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INSIDE



Heroines Remembered

The history of Thailand's saviours: Thao Thep Krasattri and Thao Sri Soontorn.

See page 6.

NEWS: Diogianni murder case arrests; two paedophile suspects arrested; drug crackdown in Patong. **Pages 2 & 3**

GOOD LIVING: Dining out at Acqua, the new restaurant in Kalim Bay. **Page 10**

LIFESTYLE: Yoga Moments presents the Moon Salutation. **Pages 16 & 17**

INSIDE STORY 4 & 5; AROUND THE NATION 6; AROUND THE SOUTH 8; AROUND THE REGION 9; PEOPLE 12; EXPAT GALLERY 13; HAPPENINGS 14; WHAT'S ON 19; BUSINESS AND MONEY TALKS 20; TAKE A BREAK 21 & 22; LOOKING BACK 23; EDITORIAL, LETTERS 24; FIRST PERSON, ISSUES AND ANSWERS 25; HOROSCOPES, BOOKS 26; YOUTH N ASIA 27; SPORTS 28-29; PROPERTY 30-34; CLASSIFIED Ads 35-48.

Dive trip turns to tragedy

PHUKET: Freak weather conditions caused a boat carrying foreign tourists and Thai crew returning from a diving trip in the Similans to sink about 12 nautical miles off the coast of Phuket on the evening of March 8.

The boat, *Choke Somboon 19* (*Perfect Luck 19*) was carrying 30 people in total, comprising 19 tourists, three diving instructors and eight crew members, when it was hit by a water spout at about 11 pm, causing the vessel to capsize.

At about midday the next day, local fishermen and Marine Police picked up 23 survivors from the accident who were found floating adrift in inflatable life rafts. They were taken to the Deep Sea Port at Makham Bay.

The survivors were met by staff from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), who gave out blankets, water and food. The survivors told the *Gazette* that they had not eaten since the sinking the night before. They were questioned and photographed by the DDPM as they came ashore.

Marine Police, the Thai Navy, fishermen and staff from Dive Asia, the company that owns the vessel and organized the diving trip, continued the search for survivors but none were found.

On March 10, the body of one of the female tourists on board, Austrian national Ms Gabrielle Jetzinger, was spotted at about 10.30 am by an airplane involved in the search-and-rescue operation.

Her body was recovered by a Royal Thai Navy vessel.

The search-and-rescue effort resumed the next day but no more survivors or bodies were found, leaving six people unaccounted for. They were named as Yuba Hirotsuga from Japan; Klaus Konrader and Monika Kluster from Austria; Sibylle Bucher and Rolf Nieder-berge



Emotions run high as survivors return to the shores of Phuket. INSET: The boat 'Choke Somboon 19' capsized when it was hit by a water spout about 12 miles off Phuket on March 8.

from Switzerland; and Thai national Jumba "Gen" Sorntat, the boat's cook.

On March 11, sonar equipment located the sunken boat, which was lying on the seabed at a depth of about 70 meters. Deep sea divers working with Marine Police discovered four bodies in two separate compartments of the boat's sleeping quarters – two bodies in each – and were presumed by Marine Police to be two Swiss tourists and two Austrian tourists, leaving the boat's cook and Japanese tourist, Mr Yuba Hirotsuga, still unaccounted for.

One of the survivors said that when the boat capsized, he saw people trapped in the sleeping quarters trying to push open the door as water rushed into the vessel.

According to the boat's captain, Mr Chakri Leechuay, the water spout approached at speed from the north (between land and the boat).

He said that weather conditions were calm before the incident and that the phenomenon first appeared on the boat's radar screen at a distance of three nautical miles but reached the boat just 10 minutes later.

The 29.9-meter-long vessel was traveling southeast at a speed of between 8 and 9 knots when it was hit by the freak storm.

Mr Chakri said that he had been working as a boat captain for Dive Asia for about 20 years and that the boat was just six months old. He told the *Gazette* that he was aware of the possibility of bad weather during the return trip but was confident that the boat was large enough and new enough to withstand an average storm, adding that he had never experienced such freak weather conditions.

In an interview with the *Gazette* – prior to the discovery of the sunken vessel and the bodies trapped inside – the owner of Dive Asia since 1995, Juergen Schenker, expressed his concern for the missing passengers but defended the captain's actions and the boat's seaworthiness. He said that weather conditions were calm until about 20 minutes before the accident and that the vessel was well designed and could handle average storm conditions.

Mr Schenker said that his staff normally go to the pier to meet the vessel at about 8 am.

"However, the boat failed to arrive at the usual time and we attempted to contact the boat without success. We had a chat with some of the local captains but they did not know where our boat was, so we informed the navy and marine police," he said.

"This was a tragic accident. I would not say of diving here that the boats are unsafe. All the people working on the boats, they are not suicidal and would not take a risk going out with unsafe boats.

"This boat is brand new and our company has 20 years of experience which went into that boat and we had people saying they feel completely safe on board. So in that regard it's a great loss for us and for the Phuket dive industry and we hope that the divers who come here don't lose the trust in us or any other company," he concluded.

At the time of going to print, operations were focused on recovering the bodies, with plans to bring them up from the wreck on Thursday to have them properly identified, and to search for the two people still missing, whose bodies were presumed to still be trapped in the sunken vessel.



Singaporean woman confesses to ordering Degioanni murder



The confessed mastermind of the slaying, Goh Li Fun, in a picture taken after the 2004 tsunami disaster. Courtesy of The Electric New Paper, Singapore.

PATONG: Kathu Police have arrested six people for their alleged part in the murder of Canadian real estate developer Francis Alex Degioanni.

The suspected mastermind behind the murder is among them. Police say Singaporean national Goh Li Fun, 32, confessed she had Mr Degioanni killed after he refused to repay several million baht in personal loans.

Better known as "Diana", the Singaporean worked as a real-estate broker in Patong.

The Electric New Paper recently reported that she was in Phuket at the time of the 2004 tsunami, volunteering to help victims at Patong Hospital.

She has told police she paid four men from Petchaburi 1.5 million baht to carry out Mr Degioanni's murder.

The two suspected gunmen were identified as Somchai Mingjaiyen, 29, and Suwan Seemek, 32.

Police are still hunting two more suspects, believed to be hiding in a jungle in Petchaburi province.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Apirak Hongtong told the *Gazette* that the headmen of the two men's villages have promised to deliver the suspects into police custody.

If they fail to do so, police will have to get the men themselves, Maj Gen Apirak added.

The six suspects in custody appeared at a press conference on March 6 at Kathu Police Station, led by Police Region 8 Commander Santarn Chayanon.

Diana, who had known Mr Degioanni for six or seven years, borrowed several million baht

from a friend in Singapore and gave it to Mr Degioanni as a loan, it is alleged.

She was saddled with monthly interest payments of around 100,000 baht. When she asked Mr Degioanni to pay her back, he refused and said they had no written contract, police quoted her as saying.

Her Thai friend Netnapha Withayathammasophon, 37, helped her find people to carry out the murder, police say.

Two Thai nationals, Sumon Sumen and Ekkapol Lakrod, helped Ms Netnapha arrange for the four Petchaburi men to carry out the murder, police said.

On February 19, the shooters waited near Degioanni's office and fired at least 10 shots with two .38 caliber pistols as soon as he arrived. The killers then ran to a motorbike driven by one of the suspects who is still at large.

Details of how the police were able to catch the gang were also revealed. Having spoken to witnesses, investigators knew the getaway vehicle headed towards Karon.

Police checked hotel records and discovered the four suspects stayed in a room near Simon Cabaret and checked out the day after the murder.

Police showed Mr Suwan and Mr Somchai's ID card photographs to witnesses to the murder, including the victim's wife, who identified them as the gunmen, police say.

Mr Somchai, arrested in Bangkok on March 4, confessed that all four men worked together to kill Mr Degioanni.

Mr Sumon was arrested on March 5 and others on March 6.

Police, not yet satisfied with Diana's professed motive for the killing, continue to investigate.

Gov Preecha Ruangjan transferred in reshuffle



Dr Preecha won many friends and earned a reputation of a man of action during his brief tenure as governor of Phuket.

PHUKET: Governor Preecha Ruangjan is to be transferred to Phitsanuloke province in the north of Thailand, a source in the Governor's Office has confirmed.

Dr Preecha, a native of Phichit province, was appointed as governor of Phuket less than five months ago under the government of Somchai Wongsawat and his now disbanded People Power Party (PPP).

The self-described "country boy" will leave Phuket on March 14 and start his new job two days later.

Dr Preecha is to be replaced by Wichai Phraisa-ngop, currently governor of Sing Buri province.

Mr Wichai, who served a stint as Phang Nga governor starting in October 2007, is ex-

pected to arrive in Phuket on March 16 and begin work immediately.

Cabinet on March 10 approved a list of 28 transfers of high-ranking civil servants, including those of Dr Preecha and Mr Wichai.

Rumors of the governor's imminent transfer had been circulating since the Democrats, under Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, formed a coalition government in December.

Despite his brief stay in Phuket, the energetic Dr Preecha established himself as a popular governor who was widely respected by fellow bureaucrats, local politicians and the media.

For Dr Preecha's final Governor's Letter, prepared before the transfer order was announced, see page 25.

Police: Englishman murdered after botched robbery

PHUKET CITY: Police now believe that the murder of English businessman Ian Kenneth Stuart was the result of a burglary that went wrong.

Mr Stuart was bludgeoned to death at the Royal Place project on Phra Phuketkaew Road, at the Tesco-Lotus junction on February 23.

Phuket Provincial Police

Commander Apirak Hongtong said that whoever killed Mr Stuart was probably interrupted in the middle of a burglary, and in the ensuing panic clubbed the victim to death with a stick.

A laptop was taken from the scene, but a gold ring, Rolex watch and around 10,000 baht in cash were left, indicating panic on behalf of the perpetrator.

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Briton, German arrested on child molestation charges

PATONG: A British man and a 17-year-old German youth were arrested on child molestation charges following a probe by the by the Department of Special Investigations (DSI) and Kathu Police.

The first arrest was that of 41-year-old British national Dax J Young, who was apprehended at his home on Soi Laksila, off Phra Barami Rd in Patong, at 6 pm on March 6.

Young's arrest was followed four days later by the arrest of the German teenager at his mother's rented home in Rawai, where he had been living for a year.

The two accused were presented at a press conference at Kathu Police Station on the afternoon of March 10.

The press conference was led by Phuket Provincial Police Commander Apirak Hongtong and DSI officer Pol Maj Jatuporn Arunleaktawin, who spearheaded the probe.

The two men have been charged with conspiring to mo-

lest at least two schoolboys aged nine and 13.

Young has denied the charges, while the German youth confessed. Police are still investigating to determine if other young boys were harmed by the pair.

Young had befriended the young German, who spent a lot of time at the older man's house near Wat Suwansiriwong School, Maj Gen Apirak told the press conference.

A Kenyan born UK national, Young has lived in Thailand for seven years and Phuket for at least five.

He set up soccer nets in front of the house and often invited boys from the school to play football, the press were told.

The pair enticed the children into the house with the promise of sweets and video games, then sexually abused them, police said.

Some boys went once and did not return to the house, while others returned several times. The accused paid some of the boys sums of 200-300 baht after

their visits, police alleged.

The alarm was raised when teachers at the Wat Suwansiriwong School noticed that some of the boys in their care were spending time at Young's home.

In February, the teachers told The Mirror Foundation of their suspicions. The foundation, a non-profit organization known for its work with children, informed the DSI.

The DSI co-ordinated with social workers during its investigation and arranged for psychologists to interview boys who had come into contact with the accused.

At least two admitted to having sexual relations with the pair.

A search of both Young's and the German youth's home yielded a laptop computer, two digital cameras, a video camera, 128 CDs, three video tapes, two DVDs, a dildo, name cards, a hard drive, a flash drive, as well as nine Japanese-style nude cartoon books as evidence.

The photographs featured underage boys naked and en-



The German youth (left) confessed to the charges while Young (right) has continued to deny them.

gaged in explicit sexual acts, some with adults and some with other boys.

The day before the press conference, Kathu Police Superintendent Grissak Songmoonark showed the media a dossier of evidence containing graphic images of a Caucasian man alleged to be Young performing anal sex on a boy whose age was estimated at no older than 12.

Following the press conference, Young was remanded to Phuket Prison while the German

youth was sent to the Phuket Youth and Juvenile Detention Center.

As an adult, Young could be charged under Section 279 of the Thai Penal Code, which states: Whoever conducts an indecent act on a child not yet over fifteen years of age, whether such child shall consent or not, shall be punished with imprisonment not exceeding ten years or fined not exceeding twenty thousand baht, or both.

Police conduct drug raids in Patong

PATONG, PHUKET: Kathu Police dispatched three groups of officers last week to conduct random drug checks on staff and patrons at nightclubs in Phuket.

One group of officers checked bars along Soi Bangla, another group checked bars along the beach road, and a third group went to Phang Muang and Sirirat Roads at the south end of Patong.

Kathu Police Inspector Nikorn Chootong told the *Gazette* that the crackdown was ordered by the Royal Thai Police following a reported increase in the use of *ya bah* (methamphetamine).

The inspection teams, of about 10 persons each, included district officials and female workers from the local public health office who took urine samples from everyone on the premises at each location and tested them for amphetamine use.

Three patrons of the Khon Lang Chang pub, on the road to Karon, tested positive when their urine turned the telltale purple.

The inspectors also checked



Police conduct drug testing as part of the Kathu-wide crackdown.

for weapons and inspected identification cards to ensure no minors were present.

Pol Maj Nikorn said the random checks would continue into the following week.

Downturn cuts demand for Phuket real estate

PHUKET: Demand for residential projects in Phuket has dropped slightly due to the global economic downturn, Real Estate Information Centre (REIC) director-general Samma Kitsin announced recently.

According to an REIC survey, residential projects ready for sale now numbered 139, or 12,334 units.

Of the total, 88 are detached-house projects with a combined total of 8,561 units. Of these, 5,508 units have been sold.

Another 51 condominium projects have a total of 3,773 units, of which 2,054 units have been sold.

Foreign buyers are the main purchasers of residential property in Phuket. Many of

them have delayed their decision to buy.

Samma said 51% of foreign buyers of residential property in the island are investors who hope to generate rental income or sell when the asset price rises.

Of the rest, 34% invest in properties as a vacation residence and the remainder buy for long-term stays.

Residential property priced between Bt10 million and Bt40 million per unit are the most popular with buyers seeking a vacation place or an investment, according to the survey.

Home-buyers who intend to live in the residence prefer a price of between Bt3 million and Bt5 million per unit, Samma said.

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Once upon a time...

In December last year, high school students aged 14-18 from around the nation were invited to submit essays written in English for the 5th annual Dublin Literary Awards for Thailand under the theme "Once Upon a Time..."

The annual contest is sponsored by international productivity consultant IMPAC, the Embassy of Ireland, Public Care Service Co and Kerry Group. The contest was co-organized by *The Nation*, *Nation Junior*, *Phuket Gazette* and *CityLife*.

The *Phuket Gazette* judged 91 entries from contestants from the Southern Region, selecting Ms Joy Cortesy, 16, from Quality School International and Ms Nutthawan Srilertchalalai from Phuket Wittayalai School to receive merit awards of 5,000 baht each and Ms Pawida Krachai from Phuket Wittayalai School as the region's finalist.

Ms Pawida received 10,000 baht for her winning entry and will join other regional winners at the Windsor Suites Hotel in Bangkok on March 20 for the announcement of the overall national winner. The winning entrant will win a trip to Dublin – accompanied by one parent – to attend the senior international IMPAC Dublin Literary Awards on June 11, 2009.

Judges based their selections on the writer's ability to come up with a unique story and how well it was presented on paper. The *Gazette* wishes Ms Pawida all the best in Bangkok. Here is her story as it was submitted – unedited.

I'm sitting in the room with fear. I hear his sounds and it's getting near me. He knows I'm here. I try to do not make any noise but it's too difficult. While the sound of finger flipping is coming closer and closer.

"Come on Neil, Come out" He said with a cold voice "You can not hide from your whole life" "I know you are here. You cheated me. Your request is done. And where is my pay off?" What should I do then? In a few minutes he will find me for sure. Fear is infiltrating my body. I try to take a deep breathe. I have to escape from here before he catches me. Now I'm in a room oh the second floor. It's easy for me to jump from here to the first floor. While I look at the nearest window to jump out through I glance at that book. The beginning of this story. If that day I just hadn't picked it up. "Once upon a time" 17 silver characters on the cover of the very old book was in my sight. Once upon a time? It's kind of nonsense. Who wants to read a fairytale nowadays? Except children. Use my time to make money is better than reading a silly book like this.

But the rear cover made me interested in the book immediately. It said: "If you don't like it, we pay you back three times your money"

I brought it to ask the shopkeeper

"Oh. Yes sir" he answered "The price is 17 dollars. If you are disappointed with it I will pay you back 51 dollars"

How easy it is! I just bought this book but I won't read it. I will come back and tell this stupid shopkeeper that I am disappointed I will my get money back triple.

"Are you sure that you will pay back for triple" I didn't believed at first

"Certainly" he flipped his finger "But believe me you won't return it" he laughed

It wasn't a surprise that I accepted this deal in no time

At first I decided not to read it but it was something in my mind that told me to read it and a big alteration will happen to my life

Most of the stories were ordinary fairytales that started with "Once upon a time" The prince helped the princess from the dragon and lived together forever. How silly it is! It wasted lots of time. I was about to drop it if I didn't see the last chapter.

There was only one sentence in the last chapter. Only one sentence "Every wish will become true just mark the sentence and rip it"

I didn't understand what does it mean. Mark the sentence then rip it? It couldn't go wrong, because I will get my money back anyway.

So I picked the pen beside my bed, marked it, ripped it out

And he appeared at that time

A tall handsome guy in a suit with a tie, wore sunglasses, carried a suitcase was walking through the wall into my bedroom

"What's up? Do you want to do business now?" It was the first word he said to me

"Who are you? How do you get in my bedroom?" "I had frightened

"What business? What are you talking about?"

"Which question do you want me to answer first?" he laughed "Call me Steve, It's not important who I am but I can give you everything"

"What do you mean by that?"

"I mean I can give you everything you want" he opened his suitcase and picked out two pieces of paper "Not only things you want but I can make events you want to happen to become true"

"But there are two rules" He showed me two paper and wave it in the air

"Tell me then"

"The first rule you can stop anytime you want. I will disappear from your life instantly"

"What about the other rule?" I asked him

"After I make your request become true you have to give me something back but it's necessary that it's something personal. You got that thing by yourself not ask from me or anyone"

"Can you give me everything?" I asked

"Everything means everything" he removed sunglasses and stared my eyes "Are you interested?"

"Yes, I am"

"The contract is beginning now" he laughed and flipped finger

Three weeks later I started the first request

"Steve, I want to get quadruple salary"

"I thought you would never ask. I've been waiting for ages" He said, cleaned his Rayban sunglasses "And what thing do you want to change with it?"

"My laptop"

"No problem. You can prepare to be a rich man" he flipped his finger. It's just an old one. A shoddy laptop that I saved money to buy it. I will get quadruple salary. I can buy any good quality laptop from that money.

Two weeks later

"Steve I want to be a company owner" I looked at Steve. He was reading a newspaper "Can you make it to become true?"

"With pleasure, As long as you have something to give me back" He turned the newspaper to the next page "Wow! Cell phones today can wash dishes. I have to buy one"

"Hey, Could you please talk to me first? How can I be the company owner? What about the old owner?"

He folds the newspaper and lays it down. "It's not difficult. I just



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SOUTHERN STARS: Managing Editor of the *Phuket Gazette* Nick Davies congratulates the top three Southern Region entrants of the Dublin Literary Awards for Thailand on March 6. Pictured are runners up Ms Joy Corthesy (left) and Ms Nutthawan Srilertchalalai (right) and national finalist Ms Pawida Krachai (center).

make him disappear from everyone's memory"

"Exchange with my car then"

Steve flipped his finger "Good morning new company owner"

I laughed

"Steve I really hate the Microhard company owner. Do you know that company is quickly progressing" I said seriously "He sneered at me every time I met him"

"Is that so?" said Steve, picked my mother's ring up "Do you want him to die? In exchange for this ring"

My mother gave me this ring before she left this world. I really love it. But it was useless to keep it for this moment. She left me a long time ago. I prefer the Microhard company owner die.

"I agree"

Steve flipped his finger and threw the ring up in the air. The ring doesn't belong to me any longer.

I found that my request will become true after Steve flip his finger.

Time passed slowly, the request that I asked Steve are part of my life.

The richest company changed with all of my money before I met him.

The most beautiful house changed with my old narrow rented room

The most successful businessman changed with my old credit card

The most successful and famous businessman changed with my old cell phone

Everyone agrees in my opinion changed with my hockey stick.

Take everyone who doesn't agree in my opinion away from my life changed with my yearbook.

I could get everything I wanted as long as I had something to change with Steve.

Something that I got before I met him

"Steve I want the Riviera beach"

"The government's beach?"

"Yes" I answered "In exchange for my cyclist gold medal"

Steve shook his head "You changed it last year. You asked me to make the" organization stop begging you to donate. Don't you remember?"

"My text books then"

"You changed it"

"My glasses"

"You changed it"

"My watch"

"You changed it"

"My dictionary"

"You changed it"

I looked around. It was like Steve said. Everything around me now was from Steve. There was nothing that I got by myself. I was stunned with fear.

"You still have a Christmas card. Do you want to change it?"

"Ok go ahead"

Steve flipped finger.

I felt relieved. There was plenty of things I got by my self. I must get everything I want.

"Steve can you make Man-Ultraviolet win this season?" I asked him one day while we're watching the live football match at home.

Man-Ultraviolet is my favorite football team. I decided on this request after Man-Ultraviolet lost many matches this season.

"Anyway, Do I still have something to change with you?"

"Hmm yes, you do" Steve removed his sunglasses for watched the match clearly. "But I wonder if you really want to change it?"

"Change it. If you could make Man-Ultraviolet be the winner" I assured

"You said that by yourself" He wore sunglasses back and flipped finger

Man-Ultraviolet won every match and got the cup after they missed it for many years.

"Thanks a lots Steve. I haven't feel happy like this for long time"

"Never mind. I'll get the profit this time" He laughed

"And what is it?" I couldn't consider maybe it's something I forgot.

Steve gazed my eyes like the winner.

"It's your soul"

While the sound of finger flip is coming closer and closer.

"Come on Neil, Come out" He said with a cold voice "You can not hide from me your whole life"

My body was shaking with a fear. I didn't say a word.

"Maybe you are in this room"

The tall handsome guy in a suit with a tie, wore sunglasses, carried a suitcase was walking through the wall into the room

"Oh you are here. Where is my pay off? Your soul."

I drew back from him

"Steve, Could you please take something else instead? Anything but my soul" I tried to convince him

"Ha ha of course, But what?" asked Steve

I couldn't answer his question because I had nothing to change except my soul.

"Dude, The fact is I don't want your soul anymore. The soul of a greedy human like you"

He opened his suitcase and picked two pieces of paper out.

"Do you still remember the rules?"

There was silence between us. Steve continued to recollect my memory.

"The first law you can stop anytime but you didn't. There is no 'Enough' in your vocabulary" He walked toward me "You didn't care how many people got in trouble because of your greed. Have you ever heard the word 'Sufficiency'?"

I bet you haven't. How poor the human is! " He laughed.

"I used to think you will stop someday when you have everything you want. But that day never come"

I didn't say anything. Every word he said was true.

"And the second rule when you got the thing. You have to give me something back" He was in front of me "Give me your soul now"

I glanced at that book for the last time, 17 silver characters on the cover was so dull as if they tried to tell me that it's served me right. If that day I hadn't pick it up and read it. My sight is getting dimmer and dimmer. Finally it was replaced with darkness.

Once upon a time, I found a wonderful book. It brought a guy into my life.

Once upon a time, I found that he could give me everything I wanted as long as I had something to change with.

Once upon a time, I changed everything I had with him even my soul.

Once upon a time, I realized that I should have stopped the contract when I had everything and let him depart away from my life.

Once upon a time, I realized how important sufficiency is.

Once upon a time, I realized that it ended like this due to myself.

Once upon a time.....The tall handsome guy in a suit with a tie wore sunglasses put two pieces of paper back into his suitcase.

"Business is done" He laughed and walked out through the wall.



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Thalang's defiant last stand

By Tipwarintron Tanaakarachod

March 15 marks the culmination of Thalang's eight-day annual celebration, held in memory of two of Phuket's most significant historical figures.

In 1785, Burmese troops invaded Thalang, but their advance was halted and ultimately crushed. Much of the recognition for defeating the invading force was attributed to two heroic figures – Lady Jan and Lady Mook – who became famously known as Thao Thep Krasattri and Thao Sri Soonthorn.

a monument to the two women was erected in 1967 at the intersection of Thepkrasattri and Srisoontorn roads. As the celebration draws to a close, the *Phuket Gazette* looks back at the contribution these two 'heroines' made to the island of Phuket.

The daughter of Jom Rang Baan Kien and Ma Sia, Lady Jan was the oldest of five children. She grew up to become a beautiful, generous and courageous woman, loved and adored by her parents and relatives. When she came of age, her parents arranged a marriage with Mom Pakdibhuthorn.

From the marriage Lady Jan bore two children, a girl, Prang, and a boy, Thien. Following the birth of her son, Mom Pakdibhuthorn tragically passed away. Lady Jan would later remarry, to Phraya Pimon-Aya (Khan), who would later become Phraya Surinthaarach Pimon-Aya (Khan), with whom she would have another two children. When her own parents entered old age, Lady Jan, as the oldest child, assumed control of the family business in Thalang.

Like her elder sister, Lady Mook – the second child of the family – was smart, courageous and adorable. She also married, although no historical evidence has been uncovered, offering any clues as to the identity of her husband. After their father Jom Rang

Baan Kien died, Phraya Surinthaarach Pimon-Aya (Khan) ascended to the position of Governor of Thalang. As his wife, Lady Jan was appointed as an assistant to the governor – commonly known as *Mae Muang*. Under their guidance, Thalang Town was peacefully governed. However, after Phraya Surinthaarach Pimon-Aya (Khan) died, King Rama I ordered that Lady Jan be imprisoned at Pak Phra Camp to atone for the debt that her husband owed the country.

In 1785, Burma was under the rule of King Pudong of Ang Wa. In the same year, the Burmese prepared an invasion force of 144,000 soldiers, targeting Siam in their quest to expand the boundaries of the Kingdom of Burma. King Padung and his mighty army invaded and defeated Raman, Thai Yai, Maneepura and Ya Kai, and overran Pak Phra Camp where Lady Jan was imprisoned.

In the ensuing confusion, she managed to escape and make her way to Baan Mai Khao, Baan Saku, Baan Kien and ultimately, to Thalang Town. Meanwhile, Yee-Wun, the Burmese commander-in-chief, led his troops along the west coast, defeating Kraburi, Takuapa and Takuatung. The ultimate prize, however, was Thalang.

The Burmese troops confronted a despondent Thalang. Since the death of the governor and the imprisonment of Lady Jan, the town had fallen upon hard times. Fortunately for the people of Thalang, Lady Jan and Lady Mook devised a plan to defeat the invading Burmese. The pair gathered villagers from Baan Saku, Baan Nai Yang, Baan Mai Khao, Baan Kanan, Baan Lipon, and Baan Rieng and made their stand at Wat Pranang Sang to protect Thalang from the Burmese invasion.

The Burmese troops built a camp at Khok Chana Pama and prepared for their assault on



Much of the recognition for defeating the Burmese invaders was attributed to Lady Jan and Lady Mook, who became famously known as Thao Thep Krasattri and Thao Sri Soonthorn.

Thalang. In the meantime, Lady Jan, Lady Mook and the Department of Town Planning drew up plans to counterattack the Burmese troops. Their intention was to slow the invading soldiers down, causing their food supplies to dwindle. In a move of genius,

Lady Jan and Lady Mook dressed local women in the uniforms of Thai soldiers armed with tin-coated swords. This gave the impression that the Thalang garrison was filling up with fresh reinforcements, which served to demoralize the already tired and weary the Burmese soldiers.

The war lasted about one month. In the face of seemingly overwhelming numbers, the weakened Burmese troops finally retreated on March 13, 1785, a

date which later became known as Thalang's "Glorious Day".

After the war was over, King Rama I heard of Lady Jan and Lady Mook's courage in defending Thalang Town. King Rama I bestowed noble titles upon Lady Jan – Thao Thep Krasattri – and Lady Mook – Thao Sri Soonthorn.

The two heroines ruled Thalang Town together, and Thalang became peaceful once more.

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Srisaket stricken by historic drought

SRISAKET: The northeastern province of Srisaket has declared nine of its 22 districts drought zones, and the Moon River in neighboring Buriram is at its lowest in 10 years.

Srisaket governor Senee Jittakasem dispatched water tankers to nine of the province's 22 districts where ponds and streams had dried up: Phu Sing, Sila Lad, Nam Kliang, Rasi Salai, Non Khun, Benjaluk, Prang Ku, Khukhan and Phrai Bueng.

Gov Senee expressed concern that the dry spell would be long and other districts might be declared disaster zones.

The 10-kilometer Alang Brook in Phayu district was reported dry after five hot months with no rain, affecting some 2,000 families in four villages that depend on it for drinking and irrigation water.

One resident said the Alang hadn't dried up like this in 45 years and villagers had started to dig wells or buy water from tankers.

Hmong seek help from NHRC

PETCHABOON: Hmong refugees in Phetchaboon's Ban Huay Nam Khao on March 9 called upon the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to stop what they describe as forced repatriation to Laos by the Thai military.

They accused the Thai military, which oversees the camp of blocking food supply to them to push them to join the repatriation program.

Hmong leader Lee Sue said the Thai authority also arrested a number of Hmong ethnics in the camp, as recently demanded by Lao officials.

"We will never return to face punishment in Laos. I will fight until the end of my life to resist the repatriation," he said.

Thailand and Laos agreed in 2006 to repatriate all Lao refugees to Laos.

Last month, Lao Deputy Chief-of-Staff Brigadier General Buaxiang Champaphan visited the Hmongs in the camp to try and convince them to join the repatriation.

Lee Sue said Thailand should be grateful to the Hmong refugees, who helped to fight against Communist threats more than three decades ago. He urged the National Human Rights Commission to investigate the military's conduct, which has been forcing the Hmong to return to Laos against their will.

Sexual satisfaction low: survey

Just 30% of men and 16% of women in Thailand are 'completely' or 'very' satisfied with their sex lives, according to Pfizer (Thailand) Ltd's latest Asia-Pacific Sexual Health and Overall Wellness survey.

Among the findings, the survey revealed that nearly half of men and women in the region reported erection hardness of less than Grade 4 in the 'erection hardness score' that rates erection hardness on a scale of 1 to 4, with '4' being the desired optimum for satisfaction of both partners.

The survey was conducted with 3,957 sexually active men and women in 13 countries (2,016 men and 1,941 women) aged between 25 and 74 years who had indulged in sexual intercourse in the past 12 months.

Greater satisfaction with sex is strongly associated with greater satisfaction with life overall, according to the survey by Pfizer, producer of the erectile dysfunction drug Viagra.



Chiang Rai Municipality authorities spray water on March 8 to increase humidity in the air in order to reduce quantity of dust covering the area. The prolonged lack of rain, normal for this time of year, is now affecting most of the country. In neighboring Chiang Mai, the smog problem caused concentrations of particulate matter in the air for five consecutive days and counting by March 8, the provincial pollution control office said.

Gangster posed as THAI monk for a decade reform plan soon: PM

The Department of Special Investigation (DSI) has cracked a ring that allegedly sold Thai ID cards to nearly 300 illegal Burmese and Lao migrants at a cost of 100,000 baht each. DSI deputy director-general Suchat Wong-ananchai said the gang used reliable-looking figures to testify that the illegal aliens were born in Thailand to a Thai mother so that they could get the ID cards.

Three ring members have already been picked up. Pornsri Sornpaeng and Duangjai Lehkon were arrested in Nakhon Phanom for acting as agents looking for illegal aliens who would agree to pay a big sum in exchange for a national ID card. Weera "Toon" Pakdee, a Burmese, was nabbed in Phang Nga. Suchat said Weera sneaked into Thailand about a decade ago and spent most of his time here as a monk. "After staying at many temples, he headed down South. And after spending five years at Yan Yao Temple in Phang Nga, he was appointed an acting abbot," Mr Suchat said.

During his monkhood, he was known as Phra Azee Uttara. He had to leave the temple and become a layman on January 19 following a temple funds mismanagement scandal, he added. Mr Weera was suspected of embezzling donations intended for tsunami victims to pay for his Thai ID card. Many other illegal aliens have done just like Weera, according to the DSI.

They first enter the country as monks and after spending many years at a temple, they find a way to buy a national ID card and live a normal life. Such conduct hurts both national security and Buddhism, he said. The DSI was going after two more suspects, for whom arrest warrants were already issued, he said. The agency will also check how many government officials in Nakhon Phanom colluded with the gang and report the results to the Interior Minister, he said. Corrupt officials involved in the gang must also face criminal action, he said.

BANGKOK: Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said on March 8 that details of how Thai Airways International (THAI) is to be reformed to overcome its financial problems should be known in one or two weeks.

Giving an interview to reporters at Government House, PM Abhisit said THAI wants a financial rescue from the government, but the finance minister wants THAI to come up with a restructuring plan first.

Talks on the restructuring have been going on for sometime and details should be released next week, the prime minister said.

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



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ATM fraud nets three million baht

CHUMPHON: Residents of Lang Suan District have lost a total of more than three million baht after using an ATM opposite Uaychai Market, the biggest wholesale fruit market in the South.

At 1pm on March 7, five people came to Lang Suan Police Station to report that money had disappeared from their bank accounts. All five had withdrawn money from the Bangkok Bank ATM opposite the market.

Police went to look at the ATM and were met by another group of people who claimed to have lost money.

After filing a report with the police, the group, led by Ahama Molo, 37, Phonsak Suwannakot, 38, and Pranee Kongcharoen, 53, all durian exporters, went to the Bangkok Bank branch at Tesco Lotus, the only branch in the district open on weekends.

While they were discussing the problem with branch manager Sunida Sangket, more people claiming to have lost money

came to join the group, taking the total number to 20.

Miss Sunida checked the details of the claimants bank accounts and found that large transfers had been made from their accounts.

The incident was reported to Chumphon Provincial Governor Karan Soophakitwilekarn, who ordered the ATM in question be suspended. He instructed the Mass Communications Organization of Thailand's radio station in Lang Suan to run a bulletin warning anyone who may have used the ATM to check their bank accounts.

Police said that the ATM is an old model and that it is possible that criminals could have fitted a device to skim data from the cards of people withdrawing money from the machine. They are likely to have chosen that particular ATM as many market traders have large amounts of money moving in and out of their bank accounts.

It is not yet clear what compensation will be offered to those who have lost money.



One of three houses burned in a spate of robberies in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Khanom District in February. In each case, after breaking in and removing valuables, the thieves torched the houses to destroy evidence. Police are still hunting the perpetrators.

Student confesses to role in gold shop heist

SONGKHLA: Police have arrested a 21-year-old student for his involvement in an armed robbery on a gold shop in Haad Yai.

Chaiyuth "Palm" Chonphakdee, 21, was arrested in a rented room in the Din Daeng area of Bangkok on March 7. Mr Chaiyuth is the son of a Haad Yai businessman and studies at a well-known university in the capital city.

The arrest was in connection with the robbery of Sap Phaisan gold shop in Haad Yai on February 28, in which a man armed with a 9mm pistol made off with 74 baht-weight of gold jewellery worth more than 10 million baht. The shop is owned by a relative of Commissioner of the Bangkok Metropolitan Police Wiraphong Chiupricha.

Police said that Chaiyuth confessed to acting as a lookout

and getaway driver for the heist. Songkhla and the Metropolitan police forces are still hunting for the suspected gunman, Wachara Chonpakdee, 21, a relative of Chaiyuth.

Police said that Chaiyuth confessed that he and Mr Wachara robbed the gold shop as they needed money to pay off Wachara's football gambling debts. Chaiyuth said they had originally planned to murder the football bookie to clear the debt, but then changed their mind and decided to rob the gold shop instead.

Chaiyuth said that Wachara had taken all of the gold and had already sold most of it on the Bangkok black market.

Chaiyuth has been charged with conspiracy to commit an armed robbery and firearms offenses.

Second wealthy woman killed in Chumphon

CHUMPHON: A wealthy 68-year-old woman was murdered in her home in Sawee District on March 7. This was the second such case in little over a week, though police believe both killings to be family disputes and not related.

The body of Nuchan Panyarak was found covered with a sheet in her house in tambon Tha Hin. She had been beaten with a blunt object and strangled. Her killer made off with a one-baht-weight gold necklace she was wearing, but left other valuables in the house untouched.

Mrs Nuchan lived in the large house with her youngest son Wacharin Panyarak, 34. She was one of the wealthiest women in the province, but had already divided most of her fortune among her children.

A witness told police that before Mrs Nuchan's body was found, they had seen Phaithun Inthonchan, 30, a very close friend of Mr Wacharin, rush out of the house looking flustered. Mrs Nuchan had previously argued with Mr Phaithun as she believed he was after her son's money.

Police are now searching for Mr Phaithun.

The killing followed the murder of Lamiat Yalansajja, 80, another wealthy pensioner, whose body was found dumped in a bag opposite a police station in Chumphon's Muang District on February 27.

Police have questioned Mrs Lamiat's son-in-law, Somchai Khundeua, 45, after finding tape and plastic cord of the kind used to bind and gag the victim in his house. Police also found blood stains in the back of his pickup truck. Mr Somchai denied any involvement in the killing.

Deputy Commander of Chumphon Provincial Police Narin Bussawit said that a witness had reported seeing Mrs Lamiat walk to Mr Somchai's house on the day of her disappearance.

Col Narin added that he has ordered officers to watch Mr Somchai's actions carefully and arrest him if it looks like he is preparing to flee the area.

Two muslims killed in Yala shootings

YALA: An Islamic teacher was shot dead early on the morning of March 9 while riding his motorcycle home, police said.

Abdulhisi Saleh, 35, a teacher at the Ban Padu Mosque's Islamic school in tambon Lidlor in Muang District, was shot and killed at 1:10 am on a road in Batu Puteh village.

His friend, Usaman Yango, 29, was severely injured.

Police revealed that the two were returning home at the time

of the attack.

The attack followed the shooting of another Muslim man on the afternoon of March 6. Madoning Saha, 52, the owner of a teashop in Ngoh Gapo village in tambon Bannang Sata in Bannang Sata District, was shot and killed in front of his shop at 4:30 pm.

Police said two men arrived on a motorcycle and opened fire at Madoning before fleeing the scene.

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Irish pub gutted by fire aims for St Patrick's Day return

In a recent column, I documented the large fire at the local Ao Nang gas station, which totally destroyed the facility. Unfortunately, fire struck Krabi again last month. This time a popular pub – the Irish Rover – was severely damaged by a fire started by an electrical ornament that was left on after the watering hole closed.

Kevin Reynolds, the proprietor, is a well-known and well-liked expat businessman here in Ao Nang, who opened one of the first dive shops some 15 years ago. His family hails from County Longford in the Republic of Ireland, and six years ago he opened the Irish Rover pub, along with the Ao Nang Inn apartments above. The pub is the only authentic Irish pub in the area, boasting a complete restaurant and Irish band playing live music.

The Inn was full at the time of the blaze, but thankfully all the occupants escaped unharmed. The first floor was heavily damaged and the infrastructure gutted. Kevin said that only the efficient work of the local fire department kept the blaze from spreading to the adjacent buildings.

When he arrived on the scene at 4 am, there were already four fire trucks and rescue vehicles hard at work battling the inferno. The devastating blow suffered by Kevin and Dutch, his wife, to their business comes on the back of a poor tourist season. But despite the setback, Kevin is determined to rebuild and reopen as soon as possible.

He has a full contingent of workers laboring around the clock to be ready to open by St. Patrick's Day, on March 17. While Kevin admits that this

schedule is quite ambitious and that not all the facilities will be fully functional by that date, as long as the beer taps are open, his business will be too.

So let's all help support Kevin's efforts to re-establish his popular hangout by heading to the Irish Rover and having a few pints. Sounds like as good an excuse as any to have a beer! This high season has been stumbling along with mid-low budget travelers dominating the scene.

Guesthouses in the 500-700 baht per night range are fully booked, while the hotels charging over 3,000 baht are struggling with low occupancy rates and are forced to offer big discounting. The four- and five-star properties, such as the Sheraton and Sofitel, are reported to be especially hard hit. Two-star properties like the Best Western chain have initiated campaigns to woo customers who normally stay at three- or four-star properties by offering free internet and other services.

My resort on Ao Nang Beach has historically had a ratio of 85% pre-paid customers to 15% walk-ins or local bookings. This year, the ratio is reversed, with almost all the business coming from the lower budget walk-in customers demanding up to a 50% discount off the normal price.

An interesting side story of the downturn is the reluctance of the Tourist Authority of Thailand to release the December arrivals statistics. Who would want to make figures that show a decline in excess of 50% available to the public?

I just returned from Groningen in the Netherlands, where I gave a speech to the World Humanitarian Conference.

As I have lived in Thailand for 15 years now and only return to my native USA during the summer months, I hadn't experienced cold weather or seen snow in many years. Worse off, I had no cold weather clothes, and had to resort to borrowing them (from my Thai partner, of all people) to make the trip. The episode reminded me of that old saying,

"You have been in Thailand too long when..."

...You have to borrow cold weather clothes to visit your native home country.

...You can't wear your old dress shoes as your feet have flattened out from wearing sandals for years.

...Your toilet paper roll is on the table, not in your bathroom

...You eat your meals with your fingers.

...If you bother to set the table, there is only a fork and spoon.

...grilled crickets don't repulse you anymore.



Pub owner Kevin Reynolds has a full contingent of workers laboring around the clock to be ready to open by St. Patrick's Day, on March 17.

...You haven't been to a girlie bar in years.

...You take four showers a day.

...While driving, you overtake another car in a no passing zone on a blind corner flashing your headlights.

...You enter an intersection in your car and turn on the emergency blinkers to signal you are going straight.

...You pop your zits using your motorbike mirror.

...You marry your *Mia Noy's* younger sister.



ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds

26 Mar - 11 Apr 2009

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Acquiring a taste for excellence

On the menu

WITH
Daniel Ogunshakin

Acqua

Located in Kalim Bay, a mere stone's throw from Patong, Acqua – the new high-end restaurant opened by Italian chef Alessandro Frau – boasts a view that few restaurants on Phuket can rival. Looking out across the bay, Acqua's carefully chosen position affords stunning views at sunset, as the dying sun dips beneath the shimmering horizon, where the sky meets the turquoise Andaman Sea; the perfect spot for an early evening cocktail or a sumptuous meal.

Having previously attended the hugely successful opening night, and therefore having already sampled Alessandro's take on fine dining, the prospect of returning so soon and reviewing the restaurant was enough to set my taste buds tingling.

Approaching the venue at night, the outside is tastefully lit, offering an intimate, *al fresco* dining experience cooled by a gentle sea breeze. Stepping inside, the effect is mirrored, this time in air conditioned comfort.

The entire restaurant has been furnished with chic simplicity in mind, although no stone has been left unturned when it comes to the little details that matter. The yin and yang decor of black and white offset each other perfectly, creating a stylish appearance suitable for a date, anniversary or group celebration, all of which was taken into consideration during the planning stages.

"After nine years of working in the restaurant industry, Acqua is how I believe a restaurant should be," chef Alex said.

"The design is very detailed, not only the interior design, but in the table- and kitchenware. The idea was to create a clean, fresh,



The delicious roasted lamb rack with pecorino cheese crust, roasted potatoes and braised shallots in lamb sauce. The wonderfully presented oyster tower.



young and elegant atmosphere for people who enjoy their food," he added.

After finally sitting down and taking a moment to peruse the menu, I was faced with a dilemma – what on earth was I going to have? The carefully crafted *Carta del giorno* was crammed with mouthwatering delights tempting us, nay, begging us to sample them, all made from the finest imported ingredients. Freshly made soups, tuna, *foie gras* and artichokes to name but a few starters, perhaps followed by home-made pasta and ravioli, risotto, belly pork, lobster or cod among other dishes – it was hard to pick just one starter and one main. After several minutes spent deliberating and salivating, we

selected the aged Parma ham versus Jamon Patanegra with baby buffalo mozzarella and giant marinated olives, and the Acqua signature Italian cold cut selection with ricotta cheese and marinated olives as appetizers, accompanied by a crisp Chilean Sauvignon Blanc (*Sol de Chile "De Aguirre" 2007*) – white wine with red meat, philistines I know – chosen from a cellar containing 120 wines from around the world. For main, roasted lamb rack with pecorino cheese crust, roasted potatoes and braised shallots in lamb sauce and grilled grain-fed beef tenderloin, on a potato and spinach purée, gravy juice and mixed wild mushrooms.

As we waited patiently for our *hors d'oeuvres*, we were

presented with a selection of different breads, accompanied by olive oil and balsamic vinegar to sate our ever-growing hunger. If that weren't enough, four oysters suddenly appeared, beautifully presented in a tall dish filled with crushed ice, resting on a container filled with water and 'smoking' dry ice – the effect was spectacular. Once our appetizers arrived, conversation was abruptly brought to a halt. Both were exceptional, with presentation to match.

The battle between the aged Parma ham and the Jamon Patanegra was declared an equally delightful draw, while the selection of Italian cold cuts provided stiff competition to both, the flavors wonderfully enhanced by

the Sauvignon Blanc. Once the plates were cleared, all thoughts turned to the main event. Choosing a smooth Chianti (*DOCG "Ruffino" 2006 Toscana, Italy*) to complement our dishes, the wine and the fantastic flavors produced a delectable cocktail of delight. Both the lamb and the beef were tender and cooked to perfection, offering pleasure with every bite; tempting you to savor every mouthful but forcing you to finish at the same time.

After finishing our main course, the attentive staff did just enough arm-twisting to tempt us with dessert and we plumped for the Illy coffee-flavored *tiramisu* and warm chocolate cake melting inside served with vanilla sauce and milk ice cream.

The *tiramisu* was delicious, with just the right amount of coffee, while the chocolate cake, as its description might suggest, was an orgasm for the taste buds. Rich, warm and gooey and intermingled with the vanilla sauce and milk ice cream it brought us to the peak of gastronomic ecstasy.

Forgoing a choice of three brands of coffee, we sat back to reflect on a fabulous meal. The food was superb and the service was sharp and attentive, making sure our every need was met.

As one would expect from a high-end restaurant that imports 85% of its produce, the cost of dining at Acqua is firmly entrenched in the upper echelons of the market. However, given the location, the design, the quality of service and superlative food, the end justifies the means as it were. *Bellissima! Grazie.*



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Lead Agent

Hin Lek Fai



Hin Lek Fai's last visit to the Phuket Brewery was for the mega venue's grand opening back in November 2008. The performance was such a hit that the Brewery invited the group back for more.

Hard rock shook Phuket recently when Thai heavy metal outfit Hin Lek Fai (Stone Metal Fire) played a two-hour set at the Phuket Brewery.

Since forming back in 1993, Hin Lek Fai has undergone two name changes – the band has recently renamed itself “Sun” – and seen various members of the line-

up come and go, although vocalist Pathompong ‘Pong’ Sombatpibun and lead guitarist Chakarin ‘Pop’ Duangmaneeratanachai have remained ever-present over the years, appearing on each of the band's five albums.

In its latest incarnation, Sun has moved away from its origi-

nal heavy metal roots, incorporating elements of jazz, pop and rock into its repertoire. The group's plans to hold an orchestral concert had to be postponed recently, having been advised to first complete their album, the self-titled *Sun*. The band were also forced to shelve plans to stage a rock musical when sponsorship be-

came hard to secure in the unfolding economic crisis. This meant that Sun – who will always be known to their legion of die-hard fans as Hin Lek Fai – had a little time on their hands; time enough to pop down to the Phuket Brewery to entertain the crowds.

During their visit to the island, Hin Lek Fai's “Pong” and “Pop” spoke to the *Phuket Gazette* about their upcoming album, life on the road and what lies ahead for the pair. “We spend a lot of our time playing pubs and clubs around the south of the country,” Pop told the *Gazette*. “This is something that we really enjoy doing, singing to people about real life and real issues, and so far we have not made any plans to perform overseas. Sometimes, we get invited by Nga from Caravan to perform together in the pubs,” he added.

The band's new album, consisting mostly of rock, is due out in the middle of this year, almost three years after their last offering, an acoustic collection. “We're not sure if we will release an album in the future featuring our old songs,” Pop said. “Actually I prefer to keep moving forward, writing and performing new songs, but we are thinking about maybe including one or two of the old songs as bonus tracks on the new album,” he added.

Pong is currently under contract with RS Promotions and is therefore unable to discuss the direction that the new album should take, although they assure the *Gazette* it will remain within the metal-rock genre. Pop, however, is presently not contracted to any label.

The *Gazette* asked the veteran rockers about the raft of younger bands who have taken to playing their music. “We are always delighted to hear other bands playing our songs, especially the well-known numbers such as *Longkol* (Be Tricked), *Palangrak* (Love Power), *Ngay Gernpai* (Too Easy) and so on,” said Pong. “Normally after making an album, we have a big concert. So, when our new album comes out around the middle of this year, we are thinking about

following it up with a large gig as usual,” he added. Their last visit to the Phuket Brewery was for the mega venue's grand opening back in November 2008. The people enjoyed their performance so much that the Brewery invited them back for more.

Despite the obvious allure and razzmatazz of the big concerts, the pair nevertheless confess to a fondness for playing smaller, more intimate gigs, like pubs, as these are what enable the band to really connect and get close to their audience.

After so many years in the business, the band's familiarity with the material and their ‘feel’ for a crowd have enabled Hin Lek Fai to know instinctively which song to play at any given time during a show.

Following the success of their last two visits to Phuket, Pong and Pop say that they would love to return to the island, and especially to the Phuket Brewery, because of its exceptionally good sound quality.

They would be happy, they declare, to share the stage with any band, although their preference would be with one of their all-time favorites, Aerosmith.

Growing up, the pair spent most of their time listening to foreign artists.

Little surprise then that they should list as their favorites such greats as Ozzy Osbourne, Michael Schengker and Aaron Mindel. Among the Thai musicians that they most admire, Laem Morrison was the first that came to mind. On the subject of the future of

heavy metal, Pop comments, “In Thailand, heavy metal will never die out, even though some people say that this kind of music is unfashionable these days, especially compared with indie or ska music.”

“Ten years ago, people were describing Hin Lek Fai as indie. I know a lot of people who are currently playing heavy metal music that will still be popular 10 years from now,” he observed. Whenever Sun returns to Phuket they're certain to be a hit.

-Atchaa Khamlo





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EXPAT GALLERY

David Shrubsole

David Shrubsole might best be called Phuket's impresario of culture. He is definitely the most dynamic local producer of events such as the recent Fringe Festival at The Playhouse, Patong Beach.

"We need to offer the international visitors a variety of entertainment to keep Phuket appealing. When we expect a downturn in visitor arrivals, it means we have to be more creative and inventive about attracting the world to our island," he says.

David has spent most of his life producing entertainment events, both in Thailand and in his native Australia. He was born in South Australia and was an indifferent student, he says, until he saw a television program featuring celebrity hair stylist Peter Coker. When the 16-year-old David heard that Coker was offering a three-year apprenticeship, he competed with over a hundred applicants and was chosen for the coveted position.

"Being a hairdresser is the most privileged of careers. It provides the perfect opportunity to listen to people and learn from what I call 'The Bible of Life'."

He worked with Peter Coker for sixteen years and bought the business when he was just 32. During that time he be-

came adept at working with wigs and make-up for the Adelaide Theatre Trust which produced the local Fringe Festival and theatrical and operatic productions. On television, he gave advice on the latest hair and beauty treatments on 'Adelaide Today', and was a popular Master of Ceremonies for big fashion events.

But a holiday in Bangkok in 1996 changed his life as he was strongly attracted to the city's energy after nearly half a life in sleepy South Australia.

He met Yupin McCloud who operated the Best Salon at the prestigious Oriental Hotel and she offered him a two-year contract. It was an offer he did not want to refuse. He immediately began working with the hair and make-up of the city's international high society ladies, and even styled such celebrities as Margaret Thatcher and Elizabeth Taylor.

After another position as Spa Manager at the Westin Banyan Tree Hotel on Sathorn, David's reputation as a stylist spread. He was offered the opportunity to work as Creative Director of the Icon Boutique Hotels, first in Pattaya and then in Phuket. He designed his own line of male underwear, and produced fashion events and enter-

tainment at Bangkok's Icon Club on trendy Soi 4.

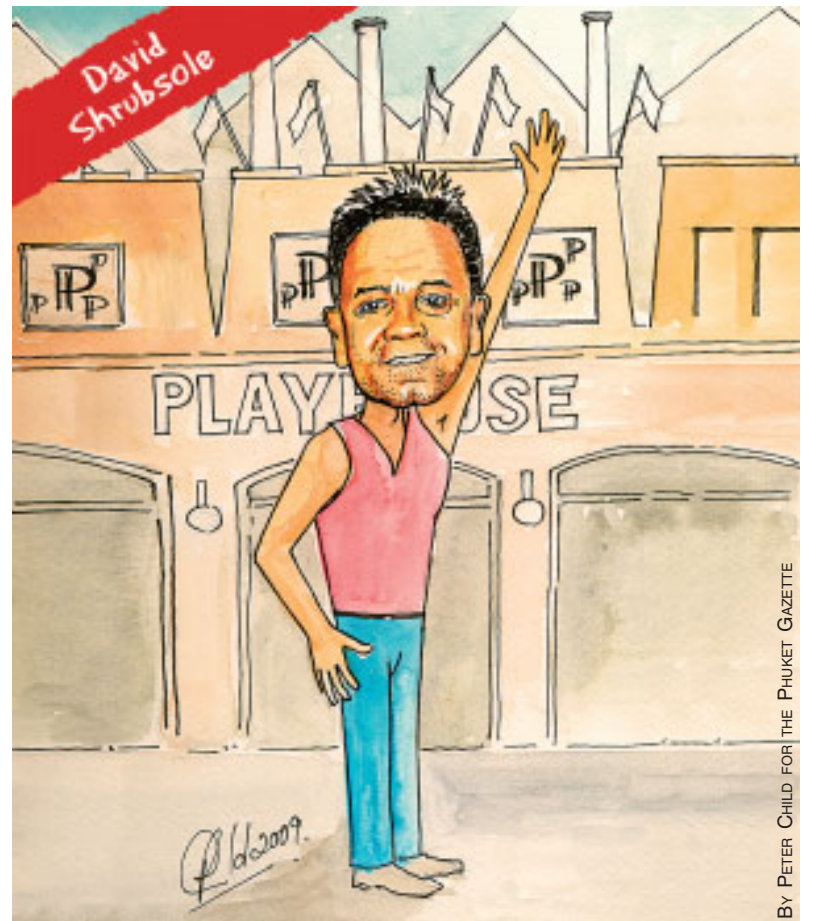
David was then asked to open a show theater on Phuket. He designed a 75 seat cocktail space with a full professional stage that has presented the highlights of the world's best musical theater since 2002. After some impressive renovations, The Playhouse now offers two 45-minute shows nightly, featuring a song and dance review with a resident cast of professional dancers. It's a show one would expect in Las Vegas but certainly not in Phuket.

He is already planning the 2009 Fringe Festival by developing relationships with both Phuket's and the region's arts communities. He plans for this year's Fringe to present the best performances in Asia by working with people who are passionate about their craft.

David is also the Group Creative Director of Manathai Hotels and Resorts, which has properties in Chiang Mai and Phuket. He has designed and styled all parts of the properties at both locations. These resorts now reflect his attention to detail in providing an authentic Thai environment for his guests.

"I think of what I've done as an apprenticeship for what is up ahead. I want to take each life experience as a move in a new direction. I am not afraid to move forward. I think the best will be up ahead."

— Bruce Stanley



BY PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

ABOUT EXPAT GALLERY

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



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JOB'S WORTH: Thai reggae legend Job 2 Do performed in front of a packed crowd at the Reggae Full Beach Party at the Ska Bar in Kata on February 27. Almost 1,000 people crammed into the corner of Kata Beach to see the Thai superstar strut his stuff on-stage.



GOING DUTCH: The K1 classes from Kajonkietsuksa School performed songs and dances for the children of the Holland House Children's Home and Orphanage on February 11. The aim of the event was to give students the chance to spread some happiness and fun with less fortunate children and to teach them about being good, sharing and showing kindness to others.



CAPTAIN ON DECKS: Seduction Discotheque in Patong was treated to a special appearance recently of the legendary Louie Vega – one of the originators of House music – who spun for an intimate crowd of 300, taking them on a non-stop 4-hour dance journey.



LOVE PHUKET LOVE OUR PLANET: The Love Phuket Love Our Planet campaign, organized by Central Festival, was launched on February 13. The campaign has been introduced to help preserve mangrove areas, the Klong Pi national forest, and other precious eco-systems. Pictured (from left) are: Mr Yotin Tamajamrat, Director of Corporate Communications; Miss Kronkanork Junprasadporn, Operations General manager; Mr Songphol Pongrapeeporn, Marketing General Manager; Mr Panut Pukpo, General Manager of Central Festival Phuket; and Ms Nittaya Yangyuen, Managing Director of Niya Media Co Ltd and DJ on FM 108 Mazz Radio.



LET THE MUSIC PLAY: Siam Music Yamaha celebrated the grand opening of a new music school branch in Phuket City on February 15. Phuket Governor Dr Preecha Ruangjan joined other dignitaries for the celebration and ribbon cutting ceremony. The Oitwatit band from Muang Phuket Municipal school joined popular Thai pianist and singer Saksit "Tor" Vechsupaporn to perform a mini-concert.



SILK ANNIVERSARY: Silk Air celebrated its 20th anniversary at the Phuket Merlin Hotel on February 27. The party was attended by some 120 guests from various travel agencies, airport authorities and operating departments, interliners and the members of the media. Pictured are (from left): Squadron Leader Wicha Nernlop, General Manager of Phuket International Airport; Mr Tan Han Soo, Manager of Silk Air Thailand; Mrs Jongrak Tandaves, Station Head of Malaysia Airlines and Mr Sutthisak Pungtamawatthanakun, Manager of Phuket Dragonair.



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Moon Salutation

Just as the moon, emitting no light of its own, reflects the light of the sun, the practice of the Moon Salutation reflects that of the Sun Salutation. The sequence of *asanas* is the same as the Sun Salutation, except that *ardha chandrasana* (Crescent Moon pose) is performed after *ashwa sanchalana-sana* (Equestrian pose). This posture develops balance and concentration, adding another dimension to the practice.

Whereas the 12 positions of the Sun Salutation relate to the 12 zodiac or solar phases of the year, the 14 positions of the Moon Salutation relate to the 14 lunar phases. In the lunar calendar, the 14 days before the full moon are known as *sukla paksha*, the bright fortnight, and the 14 days after the full moon are known as *krishna paksha*, the dark fortnight. The name of each day introduces each *asana* and is used as a basis for learning the days of the lunar cycle. The lunar energy flows within *Ida nadi*, and

has cool, relaxing and creative qualities. *Ida* is the negative, introverted, feminine or mental force which is responsible for consciousness.

It is advisable to learn the Sun Salutation before attempting the Moon Salutation as the postures are the same for both, except for one extra pose. In the Moon Salutation the added pose is inserted in the sequence at positions five and 12. The Moon Salutation is best practiced late evening or at night – especially when the moon is visible – or at dawn during a full moon. When practiced at night, ensure the stomach is empty. Duration: For physical benefits practice three to 12 rounds quickly, and for spiritual benefits, slowly practice three to seven rounds.

Contraindications: People with back conditions should consult a medical expert before commencing this practice. Although some back conditions may be alleviated by this practice, problems such as a slipped disc and sciatica will be better managed through an alternative *asana* program. Com-

pletely avoid this practice if suffering from a hernia or intestinal tuberculosis.

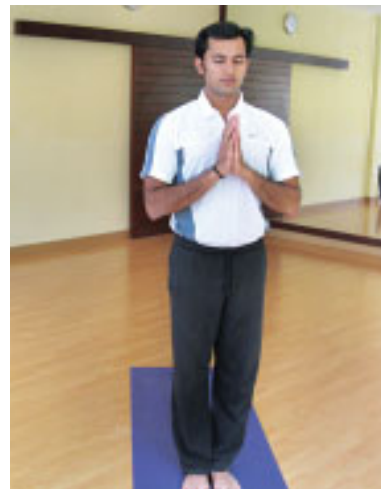
Benefits: The movements in this series widen and loosen all of the spaces around the pelvis, hips, knees and ankles, allowing the life force to enter into them, healing, stretching, strengthening and relaxing. A healing energy is felt from the blood circulating throughout the body. The possibility of eventually sitting in the Lotus position can be realized. The solar plexus and sexual organs get an inner massage.

The blood is cleansed of toxins and enriched with oxygen. The body and mind are relaxed. Not a drop of energy is wasted. Just the opposite in fact; there is a feeling of strength that fills the entire body. Before beginning the Moon Salutation, a few moments should be allowed to prepare the body and mind.

Stand upright with the feet together, the eyes closed and arms by your sides. The weight of the body should be evenly distributed on both the feet. Try to observe any spontaneous movement of

the body as it relaxes. Gradually become more aware of the natural flow of breathing with each inhalation and exhalation. Then include awareness of the move-

ment in the body with the rhythm of breathing. Retain this awareness for a few moments. Slowly become aware of the whole body in the standing position.



Position 1: Pranamasana (Prayer Pose) Stand upright with your feet together and eyes closed. Slowly bend the elbows and place the palms together in front of the chest in *namaskara mudra* (as shown in first picture), mentally offering homage to the sun, the source of all energy. Breathe normally and relax the whole body.



Position 2: Hastha Utthanana (Raised Arm Pose) While inhaling, raise and stretch both arms above the head with arms separated, shoulder width apart. Bend the head, arms and trunk backward. **Benefits:** Tones the spinal nerves, opens the lungs and removes excess weight.



Position 3: Padahasthasana (Hand to Foot Pose) While exhaling, bend forward until the fingers or the palms of the hand touch the floor on either side of the feet, keeping your legs straight or bent at the knees. Try to touch your knees with the forehead without any strain to your back and neck. Do not be alarmed; it's very common to feel the deep stretch at the back of your legs (Stretching hamstring muscles). **Benefits:** Improves digestion and helps to remove constipation.

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Position 4: Ashwa Sanchalanasana (Equestrian Pose) Inhaling, stretch the right leg back as far as possible, keeping the foot flat and toes pointed. At the same time, bend the left knee, keeping the left foot on the floor in the same position, with the arms straight. In the final position, the weight of the body should be supported with both hands, the left foot, right knee and right foot. The head should be tilted backward, the back arched and the inner gaze directed upward. **Benefits:** Improves the function of abdominal organs by massaging them, and strengthens the leg muscles.



Position 5: Ardha Chandrasana (Crescent Moon Pose) Maintaining your balance while inhaling, raise and stretch both arms over the head, keeping the palms together. Arch the back and look up, raising the chin as high as possible. There should be a gentle curve from the tips of the fingers to the tips of the toes, resembling a crescent moon. Hold the pose for a short time. Lower the hands to the floor on either side of the right leg, while exhaling as in position four. **Benefits:** This practice develops a sense of balance and gives the front of the body a good stretch.



Position 6: Plank Pose While exhaling, move the right leg back to meet the left and align the whole body like a plank of wood. Keep the heels vertical to the floor, contract the muscles of thigh and pull up the knee cap, wrist resting under the shoulder. **Benefits:** Strengthens the shoulders and the muscles of the arms.



Position 7: Balasana (Child Pose) Drop both knees on the floor, keeping the feet flat with toes pointed. While exhaling move the body back, rest the buttocks on the heels. Do not re-place your hands in order to move your body back. **Benefits:** Stretches the shoulders and back muscles.



Position 8: Ashtanga Namaskara (Salute with Eight Parts or Points) Keeping the trunk parallel to the floor, actively exhale and lower the chest between your palms on the floor. In the final position, the knees, chest and chin should touch the floor simultaneously. The buttocks, hips and abdomen should be raised. **Benefits:** Strengthens the legs and arm muscles, develops the chest.



Position 9: Urdhva Mukha Svanasana (Upward Facing Dog) With a deep inhalation, lift the chest, abdomen and thighs up, stretch the arms completely and push the head and trunk as far back as possible, with or without resting the knees on the floor. The spine, thighs and calves should be fully stretched, and the buttocks contracted tightly. **Benefits:** Rejuvenates the spine, helps in removing lumbago and sciatica, and improves the elasticity of lungs.



Position 10: Adho Mukha Svanasana (Downward Facing dog) Exhale completely, lift the hips very high and press the heels on the floor. Straighten the arms, move the head inward towards the feet without strain, keeping the elbows straight and extending the back. Keep the legs stiff and do not bend the knees but press the heels down. In case your hamstrings are tight and it's not possible to press heels on the floor, bend the knees slightly. **Benefits:** Strengthens the ankles, makes the legs shapely.



Position 11: Ashwa Sanchalanasana (Equestrian Pose) This is the same as position four. Inhaling, bend the right leg and bring the right foot forward between the hands. Simultaneously, lower the left knee so that it touches the floor and push the pelvis forward. Tilt the head backward, arch the back and gaze at the point where the eyebrows meet.



Position 12: Ardha Chandrasana (Crescent Moon Pose) Maintaining your balance while inhaling, raise and stretch both arms over the head, keeping the palms together. Arch the back and look up, raising the chin as high as possible. There should be a gentle curve from the tips of the fingers to the tips of the toes, resembling a crescent moon. Hold the pose for a short time. Lower the hands to the floor on either side of the left leg, while exhaling as in position 10. **Benefits:** This practice develops a sense of balance and gives the front of the body a good stretch.



Position 13: Padahasthasana (Hand to Foot Pose) This position is the same as position three. Exhale and bring the left foot forward next to the right foot. With legs straight or slightly bent at the knees, bring the forehead close to the knees, without straining.



Position 14: Hastha Utthanasana (Raised Arm Pose) This stage is a repetition of position two. Inhale, raising the torso and stretching the arms above the head. Keep the arms separated, shoulder width apart, bend the head, arm and trunk backward.



Position 15: Pranamasana (Prayer Pose) This is the final position and is the same as position one. Exhale and lower the hands; bring the palms together in front of the chest.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island



Vimon Keawmark Exhibition Art Rendez-vous

Vimon Keawmark is a 36-year-old Thai artist. Through his work, the Nakornpatom-based artist portrays the human desire for passion that he believes is important for everybody, but sometimes concealed within. Don't miss the Vimon Keawmark Exhibition at Art Rendez-vous Gallery, March 13-19, starting from 7pm at 69 Yaowarat Road, Phuket Town.

For further information contact Patrick Bois. T: 076-219095.
E: art.rdv@gmail.com. W: www.art-rendezvous-gallery.com.

March 13-14. Aleenta's Second Annual Pampered Turtle Lovers Dinner

Come and help us help the turtles! Aleenta's second annual Pampered Turtle Lovers Fund Raising Dinner has been moved to March 14, 2009. Proceeds will be used to fund coastal marine research on the declining marine turtle population in the Andaman Sea. We are hoping to raise 500,000 baht this year. Tickets for the dinner are priced at 5,000 baht per person. Special room rates will be offered to guests attending the dinner, starting at 5,000 baht per room, per night with breakfast at the Ocean View Loft. From 6pm until 11:30 pm at Aleenta Resort & Spa, Phuket - Phang Nga. For further information contact Ms Ileen Prasad. T: 076-580333. E: helptheturtles@aleenta.com. W: www.aleenta.com.

March 14. Annual Mulligan Reunion Golf, Blue Canyon

The Annual Mulligan Reunion golf competition is open to all, up to a maximum of 72 players. The competition will take place over 18 holes using the 'Stableford' scoring system on the Lakes course. Prizes and buffet dinner held at the Canyon Terrace restaurant after the day's play. Sponsorship available. Company banners at 3,000 baht per tee, green or fairway. From 10 am until 9 pm at Blue Canyon Lakes Course. For further information contact Mr Vic Curran. T: 087-2636885. E: viccurran@aol.com, leebrook@access.inet.com.

March 15. FREE Computer Clinic - Chalong

From 10 am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Is your computer driving you NUTS? Looking for a decent Internet connection? Need to get a new computer,

or fix the one you have now? Join "For Dummies" author Woody Leonhard at his weekly Computer Clinic: help, news, tips, explanations and more, all in plain English, and absolutely free. Computer novices most welcome. Bring your questions. Bring your computer. Bring your lucky rabbit's foot. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 089-1960940. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com.

March 15. Cape Sienna SUNDAY BRUNCH with a twist!

Cape Sienna reinvents the traditional brunch! A Sunday brunch with a twist, hosted in the Plum Fine Dining restaurant starting on 15 March. 1,199 baht nett per person or 1,499 baht nett per person with a half bottle of wine. Don't miss it. A unique experience! On Wednesday, we fire up the grill! A sumptuous BBQ awaits you at the Poolside Restaurant. 999 baht nett per person or 1,299 baht nett with a half bottle of wine. From 12 pm until 4 pm at Cape Sienna Hotel & Villas,

Kamala. For further information contact Jorge De la Torre Koch T: 076-337300. E: food@capesienna.com. W: www.capesienna.com.

Mar 16. An Evening of Extraordinary Wines

From 7pm to 10pm at La Trattoria restaurant at the Dusit Thani, enjoy a Wine Dinner with Kai Schubert from Schubert Wines of New Zealand and Chef Felix from the Dusit's own La Trattoria restaurant. THB 1,800++ per person. For more information contact Ms Natsaran Jitpakdee. T: 076-362999. E: dtlfb@dusit.com

March 21. Wine & Dine with the "Superstars of Germany"

SALA Phuket, in collaboration with Central Wine Cellars, is pleased to present an evening with the "Superstars of Germany". 2007 Rieslings from Max Ferd, Richter Estate, Gunderloch and Balthasar Ress will be served with a delectable selection of Chef Jan's favorite German fare. The SALA poolside provides the perfect backdrop for a relaxed evening of culinary delights. Priced at 1,500 baht ++ including free-flow wine and the German-inspired banquet. Stay the night at SALA and enjoy special residents' rates from 8,500 baht +++ including an evening with the "Superstars of Germany" and breakfast for two. From 7 pm until 11:30 pm at SALA Phuket Resort and Spa. For further information contact T: 076-338888. E: info@sala-phuket.com. W: www.salaphuket.com.

March 22. FREE Computer Clinic - Chalong

From 10 am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 089-1960940. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com

March 27. Soi Dog Salsa

"Salsa" private beach party begins at 6 pm and finishes at 11 pm at The Chedi, Surin Beach, Phuket. Dress to impress in party/salsa attire. Tickets are 2,500 baht each and include a fantastic buffet dinner, plus free-flow margaritas, beer, wine and soft drinks. Music will be provided by Wave Entertainment Phuket

with the Sayonara Bella band and DJme. Salsa dancers will be on hand to entertain and Gary Holden will perform Master of Ceremony duty for the event. To help raise more funds at the event, there will be a silent auction and raffle with some great prizes up for grabs. See you there. For further information contact Cristy. T: 085-4734636. E: cristy@soidog-foundation.org. W: www.soidog-foundation.org.

March 29. FREE Mac and PC Clinic - Laguna

From 10 am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 089-1960940. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: www.KhunWoody.com.

April 2-5. Phuket Oilfield Classic Golf Tournament 2009

A golfing event for oil and gas executives and supporting companies - held for the first time in Phuket - to raise funds for Phuket Sunshine Village. Play takes place from 9am to 2pm at Club Andaman Beach Resort. For further information contact Mark Cameron. T: 081-7882843. E: mark@phuketoilfieldclassic.com. W: www.phuketoilfieldclassic.com.

April 6. Chakri Memorial Day

Chakri Day commemorates the

origins of the Chakri dynasty, founded by Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital. HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the Chakri dynasty.

April 13-15. Songkran Festival

Songkran (Thai New Year) is also known as the Water Festival. Held during the driest months in Thailand, *Songkran* is celebrated by Thais throughout the country by pouring traditionally only a little - but these days a lot - of water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

May 1. National Labor Day

Public holiday for all commercial workers, but government offices will remain open.

May 5. Coronation Day

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

May 8. Visakha Bucha Day

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the 6th lunar month, which usually falls in either May or early June. It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha. Miraculously, these events fell in the same month and on the same date in the Buddhist era.

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ON THE MOVE

Mr Alexander Mack has been appointed the new Director of Food and Beverage at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket. Alexander began his career at the Sheraton Frankfurt and progressed through a number of five-star hotel chains to the position of executive chef, working for, among other international names, the Amari Group, Thailand, Raffles-Swissotel Group, China and the Marriott Chain in Moscow, Russia. Before joining the Dusit Thani, he held the position of Executive Chef at Amari Coral Beach Resort, Phuket



Mr Brian Summers has assumed the position of Project Director for Destination Paradise Holiday Club after relocating from Cyprus to Phuket. Brian comes to Phuket with 11 years of experience in the Holiday Club industry, having worked in Australia, Singapore, Bali, Hong Kong, Greece and Cyprus. Brian spent time in the West Australian Police Force, where he received the highest bravery award in Australia, the Star of Courage award. He has also been awarded the Royal Humane Society Bronze Medal.



Mr Robert Bergwerff has been appointed the Director of Operations at West Sands Phuket. Robert has held several prominent positions in executive and operations management at many four-and five-star properties over the last 15 years, including The Hilton Hotel Antwerp and The Hilton Hotel Amst-erdam Airport. He also worked for eight years with the Accor Hotel Group in the Netherlands and Thailand. Before joining West Sands Phuket, Robert held the position of Executive Assistant Manager at Novotel Phuket Resort.



Russia: Putin its faith in gold



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

The global financial crisis is now impacting on the economies of many Eastern European countries, several of which have already applied for assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

This, in turn, has an effect on the economies of Western Europe, namely its banks, that lent heavily to Eastern Europe.

Hungary is a prime example where bank lending was not just reserved for the corporate sector. Many private individuals borrowed money for home mortgages from branches of Western banks operating in Hungary.

In terms of interest rates for borrowers, it was much cheaper

to fund their home purchases using foreign currencies rather than Hungary's domestic currency, the forint. Swiss francs became the currency of choice, with euro loans also popular.

However, in the past six months, the forint has fallen over 20% against the euro and Swiss franc and this means that mortgages and repayments have increased by over 20% for Hungarians, along with house prices falling.

Hungary's Government has approached the European Union for a financial bailout – covering itself and other Eastern European countries – to the tune of more than US\$ 230 billion. This application has been rejected.

The crisis is also being felt in Russia, where the economy has slowed dramatically and substantial falls have been suffered on its stock exchange (around 70%) and on its currency.

Apparently, the number of billionaires in Russia has fallen by 50% in the past year. President Putin has dropped in popularity and there have even been demonstrations against his government, although they were quickly stopped by the police. Putin and the economy are inextricably

linked.

However, Putin adopted a sensible strategy in prosperous times, and Russia's gold and foreign exchange reserves reached US\$ 500 billion. There has been some erosion to this amount because of the need to limit the fall of the national currency, the ruble.

The central bank, the Bank of Russia, has publicly announced that it is buying gold for its reserves. HSBC stated in mid-February that Russian gold holdings had reached a published amount of US\$ 365 billion.

This is a clever move by the Russians; they are major gold producers and central bank buying obviously helps the price, especially when others are aware of it. It is also a sign to foreign banks, mainly Western European, that Russian companies have a strong macro-economic background. This is important because many Russian companies have been funded by Western Europe and a substantial number of these credit lines are due to be repaid this year.

In the current environment this will undoubtedly be of concern to the lenders, in addition to other worries. The problems in

Eastern Europe and Russia are just more signs of this global economic tsunami; unfortunately this disaster is lingering and analysts are predicting that one of its next victims is American commercial real estate, namely office buildings and shops.

This, it is feared, will really impact on shoppers of all ages when they visit the mall.

Despite all the doom and gloom, there are some indications that a recovery is starting in China, but more on that next week.

Alan Greenspan has recently stated that the Obama administration's bailout is going to be too small to succeed. Greenspan went on to say that this is the most serious crisis to hit America since the 1930s, and overall he was gloomy about the future, despite not ruling out a recovery.

Business television channel CNBC produced an excellent program entitled *House of Cards* which they showed on President's day, February 16, repeating it again on several occasions due to high-demand. For anyone who feels they do not understand the current problems, this documentary, with interviews of various players and schematic presentations of how things worked, provides an excellent insight.

What was of particular concern was Alan Greenspan's re-

action to CNBC interviewer, David Faber. He was asked if he had been aware of the mortgage crisis that was developing in America during his tenure as Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, America's central bank. Greenspan stated that a staff member of the "FED" had drawn his attention to the matter and the scale of the developing problem. Greenspan's attitude was that had he brought it to the attention of Congress, the politicians would not have acted on the problem as they would not have wanted to stop the housing boom.

It would have seemed logical for Greenspan to have at least tried. History may well take a harsher view of Greenspan's lack of action.

More and more analysts are referring to a third forthcoming economic bailout package as well as TARP4. These, as we know, have not yet been announced, but many believe it is only a matter of time and money.

Richard G Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service and has over 25 years experience in this field. He can be reached at Tel: 076-381997, Mobile: 081-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th Web-site: www.global-portfolios.com

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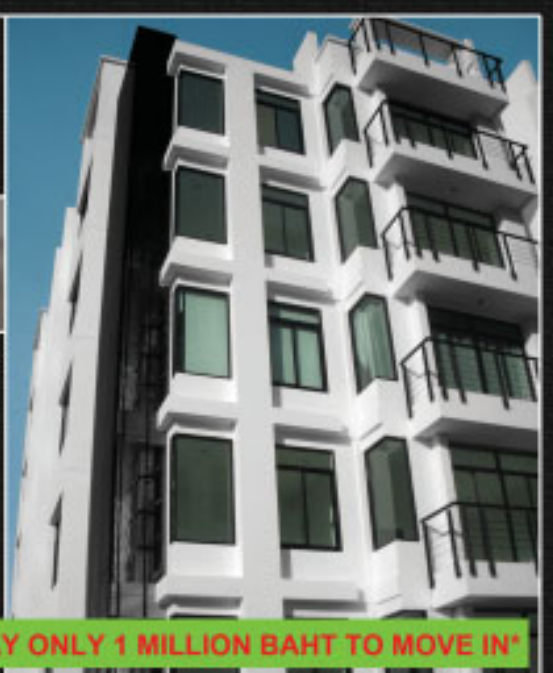
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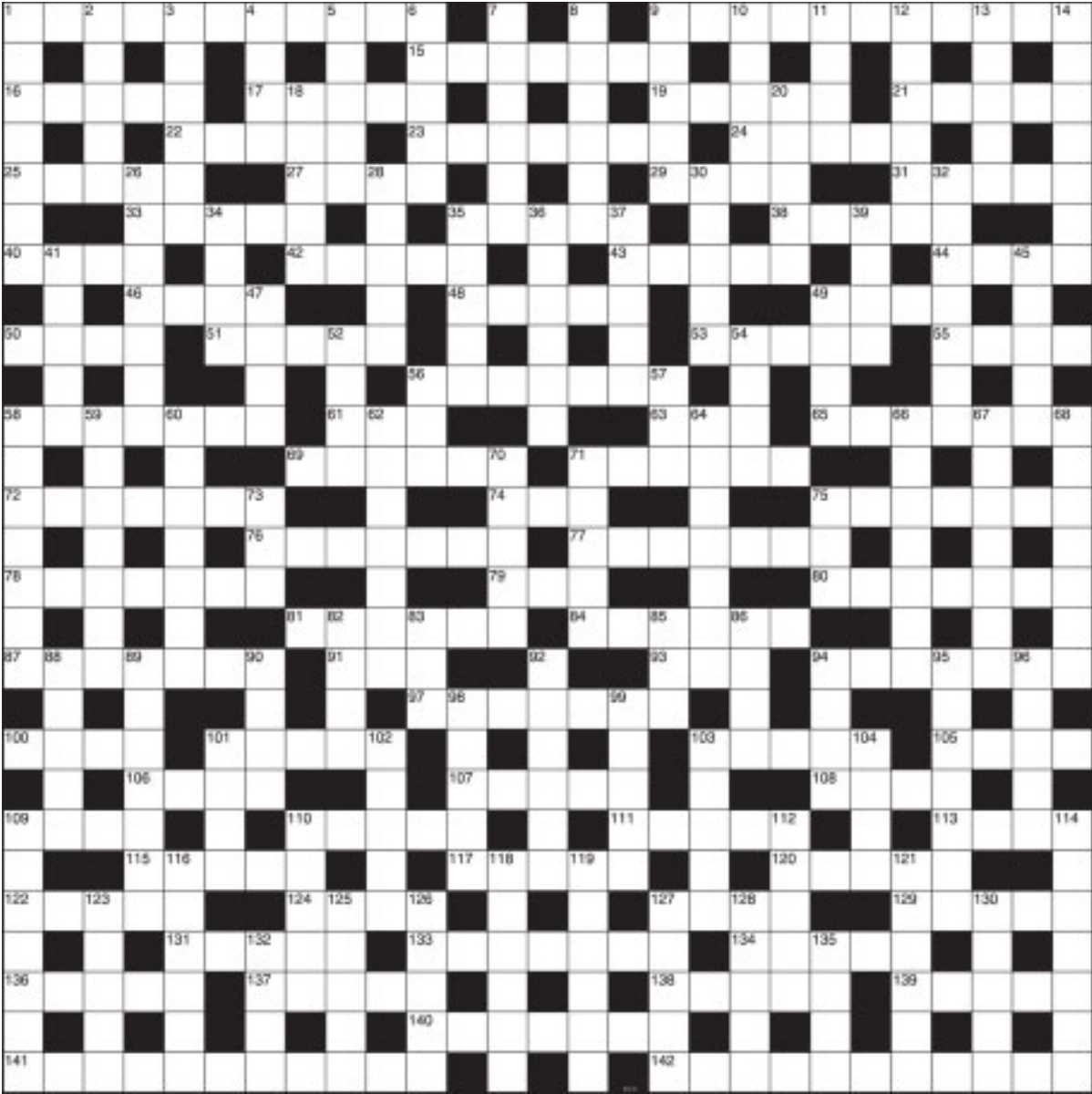
PUZZLES

Spot the Difference



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





The BIG Crossword

© Lovatts Publications Pty Ltd

Across

1. Advancement
9. Unobtainable
15. Continually (2,3,2)
16. Disconcerted
17. Revving engine's roar
19. Threshing tool
21. Gateaux
22. Sand particle
23. Painter, Leonardo... (2,5)
24. Actress,... Garbo
25. Indian class system
27. Early harp
29. Arduous hike
31. Large spoon
33. Matter of concern
35. Come up
38. Lodge firmly
40. Challenge
42. Hang loosely
43. Acted wordlessly
44. Exclusive English college
46. Reveal secret
48. Cavalry weapon
49. Profound
50. Travel permit
51. Clumps
53. Lettuce meal
55. Rupture
56. Modernise (software)
58. Most submissive
61. Grovel
63. Smash into
65. Infantile
69. Respiratory disorder
71. Prickly
72. Wine-serving jugs
74. Enemy

75. Sound unit
76. Stone fruit
77. Weakness
78. Interrupts (5,2)
79. Famous record label (1,1,1)
80. Show
81. Harpoon hunter
84. Yanked
87. Enclosed in box
91. Bullfight cheer
93. Actor,... Gibson
94. Stud farmer
97. Chivalrous
100. Supplements,... out
101. Trudges
103. Untamed
105. Customs fee
106. Tense
107. Emotional undercurrents
108. Click star,... Beckinsale
109. Thought
110. Sheikhdом, Abu...
111. Dodge (fare)
113. Saudi native
115. US Rockies state
117. Endures
120. Pit worker
122. Excelled
124. Unloaded weight
127. Parsley or mint
129. Bible song
131. Computer/phone link
133. Cleaver
134. Hi!
136. Lead-in
137. Utilisation
138. Prostitute
139. Gap in armour
140. Comprehend
141. Pointlessly
142. Tells off (7,4)

Down

1. Stern-looking (2-5)
2. Secretes
3. Mountain range tops
4. Fiji's capital
5. Perverse fate
6. Pseudonym,... plume (3,2)
7. Silver tray
8. Handsome youth
9. Unhealthy
10. Maxim
11. Wheel shaft
12. Site
13. Sweltered
14. From Asia
18. Annoyed
20. Aggravated
26. Decorative curtain cord
28. Harvests
30. Frisks
32. Adroitly
34. Tiff
35. Ancient Greek writer
36. Hereditary
37. Alter (text)
39. Haemorrhaged
41. Hymn,... With Me
45. Verbal exams
47. Actor,... Lancaster
49. Smear
52. Cloth flaps
54. Zenith
56. Expression of disgust
57. Slip up
58. Ghastly
59. Inconsistent
60. Pours forth
62. Moral
64. Curtail
66. Soil excavator

67. Drank (alcohol)
68. Gun holder
70. Behind
71. Suit
73. City,... Francisco
75. Colour (hair)
82. Cultivated (ground)
83. Table part
85. Greenwich Mean Time (1,1,1)
86. If not, or...
88. Nude
89. Refrain (from)
90. Fool
92. Suspect's excuses
94. Bird's mouth
95. Makes beloved
96. Spare
98. Blacksmith's block
99. Nuzzles
101. US wild cat
102. Step
103. Tongue of fire
104. Grassed section
109. Imbues
110. Adores,... on
112. Glowing coal
114. Yokel
116. Reduce in rank
118. Late PLO leader, Yasser...
119. To be precise (4,2)
121. Eras
123. Frequently
125. Accumulate
126. Nailfile (board)
127. Cut into shape
128. America's... Island
130. Mexican friend
132. Con
135. Camera glass

Solution on next page

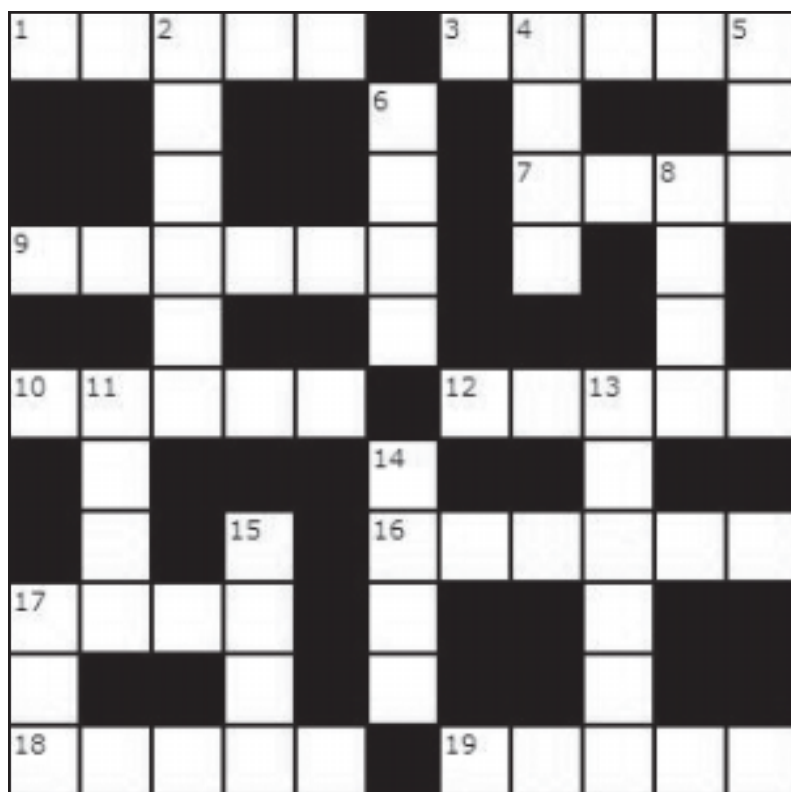
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Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

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



Quick Crossword

Across

1. Pursue
3. LP
7. Cork
9. Homicide
10. Magistrate
12. Japanese city
16. Advertisement
17. Bloke
18. Comedian...Hill
19. Jeans

Down

2. Admired
4. For kissing
5. Cup
6. Shady
8. Not pretty
11. US state
13. Baby cat
14. Ajar
15. Distance
17. Corn on the...

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with the

MONSTER QUIZ

1. What is the collective noun for a group of people walking behind a coffin?
2. How did Vincent van Gogh commit suicide?
3. Which wood is used for the black keys on a piano?
4. Which Nazi leader flew to Britain to parley with Churchill?
5. Which US President abolished slavery?
6. Who was the star of *Easy Street*?
7. What is the name given to the seat on the back of an elephant?
8. Which country governs Easter Island?
9. What sort of animal is Rikki-Tikki Tavi?
10. Who wrote the *Invisible Man*?
11. Who was the first European to sail to India?
12. In which country did the Anzio landing take place in WWII?
13. What is the capital of Trinidad & Tobago?
14. Who starred in *Seven & Johnny Suede*?
15. In which US state is Fort Knox?
16. Who is the only athlete to have set 6 world records in a single day?
17. Who is James Bond's CIA partner?
18. Whose children are Moon Unit & Dweezil?
19. What number is lucky in Thailand?
20. What is the full name of the Wimbledon championship?

Answers below



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Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick crossword



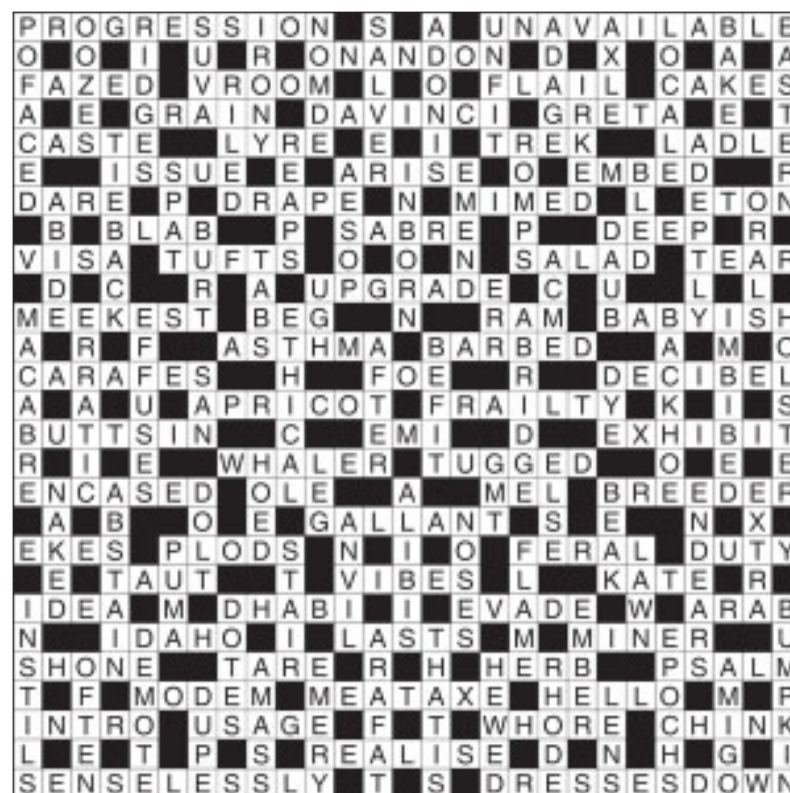
Monster Quiz Answers

1. Cortege; 2. Shot himself; 3. Ebony; 4. Rudolf Hess; 5. Lincoln; 6. Charlie Chaplin; 7. Howdah; 8. Chile; 9. Mon-goose; 10. H.G. Wells; 11. Vasco da Gama; 12. Italy; 13. Port Of Spain; 14. Brad Pitt; 15. Kentucky; 16. Jesse Owens; 17. Felix Leiter; 18. Frank Zappa; 19. Nine; 20. The All England Lawn Tennis Championships.

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Solution to this week's BIG Crossword



Solution to this week's Cartoon Puzzle



Phraya builds fortified residence following bloody riots in Phuket

LOOKING BACK

By Anand Singh

The previous 'Looking Back' article discussed how Phuket Town was first founded as a small settlement in the south of Phuket Island, with the belief that tin ores in the locality could be better mined and traded.

A few years after its founding, one of the first mayors of Phuket Town, the legendary Phra-Phuket Thut, managed to transform the small mining community into a bustling and lively town, prospering from local and regional trade, within a remarkably short span of time.

Towards the beginning of King Rama V's reign, the town was elevated to become the administrative center of the island, supplanting Thalang Town to its north. Due to Phra-Phuket Thut's good governance and sound administration policies, he gained royal favor and was officially promoted to the rank of 'Phraya' by King Chulalongkorn (Rama V). Hence, from 1862 onwards, Phra-Phuket Thut became known by his royally bestowed title, Phraya Wichit-Songkram. On the same occasion, the Phraya's eldest son, Lamduan, was also given a noble title and the job as mayor of Phuket Town, replacing his father.

When Phraya Wichit-Songkram administered the town, Phuket's mining industry was thriving and generated much revenue for the state. The required labor however, came from the massive influx of Chinese 'coolies' or laborers who immigrated to the island in search of jobs. In a letter from King Chulalongkorn written to Phraya Wichit-Songkram in the 1860s, the King expressed his concerns for the growing numbers of Chinese laborers, a group that the local government was finding harder and harder to control. Most coolies that labored in the island's mines organized themselves into several labor groups called *angyi* and were growing increasingly militant.

Unfortunately Phraya Lamduan did not prove his father's equal when it came to overseeing administration and trade. Unluckily at one point during his governance, the price of tin on the world market fell sharply. This led to massive problems for the governor, who suddenly found it impossible to pay the Chinese laborers their promised wages and at the same time, meet the central government's tin revenue demands.

Wages and other payments were delayed and accumulated over months. Things boiled over

and a major riot broke out in Phuket Town, led by disgruntled Chinese miners who were denied their pay at the end of their labor period, simply because there was not enough money in the governor's treasury.

The angry Chinese coolies unleashed their fury throughout the streets of Phuket Town. They looted and killed Siamese locals, burned shops and targeted government buildings in particular. As the violence escalated, it became apparent that the governor's mansion was in danger of being attacked and as a result, Phraya Lamduan and his family fled the town. When the crisis got out of control,

The angry Chinese 'coolies' unleashed their fury throughout the streets of Phuket Town. They looted and killed Siamese locals, burned shops and targeted government buildings in particular.

Phraya Wichit-Songkram, now governor of the island, stepped in and with the help of Chen Bun-nag, another Siamese noble, managed to crush the rebellion and restore peace and order in the province once again.

Following the incident, Phraya Wichit-Songkram moved his residence to Ban-Tha-Rua, just outside Phuket Town. Following the *angyi* riots, threats of similar violence in the future seemed more real than ever. The governor had to move his residence out of town where it would be safer for him and his family. Incidentally, Ban-Tha-Rua was also where the famous English Captain, Francis Light built his home during the late 18th Century, when he lived and traded in Phuket.

Phraya Wichit-Songkram's first house in the heart of Phuket Town has long perished over time. His residence at Ban-Tha-Rua, however, still exists for historians to study, although it has been left in ruins for years. One interesting aspect of this house is that many historical accounts re-

fer to the residence as 'Phraya Wichit-Songkram's camp'.

This term when used in the Thai language often refers to military fortifications and not ordinary residences or mansions. According to historical accounts written by HM King Chulalongkorn during his visit to Phuket, the Phraya's house was relocated to this site following a major Chinese rebellion on the island.

The King mentions in his writings that the governor's residence at Ban-Tha-Rua was completely surrounded by a large brick wall, as strong as those built to protect cities. On each side of the wall, a brick fort was erected

that was capable of housing cannons. Forts armed with big guns and other weaponry protected all four sides of the wall, meaning the governor's residence could

be effectively defended from any direction in event of an attack on the occupier.

It resembled more of a military camp than an ordinary mansion, heavily guarded and fortified. The reason the new residence was designed and built this way was to ensure that if such a riot ever took place again, the governor, his property and the provincial treasury would be effectively protected from rioters and looters.

Historians who surveyed these ruins found the walls to be 150 meters long on two sides and 160 meters long on the other two sides. However, behind the walls and the heavy fortification, all the necessary facilities to ensure the comforts deserving of a Siamese lord seemed available.

Within the perimeter stood a large complex of several buildings, that included an assembly hall, a theater, a pool and several wooden houses. Although the



A rare photograph of Phraya Wichit Songkram (Thut).

governor's fortified residence has been neglected for many years, many of its structures, which over the years have been gradually buried under the soil and vegetation, are now being slowly excavated and rediscovered again. Phraya Wichit-Songkram's residence is definitely one of Phuket's most fascinating historical finds.

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


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The Phuket Gazette

- Since 1994 -

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One step forward, two steps back?

To its credit, the current government has gone to great lengths to revive the ailing tourism industry in the aftermath of the Bangkok airport closures at the start of the current high season. The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) continues to pump money into its international advertising campaigns under its *Amazing Thailand* theme, following up with a series of 'roadshows' and 'mega-familiarization tours'.

The government has also taken measures to lure back more passengers by waiving application fees for tourist visas, decreasing landing fees at international airports and waiving parking fees for scheduled flights staying less than 24 hours – up from just three hours previously. Fortunately, the tourism outlook does seem to be gradually improving despite the global economic gloom. Leading low-cost carrier Thai AirAsia, which recently reported load factors on flights to Phuket up over the same period last year, says it would like to establish Phuket International Airport as a second aviation hub for Thailand.

Sadly, such positive developments could be offset by a series of alarming events which, taken collectively, can only serve to undermine tourist perceptions about the safety of traveling to Phuket. While reports of the island having the highest incidence of violent crime, dengue fever and HIV/Aids in the South are no doubt skewed by poor statistical analysis, chilling incidents such as the recent murders of two foreign businessmen and a spate of fires along the Patong beach road are not as easy to discount. [See news pages].

In addition to the tragic loss of life with the recent sinking of a Dive Asia vessel, tourists running the word "Phuket" through the Google search engine are now confronted with yet another reason to reconsider taking a holiday here: the recent police drug crackdown under which tourists – foreigners included – are being forced to submit urine samples for ostensibly 'random' drug tests.

The primary target is methamphetamine, a compound for which a wide variety of perfectly legitimate prescription and non-prescription medications are known to produce "false positives". The result of a false positive can be a real nightmare, quite possibly causing innocent tourists to face temporary incarceration or even miss return flights home.

Such tactics – unheard of in most countries – are of limited effectiveness in combating drug abuse; are completely incompatible with tourism development; and raise serious issues about human rights.

It strikes the *Gazette* as odd that police need a court-issued warrant to conduct searches of one's home, while nothing of the kind is required for them to send teams into a bar or restaurant and order everyone in the place to urinate in a cup and hand it over for analysis by persons unknown.

– The Editor



Letters

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

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

A-ok from the USA

From February 18 until 21, 2009, the United States Navy (USN) ship, *USS BOXER* (LHD 4) conducted a port visit to Phuket Province for some rest and relaxation following a long voyage from San Diego, California, USA. During the visit, over three thousand sailors and marines had the opportunity to enjoy everything that this magnificent island has to offer.

At the conclusion of the holiday, there was an overwhelming consensus amongst the troops that the visit was a success and that everyone had enjoyed a wonderful time. This was just one of numerous port visits conducted by USN ships over many years of friendship between Thailand and the United States.

Prior to and during the stop-over, there were many people who worked to make this visit possible and ultimately successful. I would like to give my sincere thanks to Governor Preecha, his staff and the members of Phuket provincial and city government offices for their leadership and advice.

I would like to thank the management and employees of Glenn Defense Marine Asia for their dedication to service.

I would like to show my sincere appreciation to the leaders and officers of the Royal Thai Police Region 8, the Immigration Volunteers and the Phuket Tourist Police Volunteers for working such long hours to ensure the safety of our personnel.

To the management and staff of the Patong Resort Hotel, thanks for your never-ending support.

Finally, I would like to thank the business owners, hotels, restaurant and bars; bus-, taxi- and tuk tuk-drivers, and all the good citizens of Phuket for the warm welcome they demonstrated. Everyone made a long and lasting impression on our personnel.

So thank you Phuket for your warm and sustained hospitality and friendship.

Very Respectfully,
Douglas H. Robinson
Chief of Naval Security
Force Protection
Detachment (FPD)
United States Embassy,
Bangkok

Stop the shops

As a resident of Bang Tao, I enjoy usually enjoy taking a leisurely drive along the beach road by Best Western towards Cherng Talay. In the past six months there have been no less than 10 new shops open along what used to be a beautiful green and open-spaced area. You guessed it, tailor, optician, tailor, optician, it's like two shops and a line of mirrors.

Of course there are now so many that shop staff have taken to the streets to nab any innocent looking passers by, harassing them to buy their wares. Coupled with the new hotel that has been built in this area, which resulted in so many construction trucks and workers rushing to get it open on time, the road now resembles the surface of the moon!

When will developers wise up that we need to protect the beauty of Phuket and stop senselessly creating more buildings!

M. Walker
Bang Tao

Road sense

It never ceases to amaze me how many people I see riding motorbikes without wearing a helmet or worse, using their mobile phones.

The roads in Phuket are dangerous enough already and many people lose their lives each year. The last thing we need is people acting so recklessly and inconsiderately.

As far as helmets are concerned, I feel the problem lies with people believing that it's 'uncool' to be seen sporting a helmet. Wearing a helmet isn't uncool, having your brains scattered across a busy road is 'uncool'.

What's more, I often see people placing their helmet on their heads when traveling through areas where police patrol – without bothering to fasten them – and then removing them as soon as they are clear – incredible.

As far as mobile phones are concerned, this simply beggars belief.

How can you control a vehicle when on the phone? I thought I had seen everything, then just the other day I saw a young man traveling at a reasonable speed, seemingly sending an SMS – what on earth were you thinking? Oh that's right, he wasn't.

I hope that the police crackdown on these reckless riders and hit them with massive fines that will deter them from repeating these mindless acts of stupidity. Ultimately, this will save their lives and more importantly, the lives of others.

Richard Joyce
Kathu

The Phuket Gazette

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Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials and/or business owners are published in *Issues & Answers* at www.phuketgazette.net.

Working together for a better Phuket



The Governor's Letter

As Phuket Governor, Dr Preecha Ruangjan prepares to bid farewell to the people of Phuket and head off to take up his new position as Governor of Phitsanuloke province in the north of Thailand, he takes stock of the current issues facing the island. In this, his final Governor's Letter, Dr Preecha talks positively about the current state of Phuket's financial affairs and developments in the tourist market. Water supply solutions are also on the agenda and Governor Preecha is not expecting the island to go dry just yet.

FINANCE

Phuket is holding up well at the moment but it's difficult to predict how the economy will fare in the long term. However, the picture will be a lot clearer after the Songkran holiday (Thai New Year) in April.

This month and next month, Phuket is hosting several important events, including the Thepkrassatri memorial festival, the Thailand Open golf tournament and the ASEAN conferences, all of which help bring visitors and revenue into the province.

Once these events have finished, we'll have to take another look at visitor numbers to see how the figures compare with those of the same period in previous years.

China represents a promising source for Phuket's tourism industry. A new twice-weekly charter flight from Shanghai to Phuket began recently. Each flight brings in around 300 tourists. This has opened the door to a new niche in the tourism market, and I believe more similar charter flights will follow soon.

This foothold in the Chinese tourist market is a result of marketing efforts by the TAT and businesses in the tourism industry targeting people in China with roadshows and other media, such as television features about holiday activities on the island and its natural beauty.

Resorts are generally seeing an upward curve in occupancy rates at the moment and local tourism is also being encouraged under the slogan "Thai teeow Thai" (Thais tour in Thailand). So for the moment, Phuket is faring well in terms of tourism revenue.

VISITOR RELATIONS

The space at Provincial Hall that has been designated to house the Phuket Foreign Affairs office is now ready and waiting for staff and equipment to be brought down from Bangkok. There is still no fixed date for completion of the move but a company has been sourced to organize the move and handle logistics. The office is expected to be in service, as planned, within two months.

WATER

Ensuring that there is enough water to meet demand throughout the year has been a top priority. A committee was set up a while ago to look into the issue of water supply around the island and work is already underway to establish small reservoirs wherever possible rather than relying solely on the large ones. Small and large reservoirs will also be inter-connected so that water can be better distributed between them – and to the people who need it.

New reservoirs will have to be dug in some areas, and those

locations are being considered at the moment. Water from the reservoirs will be distributed partly to the water authorities and partly to drinking-water producers.

The current water levels in the island's reservoirs are enough to last until May, but if it has not rained by then, the island will be without water. However, last week's downpours have brought the water levels up in the places where it is most needed, and if it continues to rain as it did last week, there is no cause for concern.

It is important to establish the reservoir network now, not only to ensure there is enough water for the coming year, but to save money in the long term.

Land prices will continue to rise, which will in turn make the cost of any future project much more expensive than it is now.

UNDERGROUND CABLES

Having recently put electricity cables underground along the beach road in Karon, there are plans to do the same in other areas, but it is a very expensive undertaking, so we are taking our time.

I hope that one day all of Phuket's electricity cables will be underground, but that time is still a long way off. Plans inevitably involve numerous parties – none of which are directly in charge of such projects – making progress slower than it would be

if being carried out by a private company led by a CEO.

MARINE CONSERVATION

Steps have been taken to preserve fish stocks and other marine fauna around Phuket by introducing fishing regulations, such as designating boundaries for fishing areas while prohibiting fishing in other areas and requiring that the fishing equipment used is of a certain standard and design.

Net fishing and trawling is strictly prohibited over known fish breeding and nursery grounds or where there is coral that needs to be preserved. Those who ignore the regulations can be punished by having their boat impounded and their fishing license suspended. Violators would then have to go to court and pay a fine to be able to continue fishing. We have to be strict about enforcing these regulations in order to get the message across.

The island's traditional fishermen, *chao pramong*, who are catching small amounts of fish, have been instructed on the size of hooks and nets they should be using. The *pramong* have their own 'Fishermen's Group' to ensure community participation in following these guidelines for sustainable fishing.

SAFETY

Road safety and the high number of vehicles on Phuket's roads re-

mains a major cause for concern. Already, there are as many motorcycles registered in Phuket as there are people registered as living here (300,000), and there are more than 200,000 four-wheeled vehicles registered in the province. Many of the cars on Phuket's roads are from other provinces, so they are not registered here. That's also true of much of Phuket's human population, with a large number of people living here but not registered as such, so the actual number of vehicles and people in Phuket is much higher than any statistics will tell us.

One significant danger is the ease with which youngsters can get on a motorcycle and ride it on the roads without any previous driving instruction.

To learn a new skill, one would usually learn the theory and then put what has been learned into practice, but that doesn't happen here. People are driving about without regard for the rules.

I've experienced it myself when stopping at junctions as the lights turn red, with the driver behind expecting me to race through the changing lights and becoming angry when I don't. More CCTV cameras are being installed around the island to assist in fighting crime. Of course CCTV cameras don't necessarily prevent crime – that's a difficult thing to do – but they have proven very useful in apprehending criminals and solving crimes.

Issues & ANSWERS

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

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

International nurseries and pre-schools

I've recently noticed that so-called "international nurseries and pre-schools" are being established all over Phuket. Do these schools have to follow certain procedures and obtain permits to operate as such, or can anyone just open and call themselves an "international nursery and pre-school"?

Do the buildings they operate in have to meet certain safety standards? What about their playgrounds, do they have to have some liability insurance?

Are the backgrounds of the owners, directors and teachers properly checked, bearing in mind the different scandals in the past

involving foreign teachers?

Walter G Goossens
Chalong

Phuket Educational Service Area Office replies:

It is legal for private schools and nurseries to operate without a license from the Ministry of Education (MoE), though we cannot guarantee their quality.

No international nurseries in Phuket have a license yet, although some have applications in progress.

There are four MoE-licensed international pre-schools in Phuket. They are the British International School (BIS), Quality School International (QSI), Kajonkietsuksa School and Rawai Progressive International School.

In order to issue an MoE license, we have to check the building, the safety standards and the school director's background.

The schools have to have liability insurance for their playgrounds. It is the responsibility of the school director to check the backgrounds of any teachers they employ.

For more information, contact Phuket Educational Service Area Office, Maeluan Road, Talad Yai District, Muang, Phuket 83000. T: 076-211591. F: 076-214553.

Soi Sansabai parking charges

As stated by Kathu police Soi Sansabai is a public road (21/12/2000 issue of Phuket Gazette).

Why, therefore, am I being charged 20 baht for the privilege of parking, as opposed to only one or two baht charged on Taweewong road and along the

beach road?

Also the street before Soi Sansabai – aka "expat lane" – used to charge 20 baht only after 7pm, but now they have started charging 20 baht from the middle of the afternoon.

I, like many expats, used to frequent the "farang breakfasts" in these sois, however many of us no longer eat there as we feel we are being taken advantage of.

Christopher Mclean,
Patong

Suntorn Nareephai, Kathu Traffic Police, replies:

Soi Sansabai is now the property of the owner of Baan Benjamas Village situated on that very street.

Because it's now a private soi, the owner has every right to charge people to park on it.



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

In 1940, Mortimer Adler, editor of the Great Books series, wrote an instructional tome called *How to Read a Book*. One tip I'd like to add is don't, in many cases, read the back cover or flyleaf. There are 30 or 40 of my favorite writers whose books I simply snatch off the shelf. I let them surprise me.

I did the same with Simon Schama's latest, *The American Future: A History* (The Bodley Head, London, 2008, 392pp). He has written 13 other books, including a trilogy on the history of Great Britain. I've read none of them but saw the BBC series he did on British history from the stone age to the present day. He's a British professor with a donnish air and a wicked wit.

So I was hugely surprised

by the first pages of his new book. The scene is the Iowa caucus in January 2008 where Barack Obama scored his first improbable victory.

The prologue opens, "I can tell you, give or take a minute or two, when American democracy came back from the dead, because I was there: 7:15 pm Central Time, 3 January 2008, Precinct 534, Theodore Roosevelt High. I know this as I was regularly checking my watch, and besides you couldn't miss the schoolroom clock, its old white face the object of generations of teenage hatred and longing."

What follows is 22 pages of high powered prose in the mad-cap New Journalism fashion of the young Tom Wolfe of the 1960s as he describes the night history was made. He was there for Obama's victory speech.

"Into the brutally modernist concrete convention centre flowed the full river of Obama Nation: black schoolkids in hot yellow t-shirts, ready to romp; elderly whites who looked as though they'd just come back from the Ponce de Leon Foun-

tain of Youth Weekend; college students waving their arms; and a whole lot of people in between. Up the escalator came the falsetto ululations that are – peculiarly – the American cry of victory, the whoops preceding the faces and bodies... Inside, the place was heaving and swaying, dancing and clapping. Gospel singing had turned it into the instant church of true believers and the congregation – for Iowa is not a conspicuously black state – was just about most of America: all sizes, races, generations."

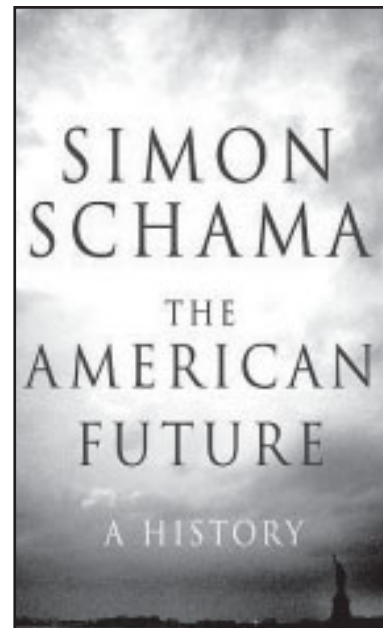
Next he is at Veterans Day ceremony in Arlington National Cemetery, November 11, 2007, where Vice President Dick Cheney is giving a speech. Schama watches him "move on to the next homily like a tank rolling over a cat". Again he scans the crowd: "Studded biker jackets, decorated with Viet Nam insignia – 'Hells' Harriers', 'Dragon Breath' – draped the gut-swaggered bodies of old grunts but behind the bandanas of yore they had lost their heavy-metal menace, their righteously roaring

grievance. Now they were just living exhibits in the museum of stoned age warfare, the walking wounded of the Sh-Na Na-tion."

From here he moves into the chronicle of the Meigs dynasty, a family of warriors whose men had played prominent parts in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War and World War II. He adopts more of a conventional historian's tone, only to rev up the prose on his return to the present and a meeting of Hispanic veterans at the Drop-Zone Cafe, San Antonio, Texas on March 3, 2008.

The pattern is set, moving back and forth between past and present, delving into the origin of the American form of government, religious revivals, the great immigrant movements, the Cherokee Nation, the Dust Bowl, the civil rights movement. Over all is Obama's call for renewal:

"Listen to me, says Obama, listen to me and you will catch the American future. But I pay attention and hear the American past, not a dragweight on 'change', just the solid ground



beneath the high-sailing dirigible of his rhetoric. The American future is all vision, numinous, informed, light-headed with anticipation. The American past is baggy with sobering truth. In between is the quicksilver Now, beads of glittering elation that slip and scatter, resisting prosaic definition. Obama wants to personify all these tenses."

It's a lot to live up to.

Horoscopes

Isla Star

PISCES (February 20-March 20): The light goes on for those born under the sign of Pisces who have been confused as to which way to turn. An auspicious astral atmosphere helps you to make the right decisions during the second half of March, particularly regarding property and career matters. Those with a birthday to celebrate this week can expect the year ahead to bring more job satisfaction. Your lucky number is two this weekend.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Many Arians who would like to find a better situation to make their nest will need to move quickly. A hot tip regarding your search for a new home should be pursued sooner rather than later. Those who are content with their current living situation could discover that their energy benefits from some redecorating. Incorporate the colors mandarin or-

ange and jungle green to encourage better balance in your life.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans whose hearts aren't in a particular relationship will finally find the right way to back out gracefully. This will leave the coast clear for other developments in your love life and the stars suggest that Sagittarius would like to get to know you better. Money matters are well-starred until the end of March, with a surprise windfall forecast this week. Wear a piece of rose quartz to encourage inner peace.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Those Geminis who haven't been paying enough attention to their partner are forecast to receive more than a strong hint this weekend. It may be advisable to give fun-loving friends a wide berth so you can focus more on your personal relationship for a while. A

money-making scheme proposed by an earth sign mid-week is indicated to bring more success than you can imagine. The number four is lucky on Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Business is forecast to be less stressful during the second half of March, but Aquarius' attitude next Tuesday could cause a slightly stormy atmosphere. Your ability to maintain a cool composure ensures that progress is still made. Where romance is concerned, a new relationship is suddenly more serious when family becomes involved. If you're not ready to take the next step, an honest conversation is necessary. The number five is lucky this weekend.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Single Leos will be pleased at attention received from a compatible water sign this weekend. A Capricorn friend wants to share some good fortune with you next week, but you soon realize that there's a price to pay. Where work is concerned, Wednesday is the most auspicious day to renegotiate a contract or sign a new one. Money matters are influenced by

a benevolent astral atmosphere during the second half of March.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Where work is concerned, many Virgoans will be caught between a rock and a hard place this week. Your reluctance to accept a particular job could prove to be a barrier in the future and it may be best to simply get on with it. The stars suggest that money will flow towards you more than in the other direction for the remainder of March. The number three is lucky this weekend.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Travel and work are a well-starred combination during the second half of March. Many Librans will have no problems finding the right balance between taking care of business and finding enjoyment in new places. Those who are not going away will discover fresh fun close to home. If this includes romance, there are signs that Aries is ready to flirt. Wear the color banana yellow to reflect your carefree mood.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Important decisions are highlighted for those born under the sign of Scorpio during the week ahead. These could influence your quality of life for the foreseeable future, so should be well considered before details are finalized. A Leo friend has the right attitude to provide useful advice, but Cancer has too much on their mind. This is not the right time to make travel plans on the spur of the moment.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): In spite of your suspicion that you are heading up the creek with no paddle, there are signs that a negative work situation is about to improve. However, this is not an auspicious time to take unnecessary risks. Money matters are subject to unsettled astral conditions for the remainder of this month. Romance with an earth sign is promising, but separation is forecast to put a strain on the relationship.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): An offer to try something different in the area of work comes at the right moment for disillusioned Capricorns. However, this will probably involve more commitment than you are prepared to give. Monday is the best day for compromise related discussions. A romantic date this weekend helps you to see that you have more in common with someone than you imagined. The number nine can bring some good fortune on Sunday.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): The heat builds up in your personal life and Aquarians will need to plan their days carefully this week. Forgotten appointments are highlighted to cause disruption midweek and a fire sign colleague could use your inefficiency to their advantage. Auspicious astral conditions make investments attractive until the end of this month – on Wednesday you hear of a particularly lucrative opportunity. Wearing the color silver can help to sharpen your wit.



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An unexpected lesson

When I came to Thailand nearly two years ago, I was of the conviction that Italy is the best place to study – very hard, of course, but both the scholastic system and the teaching methods are excellent. I am understandably proud when I listen to many people overseas, who consider Italian education to be first rate, referring to the many great scientists, inventors, painters and philosophers that Italy has produced throughout history. Who indeed could deny the enormous impact that such great minds as Da Vinci, Marconi, Maiorana, Raffaello and Dante Alighieri, among others, have had on the course of humanity.

What a surprise then, to discover that Thailand's schools should be able to offer some important lessons to my Italian brothers and sisters. As incredible as this state of affairs may seem, it is nevertheless something to which I personally bore witness, when I recently returned to Italy at the invitation of some colleges and public institutions to promote Thailand in my capacity as Miss Teen Phuket and as a student representative of one of the oldest schools in Phuket, Satee.

I had hitherto been unaware of the recent upheavals in Italian schools, with the new government changing so many things in the education system, such as forcing the teachers to get in tune with the new generation and the removal of many ineffective and surplus teachers.

Other draconian measures included slashing costs on various activities and introducing tough new disciplinary measures, including the introduction of school uniforms and the clamping down on the *laissez faire* approach that had led to increases in drug use and prostitution amongst the student population. My father informed me that this 'new' system was not really new at all, but just a return to the standards of the past and insisted that this was, in his opinion, no bad thing.

I have since discovered that his opinion was not exactly shared by a good many professors and students alike. Indeed, at the time of my 'tour' in Italy, almost all students were on strike, supported in their cause by many teachers.

Unaware of such troubles, I prepared my program to promote the *Wattana Tham Thai*, the traditional Thai school lifestyle.

If I had known that the *Wattana Tham Thai* was so similar to the new Italian school regime, against which all those students and professors were railing, I probably wouldn't have

made the hazardous trip to Italy in the first place.

Nevertheless, convinced that I was doing the right thing and of course excited to go back and see my old friends, I studiously prepared a Thai song, which talked about our beautiful island of Phuket, as well as some songs in other languages such as Japanese, Spanish, Italian and English. I took with me a Satee uniform to show, plus a short movie depicting the way of life in a typical Thai school – my brother's school at Dara Samut – and finally started out on my perilous adventure.

My father was also not fully aware of the unfolding situation, which started to dawn on us upon our arrival in Milan and Vigevano, where the schools we were supposed to visit canceled our meeting as all the students were on strike. We decided to fly immediately to Sicily, where, in Trapani, we came face-to-face for the first time with angry students and teachers – although it must be said that the President of the college was an extremely pleasant and kind person.

She was very apologetic about the inconvenience but warned us that very few students would attend my debate and presentation. As I passed through the crowd of protesting students, with my guitar slung over my shoulder, they gazed at me with a marked sense of curiosity.

Although a little embarrassed and intimidated by all these strange faces, when I began my performance, many of the students came back into the school, summoned by their colleagues. My presentation was a great success, with many questions, many invitations and much more besides.

Many of the students and teachers thanked me for showing another way of schooling, long forgotten by everyone and now only ever seen in old Italian movies. They understood the purpose and the value the uniforms, the rules on hair style and especially the importance of respect for educators. The same thing happened, but to an even greater degree, in the other colleges at Leonforte and Enna.

News of this little girl from Thailand and who had reminded them of a way of life long since forgotten, began to spread and I started to receive many invitations from a number of noble families. This was followed by invitations to appear on radio and TV stations.

At the Abraham Lincoln language college in Enna, I presented my program amidst the turmoil and the protests of some students and teachers. By the end of my performance, the teachers



Many of the students and teachers thanked Maria for showing them another way of schooling, long forgotten.

present realized that I had gently but unequivocally discredited part of their reasons for fighting, and the students, although somewhat perplexed, nevertheless enthusiastically embraced the understanding that maybe their protestations were misplaced. Unbelievable.

I finally realized that Thai-

land, with its strong and sometimes conflicted role in the world, could have the chance to offer a solution to the older and well established schools in old prestigious Italy.

Returning to Thailand, just a few days ago, I witnessed an Italian debate on the same argument, with many eminent educa-

tors, movie stars and scientists, complaining about the strikes by the students, and many professors finally conceding that the new law was not, in fact, so bad. I felt proud of my little contribution, and I was happy to return to my school, accepting the roles of Thai discipline with a great deal more tolerance.



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Randhawa cruises to victory in Thailand Open



Jyoti Randhawa proudly displays the King's Trophy at the ninth hole of the Laguna Phuket Golf Club.



Welshman Rhys Davies, who also finished tied second at last year's Vietnam Masters, was chasing his maiden victory on the Asian Tour.

By Jon Bishop

The 40th running of the Thailand Open came to a conclusion on Sunday March 8 as European and Asian Tour star Jyoti Randhawa completed a fine week's work with a bogey-free five-under-par round of 65.

An aggregate score of 17-

under-par secured the Indian a comfortable two-stroke victory over Welshman Rhys Davies and saw him pick up his eighth Asian Tour trophy, and a winners cheque for US\$79,250.

After receiving the trophy, Randhawa said, "It's great to come and win in Thailand. It's a great country, with great professional golfers."

"It was a good field this week, so to play the way I did over the last two rounds gave me great satisfaction" he added.

Under the constant threat of rain, the staff at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club worked around the clock to ensure the tournament ran smoothly.

Their hard work was rewarded as the Singha Thailand

Open proceeded without a hitch, with many of the players complimenting the ground staff, especially on the consistent trueness of the greens.

Randhawa, Davies and Shivshankar Chowrasia began the final round of the televised event day tied for the lead on 12-under-par.

Of the threesome, Chowrasia made the strongest start, registering an eagle at the first, but then faltering, dropping shots at the second, the sixth and eighth holes.

With seven tournament victories under his belt, it was Randhawa who gradually emerged as the likely winner. Three birdies on the front nine left him two shots clear of Davies at the turn.

Elsewhere on the course, luck seemed to desert world No.71 Thongchai Jaidee in his quest for a first Thailand Open. Thongchai ended the tournament shooting a 67 to finish 10-under-par and the joint highest Thai finisher, level with Chapchai Nirat.

Prom Meesawat also suffered from the weight of expectation in his attempt to emulate his father's famous win in 1991. Prom began the day nine-under-par, just three shots off the lead, but was unable to recapture the form that took him into contention after the first three days, finishing the tournament at seven-under-par.

Earlier, USPGA star Daniel Chopra had chosen the final day to remind everyone why he is so highly rated and why he was invited to compete at the Singha Thailand Open. After a disappointing three days, Chopra found

himself seven shots off the lead at five-under.

Throwing caution to the wind, the Swede registered two eagles in a brilliant 63 that pushed him to 12-under-par and suddenly with an outside chance of forcing a playoff. But it proved to be a case of too little too late. Randhawa, proving unflappable - something he attributed to going scuba diving earlier in the week - made another two birdies as his competitors fell by the wayside.

Approaching the last, to the generous applause of the gathered spectators, Randhawa made a straightforward par to secure a well-deserved victory and become the first Indian to lift the King's Trophy.

The 2009 Singha Thailand Open was the first international golf event for Laguna Golf Club and was deemed a great success.

All the staff, caddies and volunteers performed tirelessly and proved a credit to the golf club as well as a wonderful advertisement for golf in Phuket.

Speaking after the event, Tim Haddon, Director of Laguna Phuket Golf Club, said, "The organization has been fantastic from beginning to end."

His sentiment was echoed by Chris Jordan, Senior Vice-President of World Sport Group - the tournament's promoter - who said, "The course was fantastic and did not yield to the pros. It defended itself well."

The event's premier sponsors were Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau and PTT Public Company Ltd. The Phuket Gazette Newspaper and PG TV provided coverage as media partners.



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Stars win league title with last kick of season

By James Goyder

The Phuket Fair Play League came to a dramatic conclusion on March 9 at the British International School (BIS).

The league comprises six teams of children aged between 11 and 12, drawn from the Youth Football Home (YFH) orphanage and BIS.

After five weeks of keenly contested matches the Stars and the Diamonds were tied at the top on 19 points, with just one round of matches remaining. As fate would have it, the fixture list saw the two sides lining up against each other in the final clash.

The Diamonds went into the match boasting a superior goal difference, knowing that a draw would be enough to see them crowned champions.

Mindful of the importance of keeping a clean sheet, the Diamonds played Nonthawit Onting – one of the outstanding football talents in Thailand – in defence. This negative tactic looked to have paid off, as, with seconds to go, the game remained scoreless.

With time running out, the

Stars looked destined for disappointment but launched one final desperate attack.

Following some good work down the left, the ball fell to Patrick Larsen and the Norwegian kept a cool head, rifling a shot into the roof of the net to secure his side the title with the very last kick of the match.

Last gasp match winner Patrick said, "I had a really good chance to score earlier in the match that I missed. I thought we had lost our chance to win, so I was really pleased when I scored."

There is a dearth of organized sport for youngsters in Phuket and so the aim of the Phuket Fair Play League was to give children from both establishments the opportunity to play competitive football and to meet new friends.

According to organizer Hannu Tuukkanen of the Youth Football Home, "It's been a fantastic success and we have had really positive feedback from all involved. It's been a great opportunity for the boys from YFH to make some friends at BIS and I think both groups will really benefit from this experience. "I think



The Stars celebrate their victory in the Phuket Fair Play League. Match winner Patrick Larsen is second from the left on the back row.

everyone involved would like the league to keep on going, but most of the YFH boys go home for a few weeks at *Songkran*. Maybe after that we will be able to start up a league again," he added.

World Cup winning foot-

baller Uwe Bein, who was part of the victorious West German squad in 1990, was on hand to present trophies to the winners. Nonthawit Onting was the competition's top scorer, with 15 goals, while Chaicote Panasam-

pon received the Most Valuable Player award.

The 11 most outstanding players have also been selected to represent the league in a tournament at the BIS later this month.

Howzat! Phuket International Cricket Sixes comes to Karon



PHOTO: Asian Cricket Sixes Tour

The Phuket International Cricket Sixes tournament raises money for cricket development on the island, as well as local charities, and is considered one of the premier events on the Asian sixes calendar.

The Phuket International Cricket Sixes tournament will return in April for the sixth staging of the ICC award-winning competition. Held at the Karon Stadium, next to Karon Beach, from April 15-19, the Phuket Sixes tournament raises money for cricket development on the island, as well as local charities, and is considered one of the premier events on the Asian sixes calendar.

In the past, the tournament has attracted a number of ex-international cricketers, including Adam Hollioake (England), Pranab Roy (India), Atul Wassan (India), Kenny Jackson (Netherlands), Alan Mullally (England) and Trevor Chappell (Australia), best remembered as the bowler who delivered the infamous "underarm ball" in a one-day match

against New Zealand.

Each year the competition welcomes 28 teams plus officials and supporters from around the world, who travel to Phuket to take part in the "fun in the sun" that is the Phuket International Cricket Sixes. Its contribution to cricket sixes was recognized by the ICC when it received a global award in 2006.

As the name suggests, cricket sixes is contested by two teams, each containing six players. Matches consist of one five-over innings per side, where each player is permitted to bowl just a single over. Due to the lack of players, sixes matches are usually frenetic, high-scoring affairs and highly entertaining.

-Mark Burns

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Plukpanya mini-marathon marks school's 100th anniversary



About 1,300 competitors braved the pouring rain to commemorate Plukpanya Municipality School's centenary.

PHUKET CITY: Over 1,300 hardy souls assembled in the pouring rain at 6.30am on Sunday March 8 to take part in the ninth Plukpanya mini-marathon. Staged to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the founding of Plukpanya Municipality School, the event, now the biggest mini-marathon in the southern region, consisted of four separate races: 3.5km, 10.5km and 1.5km (for parents and kids not over seven years old) distances, as well as a special VIP race. In addition to commemorating the school's historic landmark, the mini-marathon was aimed at encouraging young people to use their free time to play sport and stay away from drugs. The next event will be held on March 7 2010.

-Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn

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Fractional ownership: what needs to be considered?

By Michael Greth

In these days of global economical woes, an investment concept such as fractional ownership might benefit from buyers becoming better apprised of the actual costs and potential risks of their investment.

Whenever a buyer is considering investing in a fractional ownership structure, an understanding of the basic legal principles of the specific structure is highly recommended prior to the signing of any legal document.

Basically, fractional ownership is described as a method of co-owning a single or several assets by more than one individual or entity – a group of investors. Usually, a single legal entity owns the asset – a residential holiday home, a leisure yacht or a private jet, for example – and this legal entity is controlled by a number of investors who become shareholders and therefore indirectly owners of the asset.

The costs and use of the asset is divided among the shareholders in relation to their percentage shareholding.

Typically, the company grants its shareholders certain time periods to utilize the asset by means of a shareholders' agreement.

Widely misunderstood is the difference between fractional ownership and time share.

Generally speaking, the major difference between the two is that buyers of time share purchase time in an asset, whereas fractional owners actually own a part of the property through their stake in the asset-owning com-

pany. A fractional owner may sell or bequeath its interest and can even benefit from the appreciation of the asset's value.

Time share, on the other hand, does not typically offer these advantages, due to legal or market reasons. Buyers of time share receive only a time-limited right to use a specific property, which extinguishes after a certain period, unless the buyer decides to purchase additional time.

Naturally, these important differences will be reflected in higher pricing for fractional ownership ventures compared with time share.

In terms of the legal documentation that is required when buying a fractional ownership interest, a buyer is typically required to sign a share sale and purchase agreement, as well as a shareholders agreement, under which important points – including terms of payment for the shares in the asset-owning company – will be outlined.

The shareholders agreement will also stipulate the conditions under which each shareholder shall be entitled to use the asset, what proportion of the management and maintenance fees need to be paid, as well as details regarding the processing of a resale of an individual share interest by single shareholders.

The agreements should also be carefully examined *vis à vis* the consequences that may occur in the event that single shareholders default on their payment obligations regarding management and maintenance of the company's asset.

In summary, fractional ownership may gain in popularity as



Fractional ownership may gain in popularity as an economical way to live out your personal dreams in these times of worldwide economic recession. Photo: Mia Gillow.

an economical and feasible way to realize and live out your personal dreams in these times of worldwide economic recession.

This article was written by Michael Greth, Consultant of the Phuket based law firm International Law Office Patong

Beach Co., Ltd. He can be contacted by email (michael@ilo-phuket.com) or phone (076-222191-5).

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Construction update

Karon

Condo rising on the west coast

By Khunakorn Terdikiatkhachorn

Located on Phuket's west coast in the resort of Karon, construction of Sunset Plaza began in April 2008 and is scheduled to be completed by the middle of this month.

The development, comprising 50 standard luxury units and six deluxe penthouse suites, is being built on 2,800 square meters in close proximity to the Big Buddha and overlooking the entire Karon Beach area. Ninety per cent of the units have already been sold, but the remaining five properties are still available for purchase as foreign freeholds.

The project was designed by Architecthu, which is also overseeing the development and construction of Sunset Plaza. With over 14 years of experience in the property development industry, Architecthu pledges high-quality construction – using first-rate materials – on the outer shell and interior walls, as well as the electricity and water systems, tiling, balcony railing and safety glass. Prices of the units range from 4.9 million baht for a standard luxury unit up to 30 million baht

for a penthouse suite.

The Sunset Plaza Condominium, including units and facilities, will be managed by the RESAVA Company, which will offer owners the opportunity to take part in a rental program.

The Sunset Plaza development will feature two types of unit: luxury one- and two-bedroomed seaview units and deluxe penthouses, including rooftop garden and optional Jacuzzi. The latter boast panoramic views of Karon Bay.

For the one- and two-bedroom units, the total floor space ranges from 116 to 400 square meters, while the penthouse suites start at 253 square meters, up to a maximum of 400. All units will be fully air-conditioned, with quality interior fittings, living area, European kitchen and built-in BBQ grill on the balcony.

Owners of the units have the option of furnishing the properties themselves or can choose from a number of packages, with prices starting at 250,000 baht.

In addition, the Sunset Plaza will boast myriad facilities available to potential clients. Amenities will include a sun deck with sun-beds and palm trees, pool

with Jacuzzi area, infinity edge lap pool, kids' pool, common area toilet and shower facilities.

Owners will also be able to

enjoy a lush tropical landscaped garden, dining area, snack bar and relaxation area, fitness center with views of the Andaman

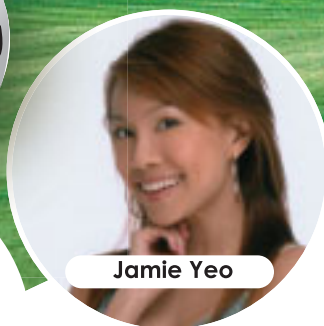
sea, common area staff service, 24-hour on-site security, lift from underground parking to the fifth floor.



The Sunset Plaza development will feature two types of unit: luxury one- and two-bedroom units and deluxe penthouse suites offering sea views.

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Birds of a feather

I am enjoying a sun-downer by the swimming pool. Overhead, in the gathering dusk, a flight of 20 or so white birds wing their way eastwards. I would call it a 'skein', but that collective noun applies to geese. These birds, though impressive, are different.

In fact, they are Cattle Egrets (*bubulous ibis*), long necks retracted into hunched shoulders, legs stiffly astern in the manner of their relative, the heron. I can set my watch by them. It is 6.30. Every day at this time of year, they make their noiseless pass over the garden en route from feeding ground to night-time roost.

We are lucky to have these elegant birds in Phuket. Many of their number, especially the Great Egret, were endangered by nineteenth century ladies' insatiable desire for hat plumes. Indeed, their name comes from the French *ai-grette*, meaning 'feather'.

We are doubly lucky to have them when you consider the Thai propensity for putting more-or-less anything that moves on their dinner plates. That these

birds may take the odd fish doesn't help their cause.

But Cattle Egrets are not primarily waders, and are useful to farmers as bio-control agents. In Nai Harn there is an expanse of scrubland and grass. Once, I suspect, proper wetland, it is still traversed by a slow-moving stream.

Here you can see egrets perched on the backs of cows and buffalo, pecking at ticks, or following the grazing cattle as they disturb grasshoppers, frogs and the odd lizard. They forage alongside white-vented mynahs, a scruffy bird distinguished from its common cousin of beach and garden by its jet black plumage and tufted crest. Unlikely lunch companions...

Lizard for lunch?

In fact, Phuket's lizards provide a tasty morsel for some unlikely gourmets. Recently, I was at a loss to explain why the sun skinks (*mabuya multifasciata*) were putting in fewer and fewer appearances in their favorite flower borders. One day I discovered why. A golden tree snake (*chrysopelea ornate*, see

photo) was wrapped around my papaya tree. The tail of a skink was protruding from its mouth; the rest had already disappeared down a serpentine gullet. This visitor normally moves like quicksilver; now, in his post-prandial state, he had as much get-up-and-go as a Victorian gentleman after a 10-course meal.

Some months earlier, the other lizards in the garden, fence-post agamids, had narrowly avoided a similar fate. They were at risk due to the national habit – often borne of necessity – of supplementing a monotonous rice diet with animal protein.

Long before the garden had taken shape, I was having a well sunk in my newly acquired plot. It was never finished as it happens, since the diggers encountered a stratum of grey granite – it is below the surface in much of Phuket – that defied all attempts to mine it with dynamite. A hazardous business, since the explosives were not only temperamental, but illegal. So before each big bang, the diggers ran into the jungle and hid, only emerging after the explosion had sent a hail of rocky fragments flying in all directions.

Every day, the chief bombardier spent his lunch break catching these absurdly long-tailed fence lizards (*calotes versicolor*), reptiles so named after the adult male's habit of displaying on walls (see photo).

I thought his snaring method ingenious at the time, but have since watched migrant workers use the same technique. He followed the paths through the head-high, secondary growth beyond the plot, armed with a long stick like a fishing rod. It had a fine nylon noose at the business end. Our friend knew, as every Thai schoolboy knows, that these lizards can change color to match their surroundings. They rely on this natural camouflage when disturbed by making an initial dash and then merging with their natural surroundings in reptilian stillness.

Once the creature had frozen, the hunter then dangled the lasso over its head, carefully low-



Golden Tree Snake (*chrysopelea ornate*)



Cattle Egret (*bubulous ibis*)



Agamid Lizard (*calotes versicolor*)

ered it and then quickly pulled it tight in the manner of a rabbit wire. Writhing and struggling like a hooked fish, the victim was unceremoniously dumped in a large plastic bottle.

Once work was over for the day, the lizard was spit-barbecued along with a dozen or so of his unfortunate fellows over an impromptu fire. There was precious little flesh, but the tiny, pathetic cadavers were consumed with relish. Let's hope that Agamid lizards are not an

endangered species.

One possible crumb of comfort for green-minded readers. My Thai partner assures me that Phuket natives do not eat such things, that this is a barbarism indulged by people from Isarn or Myanmar or Vietnam, by non-southerners who think nothing of eating disgusting stuff such as fermented fish soup or fried beetles. And in truth, our lizard catcher did come from Udon Thani. But I still worry about the lizards...



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Delving deeper into Samui's luxury market

In my last column I looked at the emerging luxury property segment in Koh Samui. This week, we take a look at ongoing demand and issues and forecast the trends of the current market sentiment.

The year started weakly and we can expect lower levels of demand to persist throughout 2009 and possibly into late 2010. Recent political problems have had an impact on the property market but this is seen as a short-term issue. Far more pressing for the Samui market is the difficult sales climate. This is mainly due to a decrease in confidence and liquidity among potential purchasers as a result of tough global financial conditions.

We are seeing moderation rather than heady optimism among buyers. There is a gap between the prices offered by developers and owners and what prospective purchasers are willing to offer. This has led to developers being open to negotiation and to opportunistic buyers who are hoping to benefit from short-term market softening.

It is likely that in the long term, prices will recover, but in the current climate, the limited number of transactions that are being made will happen at a discount. An additional challenge to developers is the growth of the resale market, as owners affected by the financial downturn

are forced to monetize assets. This will increase competition within the luxury market, as certain resales are being offered at significant discounts. In addition, in the current climate buyers are more comfortable with finished products, which could impact off-plan sales.

However, the Thai government is offering some timely support to the local property market. Opportunities exist for local investors to gain a foothold in Samui's tourist industry, as they will be offered Thai

Board of Investment (BOI) incentives on an automatic basis if they win bids to buy back assets in Thailand from troubled foreign companies affected by the financial crisis. Furthermore, there are signs of recovery by the year end, though as of late, these forecasts are being pushed into next year.

Samui's tourism market has traditionally been an important source of potential villa

purchasers, and as conditions improve, tourism is expected to strengthen. This, combined with the limited current and upcoming supply of prime properties, should provide a solid basis for upward momentum in the Samui property market.

Samui's real estate market is still in its infancy compared to Phuket's, but it is rapidly catching up in terms of product variety and robust pricing levels. The



PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks (c9hotelworks.com), a Phuket-based hotel and property consulting firm. His BLOG (thephuketinsider.com) is The Source for all Hotel and Real Estate News within Greater Phuket.



As prime land plot and ocean front land becomes more scarce the outlying areas of Greater Samui such as Koh Phangan are developing into smaller scale real estate areas to watch.

Samui Estates villa project (adjacent to the Four Seasons), was the first large-scale project in Samui priced in excess of 100m baht. However, the W Retreat and Conrad-branded luxury villa projects are also testing pricing levels in the market, as is a variety of smaller boutique luxury villa developments. With the newness of many of the high-end developments, it remains to be seen how the market tolerates current asking prices.

However, the existing and impending supply at the top end of the Samui property market is very limited, and it is likely that in the medium term, upper-tier property will remain a small but exclusive segment of support in the Samui property market.

The bulk of development in Samui has always centered on the northern and eastern coasts, which have become increasingly built up. As such, with a growing array of high-end developments clustering along the southwest region from Taling Ngam to Thong Krut and the last few remaining coastal parcels in the area being bid up, it appears that Samui is creating a new luxury enclave.

Looking ahead at new trends, one is a likely change in demographics. Due to increased accessibility to key regional and international markets, it is likely that Samui will see a change in

the make-up of its visitor groups. New direct air routes announced recently will open up access to Samui for high net worth individuals, particularly from Eastern Europe, Russia and China. With the fairly recent large-scale devaluation of both the pound and the Australian dollar, these markets have seen sharp declines as key sectors.

There is a move to smaller boutique developments. The shortage of developable land (or contiguous land parcels) in prime areas has led to an increase in the number of small-scale high-end developments, with 10 or fewer units. An example of such a development is Naissance Villas. While new areas opening up in the less developed south and west of Samui have afforded investors the opportunity to purchase parcels of land suitable for larger projects, the overall shortage of land on the island will not make this trend sustainable.

Always a key issue is the available infrastructure and whether it can keep pace to support the growth of the tourism market. This includes the new terminal at Samui Airport, which became operational in 2007, more than quadrupling handling capacity to 16,000 passengers. This is complemented by planned additional air routes into Samui, which will provide access for new tourism segments. Other works un-

derway include the expansion and improvement of essential access roads, including projects to widen key roadways.

Interesting to note is a shift in the political landscape, led by the recent decision to declare Samui a "town" in its own right, as opposed to a sub-district of Surat Thani. This has resulted in some administrative changes that may have positive effects on the island and its future development. The island will now be able to deal directly with the central government in Bangkok, rather than petitioning Surat Thani to do so on its behalf, and ought to have a greater say in its financial affairs and infrastructure planning going forward.

Phuket already has a critical mass of good-quality marina infrastructure. Samui has very little in place for the boating market, though this may change soon.

A public meeting was held in October 2008 to discuss the possibility of building a small public marina on the island. It appears that the current frontrunner is the Big Buddha area. In addition, it has been suggested that the upcoming Park Hyatt will have yacht berths on a neighboring island.

Lastly, going green on any island is a charged issue. Samui's development has been rapid, and the current pace is not sustainable. As such it has been recognized that certain aspects of infrastructure planning have lagged behind tourism growth, causing stress on natural resources and local culture.

Currently there is a "green island" project underway. The aim of the project (a collaboration between public and private sector interests as well as tourists), is to protect and restore the local environment and local culture as well as to create a tourism business that is sustainable in the long term.

Samui's property market remains a developing story, and most insiders' forecasts for this year see the market remaining challenging going into 2010. How this storyline plays out and whether we see a parallel effect in Phuket remains something to keep our eyes on.

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THE EVA GROUP

Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

NAKA ISLAND



3 bedroom, 2 bathroom with en suite facilities, fine beach location. Price: 7.5 million baht. Call Khun Sopit for further information. Tel: 081-344 4473.

NEW CONDO GOOD VIEW FROM 1.5 M

43sqm, 1 bed, 1 bath, big pool, 24h security. 1.5 million baht. 60sqm, 2 bed, 1 bath, sea view. 2.8 million baht. Call Kuno +66(0)81 968 5963. Email: kuno@bayproject.com For further details, please see our website at www.bayproject.com

BARGAIN OF THE YEAR
House in Kata, 2 mins to beach. Price reduced from 3.5 million baht to 2.6 million baht. Tel: 084-840 5834.

RAWAI LAND

Half rai in quiet location. Concrete road, electricity, chanote, pond view. Ready to build on. Tel: 089-589 0085, 081-091 1097. Email: micsta75@hotmail.com

2 BEDS, 2 BATHS, SECURE, CHEAP

For details, see the link below. Click it for a bargain! Tel: 087-888 1921. Email: brett@idevelop.tv www.phuketrealestate.com/126.html

GOLF CONDOS

17 freehold units still available near Central, Big C, Lotus and Patong Beach. Prices range from 1.3 million baht to 2.9 million baht. Contact Ott. Tel: 083-967 6686.

RAWAI HOUSE, CHANOTE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, dining room, 2 terraces, cable TV, carpark. Tel: 084-846 3826.

2 RAWAI POOL VILLA



sale/lease. Land, company, pool villa with 7 bedrooms. 350 meter from beach, finance available. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

LAND FOR SALE

2 rai for 14 million baht, 1 rai for 7 million baht and 380sqm for 2 million baht. Tel: 076-202318, 080-700 4804. Email: info@taronproperties.com www.taronproperties.com

ON THE BEACH

2 bedroom apartment in north Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, swimming pools. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-2765 117 Email for photos. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

TOWN HOUSE

140sqm, 2 floors. Very good location, 5 mins Big C and Central. Ready in October 2009. Resale 600,000 baht. Tel: 080-071 9098.

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: pookie.lovely@gmail.com

NEAR LAYAN HILLS ESTATE

Half rai to 2 rais. 4 million baht per rai for quick sale! Chanote title, road and utilities. Ready to build house. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

on the main road to Chermg-Talay and Surin. 43 rai, 1ngan, 85sq wah. For sale by owner. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-956-2406. Email: phatsarar@gmail.com

NEW 2 BED HOUSE - KOH KAEW!



Save \$10,000 off the price! 59.6 Talang Wah, 2 baths, corner unit, big garden. Located near British Int'l School. 2.6 million baht. Offers considered! Tel: 089-216 7220. Email: julianburgess@myway.com Website: www.julianburgess.co.uk/chaofa garden for slide show

HILL HOUSE AT KATA

for sale. Sea view, 600sqm for total area. Two-story house with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, parking, pool. Nice location, 5 minutes to Kata Beach. Can adapt for 2 apartments for rent. Please take a look and ask for price on. Tel: 087-689-9679.

NICE PLOT

near Layan Hills Estate and pool villas project. Chanote title and road access on 4 sides of the plot. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081-538 7050.

LOOKING FOR AN INVESTMENT

JAN-PROPERTY.COM

In Phuket & Phang Nga. Seaview land/house. Tel: 081-539 9269. Website at: www.jan-property.com 081-5387050

CHANOTE, 29 RAI

at 1.6 million baht per rai. Nice and cheap land 12 minutes from Phuket airport. Located 200m from main road, electricity/ water well/ road access to the land. Good for housing project. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

PERFECT LAND

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

HOUSE & FURNITURE FOR SALE

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

BEST BARGAIN IN PHUKET



Luxury 5 bed villa with 10x5m pool and 5 separate bungalows. All in 1 rai of tropical gardens. Thai company available. Not only a home but a business in Rawai. Only 14.9 million baht. Tel: 086-279 0837, 081-080 2930. Email: brico thailand@hotmail.com

RANONG BANG BEN

2 bedroom house, 1 rai on beach. Price 1.5 million baht. Also 19 rai agricultural land, Chanote. Ideal for a small resort. Price 1.5 million baht. Contact Chris. Tel: 083-131-0626.

PATONG TOWER 63 SQM

Renovated, freehold, 2 rooms, terrace, nice view, pool, 200 meters to beach. Furnished, TV, WiFi, 2 aircons. 4.6 million baht. Tel: 02-392 9327, 086-976 0809.

FREEHOLD CONDO RAWAI



27sqm or 54sqm. 2 studio apartments, 200 meters from the pier. Price 480,000 baht. Tel: 086-640 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

KATA SEA VIEW LAND



4 rai prime land. 30-50m above sea level, electricity, water. Price 11 million baht per rai. And extra 1-6 rai possible. Tel: 081-273 5047.

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Stage 1, Suriyaporn Place, Chalong. Price 2.2 million baht. Contact Vince. Tel: 081-082 7143.

VILLA URGENT SALE

4 beds, 6 baths, private pool (4x12) with jacuzzi, security system, solar hot water, sala and landscape garden on a 1,606sqm land. More than 400sqm of living area. Special price at 18 million baht. Email: nisaya19@yahoo.com

SURIN BEACH

Land on Soi Haad Surin 2 for sale. 2.2 Rai, 5 min walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 087-88306112.

4 RAI SEAVIEW PLOT AO POR

Gently sloping hillside plot behind Ao Por Beach Road, East coast. Tel: 076-528014, 087-270 5959. Email: gdublanco@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.aoporphuket.com

2 BEDROOM VILLA

for sale. Fully furnished. Patong, seaview. Tel: 086-270 6454. Email: uraiinma@hotmail.com

CONDO FOR SALE/RENT



at Phuket Asia Land, Surin Beach. Sale: 6.5 million baht. Rent: 30,000 baht per month with 100,000 baht deposit. Tel: 089-474 0461. Email: info@methaya.com

200 SQM PENTHOUSE

Full seaview in Patong. Two-floor penthouse with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and 2 Jacuzzi. 200 square meters. Construction will be completed in April. 15 million baht. Call, fax or mail for further details. Tel: 084-667 9778, 085-055 0259. Fax: 076-512411. Email: frankcyberr@hotmail.com

KATHU HOUSE

112sqm, 2 floors, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies. Big living room and kitchen. Car parking and small garden. 3 mins to golf course, 7 mins to Patong. Price 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-872 6895. Email: jostein.pedersen@eunet.no

80 RAI FOR SALE, CHANOTE

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

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Property Gazette

LOCH PALM POOL VILLA



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

BEST INVESTMENT IN PATTAYA!

A new condotel project is now available for pre-sales booking reservations. Located in the heart of Pattaya, walking distance to all giant hypermarkets and vibrant nightlife district. Price starting from only 1.4 million baht. Hurry, reserved now before fully sold out. Tel: 038-716222, 089-200 3222. Email: enquiries@eastpointpattaya.com

HOUSE IN KAMALA

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, next to beach. Price 3.9 million baht or rent 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-288908.

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



In Srisuchart Grandville 3, not far from Tesco Lotus. 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, 1 car park and little garden. Very nice house contact to come see at 087-2770978 or koyangle99@hotmail.com

KATA LAND

One rai with access to main road. 500 meters from Kata Beach. Comes with title deed. 20 million baht. Tel: 081-271 9340. Email: brandyblackcherry@gmail.com

LUXURY POOL VILLA, RAWAI

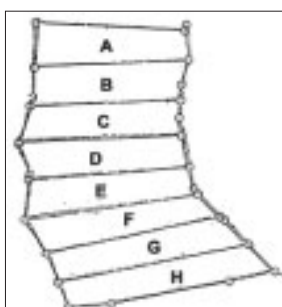
for sale or rent. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, air-condition, nearly new, 24 hour security. Quiet location, close to the beach and restaurants. Tel: 085-783 1890.

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

VERY NICE SEAVIEW LAND



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

FREEHOLD PATONG

New condo, private road, security, pools, fitness. Good prices. Tel: 083-391 8720.

PATONG 2 STOREY HOUSE

Soi Sainamyen, near Montes restaurant. 2 bedrooms, office, shop, and living room. Price only 5.9 million baht. Tel: 087-272 0303.

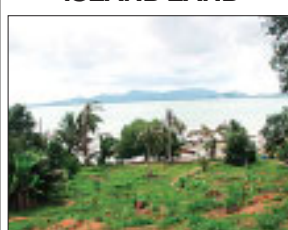
NICE 2-STOREY HOUSE

Perfect house for a family, ready to move in. Five bedrooms and bathrooms, close to Central Festival and Rawai Beach. Tel: 081-891 5296. Email: hkthome sale18@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.jikkycar.com

100% FREEHOLD CONDO, RAWAI

Third floor of five, 160sqm. 2 bedrooms, wireless internet, UBC. Seaview, large terrace, communal swimming pool. Excellent condition. Price only 5.9 million baht. Contact Kay. Tel: 081-737 0552. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

COCONUT ISLAND LAND



for sale. 4.5 rai. Chanote, hillside panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Bouddha. Tel: 089-290 0484.

LAND IN PHANG NGA

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

WHITE HOUSE, GREAT LOCATION

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

2 RAI PLOT W/ INCREDIBLE VIEW

near Mission Hills golf course. Tel: 076-528014, 087-270 5959. Email: gdublanco@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at: www.ayusamant.com

BEAUTIFUL THAI HOUSE

Direct from owner, no agency fee. Teak wood floors, walls, stairs, etc. Upstairs living area, bedroom, shower/WC. Downstairs kitchen, WC, bar area. 2/3 bedroom. New building plot 10x7m. Great investment, peaceful location, Kathu, 5 mins to Patong. Farang Leasehold of 30 years + 30 years. Priced to sell, 4.9 million baht. Tel: 086-268 8701. Email: f430spiderf1@hotmail.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB



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

KARON SEAVIEW



Located on the west coast of Phuket island. 10.5 rai with Chanote. Perfect location for business (hotel & resort). Price 300 million baht. No Agents!! Tel: 087-270-9093.

SMALL PLOT OF LAND

548 sq meter for quick sale at 1.6 million baht. 300 meters from the new Tesco in Chalong. Call or mail for more info. Tel: 076-343019, 089-586 3197. Email: info@casajip.com

LAKE FRONT LAND ON GOLF CLUB

Located directly on the lake. 1 rai in Loch Palm Golf Club. Build your own home, great location & view in gated community. Very beautiful! Tel: 081-649 3557. Email: info@phuketlifestyle.com

PATONG TOWER 63 SQM

Renovated, freehold, 2 rooms, terrace, nice view, pool, 200 meters to beach. Furnished, TV, WiFi, 2 aircons. 4.6 million baht. Tel: 02-392 9327, 086-976 0809.

AO POR LAND FOR SALE



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

15 MILLION BAHT



Patong, sea view, 60sqw 2-storey house. 2 bedrooms with balconies, 2 bathroom, air-con, fully furnished. Chanote. Price 15 million baht ono. Tel: 087-270 9093.

HOUSE WITH LARGE GARDEN

3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, house on small development with 24hr security and swimming pool. Only 5 mins from Heroines' Monument. Fully furnished with solid teak furniture throughout and with all appliances, curtains and blinds. Full security and fly screens, 3 aircons, 5 ceiling fans. True TV/ cable TV, phone, ADSL. Walk-in condition with great potential for extension and/or private pool. Now 3.6 million baht ono. Tel: 085-782 3273.

BEACH LAND KOH YAO YAI

8 rai beach land, 80m long beach, public road & water at the back. White sand, no rocks, beautiful view. Includes shop house on land. Beautiful! Tel: 081-649 3557. Email: info@phuketlifestyle.com

BEACH FRONT LAND, CHANOTE

40 rai, flat. North of Khao Lak. Urgent sale price 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-729 8365.

CHALONG OPPORTUNITY

Brand new garden villa, 3 bedrooms. On easy vendor finance. Tel: 089-652 1473.

COZY HOUSE SALE, CHANOTE



100sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, dining room, western kitchen, fully furnished with western facilities. 2 living rooms, one large with built in furniture and nice carp fish pond. 4 air-conditions, garden with teak, alarm, automatic gate, Land and Houses. Price 9.5 million baht. Tel: 089-474 1404. Email: lyaaraya@yahoo.com

VERY SPECIAL VILLA

Must see. 5 star Marriott Hotel style. 3 bedrooms. Finest location Patong, breathtaking views from all levels. Excellent track record for rental return. Previous price 28 million baht. Quick sale to best offer. Contact Kay. Tel: 081-737 0552. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

KHAO LAK VILLA

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

CHEAP LAND, AO LUEK

3 rai, nice quiet area. 200m from golf course. Price only 1.2 million baht. Tel: 081-272 8684.

2 PLOTS OF LAND

50 rai, Natai Beach. Beautiful beach front property. 146 rai at Koh Yao Yai. Beautiful beach front property. Sale by owner, freehold. Email: kt@bccnmi.com

HERITAGE SUITES

2 bedroom condo. 160sqm, 4th floor, best view on project. Price: 7.6 million baht. Contact Sujit. Tel: 089-119 1155.

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Property Gazette

SALE OR RENT VILLA BELOW MARKET PRICE (THB)



Normally the villa can lease 300,000 to 350,000 monthly. But Sacrifice due to poor global economy. It is the most expensive and most beautiful villa next to Loch Palm golf course. We would like to lease minimum 3 years as following conditions. First year annually 1.5m exclude management, utilities, any extra costs garden, swimming pool. 2nd year 2m and last 3rd year 2.5m. Must pay in advance each year. No other deposit required. Or sale 45m. For details, please email me your interests at queenmarines@hotmail.com or call 081-376 7395.

CAN'T SELL?

Prime land plots Nai Harn Beach. Exchange/part exchange condo, resort, villa. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

BANG TAO HOUSE

for sale or rent. 2 bedrooms, big living room, kitchen, satellite TV, car park. Tel: 085-674 6786. See website at www.phukethome.ws

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.

LAND, 161SQ WAH

for sale. Baan Maneekram. Call for more information. Tel: 086-905 1406 (Eng) or email: lowprofile@mail.com

1 RAI FOR SALE OR RENT

Chanote title in Pasak close to Laguna. Email: jkgk24@hotmail.com

KATA BEACH

2 apartments, 140sqm, fully decorated, Jacuzzi. Normal price 9.5 million, now 4.4 million for this month only. Owner going home. Tel: 085-783 1890.

LAND IN CHALONG

for sale. Many plots in Chalong, 2 rai, 5.5 million baht. Rawai, 2 at 400sqm. Price 2.2 million baht. Contact Nong. Tel: 083-390 4167.

KAMALA BEACH LAND

with mountain view. 4 plots on private estate near beach. Price 1.9 to 6 million baht. Tel: 082-421 9169.

DOUBLE VILLA IN KATA



Panoramic sea views - 5 bedrooms, 466sqm living space, 36sqm pool with Jacuzzi, 4 minutes from Kata Beach. Ready to move into. Only 24 million baht. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

LUXURY PENTHOUSE

at Patong Beach. 3 double bedrooms and maid's room. Tel: 089-972 3861. See website at www.kiwibrian.com

SINGLE HOUSE RAWAI

300m from the beach. New 200sqm, 2-storey house and guesthouse on 460sqm land with wonderful view. 3-4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, big living room and terraces. Easy to convert into two apartments. Furnished. Quick sale, reduced to only 5.5 million baht. Call David on 083-1814418.

PARICART VILLAGE, CHALONG



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

CHALONG HOUSE

for sale. 4 bedrooms, air-condition, big garden. Must see. Price 4.5 million ono. Tel: 081-747 5293.

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Stage 1, Suriyaporn Place, Chalong. Price 2.2 million baht. Contact Vince. Tel: 081-082 7143.

HALF-RAI

on private estate with adjacent lake and park. In residential area close to Chalong circle. All infrastructure in place. 5.5 mill baht. Land & villa package available. Tel: 089-652 1951. Email: phuketlandandvilla@gmail.com

PANORAMIC SEAVIEW

Patong pool villa, brand new, 2 bedrooms. Close to center. Only 12 million baht. Tel: 087-2720303.

BANGTONG HILLSIDE KATHU

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool, 73 sq wah. Price: 4.6 million baht. Tel: 089-908 4873.

HOUSE IN ANUPHAS FOR SALE



60sq.wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. 3.7 million baht. For more details, please call 081-691 2526.

PRIME LAND PLOTS/ VILLA

Nai Harn Beach. Finance down 20-40%, down 5-30 year term from 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

LAND IN BANG JO

4 rai, nice flat land. Very good location suitable for luxury condominium or business development. Price 4.5 million baht per rai. For more information, please call 082-413 8677.

HOUSE SALE, PATONG

2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses in stunning hillside location, 200-300sqm. Living area, parking, gardens, huge balconies with 180 degree seaviews. Freehold titles. Price 7-12 million baht. See website at www.luxuryhousesphuket.com

HOUSE IN RAWAI

Best villas 1x600sqm and 1x220sqm. New in quality development near beach. Great investment, 1 million baht down 5 years finance, no interest, best deal ever. Must see, free pick up. Tel: 085-783 1890.

SERVICE OFFICES

for sale with long lease. Total 400sqm, fully furnished, ready to move in. Best sea views in Patong, 500m from beach. Tel: 076-293061, 087-075 9206. Email: david@freedomleisuregroup.com

NAI HARN CONDO, 1.65M

Modern, beautiful surroundings, swimming pool, fully furnished. Tel: 086-596 9601. Email: fordasia777@gmail.com

PRESTIGE BUILDING LAND

with stunning seaview in Patong Bay. 2.5 and 1.5 rai adjacent to Baan Yin Dee Boutique Hotel. Tel: 081-893 2970.

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.

4 HOUSES WITH 2.2 RAI IN PATONG



VILLA WITH 4 BEDROOM AND 3 HOUSES WITH 12 SMALL APARTMENTS

VILLA + POOL AND 2 APARTMENT FOR PRIVATE USE 10 APARTMENT FOR RENTAL. FREE HOLD LAND APPROX 2.2 RAI INCLUDING 1.5 RAI WITHOUT BUILDING. QUIET AREA WITHOUT TRAFFIC. 15 MINUTES WALK TO BEACH AND SHOPPING CENTRE. BEAUTIFUL VIEW OVER CITY AND SEA.

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Tel: Lars 084-8482511 (speak English and Swedish). Kan 089-2909567 (speak English and Thai)
Fax: 076-512154 Mail: Info@brommathaihouse.com

see web-site for more picture from hotel and apartment for rent + map for location
www.brommathaihouse.com

BEACHFRONT LAND



190 metres of beach frontage, 7 rai (can split) with view of Yacht Haven Marina, secure title. Road access, electricity, water, ready to build. Best investment. For sale only 35 million baht or next best offer. Must sell. Tel: 081-343 0777.

FOREIGN FREEHOLD CONDOMINIUM

One bedroom, ground floor with poolside balcony. Located in the heart of Patong. Includes car-parking space. Price: 5.9 million baht negotiable. Tel: 087-887 9070. Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

SALE OR RENT STUDIO

New freehold in Patong, 46sqm. Fully furnished, pool. Price 2.9 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

BANGTAO, PRIVATE POOL VILLA

3 bedrooms, fully furnished. Ready for investment! Tel: 076-289614, 081-970 0742. Email: sales@twovillas.com

NEW HOME AND LAND



for sale in Rawai. 197sqm, 2 storeys, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Many extras. 39/45 Soi Mali. Quick sale price 6.9 million baht. Tel: 081-270 6310.

LAND IN NAI HARN

on Soi Naya, 452sqm. 1km to beach. Great location. Price 3.9 million baht. Tel: 085-793 2667.

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre?
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please attach
Do not Fax!

Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

3 BEDROOM HOUSE

At Land & House Park near Chalong. Residential area, club-house with pool, gym, and restaurant. Security, fully furnished, 34" TV, fridge, Western kitchen. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-244580, 081-846 9981. Email: ursaeabi@gmx.net

PATONG TOWER CONDO

1 bed, nice condo on beach road. For further details Tel: 084-847 3304., please see our website at <http://www.selectphuket.com>

CHALONG HOUSE

for rent. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living room, kitchen and telephone. Tel: 081-537 9878, 089-729 8472. Email: suwittrai@hotmail.com

2 BED HOUSE KATHU

Modern, furnished, a/c in 2 rooms, kitchen, hot water. 6 months: 40,000 baht. One year: 70,000 baht. Tel: 042-245045, 080-751 2813. Email: ampm_net@hotmail.com

SHOWROOM / OFFICE

120 sqm, fullyfurnished, in Manik (only 3km from the monument on the way to Laguna). 30,000 baht per month. Contact K. Moo on the mobile number or 089-870 2796, or email. Tel: 076-272635, 081-343 0363. Fax: 076-273659. Email: thapani_k@hotmail.com

STUDIO, SURIN

Gym, pool, wireless internet. 5 mins to beach. Price 10,000 baht. Contact John. Tel: 084-847 8736.

HOUSE PHANASON, KATHU



Sale or rent. Single house, 2 bedrooms, furnished. Ready to stay. Tel: 089-662 8733.

3 BR HOUSE, KAMALA BEACH

3 bedroom house at Kamala Beach for rent. Good price. For further details Tel: 081-207-0543. Contact more at email: sunai_wa@yahoo.co.th Website: <http://www.rentthaihome.com>

BANG TAO HOUSE

2 bedrooms, big living room, kitchen, satellite TV, car park. Tel: 085-674 6786.

CHALONG CIRCLE

Town home, 2 bedrooms. Telephone, cable TV, air-condition. Tel: 089-652 1473. Email: ananda estates@yahoo.com

HOUSE IN CHALONG

for rent, near Palai Beach. 3 bedrooms, air-condition, ADSL. Tel: 089-728 8311.

GUESTHOUSE 750,000 BAHT

Patong junction Nanai/Bangsaan next to 7Eleven. 6 room beauty salon at bottom, separate entrance to room. Selling due to increase in family size. 3.5 years of lease left, 30, 000 baht monthly rent. Contact Mats. Tel: 081-7872573. Contact Tabs. Tel: 085-795 2101.

HOUSE NEAR BIS

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished. Price 17,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-888 4770, 081-536 5657.

CASTLE FOR RENT, RAWAI

600sqm, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, new top-end luxury decor, flatscreen TV, very big pool, tropical gardens fully serviced, beautiful estate. Limousine, butler house. Rent 88,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-783 1890.

GREAT POOL VILLA, RAWAI

Newly built, great decor, salt water pool, sauna, Jacuzzi, steam shower. Near beach, free transport, fully serviced, top security. Price 49,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-783 1890.

KAMALA BEACH

Very nice apartments and houses for rent, 2 to 4 bedrooms. Price 15,000-20,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-421 9169.

PENTHOUSE STUDIO

overlooking Patong Beach. Long or short term let. Tel: 089-972 3861. See top tool bar to the right at www.kiwibrian.com

HOUSE, SPLASH POOL



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, dishwasher, washing machine, hot/cold water. Cable, internet, 100sqm. Price 14,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-569 3768. Email: sjon48@hotmail.com

LUXURY VILLA MAIKAO

2 rai land, 4 bedrooms, furnished, pool. Safe and quiet area. Available March - July. Price 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: eanfievat@voila.fr

LUXURY VILLA - POOL

near Laguna, ADSL, cable TV, Jacuzzi room, poolside bar. For lease 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-594 4067.

30 RAI IN TOWN

Near Dowrungs School. Long lease. Please contact more details. Tel: 081-691 2526.

LAND NEAR BANG TAO



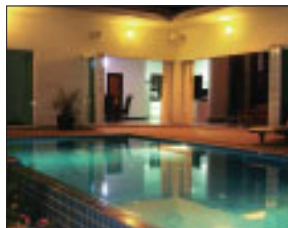
for long term rent. 20 years, near beach. Electricity, water, public pass. Tel: 089-288 3047.

LUXURY APARTMENT, KAMALA



120sqm, 2 bedrooms, living room, fully furnished marble-fitted kitchen. 4 air-conditions, cable TV and many options. Terrace, Jacuzzi, 2 pools, landscaped garden. Short or long term rent. 39,500-49,500 baht per month. Tel: 087-888 4769, 082-166 1680 (Thai).

3 BED POOL VILLA - NEAR BIS



65,000 baht per month long-term. High quality, fully furnished on compound of six. WiFi, cable TV, security, maintenance and gym. Tel: 084-783 9054. Email: oggyowen@yahoo.com

NICE AND COZY HOUSE FOR RENT



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

THAI VILLA AND POOL

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

KATA LUXURY APARTMENTS

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

HOUSES FROM WELTA

Renting or buying a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Welta. Call 081 - 968 0309. Email: info@houseinphuket.com www.houseinphuket.com

LUXURY IN PATONG



beautiful houses and apartment, stunning hillside location. 1 or 2 double bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms. Huge lounge, European kitchen, pool, gardens, secure parking, large balconies with 180 degrees seaview. Air-condition, UBC TV, internet. www.luxuryhousesphuket.com

SEAVIEW VILLAS



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, dining room, kitchen, wireless internet, cable TV. Fully furnished or unfurnished. Gym, pool, 24 hour security. Minutes to Nai Harn Beach. Price 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-968 9550.

PROPERTY OWNERS

Tel: 076-288654, 081-396 3941. Or sent to email: maydayphuket@gmail.com If you have a property or room for rent, please see our website at the link www.maydayphuket.com

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: 081-692 3163.

PRIVATE POOL VILLA, KAMALA

En suite, bathroom, True, wireless internet, gated security. Long term let. Price 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-677 9663.

Baan Suan Pana CHALONG PHUKET

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

KATA MOUNTAIN VIEW HOUSE

Fullyfurnished, 1 bedroom home with bathroom, kitchen, aircon, terrace and ADSL. 9,000 baht per month. Contact more details. Tel: 081-606 2827. Email: nij017@hotmail.com

RAWAI CONDO

for rent. Fully furnished, ADSL, pool. Price 16,500 baht per month. Please contact more details. Tel: 081-606 7410.

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT, THALANG



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

OVERLOOKING SURIN BEACH

Apartment for rent, fully furnished. Long term. 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-889 1717.

SUPER LUXURY - POOL

New villa for lease. ADSL, Jacuzzi, bar/games room. Near Laguna. Price 35,000 per month. Tel: 089-594 4067.

LARGE 2 BED CONDO (NEW)

Recently completed, light and spacious with rooftop pool. Comfortable living in the centrally located Soi San Sabai. Tel: 089-732 5769. Or sent to email: sparky1977@btinternet.com

50% OFF FROM THE LEASE



In the past the villa could lease US\$39000 monthly. The villa is located in Panwa Cape with 360 degree sea view. 100m high on hill not far from Sri Panwa. The house has several bedrooms with antique furniture, marble and teakwood floors. One of the best in Phuket. 2,500sqm with 2,800 sqm of garden. Part of car park and swimming pool is being renovated. Due to economy, we would like to lease the villa at very very low price. But must meet minimum of 5 years of following conditions. The lease excludes maids service, management fees, electric and water bills. The excluded expenses cost 70,000(BTH) monthly. The lease must be paid annually in advance. First year 8.4m, 2nd year 9.5m 3rd year 11m 4th year 13m and 5th year 15m. Or sale for US\$10 million. Anyone interested in the above, please contact Khun Pensri at 081-535 5910. Or sent email to: vanich@phuket.ksc.co.th We will email you photos and etc.



Add your rental listing on
WWW.RENTALS-PHUKET.COM

Property Gazette

Property Wanted

12 MONTH LEASE

6-12 month lease wanted on a secure house with garden and pool in Nai Ham, Rawai, Kata, or Kathu. Must be dog-friendly and have internet connection. Can pay up to 40,000 baht per month. Please send to email: robinldonovan@gmail.com

APARTMENT SWAP

I am looking to swap rental of my Sydney 2 bedroom apartment for a Patong apartment from December 15 to March 27, 2009 – or part thereof. My apartment has aircon, cable TV, and Internet. Five mins to city and beaches. Tel: +61-2-9904 2073, +61-430-218110. Email: mbohlsen@gmail.com

LAND WANTED

I want to buy +/- half a rai. Should be in a good neighborhood located anywhere from Kathu to Nai Harn. Make me a low price offer. Email: nong.kudeepan@gmail.com

FLAT OR HOUSE

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

HOME FOR 5 MILLION BAHT

My wish: a house with pool, maybe unfinished, half rai, and quiet – all for less than 5 million baht. Should be located toward the south end of Phuket island. Offers with photos. Email: godolix@gmail.com

BUY CONDO CASH

Looking for apartment. 1 or 2 beds, sea view Patong-Kata. Payment from offshore account. Please send to email: jeanp22002@yahoo.com

Property Services

HOME INSPECTOR



When you need to find a home inspector. Team Engineer Home Inspection, the professional leader in residential home inspections. Tel: 081-958 2386. Email: hktinspect@gmail.com Please visit our website: www.phuketpdgroup.com

PROPERTY CARE SERVICE

Cleaning, gardening and pool maintenance. We are experienced in the field and are willing to take care of your house for an affordable monthly fee. Price example: For a 3-bed villa with garden and pool, our charge is 5,000 baht per month. Please contact us to discuss our service. The company is Swedish managed. For contact in Swedish or English: 083-394 8337 (Mattias). For contact in Thai, Swedish or English: 080-141-4577 (Viyada). Email: mattias@phuket-dirtrider.com

VILLA MANAGEMENT BY SELF-EMPLOYED PERSON

I have 7 years' experience with real estate and property management in Australia. Have worked with hotel management in Phuket resorts for 3 years. I provide high-quality service and villa management at fair prices. Can carry out professional duties set out in the management agreement, including house-keeping & maintenance of property. Can organize flight tickets and activities as well as other requests. Tel: 087-100 6111. Email: luckypam@gmail.com

Accommodation Available

PATONG APARTMENTS

Cable TV, wireless internet, air-condition. Quiet area close to amenities, short walk to beach. Good long term rates available. Large apartments from 550 baht per night. Tel: 085-064 8079. Email: spikes.thailand@hotmail.com

APARTMENT & ROOM IN PATONG

Apartment for long term rent. 12,000-20,000 baht per month. Rooms from 800-1,500 baht per night. Tel: 076-512151 or 089-290 9567. Or send email: info@brommathaihouse.com For pics, see our website at: www.brommathaihouse.com

BEACH FRONT BANG TAO

Rare. Duplex apt with direct beach access. Two bedrooms, two baths, two balconies. Seaview. Furnished, covered car space. 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-338758, 085-473 7130. Fax: 2865 3966. Or send email: cmcgee@netvigator.com

SURIN / BANG TAO APT

Two bedroom apartment at Club Lersuang. Fantastic facilities for short / long term rent. Tel: 076-271870, 087-079 0650. Email: martinandlizele@yahoo.com

APARTMENT IN PATONG

House also available in Benjamas Housing Complex. Tel: 076-344922, 081-719 7092. Email: info@bluewaterphuket.com Website: www.bluewaterphuket.com

STUDIO ROOMS, PATONG

Rent daily, monthly. Newly furnished, studio has pool. Good price. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

PATONG LUXURY APT

Center Patong, 1 and 2 bedrooms. Tel: 076-341827 or email for info and photos. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

KATABEACH

Southern Fried Rice. "A diamond in the crown of Phuket" (TripAdvisor). 8 beautiful rooms, 3-minute walk to beach, free Internet Wi-Fi. Tel: 081-894 8446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at http://www.southernfriedrice.com

LAKE VIEW APARTMENT



rooms and bungalows for rent in Kathu (nice view). Standard rooms and Studio rooms with fully furnished, air-con, CCTV, motorbike parking and car parking. Bungalows: 2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, 3 aircons, bathroom with bathtub and shower, hot and cold water. Overlooking the lake. ** Quiet, clean, natural surroundings ** 28/69 Moo 2, Vichitsongkram Rd, Kathu, Phuket 83120 Thailand. Call: 076-202585 or 089-1968449. Fax: 076-202911. Email: lakeviewapartment_phuket@hotmail.com

GUEST ROOMS AVAILABLE

Nang Noi's - double room, affordable accommodation. Call or mail for details. Tel: 089-732 5769. Email: ketsuda@btinternet.com

NAI HARN BEACH BUNGALOWS

for rent. 1 studio room fully furnished, fridge, cable TV. Air-condition, hot water. Balcony, garden, maid. Price 300 baht per day. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-691 3029. Email: silanachai@yahoo.com

HOLIDAY FLAT LONG-TERM

Nice big apartment and bungalows for long-term rent. Tel: 076-333242, 089-651 7818. Fax: 076-333243. Email: horstkaron@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at http://capt-horst.com

APARTMENTS POOL & VIEW

1 or 2 bedroom apartment, sea view penthouse, swimming pool, car park. Quiet and safe. Hillside location, cable TV, free WiFi, fully serviced. Best rates. Long- or short-term. Please contact us for details. Tel: 076-296621, 081-691 6147. Fax 076-344689. Email: info@baansuanvilla.de

Accommodation Wanted

HOUSE FOR RENT PATONG

Wanted: a house for a long term lease, from 1-2 years. Must be located in Patong. All budgets considered. ADSL a bonus. Please send details and pictures. Tel: 087-383 6023 Email: michealshutzu@gmail.com

APT / HOUSE, LONG TERM

Wanted: 2-3 bedroom apartment or house in Kata, Karon, or Chalong area. Yearly rental only. Price limit: 15,000 baht per month. ADSL is a must. Please make offer WITH price, good description and pictures (if available). Email: contact@strangefruit.musi.com

1 WEEK VILLA RENTAL

Our family of five will be visiting Mar 21-28 and are looking for a villa with a pool near a beach. Please provide price, photos and references. Tel: +81-80-3315 3921. Email: ksa3ch@yahoo.com

LONG TERM RENTAL NEEDED

for 1-3 years. 4-5 bedrooms, 3-4 bathrooms. Also need air-condition, ADSL, parking. No pool required. Kathu or Chalong area. Can pay maximum 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-624 7060.

HOUSE RENTAL

Sensible 30s couple need a long term rental. Must be in Kata-Karon or Kamala/Kathu. We have 2 well behaved dogs, so need a garden, preferably with a wall around it. Our budget is 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-030 8870. Email: no144uk@yahoo.co.uk

Building Products & Services

SKILLED EUROPEAN WELDER

MIG and TIG. Work with All grades of Stainless Steel, Aluminium, and Steel. 3D-CAD drawings in Solidworks. All sizes of jobs are of interest. Tel: 084-676 4261. Or send email: tophuketwelder@hotmail.com

QUALITY BUILDING SERVICES

Renovations, construction, carpentry, real wood, parquet, painting. Contact K. Pueng for additional details. Tel: 087-270 9093 or K. Ne at Tel: 087-689 9679 (English/Thai). Email: allservices29@gmail.com

Household Items

LATEX PILLOWS AND MATTRESSES

for sale. Variety of sizes, all as new. Prefer to sell all together but will accept reasonable offers. Email: agm@rollytasker.com

HOUSE CLEARANCE

Samsung TV, DVD, Sony computer amp/speakers, toaster, kettle, quality king-size mattress. All nearly new. Make an offer! Tel: 087-054-0355. Or send email: des_dunstan@hotmail.com

CHEAP FURNITURE

6 piece u-shaped lounge set, price 5,000 baht. Old-style timber sideboard, price 1,500 baht. 24 inch TV, price 2,500 baht. Contact John. Tel: 083-967 2213.

NEW CARPETS/RUGS

just arrived. We have over 100 new models in twisted viscose, sisal, hemp and cotton available. Many sizes and colours. Please drop into our showroom near Heroine's Monument. Tel: 081-958 5949. Email: tookta@seahorse-interiors.com For further details, please see our website at http://www.seahorse-interiors.co

CURTAINS / DESK

- Good quality curtains, various sizes. Offers.

- Desk w/ lockable drawer, filing drawer. As new. 2,500 baht. Tel: 087-922 3242. Email: patongman123@hotmail.com

ESPRESSO MACHINE W/ GRINDER

Krups fully automatic espresso machine for the freshest coffee ever. Easy and clean - used only one year. Has just received maintenance service. New price: 36,000 baht. Asking price: 18,000 baht. Call for pics. Tel: 086-274 4238. Email: mjdjdrks-spam@yahoo.com

Household Services

PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

Construction, renovation, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, painters, tilers, gardeners, sand wash and gutter. Contact K. Rin. Tel: 084-193 5124. Or send email: phukethomemaintenance@yahoo.com

LOCK-UP STORAGE

Household goods etc, 500sqm building, 24 hour security. Please contact for more info. Tel: 081-082 5707.

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Houseboat, epoxy wood composite, not finished. Price 1.5 million baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

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750cc. Trailer included. Price 125,000 baht. Tel: 081-895 0136, 081-728 8269.

14' SEA DOO JET BOAT



Twin 85hp engines. Rebuilt, fast, cover, canopy, trailer, GPS. Price: 395,000 baht. Tel: 085-7851597. Email: kcoyle@pinn.net

DAY DIVE BOAT

for sale or rent. Nissan 450hp, 25kw, 21m. Generator: Bauer compressor or cert 45 pax. Pay over 3 years. Price 3.5 million baht. Email: colona@loxinfo.co.th

PLATU 25

A proven race winner. Complete inventory update in late 2006 and has sailed one regatta since. In excellent condition and is dry-stored under cover. 550,000 baht ono. Tel: 076-348117, 081-891 9653. Fax: 076-348118. Email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

HOBIE CAT 14

with launching trolley & spares, good condition. Price 65,000 baht. Phuket town. Contact more details. Tel: 076-224596.

30FT MOTOR YACHT

Beautiful Sea Ray Sundancer. Fully loaded. 300 hours. 2.3 million baht. Immediately available Tel: 076-317538, 085-111 1455. Email: uwed@avia-star.com

HOBIE 16

Very good condition. Price 150,000 baht. Tel: 089-470 8926. Email: eanfievat@voila.fr

LIVE ABOARD FOR FUN OR TOUR



23-meter former live aboard dive boat. Renovated for pleasure or for use as a tour boat. Has 10 small bunk rooms that can be converted to one large bedroom and indoor living area. Also has kitchen and big outdoor areas to laze around on. In good condition and will impress. 5.5 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 02-684 1053, 081-904 0266. Email: jpo well@saigonnet.vn

SHARKCAT 23

Refurbished 2007/8. Twin Yamaha 200hp with low hours. Cabin with dbl berth & toilet. Versatile: cruising, fishing, water skiing. Thai registered. Price: 985,000 baht. Tel: 076-348117, 081-891 9653. Fax: 076-348118. Or sent to email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

BENETEAU CYCLES 393

Enjoy sailing from Phuket and learn a little. 3 cabins, 2 toilets. Layout excellently maintained and loaded with extras. Thai registered and under maintenance contract with advance bookings. Tel: 076-348117, 081-891 9653. Fax: 076-348118. Email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

7 AND 9 METERS SUPER RIBS

Four new 2009 ribs - 7m and 9m. The boats include single and twin mounted 225 hp Merces enabling speeds of 60 knots, new galvanized dual axle trailers, all options, CE, COC, GPS, triple tanks, big sunbrella. All new with full warranties. Come try Tel: 083-646 7282, 083-636 9327. Email: par.emanuel@xwipers.com

32FT CATAMARAN

4 double cabins, 32sqm sail area, 9 HP Honda. 490,000 baht. Contact more details. Tel: 087-461 8089.

SPEED BOAT FOR SALE URGENT

33ft wooden hull, 2x200 hp, Yamaha 2007, 23+2 pax. Price 800,000 baht. Tel: 086-192-2174.

WELLCRAFT SCARAB 31

2 x 250 hp Merces, 390 hours, fully serviced. Speeds to 60 knots, bow cabin, portable toilet, GPS, VHF, Sunbrella, all new interior, red and white. Come and see! Offers invited around 1.8 million baht. Tel: 083-646 7282, 083-636 9327. Or sent to email par.emanuel@xwipers.com

BOAT FOR SALE

3.40m rigid single hull, engines Tohatsu 25cc, cover for inflatable boat, one seat removable. Price: 175,700 baht. Call Mr Dydi at 087-161 6984.

MAXUM 2000 SR - BOWRIDER

Eddie Bauer Edition. Year 1994. Rarely used. Only 300 hours. Very good condition. 895,000 baht. Tel: 02-661 7676, 081-628 4798. Email: uwed@avia-star.com

36 FOOT JENNEAU SAILING

yacht. Originally bought from Sunsail, fully overhauled. Low price. Now at Boat Lagoon dock E7. Tel: 087-626 5396. www.thailandboating.com

FISHING BOAT

43 ft Thai fishing boat. Hino Diesel engine, Borg Warnertrans (new), outriggers and more. For quick sale, a bargain at 300,000 baht. Pic available on request. Tel: 076-388478, 083-520 7308. Email: gerrybfoster@hotmail.com

TROLLING MOTOR

Brand new in "Motorguide" Mercury model, 46FB, 12 volts, 5-speed. Dealer price 500USD. Task only 400USD. Tel: 083-633 1054.

SUPER CHARGED

Sea scooter. New in box, paid 600 euros. Price 15,000 baht. Tel: 081-294 5441.

2 PROPELLERS

Suitable for sailboat, bronze, 1.5" to 1.25" bore. Port & SB Price 8,000 baht each, ono. Tel: 087-275 9618. Email: sea scape@hol.gr

SAILING DINGHY 5M50

Motor mercury 60 ch. 1 year 6 months old. Price 500,000 baht. Tel: 087-266 7209. Contact more details at email: serge.mages@laposte.net

STABLE DAY BOAT

Launched 2003, Bear Cat, 9.5 m with twin Mariner 200hp engines. Ideal dive or day trip boat. Out of water for one year. Boat is on hardstand at the Boat Lagoon for your inspection. Excellent condition. Asking 1.3mil baht. Tel: 081-536 2069. Email: pat@destinationair.com

LUXURY DAY DIVING BOAT

for sale, luxury day/overnight steel diving boat. 26m, 2x cummins 350hp, twin disc gear boxes, 1x50kva & 1x 16kva gen, fully equipped. Price 8mil baht ono. Contact Phil 084-017 4175. Email: admin@philkade.com

FLYBRIDGE BOAT

for sale. Brand new 36 foot fiberglass boat. Perfect diving, sightseeing or fishing vessel. Email: tony@steppaboats.com

FOR SALE

Power boat. Crownline 252EX 2007. Only 69 hrs. 350HP 5.7ltr Bravo. Drive on aluminum trailer. 2.3M baht ono. Tel: 081-833 7836. Or sent to email: leemapkt@hotmail.com

For Sale Princess 20M

995,000 Euro

- 2 x MAN 1000hp diesel
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- Full beam Master cabin
- Bow and stern thrusters

Inspect now

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Mobile: 081 894 1530
email: andrew@leemarine.net

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Brand new Cobalt 262 for sale. Top of the line bowrider with full options. Candied red graphics, fully transferable warranty. Lying Phuket, VAT paid, ready for the high season! Tel: 084-442 5460. Or send to our email: phuket@starshipyachts.com For further details, at http://starship yachts.com

INFLATABLE DINGHY 12FT/18HP

2007 AquaPro Divemaster 1,198. Aluminum hull, spare tube, cover and wheels. Must see. Tel: 081-693 0079. Email: mark@wunschmedia.com

DAY CRUISER GOZZO 6.3 MT



Gozzo "Gozzetto 6.30", built in VRP with teak details, honeycomb structure and deck. Interiors in mahogany, inboard diesel from 38 to 85 hp (14 knots with 49 hp), exceptional for coastal cruising and fishing, Italian designer. Starts from 600,000 to 1,200,000 THB. Ready available. Tel: 038-706060. Email: info@andaman boatyard.com www.andaman boatyard.com

32 FEET CATAMARAN

built 2007/8 from plywood and epoxy fibreglass. Plenty of space, nice to live on. 720,000 baht. Tel: 087-092 9921. Or please send email: joe_anu sara@yahoo.com

NEW LUXURY 70FT CATAMARAN

Shangani is a New Luxury 70ft Catamaran Charter in Phuket. Tel: 076-326026, 081-968-5357. Or Fax: 076-270678. www.tigermarinecharter.com Or sent to our email: webmaster@tigermarinecharter.com

YACHT-ROD SAILING CATAMARAN

Fun Performance Cruiser. Tel: 089-587 1862. Email: mmc grath2@hotmail.com See website for more details. http://www.typhoonsails.com/stiletto.html

SPORT FISHING BOAT

6 metre custom built centre console mariner 115hp, very low hours usage, great boat for share with friends, 550,000 baht ono. Tel: 084-849 2804.

LONG TAIL FIBER GLASS

Komboda diesel, 1 engine 3 years old. Not used much. Price 45,000 baht. Contact more details. Tel: 085-798 6929.

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"Seabob Offshore No limits"

New Product For Water Sport in Thailand (Seatoy)

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Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 968 1437
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email: andrew@leemarine.net

■ Yacht Haven Marina Office
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 891 3237
tel/fax: 076 206 280
email: jim@leemarine.net

■ Pattaya Office
Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
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Email: mark@leemarine.net

Island Job Mart

Great financial opportunity in Phuket for the right person!

Seeking a "real" salesperson on a freelance basis for marketing company. High income guaranteed for Thai or Foreign national, with superior sales skills, self-confident, open minded and hard-working. High standard of English required.

Please forward your CV and a photo to:
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Please email your CV, current salary and covering letter to careers@1staudiovisual.co.th Tel: 077430037



Anantara Phuket Resort & Spa, Mai Khao Beach



If you enjoy being the best, delivering the highest of standards and are a technical expert in your area then you may want to come and be part of the Anantara Story... We are looking for the following professionals to join us.

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- Villa Manager
- Telephone Operator (Female) x 3
- Villa Host x 4
- Gift Shop Supervisor
- Gift Shop Attendant
- Yacht Hostess

Food & Beverage

- Restaurant Manager
- F&B Hostess

Housekeeping

- Villa Administrator

We enjoy a 5 day work week (average 45 hours per week) and free transport to and from Phuket Town.

As part of our recruitment process you will be assessed on your level of English – this is a key skill for all of our team.

Please submit your CV with covering letter stating the position you are applying to email address recruit_phuket@anantara.com

Good luck with your application!

Job Openings at Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket

Director of Sales – Europe (Phuket Based)

Qualifications:

- 7 years' experience in sales, preferably with a 5 star international hotel in Thailand, with at least the past 2 years in the role of a Assistant DOS or Director of Sales overseeing the European tour wholesalers.
- Must have personal contacts with major European tour wholesalers, participated in regional/international tradeshow and is able to effectively manage key accounts in order to build relations and drive financial objectives for this segment.

Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket
509 Patak Road, Karon Beach, Phuket, Thailand 83100
Tel: 076-396139, Fax: 076-396119
e-mail: kasama.ninzeang@moevenpick.com
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ONLINE JOB APPLICATION

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www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com/JOB.htm

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Please send your application with a recent photo to Human Resource Dept.
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Tel: 076 270 750, Fax: 076 270 751, Email: hr@pipsphuket.com

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Qualifications:

- Thai / Foreigner are welcome
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- Based in Phuket
- Good command of English
- Good management skills
- Salary is negotiable

Please send resumé to Wine Connection (Chalong branch)
19/54-57 Moo.8 Chaofa Rd., T.Chalong, A.Muang, Phuket
Tel: 076-282411-12 Fax: 076-282414.
Email: hmmgr@wineconnection.co.th

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

(American Red Cross) have the following vacancies:

1. Administration and Operations Coordinator
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For details please visit www.thaingo.org

TEACHERS WANTED IN PHUKET

Satree Phuket School is seeking full time native English speakers to teach English, arts, health, mathematics, young guide and hoteling to 11-18 year old students. To begin in May. Salary begins at 30,000 baht. 4 weeks paid holiday, government health plan. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's Degree or above, plus TEFL or CELTA certificate, or equivalent. Be prepared to present all original certificates at interview. Tel: 084-666 3557. Please email CV with covering letter to ep@satreephuket.ac.th or toptip4736@yahoo.com

ENGLISH SPEAKING LADY SEEK

wanted 3 or 4 evenings / wk must be quite young, friendly & kind. Contact John. Tel: 083-102 8922. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

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looking for similar position with upmarket resort and villa project. 20 years experience, dynamic achiever. Contact Tony. Tel: 089-471-1503.

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Salary range: 40,000 to 75,000 baht. Experience an asset. Must have technical knowledge, and be skilled and able to read electrical drawings. Thai national, own car. Please send CV to: info@elec-pro.com

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Must have computer, internet, speak English. 30 baht per hour. Tel: 082-803 1442.

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to sell discount Books to tourists around Patong. Work when you want. Average earnings 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-392 2032.

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THE PARADISE KOH YAO

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www.theparadise.biz

The Paradise Koh Yao, a contemporary 70-room boutique resort is located on Koh Yao Noi island, a 60-minute boat trip from Phuket. Catering to the experienced traveler looking for unspoiled nature in uncompromised luxury - away from the crowded tourist spots of Phuket and Krabi.

We are seeking an outstanding personality to be a key member of our motivated team that is committed to personalized, superior customer service.

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Covering all aspects of F&B operations, including kitchen and restaurant. Based at the resort on Koh Yao with regular visits to Phuket.

- At least 3-5 years' experience in 5- or 4-star hotels in executive kitchen assignments
- Leader personality, motivator
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- Implementation of innovative kitchen and restaurant concepts
- Previous assignment in Thailand/Asia an advantage
- Knowledge of Thai/German/English language is an advantage
- Foreign or Thai national, 35-55 years of age

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Send your resume with recent photo, references and salary expectations to: gm@theparadise.biz

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Career Opportunity

VS Asia Co., Ltd. was established in Phuket 10 years ago. We are a professional printing technology and post-production company for customer, in Europe and Asia, that co-operate with a business partner company with headquarter in Europe.

We are expanding our production department and looking for active colleagues to work as a "Text-Editor". Interested candidate must be a fast learner, self-motivated, creative, keen to learn new thing & have IT skills and also a team player.

Text & Content Editor

Job Description:

- Knowledge of German language
- Text and content checking/correcting
- Combination of text and figure in double page
- Work with text editor software: QuarkXpress, Indesign or illustrator
- Art or imagination of design
- Cooperate with retouch and other department

Qualifications:

- Male/Female, Thai or German Nationality
- Good German Language skill in writing + reading
- Any Vocational, Diploma or higher education related field of study
- Good knowledge of Computer (Windows or Macintosh) and Internet
- Experiences of text editor would be advantaged
- High responsibility and punctuality
- Able to work in team or independently, and as a shift working

Salary & Welfare:

- Salary, Bonus, Social Security Insurance, Tax, Food, etc.

Interested applicants should submit your resume stating qualifications, previous work experience and position applied for along with a recent photograph to:

VS Asia Co., Ltd. (Human Resource Department)
42 Moo 3, Palai 2, Chaofa Rd, Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130
Tel: (00)66-76-380600
Fax: (00)66-76-380605
Email: as@vsdma.com

RJM CONSULTING GROUP Co., Ltd.

Dalaaburi Development 65/21 Thepkrasatri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200.

RJM is a leading M&E Design and Engineering company with offices throughout the region. We are looking an intelligent, dynamic and highly motivated Thai national to join our expanding operations in Phuket.

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JOB DESCRIPTION:

- Responsible for managing the day-to-day procurement for our projects.
- Request quotation from supplies and negotiate for best offer.
- Execute all steps in procurement process and logistics procedures for items.
- Compare quotes, prepare bid analysis and propose for approval
- Issue PO, monitor delivery, check invoice and send to Finance for payment
- Coordinate and resolve with field offices on logistics issues.
- Organize the related report such as, PR tracking report, weekly report, finance relating reports, and consolidate field reports.
- Participate in professional training activities as needed and/or requested
- To work with our team to provide detailed pricing of projects.
- Ensure procurements are executed and completed efficiently to schedules.
- To work closely with clients to build and maintain relationships.

REQUIRED:

- Bachelor's degree in related field and/ or related training course
- Minimum 4 years work experience in procurement and logistics
- Minimum 3 years relevant work experience with NGOs
- Ability of planning, organizing, as well as problem solving
- Able to work under pressure, details oriented and administration tasks
- Strong computer skills such as MS office
- Good communication in both Thai and English
- Good communication of English written and oral
- Knowledge of import and export in Thailand an advantage.
- Self motivated and keen to learn.

Interested candidates may submit their CV with covering letter by email to:

cps@online.com.kh or finance@cpscambodia.com
no later than July 18, 2008.

CIVIL ENGINEER NEEDED

Must have good English communication skills and a Bachelor's degree. 3-5 years experience in related field. Tel: 087-716 2700. Or send email: thairusmedia@gmail.com

RECEPTIONIST

Night time work. Looking for English speaking male. Tel: 087-627 9312.

STAFF RECRUITMENT

Avantika Boutique Hotel, a small boutique beach front luxury hotel with 31 rooms, at the South-end of Patong Beach, is looking for suitable candidates (Thai national only) for the following positions: Reservations - Reception - Housekeeping - Engineers. Please send a recent photo, resume, expected salary to: Human Resource Department. Avantika Boutique Hotel 4/1 Thaveewong Rd, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150. Tel: 076-292801-7 ext. 602, 603, Fax: 076-292809. Email: admin@avantika-phuket.com Website: www.avantika-phuket.com

BOAT YARD MANAGER

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

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seeks Thai national female for office assistant position. Requirements: excellent knowledge of spoken and written English, advanced computer skills. Please send your CV. Tel: 084-844 1469. Email: thairusmedia@gmail.com

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18 yrs successful track record in International Trade, Import/Export, Strategic Global Sourcing and Supply Chain Management. MBA from top US Institute. Fluent Chinese and English, conversational Thai. Targeting employment with a strong company in Phuket. U.S. Citizen.

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089-813 4456.

Email:

chilly.han@gmail.com

PROGRAMMER LOOKING FOR JOB

Experienced Danish programmer located in Phuket is looking for work on short/long term projects. Keywords: PHP, Zend Framework, Java (+JSP/servlets), MySQL, JavaScript, (D)HTML, AJAX, MVC, Linux server administration and object orientation. Please contact for more information. Tel: 085-073 9994. Email: jan.faroe@gmail.com

We are seeking qualified & energetic people



SALES & MARKETING MANAGER (1 Position)

All applicants must have the following qualifications:

- Positive attitude, self-motivated, strong leadership, proactive interpersonal & communication skills, well organized & able to deal with internal and external customers.
- Applicants must be able to communicate well in English.
- Applicants must have excellent understanding of the service industry with solid values
- Applicants must be enthusiastic and self-starters with HR in their heart.
- Applicants must be computer literate.
- Applicants must be able to work in Phuket.

Interested candidates, please send full resume, expected salary & a recent photo by fax or e-mail to:
e: thaisana@andaraphuket.com and copy gm@andaraphuket.com

ANDARA RESORT AND VILLAS CO.LTD.

Human Resources Department

The Plaza Surin 5/50 M.3, Chermg Talay, Thalung, Phuket 83110

T: 66 76-386010-2 F: 66-76-386014

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Wed and Sun 7 PM
Bangkok Hospital - Phuket City
Fri 7 PM
Patong Hospital - Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun at 7 PM
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Fax: 076-280403

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Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

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Fax: 076-232398

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Model	Area (sq.wa)	*Total price*(baht)	Deposit (baht)	50% Down payment (baht)	Final payment (baht)
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Pruerk-Ampai	75	5,950,000	100,000	2,875,000	2,975,000
Pruerk-Amporn	136.4	8,850,000	100,000	4,325,000	4,425,000

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

For further information please contact our office
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