveled chef Etchebest is no stranger to unique local ingredients, and this became quite apparent with his third-course seabass dish. It was prepared with garlic and ginger noodles, green apple, mango, a

curry-like fish jus, and topped with a perfectly smooth film of white coconut. The flavors from the unique dish were redolent of the best local ingredients; a testament to the chef's ability to adapt to his surroundings.

The main course was a fillet of Wagyu beef, sauteed with celery, endive, pear, carrot, wine sauce and peppermint oil, served with a 2006 Château De Francs,



Bordeaux. In the world of fine dining, Wagyu beef has developed a near legendary reputation – including rumors (neither upheld nor denied by the chef) that the cattle are massaged with Japanese sake as they are raised, adding tenderness and flavor to their meat. This was my first taste of this beef variety. I cannot say if the rumors are true, but I can say that it deserves its reputation.

It was delectable.

As we were finishing the final pieces of strawberry sorbet, Etchebest came out to greet us. Full of energy but modest in his acceptance of the compliments flowing from the room, the chef looked every bit the part. After a conversation about his first visit to Phuket, he retired for the evening, our satisfied pallets ensuring we remembered the experience.

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From immigrants to courtiers

A top Rang Hill in Phuket Town there stands a monument to one of the most remarkable men in the modern history of southern Thailand. The statue of Khaw Sim Bee, once high commissioner of Monthon Phuket, overlooks the town that used to be his center of government. It is a reminder of the years of prosperity and stability that followed his appointment to the post, and a legacy to the Khaw family's political influence and rise to power.

The Khaw family had their roots in humble beginnings. Khaw Sim Bee's father, Khaw Soo Cheang, emigrated to Phang Nga from southern China during the

early 19th century, aged only 25. He was among the many Hokkien Chinese immigrants who left their homeland to come to Southeast Asia in search of their fortunes.

Accounts of Khaw Soo Cheang's early life are inconsistent. As an immigrant, he probably settled in Phang Nga and may have traveled to Penang as well, working as a laborer and fruit seller. Before long, the brilliant-minded Khaw Soo Cheang managed to start his own business and even managed to quickly expand his trade to other towns on the west coast of Thailand and Malaya. Up until 1844, Soo Cheang made Penang and Phang Nga his business bases, acquiring considerable wealth. After that, he moved to Ranong and established his permanent residence.

Ranong, much like other areas in the south of Thailand, had an abundance of good quality tin

reserves which had not been fully exploited. When he settled there, Khaw Soo Cheang successfully bid for a government concession to establish a monopoly in mining and trading these reserves. He was later granted a junior Siamese noble title and became known as Luang Rattanasethi.

In the following years, Soo Cheang became responsible for operating the tin mines and was required to ensure healthy profits, part of which had to be sent to Bangkok as state revenue. It was said that Soo Cheang was not only an honest and loyal statesman, but an outstanding entrepreneur as well. Under his management the mines made good profits, which meant the government's revenue also rose. Observing his talent for business and sound management, in 1854 King Mongkut (Rama IV) promoted him to the higher noble rank of Phra Rattanasethi.

During his years in Ranong, Soo Cheang oversaw the development of the tin industry, building and investing in new facilities for processing and smelting the metal.

With increased capacity, workers were encouraged to settle Ranong Town, turning it into a well-populated commercial center and adding further to the government's tax revenues. Soo Cheang was also commended for earning the respect of British merchants and dignitaries in Malaya.

For these reasons, in 1862 King Mongkut appointed him as the governor of Ranong. Khaw Soo Cheang's noble rank was increased to 'Phraya', the highest bureaucratic rank a provincial statesman could hope to attain. Hereafter Khaw Soo Cheang became known as Phraya Rattanasethi and assumed full responsibility for the administration of Ranong.

In the subsequent years, Soo Cheang's sons were appointed governors of various towns in the south of Thailand, gaining royal endorsement and becoming one of the most politi-



A statue of Khaw Soo Cheang sits in Ranong Town, commemorating the prosperity he and his family brought to the area.

cally influential families in Siam. It was unusual that a single family of Chinese descent was allowed to gain administrative control of so many towns and ports on the south-western coast.

By the mid 19th century, British investors were eager to control trade resources in peninsular Siam and Malaya, particularly the mineral-rich west coast.

The Siamese ruling elite in Bangkok decided that in order to slow the spread of British commercial control in the south, they had to support the powerful entrepreneurs on the Siamese side who already had control of enterprises on the peninsular. It was hoped that they would be able to protect Siamese commercial interests in the region.

The Khaw family were nothing if not powerful entrepreneurs. Their business empire had spread throughout Malaya and southern Siam, with many business bases and diversified control. The Khaw-family-controlled shipping company, Koe Guan, operating from Penang, also held a virtual monopoly on the transport of cargo along the west coast. The company also played a major role in transport-

ing workers to new mines in the region where they were needed.

Few other families in Siam had as much commercial influence in the region. Besides that, the Khaws were openly loyal to the Siamese monarchy and state, despite being of Chinese origin. It was therefore an unconventional yet prudent move that the Thai government allowed the Khaws to gain so much administrative control of the peninsular.

It was hoped that the family's business influence could be used to thwart British commercial advances beyond Penang. Effectively, it opened a channel for the Khaw family to rise to important political positions, enabling them to become one of the most influential families in the region.

Anand Singh is an avid Phuket historian. He lived on Phuket from the age of 3 to 21 and speaks fluent Thai. He recently completed his degree in economics from the University of Birmingham. Anand can be contacted at as.pkt@hotmail.com.

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Bona fide talent comes to Bodega



Artist Danaiphat "Bon" Lersputtitrakan's murals are a blend of urban angst and soulful imagery that lay out like a lyric; a striking visual ode. "I like simple kinds of music like Thai roots, rock and reggae," says the 27-year old artist.

"My murals are influenced by graffiti, but they are not called graffiti," he explains. Many of his murals are born while listening to music. "My favorite songs can be interpreted in my murals."

Bon showcases his art in a variety of media, including

videos, posters and canvas.

Since kindergarten he has had a passion for reading and drawing cartoons. In 1997 he began studying arts at Thonburi Vocational College. He continued his studies at Rajamangala University of Technology in Bangkok, where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree.

As a student, he competed in national art contests and eventually won the Thailand Art Awards 2003 Exhibition, sponsored by Phillip Morris.

Like many artists, after graduation he turned his back on corporate art competitions and took his talent to the streets.

His early years as a street artist were spent painting wall-sized murals in public spaces, along with holding impromptu art exhibitions with his 'graffiti writer' friends.

Bon says there are many spaces in the world where people can share their creative ideas and hopes his art inspires good in the world. His murals can be found from Bangkok to Phuket and beyond.

The Child's Bon Art Exhibition is showing at Bodega



Bon's latest mural on Theprasatti Road in Thalang.

Music Cafe in Patong from January 22 to February 22. A portion of the exhibit's profits will be donated to the Bodega Project children's charity.

For more information please contact Bodega Music Cafe 189/3 Rat-U-Tit 200 Pee Rd, Patong. T: 076-602191. W: www.bodega-phuket.com.

-Sithipong Nongkaew

The art of food and wine

The Evason Phuket Resort and Six Senses Spa is to host an event seeking to highlight the common ground between art and winemaking. 'Redefining Art' will see wines from world-renowned winemaker Livio Felluga paired with a showcase of work by local artists.

Taking place from February 18 - 21, the event will celebrate the words of art historian Jean Paul Richter, who believed, "art is indeed not the bread, but the wine of life."

Guests will enjoy artfully prepared dishes from executive chef Thomas Jakobi and taste wines by Livio Felluga, all set against the atmosphere of the Evason's lush grounds.

On February 19, the 'Colours of the Garden' lunch will take place in the resort's organic herb and vegetable garden, with Jakobi demonstrating his recipes and professional cooking techniques using fresh local ingredients.

During lunch, winemaker Maurizio Felluga will lead a wine tasting and present selections to guide guests' palates.

Music will fill the garden



terranean meets central Europe in the gently rolling hills of Friuli, Italy.

It was through hard work that Livio Felluga created one of Friuli's most impressive wineries, earning his universally acknowledged reputation as the man who re-established Friuli's wine-making heritage.

The American magazine the *Wine Enthusiast* included Livio Felluga Terre Alte 2007 in the list of the top 100 wines of 2009 calling it "a luxurious and unique wine."

A gala dinner will take place at Evason's contemporary style restaurant 'Into the Med' on Saturday, February 20. Views of the Andaman Sea will provide the background to an evening of fine dining and Italian wines.

After a day of leisure on the private island, guests will savor sophisticated modern cuisine, artfully plated and paired with Livio Felluga wines by sommelier Monika Bielka-Vescovi.

For more information or to make reservations, contact Monika Bielka-Vescovi. T: 076-381010 x 1502. E: bvmphuket@sixsenses.com.

while local artists showcase their work, taking guests on a journey through Asian culture and history.

The partnership between Livio Felluga winery and Six Senses was born from a shared philosophy of 'SLOW LIFE' (Sustainable, Local, Organic, Wholesome; Learning, Inspiring, Fun, Experiences).

Livio Felluga's handmade wines have become an inspiration to younger winemakers throughout the world.

The story of Livio Felluga and his wines are bound up with the history of his family and their land, located where the Medi-

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Adriano Trapani: Phuket's mermaid shooter

Adriano Trapani claims he can capture the mermaid begging to be unleashed in any woman. Known as Phuket's 'underwater paparazzi', today he is fishing for new 'mermaid models' and isn't fussy about which variety of *femme* he reels in - Thai, European, African, Asian, tourist or local - he wants them all. He even promises to release his catch back into the wild after he's had his fix.

The 36-year-old Italian dive instructor can be found splashing around in Phuket swimming pools with his 'mermaids' - who are dressed in glad rags - armed with his Canon G10 camera encased in waterproof housing.

A self confessed vanity sinner, Adriano's new underwater fashion photography business is generating a swell of interest from tourists and locals on the island.

"Just give me a swimming pool, some props and a subject and my passion and talent will do the rest," he said.

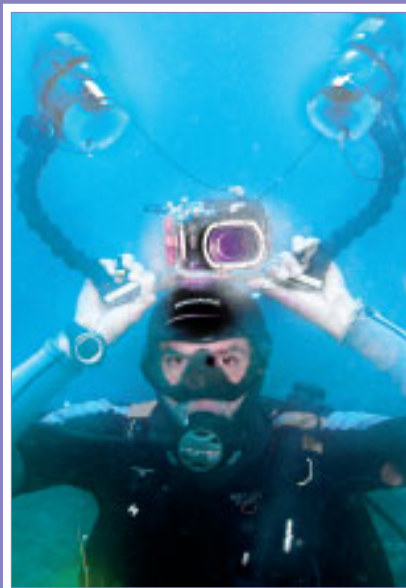
Adriano first coined his 'women can be 'mermaids' idea two years ago, whilst working as a dive instructor in Indonesia.

"I tried some different underwater shots: a female model with colorful clothes on while swimming in the resort pool," he said.

Pleased with the outcome, Adriano proudly hung the photograph on his wall, between his choice shots of sharks and giant manta rays. It was while staring longingly at the mermaid photograph one morning last December that Adriano realized his new business venture: He would take an ordinary woman and morph her into a graceful mermaid, if only for a few hours.

One snag, potential mermaids must be able to hold their breath under water for 30 seconds at a time, longer if possible, for Adriano to get the shot he needs.

With more than ten years of diving and photography experience under his weight belt, Adriano



Adriano Trapani is Phuket's 'Underwater paparazzi'. The Italian dive instructor has started the island's first underwater fashion photography service. Adriano poses with his camera gear on a recent dive (top left) and (top right, bottom) two of his stunning first mermaid photographs.

achieved dive instructor status in 2004.

Opting for a two week Phuket holiday, arriving on December 20, 2004 - just six days before the tsunami struck- Adriano, was involved in the relief effort by volunteering to help the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR).

There, he assisted in the massive 'reef-check' effort in surrounding waters off Phuket, Phi Phi Islands and the Similan Marine National Park.

Working with his Thai counterparts was when Adriano "fell in love with Thailand" and decided to stay to find work in the island's dive industry.

Five years on, Adriano is a professional underwater photographer and veteran dive instructor.

He has been published in dive rags around the globe and his style is causing quite a

stir with the ladies. His key to success: "make a different yet professional photo shoot at a reasonable price available to anyone," he said.

Each shoot takes around four hours and Adriano provides the clothes for models, unless they want to bring their own. A tour operator, a Patong based dive shop and another professional photographer have all given the green light to help get Adriano's small business idea off the ground.

Adriano held his first shoot for paying tourist customers earlier this month. Two young Australian women "held their breath for some underwater fun".

To contact the 'underwater paparazzi' Adriano contact E: adrianotrapani@yahoo.it or visit W: easydaythailand.com/adriano-trapani-underwater-paparazzi.php or T: 0866897975.

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EXPAT GALLERY

Stephen Fein

Stephen Fein is News Editor at the *Phuket Gazette*. One of the newspaper's most talented investigative journalists, he has been working mostly behind the scenes since 2003. Recently his name has begun to appear on the weekly editorial column, which he has been writing for several years.

He was also the voice behind the popular column *Stool Pigeon*, and has been actively involved in the *Queer News* columns for six years, formerly as researcher and translator, now as editor.

His many talents as an editor are due in part to his love of living in Thailand. Born in Massachusetts on the east coast of the United States, he never enjoyed the cold winters. When he first came to Thailand in 1986 on a holiday, he was immediately intrigued by the language and embraced the country's famous cuisine. In 1989 he returned to live, with the goal of learning to speak, read and write Thai.

"It was quite a departure from what I had studied in school. I graduated from Montreal's McGill University in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science in Hydrology. It is still an area of interest for me and I actively follow water supply issues in Phuket."

Stephen began his Thai studies in Bangkok in 1989 and taught English to support himself,

first to children, then to every age group. He found his interest in Thailand expanded with his growing ability to speak, read and write the Thai language.

"Over the next eight years, I lived in Bangkok and taught English to vocational students, corporate clients, and students preparing to study abroad. But by 1997, when the Thai economy was in a downward spiral, I realized I should leave Bangkok for my own good and start afresh elsewhere in the country."

He moved to Songkhla province and for the next two years taught at various schools, including Stamford College in Haad Yai and Rajabhat Institute Songkhla. He then opened his own language school and offered Thai translation services to the international oil exploration companies there. His life was running smoothly until the events of September 11, 2001 forced him to re-think the future.

"I suddenly realized I was an American living in a predominantly Muslim area, and without many friends. My girlfriend, with whom I'd been living for over a year, had dumped me, and it was the first time I'd ever really been broken hearted. My teaching was going well, but I just felt it was time to move on, and Phuket was the most attractive option," he said.

He came to Phuket and taught English and translated news stories for another media outlet until he joined the *Gazette* in 2003.

Stephen has written a variety of interesting feature articles, usually based on his own personal interests. At his local barber shop, he was intrigued to watch an ear cleaning procedure involving metal tools inserted deep into the ear. He had never seen anything like it so he volunteered to have it done and wrote about it.

In a more investigative mode, he has written extensively about Thailand's efforts to establish a tsunami warning system.

Stephen has struggled recently with vision problems which have required major surgery.

"I wish I had known that people who are very near sighted like myself are at high risk for retinal detachment. I would warn anyone approaching their 40s to get their retinas checked, as it can be easily prevented with laser surgery. Instead, I had to have a vitrectomy, which involves the removal of the inside of the eye and replacement with a gas bubble that takes two weeks to dissolve. It's a real nightmare," he said.

Stephen enjoys teaching his four-year-old daughter Sanda, a student at Darasamuth School, where his wife Karnjana is a teacher.

Although healing from eye surgery, he still researches, edits and writes in front of his computer, taking the island's daily news to readers of the *Phuket Gazette* all over the world. - Bruce Stanley



BY PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

ABOUT EXPAT GALLERY

The individuals profiled in the *Gazette's* 'Expat Gallery' series have been chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket, and, as foreigners, for having made those contributions in successful partnerships with Thais. For many, the contributions have entailed significant investment, often at a time (mid-80s to mid-90s) when the rules of business were, ahh, not entirely clear. Some of our subjects are not business people at all, but have added real value to Phuket as English teachers, journalists, artists, engineers, fund raisers, etc. But all have one thing in common: if there were a *Who's Who in Phuket*, they'd be in it.

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ABODE AWARDED: Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop and his wife Thaisika declared Mrs Yodkwan Chaiyasit the grand prize winner in the Phuket Provincial Red Cross Fair Charity Raffle on January 8. Khun Yodkwan was presented with the chanote land title for a home in the Phanason Parkville Three housing estate, valued at 2.7 million baht.



BURN BABY BURN: New civil volunteers learn valuable fire fighting techniques while participating in a controlled burn with Patong firefighters. Patong Municipality Disaster Prevention and Civil Volunteers held a training class on January 11, preparing 150 recruits for emergency responses.



RAW PLEASURES: On January 24 Mom Tri's Villa Royale resort hosted the first Raw Food Workshop with celebrity chef and award winning author Ani Phyo. The event generated an overwhelming response and the lucky attendees sampled seven of the chef's recipes; including a mango cobbler, a *tom yum* inspired soup and taco nut meat.



PARTY BEATS: DJ Cut Killer worked the crowd into a dance frenzy at the White Box restaurant's second anniversary party on January 16 in Patong. The most famous hip-hop DJ in Europe celebrated with hundreds of revelers at the hot spot late into the night with special food, drinks and bumpin' sounds. Photo by FOTOPRO PHUKET



GIRL POWER: Rawai Tambon Administration Organization is funding free aerobics classes on Rawai Beach daily between 5:30pm and 6:30pm. Pictured above are the aerobics team leaders with the program's new instructor, Khun Lita. Photo by Tony Pope.



SUNNY MONEY: Indigo Pearl Hotel and the Virgin Blue Group of Airlines joined in a charity auction on January 22 to raise 373,616 baht for the Phuket Sunshine Village Foundation. Pictured from left to right are Arnaud Girodon, general manager of Indigo Pearl and Nittaya Phetam, V Australia representative, and Phuket Sunshine Village Foundation board of director members Frank Michel Couture, Franco Ferri, and Nattisa Taebantakoon.

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BEHIND THE WHEEL
By Jeff Heselwood

A fusion of power and luxury



The 2011 Jaguar XJ is a state-of-the-art fusion of power and luxury, combining a stylish interior with a supercharged five-liter V8 engine.

A new top-of-the-range Jaguar sedan is a rare occurrence – the last was around seven years ago – but the latest 2011 Jaguar XJ series is a magnificent machine, combining luxury and performance. As Jaguar founder William Lyons liked to say, the latest has it all: “Grace, pace and style.”

The 2002 XJ was the first aluminum-bodied sedan in Jaguar’s line-up. The new model takes this one step further. It is more balanced in its styling, due in no small part to the panoramic sun roof, which allows more light to illuminate the interior.

At the launch of the first aluminum model, Jaguar Design Director Ian Callum pointed out that the use of aluminum brought certain constraints to the design process, particularly in respect of radiuses and rolled edges. “The Aston Martin Vanquish [which Callum also designed] was easy by comparison, because it used superform, a simple but limited form of production. This was a much bigger challenge – a learning curve, if you like. Some things we wanted to produce could not be done. We had to reach a compromise,” he said.

It is clear that no compromises have been made with the 2010 XJ and, as Jaguar is keen to point out: “Imagine 12,000

aluminum drink cans stacked high. Melt them down and recycle them and that is the amount of reclaimed aluminum that goes into the new XJ’s body.”

Jaguar also points out that the XJ’s structure carries a lot less kinetic energy into a collision than an equivalent steel body, reducing the amount of energy that needs to be absorbed, thereby protecting its occupants.

Power comes from a five-liter V8 engine, with an optional supercharger. The supercharged model produces an extremely healthy 500bhp (370kW) at 6,000rpm; torque output peaks at 625Nm, but is produced steadily between 2,500 and

5,500rpm. This impressive motor is mated to a six-speed ZF automatic transmission.

Lower down the scale is the non-supercharged, normally aspirated V8 that produces 385bhp. Both supercharged and non-supercharged models are electronically limited to a maximum speed of 250km/h, while the benchmark 0-100km/h sprint is achieved in 4.9 and 5.7 seconds, respectively.

A number of sophisticated safety features are standard on the XJ, including a pedestrian contact sensing device, front and rear parking aids, front and side airbags as well as side air curtains and a whiplash protection system for both the

driver and front seat passenger. Electronic features are abundant in this new luxury sedan and include active differential control, adaptive dynamic suspension, a 3-level dynamic stability control, adaptive cruise control and an electric parking brake with a drive-away release.

Other useful features include four-zone climate control within the car, an auto dimming interior mirror, a power rear window blind and the power-operated panoramic roof, which has a slide and tilt front section and is fitted with electric blinds.

The headlamps are automatic bi-xenon with an intelligent high beam feature. The windshield wipers are also automatic, and cornering lamps are standard.

Jaguar is nowadays owned by the Indian Tata Motors group, which requested British government aid as sales slumped in the last 18 months. The UK government wanted certain guarantees from Tata, which the company felt unable to give, so it financed the bridging in other ways.

Sales in some countries are expected to improve substantially throughout 2010, although the UK still remains in recession. China is a big market, of course, and in 2009 this vast country surpassed the US in terms of vehicles sold, with 13.6 million cars delivered. The North American International Auto Show in Detroit at the beginning of January demonstrated that the industry remains optimistic and there is hope that the downturn is firmly in the past.

One thing is certain: if the new Jaguar XJ sedan receives the acclaim it deserves, it will be a sure winner on all continents.



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3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 224 sq.m.

Model	Area (sq.wa)	*Total price*(baht)	Deposit (baht)	50% Down payment (baht)	Final payment (baht)
Pruerk-Pailin	80	5,630,000	100,000	2,715,000	2,815,000
Pruerk-Ampai	91.10	6,350,000	100,000	3,075,000	3,175,000
Pruerk-Amporn	136.4	9,100,000	100,000	4,450,000	4,550,000

- * These prices include air-conditioners, wall paper, kitchen and garden
- * 1-year-free use of the club facilities except spa and restaurant
- * The price and style of the houses may be changed without prior notice

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

13th Annual Phang Nga Bay Regatta – February 3 – 7



Encompassing four days of racing and five days of partying that covers the provinces of Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi, the Phang Nga Regatta has obtained a reputation for being one of the most fun boating events in Southeast Asia, earning the nickname, 'the fun regatta'. Perfect for families and less serious racers, there will be a host of parties at different beach venues each night from 6:30pm. For further information contact Vicky or Leslie. T: 085-069 0940 or 089-875 0064. E: info@bay-regatta.com. W: bay-regatta.com.

February 12. Valentine's Crush at RPM

Royal Phuket Marina and QSI present Valentine's Crush, the first such event in Phuket. Upon entry, guests will have a chance to wear their hearts on their sleeves. Grab a complimentary rose and give it to your crush. Vote on the sweetest guy and girl and crown them 'Sweethearts of the Night'. Performances, henna tattoos, music, dancing, free ice cream, games and more. The entrance fee is 300 baht and includes finger food and one free mood punch. Parents will receive a 20 percent discount at all RPM restaurants during the event. From 6:30pm – 11:30pm at Town Square, Royal Phuket Marina. For further information contact Mr Murat Can Sakarya. E: murat@royalphuketmarina.com T: 081-797 3364. W: royalphuketmarina.com.

February 13. Chinese New Year's Eve at Moevenpick

In accordance with tradition, Moevenpick has arranged a celebratory feast on Chinese New Year's Eve to bring friends and family together to start the new year. Guests will feast on an array of Chinese delicacies and international desserts. The Chinese New Year's Eve buffet dinner will be held at the Pacifica from 6:30pm – 10:00pm and is priced at 1,288 baht ++ per person. Book a table for 10 persons or more and receive a complimentary 'Yu Sheng' Chinese New Year Salad. For further info contact Mr. Patrick De Staercke. T: 076-396139. E:patrick.destaercke@moevenpick.com. W: moevenpick-phuket.com.

February 14. Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year starts with the new moon on the first day of the lunar calendar and is the biggest social occasion in the Chinese tradition. It is celebrated with gusto amongst Thailand's sizeable ethnic Chinese community and legions of Chinese tourists from neighboring nations who choose to enjoy the holiday in Phuket.

February 14. Valentines Day at Les Anges

Les Anges invites guests to treat their loved one to an intimate evening on Valentine's Day with a special menu, created with love in mind by Chef/Patron Peter Webber. 1,750 baht per person or 2,500 baht per person with selected wines. Price includes a special gift for everyone. From 12pm - 10pm. For further information contact Mr. Peter Webber. T: 076-360803 or 081-9680738. E:peterw@lesangesphuket.com. W: lesangesphuket.com.

February 14. Valentine's Dinner at Royal Phawadee Village

While love is in the air, Royal Phawadee Village will offer a Valentine's Day Dinner at 6pm at La Boucherie Grill & Steakhouse, where guests can let their imaginations run wild with a special a la carte menu and a variety of wine selections. Mae Naam Restaurant will also hold a special dinner. 2,500 baht per person. From

6:30pm to midnight at Royal Phawadee Village. For further information contact Bao. T: 084-849 2122, 076-344581. E: claud@crisseyco.com W: royal-phawadee-village.com.

February 14. Jazz in the Park on Valentine's Day

The Rotary Club of Tongkah presents a 'Big Band' Jazz charity concert at Queen Sirikit Park to raise funds for the Bang-neaw School. Enjoy the night with favorite songs played by the JCB Jazz Cool Band. There will also be a Classic & Supercar Show. From 5pm – 9:30pm. For further information contact Chaisak Koaysomboon. T: 076-304090. E: chaisak@expressdata.co.th. W: tongkah.org.

Free Computer Clinics

Have a computer problem? Join "For Dummies" author and Windows victim Woody Leonhard at one of his FREE weekly Computer Clinics, held every Sunday morning at Woody's Sandwich Shoppes in Chalong, Patong and Laguna. Click on the 'Old "Khunwoody.com" pages' link.

T: 076-290468. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: KhunWoody.com. All clinics are from 10am-12pm. In Chalong, January 31 and February 21 and 28; in Patong, February 7; in Laguna, February 14.

January 30. Latin Caliente "HOT" Party at RPM

The island's first latin dance party of the year will feature DJs Carlos and Ricardo from Bangkok's *Latinos Sabotaje* spinning salsa, merengue, bachata, reggae and latin-pop. Enjoy some latin flavor with percussionists, tequila girls, and a salsa dance workshop. Party from 7:30pm – 11:30pm at Town Square in the Royal Phuket Marina. Entrance fee is 500 baht and includes tapas snacks and a beer, glass of wine or soft drink. For further information contact Mr Murat Can Sakarya. T: 081-797 3364. E: murat@royalphuketmarina.com. W: royalphuketmarina.com

February 10. Phuket Punchline Comedy Club

Live International Stand-Up Comedy. The Punchline Comedy Club is back this February, kicking off its 2010 season with a trio of international comedians. John Moloney, Stewart Francis, and Pete Johansson have over sixty years of stand-up experience between them, so guests can be assured of a fun packed night full of laughter. It all takes place in an air-conditioned venue with a 'comedy' bar selling drinks at sensible prices (Beer 100 baht; Selected Spirits 120 baht; Wine 140 baht). From 8pm to 11pm at Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, Patong Beach. For further information contact Khun Boom. T: 089-646 9278. E: info@phuketcomedy.com W: phuketcomedy.com.

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On The Move *Introducing the island's movers and shakers*

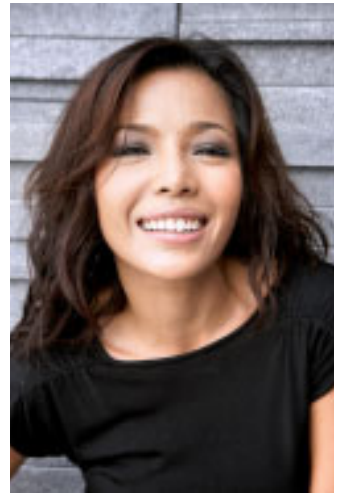
Hilton Phuket Arcadia has recently welcomed **Mr Richard Margo** as its new Director of Operations. Mr Margo brings with him over 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry, with notable expertise in food and beverage and hotel operations. He started his career in the five-star hotel industry in the famous *Hotel Des Bergues* in Geneva, and has since built a career in hospitality at some of the world's most luxurious hotels.



Indigo Pearl Resort announced the appointment of **Mr Pitak Chuerthong** to Resort Services Manager, where he will supervise and coordinate recreational programs and activities. Mr Pitak has vast experience in recreational hospitality and team building management. Originally from Trang Province, Mr Pitak also boasts years of tennis experience with international coaches, making him the ideal hitting partner.



Miss Tipwarintron Tan-aakarachod was recently appointed PR/Marketing & Communication Manager of Cape Sienna Phuket Hotel & Villa, where she will handle marketing for the hotel, including events, publications and market planning. Originally from Bangkok, Miss Tipwarintron's previous experience in the field includes several positions in Phuket, including Sales and Marketing Manager at The Villa Overlooking Layan.



The shrinking giants of global currency

Currencies are a very important part of most expats' lives and also one of the least understood. Alan Greenspan, former chairman of the US Federal Reserve, once quipped to the effect that the best way to determine the short-term future value of a currency against another currency is "to toss a coin". There is a lot of truth in that observation.

Currencies are very complex; the four main global currencies all look unattractive. If we were to compare the US dollar, euro, yen and pound sterling in a beauty competition, all four would be among the ugliest participants in history.

The US dollar that has driven the American housing market will take time to recover. The budget deficit is in double digits and the Federal Reserve has printed enough money to save anyone. Should the economy

need more support as the effects of the federal stimulus packages wear off, it will have to print even more money to keep the US economy alive.

However, the US will probably muddle through with some scares along the way. The crux of the scenario is that the US faces great challenges in its need to start reducing its national debt. China holds an ever-growing number of US government bonds.

There is also a very complicated global trade position running with the US dollar, including the entire commodities markets, which include base and precious metals, agricultural commodities, energy resources and more.

When commodity prices are rising, so is the physical demand for more US dollars to purchase them. When the US dollar falls in value against other currencies, most commodities have an inclination to rise in value,

thereby increasing demand for US dollars to purchase them.

In addition to all this, add in investment demand from professional currency traders either buying, selling or otherwise dealing in US dollars.

Official interest rates in the US are near zero for cash, with the Federal Discount rate at 0% to 0.25%; a record low. Low interest rates make a currency less attractive to hold, hence a 'cheap' US Dollar.

The euro, until very recently, was viewed highly – and then came Greece. Greece's budget deficit is also in double digit territory; its newly elected government is having problems convincing the market of its ability to rein in spending.

Greece, in similar fashion to Italy before joining the euro, had its own currency, the drachma. When both countries encountered

problems, their standard response was to let the currency devalue. Effectively, devaluation was their safety valve.

Unfortunately, countries such as Greece, Italy and Portugal are now being looked at with some wariness by investors wanting to purchase a euro-denominated bond issued by any of these countries, especially Greece. This means that medium to longer term interest rates are rising; this is in sharp contrast to the situation that prevailed when each country joined the euro.

After the initial hubbub following the establishment of the euro and the European Central Bank (ECB), it wasn't long before government bonds – whether issued by Germany or Portugal or France – offered the same yields.

This has changed and now investors are looking at the 'fine print' of the euro. The euro currency has member states that could, at some stage in the future, end up in a financial mess. The ECB has pronounced that member states do not have any right to be bailed out. The original Maas-tricht treaty provided that member states do not allow budget deficits to exceed 3 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), nor should government debt exceed 60 percent of annual GDP. Greece has around 13 percent government debt as its budget deficit approaches 120 percent of GDP.

Greece, unfortunately, has what is defined as a 'narrow economy'; the global financial

crisis has greatly worsened its economic position. Investors are skittish about what can happen with a currency union with so many disparate members.

Warts and all, when the global financial crisis hit home in late 2008, it was to the US dollar that money moved. The US treasury bills became the ultimate safe haven; it was only as investors realized this that a complete financial meltdown was avoided.

The yen is strong because of trade and current account flows in Japan's favor. Japanese companies have been extremely proficient at exports, often using other countries as manufacturing platforms. The spread of Toyota, Honda, Sony and many other world class companies have kept the coffers in Japan ringing. The country, with around US\$1 trillion in foreign exchange reserves (the second largest in the world) would seem to be in great financial shape. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

Japan has the highest government debt in the world at almost 200 percent of GDP, and this figure is steadily rising. The Japanese have the longest life expectancy of any major country, but a very low birthrate. The last Japanese boom ended with the stock market index, the Nikkei Dow, at over 39,000. That was 20 years ago. Today that same index is just above 10,000.

Recession, deflation and a lack of domestic consumer demand have dogged Japan for twenty years, and periods of recovery are small and short lasting – Japanese Central Bank rates at the Bank of Japan are 0.10 percent, the only reason they are not at zero is because they tried that and found that, for technical reasons, it created problems.



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

Richard G Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service, and has over 25 years experience in this field. Office: 076-381 997. Mobile: 081-081 4611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th www.globalportfolios.com.

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PUZZLES

Spot the Difference



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



1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18		
19					20							21				22						
23				24							25					26						
27											28				29							
				30						31	32			33								
34	35	36						37				38			39			40	41	42		
43					44	45	46					47	48					49				
50					51							52						53				
54				55						56	57	58					59					
60			61							62							63					
			64					65						66	67							
68	69							70					71						72	73		
74								75					76							77		
78								79						80					81			
82					83					84	85	86							87			
88				89						90									91			
				92				93	94		95				96	97	98					
99	100	101								102				103						104	105	106
107										108			109	110								
111										112											114	
115										116												118

ACROSS

- 1 Stop
- 5 An anagram for "staple"
- 11 Some are made by FBs and HBs
- 14 Open a ___ worms
- 19 Vividly colored aquarium fish
- 20 Baltimore bird
- 21 "___ Haw" (long-running variety show)
- 22 "... ___ to be born ..."
- 23 Classic cliffhanger (with "The")
- 26 1953 Ladd classic
- 27 Bacon and others
- 28 Exact opposite
- 30 Administers (with "out")
- 31 Drink daintily
- 33 Color or discolor
- 34 Dakota dwellings (Var.)
- 37 Carbon monoxide creators
- 39 Accept eagerly
- 43 Arabia's Gulf of ___
- 44 Single sheet
- 49 Battery option
- 50 "... in the pot, ___ days old"
- 51 Queens neighborhood, Park ___
- 52 "Friends" friend
- 53 Chain section
- 54 Baby's first word, perhaps
- 55 Inherited smog?
- 59 A moving crowd
- 60 Accented
- 62 W. ___ Burpee (seed man)
- 63 Orchestra tuners
- 64 Zoroastrian of India
- 65 Arctic Ocean obstacles
- 66 "Here comes treble" sign?
- 68 Baker's device
- 70 "American Graffiti" extras
- 71 Sensitive area

- 74 Accepted responsibility for
 - 75 Determines beforehand
 - 77 Professional org. since 1847
 - 78 Big donors
 - 79 Louisiana, in Orleans
 - 80 Agnes and Genevieve, for short
 - 81 PJ fastener
 - 82 Hong Kong's equiv. of the Dow
 - 83 Contribute
 - 87 Italian mount
 - 88 Islamic greeting
 - 90 Abstains from eating
 - 91 Starting point, as for a discussion
 - 92 Kick the bucket
 - 95 Spinning stat
 - 96 "Bustin' Loose" star
 - 99 It's between Molokai and Kauai
 - 103 Follow closely, as a game
 - 107 "Dreams From My Father" memoirist
 - 108 Refund requirement, often
 - 111 "Buffalo Stance" singer Cherry
 - 112 "It ___ come to my attention ..."
 - 113 African fly
 - 114 "Major" suffix
 - 115 AARP and NAACP
 - 116 Had a bone to pick?
 - 117 They were last seen alive in 1681 (Var.)
 - 118 Elisabeth of "Adventures in Babysitting"
- DOWN**
- 1 Be optimistic
 - 2 Animals studied by Yerkes
 - 3 TV husband of Phyllis
 - 4 Vitamin B1
 - 5 Assume for the

- sake of argument
- 6 "___ by any other name ..."
- 7 Does a baking task
- 8 Halts and bandeaus, e.g.
- 9 Highest musical note of yesteryear
- 10 Capital of Romania
- 11 Like the air at Coors Field
- 12 Hail damage on a hood
- 13 "Now you ___, now ..."
- 14 Bank employee
- 15 Goddess of wisdom
- 16 Peeples and Long
- 17 "Potent" or "present" lead-in
- 18 Accountant's charges
- 24 Caustic cleansers
- 25 In the ___ luxury
- 29 Chaucer specialties
- 31 "A Boy Named ___"
- 32 "How was ___ know?"
- 34 Sharp tastes
- 35 Blithering one
- 36 Writer's choice
- 37 Reynolds film "Rent-___"
- 38 Benders
- 40 Jeans, say
- 41 "American Justice" channel
- 42 "Action!" followers
- 44 Bluenose
- 45 "Able was ___ saw Elba"
- 46 "Gee whiz!"
- 47 Top-grade
- 48 Calif. clock setting
- 53 External ear parts
- 55 Comparable to a lobster
- 56 Lost color
- 57 Right a wrong
- 58 Like May through August, letterwise
- 59 Golf course necessities

- 61 Roof overhangs
- 65 ___ clay (underlying weakness)
- 66 Hopeless case
- 67 Foamy wave top
- 68 Jr.'s juniors
- 69 "___ Teenage Werewolf"
- 70 Carrying convenience
- 71 "Come in and ___ spell"
- 72 Hail damage on a hood
- 73 Spanish finger food
- 75 "Every child. One voice." org.
- 76 Baking measures, briefly
- 79 "St. ___ Fire"
- 81 Frisks
- 83 They're on the least-wanted list
- 84 "Taxi" character Elaine
- 85 The sixth sense
- 86 Elm and Downing (Abbr.)
- 89 Keeness of judgment
- 91 Bartlett alternative
- 93 ___ Centauri
- 94 Gold fineness measure
- 96 ___-Bismol
- 97 Get repeated value from
- 98 Belgian city destroyed in WWI
- 99 The final Mrs. Chaplin
- 100 Lincoln and Burrows
- 101 Dodge's Brinker
- 102 It may be stuffy
- 103 Britney's ex, in tabloids
- 104 Part of a swearing-in
- 105 Alphabet string
- 106 Superwide shoe spec
- 109 1-800-FLOWERS competitor
- 110 Bear at a Madrid zoo

HIDATO

FIND THE PATH - SOLVE THE PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that numbers 1 - 132 connect horizontally, vertically or diagonally:

		16			103			95	91		
	11				102			96	94	92	
	1	18			111	110				88	
8				20		112				84	
	3			23	22					83	
	4			119	114			76			
	29			121	118	116		78			
38		35			124					80	
			32		126		73				
44	46			53				72		67	
				54		58	60	129		64	66
42				56					130		132

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www.hidato.com

Difficulty ★★★★★

www.whatzit.com August 17, 2009

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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SHEIK BEE SHAKES

EDIS CAKE

MACKEREL

Puzzle Solutions

WHATZIT? solutions
 1. I'll be back in a couple of shakes.
 2. Upside-down cake. 3. Holy mackerel.

Solution to this week's Spot the Difference



Get your brain in gear with the MONSTER QUIZ

1. What animal lives in a holt?
2. Who is the patron saint of dancers and actors?
3. What is the world's tallest grass?
4. Who owned the newspaper on the TV show *Lou Grant*?
5. Who reputedly first said, "if in doubt tell the truth"?
6. Simon John Ritchie became a famous rocker under what name?
7. In Greek mythology who rowed the dead across the River Styx?
8. The famous author Alfred White wrote under what alias?
9. Which acid was first prepared from distilled red ants?
10. Who created the TV show *Doctor Who*?
11. What first took place in London's Serpentine outdoor pool on June 16, 1930?
12. Which European city is the bride of the sea?
13. Besides Peter Sellers, who played Inspector Clouseau in 1968?
14. Where could you find the Lutine Bell?
15. *Yabusame* is the Japanese version of what sport?
16. Which of the novels of Charles Dickens is considered to be his autobiography?
17. A dendrologist worships what?
18. What fast moving ball sport is the national sport of Finland?
19. Who was Emperor Claudius's adopted son?
20. Peter Goldmark invented what in 1948?

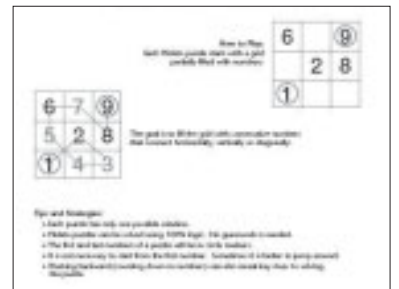
Answers below

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Monster Quiz Answers

1. An otter; 2. St Vitas; 3. Bamboo; 4. Mrs Pyncheon; 5. Mark Twain; 6. Sid Vicious; 7. Charon; 8. James Herriot; 9. Formic acid; 10. Sydney Newman; 11. Mixed swimming; 12. Venice; 13. Alan Arkin; 14. Lloyd's of London; 15. Archery; 16. David Copperfield; 17. Trees; 18. Pesapallo; 19. Nero; 20. LP record.

Hidato: How to play and this week's puzzle solution.



Hidato Puzzle Solution

12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7
8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5
4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4
8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5
7	6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6
6	5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Solution to this week's crossword

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Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Michael Crichton, who died in late 2008 at the age of 66, was a giant in every way: six foot nine inches tall, a medical doctor, a scientific polymath, creator of the television series *ER*, and the author of 16 novels, 13 of which were made into films. He spun plots involving time travel, alien bioforms and recreated dinosaurs.

He was also a terrible writer. His cardboard characters, utterly devoid of warmth or humor, spouted leaden dialogue and dutifully jumped through the hoops of his complicated plots.

Yet you always learned something from his books. In this he reminded me of James A Michener, another best-selling author who couldn't write himself out of a paper bag, but whose epic novels were chock full of

No booty in Crichton's final book

interesting information. How to make Clovis points, for example, or Pennsylvania Dutch sausages.

Alas, Crichton's last novel is sheer piffle. *Pirate Latitudes* (HarperCollins, London, 2009, 313pp) opens in Port Royal, Jamaica, the pirate's lair, in September, 1665. We have a crooked governor, a dashing pirate captain and a saucy aristocratic lady. We're in the territory of Captain Blood, starring Errol Flynn and Olivia DeHaviland.

When the captain, Charles Hunter, confronts the lady bathing nude in a waterfall, you get this 1930s dialogue:

"All that has been spoken of you is true," she complained. "You are a dastardly, uncouth, utterly foul man and truly no gentleman."

It gets worse. Captain Hunter rounds up a crew to raid the island garrison of Matanceros, which is sheltering a Spanish galleon chock-full of gold. The commandante is the bloodthirsty Cazalla who happened to have tortured Captain Hunter's brother to death. But as his sloop,



Cassandra slips between Cuba and Hispaniola, who bears down upon him but a giant warship captained by none other than Cazalla.

Captain Hunter and his crew surrender and are clapped deep into the hold. But left aboard the Cassandra is Sanson, a skilled French assassin who kills the Spanish crew on watch, swims to the warship, dons a soldier's uniform and frees all the

prisoners. They cut the big ship's anchor chain and escape aboard the Cassandra to Matanceros.

After a lot of jungle bashing and cliff climbing, they blow up the guns in the fort, seize the galleon and take off for home. But first there's a climactic duel between Hunter and Cazalla who snarls:

"Englishman, I will feed the pieces of your body to my dogs. And my mistress shall dine on your testicles."

But guess what? Cazalla doesn't win the duel. He loses and dies. What a surprise!

Along the way, Crichton has lectured the reader on how cannons were made and manned, pirate crews organized and explosives primed and set off. And to give him credit, he's occasionally capable of a good paragraph. Here's the helmsman Enders, awaiting the arrival of a hurricane:

"Enders felt the tiller in his hands; the pressure it exerted on his palms; the cant of the deck beneath his feet; the rumble of the water slipping by the hull; the wind on his cheeks; the vibration

of the rigging; the whole complex of forces and stresses that made up the trim of the ship. Indeed, in his absolute concentration, Enders became part of the ship, joined to it as if physically connected; he was the brain to its body, and he knew its condition to the minutest detail."

But then we're back in movie kiddy matinee wonderland. After the ship survives a hurricane, the crew put ashore on an island for repairs, where they are attacked by a savage band of man-eating Carib Indians, a tribe that was supposed to have been rendered extinct by the Spanish a half century before.

They barely escape this peril and put out to sea, only to be attacked by a giant squid! The monster ensnares Captain Hunter in its deadly tentacles and lifts him high into the air, but our hero lands on the squid's eye – as big as a table – and dispatches the beast with his sword.

Now this is just shameless. When he arrives back at Port Royal, Captain Hunter and his crew are clapped in jail as pirates but . . . why go on?

Horoscopes Isla Star



AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Work continues to be rewarding for most Aquarians, although mistakes are forecast to set you back midweek. Someone born under the sign of Cancer has some useful information concerning a possible new project this weekend, but you should adopt a cautious approach. The luckiest day for romance is Tuesday and financial negotiations will go smoothly on Thursday. Those with a birthday in the week ahead see their social lives sparkle in the coming year.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): February should be a lucky month for Pisceans seeking new employment. The stars suggest that you will have more than one job offer to choose from and you will learn of a strong possibility this week. A long term relationship will start to become more rewarding when your partner starts to show more interest in the activities in which you choose to spend your leisure time. Those who are single could meet their match when they are introduced

to Aries in the upcoming weekend.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Travel is highlighted for Arians in February. The stars suggest that plans could be subject to last minute changes this week and you should keep relevant papers in order to avoid stress. Another fire sign is about to let you in on a secret that could have implications for your work situation, but all will not become clear until the end of this month. The number seven can bring good fortune in the upcoming weekend.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): The opportunity to offload a problem may involve taking on a responsibility you don't need. A more feasible solution should present itself later in the week. If romance has been thin on the ground since the start of this year, the stars suggest that this will change during the month of February. Those born under the sign of Taurus who are ready for flirtation are advised to get out and about this weekend to take advantage of an opportunity.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Geminis are forecast to find more to do with their spare time during February. Enthusiasm for a project that you left on the back burner is set to brew again and an earth sign will bring positive involvement. Your luck in love is stronger, but someone who you thought was content to be casually involved could show signs of discontent. Wearing the

color bottle green will be likely to encourage a calmer mood.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Some Cancerians may have to be the bearer of bad tidings during the first week of February, but your tactful, understanding manner will help to ease a potentially uncomfortable situation. Personal finances are forecast to move onto a winning streak later this month – for the time being, caution should be your keyword. Lucky days for love are Sunday and Monday. Wear the color violet to brighten up your charisma.

LEO (July 24-August 22): A stumbling block at work this week may see Leos with less time for socializing. The stars suggest that you should handle this matter with care, particularly if an air sign colleague is involved. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for problem related discussions. A family visit is subject to delay, but this could be a blessing in disguise. The number six is likely to bring some good luck to you next Wednesday.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Your energetic start to the New Year continues into February, with a lucky astrological atmosphere affecting both business and personal areas of your life. Where romance is concerned, there are signs that an old flame will come back into the picture this week, but this could cause confusion. Those in a committed relationship will benefit from

a partner's financial gain. Wear a piece of lapis lazuli to encourage relaxation.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Catching up with an old friend provokes a trip down memory lane for Librans this week. This could lead to a desire to revisit a place you haven't seen for a long time and take care of some unfinished business. Money is forecast to become less of a source of stress during February, with emphasis on more gain from employment. Your personal life picks up when Gemini appears on the scene.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Something you hear off the record early next week should not be passed on. The stars indicate that certain Scorpios will be tempted to indulge in gossip that could backfire. The month of February is forecast to bring better luck in the world of work – a tentative job offer that you heard of late last year should become more concrete during the first half of this month. The number four could prove to be very lucky in the upcoming weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Relocation is highlighted for those born under the sign of Sagittarius this month. Those who have been searching for a dream house will benefit from a meeting with another fire sign this weekend. If your plans to move involve returning to your roots, a family member comes up with a viable solution.

Love with Capricorn is positive, but a relationship with Pisces is affected by arguments. The number five comes alive for you this Sunday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): A business arrangement made at the start of the year could be compromised by someone's change of heart this week. Capricorns caught in the middle of this situation are advised to schedule discussions for the middle of the week when the stars will support your efforts to straighten things out. Luck is on your side regarding romance – a fire sign interest is ready for a hot date this weekend.

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More tourists, fewer baht

With hotel occupancy rates on the island currently around 90 percent, hoteliers and other tourism business operators find themselves for the first time in two years unable to complain about a lack of tourists.

This is obviously good news, but many businesses on the island are finding that strong arrival figures haven't translated into the kind of revenue enjoyed during past high seasons. Many tourism businesses in Phuket are reporting income down by 30 to 40 percent compared to the 2007-2008 season.

Although this is an improvement over the 2008-2009 high season, which was wiped out by the takeover of Bangkok's two airports, business operators are complaining that the hoped-for bumper profits needed to get them through the next low season simply aren't there.

There are several reasons for this spending drop, the most important of which is the state of the global economy. The downturn has left European tourists, traditionally Phuket's bread-and-butter market, forced to cut back on expenditure while on vacation.

The demographics of inbound tourism to Phuket are changing as well. With the expansion in the number of direct scheduled and charter direct flights to Phuket from many new destinations in the region, Asian tourists now make up half of all foreign visitors.

In response to these trends, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) says it is trying to get tourists to part with more cash during their stays here.

Although it claims the new focus will be on expenditure and not arrival figures, the Tourism and Sports Ministry has nevertheless set a nationwide goal of attracting 16 million tourists in 2010, up two million from last year.

TAT deputy governor for international marketing Juthaporn Rerngronasa recently said the agency will take a market-by-market approach, targeting Europeans with 'green tourism' attractions, enticing Middle Easterners with health and wellness services and luring back Japanese tourists by naming a 'golf ambassador', for example.

No TAT campaign would be complete without a slogan, and this time the agency is indeed playing to the country's strengths with its new 'Amazing Thailand Amazing Value' catchphrase.

Phuket should stand to benefit from this latest TAT campaign. After all, there is no shortage of places for people to spend money on the island: golf courses, spas, specialty clinics, shopping centers, eco-tourism destinations and more bars and nightclubs per capita than any other province in the country.

Unfortunately, such value-for-money attractions continue to suffer at the hands of the island's patchwork of transport syndicates, which make it prohibitively expensive for tourists to reach them.

- Stephen Fein



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.

Poll position

It is my opinion that if you did not include personal comments or opinions in the statements in your online poll then it would be more accurate. It is also possible more people would participate. The options could be: "The law should be more strictly enforced." "These drugs should be legalized." "The status quo should be maintained."

Personally, I might have voted for status quo, but for a reason other than drawing tourists to Thailand. A word here or there can manipulate a poll. I am interested in your thoughts on this.

**Randy Hodge
Kata**

You make a good point. We will try and strip future polls down. Obviously we can't change the wording after it is already posted. It is also important to remember that this is a non-scientific poll.

Thanks for your support.
- News Editor

Sidewalk pride

I have spent several winter months in Patong every year for the past five years and have noticed many wonderful improvements. One is the marvelous new sidewalks.

While walking around the town I noticed a few shops taking the time to throw water on the sidewalk and brush it or hose it down.

It makes such a difference, keeping it looking the way it was designed to look (at no great expense).

It would be wonderful if every business had enough pride

in its neighborhood to do this.

Attractive sidewalks deserve a bit of pride from the businesses around them.

It costs nothing but makes a big difference.

**Tim Devlin
Patong**

Spare the eco-shtick

I wholeheartedly agree with Sam Wilkinson in his letter about plastic bag charging in last week's Gazette.

It's a bit rich that a property developer - of all people - is posing as an eco-warrior given the damage his trade is doing to this island's ecosystems.

The plastic bag charging scheme is like urinating in the proverbial gale.

It is also a nice little earner for some of the island's shrewder retailers, who get to charge money for things that used to be free - and paint themselves as defenders of the environment in the process.

You cannot keep building villas and hotels and condominiums and not expect more people - and more waste - to follow. Small efficiencies such as a slight reduction in plastic bag consumption are not enough to counter the effects of more people living and vacationing on Phuket.

The island is already overdeveloped. This much is obvious to anyone with their eyes open.

The best thing Mr Anthony, Mr Barnett and their like could do for Phuket's environment would be to go home.

Of course I don't seriously expect that to happen.

But gentlemen, please: spare us the eco-shtick.

**Bernard Curtis
Phuket Town**

Praise for the gov

Re: Metered tuk-tuks 'just an idea': Phuket gov [Gazette online, posted January 21, 2010]

Will everyone just stop looking at the proposed pricing! This is more about the actions of the governor, who should be hailed for being so brave to start the ball rolling, even if it's not going to end the situation.

If tuk-tuks are priced at 250 baht, no one will use them and they will disappear. If they are 50 baht, it will be business as usual, but fair business. So stop whining about the price and recognize that this a great thing. At last Phuket finally has someone brave enough to even take on the problem. Well done, Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop!

**Jon
Gazette Forum**

More gov love

If Gov Wichai actually gets this sorted - gets metered tuk-tuks and/or metered taxis at a reasonable (Bangkok) rate - then this governor will be remembered and honored forever. But I've a feeling there'll be snow on Patong Beach before the tuk-tuk problem ever gets sorted out.

**Mike Boyd
Gazette Forum**

An optimist writes

Good luck to the governor. He seems to be the first person in a position of power willing to take this issue seriously. It will be no easy task. I hope that the results include allowing competition for the tuk-tuks, as has been done with the limos at the airport. I am optimistic.

**Littlechang
Gazette Forum**

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Whatever happened to *mai pen rai*?

FIRST PERSON

Stephen B Young graduated from Bangkok International School decades ago before continuing his studies in the USA. Recently returned to Thailand, he wonders about the current forces that seem to be eroding the country's unity and sense of tolerance.

I have been back in Bangkok now for almost two weeks and am finding discussions about Thai social institutions and politics quite unsettling. Something new and sinister is afoot and it is not just the pontificating and bluster from the red and yellow shirts.

Expectations are being set in many quarters of a great struggle about to break out that will decide Thailand's future as a polity and a nation. Some say that the deity that protects Thailand is asleep, therefore everything is up for grabs. There is talk of former PM Thaksin Shinawatra preparing for his 'last great battle' to influence recovery of his frozen assets, while political parties are maneuvering for knockout blows on constitutional reform.

I was told that some 400 armored sedans have been sold in Thailand in the past year, a previously unheard of number. Wives are being trained in the use of pistols. Someone was said to have fired a grenade at the office of Army chief Anupong Paochinda. Prices of protective amulets are on the rise.

What has happened to the land of smiles and *mai pen rai*?

My Viking ancestors, some of whom sacked Paris with Ragnar in the late 700s, used to believe in the Ragnarok: the final battle at the end of the world with no winners, only losers – and only two survivors to repopulate the world.

I have come to the position that violence is to be used on rare occasions only; that

moderation is the far wiser course in life.

Extremism perpetuates injustice and prevents the emergence of natural balances and the constructive interaction of forces and counter-forces.

The importance of the center, of the middle way, of moderation was central to Aristotle's understanding of ethics.

We can all take good counsel from the words of William B Yeats in his poem *Second Coming*:

*Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.*

For Yeats, when the center cannot hold and things fall apart, the great beast is coming – an evil thing that no one wants or needs.

Much sound counsel, therefore, can be found in Thai values and traditions that expressly seek the middle way and avoid open confrontations. Buddhism, of course, is a middle way between sensualism and ascetic deprivation.

But I have a sense that in Yeats's terms, the Thai center is not holding, pressed between essentially Western values and judgments on one side, and very hierarchical old Thai social practices on the other.



Students attending the traditional football match between Chulalongkorn and Thammasat universities in Bangkok comment on the state of Thai politics on January 16. The students mocked fugitive former Thai PM Thaksin Shinawatra and Khmer PM Hun Sen, who they see as having 'tied the knot' in their attempt to topple the government of PM Abhisit Vejjajiva. Photo by Narin Kruaklai

Therefore we see in Thailand recently a tendency where the best appear to 'lack all conviction' and the worst are filled with 'passionate intensity'.

So, what is to be done?

The time has come to reframe the great questions facing Thailand and to counteract the forces pressing for polarization and confrontation.

Western perspectives on

individualism and hierarchy, resting as they do on the emotional, psychological, intellectual and philosophical nihilism of post-modernism, offer little in the way of constructive visions for a common good for Thais.

Unreflective social traditionalism offers little in the way of a constructive vision for the 21st century.

Cooperating, balancing,

blending, amalgamating, keeping the core and letting go of the periphery – all classic traits of successful Thai modernization, not to mention successful resistance to the Khmer, the Burmese, colonialists and the communists – should now be in vogue.

It is a time for a grand consultation and compromise, and not for demands and self-seeking.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

Write to:

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

Help me get some sleep

One obnoxiously loud club on Sirirat Road has a new trick for circumventing local noise laws: it remains nameless. After all, how can anyone make a complaint, file a police report or refer to you coherently when a business has no name?

I am aware that noise pollution is a concern on the island, not to mention elsewhere in the country. Can you please explain how to put an end to the life-disrupting racket generated by certain irresponsible club owners in my neighborhood?

Jay Renaud
Patong

An officer at the Patong Municipality Office replies:

Please go to your local municipality and fill out a complaint form. Once the papers are filed, the usual processing time is about a week and then the claim can be investigated.

If a nightclub is breaking the local noise ordinance, the officer will initially caution them. If the club continues to ignore the warnings, the municipal officer will then try to resolve the problem by involving the police.

For more information: Patong Municipality, 12/3 Ratpatanusorn Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket, 83120. T: 076- 344275, 076-344255. W: patongcity.go.th/index.php

Sports equipment tax?

I will soon be traveling to Phuket on vacation and would like to ship some personal sporting equipment – golf clubs and a mountain bike – to use while on the island.

Several years ago I took a similar trip and, after mailing my sporting goods and insuring them for fair value, the local customs officers at my destination attempted to bill me for an import tax.

Is there any special way to label my luggage in order to avoid a similar misunderstanding with Thai customs?

Ludwig Chase
Germany

Mr Pinit from the Phuket Customs Office replies:

If you ship your personal sporting equipment then you will have to pay import duty tax.

To avoid paying import duty you must be importing the equipment for use in a large, recognized sporting event such as the Olympics or the King's Cup.

All paperwork must be presented to the Customs Office before the equipment is imported.

You must export the equipment after the event has finished.

For more information contact Phuket Customs Office, 454 Phuket Road, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000. T: 076-211105

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Youth sailors kick off racing season



The Phuket Yacht Club held its first regatta of the year on January 24 for junior sailors from around the region. Many of the sailors were from the Phuket Sunshine Village, a children's home that works with Phuket Yacht Club to give orphaned children a chance to take to the seas.

The racing season got underway at Phuket Yacht Club on January 24 with the first junior regatta of the year. Sailors were greeted with good weather and a strong breeze that made for some exciting sailing.

The juniors, the majority of whom come from the Phuket Sunshine Village, have graduated from the smaller Optimist boats, which can be sailed by a single child, to the slightly larger Topaz boats, which require both a helm and a crew.

For Commodore Katie Gooch, the change in boats was a welcome transition.

"We don't have anyone here who speaks Thai, so if we get an inexperienced child we can put them in a Topaz with a more experienced sailor and they can learn like that," she said.

"A few places will allow children from deprived backgrounds to come and try something out on a one-off

basis, but what we are doing here is actually teaching them to sail and then giving them the opportunity to sail and race every couple of weeks. If we could attract sponsorship it would allow the club to get more boats in and allow us to take even more children out."

There were four boats on the water in the Topaz class, with six out of the eight children coming from the Sunshine Village. The racing was dominated by Jonas Johanssen and Tanawat Sanawaree, who were the overall winners, with Philip Johansson and Adunwit Suppapon coming in at second place.

Jonas, 12, was happy to have pipped his brother to the post. "I have been sailing for six years and I really like it. I like going really fast, and capsizing is fun. We capsized during one of the races today but we still managed to win," he said.

Simon Gibson and Roger Kingdon finished first out of a small class of Beach Cats on their Hobie 16, while Andrew DeBruin and Donna Stephens were the winners in a competitive field of Tasars.

DeBruin is a King's Cup veteran who is equally adept at racing large yachts but is relishing the opportunity to race dinghies as well.

"I think this is more fun because a yacht generally doesn't tip over but if you make a mistake in a dinghy you know about it straightaway, generally because you are in the water!"

"The conditions today were superb, a bit gusty and a few boats went over, but it is nice to have a decent breeze," he said.

For more information on racing at Phuket Yacht Club or sponsorship opportunities contact Katie Gooch: phuketyachtclub@gmail.com/085 2159185.

- James Goyder

Spain tightens Fair Play margin

Week three of the Youth Football Home's Fair Play League brought another huge haul of goals.

High scoring matches have been a highlight of the competition, which features children from a variety of schools randomly divided into teams. January 24's games were no exception.

Holland got the action underway against an unbeaten England side, who are fast emerging as one of the tournament favorites. Holland took an early lead when a punt from the kick-off evaded the England keeper and bounced into the roof of the

net, but England bounced back to take a halftime lead.

The goals continued to flow with England holding a narrow 5 - 4 lead in the closing stages. England's players thought they had secured a third consecutive victory when a corner was headed home.

The shot would have made the score 6 - 4, but the goal was disallowed by the referee, who ruled that the ball had already swung out of play.

With seconds remaining Holland grabbed a dramatic equalizer through a well placed shot by Nattawut Saengswan

(Woot) from the Youth Football Home. Woot was relieved that his Holland team had managed to escape with a point.

"I don't think we defended well enough today and I am pleased that we managed to draw. I was happy to score a goal; it is my second so far and I think our team is good enough to go on and win the competition," he said.

Argentina picked up their first win of the tournament, defeating Germany 4 - 1, while Spain made it two wins out of two, inflicting a heavy 8 - 2 loss on Brazil.

The next round of matches will be at BIS on Sunday.

The under 15s section of the Fair Play League, which will feature four 11 a side teams, gets underway on Tuesday night.

Saints v. Colts

Super Bowl XLIV

Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts will take on Drew Brees and the New Orleans Saints in Super Bowl 44 on February 7. With kickoff at 6:25am local time, Americans and true 'football' fans alike have the opportunity to enjoy an earlybird showing of America's biggest sporting event.

Do you manage a local pub/restaurant and plan on showing Super Bowl 44? Contact the Gazette for a listing in next week's issue, due out just two days before the big game. E: scott@phuketgazette.net

Fair Play League Current Standings

England	7pts
Spain	6pts
Holland	4pts
Argentina	3pts
Brazil	3pts
Germany	0pts

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Home of the Week

Kata

Kata's newest hillside swanky sanctuary



The villa's rooftop whirlpool tub offers a sweeping view of the Kata hillside (above). A Western-style kitchen flows into an airy living room (top right), and a covered carport offers access to the main entrance (bottom right).



A recently completed villa in the Kata hillsides offers cool ocean breezes amidst tropical vegetation – and even a bubbling brook nearby.

The two-story home, offered

for the first time at 15 million baht, covers 384 square meters of chanote title deed land on Soi Kata Ocean View, near the condo project of the same name.

The main entry, just off the

covered carport, leads to the home's impressive upper floor, which comprises a master bedroom with ensuite bathroom, a kitchen and a spacious living room and guest bathroom.

Just off the living room is a plunge pool and shower area, all built into the large sandwash patio that provides pool access from either the living room or master bedroom.

The western-style kitchen, with appliances by Teka, includes a large refrigerator, microwave oven, conventional oven and four heating elements built into a sturdy center island.

International-standard building materials and fixtures are used throughout. The home, which is partially furnished and ready to move in to, features large, louvered windows to maximize cool hillside breezes and enhance the villa's airy rooms.

These also provide impressive views over Kata and the Andaman Sea in the distance.

Downstairs comprises two large guest bedrooms, both with bathrooms ensuite and large closets. The larger of these also boasts an oversize marble bath, as does the upstairs master bedroom.

There is also a maid's quarters, laundry area and other utilities, including a control room for the home's 25,000-liter water tanks and pumping system.

The design concept is thoroughly modern, featuring hardwood parquet floors, ceramic tiles and chrome fittings.

Situated in the hills, the home is naturally breezy, but also has central air conditioning in all three spacious bedrooms, living room and kitchen.

The jewel in the crown of the villa is a large whirlpool bath on the roof, accessible only by a spiral staircase.

Covered with an impressive wooden sala, the whirlpool is the perfect place to watch the sun set over the Andaman Sea.

This sturdy hillside villa has many modern conveniences, including an automatic gate, for both privacy and security.

The villa is for sale directly from the owner. For more information contact Kamol. T: 086-944 5288. E: kpirat@hotmail.com. W: info@luxuryphuketholidays.com.

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Phuket's property market hits the road

The latest in entrepreneurial activity in the Phuket property market has taken sales on the road, converting a 12-meter coach bus into a fully-functional mobile property office.

Originally conceived by Phuket Andaman Real Estate (PARE) and created by the joint efforts of several real estate companies throughout the island, the Property Road Show bus is primarily intended to be used as a marketing tool to generate interest. The first of its kind in Phuket, the idea is to take the property office directly to the consumer.

"The concept is simple; by being in the right place at the right time, such as top class hotels, tourist hotspots and seasonal events, our aim is to meet the potential clients at their point of origin", a spokesperson for PARE said.

Sporting a custom paint job that will make it impossible to miss, the bus is set to make its first appearance in early February. PARE hopes to make it a permanent fixture in Phuket, constantly moving to whatever events are attracting tourists in large numbers.

Some of the island's biggest developers have invested close to two million baht in the Property

Road Show bus, including Baan Sawan, Pearl of Naithon, The Villas Overlooking Layan, The View in Kata and Phuket Asialand, among others.

Developers investing in the bus will receive continuous updates on clientele encounters throughout its trips.

"We will keep our developers informed as to what people are looking for and what kind of questions they are asking," said Kay McDonnell, Managing Director of PARE.

There will also be the option for developers to have their own representatives on board the bus to help answer questions and direct interest.

The bus will offer a wide selection of property to interested clients, ranging from 10 million to 70 million baht.

Apart from the regular routes, PARE will keep a full list of international events and festivals throughout the high season in attempt to maximize exposure to both local and tourist markets.

The bus is a fully outfitted office, complete with high-speed internet, a telephone call center & fax, plasma TV's, PA system and an all-in-one professional laser printer. To keep clients comfortable, the bus is fully air



conditioned, has an onboard bathroom, and will be stocked with refreshments.

PARE will also have business sponsors for the equipment used throughout the bus, including 3G for internet, Beautiful World for the furniture and interior design and Absolute Kitch-

ens for the onboard kitchen. Additional sponsors will provide other services, such as Tilleke and Gibbins Law Firm.

The concept has been largely welcomed by island's property developers and real estate companies.

McDonnell took note of the

joint effort among the island's property workers, stating, "a number of real estate agencies have worked around the clock with us to promote for sponsorship and to encourage developers to buy into the plan. We are finally working together rather than against each other."



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Nature's tropical sweets



By Green Sleeves

You may not want to think about cultivating fruit in your Thai garden. Utterly understandable. After all, fruit here is abundant, inexpensive and of superlative quality. Furthermore, it happens to grow mostly on well-established trees, and some of us won't be around to enjoy – as it were – the fruits of our labors.

Anyway, that word 'tree' may well summon visions of something altogether too unwieldy for the average Phuket garden. But if you do want to go for an arboretum or an orchard or even, as in my case, a few specimen fruit trees, then maybe the following musings may help you decide what to plant.

Number one for 'yours truly' must be the mango. It has

every conceivable thing going for it. We can't grow it in temperate climates, so it has an instantly exotic appeal. Nonetheless, it is the most popular of all fruits – more than 50 percent of all fruit produced world-wide are mangoes. But more crucially, this 'superfruit' as it is known, smells and tastes divine, can be eaten green (often with salt) or ripe, is easily grown – either from seed or from a container, and produces fruit within a few years of being planted. These are a rich source of carotenoids and vitamin C.

The mango is deep-rooting, so once established, is impervious to drought. The glossy, evergreen foliage, which changes from pink to dark green, looks good. Moreover, the young tree does not mind being pruned, so you can exercise some control over its upward progress. No wonder so many Thai homes have a stately mango tree in their yard. I have two in my garden, where the only problem has been caused by weaver ants – who regard the leaves as ideal for home-making.

Even more familiar is the banana or plantain. In the West, we tend to think of it as a single variety, but there are many



As Phuket's markets show, the tropics are home to some of the world's sweetest fruits. Papaya (above) is commonly used in its unripe and ripe form, while bananas (top left) and mangos (bottom right) are some of the most popular fruits in the world that also grow naturally in Phuket.

cultivars. It is not technically a tree at all, but a herbaceous, rhizotamous [suckering] perennial. Even its stems are not stems, but leaf sheaths.

I am in two minds about recommending it for your garden. On the one hand, it will grow almost anywhere, and it does provide useful shade for newly planted shrubs that are less able to withstand the remorseless Thai sun.

However, it needs plenty of space and although it will produce huge bunches of fruit within a year or so, its attractive paddle-shaped leaves will shred if the tree is in an exposed position, which may well be the case in Phuket.

Most edible and seedless cultivars come from *musa paradisaica*, itself a derivative of an aboriginal Southeast Asian species. The flowers appear as a terminal spike which, in many varieties, droops suggestively from a long fleshy stem. This is fond of cooking this part of the plant. *Musa ornata*, as its name implies, is an ornamental species with attractive purplish bracts and orange flowers. Smaller and more compact, it has proved an attractive addition to my walled garden. As for eating, remember that some starchy bananas, often referred to as plantains, are better cooked than tasted raw. Picked

when green, they are added to curries and soups. And if you are looking for sweet dessert bananas, small, stubby varieties such as 'Lady Fingers' are often the best choice for everyday eating. With bananas, big is not always best.

The third fruiting plant for your garden has to be the papaya. Mentioned before in these columns, and probably as familiar as the banana, I will therefore be brief. It has the inestimable advantages of being both fast-growing – in this regard it may even outpace the banana – and of developing into a neat tree with a bare trunk and a parasol of palm-like fronds.

Unlike the banana, it produces its huge green and then orange fruit in sequence, so you can pick and pick again over a period of several months. Once it has finished producing, the papaya tree dies back, and since it has a fleshy, hollow stem, it can be easily cut down with a machete. There is nothing unkempt about the papaya.

Most Thais, especially from Isaan, eat the papaya as a green vegetable, shredded and added to soups; farangs will prefer the ripened version with its pink and uniquely perfumed flesh. An acquired taste, maybe, but then

most pleasures are acquired ones.

Unlike our other fruits, the pomegranate [*Punica granatum* or *tap tim*] is not a native of southern Asia, being more associated with the middle East and especially Iran, where the juice is sold on street stalls as a refreshing drink. It is less common here, in part because the climate is too consistently hot. Nonetheless, the pomegranate is cultivated – I have one in my garden – and is sold as a container plant in nurseries.

Mine got off to a bad start and died right back. I exhumed it, found no evidence of root-eating grubs or fungal disease and replanted it in a different spot. It has now reached the top of the wall, and although there are as yet no signs of red flowers or fruit, the graceful foliage is easy on the eye. Eventually, it should mature into a small tree of up to six meters.

The pomegranate has many associations – it is a key fruit in Greek mythology – but one link which I like, though it is probably apocryphal, relates to Australia. Early settlers from England, unused to the heat, quickly developed red faces, the color and texture of a ripe pomegranate. Hence the expression 'pommie', so they say.

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Construction Update

Patong

Beachfront food court coming soon to Patong

Ocean Plaza in Patong is investing 30 million baht to build a rooftop food court that is set to open by the end of the month on the beach road in Patong.

The center, to be named @Beach Food Loft, will be the first and only dining facility in Patong to offer customers inexpensive fare with ocean views, its developers say.

Explaining the concept, Ocean Plaza Patong Managing Director Wattanan Sienghen said, "We noticed that there were no inexpensive dining options along the beach road, where many restaurants are located on resort grounds. So, we thought we should offer cheap, good-quality food to help both Thais and foreigners save money."

In Thailand, food and beverage outlets in hotels must add a 10% service charge to the bill, which is then subject to a 7% value added tax. High land rental costs and other factors also drive up costs across the board in Patong, making many services there more expensive than in other parts of the island.

When completed, @Beach Food Loft will comprise ten booths selling main dishes starting at 35 baht, six booths offering desserts and snacks, and two beverage counters serving soft drinks, beer and other refreshments.

The 160-seat facility, to cover 800

square meters, will be divided into an air-conditioned indoor area and an outdoor dining area, from which customers will be able to enjoy views of the beach.

Operators will include well-known national chains selling a variety of cuisines including Thai, Chinese, Indian and 'international' fare, he said. "People will no longer have to travel to Bazaar Market or into Phuket Town to enjoy high-quality, low-cost food," he said.

Foreigners currently make up about 90% of the customer base at Ocean Plaza Patong, the basement supermarket of which was damaged by the 2004 tsunami. "After the food center opens with its inexpensive prices, I expect many more Thai tourists, workers and business owners to come and enjoy our services," he said.

To entice new customers, @Beach Food Loft will offer a 50-baht discount on its 500 baht purchase card, which will be valid for one week after purchase. Mr Wattanan also hopes to attract diners from other parts of the island. "Don't worry about paying too much for food. You will pay less here," he said.

The food court is scheduled to open on January 27. Ocean Plaza Patong also plans a mid-year renovation of its second floor into a mini 'outlet mall' offering 30% to 70% discounts.



The view from the @Beach Food Loft, now under construction in Patong, and (inset) Ocean Plaza Patong Managing Director Wattanan Sienghen.

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Property Gazette

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Land on Soi Haad Surin 2 for sale. 2.2 Rai, 5 min walk to Surin Beach. Email: costello@exemail.com.au

VILLA FOR SALE NEAR LAGUNA



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Open-plan kitchen, living room. The villa is fully airconditioned and furnished. Built on 360sqm, 176sqm living area, with a beautiful garden. The location is only 10 minutes to Bang Tao beach and 5 minutes to Laguna. Price 5.5 million baht. Tel: 089-813 1447. Email: kwanphuket@hotmail.com

HOME IN LAGUNA



Don't settle for a home "near Laguna" or "close to Laguna". Here is your opportunity to own a home in Laguna. I am offering my custom-built, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms home overlooking the 4th fairway at Laguna Golf Course. Home is fully furnished and includes free golf membership at Laguna Golf Club. High speed internet and cable TV installed. Price 17.5 million baht. Call Steve. Tel: 076-305657, 087-888 1913.

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



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

80 RAI FOR SALE, CHANOTE

Located at Natai Beach. 15 minutes drive from Sarasin Bridge. Price 1.6 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

NEW BRAND CONDO

Mid Town, Royal Place Project. Studio condo, fully furnished, reasonable price. Tel: 086-476-9612.

ROYAL PLACE CONDO

New 37sqm one bedroom condo for sale at Royal Place, near the Tesco Lotus intersection on the Bypass Road. Comes fully furnished including all electrical appliances. Ready to move in August. Complex has pool, gym, restaurant etc. 1.85 million baht. Tel: 083-982 3768. Email: drbearshaw@gmail.com

All classifieds in these pages are

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Property Gazette

NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO



2-3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 111sqm. Start 4.5 million baht. Must see. Tel: 084-993 7308. For further details, please see our website at www.amphiseabreeze.com

LAND AT PATONG BEACH

Top quality land plots for sale in the hills at the North end of Patong Beach. Elevation: 47m. Very quiet and natural location with wide access road, underground service, and good water supply. Contact Andy at Tel: 081-891 3466. Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

3 BEDROOMS HOUSE for sale. 62sq wah, 2 bathrooms, Villa Dawroong. 4.5 million baht. Contact Khun Tar. Tel: 076-377052, 089-971 1268.

CHEAP HOUSE FOR SALE

1 story house on land. 1.5 rai, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished at T. Taimuang, Phang Nga 2.5 million baht. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

4 RAI FOR SALE

Layan Hill, Bang Jo. Near main road. 3.75 million baht per rai. Chanote. Tel: 081-956 0527.

KATA BEACH 5 STAR CONDO

Private resale because of re-location. Located in five-star resort. One bedroom corner apartment with living room, built-in kitchen, and balcony with outstanding and impregnable view overlooking the famous Kata Beach. Fully furnished, including TV, etc. Ready to move in. Priced at only 165,000 Euro. If interested, please see the website at www.theaccentaphuket.com or contact me at Tel: 076-333630, 089-825 3420. Email: b.rusconi@bluewin.ch

NEW CONDO PATONG

New one bedroom, fully furnished, close to Jungceylon. Will be completed in a few months. Email: jkgk24@hotmail.com

POOL VILLAS RAWAI

Various sizes. 3 or 4 bedrooms, big gardens. Peaceful location. Tel: 085-783 1890.

YANUI PARADISE BEACH



Apartments for sale. Prices from 2.75 million baht. Close to Yanui beach and Rawai beach. Tel: 087-884 4663 (English), 089-292 9416 (German).

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

Close to Phuket International Airport. 4 rai, Chanote title. 3.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-868 7676. Email: phuketann@gmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

near the main road to Baan Don - Cherng Talay. 68sq wah. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@yahoo.co.th

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

for sale. Each building has 3 floors. On big road at Kamala Beach, near Krungsri Bank. Price 20 million baht. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

30 RAI IN TOWN

Long lease. Near Dowrung School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

AMAZING MOUNTAIN VIEW



land plot. Only 3 mins to Nai Ham Beach, chanote with access road, electric in place. Finance OK, 1 year, 1/4 rai or 400sqm. Price 2.4 million baht. Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: cjphuket@hotmail.com

PATONG SEA VIEW

nice land. 2.3 rai at 18 million baht per rai. Nice location in a quiet area of Patong. Road and utilities access to the land. Ready to start a villa project. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

GOLF VIEW LAND FOR SALE



1,200 sqm with infrastructure, overlooking golf course in Kathu. 5,500,000 baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English), 080-522 4433 (Thai). Email: julienmayard@me.com

HOUSE IN KAMALA

for sale. 2 houses on land. 2 ngan, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, Nor Sor Sam Kor title, good location, 5km from the beach. Price: 10 million baht. Direct from owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

PERFECT LAND

Nearly 2 rai at Bang Tao. Very good location for business. 18 million baht. No agents. Tel: 086-944 2065, 087-689 9679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

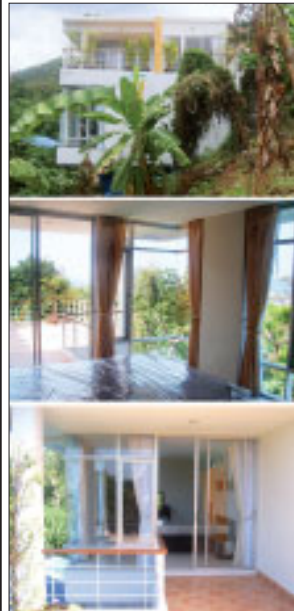
KRABI, AO-NANG POOL VILLAS

Land area 320 sqm., 2 bedrooms. 6-7 million baht. Second home with strong rental income. Tel: 087-897 7380. Email: mrxelmay@gmail.com

LAND IN RAWAI

for sale. Nice corner plot in Rawai, 528sqm, Chanote title. Asking price 3.3 million baht. Tel: 081-691 3029. Email: kris_silanachai@yahoo.com

2-STOREY HOUSE IN PATONG



sea view. Hasip Pee Road, 49sqm. 4 bedrooms with balconies, 2 bathroom, air-con, fully furnished. Chanote. Price 17 million baht ono. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com



Phuket's All Pool Condominiums

"Our expectations are high that this project will be a top seller in the 2009/2010 high season."

- Completed oversized apartments. Each with private pools. Located next to Laguna area and 350m to Bang Tao Beach
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- Quality construction by ISO certified DCM Solutions
- Foreign freehold and leasehold ownership available
- Fully furnished onsite model apartment now open for viewing

Tom Travers
087 034 2090
tom@indigoRE.com
www.baanmandala.com



LAYAN LAND



for sale. 11 rai, flat land. 3 min from Layan beach, hill and lake view. Price 4.2 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-813 1447.

HOUSE & FURNITURE FOR SALE

Single house, 60sqm. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets. In Chaiyapruet Village at Land & House, Chalong. Good location and entrance from By-Pass road. Built 2 years ago. Tel: 084-627 7001.

LAYAN LAND 4 RAI

1 km. Layan beach flat. Nor Sor 3 Kor. No agents. 4 million baht. Tel: 083-502 1644. Email: andreapaoletti1@hotmail.it

NICE PLOT BEHIND LAYAN HILL ESTATE



Manik area, 4.7 million baht. Chanote title, good for pool villas. Tel: 081-538 7050. or email: talayjan@yahoo.com

HEAVEN ON EARTH



5 bedroom Thai style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang-Nga Bay sea view. 3 big bedrooms are ensuite with seaview. Private swimming pool. Land plot 730.8 sqm. construction area approx. 573 sqm. Full security service. Located at Rommai Chailay Estate. 24.9 million baht. Tel: 089-474 2234.

SHOPHOUSE - CHALONG

12 months old, 3 storey, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 1 km south of Circle. Full kitchen, 1 air con, hot water, all-glass front door, office furniture, beds, very clean. Rent 28,000 per month. Valued at 3.7 million, you pay 3.6 million baht including additions. Bargain! Tel: 086-476 2093.

GUEST HOUSE KAMALA staff apartment, 4 bedrooms, UBC, cable, safes, hot water showers, lease 3x3. Sale 1.8 million baht ono. Tel: 089-971 6120.

SUPERIOR SHOPHOUSE 4-story house for dwelling and business is for quick sale. Extraordinary fixtures and fittings. Sensational price. Tel: 087-518 8837 (English & Thai). Email: peterwiniker@hotmail.com

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Property Gazette

OCEANFRONT LAND



Beautiful piece of land, 3.5 rai (can be sub-divided) with over 90m of beach frontage. Opposite Yacht Haven Marina, water, electricity, road access, secure Nor Sor 3 Kor title. For sale direct from owner. Now only 19 million baht for all. Tel: 081-343 0777.

LAND AND HOUSE

for sale. Land 1300sqm. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, internet, tel, cable TV, UBC, waste water treatment, no-external gate remote, garden springer, garden light. Price 12 million baht includes furniture. House more than 770sqm. Big garden & house. Soi Kokyang, Rawai. Phuket. Next to Two villas. Tel: 082-275 1445.

POOL VILLAS RAWAI

Various sizes. 3 or 4 bedrooms, big gardens. Peaceful location. Tel: 085-783 1890.

VILLA FOR SALE BANN PAKLOK

New 2 bedrooms, 2 w/c, villa for sale, freehold. 1.6 million baht. Tel: 084-744 3677 (English), 082-412 5624 (Thai).

LAND NEAR RAWAI

for sale. Chanote title. 1 rai 2 ngan 97sq wah. Tel: 089-885 4517.

NEW DETACHED HOUSE



for sale in Phanason 3, Thalang. 253.25sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, furnished and landscaped garden. 2.95 million baht. Contact Phing. Tel: 087-278-0067. Email: sweetpinkylive@live.co.uk

PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG



35/20 Soi 1. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons, some furniture, 50sq wah, garden. For sale or for long-term rent. Must see. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-689-9679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

LAND BEHIND LAYAN HILLS ESTATE



Manik-Bangjo area. 4M baht per rai with chanote. Selling half rai - 2 rai. Contact 081-5387050 or talayjan@yahoo.com

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



In Srisuchart Grandville 3, not far from Tesco Lotus. 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, 1 car park and little garden. Very nice house contact to come see at 087-277 0978 or koyangle99@hotmail.com

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

390sqw, nice flat land, quiet area, chanote. In Pasak Soi 5 near Laguna Home. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 089-4729118, 086-709-2933.

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

in Ao Makham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. Tel: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

QUICK SALE

Land in Laguna Phuket area. 4 rai at 6 million baht per rai, Chanote. Located near Anchan Villas and Tanod Villas. Good size to do residential project. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

LAND AT PA KHLOK

1 rai, 18sq wah, Nor Sor 3 Kor, Tha-Rue - Pa Khlok - Muang Mai Road. Near Mission Hill. Price 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

PATONG CONDO

1.9 million baht, new decor, pool, 3 min walk to Juncyclon, 5 min to beach. Tel: 086-272 6755.

TOWNHOUSE, 2 STOREY



opposite Boat Lagoon. 24sq wah, 3beds, 2baths. Email: info@allaboutwebanddesign.com

17 RAI WITH PALM TREES

At Kok Kien, Takuapa, Phang-Nga. 85,000 baht per rai. Contact Khun Piek. Tel: 081-892 4094, 084-304 9339.

MUST SELL NOW

beautiful villa Kata Beverly Hills. 3 bedroom/bath, big pool with jacuzzi, garden, includes furnishing. From 20 million baht, now 17 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

2.4 MILLION BAHT HOME

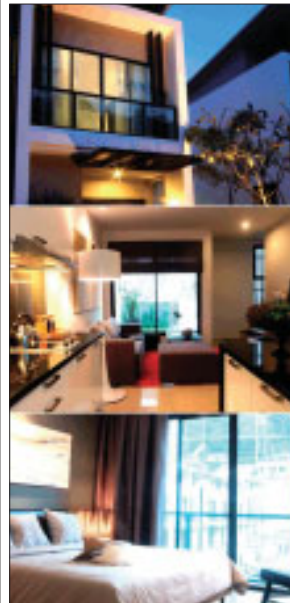
Khok Kloy town, Phang Nga. 4 years old. 118sqm home on 904sqm plot. 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, lounge, big kitchen, aircon, phone line, 2 car covered parking. Chanote. Tel: 081-728 4821.

NEW HOUSE IN THE BANYAN VILLA



for sale. 3.4 million baht, near Land and Houses Park. 29.5sq wah, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, hill view, common pool, club house. Tel: 089-873 1009 (English), 081-893 8524.

BAAN BAI MAI



for sale in Samkong near Bangkok hospital. 2 storey, 2 bed, 2 bath, 1 car parking space. Email: info@allaboutwebanddesign.com

LUXURY POOL VILLA

3 bedrooms, ensuite, Western kitchen, bathroom, garage, UBC, ADSL, walled garden. 5 minutes to Kamala beach. Chanote. 9.3 million baht. Tel: 084-711 3422 (English), 085-798 9714 (Thai).

PRIME PLOT READY TO BUILD

Bangtao plot of 900sqm within gated area. Ready to build on. Water, electricity, concrete road. 4.5 million baht. Serious inquiries please email: pg1kl@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE, FULLY FURNISHED



Ready to move in, 254 sqm. 2 floors. Near Downrungs school, Laemchan area, close to Phuket Town, nice living room and garden, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 car parks, very nice and quiet area. Price: 6.8 million baht. Tel: 081-541 2025.

HOUSE IN KARON BEACH

Corner town house, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, sea and mountain view. Thai freehold, Chanote title, fully furnished. 6.3 million baht. Tel: 089-594 0423. Email: crustaceus@yahoo.com

NEW PATONG CONDOS

freehold, 2 bedroom, 3.5 million baht completed. 10 min walk to the beach. Tel: 081-537 9684.

WAS BT10.5M NOW BT8.5M

Boat Lagoon Marina. Central island, house for sale, freehold title, approx 200sqm. Built in German kitchen, jacuzzi, beautiful furniture (with or without). 50' flat, carport, rare. Corner unit. From 31 Jan 2010. Tel: 085-258 3900. Email: picharly@gmail.com

SALE 2 TOWNHOUSES

1 floor, 2 sleeping room. 200 meter to monument, quellwhater. 1.2 million each. Tel: 081-797 8480.

NEW HOUSE IN NAI HARN-RAWAI



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

KATA BEACH

nice, one bedroom apartment incl furnishing, air, pool. Special price now 2.9 million baht, financing available. Tel: 081-788 8280.

VERY NICE SEAVIEW LAND



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

2 RAI IN AO MAKHAM



Chanote, in Soi Rat-U-Thit 1, public utility area. easy access in and out. Just 12 million baht for both rai. Tel: 076-522938, 087-6899679, 089-588 5458. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

MESSAGE SHOP IN PATONG

Good location, cheap rent. 4 beds and 2 chairs for foot massage. Contact Khun Aoy. Tel: 082-288 2362 (English & Thai), 086-745 8876 (English & Thai). Email: toreborgerud@hotmail.com

VILLA FOR SALE

Contemporary Villa for sale. 1.5 story, 4 en-suite bedrooms, pool w/ Jacuzzi, western kitchen, sala and built-in BBQ, electric gate, security system, car park for 3 cars, and nice tropical garden on one rai (1,606 sqm) of land. Good price. Email: nisaya@hotmail.com

KALIM CONDO FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, 128sqm. Freehold condo in Kalim for sale or rent. Just a few minutes to the beach and Patong. Tel: 081-537 9684.

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT



In Moobaan Tinawut, Samkong, close to Yada Dental Clinic. 2 connected buildings, 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. For rent: 12,000 baht per month, sale: 2.8 million baht. Tel: 081-597 6302, 081-597 9441.

OPEN HOUSE



for sale. By Sealed Bid 59, Soi Toehenkhoa, Saiyuan, Naiharn, 4 bedrooms with pool. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, ends Feb 8. Tel: 081-088 4300.

1.7 MILLION BAHT CONDO



Rawai beach. For sale, 54sqm, 150 meter from sea, financing 1 years. Tel: 080-078 0931. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

GOOD FOR BED & BREAKFAST

or big family. One project with 4 apartments, pool, fully decorated, furnish incl. Thai company needs money now. 7.9 million baht for 4 apartments. Tel: 081-788 8280.

BARGAIN RAWAI POOL VILLAS

3 bed, 2 bath, 450sqm = 5.5 million baht. 2 bed, 2 bath, 320sqm = 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081-894 1660 (English), 081-077 0133 (Thai). Email: cottrell@ttmax.net.com

LAND PATONG HASSPI ROAD

for sale. Prime location overlooking Patong bay with stunning sea view, located right above Jungceylon. Nor Sor Sam Kor, land title, 2880 sqm. or 1.8 rai. Asking price 22 million baht. Contact Stig. Tel: 084-847 4377.

POOLSIDE APARTMENT

Brand new two-bedroom poolside apartment. 175sqm open plan living with 2 bathrooms, two bedrooms, large terrace, and secure undercover parking. Very quiet and natural location at Patong Beach. Open to offers. Tel: 081-891 3466. Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

NEW TOWN HOUSE



in Phuket Inter villa project for sale. 2.3 million baht. 36.5sq wah. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, includes furniture, curtains, kitchen, 1 airconditioning unit, common pool access. Tel: 089-873 1009 (English), 081-893 8524.

Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

LAGUNA FLAT

Allamanda, 2 beds en suite, on golf course. Broadband, new TV and kitchen equipment. Email us for details. Tel: +852-91-716452 (English). Fax +852-81-470256. Email: charlesdickson@netvigator.com

LONG TERM RENTALS

APARTMENTS:

- Surin Beach, 2 bed from 40,000 baht per month
- Bang Tao: 2 bed from 35,000
- Kamala: 3 bed from 35,000
- Layan: 1 bed from 25,000

VILLAS:

- Surin: 4 bed from 120,000
- Bang Tao: 4 bed from 120,000 baht
- Layan: 3 bed from 95,000

Prices per month. Conditions apply. Phone 076-270750. Fax 076-270751. Email: bookings@pipsphuket.com

SEA VIEW KARON

Karon cliff, contemporary boutique bungalow promotion. For further details, Tel: 086-120 5454. Please see our website at www.karoncliff.com

ON PRIVATE HILL GOLF VIEW

villa for rent. 2 and 3 bed, big pool, overlooking lake and Loch Palm Golf Course. Quiet in nature, furnished, WiFi. Longer term 32,000 and 65,000 baht per month. Contact Khun Noi. Tel: Tel: 087-269 8492.

KAMALA LARGE 4 BEDROOMS

Villa set in beautiful gardens, private pool, ample parking. Tel: 080-697 7729.

KAMALA BEACH

for rent. Very nice, new apartment and houses, fully furnished, aircon, internet, Cable TV, quiet, cleaning lady. 18,000-20,000 baht. Tel: 083-6453 546.

NEW TOWNHOUSE IN PHUKET TOWN

Bann Promphun, 2 bed and bathroom, 1 aircon, European kitchen, 50sqm living room, carport. Long term 11,500 baht per month. Tel: 089-730 5721.

THE HERITAGE HOUSE

for rent. 3 bedroom, 4 bathroom, 1 maid room, big garden, fully furnished. Private and nice, secure. Near Tesco Lotus. 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-737 7743. Email: arampan@rigira.net

KATA HILL HOUSE

for rent. 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom, good view, quiet, carpark, fully furnished. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-367 0991.

2 BEDROOM TOWNHOUSE

East Patong, quiet soi, fully furnished, ADSL, cable TV, living room, kitchen, carpark. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-296391, 086-942 0957. Email: jdean@loxinfo.co.th

KARON CLIFF

Seaview bungalows at Karon beach. For further details, Tel: 86-120 5454 please see our website at www.karoncliff.com

3 BEDROOMS HOUSE

for rent. Mountain view, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. On hill, furnished, internet, cable TV. Kathu. Tel: 080-696 1162.

HOUSE + NICE POOL

for rent. Rawai/Naiham. 18,000 baht only. Big garden. Long-term. Contact for more details. Tel: 089-650 3160.

KARON CLIFF

Karon Cliff contemporary boutique bungalow. For further details, Tel: 086-120 5454. Please see our web site at www.karoncliff.com

VILLAS IN RAWAI

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, internet, cable TV, clubpool, gym, 24/756 curity from 30,000 baht per month. Pool villas also available. Tel: 083-641 9327.

3 BED HOUSE PATONG

Roof, terrace, spa. Amazing. 35,000 baht per month. For further details, please see our website at www.gardenistandphuket.com

GUESTHOUSE

Guesthouse and restaurant for sale in Kata Beach. 1,800,000 baht with rent at 50,000 baht per month for a 3-year lease. For a 6-year lease, the price is 3,500,000 baht with the same rent, i.e., 50,000. Tel: 085-068 9895. Email: chrismathiasen@sol.dk

NEW SERVICED CONDO

The Point, central location, one bedroom, lounge, bathroom, near Phuket International Hospital, many facilities. Tel: 081-8920 038.

SERVICED CONDOMINIUM

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, lounge. Tel: 081-892 0038. Visit our web site at www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

1-3 air-conditioned bedrooms, hot shower, cable TV, free internet. Start from 9,000 baht per month. Near Chalongs Bay. Tel: 081-892 4311.

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Please contact for more info. Tel: 081-6923 163.

CONDO IN PATONG TOWER

Recently renovated fully furnished 1 bedroom condo in Patong Tower. Mountain and Patong views from big balcony 65sqm, 2 flatscreen TVs, safe, internet, pool, covered parking, security 300,000 baht/year. Please contact for further details. Tel: 089-651 9872. Email: ospiess@gmx.at

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

2 baths, furnished. 15,000 baht per month. Contact for more details. Email: rickhorgen@hotmail.com or commail@villa.co.th

HOUSE IN KATHU FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Fully furnished with parking lot. Built in BBQ in the garden. Cable TV, UBC, internet. 23,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-432 6587.

450,000 BAHT PER YEAR



Rawai beach. 6 rooms, 4 motobikes. Mini hotel, fully equipped, sale or lease. Financing ok. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

GORGEOUS SURIN APTS

150 meters from beach. 1- and 3-bedroom available. Please contact me for further details. Tel: +1-852-9508 5573. Email: jgstryker@gmail.com

PHUKET VILLA DAORUNG

House for rent, 55sq wah, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, no phone line, unfurnished. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-270 9093.

CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

200m from the new Home Pro Center on Chaofa West Rd. Includes shop front, parking space for 2 cars, kitchen, ADSL internet, 3 a/c rooms, and potential for business. Price: 17,000 baht a month on a minimum 1 year lease. Email: winston@1967@gmail.com

4 BED/BATH NEAR LAGUNA

Single-story, 4 bed/4 bath European house. Fully furnished with fitted kitchen, fitted wardrobes and aircon throughout. 42" plasma TV, large garden, clubhouse with pool and tennis. A bargain @ 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-7817250. (English). Email: gregory.heenan@gmail.com

PATONG CONDOTE

Studio 50sqm. aircon, balcony, fully furnished, parking. 5 minutes walk to beach. Tel: 080-608 1972. Or email: e.breh@web.de

LUXURY VILLA POOL

Near Laguna, furnished, ADSL, aircon, cable TV. jacuzzi, security. 19,000 baht per month, lease. Tel: 089-594 4067.

BOATHOUSE

Located in Yamu on beach. Can rent space for small boat. Please contact for more details. Tel: 084-845 1200.

BEACHFRONT HOUSE FOR RENT

Small house located on beach of Siray Island, 10 minutes to Phuket Town. 2 bedrooms, 3 baths, aircon, partly furnished, very good view. For further details, please see our website at: Tel: 081-535 1269 (English & Thai). Email: sutide@sino housephuket.com or www.phuketrentalhouse.com/hideawaybeach house.html

3 BEDROOMS HOUSE

Land&house, Chalongs, fully furnished, internet, Cable, 2TV, washing machine, kitchen. Short/long-term 17,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-478 0201.

RAWAI TOWNHOUSE

for rent. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, for rent, private street, only 40m. from beach, fully equipped, great decor, ADSL, Cable TV. etc. 15,000 baht per month, long-term. Tel: 089-731 7699. Email: nengrich@gmail.com

CHALONG NEW HOME

2-bedroom home with telephone, aircon and cable TV. Tel: 089-652 1473 (English). Email: anandaestates@yahoo.com

3 BEDROOM HOUSE IN PAKLOK

Lovely quiet area in Paklok, north of the island on the east coast. Fully air-conditioned, beautifully maintained gardens, international neighborhood, security key pass entry to project, western kitchen, fully furnished, outdoor covered laundry area. 16,000 baht per month for long term rental, including garden maintenance. Price excludes electricity and phone bills. 2-month security bond and 1 month's rent in advance. Contact me for photos or inspection. Tel: +61-3-41447 3262. Email: micsta75@hotmail.com

PATONG STUDIO 28SQM

aircon, hot water, kitchen, fridge, TV, DVD, ADSL, 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-971 5664.

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement. Then hand it to any of our agents.

_____ (heading)

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Live in Rawai?

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Food & Beverage Manager
Restaurant Manager
Waiter/Waitress/Bartender



Branch Manager (Cherng Talay)
Bakery Chef
Commis Chef (Pastry & Bakery)

Contact HR Manager Khun Chutima at
chutima@twinpalms-group.com - Tel 076 316 537

FULL TIME ENGLISH TEACHER

For Marriott Vacation Club. Requires administrative and computer skills. Native speaker only. Tel: 076-338200. Fax: 076-303625. Email: orapim.k@vacationclub.com

OFFICE STAFF WANTED

English speaking and computer. Tel: 076-345081, 087-888 4770.

JOB AT INTERNATIONAL PRESCHOOL

1. Music Teacher.
2. Sales and Administrative Officer.

Please send your CV to: hr@brightstar-academy.com
Tel: 02-391 0107. Fax: 02-712 0565. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.brightstar-academy.com>

British International School, Phuket

The British International School, Phuket is a leading International day and boarding school (18months-18 years) offering a quality education to the international community of the Asia/Pacific region. We require the following:

Primary Secretary Assistant / Teacher Assistant

- Thai Nationality
- Bachelor Degree in related field
- Excellent English, Computer literacy and good people skills
- Able to coordinate with other department in academic function
- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills
- Loves to take care with children

Business development & service officer

- Male/Female, 20-25 yrs old, Bachelor's Degree in any fields
- Good/strong Command of written and spoken English
- Computer literate
- Able to work with details oriented and administration tasks
- Customer relation skills and service mind are essential
- Able to work as a team or independently
- Able to work overtime (for some special events)
- With driving permit
- New graduates are welcome

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- อายุไม่เกิน 40 ปี, มีประสบการณ์ จะพิจารณาเป็นพิเศษ

Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and e-mail/fax and telephone contacts of referees to: patcharakorn@bisphuket.ac.th or sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th
Tel: 076 238711-20 #2103, 2206, 1111 Fax: 076 238711-20 #1130



British International School, Phuket (BIS)

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Additional Show Artists, MCs, DJs, Event and Entertainment sales persons wanted.

Part time / full time work opportunities. Phuket, Thailand.

We provide top class party and event entertainment to Phuket Resorts and Hotels.

Contact Khun Rick: 085 791 5719.
Email: info@coconutheadentertainment.com
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ASSISTANT MANAGER and Receptionist in Phuket.

- Thai female
- 25-30 years old
- Bachelor's degree
- Good English skills

Please submit resume, photo and expected salary.
Tel: 076-249657-8.
Email: svcp@svensonhaircenter.com

ACCOUNTANT WANTED

A++ Software produces dual language accounting software: Thai Revenue approved. Enthusiastic and experienced accountant required for internal accounts and involvement in user training and support.

- Thai National
 - Degree in Accounting or equivalent
 - Must be able to speak English
 - Ability to drive a car preferred
- Salary based on experience; can offer accommodation. Training given. Tel: 076-512746, 087-417 8860 (English), 089-474 4637 (Thai). Fax: 076-512747. Send resume and salary requirements to admin@aplusplussoftware.com

ELECTRONIC ENGINEER WANTED

- 1 position.
- Male 20-30 years old
 - Vocation certificate
 - Bachelor degree in Electronics
 - Completed military training
 - Good health
 - Trustworthy, motivated and self-reliant
 - Experience preferred

All applicants must submit full resume by email to: info@octopusasia.com only. We will contact applicants by return.

2 SWEDISH RESTAURANTS

in Bang Tao Beach, open all year. Two chefs wanted to cook farang food and 4 waitresses. Good spoken English required and good salary for experienced candidates. Contact Michael. Tel: 081-787 3167.

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

Non profit organization. Right To Play seeks Thai with fluent English, computer literate, training and experience to work on education program. Email: bdronkers@righttoplay.com

NANNY / HOUSEKEEPER

Maid and Nanny wanted. 50-year-old man with 12-year-old son seeks Maid / Nanny. Flexible working schedule to follow international school calendar. 4 hours a day, 4 day a week work and weekends during school session. On vacation time, every day full time 8:00 - 5:00pm. Must be able to drive and I will supply the vehicle. Pay is 15,000-20,000 baht a month. Must be able to speak, read and write English. Submit resume for review and consideration to bob_tames@yahoo.com

COOK / WAITRESS

needed for a nice small restaurant/pub. Evening shift. Please call or mail for details. Tel: 081-891 4019 (English). Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

ENGLISH WRITER - SEO

Write comments for websites in blogs. Native English and PC skills are mandatory! Send resume. Tel: 076-613 0533, 085-473 7812 (English). Email: michiel@zonneke.com

DIRECT MARKETING PERSON

wanted. Qualified person for direct marketing of real estate products from our off-site locations. Experience in OPC or offsite direct marketing helpful. Excellent communication skills required. Must enjoy direct public contact. Salary and commission available. Email qualifications or CV to: Patrick@raimonland.com

PROMOTIONAL STAFF WANTED

Thai national, good English, basic computer skills. Full-time. Tel: 081-537 6866.

NEED AN HONEST COUPLE

To work at the house as a maintenance guy and a maid. Live in. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-926 3286.

ENGLISH TEACHER WANTED

for private lessons with a primary school child. 10-15 hours per week, near Phuket Airport. For further details please send email to: kirkasia@hotmail.com

URGENT NEED: KITCHEN STAFF

If you have any further question please contact us. Tel: 076-281084, 083-969 6084. Email: phanida@tamarindvillaphuket.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.tamarindvillaphuket.com>

NURSE NEEDED

Full time nurse required. Thai National only. Care for 89-year-old English woman in Kamala. Room available. Please call for more information. Tel: 080-699 2436. Fax: 076-279605. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

RESTAURANT MANAGER

We, a restaurant on a hillside with a good view, are looking for an experienced restaurant manager who also has a background in marketing in the Phuket market. Tel: 076-261940, 081-877 9292. Email: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com

RAWAI BEACH CLUB

The exclusive outdoor seaside lounge/club is recruiting young dynamic individuals for the following positions: waitress/waiter, bartendee/bartender. Qualifications required: pleasant personality, English communication skills, guest service oriented. Interested candidates please submit your CV to: rawaibeachclub@gmail.com. We offer good benefits and unique opportunity to grow within the company.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Native English speaking teacher with experience to teach ages 3-5. Monday-Friday 8am-4pm. Tel: 080-624 7060. Email: phuketkindergarten@yahoo.com

SCUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR

DTW is looking for a diving instructor/DM proficient in English, Italian and/or German. Computer skills needed. Tel: +66-83-505 7794 (English). Email: info@dive-the-world.com

CASHIER

Mini-mart requires part time and full time Cashier. Thai national, good English, computer skills. Forward CV by email. Email: info@buonappetitogroup.com

RECEPTIONIST KATA

Female Thai with good English skills needed. Attractive salary and working conditions. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-892 1621.

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Need a recurring income to live in Thailand? We know how! If you are open-minded, have good English and good social skills, then we want YOU! Call us today to find out more. Tel: 082-284 8973 (English), 080-699 0913 (English). Email: jens@paradisisaar.ee

SALES CENTER POSITION

Rapidly growing company seeks sales center agents for multiple products. Fluent English speakers only - any nationality. Earnings of 50,000 baht per month possible. Must be sales-oriented and web proficient. Foreign nationals must hold a Bachelor's degree. Tel: 087-8858 622.

CASHIER

Mini-mart requires part time and full time Cashier. Thai national, good English, computer skills. Forward CV by email. Email: info@buonappetitogroup.com

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LAGUNA PHUKET www.lagunaphuket.com

The largest hotel and resort group in Phuket, and a listed company on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, is currently seeking qualified candidates to fill the Following position

Corporate Affairs Manager

- Male/female, Thai nationality
- Bachelor / Master's degree in related field; Law degree is an advantage
- 3-5 years experience as supervisor level in administration, government relations or legal administrative in real estate or hotel development business
- Good command of English and computer literacy
- Mature; able to work independently
- Team player, well organized, hard-working, goal oriented, energetic and self disciplined
- Proactive with good attitude and good interpersonal and communication skills
- Male applicant must have already completed or be exempted from military service

Applicants are invited to apply in person at the Laguna Resorts & Hotels office, or send your detailed English resumé stating current and expected salary together with a recent photo to:

Human Resources Department
Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co., Ltd
390/1 Moo1, Srisoonthorn Road, Cherrngtalay, Thalung, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-271298-300 Ext.33 Fax: 076-271718
Email: amomrat@lagunaphuket.com

Western Villa Operations Supervisor

- Maintenance and/or hotel experience required
- Will consider all Western male/female candidates
- Responsible for inspecting and supervising the maintenance of luxury villas
- Responsible for the audit and implementation of service standards together with our trainer
- Develop in-villa staff dedication and commitment to outstanding guest service and great care of the property
- Must have own car (no motorbike due to great distances to cover; car+gasoline allowance provided)
- Excellent command of English and computer literacy required
- Report to GM as well as individual owners
- To start immediately or as soon as possible if notice needs to be served

Please send CV with photo and expected salary to a.craig@phuketvillasandhomes.com and m.riba@samuivillasandhomes.com

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Real Estate, Phuket

Ocean Worldwide is a well established property agency that offers a proven international marketing system balanced with dedicated personnel who are committed to maintaining the highest standards of conduct and professionalism. An opportunity is available for an individual to work with our international clients to proficiently communicate information on our recommended Phuket properties. We are looking for a conscientious and ambitious person to join our team.

Sales Support Executive

You must be enthusiastic, have a positive attitude and possess above average communication skills. You will be expected to liaise with existing and new clients in person, on the telephone and through email correspondence. You will enjoy a dynamic lifestyle with high earning and advancement capabilities. Basic Salary + Commission + international travel expenses for property exhibitions.

Email your CV, with references to sandra.oneill@oceanwvp.com

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382/76 Lagoon Road., Cherrngtalay
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Tel: +66 76 325 986 Fax: +66 76 325 988
www.oceanwvp.com

ACCOUNTANT
Thai accountant required for SCUBA diving Liveboard Company in Phuket. Responsible for bookkeeping, accounting procedures, salary admin, stock control, monthly and annual tax forms, and Social Insurance. Will also be responsible for submitting, applying for and renewing all kinds of documents, e.g., licenses, permits, etc. To arrange an interview, please telephone. Tel: 076-383819, 084-923 4109 (English). Email: mshandur@hotmail.com

CASHIER RECEPTIONIST
for new spa in Karon. Thai female good job and salary. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-2718 254.

SALES ADMINISTRATOR
Thai National required for busy real estate company. Applicants should be able to communicate well in both spoken and written English and have good computer skills. Tel: 076-527565 Send CV and current salary details to info@phuketoceanvillas.com

URGENT RECEPTION NEED
If you have any further question please contact us. Email: phanida@tamarindvillaphuket.com

EXPERIENCED HOTEL STAFF
Reputed hotel in Patong (Phuket) needs experienced English speaking staff aged 25 years and above.

– 1) Front Office Manager (female). Salary: 12,000 baht + service charge.
– 2) Receptionists (1 female, 1 male). Salary: 10,000 + service charge.
– 3) Housekeeping Maids. Salary: 8,000 + service charge.
– 4) Housekeeping Supervisor. Salary 10,000 + service charge.
Tel: 081-919 2533. Contact by Or send your resume by email to jasminenarry@gmail.com

GOOD SALARY
V.I.P Pizzeria Restaurant and White Sand Bar staff wanted. Salary from 7,000 to 25,000 baht. Waiters, bartender, bartender, chefs and restaurant manager required. Tel: 076-292618, 089-651 5781, 084-746 1295 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-292575. Email: booking@santiwhitehotel.com

RAWAI BEACH CLUB
The exclusive outdoor seaside lounge/club is recruiting young dynamic individuals for the following positions: waitress/waiter, bartender/bartender. Qualifications required: pleasant personality, English communication skills, guest service oriented. Interested candidates please submit your CV to: rawaibeachclub@gmail.com. We offer good benefits and unique opportunity to grow within the company.

HOME MANAGER
Looking for woman with Thai and English to run our household. Duties include shopping, cleaning, cooking, paying bills, and taking care of dogs. Both a car and motorcycle are provided, as well as accommodation and all living expenses. Salary up to 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-532 6144, 086-940 1504 (English). Email: gshrk1972@hotmail.com

MARKETING EXECUTIVE
A person with at least 2 years' experience in hotel and restaurant marketing is needed. Salary with standard basis and commissions according to sales revenue. Tel: 081-877 9292, 083-503 3329, 083-503 3347 (English & Thai). Email: prakaisriroj@hotmail.com For further details, please visit our website at <http://www.gracegardensphuket.com>

CRUISE DIRECTOR WANTED
Full-Time Cruise Director position offered on Liveboard in Thailand and SEA. Must be a certified and renewed PADI Instructor (or higher). Preferred are individuals who are multi-lingual; have dived Thailand and SEA extensively; and are able to work independently and willing to start immediately. Non-smoking and persons who have a true passion for the underwater world preferred. To arrange an interview, please call. Tel: 076-383819, 084-923 4109 (English). Email: mshandur@hotmail.com

LOOKING TO WORK IN PHUKET?
Please contact me if you are looking for a proper job with a steady income in Phuket. Tel: 080-525 3913. Email: Mansharafat@hotmail.com

SALES EXECUTIVE
Established real estate agency is seeking motivated Thai national for the position of Sales Executive. Applicants should be fluent in English and have good computer skills. Excellent salary plus commission. Driving License essential. Tel: 076-527565. Apply by email: info@phuketoceanvillas.com

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Staff required for new concept bar, hotel and cafe. Experience is not as important as a positive attitude and excellent English. Areas include: Kitchen, bar and reception. Competitive salary for the right candidates. Contact Khun Amy. Tel: 089-471 6201. Email: amyfellingham@gmail.com

RECEPTIONIST
for beautiful guesthouse in Karon. Thai national. Tel: 086-271 8254. Or send email to: ninapartments@hotmail.com

OFFICE ADMIN PERSON
Siam Real Estate requires a Thai person with good English and computer skills. Must be bright, confident, outgoing and able to communicate with farang clients. Good salary and bonus scheme. Tel: 076-288908. Fax: 076-383646. Please send CV to jobs@siamrealestate.com

BEAUTICIAN/ MASSAGE LADY
Experienced lady for wax and massage needed in Rawai. Tel: 076-388581, 084-442 5290 (English & Thai). Email: dejaco@cscoms.com

ACCOUNTANT
Thai nationals wanted. Fluent English, computer skills and results oriented. Candidate must be knowledgeable in all government reports. Salary 15 to 18,000 baht per month plus service charge. Position available now. Forward CV via email. Tel: 076-333222, 086-604 1333 (English). Email: sales@ccbloomshotel.com

RESERVATIONS/ OFFICE CLERK
Requirements: Male/female Thai National with Bachelor's Degree or higher. Excellent written and verbal English skills. Full Time, 9-6pm. Starting salary: 15,000 baht per month for the right applicant. Please submit current resume with photo by email. Tel: 084-051 7455 (English & Thai), 084-879 8115 (Thai). Email: info@atsumihealing.com. For further details, please visit our website at <http://www.atsumihealing.com>

TOUR GUIDES NEEDED
English speaking guides needed for popular boat charter company. Thai nationals only. Tel: 076-354074, 081-9569961 (English). Email: info@coralseekers.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
Rawai based property rental, biz needs female with good English. Some cleaning required. Tel: 086-279 0837.

EXPAT MECH ENGINEER
Expat engineer looking for work in management, commissioning or similar. Part or full time, or partner. Email: andamanproject@myway.com

ENGLISH TEACHER
Native English speaker. 25 years experience. MA (Hons), DELTA. Private lessons, conversation, business, etc. Tel: 083-175 1920. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

Employment Wanted

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Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at **The Deli Supermarket**

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Swimming Pool maintenance company, great business for couple. Includes everything, call for details, only 100,000 baht. Tel: 076-323107, 089-727 0088. Email: natureclean@hotmail.com

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For sale, near Kata beach, low rent. 1.2 million baht. Tel: 089-289 2297.

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140,000 baht per year, Rawai beach. Fully equipped, parking, CCTV, long lease with financing available. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

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860sqm land. Sale 9.5 million baht. Yearly rent 1 million baht. Fully booked. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

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At Nanai Road, Patong. For sale at 350,000 baht with rent 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-537 7137. Email: sunisadia@hotmail.com

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RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Best place in OTOP Patong. 300m from road. Aircon, 15 tables. Tel: 080-535 6813.

RESTAURANT/BAR

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Weekend visa run package 2D/1N 6,500 baht. Hotel+ Transportation by VIP van Departure Phuket Saturday morning, return on Sunday. Please book directly Amber Visa Run 076-296304-5, 081-7298522, 081-8959430.

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Phuket oldest bi-lingual international child care facility. High quality time proven schedule and curriculum. Experienced native English teachers to teach ages 1½ -6. Mon-Fri 8am - 5pm. Bus service available from Patong, Karon, Kata, Phuket, Rawai and Chalong. Tel: 076-282 232, 080-624 7060. Website: www.buds-phuket.com

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41 Minimart

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Call 076-384349-50

Thai or English: 081-0803414 (Khun Ning), 081-7889555
 Email: info@bangkoklegalservice.com, www.bangkoklegalservice.com

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