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INSIDE

Are we prepared?



The Gazette talks to a disaster specialist about Phuket's preparedness for another Tsunami. See page 5

NEWS: Phuket Town killing prompts manhunt; Gov wants lower taxi fees; Lifeguards deployed.

Pages 2 - 3

LIFESTYLE: The Andaman Players love performance; Fun Fly festival to take off.

Page 8

HISTORY: Anand Singh looks back at some secrets of ancient stones.

Page 10

AROUND THE NATION 6; AROUND THE ISLAND 7; LIFESTYLE 9; EXPAT GALLERY 11; HAPPENINGS 12; LIFESTYLE 13; WHAT'S ON 15; BUSINESS & MONEY 16; TAKE A BREAK 17 & 18; TOWNINGS, HOROSCOPES 19; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 20; FIRST PERSON 21; SPORT 22 & 23; PROPERTY WATCH 24; PROPERTY 25; EARTH MATTERS 26; PROPERTY 27; CLASSIFIED Ads 28-40.

UK warns against travel to Thailand

WHILE local tourism officials continue to insist Phuket is safe, the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has advised against all but essential travel to all parts of Thailand.

The FCO's previous advice focused on Bangkok, where "red-shirt" protesters have occupied parts of the city for six weeks.

The FCO said its new advice "reflects our concern that violence could break out during the increasingly volatile political crisis."

"The situation is changing on a daily basis, and we recommend that British nationals living in Thailand or traveling to the country check the travel advice on the Embassy website regularly for details of further developments," the advisory said.

The FCO move came after acts of civil disobedience and disorder spread out of the capital to parts of the North and Northeast over the past week.

Nevertheless, Bangornrat Shinaprayoon, director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand's South Region 4 office in Phuket, insisted the province was safe. "We don't have any political disturbances here," she said.

Phuket Tourist Police Superintendent Ekachai Pramanakul agreed. "In Phuket there's no conflict about politics," he said. "It's only in Bangkok and



OUT IN FORCE: Armed soldiers march in the capital's financial district due to the ongoing red-shirt protest. AFP PHOTO / ROSLAN RAHMAN

other parts of the North and Northeast of Thailand."

Ms Bangornrat said she didn't expect the advisory to have much effect on tourism. "Now is not the season for UK tourists to come to Phuket anyway," she said.

But Wolfgang Meusberger, general manager of the Holiday

Inn in Patong, said his hotel was already feeling the effects of the protests in Bangkok.

"I cannot imagine anyone who can claim this situation does not affect their business. Forward bookings are down, cancellations are up, people are not making decisions at the moment to take

a holiday here," he said, adding that the advisory would have its own impact.

"I think it's not surprising," he said. "I think governments are getting extremely concerned and I think they do what they feel is in the best interests of their citizens."

Mr Meusberger said regardless of the situation in Bangkok, many tourists would not want to risk coming to Phuket.

"We can't say 'don't worry, come to Phuket, Phuket is safe.' Even if it is so, that's not how the customer sees it. The customer watches the news and sees a different picture," he said.

"I think all of us who live here need to be worried because this is quite extraordinary," he concluded.

Finance Minister Korn Chatikavanij, in Phuket on April 28 for a meeting with local leaders on shoring up tourism, said the red-shirt protests were having a worse effect on the industry than the closure of Bangkok's airports last year.

"This time more than 10 countries have made announcements warning their people not to come to Thailand," he said.

Mr Korn said the UK announcement was significant as more than 10 million UK citizens visited Thailand every year.

- Gazette reporter

Work on Bt2.6bn conference center to go ahead

FINANCE Minister Korn Chatikavanij has confirmed the government will move ahead with construction of a 2.6-billion-baht international convention and exhibition center on 150 rai in Tah Chat Chai.

The land is currently held by the Treasury Department's State Property Management and Services Office.

The project gained Cabinet approval under the second phase of the government's Thai Khem-

kheng (Strong Thailand) fiscal stimulus package.

A Cabinet meeting on April 27 agreed to disburse the funds near the end of the year to allow time to complete the project's environmental impact assessment.

Mr Korn was in Phuket to meet with local officials to discuss the impact of the ongoing red-shirt protests in Bangkok on the local tourism industry.

- Nation Group

For related story, see page 2

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Lifeguard Wichai Hemara, 23, at his post on Patong Beach.

Phuket Lifeguards back on the beaches

EIGHTY-three lifeguards began manning 13 Phuket beaches on April 26, after the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) signed a service contract with the Phuket Lifeguard Club.

All lifeguards will work from 9am to 7pm daily for two weeks, then enjoy one day off a week each after that.

Jit Chairat, who mans the lifeguard station at Patong Beach in front of the Graceland Phuket resort, said "We work until late every evening to make sure there's no one left in the sea."

During work hours, all lifeguards must stay within 10 meters of the water and walk the shoreline every hour making thorough inspections.

Flagpoles at each lifeguard station advise swimmers of conditions. Yellow flags indicate that

there are lifeguards on duty and conditions are safe enough for swimming.

Red flags indicate that it is unsafe to swim or that there are no lifeguards on duty.

The Phuket Lifeguard Club has done away with the green flags that were used in the past to indicate it is safe to swim.

The deployment of the lifeguards comes with the arrival of the monsoon season, when surf conditions worsen and the frequency of drownings increases.

Although the arrival of the monsoon season changes from year to year and dangerous conditions can occur year round, it generally runs from May through October. This is also the period when the Similan and Surin Marine National Parks are closed to tourists.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan

Finance Minister Korn hears Phuket's woes

Hotel bookings for June plummet to 12%

FINANCE Minister Korn Chatikavanij arrived in Phuket on April 28 to hear how gravely Phuket's tourism and the local economy had been affected by the ongoing Bangkok unrest, which has seen hotel bookings for June plummet to 12 percent occupancy.

Finance Minister Korn, accompanied by Revenue Department Director-General Vinai Vittavasarnvej, was also prepared to take on board any suggestions on how the impact on the economy could be alleviated.

Representing Phuket at the meeting were Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop, Phuket Senator Phummisak Hongsyok, and heads of several local tourism and other industry associations.

The meeting was hosted by the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa in Karon.

Methee Tanmanatrakul, representing the Thai Hotels Association (Southern Chapter) suggested the government fund a campaign promoting tourism to restore tourist confidence in Thailand and the Andaman region in particular.

Mr Methee pointed out that since the red shirts demonstrations began in March, hotel bookings have plunged. Normal occupancy rate of 50 percent for May is currently only 19 percent, he said, adding that bookings for



Finance Minister Korn Chatikavanij (left) at the meeting on April 28.

June stood at 12 percent and that the rate of bookings was expected to continue to fall.

Pisarn Trangsombat of the Phuket Real Estate Club called on the government to provide financial relief through tax breaks, suggesting that business tax be cut from 3.3 percent to 0.11 percent. He also asked that steps be taken to stop construction material prices from escalating.

He called on banks to slash interest rates on business loans by two percent and be less restrictive in the requirements

needed by SMEs to qualify for loans.

Looking to the long-term, Mr Pisarn called for the government to support a 30 percent reduction in all domestic air, train, and bus fares within two years to help boost Thai tourism within the kingdom.

He added that he will take the suggestions presented at the meeting back to Bangkok to see what progress could be made, especially with regard to business tax and bank loans.

— Kitima Pornmongkhonwat

Police launch firearm crackdown

THUNG Thong Police are hoping to cut violent crime in their district by cracking down on the illegal possession of firearms.

Thung Thong Police Superintendent Kraithong Chanthongbai said there is a particularly high concentration of unauthorized people carrying weapons in tambon Kathu.

Many people living in Kathu work nights in Patong as touts and bar workers and arm themselves for self-protection. Such people tend to rent houses in Kathu as it

is near Patong but has lower living costs.

In addition to searching people, Thung Thong police aim to document all legally-held weapons and wipe out gun crime by getting illegal weapons off the streets.

All people found to be holding weapons illegally will be prosecuted, Col Kraithong said.

"We are operating the Thung Thong police checkpoint near Patong Hill early mornings to search people returning from late-night work in Patong.

"We will disarm them as part of our crime suppression effort, as crime can easily happen when guns are around," said Col Kraithong.

"We have some information about 10-20 people who illegally carry firearms, but we need evidence to press charges. These people are not gunmen. They just have weapons for protection, but we need to act before something bad happens," he said.

Most of those suspected were not from Phuket, but from places like Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Phattalung and Surat Thani, he said.

Most recently, a native of Nakhon Sri Thammarat was gunned down over Songkran after returning from Patong, where he worked as a tout on Soi Seadragon.

The victim appeared to have drawn his own 9mm pistol in an unsuccessful bid to fire back at his assailants.

Kathu Police Duty Officer Attawat Suwanrat said the investigation is still underway. "We need to investigate further and collect more evidence. We hope to get a suspect soon," he said.

— Kitima Pornmongkhonwat

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Gov lobbies for lower airport taxi fees

IN a bid to lower taxi fares on the island, Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop is lobbying to reduce fees for limousines operating out of Phuket International Airport (PIA).

Land Transport Department Director Kanok Siripanichkorn said Gov Wichai sent a letter to Airports of Thailand (AoT) management in Bangkok requesting a meeting with those responsible for setting concession charges.

Gov Wichai is seeking an explanation as to why the rates are so high and wants to discuss the possibility of a reduction.

Two concessionaires currently operate limousines from the airport. Phuket Airport Limousine and Business Cooperative Ltd (PBC) has 150 vehicles and pays 1.3 million baht monthly to AoT, while rival operator Phuket Mai Khao Sakoo has 110 vehicles and pays 900,000 baht monthly.

There are also 62 metered taxis currently operating out of the airport parking lot. All passengers hiring metered taxis there are required to pay an extra 100 baht, pushing the price of a typical journey to Patong to 420 baht.

The Meter Taxi Association



Phuket Gov Wichai Phraisa-ngop is targeting cheaper taxi fares.

paid 70,000 baht in monthly concessions to AoT when it started and its fee is still under 100,000 baht, according to an informed source.

Among the many associations seeking a reduction in the concessions is the Phuket Chamber of Commerce (PCC), which wants concession fees at PIA cut in half.

PCC President Dr Sirichai Silapa-archa last month described the current fees as 'excessive' and charged AoT with driving up fares across Phuket.

Speaking at a provincial economic committee meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall, Dr



Tourists waiting at Phuket International Airport. The wait for the airport bus, instead of the more expensive, yet more convenient taxis, might soon be over. File photo.

Sirichai also said having meters in all hired vehicles in Phuket was essential to boost the local tourism industry. "In Phuket there are no standard fares, so taxi and tuk-tuk rides are expensive. This makes getting around inconvenient and makes tourists and other passengers feel they are being unfairly treated," he said.

Dr Sirichai said a committee should be established to

determine and implement an appropriate fare structure.

The panel should include Land Transport Department officials as well as operators and users, including resorts and other tourism businesses, he said.

Also at the meeting was Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Paiboon Upatising, who said he agreed with Dr Sirichai on meters and the need for AoT to slash its rates.

"These should be top priorities," he said.

PBC President Chukiat Panyawai said rates in Phuket were far more expensive than at Chiang Mai Airport.

"If the AoT agreed to reduce fees by 50%, that would be great. Then we could talk about lower prices for passengers and everyone would be happy," he said.

- Phuket Gazette

Police launch manhunt for victim's gay killer

A 43-YEAR-OLD man was found murdered in an apartment in Phuket Town on April 26.

Police believe Pirasak Pongchoo, from Phatthalung, may have been killed by his male partner for sleeping with another man.

Mr Pirasak's body was found wrapped in bedsheets in the toilet of his rented room on Wichit Songkram Road Soi 1 around 2:30pm.

His throat had been slit. There was blood on the floor next to the bed and a bloodstained knife on the floor beside a beer bottle.

There were no other signs a violent struggle had taken place.

Police estimated the time of death at about five days earlier.

An investigation revealed Mr Pirasak had been renting the room since April 4.

Witnesses told police that young men often came to drink with him in his room.

A group of men were seen entering and leaving his room the week before he died.

Police suspect Mr Pirasak may have been murdered by his "gik" (casual sex partner) after he slept with another man.

Police are seeking to question Mr Pirasak's partner and the other men in order to bring his killer or killers to justice.

- Phuket Gazette



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HAPPY COUPLE: Many Thai Buddhists believe male and female fraternal twins were born that way because they were soulmates in a past life. It is thus traditional to hold a mock wedding ceremony for such siblings. 'Nong Phet' and 'Nong Ploy', two four-year-old twins from Phuket, were 'married' at the Thainaan Restaurant in Wichit on April 25 in front of more than 100 guests. The twins' parents said they have enjoyed lots of good luck since the twins were born, having won the lottery several times.



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Helmet crackdown

PHUKET Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong has ordered Phuket City Police to take more serious action against motorcyclists riding without helmets by fining passengers as well as drivers.

In May and June, the town's 50 traffic officers will crack down more heavily on motorcycle drivers without helmets and issue warnings to passengers. From July, passengers without helmets will face fines.

Maj Gen Pekad said police will strictly enforce the helmet law day and night, although nighttime checks will be conducted less frequently because of a lack of officers.

The Motorcycle Helmet Law states that both drivers and passengers not wearing helmets can be fined up to 500 baht.

Drivers caught transporting a passenger not wearing a helmet can also be fined 1,000 baht.

Maj Gen Pekad said the police have prepared about 3,000 helmets to give away free to offending drivers before the July crackdown begins.

- *Kitima Pornmongkhonwat*

Jet-ski death families settle

AFTER several rounds of negotiations, the families of two young Singaporean men involved in a fatal jet-ski accident in Patong have finally reached a settlement.

The family of Tang Gun Han have agreed to pay S\$100,000 to the family of Loh Ying Jie, who died in a hospital in Singapore on April 13 as a result of his injuries.

The two men were on holiday together when their jet-skis collided off Patong Beach on April 2.

Both families went to the Kathu Police Station on April 21 to sign the agreement.

"Now it's up to the police," said Mr Loh's brother-in-law Tay Wee Chin. "We are not involved anymore."

A police investigation is underway to determine if the collision was an accident or the result of carelessness.

Kathu Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakao said Mr Tang's passport is being held. Once the police investigation concludes the case will be forwarded to the prosecutor.

Should the prosecutor decide it was an accident, the



COMPENSATED: Loh Ying Jie's father Loh Boon Kong (left) and brother-in-law Tay Wee Chin in Patong.

case will be closed within a month and Mr Tang will be allowed to go home. Otherwise the prosecutor will hold his passport and present the case to the courts, which could take up to a year, said Col Arayapan.

In an interview with the *Gazette*, Mr Loh's family spoke out about the negotiations between the two families, which they said were initiated by Kathu Police.

Mr Loh's family initially asked the Tangs to pay them S\$500,000 (11.7 million baht).

That figure was based on long-term medical costs should the young man survive, said Mr Tay.

"We estimated around 15 years of medical costs, because we didn't know how long he was going to live. It ran up to be over a million Singapore dollars, but we thought that was quite a large amount. So that's why, in the first negotiations, we kept it at S\$500,000," said Mr Tay.

Mr Tang's family said they could not afford that amount and made a counter-offer of S\$100,000.

"At that time, we were still thinking of the long-term medical fees, so S\$100,000 was definitely not enough. That's why we rejected that and the negotiations stopped and we went back to Singapore to look after my brother-in-law, who was still in the hospital at that time.

"He only managed to survive 10 days before he passed

away. That's why we had to come back here to renegotiate."

Soon after his arrival, doctors in Singapore told the family that Mr Loh was already brain dead and suggested turning off his life support. As it was only his second day there his family wanted to give the young man a chance to recover, said Mr Tay.

"He was still on the life-support system when his brain and body started deteriorating. So he died naturally, not because of the life-support system," Mr Tay continued.

"On our way to the hospital, the nurse called to say that his heart had actually stopped. The nurse told him, 'Your mom is coming, so please hang on,' and his heart started beating again. When we arrived, we managed to see the last few minutes of his life. Within five minutes he was gone."

The Loh family then re-evaluated their compensation claim and asked the Tang family for S\$100,000.

Mr Tay said medical expenses had come to S\$74,000, with the rest covering other costs since the accident.

"If you compare that to a life, I mean a life is definitely worth much more than S\$26,000. So they are very kind in saying they just want to claim S\$100,000 from them, close the case and let the boy go home," he said.

After intense negotiations over two days and Mr Loh's family enlisting the help of a Thai MP, Mr Tang's family agreed to pay the S\$100,000.

- *Atchaa Khamlo*

Car fire still a mystery

POLICE still don't know what caused a Honda Accord to burst into flames on the bypass road in front of Tesco Lotus on the late afternoon of April 21.

Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Jamroon Playduang said an initial report by bomb disposal experts indicated there was no evidence to suggest a bomb caused the fire.

Police are still awaiting a full report from Forensics Police Unit 44 in Phuket Town before concluding the case, he said.

"The owner said he had been driving the car all day and found it hard to believe that someone could have put something inside the car without his knowledge. He also told me he didn't have any enemies," he said.



TOASTED: The Honda Accord.

The driver, 35-year-old construction contractor Supachai Jongchanasetthakul, said the fire began in the car's center console area, where he kept a battery charging device.

The Forensics Police full report would probably take a month to complete, Lt Col Jamroon said.

- *Kitima Pornmongkhonwat*

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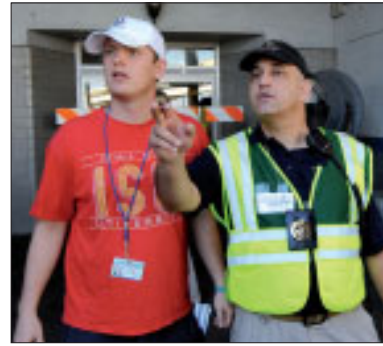
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Are we ready for another tsunami?



Clockwise from above: Robert Fogerty conducting his survey on Patong Beach following the April 7 tsunami warning; Mr Fogerty with disaster relief workers in New Orleans; Scene of devastation in Patong following the 2004 tsunami.

Early last month, Phuket was given its most significant tsunami preparedness test in recent years – and came up lacking.

On April 7, the day an early morning quake struck in Sumatra, a professional in the field of emergency preparedness from the United States, Robert Fogerty, happened to be in Phuket studying the preparations made here since the 2004 tsunami disaster.

The warning was a perfect opportunity for Mr Fogerty to assess just how effective Phuket's system really is. His data reveals a system in vast need of improvement.

After a great deal of confusion regarding the actual status of the government-issued 'warning' on April 7, head of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Regional Center 18 (DDPM-Phuket), Mr Udornporn Karn, has confirmed that Phuket was under an evacuation order.

"There are three levels to warn of a tsunami disaster. Level one is just a warning. The second level calls for an evacuation, but not immediate; there is still time for packing. Level 3 is the highest alert and calls people to move out immediately, without any time to collect things," said Mr Udornporn.

"The [April 7] tsunami warning in Phuket was over level two, nearly reaching level three," he continued.

A survey conducted by Mr Fogerty in the following two weeks revealed that only one Patong hotel – the Horizon Beach Resort – actually evacuated its guests.

Mr Fogerty arrived on March 26 to study and compare evacuation preparations made by New Orleans in the five years since Hurricane Katrina to those of Phuket since the 2004 tsunami.

"Five years is a nice number to look back and ask, 'are we more prepared?' That's why I'm here," he said.

As founder of the disaster relief organization evacuteer.org, which works with the US government and the City of New Orleans to help prevent a repeat of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Mr Fogerty's job is to help prepare that city for future natural disasters.

Starting the day of the warning, Fogerty began surveying people on Patong Beach to find out if they were evacuated – or even informed – of a potential tsunami. One hundred people staying in 35 different hotels were given a five-question survey.

Of the 100 people surveyed, 37 were in their hotel when the warning was issued on April 7. Of those 37, just three were actually notified of the tsunami warning.

"Two were notified in a common area after the threat had been canceled. One was actually woken up, evacuated and moved to higher ground," he said.

"That to me says we have some work to do with hotel GMs," he said.

Another part of the survey asked, "If there is a tsunami alert, no matter what the level, I want my hotel to notify me."

To this 88 percent strongly agreed, while not a single person disagreed.

Perhaps even more telling is the fact that 61 percent of those questioned first heard that a tsunami warning had been issued from Mr Fogerty as he was conducting the survey.

"In nearly every instance, they felt a bit disappointed that their hotels didn't notify them. I'd even go as far as to suggest that several of people I spoke to might think twice about returning to the hotel because they didn't get even an 'oh, by the way, there was a tsunami alert this morning.'"

Despite the lack of response during the evacuation, there are aspects of Phuket's warning system that Fogerty was quick to praise. Tsunami warning signs are noted by a fair number of people and the SMS (instant messaging) warning system was highly effective in getting word out to those who were subscribed to it, he said.

But there are still many challenges that need to be addressed if a successful evacuation is to be conducted in the event of an impending disaster, he feels.

One of these is getting around the 'tourist mindset' that seems to prevail in both Phuket and New Orleans and seems to be associated with a relative lack of concern with safety issues and preparedness.

This is something disaster relief programs need to accept and work into emergency planning measures, Mr Fogerty said.

While the majority of people surveyed had noticed evacuation signs, about one in four had not, even when one was in plain view at the time of questioning, Mr Fogerty said.

Another difficulty, and the primary reason hotels are

reluctant to order evacuations, are the consequences if the warning turns out to be a 'false alarm'. The 'better safe than sorry' attitude doesn't typically apply to hotels, which tend to not want to bother guests, he found.

Currently finishing his study in Phuket, Mr Fogerty is creating a list of suggestions for hotels that includes implementing policies that outline what to do in case of an evacuation order.

– Scott Phillips

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Exam cheats caught with pants down

SURAT THANI: More than 40 would-be police officers were caught cheating on Police Region 8 entrance exams on April 25.

Most had modified mobile phones stuffed down their underpants.

Acting on a tip-off, officers used hand-held body scanners of the type used in airport security to check people entering examination halls in schools around Surat Thani.

Of 8,409 people checked, police found 44 people with mobile phones hidden on their person. Five were men with phones stuffed into their underpants.

At first, officers couldn't find mobile phones on women identified by the scanner. However, a thorough search by female police officers found many had modified Samsung e250i mobiles stashed away under sanitary pads in their underwear.

The phones had been modified to receive special signals causing them to vibrate.

Under interrogation, most of the would-be cheaters admitted they had gone for special tutoring at a school in Bangkok. While studying, they had been approached by a group offering to sell the mobile phones for 13,000-15,000 baht. If they passed the exams with the help of the signals supplied they had to pay a further 250,000 baht, police said.

Police Region 8 Commissioner Adul Chaimongkalarat said the people found cheating would be banned from taking the exam again and entered into a database of known exam cheaters.

The signals were sent from Bangkok, Gen Adul said. There was a large network behind the cheating ring, he added.

Source: *Khao Sod*



RAINBOW RESISTANCE: A small group of 'multicolored' shirt supporters gather in Hua Hin. The sign reads, "Many colors of shirt... but one heart."

Many colors, many reasons to rally

BANGKOK: People joining 'multicolored' rallies against the red-shirt protests paralyzing Bangkok say they want to express how the demonstrations have severely affected their everyday lives.

Most of those joining the multicolored gatherings at Victory Monument last week said they were not affiliated with any political groups. Some warned of possible violence if the yellow shirts took to the streets.

The multicolored shirts, who include office workers, students and businessmen, gathered at Victory Monument every day from 4-6pm, most waving the Thai flag. Some take turns expressing their thoughts from a makeshift stage on a truck.

At 6pm, the participants sing the national anthem together,

after which they shout "Chaiyo" ("Victory") three times in unison.

Yaowarat Phisoljatupol, a 50-year-old Bangkok resident, said she had taken a passive interest in politics before, but had decided now was the time to express her views in the open.

"I have always followed political news and watched the red-shirt channel. I disagree with the red shirts' methods and their use of violence. I also want to protect our monarchy," she said.

Sermsuk Pakpises, an analyst at Kasikorn Bank, said he wants peace to be restored, as the red shirts' lingering protest at Bangkok's Rajprasong shopping district had adversely affected many businesses and their employees.

"Several offices were closed and their employees laid off. I want to see peace and safety," he said.

He did not think it was a good idea for the yellow-shirted members of the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) to join the multicolored rally, however.

"I think they have the right to do so, but there will be a higher risk of clashes between the pro- and anti-government groups. There could be more casualties," he said.

Vanchai Narinthavanich said his office near the protest site had been closed over the past three weeks and his company was working from another location.

"We gather here to protect His Majesty. We oppose the use of violence and I call on people to oppose the activities of the red shirts," he said.

DJ Petchy of Awhatup Radio said he believed the 'rainbow shirts' were "doing the right thing for everybody" and "this movement is on the right track".

"We are against mob rule by the red-shirt protesters. I think we should give Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva a chance to continue running the country," he said.

Ann, a junior at Kasetsart University, said she and a friend joined the Victory Monument rally because they deplored the use of violence.

"I don't agree with the red shirts' ideology," she added.

The multicolored movement was growing with more and more people showing up for its daily gatherings, she said.

She disagreed with yellow shirts attending. "There could be violence," she said.

Source: *The Nation*

Queer News

Dr treats eye disease with magic, meat

PHITSANULOK: A grandmother in this northern province is offering cheap treatment for cataracts and other eye diseases using raw meat and Khmer spells.

Sixty-six-year-old Thin Chanto, known locally as Dr Tik, treats 20 to 30 people on an average day.

Dr Tik has no recognized medical qualifications. She started studying eye treatment at the age of 13 and studied spells from Cambodia for more than 15 years before becoming a truly accomplished healer.

As well as magic, Dr Tik's treatments use strips of raw beef. On an average day she uses around a kilo of beef, which she buys from the market and cuts into strips 3-5cm long. On a Buddhist holiday, she goes through as much as three kilos, treating up to 1,000 people.

Before using the meat she blesses it with a spell, throwing it away after each patient.

She places the strips over her patients' eyes for a couple of minutes and chants Khmer spells. This, apparently, relieves their suffering.

"How much people pay me depends on their faith," Dr Tik said. "Some give 20-30 baht, others 100 baht."

"Once a doctor from Naresuan University sent a nurse to watch my treatment. They didn't have any problems with it, they just told me to make sure everything was clean and to get new meat every day," Dr Tik said.

Dr Tik is also teaching her 13-year-old granddaughter to treat cataracts and glaucoma using a coconut shell and grains of rice. Suphansa Methangsumet, known as Dr Noi or "little doctor", has patients look at the sun through the hole in the coconut shell while she chants spells and chops grains of rice on the shell using a knife.

Pricha Nuchjarat, 56, a regular patient of Dr Tik's, said having his eyes treated with meat was very soothing and didn't sting at all.

The coconut shell treatment was also good and the sun didn't hurt his eyes, he said.

Chatree Pompem, from Phitsanulok Provincial Health Office, was less impressed.

Using meat on the eyes posed a serious risk of infection and staring at the sun through a coconut shell could lead to blindness, he said.

He also ordered Dr Tik to stop her treatments immediately.

Source: *Khao Sod*

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'The Crew' roll out, slowly, with helmets

A CREW of 27 bikers set out from Happy Days guesthouse in Chalong on April 24 bound for Krabi. None wore leathers, all had helmets, most rode mopeds.

In a bid to promote road safety, 'The Crew' organizers Jon Roberts and Michael Wallentine, who both run Chalong-based diving companies, said the 200-kilometer ride to Ao Nang would be an annual affair at the start of Phuket's low season.

"A lot of people leave the island to go back to their home countries around this time of year, so we wanted to do something as a community before that happened," Wallentine said.

As well as strengthening bonds among Chalong's expat community, organizers said the

trip was also geared at sending a serious message to road users on the island.

"Everyone is wearing a helmet on the trip and we have enforced a maximum speed limit of 60 kilometers per hour for all our riders," Wallentine said.

Wearing matching shirts, The Crew set out from Chalong early Saturday and returned Sunday afternoon.

"Aside from a sore bum from all the driving and coming across a buffalo that had been hit by a car, the trip went well," said Happy Days owner Aaron Nioch.

The Crew plan to do the same ride next year, but this time to raise money for a local charity.

- James Goyder & Fraser Morton



NICE SHIRTS: Some of Chalong's expat community said farewell to the high season with a 'slow' motorbike ride from Phuket to Krabi.

Stand-up comedian to concentrate on crime

IN ONE of his final stand-up appearances British crime novelist, screen writer and comedian Mark Billingham unleashed a torrent of one liners at the Punchline Comedy Club night on April 21.

Billingham was a confident and at times acerbic MC on the night, rounding on various members of the audience with his fiery wit.

The night's other acts included fellow Brits Mike Gunn and Carl Donnelly, but it was Billingham who stole the show.

Author of the best-selling detective Tom Thorne crime novels, Billingham entered the British stand-up circuit in 1987.

After grilling his Phuket audience, he performed in Pattaya and then finally Bangkok, for what is rumored to be his last ever stand-up performance at the Bulls Head pub, recently voted 'Thailand's Best British Pub 2010' by the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper.

Back in the UK, Billingham is set to take on the role of



Author/comedian Mark Billingham, executive producer on a TV series based on his novels.

Phuket comedy lovers should look out for the next Punchline comedy night in June when Indian-American comedian Arj Barker will be in town.

- Fraser Morton



Week of waves at Nai Harn Beach

A 41-YEAR-OLD American photographer and surfer captured this stunning aquatic shot at Nai Harn Beach on April 18. Jim Welch said he took the shot during a week-long period of high surf on Phuket.

"The waves came from a source off Madagascar that has

affected most west coast facing beaches from Phuket all the way up to Bangladesh," he said.

While Welch prefers shooting and surfing around Nai Harn due to its location in relation to wave swell from a source, he said in the past few weeks he has pulled three

swimmers in trouble to safety.

"The Andaman Sea has her strange moods and even life-long ocean dwellers like me find her hard to read," he said.

He advises swimmers at Nai Harn to obey red flags on Phuket beaches.

- Fraser Morton

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Love actually is quite funny

Local theater group acts out sketches, songs, with a lot of heart



PLAYING AROUND: FROM LEFT: Maureen and Graham ponder divorce. Joyce and Ben ruffle each others feathers. BOTTOM: The ensemble cast of the Andaman Players.



THE ANDAMAN Players theater group's most recent show started and ended with four-letter words: 'Love' and 'Tony'.

Staged at Mom Tri's Villa Royale on April 23, 'LOVE is a four letter word' was the brainchild of the late Tony Kelsey-Stead who passed away four days before the show.

With a cast and crew of 14, the players' show centered around the ubiquitous concept of love, a subject the players feel that no-one can define.

Drawing on the musical talents of local musicians and the theatrical know-how of the players, director Michael Flynn pulled-off an enchanting production, while the 40-plus crowd noshed on a sumptuous three-course dinner.

What started out as a fun-filled romp on the subject of love became a much more poignant testimony to the players' friend and mentor Tony.

In befitting style, the entire cast applauded the heavens while singing *All You Need Is Love* to round-off the show, described by many as a labor of love.

- Fraser Morton

Farewell Tony Kelsey-Stead

IN MEMORY of Phuket resident Tony Kelsey-Stead, who died on April 19 in England, friends and colleagues have arranged two memorial events on the island.

The first, organized by The Andaman Players, will feature a free show at The Green Man pub in Chalong at 6:30 pm on May 2. The performance will feature acts and songs from their show 'LOVE is a 4 letter word'. Although the show is free, donations will be welcome for Tony's partner Fon, who herself recently in hospital with breathing problems.

The second event, to be held at Friendship Beach in Rawai on May 4 at 6pm, will feature a musical tribute by the many musicians who have played with Tony. *The Groove Doctors* will open the show, which will also feature Colin Hill, *The Bamboo Jam band* and many others in an open stage jam. A buffet will also be available. Anyone who knew Tony is invited to attend and share in each or both of the events.



Paragliders aim high for Fun Fly



Phuket Paragliding Club is hosting their first ever 'Fun Fly' event from May 21 to 23. Photos courtesy of Phuket Paragliding Club.

PROMTHERP Cape and Nai Harn Beach have a long-standing reputation for being one of, if not the most picturesque viewpoints on the island.

Come May 21, the panoramic cape will see Phuket's first paragliding 'Fun Fly Festival' take place with a three day event gliding over its idyllic white sand and turquoise water.

The event, which is sponsored by *Phuket Gazette*, promises spectators and participants a weekend filled with sky-high thrills including paragliding demonstrations, a Fun Fly paragliding competition, fancy dress flying, a spot landing competition and a tandem flying attraction, which will give first-timers to the sport a chance to get in on the action.

"We are hoping to fly all-day during the event, but it all depends on the wind," said

Phuket Paragliding Club President, Dr Prasert Theplong.

"Good flying winds are between eight and 20 kilometers per hour, so if wind condition is not acceptable, we will have to wait until it's right," he added.

Another aspect of the festival is the Fun Fly Extreme Photo contest, where prizes will be awarded for the best aerial photographs taken during the event.

According to Dr Theplong, the aim of the event is to not only introduce the sport to others, but also to promote tourism in Phuket during the low season.

The club also hopes to follow in the trail of other provincial paragliding clubs in Thailand. Eventually, they would like to see it become a major annual sporting attraction in Phuket.

- Nicky Vermeulen

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Funk in junk

Eco-minded students get resourceful with trashy fashion to remember



THE YOUNG ONES: Back, from left, are Christopher Bailey, Guillaume Trahan, Aiko Hana Shafarudin and Georgia Feekins. And (front, from left) are Liam Saint Zandstra, Alessea Lazzara and Nick de Ridder.



Juliana Huber won the fashion competition with an outfit made from recycled rubber tubes.



TOP: Ninja Marco Plucken and pirate Simone Filipelli. **BOTTOM:** Robot Chris Bailey and pirate Marcel Plucken.

STUDENTS at Phuket's Quality School International who have been hard at work creating their outfits for the second annual "Funky Junk Fashion Trash Parade" took to their pizza box catwalk and showed off their recycling skills to a throng of proud parents and teachers on April 23.

As part of Earth Week, teachers captured their students' attention with a host of imaginative classes promoting the benefits of reducing, reusing and recycling all manner of materials.

The fashion show project saw children collecting trash and

other objects found lying around the school, then in teams brainstorming how they were going to give their junk some funk.

As the children strutted down their cardboard catwalk; soda cans, cereal boxes, chip packets, noodle cartons and

garbage bags had carefully been transformed into masterpiece outfits of ninjas, dragons, robots, pirates, jellyfish and even a few tuxedos. Winner of the show for the second year running was 15-year-old Juliana Huber, who, aided by her classmates, created a

daring little number held together with staples and made entirely from rubber tubes taken from motorcycle tires.

Asked about the reason behind the style design chosen for her outfit, Juliana said, "We just tried to come up with the easiest

way to connect the pieces of rubber together."

Her team's effort last year was nothing short of creative genius when they constructed a ball gown out of 100 fanned newspaper pages.

- Nicky Vermeulen



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Ancient stones unlock history



CARVED IN STONE: Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple (left) was built by conquering Chola King Rajendra to celebrate his many military victories. This famous temple is near the River Vadavar in Trichy, India. Two ancient Tamil stones (above) have been discovered in modern-day Thailand that give important details about the conflicts between the Srivijaya and Chola empires. Wikimedia open source photos.

Looking Back
By Anand Singh

IN THE 10th century AD, Phuket was part of an ancient maritime empire called Srivijaya, encompassing most of what is today considered southern Thailand, Malaysia, Sumatra and hundreds of smaller islands in the region.

The strength of the empire came from its control of one of the most important trade routes in world history, the Strait of Malacca. The Srivijaya empire, centered in the southern Sumatran city of Palembang, was able to collect lucrative tolls from

ships moving cargo between China and the west.

Srivijaya had many hostile neighbors because it controlled this important trade route and fiercely protected its interests.

Across the Bay of Bengal, the Tamils, of India's Chola empire, were also largely involved in the east-west trade.

It was an inevitable clash as the two neighboring maritime empires competed for control of the strait and its Far East trade.

In 1902, one of the oldest Tamil rock inscriptions was discovered, along with other priceless artifacts, on Phra Narai hill in Takua Pa district, Phang Nga province, not far from Phuke. The ancient rock inscriptions highlight the theory that Tamils may have operated thriving merchant guilds on the Malay Peninsula during the 8th and 9th centuries.

What is interesting about the Tamil stone writings is a description about a settlement called "Manikkiramam", located somewhere on the west coast of the Malay peninsula.

According to the stone, the settlement was a guild of merchants and traders. Armed guards were stationed to protect the Tamil people, as well as a large tank of fresh water to sustain the colony.

The ancient settlement name, Manikkiramam, in Tamil means "jewel town". Interestingly, local historians have suggested that this settlement may have been located on Phuket at the location of what is present-day Ban Manik in Thalung.

To support this theory is the similarity in the names of both places. Names of villages, districts and towns often evolve through time, but rarely do they completely change. It has been suggested that the name of the village, Manik, may be a truncation of the ancient Tamil name Manikkiramam.

No one is entirely sure about the exact location of the ancient Tamil settlement. Historians have to rely mostly on ancient written texts because of the scarcity of historical evidence dating to this period.

The settlement would have

had a sizeable population of Tamil merchants and traders stationed there from South India. The stone inscriptions discovered in Takua Pa, itself an ancient settlement dating back many centuries, was probably written in the 8th century AD.

The writings pointed to Tamil commercial interests that existed in this region during that period. No one knows for sure what later started the 11th-century war between Srivijaya and the Tamils of southern India, but the fact that the Tamils had much vested commercial interests in Srivijaya could have eventually led to serious conflict, inevitably leading to a war that spelled the end of Srivijaya.

In the year 1025 AD, Srivijaya faced a crisis that threatened its survival. The Tamil King Rajendra I had been preparing to invade the Srivijaya empire. During Rajendra's reign, the Tamil Chola empire was at the height of its power.

In 1025 AD a Tamil armada crossed the Bay of Bengal and set out to severely weaken Srivijaya. According to historical accounts, one of the invading Tamil fleets landed on the upper western coast of the Malay Peninsula. They fought their way and managed to gain a foothold in the Srivijaya Empire.

Yeamyong Surakijbanharn, an archaeologist and historian on southern Thailand, believes that during the war the Tamil general leading Rajendra's front forces decided to camp out at the Tamil settlement of Manikkiramam. He used it as a military base from which to continue raids and wreak havoc on the rest of Srivijaya.

The Tamil merchants living in Manikkiramam may have offered their help to the invading forces by giving them food, shelter and other resources.

The main source of information about the Tamil-Srivijaya war comes from another ancient Tamil stone inscription. This historical rock was found in the ancient Mahathat temple in modern-day Nakhon Sri Thammarat province, dating back to the 11th century AD.

This stone inscription, although eroded in some parts, tells us a great deal about the Tamil Chola raids on Srivijaya.

The Tamil army conquered land as far south as Kedah, but their victory over the Srivijaya empire was not followed by a prolonged occupation. The purpose of the invasion was to plunder the empire's territories. The Tamil army destroyed cities and weakened Srivijaya, forcing it to accept supremacy of the Chola empire.

True to the Chola cause, the maritime empire of Srivijaya never regained its former glory after the invasion. It later disintegrated into several smaller kingdoms and city states.

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Anand Singh is an avid Phuket historian, having lived on the island from age three to 21. He is fluent in Thai and is currently completing his degree in economics at the University of Birmingham. Anand can be contacted at E:as.pkt@hotmail.com.

EXPAT GALLERY

Robin Plant & Wally Sudik

ROBIN and Wally both came to Phuket in 1998 to work on the construction of the Phuket FantaSea Theme Park at Kamala. Today, they operate AVC Phuket, which designs, installs and services high-tech electronic lighting and sound systems for the most prestigious villas on Phuket and surrounding islands.

They provide the same sense of drama in the private home that they have created on the big stages of the world.

Robin grew up in England and attended the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School on a scholarship. He had a childhood interest in the arts and performed in amateur dramatics. He developed his theater career behind the curtain taking a two-year course in stage management and learning the technical skills to run a production.

He worked as assistant stage manager at the New Vic at Stoke-on-Trent before working on some of the West End's most prestigious productions for over 10 years.

As his career grew, Robin began writing for Children's television, served as an actor on BBC Specials, and won three International Awards for his own film and documentary projects.

When a former mentor and colleague offered him the oppor-

tunity to work in Southeast Asia, Robin was ready for the challenge.

"I came as part of the stage management team at Phuket FantaSea. It was a solid year of hard work. There were almost 200 people in the show, plus an assortment of tigers, chickens, elephants and goats. It was great to be involved in the construction of Asia's largest theater," he says.

Wally grew up on the east coast of the United States with musician parents who produced the Nutcracker at the Danbury Music Center. He studied theater lighting and automation at Carnegie Mellon, where he graduated with a degree in Technical Production. His talents were such that he was recruited immediately by MagiCraft, one of America's leading developers of technical illusions.

Wally worked on theme parks and Las Vegas shows, and built illusions for David Copperfield before being sent to Phuket to create the magic and illusions at Phuket FantaSea.

"I've worked in Vegas, but building the Phuket FantaSea show included 12 illusions and seven lifts, some of the biggest in the world."

At the end of their contracts, Robin and Wally decided to join talents and started producing video and films for the 2000 Millennium, and they opened their

own very successful "art jazz" bar on Surin Beach, "Jazzmatazz".

In 2003, they opened AVC, providing home automation lighting systems. Their client list includes villas at Cape Sol, Nikki Beach, SAVA and Cape Yamu. They have installed light and sound systems in about 150 luxury villas on Phuket and Koh Samui.

When the tsunami struck Phuket in 2004, Robin and Wally quickly came to the aid of their many local Thai friends who had lost their homes.

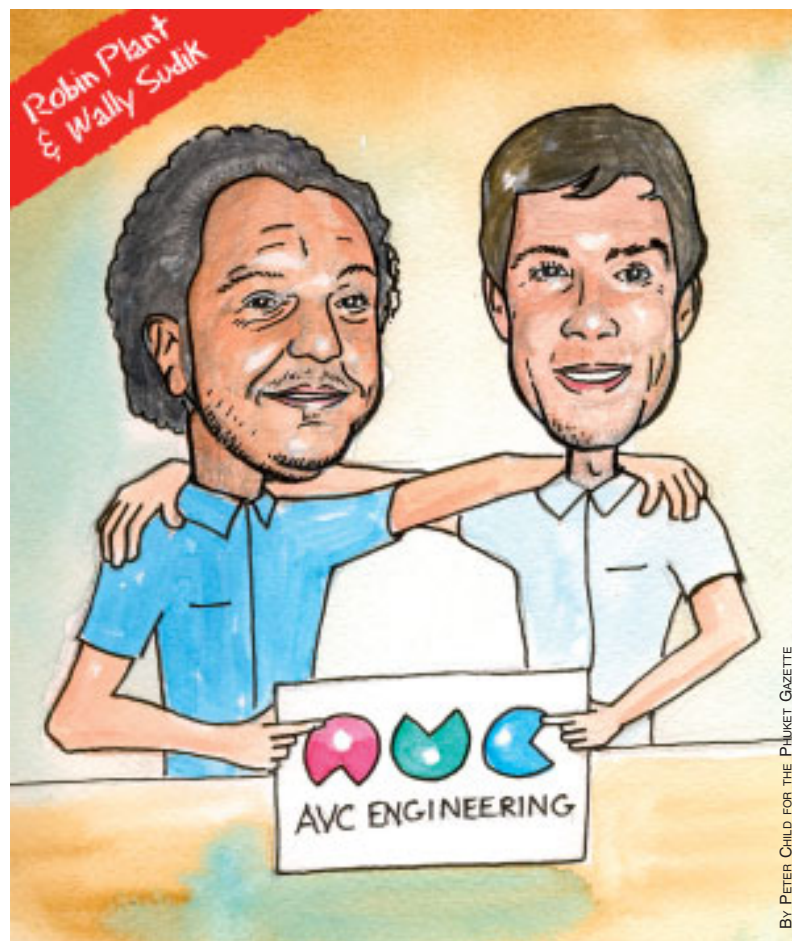
"All around us, poor local people no longer even had a roof over their heads, so we began to figure out how we could help."

Wally created housing designs and Robin project-managed the construction. They launched their own fundraising campaign and raised enough from Laguna Phuket and Trisara, as well as an Internet appeal, to build 59 family units for 300 homeless people.

For their efforts, they were given a commemorative award from Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

Looking ahead, this productive team is designing a sustainable farm to be built in Chiang Rai that can be a model for renewable energy and self-sufficiency.

- Bruce Stanley



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, ah, 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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BIRTHDAY HONORS: Economic Advisor to the Czech Republic's Honorary Consul for Phuket Ms Aneta Herykova (left) is joined by Honorary Consul Secretary Ms Manita Salika (far right) to celebrate Assistant Honorary Consul Mr Tomas Kotalik's (second from left) birthday along with Honorary Consul, Mr Anurak Tansiroj (second from right).



PHUKET REPOSE: After wrapping up filming of his latest movies *Eternity* and *Red Eagle*, popular Thai actor Ananda Everingham took time out from his busy schedule for some R&R at Mom Tri's Boathouse on April 24.



STAR POWER: As part of Paklok Bay's "Sea Grass and Dugong Conservation" project, TV stars Nathalie Jiawaranon and DJ Aong (center) participated in the seagrass recovery efforts. They were joined by Bangkok Hospital Phuket's Corporate Social Responsibility unit representative Pareeya Jullaphong (left) and President and Founder of Makawanich Foundation Nonthalee Makawanich (right).



SPICE OF LIFE: In the heart of Phuket Town, Khanasutra restaurant has been serving up delectable Indian cuisine for the past seven years. To celebrate its landmark birthday on April 23, owner Billy Chima (back row) invited a bevy of girls round to his place to celebrate.



FEELIN' THE LOVE: Year 12 students at the British International School (BIS) hosted their second annual Green Love Festival on April 28 to raise awareness for local and global environmental issues. With a dozen green vendors and lots of talent on show, students worked with local businesses to spread the word on initiatives taking place in their community. Student Natalie Mark, pictured above, displayed her creative skills at the 'paint your own' eco-bag booth. Photo: Elizabeth Branca



AGENCY ACCOLADES: To honor the best real estate professionals across the globe, the Asia Pacific Property Awards were held on April 16 in Hong Kong. CB Richard Ellis (CBRE) Thailand was named the winner in three categories including the five-star award winner for 'Best Residential Real Estate Agency Thailand', 'Best Residential Real Estate Agency Website Thailand' and 'Best Property Consultancy Website Thailand'. From left are CBRE Thailand's Associate Director Preeti Tanwani, Chairman David Simister and Director of Resort Sales Prakaipeth Meechoosarn.



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Learning the science of scents

Phuket's first 'Passion for Perfume' program awakens the senses while relaxing the spirit



Students at the 'Passion for Perfume' program practice over several days, akin to an apprentice perfume designer, in order to create their own signature brand of fragrance. Photo: Elizabeth Branca

IN A HILLTOP pool villa in Cherng Talay, The Pavilions Resort launched the first program in their 'Passion for Perfume' series on April 22.

The three-day olfactory exploration program allowed only a limited number of participants, giving it an intimate atmosphere.

Program instructor Stephen V. Dowthwaite outlined the principles of perfumery to a small group of would-be perfumers, inspiring connections between the senses, evoking emotion, memories and sensuality.

The art and science behind perfume is often described through a musical metaphor, with top, middle and bottom notes layered to create a complex mixture of scents.

As the founder and head instructor of PerfumersWorld, fragrance maestro Mr Dowthwaite has created thousands of perfumery and aromatherapy formulations, sold in over 60 countries worldwide.

He helps create a comfortable atmosphere during the program by eliciting audience feedback, in his classroom there are no silly questions.

Aromas are described by Mr Dowthwaite using common lexicons. For example, green notes are compared to fresh cut

grass or cucumber, an herb note denotes lavender and sage, earthy notes typify the odor of yeast and dairy notes mark scents of dark chocolate, butter or cheese.

To simplify the intoxicating complexity of perfumes, a freshly baked muffin is sniffed over to illustrate the basic connections between smell and taste.

According to Mr Dowthwaite, with 26 base notes there are enough variations possible in 20 drop mixtures to make more than one million perfumes.

Of the 26 prime scent classifications, or perfume notes, created by PerfumersWorld, most consumers would be shocked to discover many popular fragrances have scent classifications such as narcotic, herb, yeast, tar 'n' smoke, x-rated musk, dairy and even urine.

After the three-day Phuket program, guests took away their own signature blend of fragrance, a world of scent knowledge and a greater appreciation for perfume.

For more information on upcoming 'Passion for Perfume' programs due to be hosted in June contact The Pavilions. E: reservations.phuket@thepavilionsresorts.com.

- Elizabeth Branca

Phuket's 'biggest loser' takes on a sizeable marathon challenge

MARATHON weight loser and Phuket resident Garry Holden, who shed 45 kilos while competing in the weight-loss TV reality show 'Asia's Biggest Loser', will continue to fight the flab by running the half-marathon held as part of the annual Laguna Phuket International Marathon on June 13.

Garry will run alongside wife Jackie, who has joined him on his health and fitness crusade.

"Our lives have been completely transformed," said Garry, who weighed 125 kilos just over six months ago.

"The only running I ever did before was to get out of the rain - I never dreamed I would take part in a half-marathon. It just shows what can be achieved with focus and determination."

Garry and Jackie's training includes going for runs around their home in Ban Don, Thalang, to prepare for the marathon.

They plan to hold hands as they cross the finish line and are seeking sponsorship for the event's fund-raising efforts for local schools.

More than 5,000 entrants from 45 countries are expected to take part in the marathon, which is preceded by a two-day expo. As well as the marathon and



Jackie and Garry Holden are in training for Laguna's half-marathon.

the half-marathon, the event also has a 10.5km run, 2km children's race and a 5km family walk.

Online registration is open until June 5. For information, visit W:phuketmarathon.com

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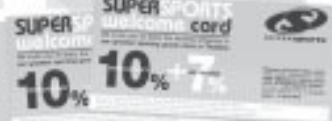
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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Phuket International Women's Club Lunch – May 20



Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch at The Watermark, Boat Lagoon. All are welcome, prior registration is essential. 450 baht for members, 600 for guests and non-members. From 11:30am – 2pm. For further information contact Carole Dux. T: 076-316711. E: mummydux@hotmail.com W: phuket iwc.com

vocals. Your kids eat free: 1,500 baht net. (Free for kids under 12, max 2 kids per table.) From midday – 4pm at Burasari Resort, Patong. For further information contact Khun Zew. T: 076-370000. E: zew@burasari.com W: burasari.com

May 5. Coronation Day - Public Holiday

Coronation Day commemorates the accession to the throne of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on May 5, 1950.

May 8. Angels in Les Anges

Guests are invited to enjoy an evening of art, fashion, glamor and delicious food. Features include body art, beautiful models from Bangkok, great music and a unique culinary experience by Chef Peter Webber. Admission: 1,000 baht. From 5pm– 11pm at Les Anges, Royal Phuket Marina. For further information contact Peter Webber. T: 076-360803. E: peterw@royalphuketmarina.com. W: royalphuketmarina.com.

May 13. Royal Ploughing Ceremony Day - Public Holiday

The annual Royal Ploughing Ceremony usually takes place in May every year at Sanam Luang, near the Grand Palace in Bangkok. The ceremony has been performed since ancient times and is designed to give an auspicious beginning to the new planting season, amid hopes and wishes for an abundant harvest.

May 16. Phuket Yacht Club Fun Day

Come and support the club and join us for a fun-filled day of sailing, kayaking, swimming, cold beers and a Beach BBQ. Many boats available for rent, from single-handed to two up and multihull. Come for a sail, join in with the morning races or just relax and enjoy the BBQ. From 9am – 3pm at Phuket Yacht Club, Ao Yon Bay. For further information contact Donna. T: 086-120 0752. E: phuketyachtclub@gmail.com W: phuketyachtclub.info

May 19. Pre-K Open House and Registration

QSI International School of Phuket was the first of the selection of international schools in Phuket. On May 19, the school will host an all-day open house to present the Pre-K Program. There will be tours of the campus, information packets and a special presentation at 5:30pm by Dr Maynard Yutzy. Dr. Yutzy is a specialist in early childhood education. The event will be held the whole day and you will be able to see the friendly and supportive environment that has characterized the school since 1994. Call 076-524064 or the number below for details or directions to the campus, or to make an appointment to visit on another day. From 9:30am – 6pm at QSI International School of Phuket. For further information contact Alan Siporin. T: 084-850 4631. E: alan-siporin@qsi.org W: qsi.org

May 21 – 23. Phuket Fun Fly 2010

'Phuket Fun Fly (PFF) 2010', the first paragliding competition in Phuket will be held at Nai Harn Beach. The colorful and exciting event is sponsored by Phuket Province, the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Canon, the *Phuket Gazette* and other local businesses. Watch contests for spot landings, passing gates, fun flights and, for

the first time, fancy dress flying. Join sponsored activities, including the photo contest – Phuket Fun Fly by CANON 2010. More than 30 pilots have been registered, and more than 150 flights will take place from 8am to 6pm during the 3 days of the event. Join us as a supporter of paragliding and Fun Fly. For further information contact Peter. T: 089-474 5253. E: peter@bmsevent.com W: phuketparagliding.com

May 28. Visakha Bucha Day – Public Holiday

This holiday is observed on the day of the full moon during the sixth lunar month, which usually falls in either May or early June. It commemorates three important events: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha.

June 4 – 13. Phuket Film Festival 2010

After a successful inaugural event in October 2007, the second edition of the Phuket Film Festival will lay the groundwork for a sustainable arts and entertainment event. The festival aims to not only help raise awareness of Phuket as a quality tourist destination, but to bring a bit of the arts into Phuket and act as an event to draw tourism during the low season. For further information contact Chaiwat Ahantharik. T: 02-982 4525. E: info@phuketfilmfestival.asia. W: phuketfilmfestival.asia.

June 13. Laguna Phuket International Marathon

Join the largest and fastest-growing destination marathon in Southeast Asia. Race day will comprise of a marathon, a half-marathon, 10.5km run, 2km kids run and a 5km walk, all passing through Phuket's rain forests, rubber plantations and local villages. For further information contact the Laguna on T: 02-236 2931 or W: phuketmarathon.com.

May 1. The Green Man's May Day 9th Anniversary

Games for kids, beer garden with BBQ, car boot sale, maypole dancing, May king and queen, musicians jamming, charities and more. From 9am – 6pm at The Green Man Phuket. For further information contact Nui. T: 081-894 7736. E: info@the-green-man.net. W: the-green-man.net.

May 1. One Night in May at The Sheraton

Local charity Phuket Has Been Good To Us invites all to enjoy an evening that will help change the life of a child forever. Guests will enjoy canapés, a four-course gala dinner, free-flowing bar and entertainment that includes the Sheraton Band and two fantastic DJs. Tickets are 3,000 baht per person; special weekend rates start at 3,000 baht per night. From 6:30pm – 1am in the ballroom of the Sheraton Grande Laguna. For further information contact Chantal Fernandes. T: 089-874 2942. E: Chantal.fernandes@gmail.com. W: phukethasbeengoodtous.org.

May 2. Sunday Brunch at Floyd's

Monthly Sunday Brunch at Floyd's Brasserie. Feast on imported oysters, seafood, special carvery, fresh pasta, European cheeses, cold cuts, fabulous desserts, and much more. In addition to the offerings of our fabulous buffet, enjoy free-flow wine, smoothies, and a live band ('Groove') playing light summer jazz and

Free Computer Clinics

Is Windows driving you NUTS? Want to know about the best Internet connections in Phuket? Need help finding a repair shop or a dealer that knows what they're doing? Join "For Dummies" author and local Windows guru Woody Leonhard in his FREE weekly seminars. Sponsored by Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

May 2 – Patong

May 9 – Laguna

May 16, 23, 30 – Chalong

For more info contact Woody. T: 076-290468.

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West leans on Asia for recovery



MONEY TALKS

By Richard G. Watson

GlobalPortfolios is a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service.
T: 076-381997
E: imm@loxinfo.co.th
W: global-portfolios.com

THE old stock market adage “Sell in May, go away, buy again on Michaelmas Day” is often a good strategy, but for the past three years it would have been inappropriate.

In general, global stock markets have enjoyed excellent growth since early March 2009.

Obviously, stock markets are unlikely to continue on a pure upward trend, but there are reasons for continued optimism.

Ben Bernanke, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, Central Bank, gave testimony to Congress in mid-April this year.

In his testimony, he painted a picture of the US economy continuing to show signs of economic expansion combined with very low inflationary pressures.

These economic conditions are perfect for a stock market rally and it is hardly surprising that stock markets have posted such significant gains.

It is still very likely that this trend will continue. Low inflationary pressures mean there is no haste to raise interest rates.

Ben Bernanke has made it adequately clear that the “Fed” has no intention of derailing the economic recovery. He is more than aware that economic policy must have as its overriding objective, which is the recovery of the US economy.

Therefore, the Fed will keep interest rates at lows not seen in over half a century. There is a very real fear that higher interest rates could derail the recovery, as happened in 1937.

It is an indication of how



A woman passes before a share prices board. Due to Asia's banks not taking part in any of the irresponsible lending of the West, Asia's money market is naturally in much better shape to meet the recovery. AFP PHOTO by Yoshikazu Tsuno

serious the recession has been and, for millions of people in the US and other countries, still is. Stock market behavior is one of the more minor concerns of the Fed.

Stock markets tend to be discounting mechanisms and with interest rates at near zero there is little to stop the current “bull market”.

In Asia, the situation is somewhat different. The recession did affect all countries but there is growing evidence that economies are starting to grow strongly.

A number of factors are involved: Asia's banks did not take part in any of the irresponsible lending of the West and are naturally in much better shape to meet the recovery. The personal savings rate in Asia tends to be very high, Asians are less likely to be heavily indebted.

Part of the reason is that in most Asian countries, social welfare nets offered by governments are not nearly as generous as is the norm in the West. In Asia, welfare has traditionally been dealt with by families. However, this is rapidly changing.

One of the main factors is birthrate; most Asian countries have seen their birthrate slow

dramatically and this is combined with longer life expectancies. The continuation of the economic miracle in Asia also helps the West.

The last economic downturn of this severity was felt in the 1930s. This time around, the West has a resilient Asia as a market for goods and services.

China surprised most analysts by announcing that economic growth in the first quarter of 2010 reached 11.9 percent annualized.

This was higher than expected, although many economists believe these figures are still being inflated by the Chinese government's stimulus package.

China also announced that its latest trade figures actually reflect a deficit with imports

being higher than exports.

This, naturally, means that the Chinese government has a good reason to not allow their currency to appreciate against the US dollar, at least in the short term.

Thailand is a beneficiary of all that is happening and economic growth is expected to reach at least six percent this year. Naturally, the inclusion of Thailand's civil unrest in Bangkok has had a dampening effect and it is expected to trim one to two percent off growth.

Recently, I have made two trips to Malaysia and was surprised at the number of Malaysians who simply could not understand why the people of

Thailand did not seem to be concerned about the damage to their economy. Another point frequently raised is how important foreign investment is to the Malaysian economy.

For investors, the current global economic situation has much to commend it. This is a good time to invest – to paraphrase Warren Buffet, “Be brave when others are fearful and fearful when others are brave” and the combination of growth together with low inflation is probably as good as it gets. This is certainly a scenario that will allow further gains to be made. Naturally, these gains may end up with very expensive stock markets. Already very few stock markets could be viewed as “cheap”.

Resilient Phuket: first quarter high

ACCORDING to data compiled by STR Global Hotels, the Asia Pacific region and most notably Phuket experienced increases in all three key performance metrics for March, 2010, *Hotel News Now* reports.

“The Asia Pacific region is still leading the way in the global recovery,” said Elizabeth Randall, managing director of STR Global. “It has posted five consecutive months of hotel occupancy, ADR [average daily rate], and RevPAR [revenue per available room] increases, fueling

a 23-percent RevPAR jump in the first quarter of 2010.”

Highlights from key market performers for March 2010 show Phuket was second only to Beijing in experiencing the region's largest hotel room occupancy increases, with Phuket up 32 percent to 77.3 percent, versus Beijing's 33.8 percent to 67.1 percent.

And four markets reported RevPAR increases of over 40 percent, with Phuket leading the way at 55.7 percent to US\$103.36, followed by Brisbane, Sydney and Hong Kong.

India conference eyes Phuket

ABOUT 2,000 Indian tourism officials will gather in Phuket later this year if the island is selected to host the annual meeting of the Tourism Association of India.

Tourism Authority of Thailand officials said the

conference could generate as much as half a billion baht for the local economy. The conference would last for three days. Dates are yet to be finalized, but it is likely to take place between mid-September and mid-October.

Island growth gets a shot in the arm through medical tourism, senior citizens

ARISE in medical tourists and retirees to Phuket could propel economic growth across Asia, *Travel Daily News* reports.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said Asia's GDP would grow by 7.5 percent this year, a big leap from 5.2 percent in 2009. The projected growth rate is higher than those of other parts of the world.

Asian countries, including Thailand, and in particular Phuket, are gaining popularity as retirement havens for senior citizens from western countries.

Meeting the needs of this “silver market” is seen to be a major economic driver not just for the healthcare industry in the region, but also for the property sector.



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PUZZLES

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MEGAN FOX

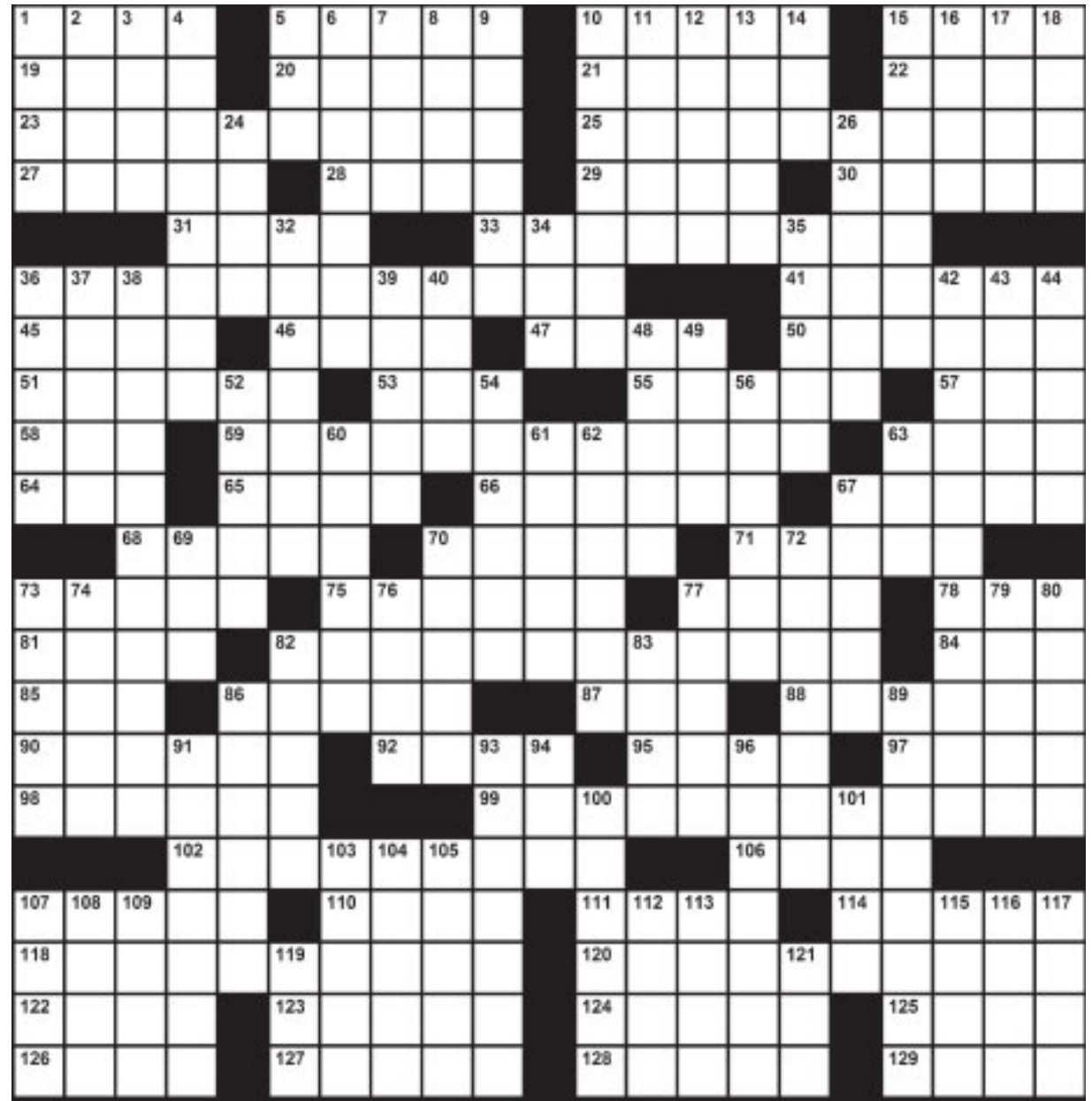
Solution: 7 letters

G D R N R Y E N D Y S G M A T
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 A I I L F R O A O U R E A D E
 I K D K I A H I O I C N A N A
 N R E N N T S Y L A S R O A U
 N O R A N S T Y L F L I D S T
 E C E R E R (N) L O E H R R S I
 T K C F J (E) A R N S H E A A F
 N W N A (W) W M E A E T B M C U
 E O A (S) N E I F L S L O A T L
 C O D E R D K P O A D A I H S
 O D E S O E A P N E S I N E D
 O R E G N S E C L H T I A F R
 G A S I N A L L E K C E H C I
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5/1

American, Beautiful, Birds, Blanc, Brianna, Candace, Carla, Cassandra, Centennial, Check, Confessions, Dance, Darlene, Denise, Dogs, Drama, Faith, Fashion, Franklin, Green, Help, Hope, Jennifer, Kellan, Kind, King, Lear, Maes, Marilyn, Mikaela, Model, Monroe, News, Nine, Poster, Raider, Rockwood, Shia, Starr, Sydney, Transformers, Wallace, Young



ACROSS

- 1 Tupperware pieces
- 5 128-character set
- 10 1963 Nobel Prize for chemistry co-winner Giulio
- 15 Share a border
- 19 "... saw Elba"
- 20 Banana leftovers
- 21 Inventor Howe
- 22 Just okay
- 23 Automobile of the '70s
- 25 Astringent alcoholic solution
- 27 "Common Sense" writer Thomas
- 28 "The wolf ___ the door"
- 29 Guy
- 30 Humble home
- 31 Lay out in steps
- 33 Trunk item
- 36 Comparable to a champion Olympian?
- 41 Involuntary muscle contractions
- 45 "___ oui" ("but of course")
- 46 Collection of miscellaneous pieces
- 47 Millennium unit
- 50 Magazine "The New ___"
- 51 Big name in wireless, once
- 53 Abbr. on old maps
- 55 Acknowledged expert
- 57 Satisfy the munchies
- 58 123-45-6789 org.
- 59 Noel Coward comedy
- 63 Scat legend Fitzgerald
- 64 "Cheers" bartender
- 65 ___ thousand (go 3-for-3)
- 66 Rows in public
- 67 Reporter's badge word
- 68 Extraordinary
- 70 Have an ___ the ground (be alert)

- 71 "All ___ for Christmas ..."
- 73 Coiffed like a lion
- 75 Instruction manual insert, perhaps
- 77 "I'm better than you" sort
- 78 It can be crude
- 81 "Assuming that that's true ..."
- 82 Behind-the-scenes authors
- 84 112.5 degrees from W
- 85 Back muscle, casually
- 86 Fashion designer Geoffrey
- 87 Broadband alternative
- 88 Furnished with money
- 90 Nocturnal American wildcat
- 92 Speedskating champ Karin
- 95 "Father Knows ___"
- 97 It's between Aug. and Oct.
- 98 Trout fishing site, often
- 99 Five for Fighting lyric with "be me"
- 102 Depart furtively
- 106 Early Icelandic literary work
- 107 As such
- 110 Peru or Ohio city
- 111 Come in second?
- 114 Asian nannies
- 118 Lawbreaking motorist
- 120 Nocturnal bloodsucker
- 122 Actor Connery
- 123 Certain bacterium
- 124 "Love ___ you need" (Beatles lyric)
- 125 ___-poly
- 126 "Bill & ___ Excellent Adventure"
- 127 Braying beasts
- 128 Participating in a yacht race
- 129 Boot bottom

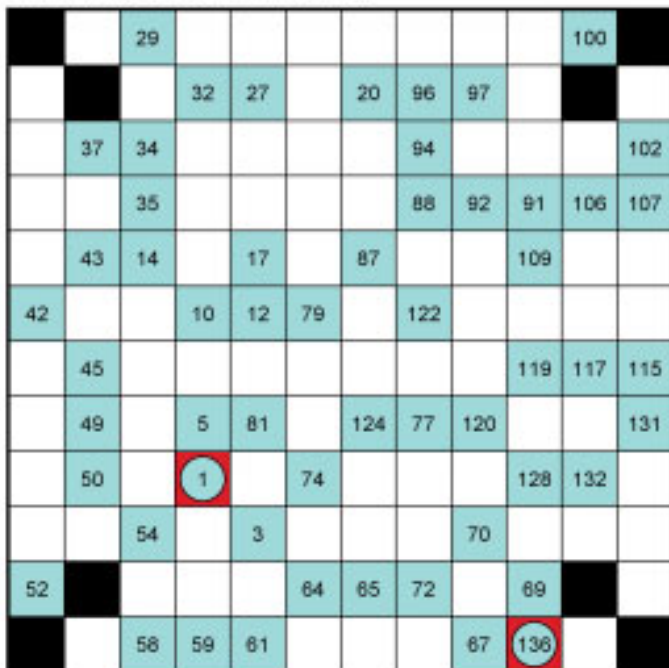
- 1 "... one giant ___ for mankind"
- 2 "___ la Douce"
- 3 Prefix with "bel" or "liter"
- 4 Directional aid
- 5 Tarzan's foster mother, e.g.
- 6 Highly original and influential
- 7 "Fantasia" frames
- 8 Hipbone parts
- 9 "Say it ___" ("It can't be true")
- 10 Fresh, as bread
- 11 "Are you calling me ___?"
- 12 Every book has one
- 13 Be silent, musically
- 14 Cigarette remains
- 15 Comparative words after "cross" or "hungry"
- 16 A real clown
- 17 Found a function for
- 18 Lacquered metalware
- 24 Move, in realtor lingo
- 26 Belabor
- 32 "... dillar, ___ ..."
- 34 Work at, as a trade
- 35 "The best ___ to come"
- 36 Gather, as a fortune
- 37 Accompaniment for fajitas
- 38 Lizard of the Southwest
- 39 Female, slangily
- 40 "No kidding!"
- 42 It opens all doors
- 43 Board, in a rooming house
- 44 Madrid misses, briefly
- 48 Kind of acid in proteins
- 49 Barely cooked
- 52 Drew back, as the tide
- 54 Add more seasoning to
- 56 "Gets the red out" brand
- 60 "___ Same Old

- Song"
- 61 Alternative to a nail
- 62 Old demolition weapon
- 63 Cliff-dwelling bird
- 67 ___ Blue Ribbon (beer)
- 69 "The Matrix" role for Keanu
- 70 "Barnaby Jones" actor
- 72 Smooth, woolen fabric
- 73 "Amadeus" director Forman
- 74 "Is that ___?" ("Really?")
- 76 Top-shelf
- 77 "Great" fifth-century pope
- 79 All thumbs
- 80 Followed logically
- 82 "Don't ___ wrong ..."
- 83 Barnes & Noble ID
- 86 Went up the river?
- 89 Alloy analysts
- 91 Abates
- 93 Service club since 1915
- 94 Airline's best guess (Abbr.)
- 96 Church topper
- 100 American writer Plath
- 101 Jewish calendar's sixth month
- 103 "Smart" guys?
- 104 Chauffeured transports
- 105 Plant with detergent properties
- 107 Sibilant "Over here!"
- 108 "En garde" weapon
- 109 Curl up with a good book
- 112 Hops-drying kiln
- 113 Some shirt sizes, briefly
- 115 "Peek-___, I see you!"
- 116 "Annie ___" (Best Picture of 1977)
- 117 Eye-opening problem?
- 119 Justice Dept.'s crack team?
- 121 Dockworkers' org.

HIDATO

FIND THE PATH - SOLVE THE PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that numbers 1 - 136 connect horizontally, vertically or diagonally:



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Difficulty ★★★★★

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www.whatzit.com

WHATZIT?

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

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00:00=PRESENT

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HISTORY

“

“

Get your brain in gear with the MONSTER QUIZ

This week: 'Sport' and 'Happy Families'

- How many rounds make up an Olympic boxing match?
- Which annual championship was first held October 17, 1860 at Prestwick, Ayrshire in Scotland, won by Willie Park Sr?
- In US horse racing, which three races comprise the Triple Crown?
- In 2009, who won the men's division of the Australian Tennis Open?
- Which country holds the current Six Nations Championship in Rugby Union?
- Which sport is generally regarded as the fastest ball game?
- In which country did the game of cricket originate?
- What name is given to the lightest weight category in Olympic boxing?
- Which cyclist has won the Tour de France seven times?
- Which sport was banned in Scotland by King James II in 1457?
- Who are the only father and son to be Formula 1 World Champions?
- What was the surname of the family who flew the British TV series the 'Thunderbirds'?
- In Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, what was the surname of Bob and his son Tiny Tim?
- What surname is shared by composer brothers Carl Philipp Emanuel, Johann Christian, Johann Christoph Friedrich and Wilhelm Friedemann?
- On the British radio series 'The Archers' what was the father's name?
- What was the surname of the family in Louisa M Alcott's *Little Women* novel?
- What were the forenames of the three Brontë sisters?
- Cavendish is the family name of which British duke?
- What is the last name of musical brothers Alan, Wayne, Merrill, Jay, Virl, Tom, Jimmy and Donny?
- What were the forenames of the three Chappell brothers who played cricket for Australia in the 1970s and 1980s?
- What is the surname of the present Queen of England?
- Created in 1989 by Matt Groening, which US animated TV series features Homer, Marge, Maggie and Bart?

Answers below

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Puzzle Solutions

Monster Quiz Answers

Hidato: How to play

How to Play: Start with the numbers in the grid and fill in the rest of the grid with numbers 1-10. The numbers in the grid are the start and end of the numbers. The numbers in the grid are the start and end of the numbers. The numbers in the grid are the start and end of the numbers.

WHATZIT? solutions

- No time like the present
- Wishful thinking
- History repeats itself

Wonderword Solution: Battleship
 Solution to this week's crossword:

- Four
- British Open (golf)
- Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes
- Rafael Nadal
- France
- Jai Alai
- England
- Light-Flyweight
- Lance Armstrong
- Golf
- Graham and Damon Hill
- Tracy
- Cratchit
- Bach (all sons of Johann Sebastian Bach)
- Phil Archer
- March
- Anne, Charlotte and Emily
- Duke of Devonshire
- Osmond
- Greg, Ian and Trevor
- Windsor
- 'The Simpsons'

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T	E	D	S		A	S	S	E	S		A	T	S	E	A		S	O	L	E	

Hidato Puzzle Solution

11/29

		30	29	28	24	23	22	21	98	99	100										
38			31	32	27	25	20	96	97	104			101								
39	37	34	33	26	19	95	94	93	105	103	102										
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41	43	14	13	17	85	87	89	90	109	108	113										
42	44	9	10	12	79	84	122	110	111	112	114										
46	45	8	11	80	83	78	123	121	119	117	115										
47	49	7	5	81	82	124	77	120	118	116	131										
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A new motto for the TAT

MANY years ago, the governorship of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) fell vacant and the government was looking for somebody to fill it. I communicated this tidbit of intelligence to the fount of wisdom known as Fardley Nerdwell.

"You could do it, Fardley," I suggested. "With your fertile brain brimming with madcap ideas, you'd make an excellent head of the TAT."

"Yes," Fardley admitted modestly. "I've been thinking of applying. I have a host of brilliant plans for reinvigorating the tourism industry in Thailand."

"Tell me, Master," I begged, crouching at his feet in a fawning wai.

Fardley frowned sternly.

"We shall begin by changing the title of the chief administrator of the TAT," he proclaimed. "Traditionally, he or she has been called a governor. That's boring. We need a more snazzy title. Honcho. Supremo. Main Dude. Czar. Great Khan. El Shahanshah Magnifico. Grand High Poo-bah. Since tourists in Thailand are often herded around like cattle, possibly Trail Boss."

"How about Commander?" I suggested. "That has a nice martial ring to it."

"No," Fardley said. "Tourism in Thailand often bears an uncanny resemblance to a circus, so I believe the most appropriate title would be Ringmaster."

"Ringmaster!" I echoed admiringly. "I like that. That's beautiful. That sings."

"As Ringmaster of the TAT," Fardley continued, "I would turn that organization completely around."

"We'll start with a catchy new motto. The past few decades have seen a series of tourism promotion campaigns with a variety

of themes, most of them were trite, boring and ill-conceived.

"First there was 'Visit Thailand Year,' which if I recall correctly, went on for two or three years. Then there was 'Amazing Thailand', which went on far too long.

"Be Our Guest' was a winner for a while, but was soon scuttled.

Probably some quick-witted bureaucrat in the TAT realized that guests never have to pay, but we want our tourists to pay through the nose.

"Be Our Guest' might have attracted shoestring travelers hoping for freebies which we had no intention of granting. Warm and friendly though it sounded, that motto was an open invitation to freeloaders. It would have been a disaster.

"Then we had the wonderfully incoherent 'Enchanted Senses of Thai Living.' Its reign was mercifully brief. Not only was it un-idiomatic English, it made no sense at all.

"After a long hiatus, we got

'Unseen Thailand'. That should have inspired puzzlement in any functioning brain. Why should tourists travel thousands of miles to visit a place where they're not going to see anything?"

"Or, assuming that they're going to see things that have never been seen before, once the tourists have seen them, those things are no longer unseen. The motto thus becomes a lie, and later tourists feel cheated.

"Besides that, the things in Thailand that have never been seen are either not worth seeing or too hard to get to. Most of Thailand has been seen to death, and certainly the parts we want tourists to visit.

"Finally, there was 'Thailand Unforgettable', which has blessedly been forgotten."

I was getting impatient with all this preamble.

"So what new theme do you propose?" I inquired. "What magical motto will lure millions of star-struck tourists to our sunny shores?"

"To herald this announce-

ment I require the triumphal march from *Aida*, a blare of trumpets and a drumroll," Fardley said.

"Forget it," I said. "What's the motto?"

Fardley took a deep breath, then reverently enunciated the sacred words. "Utterly Thailand," he breathed.

I was struck dumb. "Of course!" I cried. "The perfect motto! It's mystical, mysterious, hinting of exotic wonders. But what does it mean?"

Fardley examined his fingernails modestly.

"It doesn't mean a blessed thing. And that's exactly what we want. We want a motto that looks beautiful, sounds beautiful, but is absolutely meaningless.

"And why? Because we want to attract tourists who are easily charmed by the superficial beauty abound in Thailand; tourists who do not think too deeply."

S.Tsow, whose personal motto is 'Utterly Tsow', can be flamed at s.tsow@gmail.com.

Horoscopes Isla Star



TAURUS (April 21-May 21): May promises to be a productive month for many Taureans. Your diligence at work can lead to more responsibility – most of which will be enjoyable. Those caught in the middle of a love triangle should see resolution this week, but should not protest the outcome. If you're looking for love, a water sign is eager to get closer. Those with a birthday in the week ahead have more security in the coming year.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Geminis should get ready for more action this month. Your challenges in May will mostly revolve around work, but dilemmas relating to personal relationships could also demand extra input. Waiting for a romantic problem to solve itself will not work – this is a good opportunity to be honest about what you really want. Where finances are concerned, taking investment tips from a fire sign is not advised. The number three is forecast to be lucky this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): A water sign's promise to keep you in the loop could be

easily forgotten. Cancerians who are eager to discover what is going on will begin to do their own research this week. The stars predict that the first half of May will be a busy time, but dedication should guarantee promising results in the second part of this month. Money matters are affected by late payments – Wednesday is expected to be the most auspicious day for sending reminders.

LEO (July 24-August 22): The sudden chance of a getaway will be appreciated by many of those born under the sign of Leo. This week, a close friend is forecast to invite you on a short trip. Accepting this should ensure that you start the month with more enthusiasm and energy. Jaded Leos who must stay at home are advised to take at least one day free to spoil themselves. Tuesday is expected to be a hot day for romance.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Even if your social life isn't a whirlwind this month, there should be more opportunities to get together with friends. An encounter with a Piscean acquaintance this weekend will lead to meeting more like-minded people. Money matters are well starred in May – expect a small windfall to brighten your bank balance early next week. Romantic relationships are subject to misunderstandings until you decide to be more honest about your feelings.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Librans have opportunities to improve their working lives this month. A Capricorn is highlighted to make useful introductions during the first half of May. Other earth signs will also have positive influence on your employment situation, but an Aquarian's advice is nothing but hot air. Love is low-key until the middle of the month – platonic relationships will bring more satisfaction. The number nine might be lucky during the upcoming weekend.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Scorpions are predicted to enjoy more success this month. An auspicious astrological atmosphere will support your efforts to gain recognition – this will especially apply to creative pursuits. Finances gradually begin to look healthier, with emphasis on a more hopeful situation where debts are concerned. In the realm of romance, there are signs that a partner feels they're being taken for granted. Wear salmon pink to encourage a softer outlook.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): The only drawback to a positive month for Sagittarians could come from a lazy work colleague. The stars suggest that you could be called upon to pick up the pieces when this person's productivity levels

plummet. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for a meeting to discuss this situation. Cupid comes to the rescue when your shyness is a stumbling block to making an impression on an earth sign.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Capricorns counting their chickens too soon could be disappointed this week. A property deal is forecast to take more time than promised – agreements will probably be reached closer to the end of the month. Romance also requires patience – interest in a water sign may not be returned as quickly as you hoped for. Those already committed learn that their partner has a new ambition. The number five can bring good fortune this weekend.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Aquarians are forecast to find more to their liking this month, particularly where personal affairs are concerned. Your luck in romance is well-starred, although infatuation is highlighted to be a problem. An attractive air sign has the potential to catch your attention, but a relationship with this person will only bring stress. While Virgo may not be immediately interesting, you will slowly see that there are hidden depths.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): The offer of help from a fire sign this week could come at just the right moment for Pisceans with problems. The stars suggest

that it's time to acknowledge your inability to find a resolution to an important issue. Starting the month of May with a clean slate will allow more time for enjoyment. Blowing away cobwebs should be on your agenda this weekend when a last-minute invitation from Sagittarius guarantees a good time.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Trouble with technology can be expected to frustrate Arians this week. If this causes delays in business, you should ensure that others involved are kept up to date. A water sign may take more convincing than you had expected to agree to a property-related agreement. Working with other fire signs should be as smooth as silk. Romance is sparked with Gemini, but this person may still be spoken for.

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The lifesaving vendor of Nai Harn



FIRST PERSON

Two people have drowned so far this year as a result of the rip current at the south end of Nai Harn Beach, which was unmanned by lifeguards from mid-November last year until April 26. In the interim, countless others were rescued by courageous locals and foreigners. Helping to coordinate the volunteer effort was Song 'Dui' Sa-ingthong, a beach vendor from Srisaket. In the days just before the new lifeguards were scheduled to resume work, Mr Dui told the *Gazette* about the dangers of the Nai Harn surf. **Compiled by Atchaa Khamlo.**

Before, when there were lifeguards on the beach, I always assisted them even though I was not officially a paid member of their team.

Now that there are no lifeguards, I have been very busy helping people, and will be until the new lifeguards start work.

On April 13, alone, we helped 30 swimmers who were in trouble. If we hadn't been there, I'd say around 10 of them would have drowned.

There were drownings on both New Year's and Valentine's Days this year. We tried our best to save them, but couldn't.

In the 18 years I've been working on this beach, it is impossible for me to count how many people I have helped.

People seem to ignore the dangers. Even though they don't know anything about the sea, they enter the water. Also, many Thai parents don't know about the risks and they just let their children swim freely.

Warning signs and red flags put out to warn people of dangerous areas are often ignored. When the waters are particularly unsafe we put four red warning flags up, one every 100 meters, but people go swimming anyway.

Most of the time when the surf is heavy, the rip current is dangerous. I can see when the currents are dangerous. For example, after about three or four waves come in succession, the water will then reverse flow,



NAI HARN'S SAVING GRACE: Song 'Dui' Sa-ingthong (blue shirt) stands with his volunteer rescue team on Nai Harn Beach.

away from the beach, sometimes creating whirlpools in deep pockets or moving in channels of strong current as the water makes its way back out to sea. If someone is caught in these areas, they won't survive.

In addition to looking for danger spots, we also have the Phuket tide table printed in the *Gazette*, which helps us a lot.

Nai Harn is a very tough beach to guard, as the rip current can be strong. The new lifeguards

coming to this beach also need to be aware of the currents or they too will be in danger of drowning.

In a rip current, the waves come first and then the current pulls swimmers away from the beach, which is very dangerous if they can't swim well.

If someone is swimming in waist-deep water, they can quickly be pulled out by the current to deeper waters where their feet cannot touch the bottom. Then they tend to panic when

they cannot swim ashore against the current.

In the case of a strong current, we tend to have more problems with Thai swimmers, as they seem to be less knowledgeable about the dangers.

As there are no lifeguards on the beach, our unofficial team keeps an eye out for people in danger. All of us carry radios, so if something happens we can communicate easily.

We always try to help

people as soon as we see they are in danger, before they start to go under water. It becomes much more difficult to rescue them after they go under.

Sometimes people are upset with us when we help them, as they hadn't gone under water yet and didn't think they were at risk of drowning. However, often they don't know the dangers.

We prefer to help people as soon as possible because we don't want to see anyone die.

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
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasatri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000. Fax 076-615240, or submit your issue at www.phuketgazette.net

Who is responsible for the roads in my area?

Who is responsible for maintenance and improvement of the north-south road running parallel to Layan Beach from the Banyan Tree area to the national park?

The dirt portion of this road is in deplorable and dangerous condition already and will become unusable in the rainy season. Who might be persuaded to fix this problem?

Wil Banks
Phuket

An officer at Cherg Talay Tambon Administration Organization (TAO) replies:

The Cherg Talay TAO is responsible for this road. We repaired it in mid-2009, but due to construction projects in the area, heavy trucks damaged it again. We are sending a letter to the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization to get equipment to repair the road again. It may take over a month.

For more information contact Cherg Talay TAO: 247 Moo 5, Srisoonthorn Road, T. Cherg Talay, A.Thalang Phuket 83110. T: 076-271096, E: info@chergtalay.go.th

What visa do I need?

I have a one-year, multiple-entry, non-immigrant 'O' visa. There is no indication that employment is prohibited anywhere on the visa.

I have just set up a company and my lawyer said I can apply for a work permit using this visa. Also, a friend of mine has secured work permits with reputable companies with a non-immigrant 'O' visa which states, "Employment Prohibited."

When my lawyer went to the labor office, the work permit was denied. He was told I must get a non-immigrant 'B' visa. Can you please tell me whether I can get a work permit with this visa?

Natasha Eldred
Phuket

An officer at the Phuket Department of Employment, work permit section, replies:

If you were issued your non-immigrant 'O' visa in Thailand and it was issued because of a relationship with a Thai citizen (married to a Thai citizen, for example), you can apply for a work permit with that visa. Otherwise you need a non-immigrant 'B' visa.

For more information contact the Phuket Department of Employment: 38/27 Rattanakosin 200 Pi Road, T. Talad Nua, A. Muang, Phuket 83000. T: 076-219660-13. F: 076-219660-1 ex.16.



Simon James (right), Race Director of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, receiving the 'Asian Regatta of the Year' award at the inaugural Asia Marine & Boating Awards. Photo courtesy AMBA/CIBS 2010.

King's Cup voted 'Asian Regatta of the Year' in Shanghai

THE Phuket King's Cup Regatta (KCR) has been named 'Asian Regatta of the Year' at the inaugural Asia Marine & Boating Awards, held in Shanghai last month.

The award Asia Marine & Boating Awards were presented at a gala dinner held on the opening night of the 15th China (Shanghai) International Boat Show (CIBS), held at the Shanghai Exhibition Center April 8-11.

"The standard of nominated entries to the Asian Marine & Boating Awards was exceptionally high and all winners should be justly proud of their success," said Alistair Skinner, who helped establish the inaugural awards on behalf of CIBS organisers.

"The Asian Regatta of the Year award went to the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, who continue to innovate and lead the way in regional sailing regattas. Its international recognition is evident with participants coming each year from all corners of the globe to take part, including more boats and crew from China each year," continued Skinner.

The King's Cup Regatta, now in its 24th year, continues to expand its participant-base with

over 2,000 people of 33 nationalities taking part in the 2009 regatta.

"We have entries from all around the world each year, and China is a growing market with considerable potential for us. Our open-arms approach and ongoing collaborative efforts with the Chinese Yachting Federation is a sign of our desire to foster a long-term relationship with China and Chinese sailors," said KCR Race Director Simon James.

This year, KCR organizers are developing a China-specific marketing campaign, including producing the website in Mandarin to encourage more China and Hong Kong entries.

To facilitate entry to KCR 2010, the organizers will produce all racing documentation in Mandarin and there will be Chinese personnel on-site during the event to act as translators and facilitate Chinese crews where needed.

"The interest in the 2010 Regatta is already strong with many new participants showing interest. We look forward to another potential record fleet and even more boats from China and Hong Kong this year," added James.

Island Furniture Cricket League

PCC gun down Kingfishers in explosive cricket final



Patong Cricket Club celebrate defeating reigning champions Kingfisher Island Cricket Club to win the Island Furniture Cricket League for the first time ever.

THE final of the Island Furniture Cricket League (IFCL) on April 25 saw a major upset with reigning undefeated champions Kingfisher Island Cricket Club being deposed by Patong Cricket Club.

KICC were looking to win the final for the third consecutive year and were firm favorites to do so, having won all six matches during the regular season. They had not lost a league match in Phuket for almost three years, a record they were confident of maintaining against a PCC side they had already beaten once this season.

At the cricket field in Cherg Talay School, KICC batted first, but some strong bowling restricted them to a total of 152 all out.

Feroj Khan top scored with 46 followed by Diran Mydeem on 37. Martin Ware and Raju Seemant did the damage for PCC, with Ware taking three wickets for 38 runs from seven overs and Seemant taking two wickets for 20 runs from five overs.

PCC knew that with KICC having been bowled out before completing all 35 overs, the trophy was theirs for the taking. Ian Lenton steadied the run chase after the loss of an early wicket

and scored a solid 27 runs before being caught behind. The run rate was ticking over until the loss of Lenton's wicket, when a couple of economical overs threatened to let KICC back into the game.

At this stage both teams were mindful of the dramatic collapse by PCC which had gifted victory to KICC in their previous outing this season. Fortunately for PCC, they had the outstanding Richard Folds at the crease. The KICC bowlers were no match for Folds who was in fine form.

By the time he was dismissed after slicing a shot into the air, Folds had scored an IFCL career high of 67. With six wickets remaining and only a handful more runs required, victory was in sight.

Seemant had previously played a very conservative innings, protecting his wicket and

giving Folds responsibility for keeping up the run rate.

After Folds' dismissal, he stepped into the limelight to score the winning runs in emphatic fashion, sloggng a huge six to secure a first-ever IFCL trophy for his team.

Man of the Match Richard Folds was delighted for his team, "We lost narrowly to them in the league and we knew we had room for improvement after that match. Once we reached 100 runs, I was confident we would win, they had one very expensive over where I think we ran up 21 runs and that finished them off."

Despite their reluctance to relinquish the trophy KICC, were still gracious in defeat, yet vowed to return stronger next year in what is becoming an increasingly competitive league.

— James Goyder

Muay Thai champ to host 'master class' workshop

THE latest in a long line of free seminars at the Phuket International Academy will be taking place on May 15. This time it is the national sport of Thailand, Muay Thai, which will be showcased by Prasert Intanoo.

Mr Prasert has been involved in Muay Thai as a pro for 15 years and held the national championship in the flyweight division at the tender age of 17.

He will be holding a special workshop to introduce attendees to the skills and techniques of the ancient martial art.

The workshop will focus on teaching the fundamental techniques of Muay Thai and boxing,

allowing participants to thoroughly understand the movements before expanding on their newly acquired skills.

In his professional career, Mr Prasert has been working with the Marriott group for the past nine years as a Muay Thai instructor whilst overseeing the wellness activities and Kids club.

A qualified Mat Pilates instructor and personal trainer, the former Thai boxing champ is also a Thai meditation instructor certified by the Thai Yoga Institute to teach yoga.

For more information email activities@phuketinternationalacademy.com

— Gazette reporter



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FC Phuket take it to the top

FC PHUKET maintained their perfect home record and returned to the top of the Division Two (southern section) table with a hard-fought 2-1 win over local rivals Krabi on April 24.

Krabi and FC Phuket have enjoyed contrasting fortunes this season, with the latter in line for league promotion and the former struggling near the bottom of the table.

Despite their lowly league status, however, Krabi on Saturday provided the sternest test for FC Phuket of any team to visit Surakul Stadium this season.

Manager Arjan Songsamsub reshuffled his home side, mainly playing Nene Bi as the lone striker. Nene Bi had previously only played for the squad as a central defender.

FC Phuket played a 4-3-3 formation which became 4-5-1 when Krabi were in possession, meaning that leading goal scorer Adisak found himself playing wide on the right.

The tactic was not entirely successful, as Krabi had the better of the opening exchanges. However, the closest that either side came to scoring in the early stages was when the visitors hit the goal post with a speculative shot from near the right touchline after a corner had been cleared.

Krabi's keeper appeared less than convincing, under-hitting a couple of early clearances, and was entirely culpable for FC Phuket opening the scoring with a goal against the run of play.

A speculative cross from the left wing prompted the Krabi keeper to come charging off his line, allowing Phuket's Diarra Ali to head the ball into an empty net.

Songsamsub changed the Phuket lineup at half time, moving Diarra Ali back into central defense and pushing Poramut and Adisak up front in a more conventional 4-4-2 formation.

The tactic almost backfired spectacularly with Nene Bi and goalkeeper Jagked getting in a mix up, and Nene Bi fortunate to see the ball bounce harmlessly off the post after he had inadvertently deflected it goalwards.

Nene Bi almost redeemed himself moments later when his curling free kick could only be punched clear by the Krabi keeper.



SKY HIGH: (Above) Krabi defend yet another FC Phuket attack on goal. (Below) Phuket fans, in green, turned out in their hundreds to cheer on their team.



However, Jagked was then forced into making a smart save with his feet at the other end, but it was to no avail as moments later Krabi grabbed an equalizer with an unstoppable pile driver of a shot from the corner of the penalty area.

The passionate FC Phuket home crowd, who have split into two factions, each sitting at opposite ends of the ground, were undeterred. With the crowd's chants ringing in their ears, FC Phuket started to enjoy increasing possession with the visitors content to settle for a point.

Yet Songsamsub had his heart set on victory, and brought on substitute Chakrit, who made an instant impact. A right-wing cross fell kindly for him and he showed his composure in chesting

the ball down before blasting it into the roof of the net.

The win keeps FC Phuket at the top of the table despite having failed to win a single away game.

Speaking after the match, Songsamsub defended his decision to tinker with new tactics. "Krabi's defenders are good in the air, so I played Nene Bi up

front because he is stronger than any of my other strikers and can hold the ball up well.

"We were leading 1-0 at half time and had some problems with our defense, so I decided to change things round. I was expecting more of a long ball game from Krabi in the second half and Nene Bi is good in the air so I moved him back to center half," he said.

Speaking of his second-half substitution, Songsamsub said, "Chakrit is a real striker. He is not good in the build-up, but his shooting is very good and I wanted to win the game."

Regarding FC Phuket's immaculate form at home, he added, "The fans make a big difference to the players. I think that is why we are so good at home."

FC Phuket travel to Hat Yai on May 2. The next home game is against Surat Thani on May 8.

- James Goyder

ChildWatch Charity Golf: A swing and a hit

THE formidable foursome of Don St Pierre, Paul Moorhouse, Martin Platts and Mike Moir made the most of their 4.9 handicap in this year's ChildWatch Charity Golf Day tournament on April 24, scoring a net 58.1 to win top honors of Overall and Sponsors Team Champions.

The tourney, played on the Canyon Course of the Blue Canyon Country Club, drew a full field of over 100 golfers playing in four-ball Texas scramble format.

Masaru Aoki, Frank De Punder, Lindsey Wallace and Ian Rance, who were bestowed the title of Team Champions, while runners-up were John Connolly, Peter Davies, James Nixon and Peter Wood.

The consolation prize went to Katijin Kulsolkitti, Chuchart Suthiosod, Vimonchai Kooktimtre and Somran Attasuthisin.

The tourney was followed by a buffet dinner at the Golfers Terrace, with the highlight of the evening, the "Live Auction", being conducted by event organiser Phuket Concierge's Martin Carpenter.

The evening raised more than a million baht, continuing the success of the event. Since its humble beginnings in 1999, the ChildWatch Charity Golf Day has raised almost 10 million baht.

Beneficiaries for this year's edition of the event are ChildWatch Phuket and the Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation.

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VIEW OVER TROUBLED WATERS: The view of the Purnavarna Estate, which was left incomplete following the CEO's arrest on fraud charges. A court date is pending on the matter.

Market crossing muddy waters

LEAVING without warning is one of the themes for the famous John Hiatt song *Crossing Muddy Waters*.

The recent outcry over the alleged multi-million-dollar fraud case at Purnavarna Estates – and the resulting half-completed project – hints at a symbolic “crossing muddy waters” for Phuket’s property market, of which the direction is neither clear nor direct.

The Purnavarna case looks set to play out in the legal arena. There are indeed two sides to every story and the CEO in question is due his day in court.

Meanwhile, a visit to the incomplete residential luxury estate in Rawai reveals a spot where water buffalo graze and a fresh crew of gardeners battle nature

to reclaim the partially completed project. It’s certainly not the only incomplete project on the island.

A trip back in time through our brochure files comes up with promotions offering 10 percent annual guaranteed returns to buyers, free airline tickets and the option to sell shared ownership at increasingly low prices, a tactic from when the market was being hit by the global financial crisis.

The acquisition of the Royal Phuket Yacht Club from a then-healthy Lehman Brothers only increased debt to the project, which in the end saw the estate change to an optimistically named “Summer Palace”.

Despite the current scandal, from an analytical perspective, the island’s property business has



PROPERTY WATCH

With
Bill Barnett
C9 Hotelworks

been let off fairly lightly compared with many developed markets the world over. Estimates in the US financial press say 16 million US home buyers are currently “under water”, meaning their debt is higher than the market value of the property they are sitting on.

In Phuket, defaults have been relatively isolated instances of non-delivery (versus delays) in the residential market.

Another high-profile case is the ongoing restructuring of Lersuang group’s Tamarind Hills project, which is just now seeing units completed.

Truth be known, there will still be blood in the real estate sector, but no different than markets in virtually every corner of the globe.

Perhaps the best case to argue here is that with the dominance of foreign buyers for resort-grade real estate, there exists very limited developer debt.

In the absence of large-scale debt, the ability to rehabilitate or restructure failed projects is becoming a significant factor. As seen at Tamarind Hills, Metta Visessombat’s Sepco Asia was able to work with banks to assist in moving the development forward.

For the past few years, there has been a defined shift in the profile of developers at the mid-and top tiers from foreigners to Thais. This is no reflection on competence or ability, but

founded mainly on the financial reality that inhibits overseas interests in obtaining local bank financing.

With projects in the past, when supply and demand was favorable, cash flow from pre-sales was able to provide the funding to see the completion of many developments on the island. Once the pendulum swung, then this is when the trouble arose and project defaults came into play.

The good news is that markets have a way of correcting themselves, and we’ve been seeing that take place. The past 18-24 months has seen resales becoming increasingly prevalent due to buyers seeking mitigated risk and vacuuming up excess supply at low costs.

New project launches have remained generally muted, though a rash of new low-entry condominium units in the range of 1.8 to 3 million baht have hit the island for sale in the first quarter of 2010, aimed primarily at the domestic segment.

Moving forward, liquidity in the Thai development sector remains high and listed property firms continue to have excess cash that needs to be put to work. It’s interesting to see Sri Panwa developer Charn Issara now looking to form a property fund using the hotel as an underlying asset in order to recapitalize for expansion.

In my discussions with developers in recent weeks, in both Phuket and Bangkok, the market is seeing an influx of new capital coming to the island, both for longer-term banking and also for developing property.

For stressed and distressed projects, in all likelihood, we may see a number of developments being restructured by listed Thai companies or emerging real estate funds.

The bottom line in all this is: liquidity is much like the flowing waters of a river, for now the hollow sky has been filled with rain clouds and the river is rising. It’s a new twist in the ongoing cycle of island property, but the journey goes on.

PROPERTY RESALE

Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket

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<p>3 Laguna Village Townhome II THB 19.5 M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-storey 3 beds Townhome • maid's quarter • fully furnished • lagoon view 	<p>4 Sheraton Island Villa-Duplex THB 19.9 M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-storey 2 beds 2.5 baths • fully furnished • refurbished • approx. 5% rental return • sea view • golf membership
<p>5 Laguna Village Residence I THB 33 M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 beds 3 baths Residence • separate storage room • rental pool • lagoon view 	<p>For more information on these and other properties, please call: +66 (0) 76 362 333 or email: resale@lagunaresale.com www.lagunaresale.com</p>

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Heaven on a hillside up for grabs

MENTION the town Patong and a common reaction is, "Nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there." But for those who know where to look, there is a lot more to Patong than bar girls, touts and tailor shops – if one knows where to look.

This week's home is nestled on the hillsides in one of Phuket's most exclusive residential communities, Baan Suan Kamnan, which offers stunning views of Patong.

The home has an interesting history and was first featured in the *Gazette* back in the spring of 2002. At that time authorities acted on a tip-off that the owner was keeping piranhas in a basement pond. A search of the premises ended when the owner waded thigh-deep into the pond – and stayed there until the officers accepted his explanation that they were in fact vegetarian piranhas, which pose no danger to humans.

Built in 1995, the four-story villa in Western tropical style has been continually occupied since 1996 by the same attentive European owner – and it shows.

Entering the home through the covered carport, the first thing one notices is an enormous fish tank built into the wall. More than an aquarium at 10,000 liters, it is one of the world's largest privately owned "aquascaping" tanks and



has featured in magazines in the US and several European countries.

Another striking feature is the large roof that acts as a rainwater catchment, supplying four underground tanks with a total capacity of 160,000 liters. This is treated to drinking quality by a water purification system in the home.

Other outdoor amenities include a swimming pool with whirlpool tub, surrounded by lush tropical gardens.

Access to the villa is through

the basement level, which like the three floors above features a wrap-around balcony. The basement living area is fully self-contained with bedroom, kitchen and bathroom, and can be rented out as it has its own entrance from the road.

The ground floor features a living room, dining room, office, guest bathroom, western outdoor kitchen and lots of outdoor space.

The first floor has a TV room, master bedroom, guest room and bathroom, while the second floor has a penthouse with bedroom, bath and large balcony with an impres-

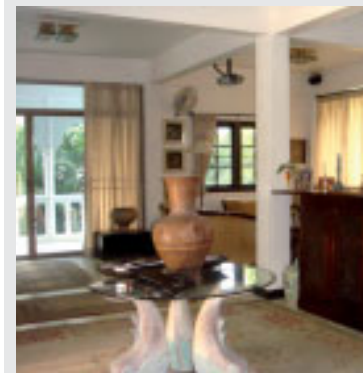
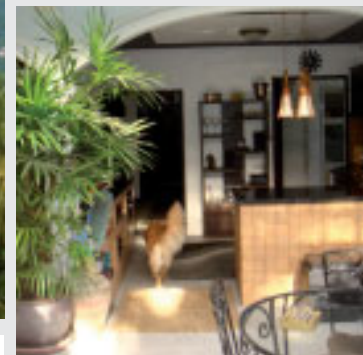
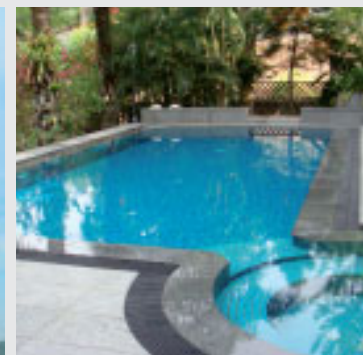
sive view of Patong below.

The land title is *NorSor 3 Gor*, which can be upgraded to a full *Chanote*.

This remarkable property was original marketed at 30 million baht, but is now available for 25 million, unfurnished and without the vegetarian piranhas, as the owner needs an urgent sale. This price is negotiable if the take-over can take place immediately.

For more information email steen8jansen@gmail.com or call 081-9793860.

– *Stephen Fein*



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My blue heaven

SOME articles ago, I rashly suggested that Thai gardens are short of genuinely blue flowers. There is red and white aplenty, but not so much blue.

I hold by that assertion, but having made it, must confess that there are certainly a number of shrubs that produce blooms in shades of blue-white, blueish-purple, blue-green, lilac and various shades in between. If Phuket lacks flowers of an intense and pure blue, then the cerulean skies and ultramarine seas more than compensate.

Three vines instantly come to mind as "kind of blue". One is the humble butterfly vine [*Clitoria ternatea*]. Be careful of this one. Its stems are very slender, but do not be fooled – this vine is rampant. I have one that has already climbed 10 feet up a tree and it seeds everywhere in the vicinity.

For these reasons, it is a good choice if you want rapid cover, and it does have the advantage of sweet-pea like blooms of an intense blue, with just the merest hint of purple. You can buy it at any plant nursery but don't need to; it grows wild on the margins of Phuket's rain-forest.

The blue trumpet or Bengal clock vine [*Thunbergia grandiflora*], is another vigorous climber with large, heart-shaped, evergreen leaves and long, pendulous clusters of mauve-blue flowers, which may also be white. It will take easily to a trellis or wall, provided it gets plenty of sun.



Another variety, *Thunbergia erecta* (or *chong nang lek* in Thai) is relatively slow-growing with dark, leathery leaves and solitary flowers of a deeper and bluer hue with a yellow or white throat.

This shrub is scandent – a bit straggly if not pruned – but does not need support and survives well in a range of conditions.

I have one against a wall and another free-standing beside a fish-pond. Without plenty of light, however, it will not flower much. But given an open aspect with moisture at the roots, it will reward you by blooming all year round.

In my Andalucian garden, the most vigorous of all the climbers was the morning glory [*Ipomoea*]. A member of the world-

wide 'Convolvulus' family, it flourished in the intense Spanish dry season and daily produced literally hundreds of gentian-blue, purple-ribbed flowers.

As the day wore on, the blue would ebb away, each bloom would gradually turn mauve and then curl up and expire. Hence the name.

Unfortunately, the morning glories I have seen in Thailand lack that distinctive blue coloration, though I would be happy to be proved wrong. In general, they are purple or mauve, as in the *Ipomoea purpurea*. There are also red [*horsfalliae*] and white [*alba*] varieties, though my attempt to grow the crimson cultivar from seed came to nought.

Another strain named 'heavenly blue' has not a hint of purple in its striking blooms, but it is grown primarily for the American market.

We oldies know that morning glories became famous for dubious reasons in the 'flower-



SHADES OF BLUE: Morning glory [*Ipomoea purpurea*], above and blue trumpet [*Thunbergia grandiflora*], left. Photo by J.M. Garg.

power' psychedelic sixties. The seeds contain ergot alkaloids, one of which is ergonovine, a hallucinogenic substance that made the flower a symbol of the 'tune in, turn on' generation. Remember the retrospective Oasis album *What's the Story? Morning Glory?*

I digress. Some readers may be getting confused, for the common morning glory found in Thailand and certainly the one most sought after by Thais is the water convolvulus [*Ipomoea aquatica*], known elsewhere as water spinach. It thrives in marshes and klongs all over Phuket and beyond.

Known as *pak bung*, it is sold in every open-air market. Its hollow stems and narrow leaves are a staple of many Thai pork dishes and soups. Go to any stretch of water in Phuket, and you will likely find Thais gathering bunches of the stuff.

More bluish flowers deserve a mention. One, the pigeon

berry [*Duranta repens*] is normally grown as a hedge or high ground cover, especially in its golden-leaved form.

One cultivar, however, produces showy racemes of deep lilac or purple flowers. I have one against a wall which is more than two meters tall. It blooms continuously and has become a valuable addition to the garden.

Finally, two shrubs I have discussed in the past. The jade vine, [*Strongylodon macrobotrys*] is a vigorous climber, but its chief glory is its spiked flowers, which hang down in large clusters from woody stems and which are an amazing blue-green, a hue that is perhaps unique in the flower kingdom.

The blue ginger [*Dichorisanthra thyrsoiflora*], while not really a ginger at all, possesses characteristics of that large family with impressive clusters of flowers that are the color of *Thunbergia erecta*: a remarkable dark blue suffused with mauve.



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Property Briefs

Novotel sold: Bt 870m

NOVOTEL Beach Resort Panwa has been sold in a deal worth more 870 million baht, *Property Report* reported on April 25.

The Board of Directors of Natural Public Park Co Ltd, a Phuket-based operator of resorts, approved the sale to Ton Vassana Co Ltd in March.

In details released to the Stock Exchange of Thailand, Natural Hotel Panwa Co Ltd sold land and construction under mortgage, and other assets related to the Novotel Beach Resort Panwa Phuket to Ton Vassana Co Ltd.

The buyer paid 200 million baht in cash, with 670 million baht as assumed liability to repay the principal and other amounts outstanding under debentures certificates. The 216-room development has 77 rooms in Phase-1, with 72 rooms under construction in Phase-2.

PR firm wins top spot

PHUKET.NET Real Estate received a "Highly Commended" prize at this year's Asia Pacific Property Awards, in association with Bloomberg Television in Hong Kong in April.

The real estate agency received the award in the Best Agent Website category.

"We are extremely honored to receive such a prestigious award bestowed by our industry peers," said Kit Fordham, general manager and co-founder of Phuket.Net Real Estate.

Resort hits hot list

ANDARA Resort & Villas Phuket has hit the coveted *Conde Nast Traveler* Hot List, 2010 in the best new hotel category, for being "arguably Phuket's plushiest" hotel.

For more news briefs from around Thailand see *NEWS HOUND* at W: phuketgazette.net

Draft changes target Phuket hillside development

CHANGES to environmental laws currently being considered by the Thai government may "substantially affect developments and land values in Phuket", leading legal firm Baker & McKenzie has warned.

A circular issued by Baker & McKenzie said, "Without a doubt, Phuket is one of the fastest-growing cities in Thailand, especially for the real estate development industry. Without proper control, this could adversely affect Phuket's beautiful and fragile environment."

"With this in mind, the Thai authorities have announced that Phuket is to be a 'special preservation area', whereby environment impact assessment reports must be approved before any project can be developed."

The circular cited as example key differences between the current requirements for developments between 40 and 80 meters above sea level (classified as 'Zone 6' areas) and the proposed new requirements proposed under the draft.

The current provision stipulates that buildings in Zone 6 areas not steeper than 35 percent must not be higher than eight meters.

However, while the draft proposes that the eight-meter height limit continue for buildings in Zone 6 areas not steeper than 20 percent, it proposes that only detached houses or single buildings not taller than six meters be allowed in Zone 6 areas with slopes between 20 percent and 50 percent.

The law firm also highlighted that the existing guidelines for Zone 6 areas with inclines of less than 35 percent must have an 'open' area of not less than 40 percent of the total land area.

If implemented, the proposed changes will require open areas of at least 70 percent of the total plot in areas with



DEVELOPING THE LANDSCAPE: New environmental laws could alter development plans in Phuket.

slopes of 20 percent to 35 percent, and open areas at least 75 percent of total plot size for areas with slopes of 35-50 percent.

Phuket Gazette Property columnist Bill Barnett has reported on his *The Phuket Insider.com* website that the current guideline, "The Announcement of the Ministry of Natural

Resources and Environment - Specifications of Environment Protection Areas and Measures for Phuket B.E. 2546" will expire on September 30.

"If you are developing or renovating property that has significant slopes, a complete review of the issue and perhaps expediting of build permits prior

to the new regulation coming into effect might be advisable," Mr Barnett said.

The Baker & McKenzie circular also invited readers looking for more details of the full draft to contact the Hotel, Resort and Real Estate Practice Group of Baker & McKenzie in Bangkok.

- Gazette reporter

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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

PATONG FREEHOLD CONDO



2 bed, 1 bath unit, 105sqm. Seaview, high floor. Unfurnished. Asking 7.99 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 087-077-8454 (English). Email: solitude001@aol.com

KOH YAO YAI LAND

Beautiful land set among the tropical jungle of the island. While this property is classed as inland, it is positioned a mere 500 metre walk to beautiful sandy beach (Klong Son Bay) of Phang Nga Bay. Nor Sor Sam Kor 5,033 rai of land. Ask price 9.5 MB, includes one (Dusita) Thai house. Tel: 076-289122, 084-8487474 (English & Thai). Email: kasina_navamachitti@yahoo.com

CONDO IN RESORT

Patong-Kalim, on the beach, 64sqm for 2/4 persons, freehold, luxury, good investment or rental return, all services available. Tel: 089-2908854 (English & Thai). Email: verhaeghefranc@hotmail.com

3 BEDROOMS HOUSE

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

LAND IN KATHU



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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.

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

SURIN BEACH

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

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

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Beautiful villa, 3 bedrooms, big pool/ jacuzzi, garden, furnished. Quick sale from 20 million baht. NOW 16 MILLION BAHT. Tel: 081-788 8280 (English), 089-971 8399 (Thai).

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: drbeamshaw@gmail.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.

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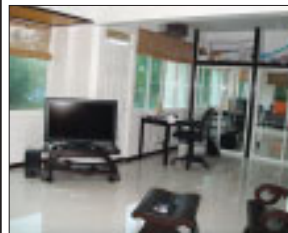
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same as Soi Villas Solitude, Na-Kok, Chalongs. 8 rai land for sale, Chanote title. Can buy separate. Price 7 million baht per rai. Contact to see. Tel: 087-689 9679.

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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

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

900 sqm, 2.6 million baht. Tel: 086-047 2463 (Eng), 086-161 1136. (Thai).

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.

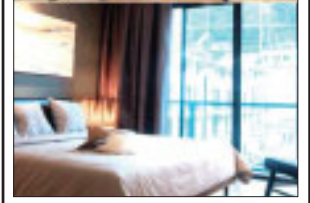
PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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.

LAND FOR SALE

5 rai in Kathu, plus 90 wah on Nanai road, Patong, with stunning mountain view. Tel: 087-883 1756.

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 CONDO REF'B

No.4 sets D'Glazed. Sliding doors. Granite worktop kitchen. No.2 bathrooms, glass shower unit. Tel: 085-788 7352 (English & Thai).

SHOWROOM / COMMERCIAL BLDG

1.5 rai, 2,800-sqm showroom on bypass rd near Thanachart Bank. For lease or sale. Tel: 081-787 2201. 081-597 8315. for more info, please e-mail phuket1988@hotmail.com

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Property Gazette

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE, FULLY FURNISHED



Ready to move in, 254sqm. 2 floors. Near Downrun 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.

300M BEHIND MAIN STREET

Phisitkorane Sai Namyen Village, Patong. Quiet, natural area. 2 fir house with beautiful garden, 380sqw. Tel: 086-949 3021, 087-509 4936.

LAND AT PATONG BEACH

Cheap land for sale at North end of Patong Beach. Has access road, good water supply, and underground utilities. Very quiet, natural location, 2 mins to beach. Land plots range from 500sqm to 1,400sqm. Part of an existing small development. Tel: 081-891 3466 (English). Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

SALE AND RENT

Lakeshore Townhome. 16 million baht. Lersuang apartment, long-term. 27,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-724 3237.

BEACH LAND KHAO LAK 5 RAI

Beautiful 5 rai of Chanote land. Hard to find better than this, next to 5-star resort. 118m of beach front, stunning property. Tel: 081-649 3557 (English). Email: ken@phuketlifestyle.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.phuketlifestyle.com>

PANORAMIC SEAVIEW

Koh Klang Lanta Krabi. 27 rai, Chanote title 2.7 million baht per rai. Electric present, asphalt road. Email: famar5@hotmail.com

APARTMENT IN NAI HARN

for sale. Palm Beach Resort, 102sqm, private owner free hold, new top floor, 2 bedrooms, swimming pool, fitness, mini tennis club house, security in Nai Harn, minutes to beach. 5.7 million baht. Tel: 089-593 6815. Email: shmaen2006@hotmail.it

NEW TEAK HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 84/460sqm, terrace + pool! From 5.9 million baht. Land plot near Boat Lagoon. Construction time: 3 months! Tel: 076-325085, 086-281 1264 (English). Email: ts-teak@contexphuket.com

HOUSE & BUSINESS RAWAI

Land and house with 2 successful businesses (Laundry and Coffee Shop) for sale. Good location between Nai Harn and Rawai in developing area. Price: 6.5 million baht. Tel: 076-388484, 081-891 3264 (English & Thai). Email: bergman.brittmari@telia.com

LAND AT PA KHLOK



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

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

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.

74 SQM CONDO: 1.7 MILLION BAHT

2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 3 aircon units. Located in Phuket Town. Tel: 085-782 8881 (English & Thai), 081-895 6629 (English & Thai). Email: arunrat65@hotmail.com

LAND, NANAI ROAD

for sale. Patong, high mountain views over Patong Bay. 4.5 million baht. Ideal for development. Tel: 076-296326, 087-883 1756.

DETACHED HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 wc, 4 meter wide garden. 68sq wah, Thepkrasattri Road. 3.6 million baht. Contact Kant. Tel: 081-477 6657.

BEACHFRONT PANORAMIC



seaview. 27 rai with chanote title, 230m from beachfront. 14 rai connect with 13 rai on hill, beautiful sunset, electricity, asphalt road. 40 mins to Krabi airport Lanta Krabi. 2.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-892 1072. Email: famar5@hotmail.com

KATA OCEAN VIEW 4.9 MTB

Luxury, 90sqm. Click link below for more details. Tel: +1-408-627 5793. Email: maurick1@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at <http://oceanviewkata.shutterfly.com>

SELLER FINANCE RAWAI/NAIHARN

Spacious 1 bedroom apartment, separate living, private balcony, views, furnished, pool. Buy for 180,000 baht down and 15,800 per month. Tel: 086-684 5368, 086-684 5368 (English). Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

3BR, 3A/C: 20,000 RENT / SALE

fully furn & appliances. Tel: 083-299 7257 (English & Thai), 086-465 4674 (English & Thai). Email: cphotosm@hotmail.com See details, pictures & map at www.cdproperty.com/property/show/22800

NEW DETACHED HOUSE



for sale in Phanason 3, Thalung. 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

CONDO FOR SALE



The newly built The Royal Place condo opposite Tesco Lotus bypass. 45 sqm. 3 Fl. at the corner with swimming pool view. 2 balconies. 1 bedrm, 1 bathrm, kitchen (microwave, washing machine, refrigerator) living room, 2 air cons, TV flatron, telephone, cable TV. Share pool, restaurant, laundry service, key card with 24 security and car park. Tel: 086-476 9612.

NEW HOUSE KHAO LAK



Near Palm Garden Resort, 3 bedrooms, 4 toilets/shower, 6 rai land. Only 12 million baht. Tel: 081-978 0907 for more info. Email: dao019780907kl@yahoo.com

MAIKHAO RANCH



for sale. 1 bed, 2 baths on 1,300sqm of land. Wooden ranch with natural lotus pond. 500 meters to West Sands, less than a kilometer to beach. Tel: 087-271 4484, 082-288 0581. Email: supha2007@hotmail.com

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.

URGENT SALE

Beautiful, seaview, land plot, near Mission Hills, 3 rai. Sale direct from owner. 9.5 million baht for all. Tel: 081-343 0777.

SURIN APARTMENT

150m from the beach. 1 b/r, pool access. Great view. 4.99 million baht. Call or mail for further details. Tel: 02-076350. Email: jgstryker@gmail.com

TWO NICE VILLAS

Two nice villas from private party. In Nai Harn: 1,600sqm. And in Chalung: 740sqm. See link to website below for details. Tel: 087-823 7371. Email: holgersaupe750@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.villa-sophia-phuket.com

RAWAI TWIN HOUSE

NEW 4 apartments/suites, furnished, pool and big terrace. FORCED TO SELL. TOTAL PRICE: 7.5 MILLION BAHT. Tel: 081-788 8280 (English), 089-971 8399 (Thai).

HOUSE IN KAMALA



for sale. 2 houses on land. 1 Ngan 89sq wah. Chanote title, near mountain, peach and safe, 10 minutes from the beach. 7.8 million baht direct from owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

KATA SHOPHOUSE

Hot deal.
* In front of Ibis Kata Hotel. Right at Club Med entrance.
* Just 400m to Kata beach.
* New 4-story commercial building, 30-35sqw / 248sqm building. Tel: 080-222 1716. Email: nawareeh@gmail.com

5-STAR CONDO

for sale. The Height Phuket, ocean, pool and mountain view. Price 19.5 million baht. Best offer. Tel: 086-883 9815.

KAMALA BEACH

New apartments and houses, furnished Western style, aircon, cable, internet, quiet, security. 6 million baht. Tel: 083-645 3546.

RAWAI HOUSE

2-story, 3-bed, 3-bath house with self contained Bungalow on 720 sqmeters of land in a quiet part of Rawai. 6.8 million baht. No agents, please. Tel: 087-628 3673 (Thai), 081-078 1112 (English). Email: islanderbar3@hotmail.com

2 HOUSES IN PATONG



for sale. Live in 1 and rent the other or sold separately. 5.1 million baht each, fully furnished, well kept, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, Western kitchen. Center of Patong, 2 minutes to Jungceylon. Contact owner at Tel: 087-279 3312. www.phukethouseapartment.com

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

NAI YANG HOUSE

3 bed/3 bath house. 5 minutes to airport and beach. 23,000 baht per month. Available June 1. Tel: 081-891 4552 (English & Thai). bthill6@gmail.com

LOCH PALM 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Luxury townhouse with study, laundry, garage. Gate to fairway from garden with plunge-pool. Near BIS. Email: ianawal@yahoo.com

LARGE HOUSE IN KATHU

3 bedroom 2 bathroom furnished house on private road for long term rent. Close to golf course and international school. Tel: 076-323663, 081-477 2929 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-323663. Email: paulstrong23@hotmail.com

HOUSE IN NAI HARN



for rent. 2 bed house w/ac, near beach, comm pool, furnished. Available June 1 to Feb 1, short or long term rent. 20,000 baht per month. Contact Wolfgang Tel: 083-388 8036, Richard Tel: 083-571 2522.

CHALONG POOL VILLA

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

KATHU HOUSE

for rent. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, garden, pool, 10 mins to Patong. Price 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-440 0101.

POOL VILLA RAWAI

For rent or sale. 3 or 4 bedrooms with private pool in quiet area, 24 hour security. Tel: 087-893 8747.

STUNNING SEAVIEWS PENTHOUSE

Rawai-Nai Ham. Pool, 2 beds/baths, private roof terrace, maid, ADSL. 28,000 baht per month. Short/long-term. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

POOLSIDE APT RAWAI/NAIHARN

Spacious 1 bed, ADSL, maid, private balcony, views, 15,000 baht per month. Short/long-term. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

3 BEDROOM HOUSE

fully furnished, ADSL, A/C, security, 1km east from Heroines' monument. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-277 8461 (English). Email: brunuiviv@hotmail.com

LUXURY 5 BED VILLA

Rawai. Available short term holiday rental. Tel: 086-279 0837. Email: bricothailand2@hotmail.com

PATONG 2 BED APARTMENT

from 20 May, close to shopping area, Bangla, etc, 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-078 7743.

NEW 3 BEDROOM HOUSE

quiet, safe, central Kathu, 20 mins to Patong. 10 mins to Phuket town, 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-966 1837, 087-820 0720.

SEAVIEW CONDO IN KAMALA

240sqm full ocean view condo at The Plantation. 2 bedrooms, 3 baths, 1 study (convertible to 3rd bedrm) + large terrace and outdoor bath. Pool, gym in complex. 65K baht per mo (3 mos min). Short term rate negotiable. Email: jkam@pobox.com. Land line: 86.13681059900, Mobile: 852 94519793. www.kamalasea.view.com

HOUSE IN CHALONG

near Palai beach. 2-3 bedroom, aircon, ADSL, fully furnished, car park, cable TV. Tel: 089-728 8311.

HOUSE FOR RENTAL

land & house, 3 bed, 2 bath, 3 air & full furniture, security 24hrs. Only 20,000 baht starting rental from now! Please contact Tom 082-2886943.

KAMALA BEACH

New apartments and houses, furnished Western style, aircon, cable, internet, quiet, security. 14,000-18,000 baht. Tel: 083-645 3546.

NICE & MODERN HOUSE



Furnished & Excellent location. 5 mins. to Rawai & Nai Ham Beach. 162 sqm. 2 bedrooms w/h private bathrooms, 1 guest toilet, 3 aircons, 1 large living/dining room, 1 telephone line w/h ADSL. Free water supply / garbage service. Baht 20,000./month. Call Khun Nui at 087-383-0936. Email: hunt17@hotmail.com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 aircon, hot shower, free internet, cable TV. 12,000 baht per month. Near Chalong Bay, Palai. Tel: 081-8924 311.

NEW PATONG APARTMENTS

1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units. WiFi, gym and 2 swimming pools. Rents from 22,000 baht per month and up. Good location & value. Tel: 087-077 8454 (English), 081-137 1001 (Thai). Email: solitude001@aol.com

MODERN HOUSE NEAR BANGTAO BEACH



Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircon, hot water, washing machine, ADSL, WiFi, tel, garden. 10 minutes to Bang Tao beach. Price 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: sara_superik@yahoo.co.th

KATA CONDO

2 and 3 bedroom, 2 bath room, with sea view. 115sqm inside with a huge 50sqm terrace, teak kitchen, furnished, long term preferred, 25,000/month. Tel: 084-840 1262. Or email: north8east98@yahoo.com

3 MODERN HOUSES 1 WITH POOL

For rent from 22,000 to 35,000 baht per mo. Long term only. Mail or phone. Tel: 053-180647, 089-874 4050 (English), 081-271 1082 (Thai). Email: joswana@gmail.com

NEW SERVICED CONDO

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

700 BAHT PER DAY AT KAMALA

Or 4,000 baht per week, 3 floors, jacuzzi, aircon, SAT TV. 7 minutes to beach, no kitchen. Tel: 084-716 0502.

SERVICED APARTMENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, lounge studio/1bedroom. Tel: 081-892 0038. www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com



Special offer

Phase I houses for long-term rent. Very private with mountain view, 2 bedrooms, living room, bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished, sat TV, ADSL, UBC.

Contact: 089-7243669

Email: info@baansuanpana.com www.baansuanpana.com

CONDO FOR RENT



The newly built The Royal Place condo opposite Tesco Lotus bypass. 45 sqm. 3 Fl. at the corner with swimming pool view. 2 balconies. 1 bedrm, 1 bathrm, kitchen (microwave, washing machine, refrigerator) living room, 2 air cons, TV flatron, telephone, cable TV. Share pool, restaurant, laundry service, key card with 24 security and car park. Tel: 086-4769612.

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.

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. Tel: 081-6923163.

RAWAI RENT CONDO

1 bedroom luxury condo. Plasma TV, internet, kitchen, aircon. 12,000 per month. Contact for more details. Tel: 087-620 8420.

RAWAI RENT CONDO

sea view, walking distance to shops+beach, aircon, cable, internet, kitchen, newly furnished mezanine. 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-620 8420.

ONLY 9,000 BAHT PER MONTH

House for rent short or long term. Near TigerGym, Chalong. Aircon and Internet. Tel: 087-280 1721 (English & Thai). Email: jessicaphuket@gmail.com

NEAR LAGUNA SOI PASAK 6

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, clubhouse, nice residence, security, near beach. Tel: 080-328 9517 (English & Thai). Email: saranyu2005@hotmail.com

FOR RENT LONG TERM

Minimum 6 months. Kata Beach Center. Very luxurious apartment/suite of 65sqm. Comes with pool and parking. 35,000 baht per month. Telephone: 081-788 8280 (for English) or 089-971 8399.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Kathu, Panasonic, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, nice garden. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-176 7676. Contact for more information at email: tom.k.phuket@gmail.com

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Dealership Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Martin Holmes
tel: 076 238 803
fax: 076 273 319
email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
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email: andrew@leemarine.net

Yacht Haven Marina Office
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
mobile: 081 861 3237
tel/fax: 076 206 260
email: jim@leemarine.net

Pattaya Office
Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
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Fiberglass, blue book, trailer complete marine, equipment need new engine. 100,000 baht. Tel: 087-850 0722.

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23M BOAT

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- Knowledge of computers is mandatory
- Experience with office equipment will be advantage

Interested candidates can walk in during 09:00 am - 05:00 pm on April 19, 2010 at American Red Cross, Phuket office, 100/158-9 Moo 5, Srisuachart Village, Chakemprikat R. 9, T. Rasada, A. Muang, Phuket 83000. Or contact Khun Apichaya at Tel. 076.376.253 ext. 104 for more information.

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

Administration Assistant

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with an outgoing personality, aged not over 28 years. Also essential are experience in sales and/or administration, a good command of written and spoken English, good management and organizational skills, and knowledge of PageMaker and Office software.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to anna@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

FARANG LIVING IN PHUKET

is looking for **part-time secretary with computer knowledge Thai-English**, if possible with **driving license**. Please contact me by email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

SALES POSITION IN RAWAI

looking for staff with sales skills for furniture and gift shop, English requested. Please send your CV to asamed@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER ENGLISH TEACHERS

Non-profit organization Xin Xay Neo Foundation is looking for volunteer retired English teachers whose first language is English and love to help kindergarten and grades 1-6 students speak English in public schools in Klog Koi, Phang Nga. 1-3 days a week. Expenses paid. Call Khun Tawat. Tel: 084-059 5957.

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Coordinator:

- Thai nationality (male/female)
 - Good command of spoken & written English essential
 - Experience in community service and sourcing for overseas funding
 - Computer and Website literate.
- Tel: 076-614060, 081-397 9809 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-614060. Email: joojee88@yahoo.com

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

Female caucasian to teach class of 10-12 students. 3-6 year old children. Chalong, Mon-Fri 8am.-4pm. Start May 1. Tel: 080-624 7060. Email: phuketkindergarten@yahoo.com

KRABI ENGLISH SPEAKERS NEED

- Project Manager
 - Site Foreman
 - Reception Manager
 - Housekeeper Supervisor.
- Tel: 081-375 6234. Email: pbs@tharaheighth.net



Are you ready for a great career with Phuket's largest hotel, resort and property group?

www.lagunaphuket.com

Laguna Phuket, a listed company on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, comprises Banyan Tree Phuket, Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket, Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket, Laguna Beach Resort, Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort & Villas, Best Western Allamanda Laguna, Laguna Holiday Club Phuket Resort and Laguna Village, all of which offer luxury hotel and/or residential property.



To meet the group's exciting expansion plans, we are currently seeking qualified candidates to fill the below positions:

SALES MANAGER

- Expatriate, age 30-40 years
- Previous experience in property sales management field required
- Results driven and focused on activities that produce sales

MARKETING MANAGER

- Thai or other nationalities, age 25-35 years
- Bachelor degree in Marketing, Communications, Hospitality or related field (MBA preferred) with 3-5 years experience in a similar role
- Experience in managing collateral development, exhibition and advertising planning required, within property industry is an advantage
- Detail-orientated individual

SALES EXECUTIVE (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Thai & English Speaking)

- Native Chinese, Japanese, Korean & Thai, age 23-35 years
- Minimum 2-3 years experience in property or related sales fields required
- Outgoing personality with strong prospecting, qualifying, closing ability & results driven
- Flexible working hours including weekends

IT PROJECT MANAGER

- Responsible, self-starter, capable of handling multi-faceted projects and of working under pressure.
- Team player, who values teamwork, has good team building skills and is able to communicate effectively with all levels of employees.
- Pleasant personality, discreet, reliable, diplomatic.
- Nurtures and supervise junior staff encouraging innovation.
- Holds a degree in Business information system or related.
- Understands Internet, and client/ server architectures.
- Possesses general understanding in the areas of application programming, database and system design.
- Experience in CRM or ERP project management of implementations will be an advantage.
- Knowledgeable in business processes such as, marketing, sales customer service, financial and accounting solutions will be advantage.
- Knowledge of Project Management methodology and best practices will be advantage.
- Hands on, strategic thinking balanced with detail oriented working habit, entrepreneur spirit

ALL POSITIONS REQUIRE:

- ▶ Phuket based
- ▶ Excellent command of both spoken, written English and native language (except IT Project Manager & Corporate Affairs Manager)
- ▶ A self-starter with ability to learn quickly & strong time Management skills
- ▶ Must be a team player with friendly personality and positive attitude
- ▶ Ability to show initiative

The successful candidates will be offered attractive working conditions and an excellent remuneration and benefits package.

If you think you are a high-caliber candidate with the right attitude, please submit your CV with photograph and expected salary to:

SECRETARY TO DOS & PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM EVENT COORDINATOR

- Thai or other nationalities, age 23-35 years
- Previous experience in administrative, sales coordination or customer service/sales fields an advantage

E-PROJECT EXECUTIVE

- Thai nationality, age 24-30 years
- Bachelor's degree in Graphic Design, Web Design or equivalent work experience with 1-3 years experience in graphic design
- Knowledge of HTML, CSS, JavaScript and Adobe Flash languages and programming environments and proficient in their application towards website creation
- Experience with Adobe Photoshop, Dreamweaver and Flash is required

PR MANAGER

- Thai nationality, age 25-35 years
- Bachelor's degree in Marketing, Communications or related field (MBA preferred) with 1-3 years experience in a similar role
- Experience in managing all PR activities including media visits, press release writing and online communications plan

MARKETING ASSISTANT

- Thai nationality, age 24-30 years
- Bachelor's degree in Marketing or related fields with 1-3 years experience
- Detail-orientated individual

CORPORATE AFFAIRS MANAGER

- Thai Nationality; male or female
- Bachelors degree or higher in related field; Law or Business Administration are an advantage
- 3-5 years supervisory level experience in administration, government relations, or legal administration in real estate or hotel development business
- Good command of English; computer literacy
- Mature and able to work independently
- Team player, well-organized, hardworking, goal-oriented, energetic and self-disciplined
- Proactive with good attitude and good interpersonal and communication skills
- Male applicants must have completed or be exempted from military service

Island Job Mart

ensign
www.ensign-media.com

SENIOR ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE

- Are you an enthusiastic advertising sales professional with a least two years' experience in Thailand?
- Do you want to live and work on the tropical island paradise of Phuket?
- Do you have a passion for magazines?
- Can you put together multimedia print and web ad packages?
- Can you sell to real estate developers, agents, yacht companies, furniture companies and more?
- Do you have excellent English language skills, both written and spoken? Are you proactive, determined and outgoing?
- Do you want to join one of the region's most rapidly growing media companies?

If the answer to all of the above is **yes**, then email your application in PDF format and a recent photo to terry@ensign-media.com today. We require a sales professional to sell advertising in Property Report Thailand, the country's leading real estate magazine, as well as Helm magazine, Superyacht Asia Pacific magazine, Phuket Marine Guide and Property-Report.com, our real estate portal. Interviews will be offered in Phuket and Bangkok. Driving license is required. Use of company vehicle is provided. Thai nationals only.

Ensign Media Co., Ltd.
23/4 Moo 3, Kwang Road, T.Vichit A.Muang Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-264756

British International School, Phuket

British International School, Phuket is looking for the following candidates:

- **Business Development & Service Officer**
- **Customer relation and Telephone Operator**
- **Bangkok office Secretary**
- **Teacher Assistant**

Qualifications

- Thai National, Male/Female, aged 25-30 years old
- Bachelor Degree in any field
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Good personality and be service-minded
- Computer Literate: MS Office programmes and Internet usage

- **Thai teacher**

Qualifications

- Thai national
- Bachelor degree in Education, Thai major preferable
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills
- Responsible and flexible
- Able to teach in both primary and secondary

British International School
59 Moo 2, Thepkrasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Tel: 076-238711-20 # 2103, 2206, 1111
Fax: 076-238711-20 # 1130
E-mail: patcharakoent@bisphuket.ac.th or sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th

Professional Property Management Solutions

PIPS Phuket's premier property management company is looking for suitable, qualified candidates for the following positions:

Guest Services Coordinator

Qualifications:

- Good command of spoken and written English essential
- Experience in hotel or property management
- Computer literate.

Please send your application with a recent photo to Human Resource Dept. Phuket Island Property Services Co.,Ltd [PIPS]
393/2 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Road, Cheungtalay, Phuket Thailand 83110
Tel: 076 270 750, Fax: 076 270 751, Email: tasanee@pipsphuket.com

PAUL ROPP

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Sales Representative Required

Paul Ropp Thailand Company Limited requires a sales representative to join our team at our flagship store in Royal Phuket Marina. The candidate must have the following qualifications:

- Good communication skills in English
- Good attitude and appearance
- Able to work under pressure
- Computer literate

We offer good salary and commission. If you have the above qualifications and would like to join our team, please send your CV to pandhaj@paulropp.com or call us at +66(76)360859
visit us at www.paulropp.com



Splash Jungle Water Park

Sales & Marketing Manager

Phuket's first and only Water Park is looking for an experienced, outgoing, ambitious Sales & Marketing Manager to promote the Water Park throughout Phuket and the surrounding area. The ideal candidate will have knowledge of the travel, tourism and entertainment industry in the Phuket area. Great opportunity for the successful candidate with competitive salary, benefits and incentives.

Send resume or CV with recent photo to hr@west-sands.com and chris@west-sands.com



SOUTHERN MEDIA
MARKETING SERVICES

JUNIOR SALES COORDINATOR

To assist project managers in delivering and managing high quality products, designs and services to the customer.

Qualifications:

- University degree, or equivalent experience.
- 1 year relevant experience in customer-facing role.
- Motivated, energetic individual with excellent communication and customer service skills.
- Attention to detail and quality of work.
- Excellent English skills.
- Must possess a car and driving license.

jobs@southern-media.net
076 236 637



job opportunity

Legal & Property Consultancy Firm in Phuket urgently requires

Executive Secretary

With these qualifications:

- ▶ Female with Bachelor Degree
- ▶ Excellent spoken and written English
- ▶ Able to translate Thai - Eng & Eng - Thai
- ▶ Computer Literacy in: MS Word, Excel, Outlook, Internet
- ▶ Knowledge of legal work an advantage

Excellent benefits for the right candidate

20/44 Mae-Luan Road, T. Taladnua, A. Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand.
Tel: 076-234074 Fax: 076-235339
Mobile: 085-7931122
E-mail: svone@loxinfo.co.th
www.phuketstlegalservices.com

LOOKING FOR NANNY
To take care of my 18 month old son. Must love kids. Tel: 089-874 6170.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATOR
Varied role for self motivated Thai National with strong communication skills; good command of written and spoken English a must. Experienced on Word & Excel with the ability to create reports. Involves administration of staff hours, holidays, etc, overseeing of purchasing & housekeeping dept, dealing with local administrations. Drivers license a plus. Tel: 076-206704. Fax: 076-206706. Email: zara@yacht-haven-phuket.com

TEACHING FELLOW
Seeking full-time English teacher for primary grades (unpaid with accommodation and work permits provided) to work for our small, dynamic, progressive children's charity. Please send CV and cover letter to: info@phukethasbeengoodtous.org For more information please visit our website at: phukethasbeengoodtous.org

EXPAT CHEF DE CUISINE
Impiana Hotel KLCC, Malaysia is looking for an Expat Chef de Cuisine (Western cuisine). Attractive package & benefits. For further details, please contact. Tel: +60-3-2147 1008. Or send email to: sunita.kaur@impiana.com

IT SUPPORT TECHNICIAN
Desktop support and network maintenance at our head office and at our local resort location.
To be considered for this position you should have the following:

- Experience of IT support in Microsoft environments
- Good general knowledge and qualification in IT
- Experience in dealing with clients
- English and Thai language skills
- Own transport
- Experience of network administration
- Some web design skills

In the first instance please send your CV and covering letter stating salary expectations to jobs@richmondhk.com

HOUSE-MAID WANTED
looking for a house-maid to cleaning, washing, ironing, cook, cutting grass, cleaning pool etc. can speak English and own vehicle. 9hrs/day. 6days/week. 10.000/month. Tel: 081-956 9903. Email: office@sunbeammanagement.com

PADI INSTRUCTOR
Wanted for busy 5-star dive center on Phi Phi. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

AUSSIE-EUROPEAN
English speakers wanted. 40,000-60,000 baht a month. For further details, please contact Steve. Tel: 085-573 0638.

FREELANCE WRITER
Freelance writer required. Must be experienced and have first class English writing skills. Massive projects, regular work in Phuket, Samui and Krabi. Send full CV by email, please. Immediate start, must be mobile. Travel and Tourism projects, Villa rental company (1.5 baht per word). Email: sales@thailandholidayhomes.co.uk For further details, please see our website at www.thailandholidayhomes.co.uk

THAI MAID WANTED
Thai maid wanted to work in house in Hong Kong. Required Sept 2010 to work for mature couple in Clear Water Bay, Hong Kong. Must be fond of dogs and cooking. Only basic English required. Excellent conditions. Interview can be arranged in Phuket. Tel: 0852-9468 6499. Fax: 0852-2849 8448. Email: jdye@netvigator.com

Employment Wanted

NEED A MAID?
employment agency has maids available, full time, live-in/ live-out or for periodic cleaning. English speaking. Contact Anong. Tel: 088-442 8032 (Thai). Contact Fon. Tel: 088-442 8027 (Eng).

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

GARMIN GPSMAP 60CX

Color map navigator, pre-loaded with marine charts. One year young, never used. New Price 25,000 baht, make an offer. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-077 3307. Email: sudeckh@web.de

JACUZZI (NEW)

Sapphire Jacuzzi 'Palm Island' (Diamond). 5 seats with total of 65 jets and 2-speed blower. Dimensions: 1990 x 1990 x 850mm. Dry weight: 225kg. Operating capacity: 1,090 litres. Price: 545,000 baht. SPECIAL PRICE: 345,000 baht. Tel: 076-273577, 081-9785901 (English), 081-9580743. Fax: 076-273579. Email: moose@waterworkswarehouse.net

POOL PUMP

1.5hp Pentair Whisperflow. Hardly used. 12,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 086-683 1964. Email: franklee200@hotmail.com

FRAMED CROSS-STITCH PICTURES

Three beautiful, large, framed, hand-made cross-stitch pictures in matching frames. Two @ 8,500 baht (Thai dancers) and one @ 10,500 baht (Nature scene). Tel: 087-897 3497 (English & Thai). Email: catch22phuket@gmail.com

LLADRO FIGURINE

Tahitian Dancing Girls, #0100 1498. It's 11.75 inches, retired 1995, hand painted. DF file available by email. Very slight damage to 2 fingers on 1 hand. 40,000 baht ono. Tel: 081-895-7727 (English). Email: info@axiominvestments.com

SOFA CLEARANCE SALE

50% off selected items. Prices start from 14,000 baht. Tel: 085 787 1515.

MOVING SALE RAWAI

Orient rugs prints from China, India, Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong. Select Asian furniture. Jade ivory vases, kitchen utensils, rosewood desk, Japanese wedding kimono rare, Japanese stone lantern. More to come. Indonesian statues, queen size bed+matress, tables, flowerplots, dining set (8). Tel: 080-145 3483. Email: heinogeick@yahoo.com.sg

BAGLESS VACUUM CLEANER

Electrolux zac 6,707 warranty till 11/06/2010. New 6,000 baht, now 2,500 baht. Colour: red/white. Tel: 076-319560, 084-441 3871 (English & Thai). Email: sawasdee-khrap@hotmail.com

INDOOR-OUTDOOR

Inflatables on big sale. Jacuzzi, dinghy, boats, beds, beach toys. Tel: 087-882 0343.

MUSIC COLLECTION

MP3 collection, over 30,000 tracks tagged. Comes on 250GB, USB drive. 31,000 baht. Email: philsim96@gmail.com

MOVING SALE RAWAI

Burmese cabinet, sofa bed, terrace, table, chairs, fan, dehumidifiers, shelves book, artwork, etc. Tel: 089-970 1861. Email: derek24davies@aol.com

FRIDGE AND AIRCON

3 Sanyo fridges 5.2 cubic. 3 LG aircons 12,000BTU. 2,000-6,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-682 1066.

MOVING SALE NEW STUFF

Must go before 1/31/10. - Room fan: 36 cm, 390 baht when new. Now 200 baht - Hot water pot, aluminum, 290 baht when new. Now 150 baht. Tel: 089-350 2592 (English). Email: alkan@hush.com

MOVING SALE CHEAP!

Need to move back home. Selling everything. Good price. Call now!! Tel: 081-294 5441.

HARDWOOD BENCH SEAT

Beautiful hardwood bench seat. Good for inside or outside. Call or e-mail for more info. Tel: 082-878 0392 (English & Thai). Email: olay1@yahoo.com

20' REFRIGERATED CONTAINER

165,000 baht. Tel: 076-281283, 081-892 4804. Website at http://www.safe wayasia.com

MULTI STATION

for sale, 6 station tower spartan, universal gym. Email: chilli garden@hotmail.com

Articles Wanted

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Do you have a lot of things at home you are not using? Clothes, toys, furniture, etc. One person's trash is another ones treasure! We would like to collect and distribute it where it is most needed. Please contact us for more information; Or book a time for collection. Hope of Andaman Church 55/33-35 Bypass Rd. T. Ratsada, A. Muang, Phuket 83000. Tel: 076-261978, 083-3948337, 080-141 4577. Email: mattias@phuket-dirtrider.com

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

CONTI ESPRESSO MACHINE

Conti Italian espresso coffee machine. 2 groups, 8 litre capacity. Stainless steel with red paneling. As new. Ideal for restaurant/coffee shop. With Mazzer 1.2kg grinder. Cost 220,000 baht. Selling for 165,000. Tel: 084-846 3887 (English), 081-893 4355 (English & Thai). Email: stefuena@hotmail.com

Bulletins

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

For Phuket info (English) call 061-8912895, 081-8954163 or email: phuketaa@yahoo.com
English Speaking Meetings
Mission Hospital - Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 PM
Bangkok Hospital - Phuket City
Fri 7 PM
Patong Hospital - Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun at 7 PM
Green Man Restaurant - Chalong
Tue 1 PM
Krabi Hospital - Krabi
Wed 1 PM
(Additional Krabi meetings on request by contacting 084-4463103)
Scandinavian Speaking Meetings-Karun
Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April only)
Tel: 086-9440490 Swe. 082-2765598 Nor
For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @ 02-23118300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email: info@aathailand.org

SPONSOR

a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor.

Please call K. Carol (Tel: 087-417 8860)

or K. Sue (Tel: 087-277 6948).

Or email: info@phuketiw.com

HAVEN ACADEMY

Offering the Swedish national curriculum and the Calvert School curriculum. Haven Academy welcomes students from every nationality and is now accepting enrollment for the next school year. Tel: 087-268 1412 (English). Email: info@havenacademyphuket.com Website at: www.havenacademyphuket.com

Business Opportunities

2 SHOPS, PATONG

beauty and massage shops, Banzaan, Patong. Tel: 089-504 8882.

HOTEL FOR RENT

Nice, four-story hotel with 20 fully furnished rooms, restaurant, jacuzzi, pool, roof garden. Nanai Rd. Magnificent view of Patong. For Rent (4½ years) Fax: 076-341 258. Tel: 081-693 9642.

SKIPPER PUB QUIZ

Come join our monthly, last Thursday Pub Quizzes. Starting at 20:00. Royal Phuket Marina. Tel: 076-360890.

BEAUTY SALON AND MASSAGE



for rent, Patong beach. Key money 400,000 baht. Rent 39,000 baht per month, 3-year contract. Contact Mr Ben. Tel: 081-958 6741.

SALE SHOP PATONG BEACH

Sale fashion shop, in front of 4-star hotel, 40sqm, fully furniture, aircon, light. 3-year contract. Rent 40,000 baht per month include 3 month advance and key money. All total 600,000 baht. Location: "The Kee Plaza" 50 meters after Savouy Restaurant. Tel: 02-863 6013, 086-548 4111 (English & Thai), 087-365 0670 (English). Fax: 02-860 4196. Email: zabede@gmail.com

AVIATION BUSINESS

Interested in starting or investing in an aviation business in Thailand? We can help. Professional, fast, economical and most importantly, bureaucratic-hassle free. Email: aeroprothai@yahoo.com

SPEED BOAT COMPANY

One 35-foot speedboat with 2 engines, a unique design and big sound system. Plus fully equipped office in Boat Lagoon. Must see. 3.25 million baht. Tel: 083-102 5444 (English & Thai), 087-035 9241 (English). Email: yellowsharktour@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE

Soi Eric, Bangla Road. Long contract. Tel: 076-296326, 087-883 1756.

Let us take your ad to the top of Google with a 20% discount!

Ad Power Card

The discount card for Classifieds at Thailand's LARGEST classifieds marketplace

500 baht • Good for 1 year

Your key to fast-track placement and easy payment for ads at Thailand's LARGEST classifieds marketplace. Hundreds of new ads every week! Like to have one?

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

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.

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

BEAUTY SALON PATONG

Good location. Rent 7,000 baht per month. Sale 240,000 baht. Tel: 081-397 4957 (English & Thai). Email: kamala@phuket.ksc.co.th

PATONG MASSAGE SHOP

for sale. Included 7 motorbikes and spa products. Good location near major hotels on Rat-U-Thit Road. Price 2,300,000 baht. Tel: 089-475 3220.

COFFEE SHOP FOR RENT

Phuket town. Fully equipped. No key money. Rent 65,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

150 MILLION BAHT PROJECT

in Nai Harn, seek 50% partner with 25 million baht. Tel: 085-792 0908.

ONLY FOR SERIOUS INVESTOR

7 floor apartment building FOR SALE IN KATA CENTER. Includes restaurant, bar, pool, gym, parking. 11 apartments (70%) are leased for 30 years. The balance (left over) are available. 4 apartments, restaurant, bar, pool, gym, parking-roof 300sqm. with Chanote and Thai company. NOW FOR QUICK SALE 25 million baht (500,000 euro). For appointment to visit email: MAURICE.PHUKET@GMAIL.COM

PATONG GUESTHOUSE
very close to the beach and center, long-term contract. Tel: 087-883 7672.

We sell
TSBA going concerns
BUY OR SELL A BUSINESS
Tel: 086-268-6090
Email: ference@tsba.info
www.tsba.info

MIO GUESTHOUSE & BAR

Internet Coffeehouse & Food (similar to Star Bucks). Unique and well established Top location in Patong Beach - 100m to Best Beach, opposite Paragon Hotel. For sale at 3.8 million baht. Partnership is an option. 5.5 year lease contract. Tel: 076-385573, 086-476 5642 (English), 081-459 3079 (English & Thai). Email: sten.martin@gmail.com

RESTAURANT/BAR FOR SALE

Paying restaurant/bar for sale. Good location - Khao Lak Center. Long-term lease. Price negotiable. Contact. Tel: 085-784 9645, 087-887 0276. Email: eike.symanzik@gmx.net

GUESTHOUSE KAMALA

10 min north of Patong, 4 rooms, bar, restaurant, staff, apartment, UBC, cable, hot water, aircon, shower, safe in each room. Offer near 1.5 million baht. Tel: 089-971 6120.

ENTRANCE TO LAGUNA STORE

Located next to a Queen Air Tour Agency and 7-eleven (opening soon). Rent: 13,000 baht per month plus key money. Email: kornkamonat21@yahoo.com

INTERNET CAFE FOR SALE

Near Prince of Songkla University. Shop with small built-in bedroom. Only 250,000 baht. Call for more details at the number: 080-698 0873.

500,000 BAHT GUESTHOUSE

Located Patong, Nanai Rd/ Banzaan Rd, next to 7-Eleven. 3 rooms with fans, 3 a/c rooms, beauty salon at bottom, separate entrance to room. 90,000 deposit, no key money. Rent 35,000 baht, 3 years lease left. Contact Mats or Tab. Tel: 081-787 2573 or 085-795 2101.

ROOFTOP RESTAURANT FOR RENT

on the top floor of Sinthavee Hotel, Phuket Town. Convenient for a restaurant or bar. Also, a discotheque on the 2nd floor (with license). Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

SHOP HOUSE IN KATHU

for rent. 4 floors, 4 aircon. Fully furnished apartment on third floor. Very good location only 26,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-432 6587.

APARTMENTS FOR SALE

Stunning new development. 3 floors, 8 apartments plus 3-bedroom penthouse. Fully furnished, freehold land. Private parking, BBQ, landscaped, full security, elevator, swimming pool, 5 minutes to Naiharn Beach. Asking Price: 52 million baht. Tel: 076-289122, 087-887 7133, 084-848 7474. Fax: 076-289121. Email: kasina_navamachiti@yahoo.com Website: http://theroyalpalmresidence.com

UNIQUE!

Beauty & Massage Salon in Chalong for rent at 8,500 baht per month. Full equipment for sale. 150,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 085-785 7036 (English), 086-272 5967 (Thai). Email: marcello_auf_reisen@hotmail.de

SHOP + 2 FURNISHED APTS

Take over lease contract (expires 11/2011). Key money: 150,000 baht. Furnished apts. 20,000 baht deposit, 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-277 5743 (English). Email: mb@is-internetservice.com

EXPLODING WORLDWIDE

DubLi explodes. New customers get FREE 500 Travel Vouchers, or start your own unique home-based business. Tel: 089-288 7294. Email: alan.samui@gmail.com Website at http://www.dubglobal.com

FREE OXYGEN BAR GENERATORS

Seeking an established biz to set up an oxygen bar at no cost to owner. Tel: 088-449 8490. Email: camnet@ymail.com

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Restaurant & bar for sale or lease. Good location on Koh Lanta. Cheap, cheap deal. Want quick sale! Tel: 086-974 3085 (English & Thai). Email: kohlantathebricitcafe@yahoo.com

BEAUTY SHOP PATONG

Nail & beauty shop and equipment. Banzaan street. 2.5 year contract. Tel: 089-504 8882.

PATONG HOTEL

Located in a small soi off the beach road, just a short stroll onto the beach. 25 million baht leasehold, or buy freehold at 55 million baht. See website at the link below, then call or mail for further details. Tel: 075-326247, 080-146 2536 (English & Thai). Email: admin@thaisunshinedevelopments.com Website: http://www.thaisunshinedevelopments.com/for_sale_detail.php?id=158

PATONG MASSAGE SHOP

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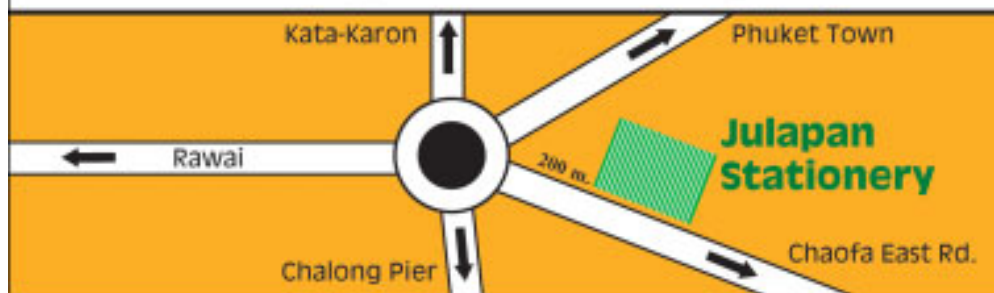
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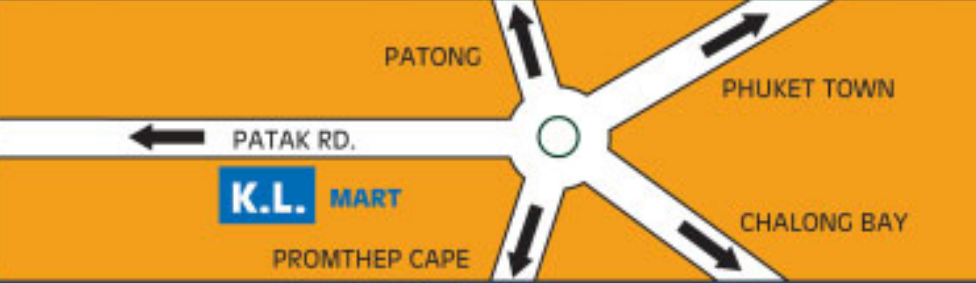
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