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Phuket Gazette

Volume 16 Issue 30

News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

July 25 - 31, 2009

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net 25 Baht

The Gazette is published
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give clubbers a night to
remember with two massive
parties.

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Young lovers 'wired for death'

By Dan Waites & Atchaa Khamlo

A MAN was killed while trying to revive his son and his son's lover who were electrocuted in what police believe may have been a bizarre murder-suicide.

Police said Jitti Choowong arrived home last Friday night to find his son Ekalak and his girlfriend dead on the floor of the home they shared in Rassada.

Mr Jitti tried to revive the couple, but they were still connected to an electric cable which was plugged into a wall socket, and he too was electrocuted.

Kusoldharm paramedics tried to revive 67-year-old Jitti Choowong using a defibrillator, but were unable to save him.

Investigators are now trying to work out whether electrician Ekalak Choowong, 26, and his girlfriend, Sunaree Kaewjaipaa, 20, died as a result of a suicide pact, or a bizarre murder-suicide in which Ekalak murdered Sunaree and then killed himself.

Inspector Krurkrit Ritnueang of Phuket City Police said a suicide note, signed by Mr Ekalak, was found beside the dead bodies.

"In the letter he said

Sunaree didn't care about his feelings and didn't take care of him properly," Inspector Krurkrit said.

Ekalak's mother, Saykaew Choowong, who also lived in the house, said her son and his girlfriend had been arguing the night before they died.

She said she and Mr Jitti went out around midday on Friday, and returned about 10pm, to find the front door was locked.

She said her husband called out to their son but there was no reply, so he went around to the back of the house and climbed in over a back gate.

Mrs Saykaew said her husband screamed out in pain a few minutes later and she went around to the back of the house and found him on the floor near the back door, writhing in pain.

The dead bodies of Ekalak and Sunaree were also on the floor, tied together with an electric cord which was plugged into a wall socket, she said.

Mrs Saykaew said she pulled the plug out of the socket and shouted for help.

Paramedics unsuccessfully tried to revive Mr Jitti.

Hillary seeks support



Photo by Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn

US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, flew into Phuket on Wednesday and went to bat for the Burmese, calling on the Burmese junta to release democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest for many years.

Mrs Clinton told Asean delegates at Laguna it was important that member

countries encouraged the Burmese leadership to open up.

More attempts should be made to pressure the Burmese leaders to 'change their direction,' she said.

Mrs Clinton also signed an historic treaty reflecting the US government's intention to engage more with the South East Asian region.

More Asean news, pages 4 and 5.

'Truck bomb' fooled detector device

DEUPTY Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban canceled a planned trip to Ao Por pier in northeastern Phuket on Tuesday after security staff found what they thought was a truck loaded with bombs in the pier's carpark.

While checking the carpark before Mr Suthep's visit, the security team's bomb detection

devices, including the new Alpha 6 detectors, reacted to a pale blue pickup truck in the carpark, indicating it contained explosives.

Mr Suthep, who is in Phuket to oversee security measures which are in place for the 42nd Asean Foreign Ministers Meeting, was immediately informed and canceled his visit.

Police converged on the

carpark, but were hesitant to break into the Bangkok-registered truck until the truck's owner, Usen Ya-ood returned just after 5pm.

He told police he was a water engineer and had recently taken a job on Koh Nakha just off the coast of Phuket.

He said he parked his truck in the carpark each day and

caught a boat across to the island.

The bomb detection squad and sniffer dogs inspected Mr Usen's pickup truck but found no evidence of explosives, bomb-making materials or narcotics.

A policeman at the scene said traces of an unnamed substance on the man's car could have triggered the bomb detection devices.



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Ladyboys lead the charge



THE Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO) has recruited a team of ladyboys to help fight the spread of swine flu. The five scantily clad stunners were on hand at the Phuket Merlin Hotel in Phuket City last week to witness provincial office chiefs signing 'contracts' pledging to help fight the killer disease.

The ladyboys all wore surgical masks and came armed with hand gel dispensers. After the signing ceremony, the ladyboys rode around the city on the back of a pickup truck, spreading their clean hands message.

Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop said the campaign was part of a provincial strategy to make the fight against swine flu fun and fashionable, rather than one based on fear.

Last week, officials including Phuket Vice-Governor Tri Augkaradacha, Phuket Culture Office chief Tawichart Inntarit and PPHO officers toured Phuket's karaoke bars, cinemas and internet cafes warning business operators to keep up the fight in the war against swine flu.

Meanwhile the Cabinet approved a proposal by the Ministry of Public Health to close internet cafes for two weeks nationwide. However, PPHO Director, Dr Pongsawas Ratansang said his office was not enforcing the order.

The swine flu outbreak is not as bad as it is in Bangkok, so the PPHO is asking internet shop owners to take extra cleaning precautions, he said.

So far, there have been more than 111 reported cases of A(H1N1) in Phuket, but only one fatality from the disease has been reported.

Phuket MP faces the axe

THE Election Commission (EC) last week ruled that Phuket party list MP Chalermklak Kebsup broke the rules by holding shares in a restricted business and wants her removed from office.

Ms Chalermklak is one of 13 MPs, all from the ruling Democrat party, that the commission wants ousted.

The MPs, including Deputy Prime Minister in charge of national security, Suthep Thaugsuban, have each been accused of holding stocks in media firms or telecom businesses operating under state concessions.

Mr Suthep, who denies any wrongdoing, resigned last Friday when told of the commission's ruling.

The EC will now forward the names of the remaining MPs and the charges against them, to House Speaker Chai Chidchob, who will then ask the Constitution Court to make a final ruling.

If the Constitution Court upholds the EC rulings, the MPs will lose their seats and by-elections will be held to replace them within 45 days.

The EC stressed that its ruling was based purely on legal process, not politics.

The move to have the MPs removed was first proposed by Supachai Jaisamut, a member of the coalition Bhumjaithai Party. Secretary-general of the



Phuket MP Chalermklak Kebsup

EC, Sutthipol Thaweechaikarn, said the commission investigated 28 Democrat MPs for breaching the constitution, but found 12 had not violated the rules and the remaining three had already resigned.

He said the commission found that both Mr Suthep and Miss Chalermklak held shares in media giant True Corporation.

Miss Chalermklak said she had held 5,000 shares in TT&T Public Company Ltd since 1993 as well as 500 shares in True Corporation.

But she said she declared her shareholdings to the National Counter Corruption Commission after taking up her position.

Miss Chalermklak said the EC ruling was not final and she was not unduly worried about the charge, and would continue carrying out her duties as normal while the Constitution Court considers her case.

Couple attacked outside nightclub

A YOUNG couple ended up in hospital after they were brutally beaten as they left Stereo Lab nightclub in Surin early on Saturday morning.

A 28-year-old woman and a male friend, were leaving the nightclub just before dawn when two Thai men attacked them.

"One tried to grab my purse,

and punched me repeatedly in the head when I wouldn't let go," said the female victim.

She said her friend was hit from behind by the second man who was armed with either a bottle or a small club.

The two men fled when 'a large foreigner with blond hair' entered the carpark.

The couple were taken to Thalang Hospital where the woman was treated for bruising and lacerations and her friend was found to have a dislocated shoulder and a cut to his head which needed 12 stitches.

Anyone with information should call Cherng Talay Police on 076-324 086.

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Property row sparks beachfront gunfight

By Gazette reporters

A WILD West-style gunfight broke out on the Patong beach front on Tuesday afternoon, leaving one man dead and at least three more seriously injured.

Bystanders said two gangs of Thai men began shooting at each other on the site of the burned out Jintana shopping center on the Patong beach road just after lunchtime.

They said a gang of five Thai men began shooting at another gang of three men, and the smaller gang returned fire.

The gunfight moved along the beach road to near the Clublime nightclub as dozens of shots were fired.

Police from a nearby checkpoint raced to the scene and organized ambulances to take the injured to hospital.

One man was rushed to Patong Hospital, where he died a short time later, and three others were taken to Bangkok Phuket Hospital in Phuket City.

The dead man has been named as Daruwat Burintarakot, 24, the nephew of Jintana heiress Komkai Kositkoon who was murdered in July last year.

Police also released the names of the three injured men.



A wounded man is taken to hospital in a police pick-up truck shortly after a gun fight erupted on the Patong beach road.

They are former Police Captain Sunan Potsawatpairoj, 62, who was shot twice in the leg, Imron Yeebu, 35, who was shot in the chin, and Aod Ketkaew, 29, who was also shot in the leg.

A police spokesman said the gunfight started in the burned out Jintana Shopping Plaza opposite Loma Park, which had been damaged by fire at least five times in the past two years.

He said it appeared Mr Daruwat, Mr Aod and a team of demolition workers had gone to the shopping center site intending

to demolish the building, but Captain Sunan, who was the site caretaker, objected and an argument broke out.

Captain Sunan then reportedly produced a pistol and shot Mr Danuwat and Mr Aod.

A police spokesman said there had been a long-running dispute regarding the Jintana Plaza land.

On Wednesday morning, Mr Daruwat's widow and other family members went to the Kathu Police Station to discuss the shootings with senior police.

Solar eclipse was a cloudy no-show



Thanabodee Tonglek, a Prathom 5 student from Plookpanya School in Phuket City, uses a special solar viewer to see the partial solar eclipse.

Thousands of people who got up early to witness Tuesday's partial solar eclipse were disappointed when heavy clouds covered the sky, obscuring the heavenly spectacle.

The sun battled to break through, but its rare appearances were brief and hazy.

Despite the overcast conditions, about 500 primary and secondary school students who gathered at Rajabhat Phuket University to watch the eclipse did not go away completely disappointed and were lucky enough to see the moon partly cover the sun just after 8am.

"Today we had a lot of clouds, but fortunately we were able to see the eclipse for about five minutes, said Professor Sukchai Petchuay, Assistant Dean of Rajabhat University Phuket.

The university set up seven

telescopes under a large canopy in front of the school administration building and passed out 500 'solar viewers' to enable the students to view the eclipse safely.

The eclipse started at 7.13am and ended at 8.01am, so the students were only able to observe the final phases of the event.

Although the eclipse was only 20 percent in Phuket, it reached as high as 60 percent in northern Thailand.

It was the longest total solar eclipse of this century and was visible in a narrow corridor running through parts of India, eastern Nepal, Bangladesh, China and Bhutan.

The next partial solar eclipse will be on January 15 next year, but we won't see a total eclipse in Thailand until April 2070.

- Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn

Fewer murders, but more frauds

Police statistics for June show there were fewer murders, attempted murders and assaults than there were in June last year, although there were more thefts, frauds, drug-related cases and gambling offences.

There were two reports of murder (down 60 percent on June last year) with one arrest made and four reports of

attempted murder (down 20 percent) with two arrests made.

There were 14 reports of assault (down 33 percent) with 12 arrests made.

The number of rapes reported rose from zero to three, and police made one arrest.

There were 45 reported robberies (the same as last year) with 26 arrests, and there were 11 reported cases of theft (up 57

percent) and police made 10 arrests

There were seven cases of fraud reported (up 17 percent), and police made two arrests.

Gambling was also on the rise with 48 reported cases (up 12 percent), and 181 arrests.

Drug cases also increased with 259 drug-related cases reported (up 65 percent). Police made 284 arrests.

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Ministers' meetings get the stamp of approval



Four of the stamps in the 'Asean Stamp Collection' (clockwise from top-left): the National Museum in Singapore; the National Museum of Cambodia, the Malayan Railway Headquarters Building in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and the Presidential Palace in Hanoi, Vietnam.

THAILAND Post has released a series of souvenir stamps to commemorate the Asean meetings held in Phuket this week.

During the summit, the 24 stamps were only available at the Laguna Beach Resort, but once the delegates have left town, they will be available at post offices

throughout the Kingdom.

The stamps feature images of some of Southeast Asia's most popular tourist spots.

They include the Malayan Railway Headquarters Building in Kuala Lumpur, the National Museum of Singapore and Phuket's most southerly point, Phromthep Cape.

Rights body lacks teeth, say critics

ASEAN foreign ministers have endorsed the terms of reference for the Asean Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights, amid widespread criticism the body would have no real teeth to protect people from rights violations.

Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya made the announcement on Monday as part of a joint communiqué after the first day of talks at the 42nd Asean Ministerial Meeting at Laguna Phuket.

Mr Kasit, who chaired the meeting, said the commission would be formally established with a political declaration at the 15th Asean Summit scheduled for October.

Yet the body was widely criticized for having no powers to punish human rights offenders.

Human rights advocates have expressed concerns that the new body will fall short of international standards, lacking

the power to deal with problematic Asean countries like military-ruled Burma.

In addition, civil society groups campaigning in Phuket during the regional meetings say they don't want an Asean human-rights body that is a 'toothless paper tiger'.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva admitted that in the initial stages the commission would focus on promotion, rather than protection of rights.

"Progress will first be made on the front of promotion, but the protection side will not be ignored. It is better to make a start than to leave it hanging with no progress at all," he explained.

In response to concerns about it 'lacking teeth' to protect Asean citizens against human rights violations in their countries, Mr Abhisit said, "We want to establish a body that promotes the issue. Once that is put into place, there will be more teeth for the body in terms of protection."

The terms of reference would be reviewed every five years. Their current form represents only a beginning, Mr Kasit said.

Asean did not believe in punishment, but is confident its members will behave accordingly and honor their commitment to help the people of Asean to lead a better life, he said.

"Why should we keep on punishing ourselves? Let's do it the civilized way and work together in a positive manner," he said.

"Please do not see this as a process of continual crime and punishment. We will not commit any crime, so there shouldn't be

punishment – only a lot of achievement," he said.

However, even officials at the Asean meeting expressed disappointment at the commission's lack of rights protection.

Asean Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan said Indonesia wanted to see the commission provide more.

Indonesia proposed the inclusion of a clear political message on rights protection in the political declaration at the next Asean summit in October, he said.

A journalist from Indonesia at Monday's press conference put Thailand's lese majeste law into the context of human rights by asking Mr Kasit what the commission would do about criticism of the Thai monarchy.

Mr Kasit said Thailand has a constitutional monarchy system that keeps the monarchy and especially His Majesty the King above politics.

"Don't mix it up. There are certain quarters in society who would like to bring the institution of the monarchy down into the political fight inside Thailand," he said.

"The royal institution and HM the King have no protection when they're being attacked. We have to have a law to protect the institution. The lese majeste law is simply there to protect the institution of the monarchy because they cannot protect themselves. The King cannot go to court," he said.

"What we have in Thailand is similar to what a lot of countries have with the institution of monarchy," he added.

-The Nation

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Top diplomats in safe hands



GETTING THE TREATMENT: A reporter poses as an Asean delegate in cardiac arrest during a demonstration drill of emergency medical services on Saturday.

DELEGATES at the Asean Ministers' Meetings were in safe hands last week, with a temporary intensive care unit set up at Laguna Phuket just in case any of them fell seriously ill during the talks.

Medical teams were also on standby at two more locations around Phuket throughout the meetings.

The most well equipped was 'Medical Center 1201', located inside the host venue, the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket, just eight meters from the main conference room.

The ICU unit was stocked with emergency medical

equipment including defibrillators, respirators, heart monitoring devices and a variety of narcotics.

A second treatment unit at Canal Village, near the Dusit Thani Laguna resort, had stand-by respirators and defibrillators in emergency packs which could be dispatched at a moment's notice.

A third medical team was on standby at Phuket Community Hall in Phuket City.

Two ambulances remained on standby at the entrance to the Sheraton throughout the event.

In case of an emergency, delegates were to be rushed to either Bangkok Hospital Phuket or Vachira Phuket Hospital.

-Atchaa Khamlo

PM opens meeting with praise for island

PRIME Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva opened the 42nd Asean Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) on Monday with generous praise for Phuket and its people.

His opening statement began: "It is indeed my great pleasure to welcome all of you to the 42nd Asean Foreign Ministers' Meeting and to the island of Phuket, the 'Pearl of the Andaman Sea'."

"We gather here today in a city and province with a rich history – a city that has grown from a mining center into a world famous tourism destination; a province that bravely weathered the devastation of the tsunami of 2004 and has revitalized itself with the dynamic local economy that we see today.

"It would therefore be appropriate if we all congratulate the people of Phuket for their resilience and for their success, and to thank them for their warm hospitality."

Clinton signs off on friendship pact

US SECRETARY of State Hillary Clinton and all ten Asean foreign ministers signed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Phuket on Wednesday.

The signing of the treaty reflects the US government's intention to engage more deeply with the regional grouping.

During a meeting at Government House in Bangkok, Mrs Clinton said the US was concerned about reports of secret military co-operation between Burma and North Korea.

Speaking about the unrest in Thailand's Deep South, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva told Mrs Clinton the government had made progress in resolving the issue.

Thailand had received good co-operation from neighboring countries, especially Indonesia and Malaysia, in tackling the issue, he said.

Thailand welcomed the US decision to sign the treaty, Deputy Prime Minister Korbsak Sabhaswasu said.



PM Abhisit Vejjajiva and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton make gestures during a courtesy call on Tuesday.

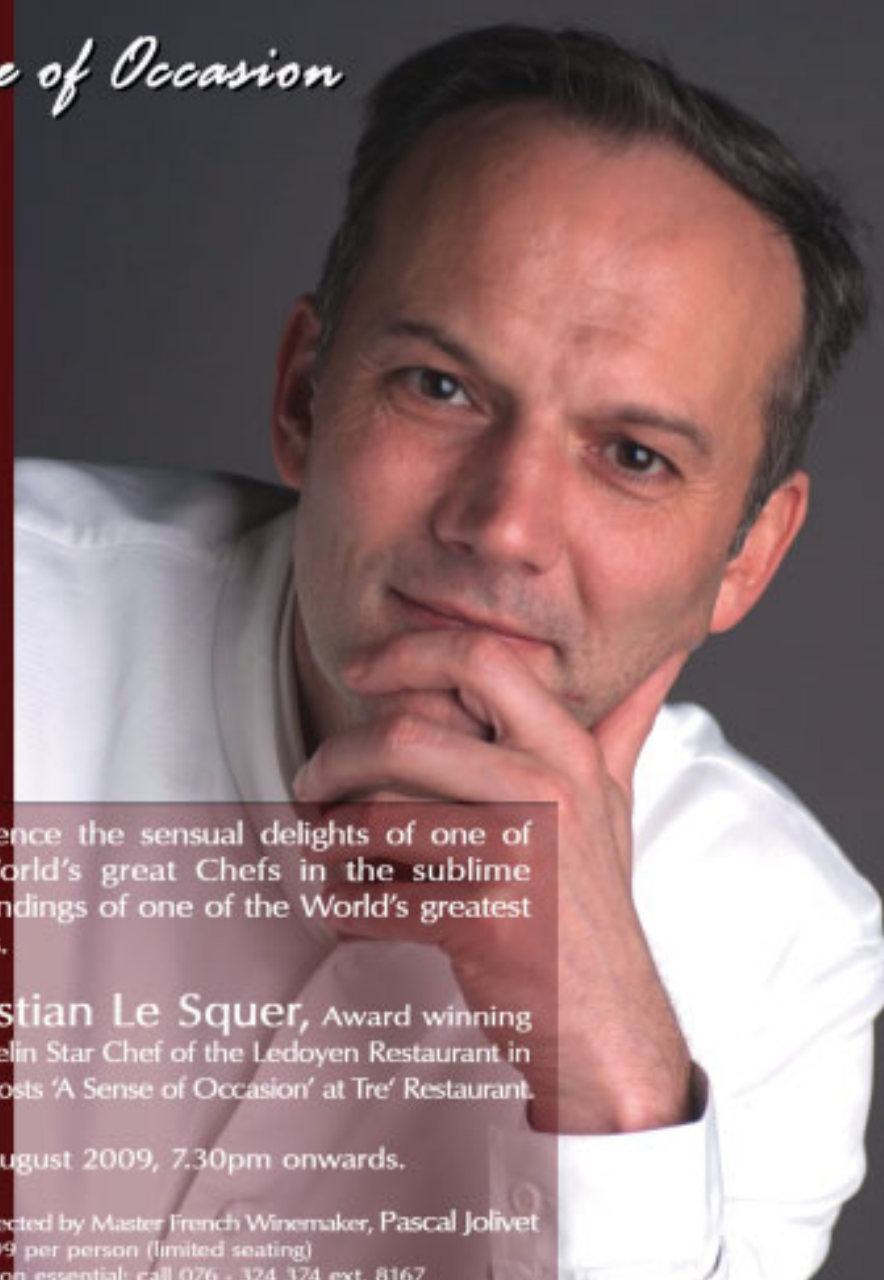
On behalf of Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya, who was in Phuket for the Asean Ministerial Meeting, Mr Korbsak pointed out in his welcoming address that Thailand and the US

had been friends for 176 years.

"Our relationship has always been blessed with cordiality and understanding," Mr Korbsak said.

-The Nation

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Children in Narathiwat greet Navy mascots during a visit by Navy Chief of Staff Adm Rapon Kamklai to a navy base in the province last Tuesday. Photo by Amornrat Khemkao

Monk admits to murders

PHITSANULOK: A monk has admitted murdering a couple who were shot dead in Wang Thong District last August.

The monk, Surachet Khiamthongkham, 26, was arrested at Wat Pho Klang in Muang District last Thursday and admitted shooting his friend Suraphon Bangklao and Mr Suraphon's girlfriend Wilairat Sangkham during an argument about a gun he was selling to Mr Suraphon.

Mr Surachet said he had agreed to sell a 9mm pistol to Mr Suraphon for 3,500 baht, but when he came to do the deal, Mr Suraphon offered him 30 ya bah

(methamphetamine) pills instead of the promised cash.

Mr Surachet refused to accept the drugs and a heated argument broke out.

Mr Surachet said Mr Suraphon began insulting him, so he shot him in the head.

He then shot Miss Wilairat to silence her.

Following the killings, he ordained as a monk at Wat Pho Klang.

Police have also arrested Mr Surachet's girlfriend, 21-year-old Kanyarat Sirichai, who was allegedly present when the murders occurred.

Source: Khao Sod

Internet lottery scam busted

BANGKOK: Police have arrested a Liberian man after he was caught running an email lottery scam.

Officers from the Crime Suppression Division arrested Stanley Nedu, 27, last Thursday after receiving a complaint from one of his alleged victims who said Mr Nedu sent emails to people telling them that they had won a one-million-baht jackpot in an online lottery.

The 'winners' were told that to claim their prize, they had to pay 'fees' of between 20,000 baht and 50,000 baht to Mr Nedu's bank account.

When victims sent Mr Nedu the money, he would send them a forged document from the Thai Anti-Money Laundering Office saying the transfer of the prize money had been blocked, police said.

They said Mr Nedu would then ask for a further 50,000 to 100,000 baht to bribe officials to allow the transfer of the money to go ahead.

The scam was exposed when a victim called the AMLO to ask about the case.

Mr Nedu has been charged with computer fraud, which carries a penalty of up to 10 years in prison.

Source: MCOT

Teens attack a top cop

NAKHON RATCHASIMA: A group of teenagers beat a police superintendent unconscious in a karaoke bar last Friday.

The drunken teenagers picked the wrong victims when they started throwing bottles at Col Wanchai Chakdamrong, Superintendent of Chalermprakiat District Police, and a friend outside the Nam Thip Karaoke in Nakhon Ratchasima City.

And when Col Wanchai, who was in civilian clothes, went into the bar and told them he was a police officer, he was set upon by five teenagers who beat him, and hit him over the head with a bottle, knocking him unconscious.

Col Wanchai was taken to Maharaj Nakhon Ratchasima Hospital where doctors expect him to make a full recovery.

Source: Khao Sod

Burglar picked the wrong house

BANGKOK: A would-be burglar was shot while trying to break into the house of former army commander Gen Chetta Thanajaro.

Chaiwat Thongkhamdee was shot in the left leg after soldiers guarding the house in the Prachachuen area of Bangkok spotted him climbing over a fence last Monday.

Lt Thasana Singsat said he ordered Mr Chaiwat to lay flat on the ground, but he refused to do what he was told.

He said Mr Chaiwat was unafraid and looked as if he might attack him, so he shot him.

Lt Thasana said Gen Chetta was not living at the house, which was occupied by the general's mother and younger sister at the time.

Mr Chaiwat, who will be charged with trespassing and attempted theft, was treated for gunshot wounds at a local hospital.

Gen Chetta, who is known as Big Wiang, is a former Thai Rak Thai party cabinet minister.

He recently denied any involvement in the attempted assassination of yellow shirt leader Sondhi Limthongkul.

Source: MCOT

Cyber-sex shop bust

BANGKOK: Police have arrested the owner of an internet cafe where booths were provided for customers to masturbate.

Police said the cafe was divided into 20 cubicles and customers could surf for porn on the net or choosing from a selection of pornographic films stored on a hard drive.

Police raided the shop, on Ramkhamheng Road, at around 11pm last Wednesday and arrested the owner, 35-year-old Charnwit Sangthong, and a 22-year-old customer.

Mr Charnwit said he allowed customers to masturbate in his shop and charged them 20 baht per hour.

Source: Manager



Residents of Takuapa Town in Phang Nga use a flat-bottomed boat after floodwater inundated the area last Monday. Photo by Banyat Chulert



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Bandit escapes police search

PHATTHALUNG: More than 400 police officers failed to find famed bandit 'Khai Muk' in a sweep through three provinces last Wednesday.

The combined force of elite paramilitary Border Patrol Police and provincial police from across the Upper South swooped on five houses in Phatthalung's Pa Phayom District where Jerm 'Kai Muk' Seng-iat and his accomplices were thought to be hiding.

After finding the houses empty, police used sniffer dogs to comb the surrounding forests on the border of Trang, Phatthalung and Nakhon Sri Thammarat province but were unable to find the suspects.

Fifty-seven-year-old Kai Muk and his gang allegedly specialise in kidnapping and extortion across the South.

Kai Muk, who has already spent a total of 27 years in prison, is also suspected of being involved in 32 murders since 1976.

A 50,000 baht reward has been offered for information leading to his arrest.

Earlier in the week, Trang Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Prasert Chansawang met with Kai Muk's wife, 53-year-old Ampha Duangdeng, and tried to persuade her to tell police where her husband was hiding.

Mrs Ampha said she had separated from Kai Muk and had not seen him for three months.

Kai Muk's gang have also allegedly demanded protection money from owners of hotels and rubber plantations in Surat Thani, Trang, Nakhon Sri Thammarat and Songkhla provinces.

Source: Thai Post/Thai Rath

Queer News

Lottery players punt on a one-eyed pussy

AYUDHAYA: Gamblers have been rushing to get lucky omens from the corpse of a one-eyed kitten which refuses to rot.

The cat's owner, 60-year-old Wichian Sangchai, said the kitten was the last of a litter of three born earlier this month in Ayudhay, north of Bangkok, but died within minutes of being born.

Mr Wichian said the kitten had only one eye, and a strange nose which looked a bit like an elephant's trunk.

He said he and his wife Namfon kept the body of the kitten to show neighbors, but two days later, the kitten's corpse had still not started to rot or smell, despite the heat.

As word of the bizarre kitten spread, people started coming to pay homage to it.

Some lit incense and asked

the kitten's spirit to bring them good luck.

The dead kitten also attracted a lot of lottery players who made offerings in a bid to pick up some lucky lottery numbers from the dead cat.

Some are betting on 13, the date the kitten was born, while others are punting on 18, Mr Wichien's house number.

Other gamblers opted for more complicated formulas, such as taking 321 because the kitten was one of a litter of three, with two surviving and one dying.

Local vet Pancha Iamseng said the kitten's strange appearance was simply a birth defect, but agreed it was odd the kitten's corpse had not started to rot.

He said decomposition usually set in after about 12 hours.

Source: Khao Sod

Snow dome's a hit

CHIANG MAI: Chiang Mai Zoo's new attraction, a 'snow dome' in the panda observation area, is now open for business.

Project manager Pongsit Sittiwang said the new facility could accommodate up to 50 people at a time and all 12 half-hour sessions on the first day were sold out by mid morning.

Eight-year-old Monsignor Pleumjitjaijongdee who lives with her parents in Bangkok, said she had seen the snow dome at Bangkok's Dream World, but liked the Chiang Mai version better because it had panda dolls and doughnut skis to play on.

Chiang Mai is home to Thailand's first baby panda, which was born at the zoo last month after its mother was artificially inseminated.

Australian tourist Kevin Glen said that although his country also had snow, it was fun to be exposed to it here.

He said the dome was beautifully decorated and the ticket price was not too expensive considering visitors were provided with thick jackets and special footwear.

On Saturday, Chinese



The snow dome at Chiang Mai Zoo opened last Saturday.

expert Hu Haiping and Thai researchers separated the 52-day-old panda cub from its mother Lin Hui for the first time to give it a 20-minute check-up.

Panda-section chief Prasertsak Boontrakulpoon-thavee said the cub was healthy,

44 centimeters long and weighed 2.9 kilograms.

He said the panda's weight should increase by 100 grams a day from now on.

The baby panda could now see with both eyes, he said.

Source: The Nation

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Shutterbugs shoot Phuket



Clockwise from top left: *Daily News* by Elena Volkova; *Magic Place* by Karim Khamzin; *Hotel Lobby, Phuket Town* by Jamie Monk; and the 40-odd photographers who got together for the 2009 Scott Kelby Annual Worldwide Photo Walk on Saturday.

The charm and diversity of Phuket's Old Town came into focus as never before on Saturday when 40 photographers took to the streets as part of a worldwide 'photo walk'.

More than 30,000 snappers in 900 different cities around the globe participated in the second Scott Kelby Annual Worldwide Photo Walk, dwarfing the previous year's number of participants.

Phuket's photographers met at 9.30am at Cafe 154 on Phang Nga Road, spending four hours walking, talking and capturing images of Phuket people and their environment.

Organizer of the Phuket photo walk Karim Khamzin said the event was a fantastic success.

"People loved it," he said. "I think a lot of new friends were made that day. And we took some fantastic pictures."

Every photographer who took part will submit their two best images to the global photo walk's organizers, with one photograph being crowned the best of the entire event on August 17.

Ten other images will receive 'honorable mentions'.

The photographs on this page were all taken by participants in the Phuket photo walk on Saturday.

Mr Khamzin said the event

went down so well that plans were already afoot for another photo walk.

The next might focus on black and white photography, he said.

Anyone interested in future Phuket photo walks should register at the following Yahoo! Group: tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/phuket_photo. For information visit the website worldwidephotowalk.com.

-Dan Waites



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Urbane dining by the water's edge



AL FRESCO AMBIENCE: Power yachts, motor cruisers, and gleaming white vessels with lubricious names line the nearby quayside.

As we pull into Royal Phuket Marina, a Chelsea tractor hums past us towards Thepkassatri Road, trailing in the wake of some shiny Bavarian bodywork.

The bamboo-lined slip road stretches out lazily like a Beverly Hills driveway, leading to a car park packed with Mini Coopers, brand-new Japanese vehicles and a blindingly beautiful red Mercedes 500 SL two-seater with Bangkok license plates.

I slot my rusting '96 Nissan Big M, with its 275,000km-plus, on the clock and only three breakdowns in 13 years (beat that you beautiful Merc), in between a gleaming Honda Civic and another obscenely expensive runaround.

With all its impressive vehicular hardware, it's easy to understand why this marina has earned the acronym RPM.

We're here to check out a relatively recent arrival to this orgy of slick cars, yachts and hiso outlets – Mom Tri's Regatta Restaurant.

There is a story behind Mom Tri Devakul setting up here.

RPM's owner Gulu Lalvani

claimed he was tired of motoring his own power boat around the foot of the island to Kata Beach every time he wanted to dine at one of his favorite restaurants, the excellent Mom Tri's Boathouse Wine & Grill, so he invited his friend to open an outlet at the RPM.

An urban myth? No. Urbane? Undoubtedly, given the characters involved.

RPM might be one of the most humbling places in Phuket in which to park a rusting pickup, but it's got acres of space in

which to do so.

On the upside, there's no whistle-blowing guy in an ill-fitting uniform to annoy you as you do it.

It's only a short stroll from the car park to the Regatta, past RPM's colorful fountain.

Nicely fitted out in pastel blue and white, she bears little resemblance to her teak and brass Kata sister.

But she doesn't need to, she's in a different world.

Power yachts, motor cruisers, and gleaming white vessels with lubricious names line the nearby quayside, reminding passers-by what Kissinger

boasted in the '70s: "Power is the ultimate aphrodisiac."

Ah, the early 70s, when, at a tender age, on the Greco-Yugoslavian border, I sat on a dubiously hygienic public toilet, only to gaze up at graffiti that announced, 'The only dope worth shooting is Nixon'.

We sit with Lisa, the canny marketing manager of the Boathouse.

She's smart, multilingual and knows what a Wi-Fi looks like. I, on the other hand, don't.

An ersatz Phil Collins sings the Young Rascals' *A Groovy Kind of Love* in the background, providing an almost impossibly convoluted audio backdrop for a copy-CD-rich Phuket.

It's a copy, of a copy, of a copy.

Still, ersatz musik aside,

it's undeniably pleasant to be caressed by the gentle evening breezes, while sipping on a vodka martini, perusing the sumptuous menu and choosing starters.

"You'll never guess what they eat in Paris?" says Leonardo to Kate in the recent award-winning *Revolutionary Road*. "Slimy snails."

Mine were anything but slimy.

This is the first time I've eaten snail – excellent by the way and served with garlic bread – since the 1980s when Eddie Murphy made his famous "Look at that S-car go" joke.

A waiter pops the cork on an Echevarria Molina red from Chile (1,300 baht) and we settle in as he decants, placing the carafe on ice.

It may seem incongruous to mention a restaurant's service before writing about its food but, hey, let's break with tradition here.

If you're looking for first-rate

service that excludes the traffic-cop waving of arms and barked machine-gun orders that passes for service in some highly-rated Phuket eateries, the Regatta is the place to go. She perfectly complements her elder sister in this respect.

A near-perfect evening unwinds underneath a full moon and star-filled sky, as we enjoy such delicacies as lobster ravioli with cream morel mushrooms velouté (400 baht) and escargots de Bourgogne a l'ail (500 baht), six baked snails with garlic butter and parsley served in shells.

All these are crafted by Chef Tummanoon and Mom Tri's overseeing consultant Maître-Cuisinier de France Chef Jean-Noël Lumineau.

It's all very impressive, all very polished and extraordinarily smooth.

And unusually, I don't have an after-remark to deflate the idyllic description.

Prices here are cheaper than the Boathouse in Kata and, even though they'd raise and eventually deflate the normal yachtie's eyebrows, they wouldn't rock the boat for most regular customers at RPM.

Later, we sample a deep-fried fillet of sea bass topped with *tom yam heng* sauce and served with jasmine rice, accompanied by a chicken breast stuffed with spinach and rosemary grain mustard sauce (480 baht), served with sautéed white mushrooms.

To finish, we share a portion of 'Colonel's cup' lime sherbet (180 baht) with to-kill-ya tequila. It's all ship-shape.

Here's hoping that, in the future, the RPM car park will be brimming with scuffed SUVs, Daihatsu Miras and Yaris' as average Joe's arrive to sample the *Franco-je-ne-sais-quoi-mais-superbe* dining.

On the menu

WITH Wilko

Tai Chi Timeout

Welcome to the ninth in the series of Tai Chi Timeouts. Each timeout takes you through a single, easy-to-follow *Tai Chi-Chi Gung* exercise.

One of the aims of Tai Chi is to develop the intrinsic energy (*Chi*) within the body through slow, rhythmical breathing exercises known as *Chi Gung*.

The ancient martial art exercises naturally relieve tension from stress as well as aches and pains from stiff limbs.

Perform them whenever you wish to unwind and loosen up.

They are particularly beneficial in the early morning when the *Chi* is especially light and clean, relaxing and energizing both the mind and body for a new day.

This particular exercise is known as 'calming the waters'.

With neck and shoulders relaxed, arms are held at waist level and moved in a simple circle as you shift your weight forward and backward, exhaling while shifting forward and inhaling while shifting backward.

This simple but effective exercise calms anxiety, stress and hypertension held in the abdomen.

Sequence

Step 1: Place your feet shoulder-width apart, knees slightly bent, with your hips tucked gently underneath the spine (back straight). Relax your shoulders and hold your head up, keeping your neck relaxed. Place your hands over your *Tan Tien* (solar plexus) and breathe calmly through your nose.

Step 2: Step forward with your right foot into a front stance with your weight placed 70 percent on the front foot and 30 percent on the back foot. Relax your neck and shoulders, and bend your arms at the elbow. Spread your palms and form a triangle by touching your thumbs and index fingers. Breathe in deeply and then begin to exhale as you begin to calmly and smoothly circle your hands outward.

Step 3: Continue to exhale as you circle your hands outward.

Step 4: When your hands reach the extent of the outward circle, slowly begin to inhale as you shift your weight backwards.

Step 5: Continue to inhale as you shift into a back stance with your weight 70 percent on your back foot and 30 percent on your front foot. Begin to calmly and smoothly circle your hands inward.

Step 6: Continue to inhale as you circle your hands inward.

Step 7: When your hands reach the extent of the inward circle, touching your abdomen, slowly begin to exhale as you shift your weight forward once again. Repeat the exercise 30 times with your right leg forward, then shift your stance with your left leg forward and repeat the exercise 30 times again.

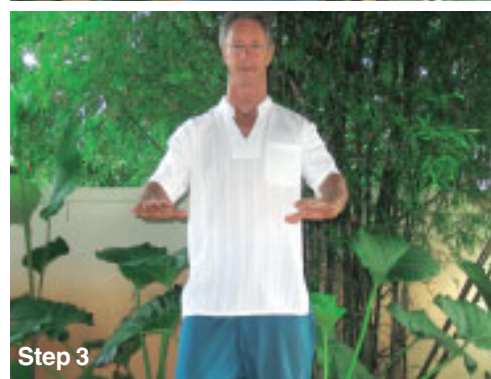
Step 8: To complete the exercise, slowly bring the *Chi* down to your *Tan Tien* and gather the *Chi* within.



Step 1



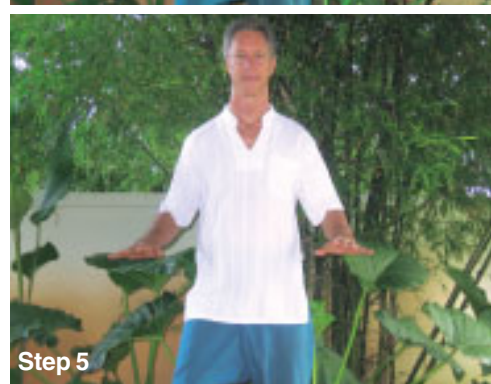
Step 2



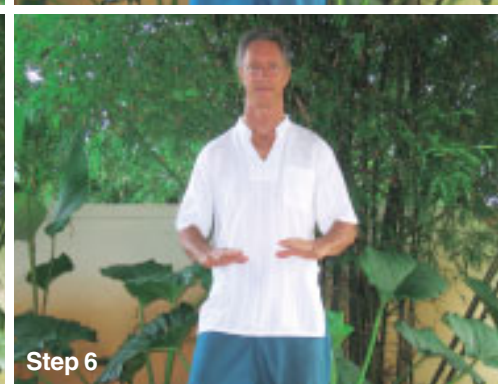
Step 3



Step 4



Step 5



Step 6



Step 7



Step 8

Rick Attix has been practicing Tai Chi for over 25 years with masters from China, Malaysia and the U.S. Rick holds regular Tai Chi classes at his Kamala garden residence. Classes are held three times a week, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9am. A six-day retreat is held the first week of every month. All levels are welcome.

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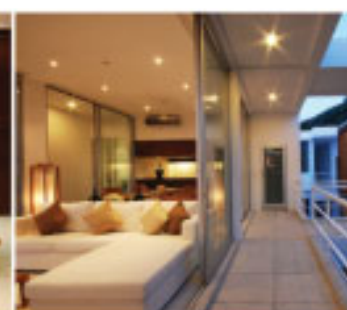
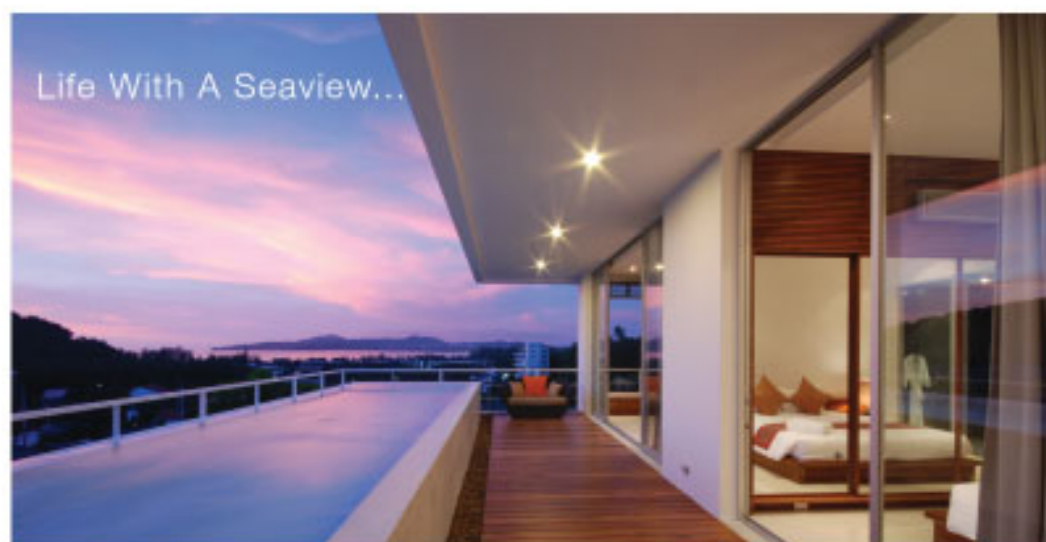
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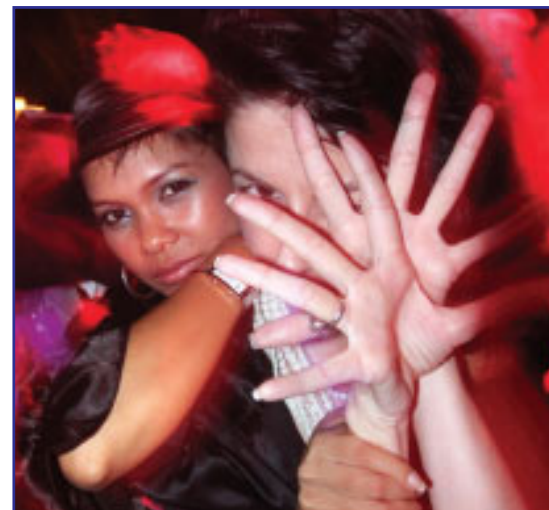
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Hed-ing for that perfect sound



Phuket took a giant step towards establishing itself as one of Asia's up-and-coming clubbing destinations last Friday, following the successful staging of the Phuket leg of the Hed Kandi Thailand World Series Tour at Stereo Lab in Surin and the grand opening of Sound Phuket in Patong.

Both venues were packed to capacity as Phuket residents and a number of Bangkok's 'hi-so' crowd turned out in force.

Earlier in the evening, Sound Phuket officially launched with an exclusive invitation-only party that attracted none other than Thailand's greatest-ever tennis player Paradorn Srichaphan and his wife, former Miss Universe, Natalie Glebova.

Bed Supperclub resident DJ Octo started proceedings, and guests were treated to a series of impressive spectacles, from live vocal performances to lithe dancers adorned in zebra-striped head-to-toe body suits.

Later at Stereo Lab, house music fans packed into the bar on Surin Beach and were eventually forced to spill onto the decking and beach outside. DJ Dean Rigg was relentless behind the decks, dropping one classic house track after another, keeping the dance floor packed and buzzing for the duration of his set.

The Hed Kandi resident was supported by 'Deano on percussion', who was arguably the standout performer on the night.

If Phuket is to become a major player in the clubbing scene, nights like this need to become a regular fixture.

Given how successful both events were, it shouldn't be too long until some of the bigger names in the industry start to arrive on Phuket shores. *Photos by Dan Miles*

MOM TRI'S

Gourmet Restaurants in Phuket

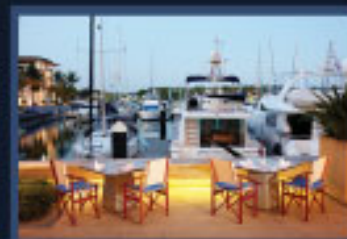


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BENEATH THE WAVES

By Diver Dan

Those of you who have read 'Beneath the Waves' since its inception – thank you to all of you, no matter how few – will have undoubtedly noticed that the articles are supported by some truly breathtaking pictures showcasing some of the weird and wonderful things that live in the tropical seas and oceans around this blue planet of ours.

Underwater photography is one of the most enjoyable aspects of scuba diving, partly because it allows a diver to visually record their dives and then relive them at a later date.

Underwater photography is not an easy skill to master, but with today's point-and-shoot cameras at very affordable prices, more and more people are venturing beneath the waves to capture what lies below.

The beauty of the digital age is that divers can take as many pictures as they need to get the best shot they can, while disposing of the rest, something which was costly using film.

Separating the wheat from the chaff as it were.

Despite technology improving people's chances of taking good photos, diving ability also plays a major role in getting that 'perfect' shot.

As with so much in diving,



PHOTOGENIC: Clockwise from top left: A batfish is surrounded by schooling fish; a long-snout stick pipefish; a butterfly fish and longfin bannerfish gather around a bell jellyfish; and the photographer of these stunning shots, Lia Barret.

good buoyancy is the key.

Hovering almost motionless in mid-water enables a diver to focus on the intended target, while keeping the camera steady.

Before getting into underwater photography, it is important to ensure your skills are up to scratch.

If you are an experienced diver, this should not be an issue.

If you are just starting out, a Peak Performance Buoyancy course is highly recommended.

As much as I'd like to, I can't take credit for the fantastic

photos that feature in this column.

I'm more Bill Bailey than David Bailey.

The plaudits go to Lia Barret.

Lia, a graduate from Parsons School of Design and Eugene Lang College in New York, first started diving when she was 17 and took a three-week trip to the Red Sea.

It was then she first started taking underwater photos.

By the time she finished university, Lia had been to more than 50 countries.

On her travels she took hundreds of photographs which helped her to 'cut through social, cultural, and language barriers'.

"Photos are a universal language that are instrumental in educating, inspiring, and understanding one another, and producing them and being a part of this cycle have created some of my most cherished memories," she said.

After graduating with a Bachelor's degree in photography in 2007, Lia headed to Honduras where she became a

divemaster so she could improve her underwater skills.

Her increased ability gave her the platform from which to apply her topside education underwater.

This resulted in some breathtaking images of the fascinating life beneath the waves – particularly macro life.

Lia uses a top-of-the-range Canon EOS 5D.

The majority of new divers will choose a handy point-and-shoot compact digital camera.

This won't produce pictures of Lia's quality, but she feels it won't stop divers from taking good photos.

"I have seen some really great shots in the macro range from point and shoot cameras. This involves getting extremely intimate with subjects to the point of almost touching them. Typically wider shots are not as successful, but that is due to the weak light output," she said.

It's very easy to get frustrated with photography when you start out, but Lia emphasizes that persistence is the key to taking good underwater photos.

"Underwater is very different from conventional photography. Patience is the key. Learning simple techniques, such as shooting from the side of a subject as opposed to directly down on to it, really make a difference. Look at other underwater photography," she said.

"Make sure the diving side is conquered before taking a camera down for your own safety, be courteous to other divers and try not to kick coral or other marine life," she said.

To see more of Lia's photos visit www.liabarrett.com.

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EXPAT GALLERY

Rolly Tasker

Rolly Tasker discovered his passion for sailing yachts while still a young boy. It seems to have all begun when his father took him to a regatta in his native Western Australia in 1934. Today, 75 years later, the legendary yachtsman is still working hard in his sail loft and rigging business here in Phuket.

Rolly made his first sail in 1936. He helped to cut out the pattern from a table cloth that his mother fashioned into a sail for his father's fishing boat. He then began to build models of classic boats, including a Chinese junk and an Arabian dhow.

His first full-sized boat was a 10-foot wooden clinker with overlapping planks and ribs. None of his boats could have sails unless the young Tasker made them himself.

He has spent the rest of his life building boats. He helped to complete a 20-foot yacht in 1940. He joined the Australian Air Force as soon as he was old enough to learn to fly, and qualified as a pilot.

Tasker has built 26 boats for his private use, all of which are still sailing. He is a champion yachtsman, the first Australian to win a medal in the Olympics, in Melbourne in 1956.

"I built the boat I raced in the Olympics in my home in West-

ern Australia, and the only way I could get it to Melbourne was to cross the 1,300 mile desert carrying all of our gasoline and food."

Such determination and talent is responsible for his winning the Flying Dutchman World Championship in 1958, and being inducted into the Western Australia Hall of Champions in 1986, and then the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 1996. In 2006, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia.

Rolly Tasker dominated ocean racing in Western Australia from 1969 to 1980 with his five sister yachts, each named, *Siska*. He has sailed in over 2,000 races and won regattas around the world, from America to South Africa. He is proud that he has never lost a yacht, a crew member or a rig, and has never retired from a race.

The avid sportsman has also built a number of the world's largest and most productive factories for sails and rigging. He experiments with new methods and materials to build boats, sails and their rigging.

"I've had twelve factories in different parts of the world, but I've settled on Phuket because the quality of workmanship is high and the costs are lower. I first started making sails on the roof

of the car park at the former Phuket Shopping Center off Rasada Rd in 1993. That proved to be very successful so I decided to build my current bespoke factory on Chao Fa West Rd."

The Phuket factory is an airy 9,000 square meters and employs an army of industrious Thai women who work to supply international demand for sails and rigging. Last year, Rolly shipped off his 2 millionth sail, to a client in Norway.

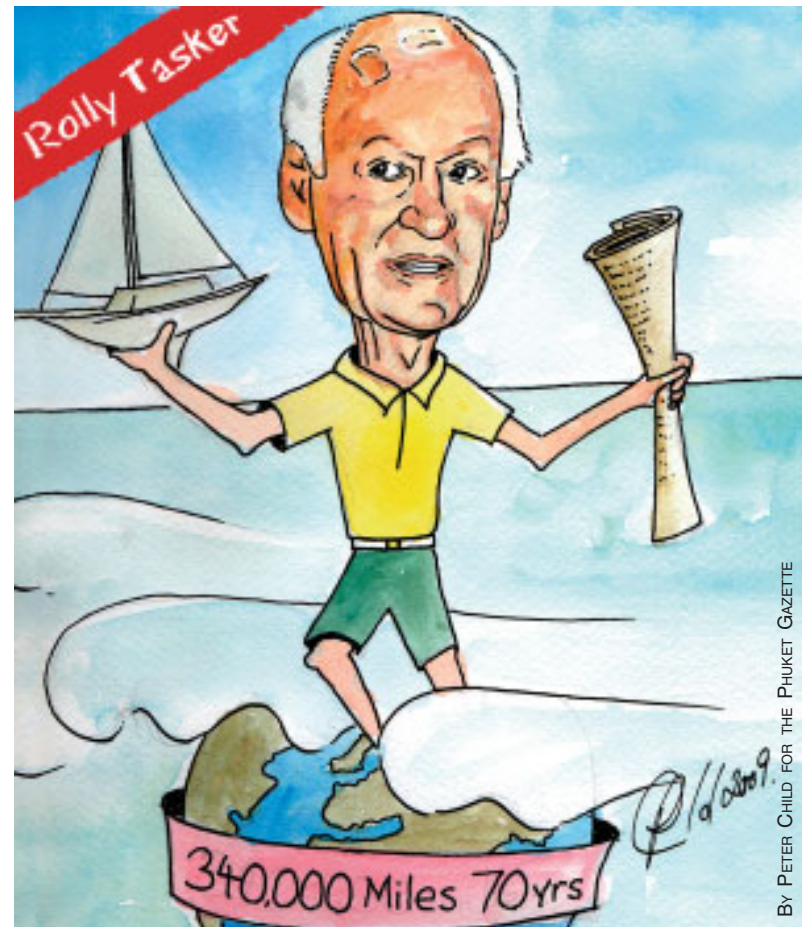
In 2006, he opened the Australian Sailing Museum in Mandurah, West Australia. This private gallery features the Rolly Tasker Collection, his own fine art illustrations of all the yachts that have sailed in the America's Cup throughout its history.

The display also includes a scale model of each challenger and defender in the America's Cup since 1851, and life-size figures of famous skippers, owners, marine architects and commodores.

Rolly has also found time to have his biography published. The title, *Sailing to the Moon*, came from his accomplishment of sailing more than 340,000 nautical miles aboard yachts, farther than the distance to the moon.

"I estimate that over my long career in sailing, I have accumulated about 20 different job skills. I have no plans to retire. There are still plenty of things to do. It's not the end of the story yet," he says with a smile.

— Bruce Stanley

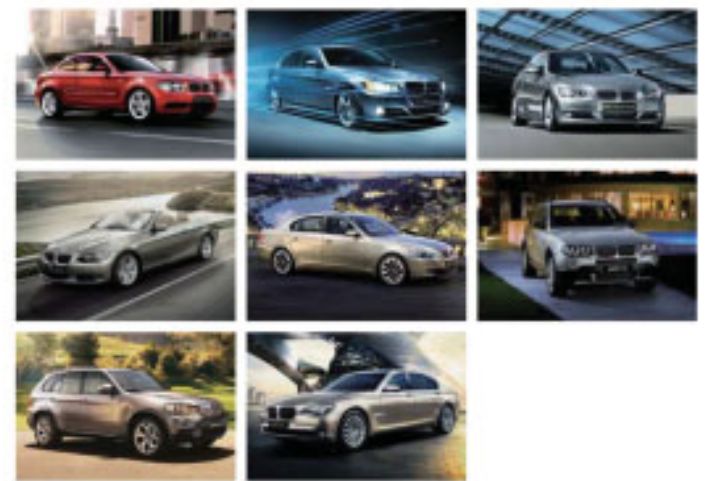


BY PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

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, ah, not entirely clear. Some of our subjects are not business people at all, but have added real value to Phuket as English teachers, journalists, artists, engineers, fund raisers, etc. But all have one thing in common: if there were a *Who's Who in Phuket*, they'd be in it.

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Don Battles with Captain Roy McShane, Jim Newport and Dominique Mangiameli.



Sina Kirmse, Victoria Kroon & Peter Brusselers.



Robert Clare, Tatima Mikami and Iakana Clare with baby Thomas.

Lunar lift off at Don's Cafe

Don's Cafe owner, Don Battles, had good reason to host a Lunar Landing Party at his Rawai restaurant on Monday night in celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the first moon landing.

Don worked as a senior engineer on the Apollo 11 project.

He went on to become an Apollo space craft systems engineer and later worked on the joint Russian/American docking system.

"We planned to reach Mars by 1986, but President Nixon cut the budget for all space programs to support the war in Vietnam," he said.

Monday night's party was a packed out affair and guests included Jack Hammons who spent 34 years working for Boeing Aviation, the company that built the lunar rover for later Apollo missions.

Many of the revelers said they could still remember what they were doing forty years ago when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon.

Frank Visakay said he was a cook in New York at the time and brought a black and white TV into his restaurant so guests could watch the event.

And Ray Vaillancourt, who was a young recruit at Lackland Air Force Base, said he was studying the same microwave radio transmission technology that was used to transmit the first images of man's first walk on the moon.

-Bruce Stanley



James McGowan and Sunee Kaewudtha.



Peter Notley and his wife Toon.



Jack and Jet Hammond with young JJ.



Derek Priest, Director of Phuket's Holiday Bridge Club, celebrates his 78th birthday at the PS Hotel with wife, Khun Jai, and son, Sunny.



This year's Bastille Day celebration at Royal Phawadee Village, Patong Beach on July 14 was a big success. Guests experienced the best French hospitality with an awesome fireworks display and a traditional French feast.



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Coping with the naga



Recently this newspaper carried a story about a mysterious hole which appeared after the sound of an explosion in a field in the province of Nong Khai [April 25, *Queer News*, "Faithful flock to holy hole"].

The local spirit medium told the locals the hole had been made by a 'naga', a snake-like spirit from Buddhist and Hindu mythology, which had come to the region to drive out evil.

The villagers sealed off the hole with tape to stop people from falling in, and set up a tent from which they could make offerings to the naga.

The happy owner of the field told them the naga could cure diseases if they left offerings which pleased him.

It sounded like the owner

was a con man, so I consulted an expert on nagas.

Dr Naganath Chapattiwallah is a prominent Indian nagologist who is currently visiting Bangkok.

He took the incident very seriously, as the following interview reveals:

Me: Dr Naganath, what do you make of this story?

Dr N: That spirit medium doesn't know his business. He's a fool. There are good nagas and bad. They don't always drive out evil. They can create it as well.

Me: What should the villagers do to find out which kind this one is?

Dr N: They've already made a big mistake by sealing off the hole. That hole is the naga's new home. Nagas don't like to be fenced in. They need lots of space. Even if the tape has merely cordoned off the hole from a distance, it will make the naga feel trapped, and very angry. By now he will have become a rogue naga who will cause no end of trouble.

Me: What sort of trouble do rogue nagas cause?

Dr N: All kinds. They make people go crazy, they make them get sick. A rogue naga is not

something you want in your neighborhood. And one thing that makes my blood run cold, is the hole, and the explosion that preceded it, appeared just before Songkran. Now, what happened during Songkran?

Me: Errr... The red shirts shut down the Asean seminar in Pattaya and ran amok in Bangkok.

Dr N: Exactly. It would be just like an angry naga to take revenge by inciting large groups of people to violence.

Me: Gosh. You mean all the trouble we had in Pattaya and Bangkok was the naga's fault?

Dr N: I am only speculating here, but it is something that should be investigated. Then, what has happened just recently?

Me: Uhhhh... Well, we've had the Octomom, with her eight babies to add to her earlier six. Errr, are you suggesting that the naga is the father?

Dr N: No, no, no! Those babies were conceived much too early for that. No, what we've got now is a world-wide pandemic of swine flu. That's the kind of thing a really angry naga would precipitate.

Me: But swine flu first appeared in Mexico. How could

a naga in Thailand cause a disease to appear in faraway Mexico?

Dr N: Use your head, boy! The naga is a supernatural being. He lives in a hole. Angry at being fenced in, he bores through the ground – through the entire planet, in fact – and comes out in Mexico. And there he causes a plague that engulfs the world.

Me: But surely the Mexicans haven't done anything to offend him.

Dr N: Nagas don't discriminate. He can't tell the difference between Thais and Mexicans.

Me: If the naga caused the disease, shouldn't we change its name from swine flu to naga flu?

Dr N: No. That would antagonize all nagas. It's bad enough having just one of them mad at us.

Me: I should think the naga would like it in Mexico. He could chill out on the beach in Cancun with a plate of tacos washed down by pina colodas. Maybe he'll cool off and cancel the epidemic.

Dr N: Not likely. This is a Thai naga. His love for his motherland will bring him back. Tacos and pina colodas will bore



This painting depicts the Buddha while meditating just before attaining enlightenment. A big naga came up behind him and lifted him from the ground, spreading its hood above him to protect him from the rain which was just starting to fall.

him, and he'll start pining for 'samtam' and 'lao khao'. No, mark my words: like the Terminator, he'll be back.

Me: It all sounds pretty loopy to me.

S. Tsow, who is pretty loopy himself, can be flamed at s.tsow@gmail.com.



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Pruerk-Ampai	75	5,950,000	100,000	2,875,000	2,975,000
Pruerk-Amporn	136.4	9,100,000	100,000	4,450,000	4,550,000

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I ain't afraid of no ghosts

Teen Talk

By Maria Giulietta

A three-night stay at a Thai temple gives Maria a bit of a scare, but this teen tackles the issue with a dose of common sense and some soul searching.

I have some pretty strange thoughts sometimes but my imagination pales in comparison with the weirdness of Thai ghost stories.

Even though Thais are scared of ghosts, they can't help talking about them all the time.

One day some friends at school were telling me about 'phee' (ghosts).

They told me that whenever I invite someone to get into my car I should be wary about saying 'let's go', because you never know who will get in with you.

I was a bit perplexed and asked them to explain.

They said when the 2004 tsunami struck the island everyone piled into tuk-tuks to escape the danger.

People were scared more waves would hit and were shouting 'let's go!', 'let's go!'.

My friends said dead foreigners were jumping into the tuk-tuks with them – people who'd died but hadn't realized they were dead yet.

No one realized the ghosts had got in too – until they noticed the tuk-tuks had got so heavy the wheels deflated.

The story was so unbelievable I felt like laughing, but who knows, it may be true!

I used to think we're not the only ones on earth, that there are humans, animals, vegetables and other living things, as well as non-living things which the people of some countries don't believe exist.

But there are also countries like Thailand which are terrified of these things: ghosts.

Several months ago I was lucky enough to stay in a temple for three days of meditation.

There, I had my first encounter with spirits – to the delight of the monks, I must say.

They enjoyed terrorizing all



of us with stories of ghosts.

Of course they were just joking around to help us through a tough few days in the temple, but the scare it gave me stayed with me for a long time.

I can't sleep alone any more and I always have to close the curtains in my room before I sleep to stop the ghosts getting in.

It made me upset so I wanted to explore the subject more deeply.

I started to read about ghosts and all the strange things Thai people don't really want to talk about, as they believe if you talk about them they will come to visit you.

I'm half Thai, half Italian, and my Italian side tells me to fight these beliefs and to try to understand better why so many people hold them.

The most famous example of the living dead in Europe is, of

course, Dracula.

He was a real man who lived in Romania a few centuries ago.

People all over the world know him as a man who liked to drink the blood of his victims.

The real story wasn't like that.

Dracula was fighting for freedom and to help his country, but people changed the story.

I believe it's because people enjoy scaring themselves.

Nowadays, after the release of the movie *Twilight*, about a handsome vampire, I'm sure everyone would like to be bitten by a vampire – me included.

I've never said I believe in spirits or don't believe in them – but I like seeing how Thai people behave when they think ghosts are around.

A funny thing that happens once a week in my house is when my father accuses my mother of not taking as good care of him as she does the spirits and the *pee siya*, which is a mythical Chinese animal used as a lucky charm.

She always buys them fruit and even roast chicken but sometimes forgets about my father's dinner.

Thai ghosts are anything but lazy when it comes to expressing their anger, especially in the world of celluloid.

The legendary *Mae Nak* ghost of Thai folklore, a woman who died while pregnant and refused to leave her husband behind, still furiously chases after male mediums and monks who try to exorcise her spirit.

Krasue, a female ghost with only her head and intestines intact, continues to hover around remote villages, proudly displaying her blood-soaked teeth.

This, I believe, is a completely invented story of a

poor girl killed somewhere who was then depicted as a horrible lady by the same people who killed her, then others added more and more details.

The Northeast of Thailand is home to *Pop*, a female ogre who feeds on human intestines or animals' blood at night, giving villagers many hair-raising moments.

These stories have been around for a long time, but I don't think they used to be so scary.

Nowadays they're scarier because the new generation wants them to be.

In fact, modern day Thai ghosts follow in our devilish footsteps and no longer limit their haunting to cemeteries or rice fields or even to night time.

Today, a ghost can appear in an elevator in the middle of the day, or pop up in a bathtub or a toilet.

I'm very respectful of other people's beliefs, even though I can't avoid having my own more realistic beliefs that cool my imagination and help me sleep at night.

These beliefs can be useful and help us grow up more strong in life.

Why do they always have to scare people?

As for the ghost *Mae Nak*, she's not so bad, she's just chasing her beloved husband after death. This is what I call 'the power of love'.

The strength of her feelings for her husband made her spirit remain on earth.

I like to look at all these ghosts of the past with understanding and compassion for the very human troubles they've been through.

There's no need to invent or listen to stories about them that make them seem bad or scary.



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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

July 22 – 26. Six Senses Phuket Raceweek

Six Senses Phuket Raceweek is a yachting regatta staged off Phuket's southwest coast in the windy monsoon season. Offering four days of world-class yacht racing across seven classes, combined with five nights of fantastic five-star beach side parties, Raceweek attracts yachts, skippers, crew and party animals from around the world. Whether you come to race your own yacht, charter a local yacht to race, find a crew place on someone else's yacht or just to enjoy the parties, this is one of the most glittering sailing events in Southeast Asia. Check out our website, including the 'crew wanted' pages – someone is always short of crew. From 10am to 12am at the Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa. For further information contact Grenville Forham. T: 076-264491.

E: raceweek@image-asia.com.

W: www.phuketraceweek.com.

July 26. FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

Is your computer driving you NUTS? Can't get a decent Internet connection? Worried about the latest viruses? Wondering what to do about your pirate software? 3G phones? High Def TV? Hey, you aren't alone. Join 'For Dummies' author and Windows gadfly Woody Leonhard in our ongoing FREE Sunday morning Computer Clinics, which rotate among the three Sandwich Shoppe locations on the island. Bring your questions. Bring your computer. Bring your worry beads. And don't forget your sense of humor. Let's see if we can figure out an answer to your problems. Computer novices most welcome. Co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. From 10am to 12pm at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. For more information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 089-196 0940.

E: woody@KhunWoody.com.

W: www.KhunWoody.com.

August 1. Swiss Day and We Know How

We will be sharing some of our exceptional Swiss cuisine for Swiss National Day on August 1 at a cocktail reception and grand buffet accompanied by fine Swiss wines, contemporary Swiss music and an extra helping of our renowned Swiss hospitality. The Swiss National Day Celebration costs 888 baht ++ per person. Please wear the Swiss national costume (if you packed it), and if you can prove that your name is Heidi, we will give you a complimentary glass of wine. From 6pm to 10.30pm at Pacifica Restaurant, Mövenpick Resort. For further information contact Mr Patrick De Staercke.

T: 076-396139. E: patrick.destaercke@moevenpick.com. W: www.moevenpick-phuket.com.

August 9. SDF Unleashed – Fashion Brunch at Les Angeles

The Soi Dog Foundation presents Unleashed, a gourmet brunch and fashion show at Les Angeles, Royal Phuket Marina. 1,000 baht per ticket, excellent food by Les Angeles and great entertainment provided by Ricky Zen Entertainment. Special celebrity guest star: Oscar, the 'mutt on a mission', on his world tour. From 12pm to 5pm at

Experience BMW: All-Models Test Drive Event. August 6 - 9

Come and experience the pleasure of driving a selection of our latest models, including the new 740Li, the new Z4, X5 xDrive30d, the new 325i convertible and many more! From 8.30am to 5.30pm. For further information or a test drive reservation, contact Khun Sasidan at Barcelona Auto Phuket, 9 Thepkasatri Road, Muang, Phuket 83000. T: 076-236688 or 076-236699. E: bca5@dealer.bmw.co.th.

Les Angeles, Royal Phuket Marina. For further information contact Cristy Baker. T: 085-473 4636.

E: cristy@soidog-foundation.org.

W: www.soidog-foundation.org.

August 12. HM The Queen's Birthday

HM The Queen's Birthday is also marked as Mothers' Day in Thailand.

August 14 – 16. Quiksilver Thailand Surf Series – King of the Jungle

This is the second event in the 2009 Quiksilver Thailand Surf Series (TSS). Under the rules of the International Surfing Association, TSS will become part of the Asian Surfing Championship ranking system, offering a platform for Thai surfers to compete with other Asian surfers in meets around the region. The events expect to have participants from 15 countries and will feature four divisions: short board, long board, groms (kids), and women. The TSS is organized by the Phuket Boardriders Club and sponsored by the Phuket government and local businesses. From 7am to 6pm at Kamala Beach. For further information contact Phuket Boardriders Club.

T: 081-956 5854. E: joob@phuketboardriders.com.

W: www.thaisurfseries.com.

September 24 – 26. Phuket International Hospitality Show

This is the first international exhibition featuring the best food and drink, hotel, bakery, restaurant and food service equipment, supplies and services for the hospitality industry for Phuket and the nearby provinces of Krabi, Phang Nga and Surat Thani. The show combines a trade exhibition featuring suppliers from all areas of hospitality, a demonstration forum – the Phuket Culinary Fair – and various industry-specific seminars during the three-day show. From 11am to 8pm at Royal Phuket Marina International Exhibition and Conference Center. For more information contact Jennifer Drew.

T: 080-146 2673.

E: jennifer.drew@informayachtgroup.com.

W: www.phukethospitalityshow.com.

October 4. End of Buddhist Lent Day (Ork Pansa)

On this day, the three-month rain retreat for Buddhist Lent (*Khao Pansa*) is over for the monks.

October 23. Chulalongkorn Day

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of King Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

November 2. Loy Krathong Festival

One of the most beautiful festivals in Thailand. It is traditionally performed on the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month, which usually falls in November. A 'Krathong' is a banana-leaf cup containing flowers, a candle and incense sticks which is then floated down a canal or river. The idea is to worship the Goddess of the river and at the same time float away any bad luck.

November 3 – 8. Phuket Thailand Open

The Swatch FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour for women features the world's top beach volleyball players from over 30 countries including Brazil, Germany, USA, Japan, China, Great Britain, Switzerland, Norway and Sweden. The sponsors' village, adjacent to center court has a food court, games and booths. An amateur beach volleyball event and children's clinics will be held on November 7-8. Admission is free. From 9am to 5.30pm at Karon Beach. For further information contact Geoffrey Rowe. T: 02-311 3414.

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W: www.pentanglepromotions.com.

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GAZETTE ON THE MOVE

Mr Phil Teese has joined the *Phuket Gazette* as a Managing Editor. He brings with him more than 45 years experience in the newspaper industry. Phil has worked on newspapers throughout Australia including the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*, the *Sunday Telegraph*, the *Sydney Sun-Herald*, and the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. In the '70s, Phil worked on Fleet Street, London for *The Sun* and the Fleet Street News Agency. During his long career, Phil has also lectured in Journalism at Bond University on the Australian Gold Coast.



Mr Fraser Morton has joined the *Phuket Gazette's* editorial team. He will also work with the PGTV News team. Scotsman Fraser has worked in broadcasting and print media in Japan, the UK, the US, Vietnam and Thailand. Before joining the *Gazette*, Fraser was Associate Editor of the *Phuket Post*. He has also written for the *New Zealand Daily Herald*, *Fortean Times Magazine (UK)* and *Working Abroad Magazine (UK)*. Fraser has also presented for Capital TV Thailand and lectured at Meiji University in Tokyo, Japan.



Ms Kitima Pornmongkhonwat has joined the *Gazette* as a Reporter. Originally from Ubon Ratchathani province, Kitima is a Business Management graduate from Naresuan University in Pitsanuloke province. Before moving to Phuket she was the marketing manager for an English Language training center for two years in Chonburi and also in Bangkok. Arriving in Phuket in 2007, Kitima subsequently worked in sales and marketing as a member of the island's busy real estate industry.



'Off the rails' with inheritance



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

The inheritance of money can be viewed simplistically as a straight transaction between donor and recipient.

In reality the situation can be far more complex.

As in most areas of financial planning, it requires attention to the individual situation.

In Thailand it's common for an expatriate breadwinner to have had two marriages and two different sets of children from these marriages.

What's more, expats have often acquired assets in various parts of the world and the intervention of the 'grim reaper' can lead to a legal nightmare.

The family of the deceased may not know where these assets are held.

There may have been talk of bank accounts, mutual funds,

shares or properties held by the deceased during their lifetime.

However, if there is no documentary proof available it may be impossible to track the aforementioned assets.

Many governments issue statistics of unclaimed assets on a regular basis and the amounts involved are enormous.

Planning an estate is not usually a lengthy exercise, but it is something people often procrastinate about.

All of us realize we are mortal but in many cases expect we will be given more time than we are actually allocated.

I am currently assisting in a case where the deceased seemed in robust good health when going to sleep but passed away during the night.

Obviously, an exit this easy would be the ambition for most of us, but because we are human and are subject to all the idiosyncrasies of our species, we expect to have at least some warning of our demise.

One of the greatest common problems that happens after death is, by announcing the death, the resulting estate becomes 'frozen'.

This commonly results in the widow and the family immediately facing a liquidity crisis.

The deceased may have left a modest or substantial estate but the widow or widower suddenly



THE UGLY SIDE OF INHERITANCE: The late Anna Nicole Smith's marriage to Texas billionaire J. Howard Marshall the Third ended in a multi-million dollar inheritance claim. AFP/Jim Ruymen

does not have access to ready cash to pay day-to-day expenses.

This is not just a problem for expats but common the world over.

Insurance policies are generally more than just entities that policyholders pay into on a regular basis and expect a guaranteed payout from after death.

They are often 'vehicles' or platforms which hold large amounts of assets invested regionally or globally.

To give an example: when a British expat has a bank account in the UK, it is far more practical to move the account to the Channel Islands or Isle of Man on becoming a non-resident.

One of the benefits is that upon death it takes about six weeks to 'wind up' the estate.

The legal process is just as sophisticated as the UK's; the reason it is faster is simply because there is no interference from tax authorities.

A similar UK estate would take, on average, about one year to wind up.

A frequently asked question

by expats with wives and young children is: how can I ensure that my children's education continues to be paid for after my death?

They are often concerned that their wives would not be able to handle the subsequent financial matters and pay school fees.

Their death would have a serious impact on the future of their children.

The best way to avoid this problem, as discussed last week, is to use a trust, and, if possible, an offshore trust based in a highly regarded jurisdiction.

Should this route be taken, it is far more preferable to use a substantial corporate trustee than a family member in the management of an offshore trust – there are established routes for this to occur.

Many people compose wills leaving substantial sums of money to children on their 18th, 21st or 25th birthdays.

Should the sum of money be, say, US\$50,000 then it's unlikely too much damage will be done.

However, large sums of money suddenly given to a young person can sometimes send them

completely 'off the rails'.

The stories of people who have won substantial amounts of money in lotteries are instructive.

In probably the majority of cases this sudden windfall has had a negative effect on the 'lucky' winner and many openly state they wish they had never received the money.

The main reason for this is people place a value on what they have worked, invested and saved for.

But windfalls of large sums, instead of adding value to their lives, often have the complete opposite effect.

Inherited money can be more of a curse than a blessing.

Richard G. Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service, and has over 25 years of experience in this field. He can be reached at: 076-381997 or 081-081 4611. Or email imm@loxinfo.co.th. Web: www.global-portfolios.com.

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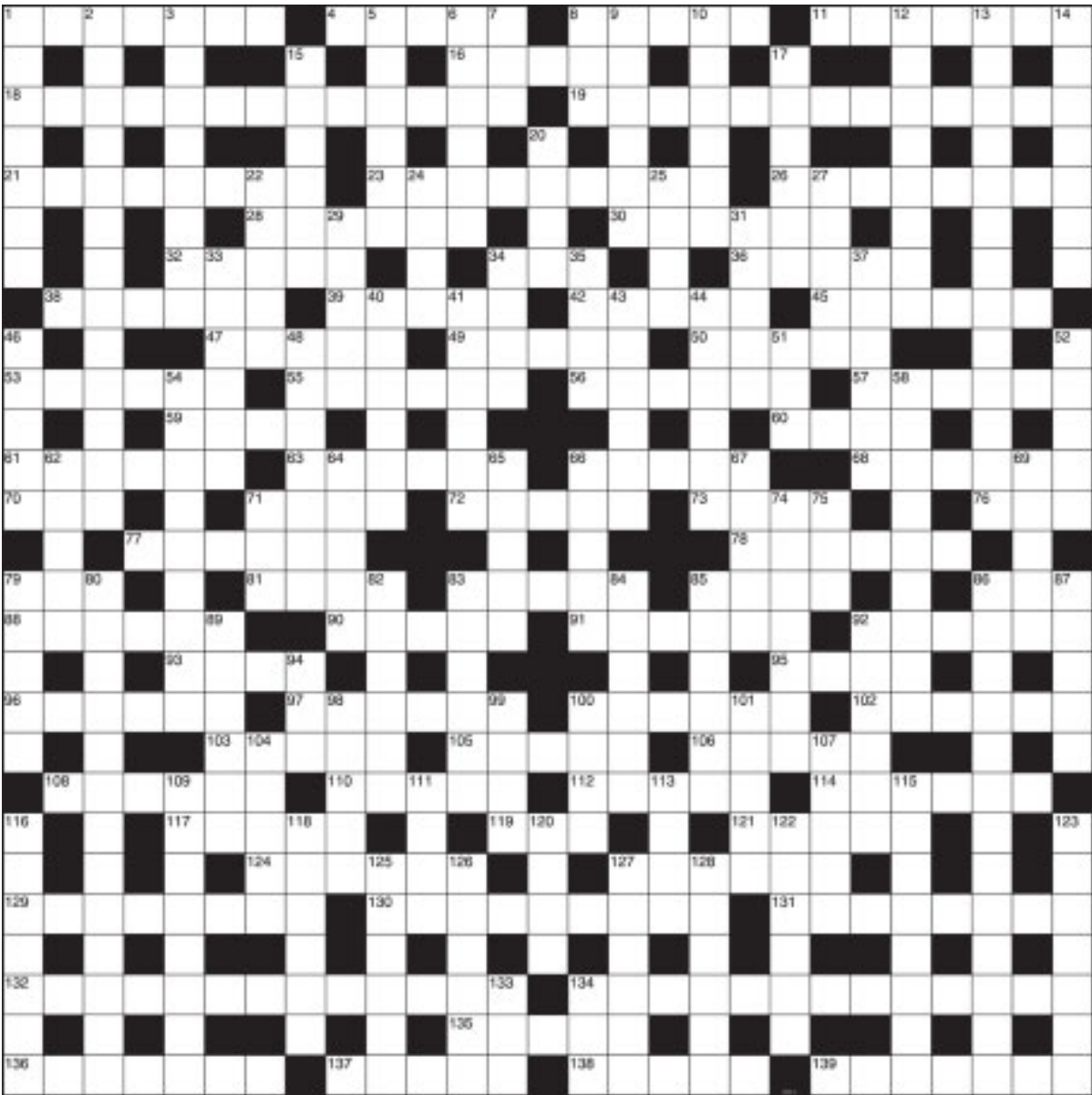


Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid are things you might find in a hotel room. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 15 or more, good; 20 or more, very good; 25 or more, excellent.

Solution on the next page.

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



The BIG Crossword

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- Across**
1. Pester
4. Sauce
8. Geeks
11. Fragrance
16. Abated
18. Body’s neural set-up (7,6)
19. Taking up many hours (4-9)
21. Sequined fabric
23. Tell off (5,4)
26. Air force bomber
28. Undeniably
30. Worthless (2-4)
32. Dodge (fare)
34. Guy
36. Inducted,... in
38. Nearer
39. The Mob
42. Loft
45. Heathens
47. Filled tortillas
49. Latin American dance
50. Sail poles
53. Professional male escort
55. Patriotic hymn
56. Gloomy
57. Transported by wagon
59. 365 days
60. Zodiac Cancer symbol
61. Pretentious people
63. Wanderers
66. Coriander & mint
68. Insect grubs
70. Revenge, tit for...
71. Dad
72. Performed play
73. Win & place bet,... way
76. Conclusion
77. Glacial period (3,3)
78. Obtains (funds)
79. Peter (out)
81. Belgrade native
83. Muscle twitch
85. Indirect suggestion
86. Roman X
88. Weigh up
90. Seaweed
91. Most docile
92. Harsh
93. Perfumed powder
95. Ireland (poetic)
96. Shove
97. Kidnap
100. Flamenco instrument
102. Heavy starchy food
103. Improper
105. Restaurant patron
106. Start (of disease)
108. Twinkling (of night sky)
110. Pre-Soviet emperors
112. Was inclined
114. Outcasts
117. Unfulfilled
119. Tease
121. Piano key material
124. Sign of the fish
127. Milkmaid’s hat
129. Powerful lamp (3,5)
130. Dishonest businessman
131. Demote
132. Rubella (6,7)
134. Coarsened by exposure (7-6)
135. Pen name
136. Cowboy movie
137. Small African tribesman
- Down**
1. Moistureless (4,3)
2. Skin specialist
3. Molests
5. Dwell
6. Swerved
7. Root vegetable
8. Goalpost mesh
9. Light bulb inventor
10. Tinting
12. Seizing (power) wrongfully
13. Very ordinary
14. Female striped feline
15. Rise
17. Barking noise (3-3)
20. Continent
22. Coronet
24. Coral bank
25. Will not (3’1)
27. Take in (child)
29. Evil spirit
31. Academy Award
33. Refuses
34. Madam (2’2)
35. Captures (criminal)
37. Scoundrel
40. Breathing disorder
41. Philippines celebrity,... Marcos
43. Beeped (horn)
44. Partake of alcohol
46. Suez country
48. Great slaughter
51. Just a minute, wait a...
52. Lazed
54. Songwriters
58. Humiliation
62. Desert water hole
64. Phantom Of The...
65. Range
66. Robbery
67. Indian garments
69. Hostility
71. Social blunder, faux...
74. Gallops slowly
75. Bash
79. Flits
80. Group loyalty (6,2,5)
82. Sharp edges
83. UFO, flying...
84. Dung
85. Actor, Charlton...
86. Compassionate
87. Fresher
89. Ringed planet
92. Sibling
94. Rotter
98. Rifle ends
99. Assignment
100. Castrate
101. Humorous action
104. Beautiful young woman
107. Run off to marry
109. Meditate
111. Region
113. Plant,... vera
115. French/Spanish mountains
116. Scottish city
118. One or the other
120. Curly-horned goat
122. Changes
123. Stricter
125. Well-baked
126. Holler
127. Slightest
128. Violent
133. Crafty
134. Used to be

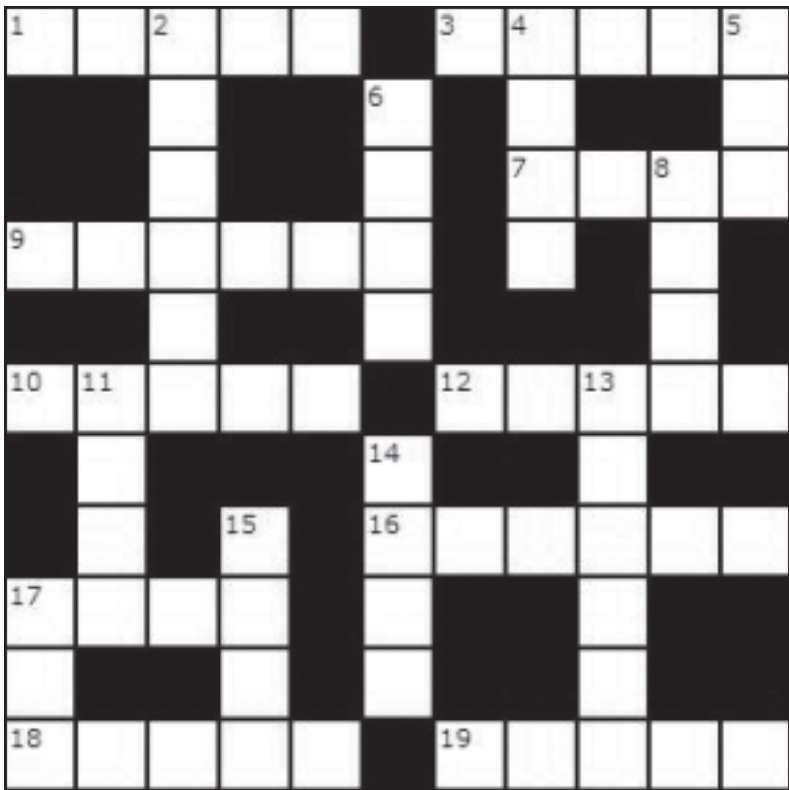
Solution on next page



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

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

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



Quick Crossword

Across

1. Hit
3. Media
7. Lazy
9. In a car
10. Vote in
12. Luck
16. Ask
17. Jump
18. Precise
19. Award

Down

2. Guess
4. Precipitation
5. Look
6. Pain
8. Fasten
11. Adore
13. Manchester...
14. Crazy
15. Huge
17. Bruce...

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with the

MONSTER QUIZ

1. Which human rights organisation received the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize?
2. Whose autobiography was *The long walk to Freedom*?
3. What was discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter?
4. Clyde Tonbaugh discovered what planet in 1930?
5. Who won the women's heptathlon at Seoul in 1988?
6. Who wrote *Northanger Abbey*?
7. Who ran through the streets naked crying Eureka?
8. Who composed the *Brandenburg concertos*?
9. Who won the World Series in 1987?
10. What is the correct term when addressing the Pope?
11. In which city was Alexander Graham Bell born in 1847?
12. Who composed the ballets *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Nutcracker*?
13. AG Bell opened school in Boston in 1872 for Teachers of what?
14. Benjamin Kubelsky is more famously known as who?
15. In the *Old Testament* what book comes between *Obadiah* and *Micah*?
16. Robin Williams dressed in drag for which 1993 film?
17. Which chess piece could also be a member of the church?
18. Which German word means 'lightning war'?
19. Broccoli belongs to what family of plants?
20. Who designed the first Iron ship, the *Great Britain*, in 1845?

Answers below



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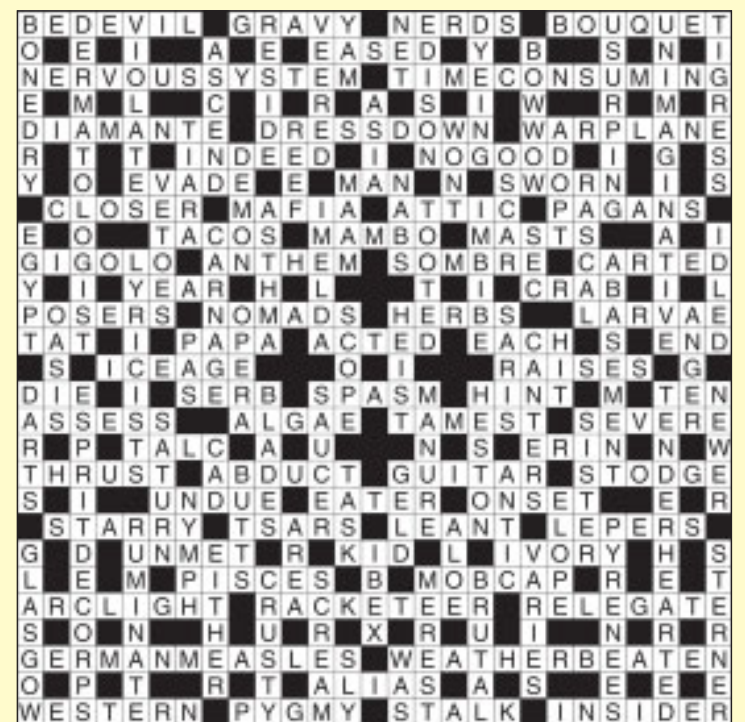
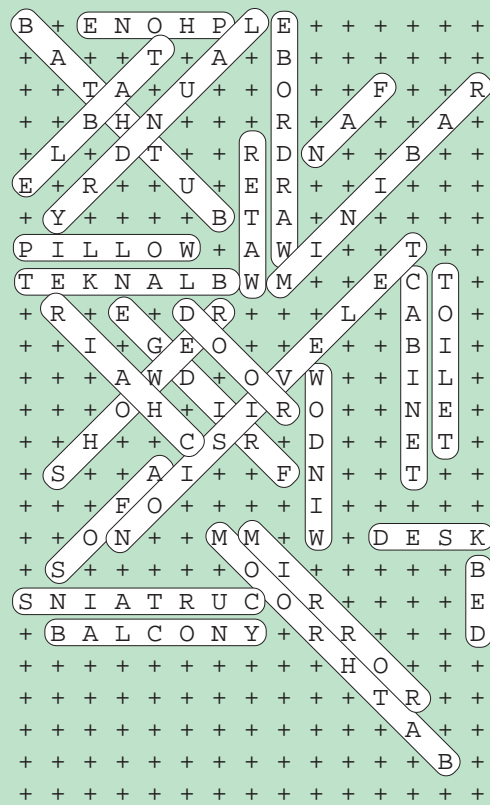
Beef • Pork • Lamb • Chicken • Sausages • Burgers • Pies & Pasties
Bacon & Gammon • Cooked Meats • Imported Groceries
English Beer/Cider • Tea • Home Prepared Micro-Meals • Xmas Delicacies

Puzzle Solutions

Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

Monster Quiz Answers

1. Amnesty International; 2. Nelson Mandela; 3. Tutankhamun's Tomb; 4. Pluto; 5. Jackie Joyner-Kersey; 6. Jayne Austin; 7. Archimedes; 8. Johan Sebastian Bach; 9. Minnesota Twins; 10. Your Holiness; 11. Edinburgh; 12. Tchaikovsky; 13. The Deaf; 14. Jack Benny; 15. Jonah; 16. Mrs Doubtfire; 17. Bishop; 18. Blitzkrieg; 19. Cabbage; 20. Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

New York's last newspaper man



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Jimmy Breslin is a legend. He is the ultimate 'Big City Journalist' in the biggest city in the world, New York. He is often compared to Damon Runyon, which is unfair.

Breslin is much better than Runyon. A Kansas boy who only came to the city when he was 30 years old, Runyon learned about the city that never sleeps only by hanging out in a deli on Times Square frequented by Broadway types, politicians and gangsters.

Breslin, now pushing 80, was born in the Irish working class neighborhood of Ozone Park, Queens, and started out as a newspaper copy boy at the age of 18. He launched his legendary column in the New York Herald Tribune in 1963 and has never looked back.

Breslin has published seven

novels and 10 works of non-fiction, the latest being *The Good Rat* (Harper Perennial, New York, 2008 270pp).

The rat in question is Burt Kaplan, a Mafia associate who would later inform on two corrupt cops with whom he had worked for years, Louis Eppolito and Steve Caracappa.

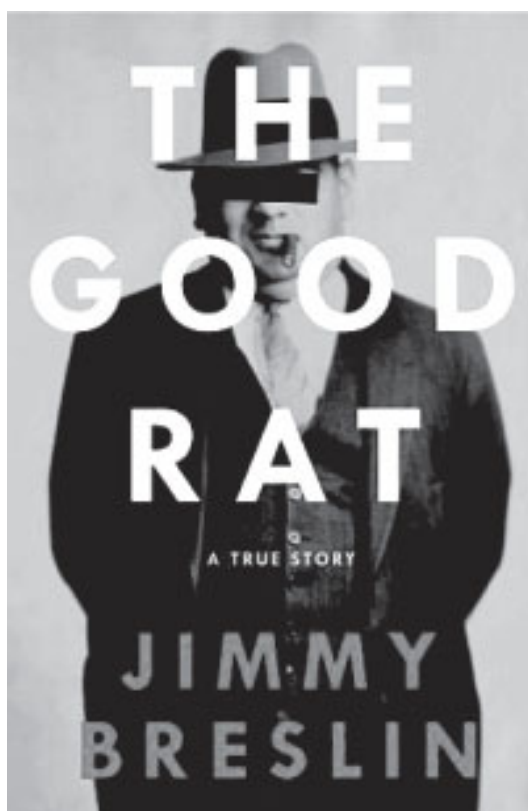
Not only did the pair regularly pass on police information to the mob, they also functioned as contract killers.

Kaplan was a combination of respectable Jewish businessman and mafia-connected fence, and marijuana dealer.

Watching him give testimony in court, turning state's evidence after serving nine years in prison as a stand-up guy, Breslin falls in love with him for his dispassionate defiance of the Mafia. Thus the title.

Kaplan's main Mafia patron was Anthony 'Gaspipe' Casso of the Bonano family. One of Gaspipe's mortal enemies was John Gotti of the Gambino family.

When Gotti arranged the murder of family leader Paul



Castellano, rival Vincente 'the Chin' Gigante of the Gambinos felt threatened.

"He thought: 'If you kill Castellano, then I, Vincent Gigante, also can be killed.' Something had to be done about Gotti, Gigante decided, so he hired Gaspipe Casso to put a bomb in a car parked on a Sunday morn-

ing in front of the Veterans and Friends social club on Eighty-sixth Street in Bensonhurst... Gotti was inside the club. He left one of his men, Frank DeCicco, in the car. Gotti was supposed to come right out. He tarried. The bomb did not. Mr DeCicco became dust."

This is the street-wise, terse black humor for which Breslin is famed.

Here's another sample. Breslin is summoned to a night-time meeting with a Mafia boss outside a restaurant owned by Dominic Cataldo, "who was a nice little guy but has a terrible reputation for doing a lot of work. The expression 'work' meant murder. This was a bad thing to say about Dominic, and to make it worse, it was true."

So Breslin is feeling antsy about this meeting, but he consoles himself.

"But I could trust his waitress, Doris. She liked me, all right. And if I disappeared from the restaurant on this night, you could trust Doris to answer all police questions succinctly, 'Who?'"

Breslin's style here is highly discursive. The main narrative peg is Kaplan and his revelations about Mafia bosses and the two killer cops, but upon this he hangs many a tale of a vanished New York saloon culture and various Mafia social clubs.

One became an expensive Asian dress shop that was later turned into a shoe store "which catered to feet made of gold".

In the end, the bad guys are put away and Kaplan strides impassively out of the courtroom and into a different hidden life.

True to his code of omerta, he never talks to Breslin, nor does his daughter, a state judge.

But from what stories he gleans around the Mafia bosses of the day, Breslin has put together a compelling narrative, packed with moral revulsion and deadpan humor. I read his book in a single sitting.

As befits a legend, the publisher has added a 16-page post-script listing quotes by and about Jimmy Breslin, plus a 2008 interview entitled Ink-Stained Kvetch.

A list of his 20 favorite books includes work by Hemingway, Faulkner, Dostoevsky, Balzac and Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Street-side is one thing, literate is another.

Horoscopes



Isla Star

LEO (July 24-August 22): The stars are shining positively on Leos during the last week of July. Your financial luck should especially benefit from these auspicious conditions. If you weren't too sure of the viability of a business deal that was discussed earlier in the month, it now becomes clear that success is possible. Those celebrating a birthday during the coming days can expect to reach goals more easily in the year ahead.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Many Virgoans are forecast to end the month of July with a healthier bank balance than expected. Your hard work and dedication in recent weeks finally pays off and there is scope for more rewards in August. Celebrations this weekend could include a romantic commitment, but those who are still single can look forward to meeting an alluring Aquarian. Wear the color mocha to encourage more self-confidence.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Your social life perks up when an old friend returns from travels abroad. Librans could find that burning the candle at both ends this weekend results in less enthusiasm for work projects next week. You are advised to keep your wits about you on Tuesday as a Capricorn colleague would like to take credit for your efforts.

Property investment is tempting, but best delayed until the middle of August.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Your reluctance to listen to a voice of reason is highlighted this week. Scorpions who continue pushing themselves to the limit will soon find that others are losing patience. Take time out to consider your options this weekend and you will see that there is a way to back down without losing face. Pisces is keen to pursue romance, but is waiting to be noticed. The number seven can be lucky on Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): You will learn there is satisfaction from helping others less fortunate this weekend. Those born under the sign of Sagittarius who have been caught up with their own problems lately will have these put in perspective. Your talents for spotting an opportunity to earn are put to good use early next week – collaboration with Aries has the stars' seal of approval, but working with Gemini could be problematic.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Your attention to detail could prevent a monetary error this week. The stars suggest you should pay particular attention to financial transactions on Monday and Tuesday. Ro-

mantic reconciliation is possible at the end of this month, but Capricorns are advised to reflect on the reasons why this relationship ended. The chances are that not much has changed in the meantime. The number three can bring some good luck late next week.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Your cool approach to business throws rivals off guard. Aquarians are advised to make the most of the continuing astrological support until the end of this month. As August commences, you will be more liable to make mistakes. Romance remains a gray area – the more you try to get to the bottom of what is going on, the more confused you will be. Taking distance is the only sensible option.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Pisceans will find out talk is cheap this week. Broken promises are highlighted to rock your boat of contentment, but you could also be relieved to find out who you can really trust. Business is forecast to go more smoothly in August – until then, spend time doing more research. As July draws to an end, your luck in love starts to pick up. The number one can be lucky next Wednesday.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Those born under the sign of Ar-

ies who have been struggling to get a business project finalized should have reason to celebrate this weekend. An earth sign colleague is forecast to be more helpful than you expected. Travel arrangements will demand your attention at the end of this month – plans made to take a break in August could be subject to last minute alteration. The number four is fortunate on Tuesday.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Those Taureans still suffering from lack of motivation this week will be glad to know that inspiration is on the way. The astrological atmosphere is predicted to be lighter once August begins, and there are signs that a long-term creative project that has been weighing heavily on your conscience will come to fruition. Wearing the color raspberry red can help to encourage more confidence in your artistic talents.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Your quest for romantic fulfillment continues, but the stars suggest that many Geminis are focusing on small details too much. Leo has much more to offer than you are aware of. In business, a way to have your cake and eat it too becomes apparent at the end of this month. Thursday is the best day for signing official agreements. Wear the color pistachio green to encourage a more open mind.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Changes are strongly highlighted this week. Cancerians who would like to try different employment are advised to contact an Aquarian acquaintance who is becoming more successful. The chance to move to more attractive housing could be made possible when you hear that a friend is suddenly leaving. Where love is concerned, retreating into your shell will cause someone to get the wrong idea. Number eight is lucky next Tuesday.

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Security no match for thugs

As this edition went to print, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was in town and the unprecedented security effort surrounding the Asean Ministerial Meetings (AMM) and Asian Regional Forum (ARF) has, despite a few scares, gone off without a hitch – touch wood.

Following the disastrous last-minute cancellation of the failed Asean summit in Pattaya over the Songkran holiday and the terrorist bombing of two US-owned luxury hotels in Jakarta last Friday, the government can hardly be faulted for taking every possible precaution to prevent any protests or acts of terrorism that could mar these very important regional talks.

One might expect that putting the island under the provisions of the controversial Internal Security Act for two weeks and bringing in an estimated 10,000 extra security personnel would have everyone on the island on their very best behavior.

The red-shirted members of the anti-government National United Front of Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD) certainly got the hint.

They promised Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop they would do nothing to disrupt the proceedings and subsequently lived up to their promise; hiring an air-conditioned coach to go on a “tour” of northern Thailand and Isarn for the duration.

Governor Wichai was so pleased with this that he was seen on a local cable television channel handing over a large wad of 1,000 baht notes from his own wallet – along with a big bag of rambutans – to the red-shirts as a farewell gift.

Unfortunately, the island’s considerable population of hoodlums, bandits, petty thieves and other miscreants appear undeterred at being placed under the same security measures that normally apply only to Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat.

A week after the Internal Security Act was invoked, two cowardly thugs trying to steal a Thai woman’s handbag and severely beat the woman and her English male companion in the parking lot of the popular Stereo Lab nightclub in Surin, just up the road from the AMM host venue Laguna Phuket and a stone’s throw away from a number of luxury hotels providing accommodation for delegates.

This attack was followed just three days later by a gun battle in broad daylight on the beach road in Patong between two rival gangs pitted against each other in a bloody land dispute, the death toll of which now stands at two.

Fortunately police were reportedly able to round up most of those involved.

Hopefully the information they obtain in questioning will somehow expedite an end to this bloody turf war, which has already resulted in tens of millions of baht in damages from five arson attacks and caused inestimable damage to Phuket’s reputation as a safe tourist destination.

– **The Editor**

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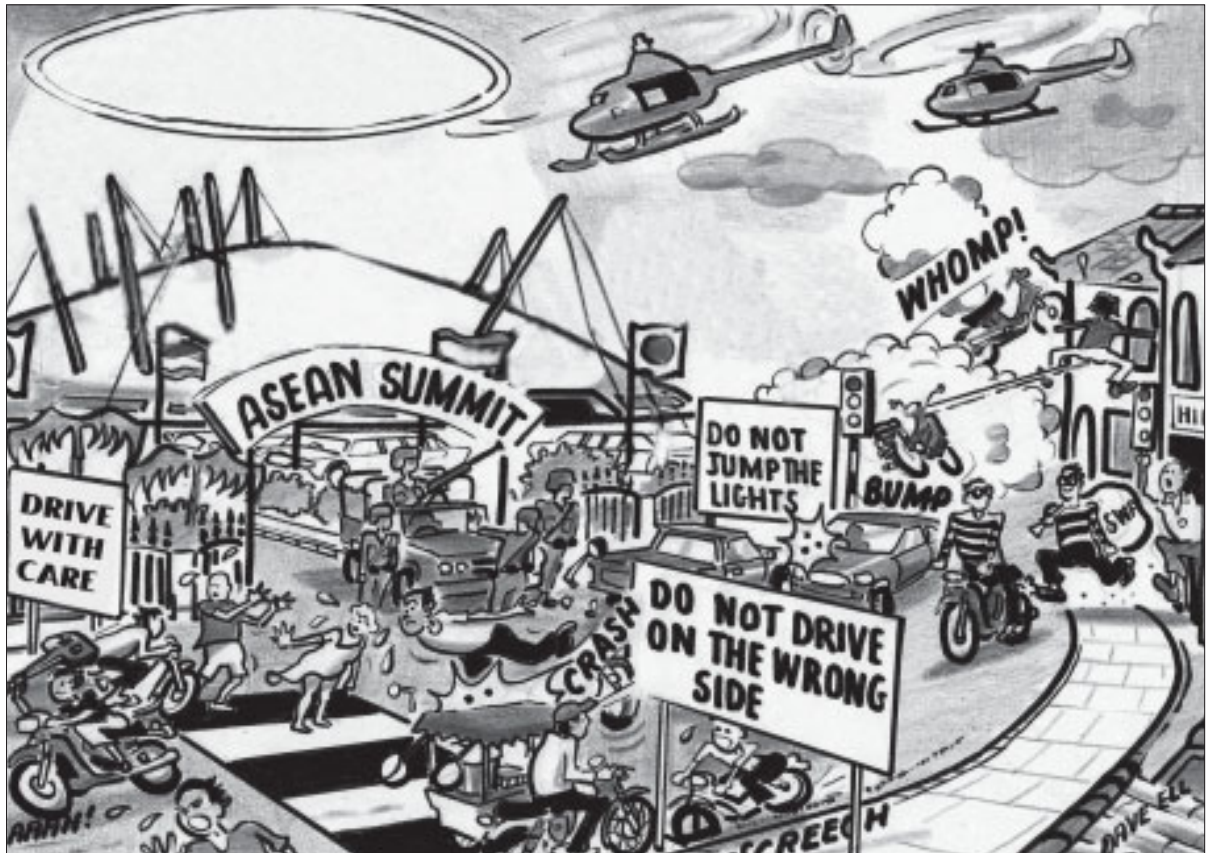
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Letters

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.

Where’s the security?

Barely a couple of weeks ago, people were complaining about having their privacy invaded by this mass security force which was going to be checking this and checking that, and generally making our lives hell during the Asean meeting.

Has anyone actually been stopped since the first day?

I very much doubt it. Maybe the odd Thai here and there, but *farangs*? Forget it.

On the day the Internal Security Act came into effect, a two kilometer-long tailback stretching almost to Heroines’ Monument from its point of origin developed, causing delays.

I assumed as the conference got closer, these tailbacks would increase in size causing untold chaos. I assumed wrong. Obviously someone complained that the soldiers were doing their jobs far too well and the ‘squaddies’ were told to quell their enthusiasm.

Now they just wave people through as the vehicles slow down before each checkpoint.

Approaching a checkpoint on my way home on Friday, a pickup laden with the large bottles of water was happily waved through, no questions asked.

Those bottles could have been full of all kinds of flammable substances, stuff that could have caused untold damage.

Not only would this have harmed the meetings at Laguna Phuket, it would possibly have destroyed Thailand’s reputation once and for all, especially given the measures that are in place in the name of ‘security’.

If a layperson like me thought about this, why the hell

didn’t the people who are being employed to ensure this meeting passes without incident?

If someone wanted to really hammer the final nail into Phuket’s coffin, it wouldn’t take a terrorist mastermind to complete the job.

Doug Phillips
Bang Tao

What went wrong?

I just got back from my holiday in Patong and I couldn’t help but note what a difference 12 months makes when I think back to my first visit to Phuket last year.

The town looks very quiet and there are few tourists.

As I wandered around, I noticed that the streets were quiet and the beaches were almost empty, down perhaps 80 percent on last year.

At night I went to Bangla Road expecting to see people, only it was dead too.

It didn’t seem like the same hedonistic road that I had partied on only last year.

In the bar, I overheard people planning to sell their pubs, restaurants and hotels.

It seems strange to see Phuket like this. Phuket, what on earth went wrong?

Yayapapaya
Gazette / Thai Visa
Phuket Forum

It’s a love-hate thing

I think Phuket has priced itself out of the reach of the tourist market. Hotels deserve to be empty because prices are too high!

Last year I booked myself into a hotel in Patong that charged me 9,500 baht per night.

I was also told if I brought a girl back, I would have to pay an extra 500 baht.

Then you have the tuk-tuk problem, and the hundreds of bikes and cars for hire along the beach road.

They abuse you if park on their ‘turf’ and when you try and cross over to the other side, trucks try to kill you.

All these should be cleared to allow tourists to walk freely without fear of being abused.

Also, it takes forever to reach Phuket, too! When you fly to Phuket from London, it takes ages because you have to go to Bangkok first.

How can it be ‘international’ if you can’t fly direct?

To make matters worse, when you come out of arrivals, there’s a mad mob of taxi drivers waiting for you.

Why can’t they just sit in their cars and take the customers as they come?

I have been in Phuket for eight months and to date, I have paid out a total of 43,000 baht in visa fees, most of which is the cost of leaving the country to get an extension.

Why can’t I do this at Immigration in Phuket?

I have just been to Penang and got a ‘free’ 90-day visa, and I now have to go to immigration after 60 days and pay 1,900 baht to extend it another 30 days.

Why on earth do they call it a free 90-day visa, when it clearly isn’t? I spent 9,000 baht in three days getting my ‘free’ visa.

It’s just not good enough.

You can go to lots of other countries without this hassle.

Barry Cutler
Chalong

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.

Keeping up appearances after Asean



The Governor's Letter

Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop is now in his fourth month of a planned one-year tenure in the big chair at Phuket Provincial Hall. In that time, Governor Wichai has pushed hard to improve the island's infrastructure, especially the roads. In this month's *Governor's Letter*, Governor Wichai talks about the continued development of Phuket as a world-class destination and urges Phuketians to think and act collectively for the good of the island.

The recent donation to the province of eight rai of land by Rolly Tasker brings closer the realization of the new four-lane airport road.

This is a great example of commitment to the greater good of the community. And, in this case, the donor is a foreigner.

I hope other locals will follow this example so that the road can finally become a reality.

The second airport road is a much-needed addition to Phuket's infrastructure.

The roads are becoming congested as it is but if there's an accident or a hold up at the Heroines' Monument roundabout on the main airport road, that's it. You're stuck, as there's no alternative route for traffic to go.

Phuket's roads are dangerous and Thai drivers have sloppy driving habits. People die unnecessarily and it's a shame.

I ask why there are no proper pedestrian crossings or elevated U-turns in Phuket.

I am told they would look unattractive, but I say, having proper roads is going to be a much more attractive asset to the island in the long run.

My continued aim is to improve Phuket's infrastructure to

make the island a safe and convenient place to live or visit.

There are plans for another four-lane highway that have existed for about 10 years but construction of that road has never got underway due to delays over a particular stretch.

When complete, it will provide better access to Saphan Hin, the area around the Third Area Naval Command and the Chalmr Prakiat School area.

I'm pushing for that project to be finalized once the Asean meetings are over and we can begin on that road, too.

With the spotlight on Phuket during the Asean meetings, Phuketians have come together to welcome the international delegates. We have shown that Phuket is an ideal location for international events with good security in place.

The protests in Patong just before the Asean meetings were over an old, land-related issue, but things came to a head when it rained and residents suffered from flooding.

Mediation was required to quell the animosity and reconciliation has been achieved.

When it comes to color-coded political debate, Phuket is not a red- or yellow-shirt zone. If

anything, Phuketians are white-shirts, meaning we represent the colors of the entire nation.

There are no winners in the red-shirt / yellow-shirt dispute. There is a loser, however. That loser is Thailand.

The theft of decorative flora planted just before the Asean summit is not much of a big deal. It was probably just some kids playing a prank. I believe the plants were eventually returned.

However, I plan to continue beautifying Phuket after the Asean meetings with more Palmyra trees, as they are a traditional symbol of Phuket.

The island needs to show something to visitors when they arrive. Something that says, 'you are now in Phuket'.

When I was governor of Phang Nga, I initiated a project to build a 120-meter-high viewing tower that will become a major tourist attraction for the province.

For an investment of 200 million baht, Phang Nga will have a popular tourist attraction that will become a well-known land mark; a place that every tourist will want to visit, where they can find out more about the area they have come to see.

I'd like to see a similar at-



Governor Wichai praised the generous donation of land by Rolly Tasker Sails Co earlier this month so that a new road to the airport can be built.

traction here, where tourists can get a bird's-eye view of the island's natural beauty. Pattaya has one. Why not Phuket?

When you go to Paris, you pay to go up the Eiffel Tower, when you go to Shanghai or Sydney, you pay to visit attractions in those cities. It's the same all over the world. Phuket needs to have something to offer.

This kind of attraction would be a much better addition to Phuket than the water park currently under construction.

Why build a water park as a tourist attraction when people come here for the island's natural beauty and beaches?

Having said that, at the end of the day, the success of Phuket is not down to the governor. It is down to all Phuketians joining hands in a concerted effort to make the province a better place to live.

All too often, progress that will benefit the majority is held up by selfish or greedy individuals with their own agenda.

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

Where can my Thai friend apply for a new passport?

I would like one of my Phuket friends to visit my country, but I just realized he does not have a passport.

Where is the closest Ministry of Foreign Affairs Office to Phuket so we can apply for a passport? How much does it cost, how long does it usually take to process and what documents are required?

Joey Lucas
Phuket

A representative at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs replies:

The closest Passport Division office to Phuket is located in Songkhla province. There is an intermittent service that travels to

Phuket about four times per year, but you should not rely upon this if you are in a hurry to leave the country with your friend.

To apply for a passport he/she will need to bring their current ID card and pay 1,035 baht in fees. Once you have applied, it should take about a week to arrive at the given address.

Passport Division offices:

Head Office: 123 Chang Wattana Road, Laksee, Bangkok 10210. Tel: 02-981 717 199. Fax: 02-981-7256. Opening hours: 8am to 3.30pm.

Songkhla City Hall (Old building), 1st Floor, Ratchadamnern Road, A Muang, Songkhla 90000. Tel: 074-326 510-1. Fax: 074-326506.

Can I post spearfishing equipment to Thailand?

Can I bring my spearfishing equipment into the country through the airport in my checked baggage? Failing that, can I post my equipment to Thailand?

Michael Entwhistle
Overseas

An officer at Phuket International Airport post office replies:

With regard to your spearfishing equipment and checked luggage, you should consult your airline before you fly.

You can post your spearfishing equipment to Thailand, but you must ensure that it is wrapped sufficiently and is clearly marked with your name, address and the value of the equipment.

An official at the Customs Office, Phuket City replies:

If you bring the equipment into the country yourself you will not be required to pay any fees. If, however, you post your equipment, it may be subject to import taxes.

The import duty on a spearfishing gun is 20% and you will be charged a further 20% for any additional equipment.

If you can prove that the equipment is for personal use only, you may escape any charges.

For more information contact the Post Office at Phuket International Airport. (Tel: 076-327 430) or Phuket Customs (next to Phuket Immigration), Phuket Road, A Muang, Phuket 83000. Tel: 076-211105, 076-211106.

Sainamyen under-13s return with heads held high after Songkhla tournament

Sainamyen School from Patong finished the two-day Songkhla under-15s rugby 7s tournament on a high after securing victory in their final match against a school from their home province on July 12.

Earlier in the tournament, the Patong side suffered two defeats against teams which fielded players more than two years their senior.

The tournament in Songkhla, on July 11 and 12, was Sainamyen under-13s' first ever rugby 7s competition.

There was no under-13s category, so the Patong side was put in the under-15s tournament.

Despite playing against boys much larger than themselves, the size of the opposition didn't faze the Patong players who repeatedly threw themselves into some tough tackles.

The first game pitted them against Chananupathum School from Songkhla province.

The local side took an early 5-0 lead as they made the most of their considerable size

advantage, crossing the line for a simple opening try.

Rather than retreating into their shells, Sainamyen rallied and a huge hit from hooker Athitthep Phetklua gave them the platform to compete.

Despite the relentless pressure, the team tackled their hearts out and held firm to go in at half time only one try down.

The second half proved to be an entirely different story.

The Sainamyen boys took the initiative from the start, forcing their opposition onto the back foot as they searched for a try.

With seconds remaining, Charin Tongkham crashed over in the corner after some great passing along the line.

But he try was controversially disallowed when an official from the opposite touchline said Sainamyen had knocked the ball on over the line, handing Chananupathum the win.

In their second game, Sainamyen was awarded a walk over, when Songsan School failed to front.

In the last game of day, Sainamyen took on Prachasan School from Ao Luk, whose players wouldn't have looked out of place in a senior game.

Sainamyen started strongly with Aphishet Yimorn and Nantawat Sitichai both coming close to scoring.

The scores were level going into the last minute of the half when Napat Suphichawutipong made a great break, only to be tackled close to the line.

The ball was quickly turned over by Ao Luk who scored a breakaway try to give them a narrow 5-0 half time lead.

After putting in so much effort in repelling their bigger opponents, Sainamyen began to tire during the second half.



Sainamyen will be entering into other regional tournaments and youth training will begin again in September.

A one-sided second half ensued as Prachasan scored 24 unanswered points, and went home victorious with a 29-0 win to their credit.

Day two was interrupted by tropical downpours, but Sainamyen finally registered a win against another Songkhla side, the only other under-13s side in the group.

Despite losing two matches, it was a great experience for the team who

returned home happy to have been able to compete against older players.

The experience they gained in Songkhla will help their development in the future.

Sainamyen will be entering other regional tournaments, and youth training will begin again in September.

The aim is to get a mini-youth league up and running in Phuket by the end of the year.

-Pat Cotter

Last-gasp Yala winner leaves Phuket bottom

Two second half goals from Yala were enough to consign the beleaguered Sea Dragons to their seventh defeat of a nightmare season.

An inspired Phuket FC took a one nil lead into half time, but the home side fought back strongly after the break to claim all three points.

Phuket FC are now rooted to the bottom of the table, having secured only five points all season.

With no chance of promotion and having been eliminated from the FA Cup in round two, the Sea Dragons have little left to play for except salvaging some pride and their loyal supporters who still yearn to see their side win at home.

On the back of a confidence-boosting draw at Pattani, the Sea Dragons began strongly.

Their impressive start was rewarded when number 10 Ronnarong 'Aek' Thongsong gave the visitors a deserved lead, following a simple build up.

Unlike the game against Pattani, the visitors' defense held firm until half time, giving the Phuket players some hope of scoring their second win of the season.

In the second half, the Sea Dragons continued to create chances but were unable to find the goal which would give them a two goal cushion.

They were made to play for their profligacy in front of goal when Yala leveled the scores.

With the game at 1-1, both sides missed good chances to take the lead.

Just as it seemed the game was heading for a 1-1 draw, the home side netted a winning goal in the 88th minute and broke Phuket FC's heart.

After another gut-wrenching defeat, coach Somsak Waijerean said his side had worked hard, played well and were unlucky to lose.

Goalscorer Ronnarong 'Aek' Thongsong was named Phuket FC man of the match.

Phuket's next match is at home on August 1 against Phatthalung. Kick off is at 7pm.

Anyone interested in joining the Phuket FC Supporters Club should email Dan at phuketfcsupportersclub@hotmail.co.uk or go to the Phuket FC Supporters Club group on Facebook.

-Daniel Ogunshakin



The final of the Kamala Lawn Bowls competition sponsored by San Miguel Beer was held on June 13 at the Kamala Bowling Club. The winners were Rudi Verwilt and Peter Bainbridge representing the Kamala Beer Garden, while second place went to Nang and Yu from Nang's Bar.



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Six Senses added to 2009 Asian Grand Prix circuit

On the back of the success of last year's King's Cup and the growing popularity of the Six Senses Phuket Raceweek, Phuket will now play host to two rounds of the Asian Yachting Grand Prix, following the addition of the latter to the racing calendar.

The July event, currently underway, has been installed as the first event on the 2009-10 racing circuit, reflecting the growing success of the regatta, which is now in its fifth year.

According to the Asian Yachting website, 'the selection of events must reflect the high standards expected by the Racing

Class boat owners and a fair turnout of top-level racing teams competing at the event'.

Each year, points are awarded based on the performances of both skippers and yachts in the Racing Class taking place in designated Grand Prix events.

Neil Pryde on *Hi Fi* took the 2008-09 title, scoring a record 20 points.

"This year's win in the Asian Yachting Grand Prix was particularly sweet," he said.

"It was a long hard road and winning was the pay off for the efforts of a lot of people," he said.

It was the third time Pryde has claimed the prestigious award

in the eight years since its inception.

Second place went to 2007-08 winner Ray Roberts on *Quantum Racing* with Paul Winkelman on *Island Fling* finishing third, just ahead of 2006-07 winner Frank Pong on *Jelik*.

The winning skipper is awarded a tailored blue Armani blazer and receives the Perpetual Asian Yachting Cup – traditionally filled with chilled champagne – at a lavish prize giving ceremony at the conclusion of the final regatta of the series in Koh Samui.

Hi Fi and *Quantum Racing*, now known as *Evolution Sails*, are both



Most of Hi Fi's core crew from last season have been retained. Photo by sail-world.com

competing in this year's Evason Six Senses Phuket Raceweek.

Pryde and Roberts will be going head-to-head once again, with both men hoping for the best possible start in their quests to add yet another blue blazer to their respective wardrobes.

"You can never be confident about winning any yacht race or regatta, but we have a few changes we intend to make to the boat which I believe will give us a little more performance," Pryde said.

-James Goyder

Phuket resident driving force behind Asian kiteboarding tour

The sport of kiteboarding has long been a popular recreational activity at numerous holiday destinations in and around Asia.

With the popularity of the sport ensured, Phuket entrepreneur Willy Kerr, the Irish owner of Kite Surf Phuket and Phuketdesign.com, is set to launch the Kiteboard Tour Asia (KTA), along with Hong Kong-based Neil Godbold.

The pair hope by establishing the tour, they will provide an international platform, enabling kiteboarders to demonstrate their skills and talents throughout Asia.

Kiteboarding, which involves strapping a surfboard to your feet while using a giant kite for propulsion, is one of the world's fastest growing sports.

The KTA will be the first international tour of its kind in Asia and is open to everyone regardless of ability.

The philosophy behind the event is to provide homegrown riders with an opportunity to experience the fun and excitement of being part of an international competition.

Kerr and Godbold are also hoping the tour will act as a stepping-stone to the pro tour scene for the region's best riders, while giving them international competition experience.

Kerr is one of three Phuket-based kiteboarders who will be competing on the tour.

"I will be taking part in some of the events, and two Thai guys, Pae and Mode, who are instructors at my school in Phuket are also hoping to compete," he said.

"Unfortunately the travel cost might prevent them from competing anywhere except Thailand, so we are trying to find sponsors who will put up the money to help them compete abroad," he said.



LIFTOFF: Kite Surf Phuket instructor Pae is one of two Thais from Phuket hoping to compete in the Kiteboard Tour Asia.

Kiteboarding has been recognized by the International Sailing Federation as a form of sailing after kiteboarders smashed the world speed record for wind powered craft, reaching speeds of more than 50 knots.

The inaugural kiteboarding tour will stop in four different countries, starting in October in Xiamen, China, before moving to Hong Kong, the Philippines and Vietnam.

The final event is scheduled to take place in Pranburi near Hua Hin, in March next year.

Each leg will feature two IKA sanctioned disciplines.

One will be a straight race in which kiteboarders race against one another on a designated course.

The second event is a freestyle event, where kiteboarders will try to impress a panel of judges with stunts, tricks and aerial gymnastics.

Prizes will be awarded to the winners in each of the five legs, and at the end of the tour

the first ever Asian Kiteboarding Champion will be crowned.

Because the tour is sanctioned by the IKA, riders will be awarded world ranking points for placing in the events in which they compete.

Riders will then be able to view their overall world ranking position on the official IKA website.

Kerr is hoping the tour will have a positive impact on the sport in Asia.

"This is one of only three tours in the world which are sanctioned by the International Sailing Federation," he said.

"This tour will be huge for Asian kites because they now can actually obtain world rankings from participating in our competitions."

For further information, to register as a competitor or inquire about sponsorship opportunities, visit www.kiteboardtour.asia or contact Willy Kerr on willy@kiteboardtour.asia.

-James Goyder

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Embracing the winds of change



By Salvatore Consentino

Saving our planet from global warming was a hot topic at the annual G8 summit held in Italy earlier this month and put new impetus on the drive to implement more green technology.

It's good to see US President Barack Obama encouraging other governments to make radical changes and to finally tackle the issue.

Hopefully, the Thai government and banks will now take the issue more seriously and facilitate changes so that organizations and individuals can play their part in the global effort to rely more on renewable energy.

Several readers have requested more information on the topics discussed in this column, mostly on how to obtain financing from banks, while some want to know more technical details.

Giving answers to questions regarding technical issues is no problem but the issue of financial incentives for going green is still controversial. Banks are still dubious of requests to fund renewable-energy and energy-saving projects.

One reader asked if replacing his two-stroke marine engines with four-stroke engines would qualify him to access to the revolving fund.

In principle, replacing the two-stroke engines is indeed

entering into the spirit of going green, even though the new engines would still cause some pollution, but I don't believe a bank would have the same opinion.

Others have asked to see examples of projects that have received grants. There are many, but unfortunately, most are for the production of bio-diesel, which can actually be more damaging to the environment and the economy than any benefits. Financial institutions are still more influenced by the financial security of a project rather than its environmental benefits.

The sad truth is, we need to force financial institutions to consider the proposals for renewable energy as project financing, not just as normal loan requests. In other words, any proposed project needs to be financially viable enough to support itself without collateral.

Bringing decision makers together is the next step in bringing about wide-sweeping changes in attitudes towards investment in green technology.

To this end, people who believe that going green is a sustainable and rewarding business need to organize meetings to share opinions and spread awareness through commercial and social associations, such as chambers of commerce.

Decision makers in financial institutions should be invited to these gatherings to answer questions and help interpret government policy toward revolving funds. I would be happy to take part in and contribute to such meetings.

Now let's look at the latest in wind turbine technology. These are low-cost renewable-energy solutions that can be easily applied



The new generation of wind turbines have vertical axis points, making them more efficient, quieter and easier to operate in confined areas. Pictured right is a 6kW micro-turbine at a Tesco store in Newton Aycliffe, UK. It stands about 10 meters high and produces enough electricity to power four houses for a year.



anywhere and can generate up to 60kW of electricity. They are ideal for small homes, offices and larger buildings.

The new designs rotate on a vertical axis like a carousel, rather than the traditional horizontal propeller-like design, making them much more efficient.

These vertical axis wind turbines (VAWTs) are quieter, more efficient and more economical. They are perfect for residential energy production, especially in urban environments.

VAWTs have an efficiency range between 48 and 60 percent and can generate power even in low winds. They are easy to install and cost about the same as photovoltaic (solar) panels with the same output of power at 14 percent efficiency.

Wind turbines work on the same airfoil principle that gives lift to airplane wings, but instead

of flying up and away, the airfoils (blades) are secured to a hub, which in turn is attached to a generator shaft.

As small wind-energy applications, VAWTs have several advantages over the horizontal wind turbine design in urban settings. They take up less space, are quieter and can generate up to 50% more electricity per year than conventional turbines with the same sweep area.

VAWTs can also generate electricity at wind speeds as low as 1.5 meters per second but continue to generate power in high wind speeds of up to 60m/s.

The vertical axis, direct-drive units eliminate the need for a gearbox, meaning a more efficient transfer of energy and no leaking oil. Plus, they are less harmful to wildlife in terms of bird and bat strikes.

On top of that, vertical-axis turbines do not need to be directed into the wind to enable them to rotate. They remain in a fixed position and they can be stacked on top of each other, making them the perfect urban application to squeeze as much electricity as possible from light, local winds.

You can see one of these wind turbines in action on YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVasG-uz8m4).

The graceful lines of the classic three-bladed horizontal axis wind turbine will always be an iconic symbol of clean, renewable energy and environmental consciousness but the new generation of VAWT design is the answer to small and micro applications.

Dr Salvatore Consentino can be contacted by email at sconsentino@gmail.com.

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Construction Update

Mai Khao

Water World set to make waves in Phuket

West Sands Water World in Mai Khao is the latest tourist attraction currently under construction in Phuket.

Construction began last year and is expected to be complete by December.

The water park is part of the West Sands five-star resort complex and was designed by Whitewater Industries, a world leader in water park design and a major player in the US water park industry, including Disney.

The overall cost of the project is 500 million baht (US\$14 million) with construction and engineering is being overseen by Danu Design and Hadyai Nanthakorn Co Ltd.

Covering an area of 22,400 square meters, the developers say the park will be able to accommodate 2,500 visitors a day.

"We are highly confident that West Sands Water World will take little time to become the new major attraction and a must-do activity for travelers who have landed in Phuket," said Project Director Barry King.

The park will feature regionally-themed sections which include African, Asian, Turkish, Northern European, North American and Incan zones. There will



West Sands Water World is currently under construction at a cost of 500 million baht (US\$14 million) and is set to open in December. Themed attractions will include the 'Boomerango' and 'Superbowl' waterslides.

even an area dedicated to the sub zero temperatures of the North Pole, although ice water in this section is yet to be confirmed.

The interactive structure of the water park will include several water slides, a 335-meter-long lazy river, a wave pool, a play pool and spa area as well as 'Boomerango' and 'Super Bowl' premium rides.

The latter two are currently all the rage in the US, with Boomerango winning the 'best new ride' award last year.



Boomerango



Superbowl



North Pole zone



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Note: The above details including all pictures are indicative information only. The final details are subject to change(s) made by the developer without giving prior notice to the customer.

Property in paradise



PICTURE PERFECT: Clockwise from the left: Outdoor dining terrace, sun deck and infinity edge pool; an artist's impression of a Baan Sawan Villa; and an outside view of the pool and terrace.

It's not easy to break the mold with design concepts in Phuket. Many have been tried, some of which have failed and some have prospered.

Currently, the design fad of the day, week, month, year or decade that has left house hunters drooling is the indoor/outdoor living concept.

House owners can now saunter from their king-sized bed or living room, out to their infinity edge swimming pool, without even opening a door.

Lazy isn't it? But it's lazying around and relaxation that sells,

and that's what's in abundance in Phuket's high-end property market at present.

Hillside residences offering sea-scape Andaman Sea views seem to be quite popular as well.

Designers and architects can thank Phuket's topography for making their task of supplying breathtaking views just a little easier.

"These properties sell themselves," comes the cry.

Breathtaking views? Check.

Infinity edge pool overlooking

a postcard backdrop? Check.

Indoor/outdoor living

concept and a whole lot of floor-to-ceiling windows? Check.

Perched high in the Nai Harn hills, Baan Sawan is an exclusive villa estate that 'check's' all the aforementioned 'must have' high-end Phuket property requirements.

Literally translated as 'the house in paradise', the nine-villa estate has greedily managed to offer buyers views over Chalong, Nai Harn and Rawai bays.

The project has been underway since 2006.

Phase one of the project, comprising the first four villas,



has been completed.

Phase two of the project, currently underway, will complete the five remaining villas, two of which are already partially built.

Architect, Roof Co Ltd has designed the interiors and roof structures with a cascade effect, creating an aesthetically pleasing appearance in keeping with the adjacent hillsides which remain home to original rainforest as well as extensive rubber plantations.

Each villa comprises four en-suite bedrooms and spacious living areas, in addition to outdoor dining terraces, family or multi-purpose rooms, covered parking for two cars, utility areas, three generous storage areas and ample staff quarters.

Due to the topography of the land and villa placement and to ensure spectacular views for every villa, one of the remaining five properties has been individually designed to create an over-sized pool deck with a 20-meter long, 109-square-meter pool, large enough for the most ardent of swimmers.

This villa has a total of 1,087sqm of living area with a

centrally located, sizable atrium to allow additional light and breezes to flow throughout.

The master bedroom occupies no less than half the upper floor and, like all the other bedrooms, has direct views of the bays and islands of southern Phuket.

The remaining villas, each boasting a total of 887sqm of living space, feature a split-level central area, with the hall and primary living room raised slightly above the surrounding kitchen and dining areas, master bedroom and swimming pool.

A clever piece of architectural planning finds the central living area almost completely surrounded by water, with the swimming pool to the front and feature ponds to either side.

Together with its proximity to the plethora of excellent local restaurants, spas and the recently opened Phunaka golf course, Baan Sawan has all the ingredients for a stress-free lifestyle.

For further details contact Sales Director Peter Notley (Tel: 089-652 1951) or visit the website baansawanphuket.com.

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BayCliff Development Co., Ltd. recently launched the new standard of excellent for Lifestyle Condominium, The Privilege@BayCliff, Patong, an exclusive development of High End Luxurious Modern Simplicity Residence located on a gently slope hillside overlooking the sea, just 100 metres from the beach and only 1 km away from vast range of facilities including shopping, entertainment, Bank, School and Hospital. Crafted by KTG Inter - Association Co., Ltd. A Frequently International Award Winning Company to presents a flavoring opportunity which is available only to the 41 future holders.

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Waiting for the circus to leave town



PROPERTY WATCH

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 I was driving to work the other day, listening to the sounds of *It's Just Another Day* by The Beatles, I was struck by just how normal everything around me was.

It was D-Day in Phuket for the Asean Foreign Ministers Meetings and as I was breezing through scantily manned checkpoints to my office at the entrance of the host venue Laguna Phuket, there was little sign of the military 'lock down' that was supposed to grip Phuket.

On the back of the terrorist bombings of the JW Marriott and Ritz-Carlton hotels in Jakarta a few days ago, there was little evidence of an increased security presence here on the island.

I have a little red sticker from the Chong Talay Municipality which grants me 'immunity' and I've yet to be slowed down, checked or even noticed during this past week at the roadside stations that have been erected.



Once the Asean circus has left town, domestic issues such as the tourism downturn, an ailing property market, the ever-colorful spectrum of Thai political flip-flopping and growing concern over crime and the environment will return to our thoughts. I, for one, can't wait.

The anticipated shake-downs were set to make US Homeland Security look like a Romanian-made version of *Dancing with the Stars*.

As I'm an early riser, most of the stops I pass have rarely been manned.

The most popular, however, seem to be those where a few enterprising personnel have set up large TVs with dog-eared antennas, standing fans and one or two naugahyde couches.

The Michael Jackson custody hearing, The Ashes and Lance at the Tour de France are dominating news in the US, with not a whole lot of dedication to the Asean meeting here in Phuket.

Tropical islands tend to

create their own unique pace which defies clocks or logic.

Perhaps here in Phuket, an island that marches to its own pace, the 'sabai-sabai' lifestyle has somehow seduced those foreign interlopers here for Asean and the event has taken on a life of its own, fitting in with, rather than going against, the tide.

'Sabai' and politics make strange bedfellows, especially at a planned meeting somewhere just south of Nirvana.

By the end of the week, after the big top has gone and the circus has left town, we will all still be shipmates in this crazy little part of paradise.

I'm not sure how Asean will go down, or if it even matters that much.

It's like the promising minor league baseball slugger who hit the big leagues after knocking fast balls out of the ball park.

A few days later, he writes to his mom to say he's coming

home soon, because they started throwing curve balls.

Once all the fuss dies down, domestic issues such as the tourism downturn, an ailing property market, the ever-colorful spectrum of Thai political flip-flopping and growing concern over crime and the environment will return to our thoughts.

Ironically, living locally is indeed a mantra in this truly global age.

I'm personally looking forward to hearing the sounds of 'weed whackers' returning instead of those butterfly thumps of the helicopters currently providing an airborne taxi service to the visiting VIPs.

I recall watching a Channel V documentary about the head banging, music video-making, big hair bands of the late '80s and early '90s.

One of the social commentators described the

forgotten era as 'something so vague and fleeting, it's like it didn't happen at all'.

Perhaps we will remember the Asean meet like that.

An island of Rip van Winkles crawling out of a coma-like sleep in a few weeks, all uttering the word 'huh?'

When I was growing up, the circus coming to town was an annual event which filled me with excitement, wonder and amazement.

It was a naive tribute to a bygone era, and looking back, the memories of it are fading faster than my favorite silk-screened T-shirt.

Hopefully I can get all the tape from my little red pass once the time comes to consign it to the waste bin.

I am concerned, however, as it always takes time to get those blurry marks out.

For now, island life remains on the cusp of returning to normal and I, for one, couldn't be happier.



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Property Gazette

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FREEHOLD CONDO RAWAI



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CHEAP PATONG CONDO

Very, very cheap unit on the 14th floor. Tel: 087-031 2154 (English). Email: kellyshotel@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketpalace owners.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE FOR SALE

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

NEW BRAND CONDO

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

LAYAN LAND



for sale. 11 rai, flat land. 3 min from Layan beach, hill and lake view. Price 4.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-813 1447.

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for sale. 240sqm. Walk to Rawai Beach, 925,000 baht. 300sqm: 1.15 million baht. 480sqm: 1.85 million baht. 960sqm: 4.5 million baht. Soi Naya, Nai Harn Beach 500sqm: 3.2 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: alex@sai-nam-naya.com

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for sale. 2.7 rai Kata seaview land. 5.9 million baht per rai. Rawai flat land 0.5, 1 and 1.5 rai. 4.6 million baht per rai. Please call Khun Paisal. Tel: 087-388 7702.

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Pasak Soi 8. One rai with Chanote title. Pls contact me for exact location and details. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

NEW CONDO



for sale. At Royal Place Project, opposite Tesco Lotus. 45sqm at corner, swimming pool view, fully furnished. Price 2.8 million baht. Tel: 081-691 2526.

LAND AT PATONG BEACH



Two rai of land, Nor Sor 3 Gor, good location, nice view, electricity, water. 50 Pee Road Patong. Price 4.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 076-296708, 087-284 4823. Fax: 076-296708. Email: beniluxnoi@hotmail.com

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3 rai freehold. Spectacular seaview, private, 3 minute drive to Jungceylon. Suitable for building holiday homes. Tel: 089-973 1447. Email: tommakorn@gmail.com

PERFECT LAND

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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.

THE ROYAL PLACE

4th floor unit with 2 balconies. Approx area: 42sqm. Fully furnished, ready to move in. Email: info@allaboutweb anddesign.com

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

LAND FOR SALE

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

INEXPENSIVE SEAVIEW PLOTS

1/3 rai, Chanote title near MH Golf Course, 700,000 to 900,000 baht. Contact Chris. Tel: 086-942 1930.

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 Phang Nga, 45 mins Phuket airport. Chanote title deed 4,700,000 baht Tel: 086-274 0056 English or 087-895 3099 Thai.

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Functionable, 2 bed, 2 bath, kitchen and living room. Just 10 minutes to beach. Only 6.9 million baht. Tel: 076-289900, 081-970 0743. Fax: 076-613114. Email: eve@twovillas.com

PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG



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

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

30 RAI IN TOWN

Long lease. Near Dowrungs School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-6912526.

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

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

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KOH YAO YAI

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for sale. 800sqm. Close to villas, with Chanote. 3.2 million baht. Must see. Please contact Bobby. Tel: 084-053 7690.

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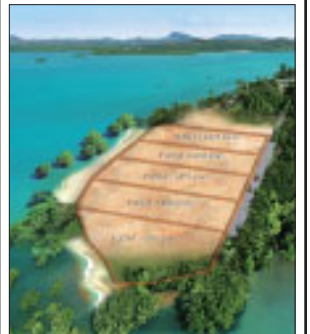
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2 ROOM DUPLEX

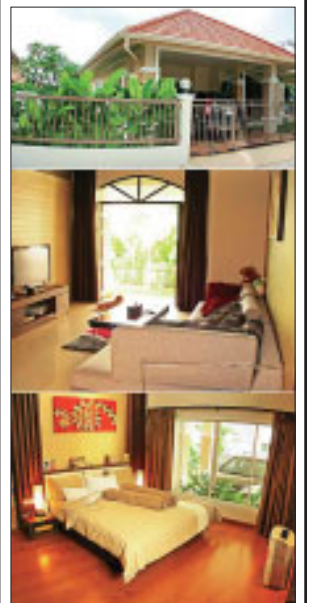
Last Patong Paradise duplex for long term lease. 120sqm, 2 rooms. 3,950,000 baht. Tel: 076-296312, 081-077 0496, 087-270 0224 (English). Fax: 076-296312. Or send email: bialaspatrik@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at <http://site.voila.fr/patong>

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Property Gazette

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700m from Kata center, great location, 600 sqm, title deed. Please buy me. Tel: 081-271 9340. Email: brandyblackcherry@gmail.com

GOLF-VIEW CONDO

125sqm, 2 beds, 2 baths, very nice view at Phuket Country Club Golf Course. 3,700,000 baht. Email: pat.phongpan@gmail.com

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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

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BEST OPPORTUNITY! BE QUICK!!

250sqm apartment, 3 floors, (1 duplex + 1 apartment separate). Fully furnished, kitchen, jacuzzi, patong seaview. Property agency value: 15 million baht!! 2nd apartment, 200sqm, 3 floors, unfurnished (next to the 1st). Total 400sqm seaview Patong. Both properties belong to Co Ltd. Chanote unlimited. Sale 16m baht for both!!! Be quick!!! Tel: 089-112 8649. Email: asiaubin@hotmail.com

LAND AT PA KHLOK



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

TOWNHOUSE IN KATHU

for sale. 2 storey, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Call for more information. Tel: 076-322211, 089-288 8519, 087-885 1567.

HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT

House in Chalung, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, aircon, ADSL. Cable TV, 94sqm. 25,000 baht rent per month or 5.5 million baht for sale. Contact Khun Yao. Tel: 081-079 0688. Email: anda_004@hotmail.com

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SELL LAND 161 WAH

Baan Manekram. quiet spot, lovely views across the bay possible. 19,000 baht per wah. Email: john867332@yahoo.com

HOUSE WITH LARGE GARDEN

3 bedroom, 2 bathroom house on small development with 24-hour security and swimming pool. Only 5 mins from Heroines' Monument. Fully furnished with solid teak furniture throughout and all appliances, curtains and blinds. Full security and fly screens, 3 aircon, 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.

74 SQM CONDO, PHUKET TOWN

2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 3 aircon units. Price: 1.9 million baht. Tel: 081-416 4595. Email: arunrat65@hotmail.com

LAND BEHIND LAYAN HILLS ESTATE



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

PANORAMIC SEA VIEW



Karon land for sale. 15 rai. Chanote title. Hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Very good location for business. 15 million baht per rai. No agents. Please contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE

5 minutes from Heroines monument, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1.9 million baht or 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 3.7 million baht. Contact Kris. Tel: 081-082 2288. For further details, please see our website at www.phuketpropertyplus.com

CHEAP LAND

900sqm, Chermg Talay. 3 million baht. Tel: 086-161 1136 (Thai), 086-047 2463 (Eng). Email: jimi_change@hotmail.co.uk

SELL HOUSE PAKLOK

2 bed, 2 bath, dining, living, office, kitchen, carport, secure, quiet. 2.2 million baht. Email: john867332@yahoo.com

VERY NICE SEAVIEW LAND



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

PATONG SEA VIEW

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

POOL VILLA AO NANG

Holiday homes in Ao Nang, Krabi. Pool villa, 3 bedrooms, 260sqm. Price: 8.9 million baht. Tel: 087-897 7380.

LAND IN CAPE YAMU

Price 20 million baht. 2 rai, 3 ngan, 60 sq wah (4,640 sqm). Close to million-dollar developments the Yamu, The Bay and Baan Yamu. Perfect location for unique commercial plaza. Forecasted return of investment: 15% per year. Tel: 087-887 1162. Email: dohemi@gmail.com

BEACHFRONT LAND FOR SALE

Fantastic beachfront land for sale in Krabi/Ao Nang area. Nor Sor 3 Gor. 2 rai 1 Ngan. 48m beach access. Quiet beach next to Ao Nang. Price starting at 45 million baht incl the beach house. Tel: 085-045 4045 (English & Thai). Email: sbuerki@3dprojekt.ch

NEW HOUSE IN NAI HARN-RAWAI



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

3-STOREY APARTMENT



for sale. 70sq wah, 14 rooms, motorbike park. Four years old with Chanote title. Currently fully rented out. Good return. Asking price: 9 million baht. Tel: 087-270 9093.

LAND FROM THE MANGOSTEEN

Beautiful sea- and mountain-view land adjacent to The Mangosteen Resort - approx 17 rai in yellow zone. Building up to 27 metres high is possible. Total price: 130 million baht. Freehold, Chanote. Several options available. Tel: 076-289399, 081-536 5846 (English), 081-539 5373 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-289389. Email: hajo@mangosteen-phuket.com For further details, please see our website at: <http://mangosteen-suites.com>

80SQM CONDO

for sale at Allamanda Laguna. 80sqm, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom. Golf view. 5.5 million baht ono. Tel: 081-821 3205. Email: banana siripun@yahoo.com

QUICK SALE

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

KOH YAO YAI FOR SALE

Land for sale near Ao Klong Son area. 5,033 rai (8,052.8sqkm), 2 access points, title deed, 5 minutes to the beach. 950,000 baht per rai. By The Owner. Tel: 076-289122, 084-848 7474. Fax: 076-289121. Email: kasina_navamachiti@yahoo.com

BAAN BAI MAI



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

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

WWW.PHUKETBUYRENT.COM

KAMALA BEACH VILLAGE

Long-term rental. 100sqm, two double bedrooms, fully furnished modern apt. Communal pool, restaurant, gym and bar. Only 50 meters from Kamala Beach. 30,000 baht per month! Tel: +44-127-987-7745, +44-797 7208868. Fax: +44-127 9817499. Email: paul.stewart@sas-group.co.uk

B.L. APARTMENT FOR RENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Contact more details. Tel: 081-692 3163.

DE LUXE PATONG CONDO

Beautiful, modern, with great view, furnished, quiet, easy access. Long term rent at 19,500 baht per month. Tel: 086-026-3254. (English). Email: caltiroi@hotmail.com

GOLF VIEW STUDIO

for rent. 120sqm, big pool, 4km to BIS. Hill-top private residence overlooking Loch Palm Golf Course, furnished, WiFi. Long term 20,000 baht. Tel: 087-269 8492.

VILLA FOR RENT OR SALE

at Paklok. 4 bedrooms, swimming pool, fully furnished, UBC, Telephone line, internet. For further details Tel: 081-895 7310. please see our website www.horizonresidenceandspa.com

RAWAI HOUSE

for rent. Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, long-term. 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-273 1572.

Baan Suan Pana CHALONG PHUKET

Special offer

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

Contact: 089-7243669
Email: info@baansuanpana.com www.baansuanpana.com

CHALONG NEW HOME

2 bedroom townhome with telephone, cable TV and aircon. Tel: 089-652 1473. Email: ananda estates@yahoo.com

CONDO IN GOLF COURSE

Fully furnished, 58sqm, ADSL and True Visions. 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-891 3740.

LAND LONG LEASE

30 rai, flat land, nice location on main road. Phuket City near Downroong School. Tel: 081-691 2526.

CHALONG TOWNHOUSE

furnished, 2 bedrooms, cable TV, aircon, telephone line, utilities extra. 9,000 baht. Tel: 087-281 4535.

KATABEACH APARTMENT

Low season special, fully furnished with kitchen. Tel: 086-595 8512. Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

LUXURY 4 BED VILLA



In a prestigious private development. Only minutes from Central Festival and Phuket Town. The property also benefits from a separate office. Tel: 081-271 0036.

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 for more information. Tel: 087-383 0936.

PALAI GREEN

for rent. Fully furnished, 1-3 bedrooms, aircon, hot shower, free cable TV, ADSL internet. Start from 9,000 baht per month. Near Chalong Bay. Please call: 081-892 4311 (Eng speaking).

ROYAL PHUKET MARINA

Luxury apartment on the marina, 2 ensuite, King bedroom, etc. Large private deck directly on the 20m pool, fine gym, spa and top restaurant. Long-term: 100,000 baht per month. Short-term: up to 75,000 baht per week. Call Lotus 086-281 6299 or Luk 087-840 8163 for more information.

RAWAI BEACH POOL VILLA



1, 2, 3 or 4 bedroom, bathroom, ADSL, 500 baht per day. Monthly low rate. Tel: 086-940 8914. Or email: rawai1@yahoo.com

850,000 BAHT PER YEAR



Rawai Beach. Bar, pizzeria and guesthouse. 700sqm, 9 bed, 9 bath. Contact. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

B.B. GUESTHOUSE RAWAI BEACH



8 bedroom, 8 bathroom, WiFi. Each 3,500 baht a week or low monthly rate. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

BUSINESS RAWAI BEACH



8 pool apartments. Lease or rent: 120,000 baht each apt, each year. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

VILLAS FOR RENT RAWAI

2/3 bedrooms, fully furnished, private pool, fully serviced. Monthly 35,000 baht.

- Bangalows for rent. Fully furnished and serviced. 8,000 baht per month.

Tel: 089-728 6242. Email: purimas_re@yahoo.com

SPACE FOR RENT

2nd floor Kata Plaza, corner area, 365sqm. 500 baht per sqm. Contact Khun Worawit. Tel: 081-978 6700.

PATONG OCEANVIEW



Located above Patong Beach this 3 bed, 3 bath house with modern kitchen is PRICED LOW for long-term rental. Private pool, ADSL, UBC, cable TV and WHAT A VIEW! Can move in July 1st. Tel: 087-882-1963, 089-867 2430. Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

HOUSE NEAR PATONG



and Country Club Golf residence. Quiet area, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Fully furnished, kitchen, living room, dining room, laundry area, 2 car parks, 340,000 baht per year. Tel: 081-370 9557. Email: khaopun@hotmail.com

4 BEDROOM VILLA RAWAI

Beautifully furnished, fully airconditioned, immense living area, 2 kitchens, big garden with 10x4 private pool. For rent or sale. Tel: 085-783 1890.

NICE HOUSE

for rent. Just 5 minute walk to Nai Harn beach. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool and a big sala. For long-term rent at 30,000 baht per month. Contact more details. Tel: 081-397 1835.

BEACHFRONT CHALONG

New 2 bedroom house, furnished, ADSL, cable TV. For further details Tel: 089-470 6104. Please see our website www.houserentalsphuket.com

PRIME RETAIL LOCATION

60sqm prime retail / commercial location available for rent in Chaweng, Koh Samui. Ideal for a tailor, pharmacy, swimwear shop, subway etc. Current lease is 4.5 years then 5 by 5. It doesn't get any better than this location on Koh Samui! Tel: 089-731 6814 (English). Email: cameronjhansen@yahoo.co.uk

PATONG STUDIO 28SQM

Aircon, hot water, kitchen, fridge, TV, DVD. 15,000 baht a month. Tel: 089-971 5664.

HOUSE IN KATHU



2 bedrooms, fully furnished, aircon, cable TV and TV set. Just bring your bag. 12,000 baht per month. Contact Khun Wannee. Tel: 089-288 9936. Email: wannee123@hotmail.com

LAND FOR LEASE

Ideal for budget resort. 480m, 5,500 baht per month. Short- or long-term. 300m from Rawai Beach. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: alex@sai-nam-naya.com

HOUSE IN CHALONG

near Palai, for rent. 3 bedrooms, aircon, ADSL, fully furnished, cable TV, car park. Tel: 086-944 4885.

3 BEDROOM HOUSE FOR RENT

near heroines' monument. Furnished, A/C, ADSL, cable TV, 12,000 per month. Tel: 089-973 2917. Email: brunuiviv@hotmail.com

KATA LUXURY APARTMENTS



Fully furnished 1 & 2 bedroom apartments. Large Western kitchen and bathrooms, A/C. Large seaview terraces, pool, parking, quiet location. Monthly but long-term preferred. Starting at 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-592 6890. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

POOL VILLA NEAR BIS

450sqm. 3 BR, 5 bath, private pool. Long-term only. 65,000THB/mth. Please contact for more info. Tel: 083-503 3328. Fax: 076-261945. Email: samon08@hotmail.com

3 BEDROOM HOUSE

near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, ADSL, cable TV, A/C. 12,000 per month. Tel: 086-277-8461. Email: brunuiviv@hotmail.com

BAAN VENEZIA PATONG

big rooms. 1 bedroom, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-633 5967.

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30 to 40 feet. Racer/cruiser to charter for King's cup. Email: air2cure@yahoo.com

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Includes all equipment, trailer, steering, console, anchor, vest etc. Contact more details. Tel: 087-265 6089.

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The newest, state of the art, first fiberglass yacht in Phuket. Charter it for very affordable price. The cost is 90,000 baht per day (9am to 5pm with 5 hours cruising per day). Additional 60,000 baht for an overnight charter returning in the afternoon the next day. The above costs include National Park fees, dinner, breakfast, simple lunch and crew. Alcoholic drinks are provided at extra cost. Our VIP 37 ft fiberglass boat has two Honda 225 4-stroke engines, a small kitchen with microwave, living space, a cabin with 38 inch flatscreen TV, toilet with shower and a generator. If you want book a charter, please send email to: info@queenmarines.com or call 086-885 6885.

YACHT CHARTER COMPANY

12-meter, ocean-going sailing boat with steel hull and Thai flag. Sale includes license, web sites, many parts and equipment. Call or mail for details. Tel: 076-283446, 081-892 7847 (English). Or fax: 076-283447. Email: patrick@oceanic-global.com or please see at <http://www.sailing-thailand-phuket.com>

32FT CATAMARAN

4 double cabins, 32sqm sail area, 9 HP Honda. 490,000 baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

2009 NEW 11.9 METER YACHT

2X225 hp Honda 4-strokes. Price 3.9 million baht exVAT. LOA: 11.9m. Beam: 3.6m. Material: fiberglass. Max speed 45 knots. Cabin: living space, kitchen with microwave oven, bedroom (king size bed) with 38" flatscreen TV, toilet, shower and small generator. Excludes 50 mile rathyoan radar. Agent welcome. We will also build your fiberglass sports yacht to your specifications. Tel: 086-885 6885. Email: phuketketyachtsales@gmail.com

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Luxury 2008 Gulfcraft. Replacement cost: 6.8m baht. A perfect 40 footer for private & charter use. Safe long-range touring. Thai Marine Reg. & TAT Lic. 3 crew + 17 guests. 40 knots max (2 x 300 hp Suzuki). Large living space with lot of shade & full clears. The best Garmin Navionics. Fully loaded for entertaining. A must see!! Contact Ross. Tel: 084-744 2240. Email: ross@funboatcruises.com. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.funboatcruises.com>

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Dealership Office: The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket. Contact: Martin Holmes. Tel: 076 235 8033. Fax: 076 273 3119. Email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office: The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket. Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman. Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 968 1437. Tel/Fax: 076 239 729. Email: andrew@leemarine.net

Yacht Haven Marina Office: The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket. Contact: Jim Poulsen. Mobile: 081 891 3237. Tel/Fax: 076 206 260. Email: jim@leemarine.net

Pattaya Office: Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach. Contact: Mark Heath. Mobile: 081 787 9408. Tel: 038 235 061. Fax: 038 235 062. Email: mark@leemarine.net

FOR SALE 50% SHARE CATAMARAN

Sailing catamaran 38" x 23" launched 2005, 2 diesel 30 Hp engines, fully equipped. Email: catayacht@csloxinfo.com

BOAT FOR RENT

9meters, 10 passengers. Day trip or night trip with full services including drink and food on board 15,000 baht/day. Tel: 082-815 3132.

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1997 liveaboard. Good for fishing. 320hp, like new. 4 berth, 2 aircon. All renewed in 2007. Thai registration. Quick sale US\$59,000/2 million baht. Tel: 081-415 4398, 081-827 6075.

FULLY EQUIPPED



Fishing boat 1, 200, 000 baht negotiable. Measures: 15 metres long x 3.4 metres wide. Contact. Tel: 080-519 3546, 087-282 5008.

SPORTS CRUISER

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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

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Fishing charters, NEW boat, safe & solid returns. Co Ltd established for 10 years. Email for full details. Tel: 083-392 7150. Please send email to: wunchart-thannawat@hotmail.com

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2 units in good working condition. 7.2kVA, 220V: 90,000 baht. 11kVA, 220V: 150,000 baht. Tel: 081-536 8188. Email: tom.fekete@gmail.com

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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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- Revenue Manager
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Food & Beverage

- Restaurant Manager
- F&B Hostess
- F&B Attendant

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- Villa Administrator
- Florist
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Mspa

- Spa Therapist x2

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 or contact Human Resources Department, Anantara Phuket Resort & Spa Tel: + 66 (0) 76 336100-9 ext.553 Fax: + 66 (0) 76 336166

Good luck with your application!



Sawaddi Patong



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| 2. Front Office Manager | 15. Public Area Supervisor | 28. Steward |
| 3. Executive Housekeeper | 16. House Keeping Coordinator | 29. Cost Controller |
| 4. F&B Manager | 17. HK Attendant - Room | 30. Account |
| 5. HR Manager | 18. Gardener | 31. Income Auditor |
| 6. Financial Controller | 19. Pool Attendant | 32. Training Manager |
| 7. Chief Engineer | 20. Public Area Attendant | 33. HR Coordinator |
| 8. S&M Manager | 21. Sous Chef | 34. Security Supervisor |
| 9. Secretary GM | 22. Outlet Supervisor | 35. Security Officer |
| 10. Night Manager | 23. F&B Attendant & Outlet Cashier | 36. Engineering Staff |
| 11. Front Office Supervisor | 24. Chef de Partie | 37. Asst. Sale Manager |
| 12. GSA & Bell Captain | 25. Demi Chef | 38. Sales Executive |
| 13. Bell Boys | 26. Commis | 39. Executive Chef |

Shop/Office available for travel agency or tour operator

Interested applicants, please submit your resume with details of experience and qualifications, current and expected salary and a recent photograph to: Sinthoranee Property Co. Ltd. (Human Resources) 39 Moo 4, Petchkasame Road, Laksong, Bangkok, Bangkok 10160, Thailand.

Tel: 02-4443540 | Fax: 02-4443716 | Email: recruit.hr@palongsawaddi.com

REMARK: All Managers and Asst. Managers, please submit your CV to krr@mail-bs.com

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Island hideaway near phuket

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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.

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- At least 3-5 years experience in 4 or 5 star hotels in Executive Chef or Sous-Chef assignment
- Leadership skills
- Guest relation skills
- Implementation of innovative kitchen and restaurant concepts
- Previous assignment in Thailand / Asia an advantage
- Good command of the English language; knowledge of Thai / German is an advantage
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Able to run the HK department to international standards – catering to the high expectations of our international clientele.

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- Able to run the housekeeping department independently
- Thai National 30-40 years of age

Comprehensive remuneration / incentive package will be offered to the right candidate. Send your resume with recent photo, references and salary expectations to joeraess@theparadise.biz

The Paradise Koh Yao – Boutique Beach Resort & Spa (Phuket Office)
125/389 Rock Garden Village, Moo 5, T. Ratsada, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-528919-20 Website: www.theparadise.biz



A great opportunity in a great career!

Join the pre-opening team of our new resort "Paresa Phuket" with the fun, passionate and visionary owners and management of this opulent property on "Millionaire's Mile". The resort, perched on a cliff top with 49 villa rooms will offer unparalleled facilities and levels of service, food and beverage options, cooking school, wellness retreat, executive meetings and simply exquisite experiences for all guests. Scheduled to open in July 2009.

- Director of Sales & Marketing
- F&B Operations Manager
- Front Office Manager
- Account Payable Supervisor
- Executive Sous Chef-Thai Cuisine
- Resort Hosts
- Commis de Cuisine

Qualifications required:

- Good command of written and spoken English
- At least 2 years' experience in the position applied for
- Experience in 5 star international or luxury high-end hotel/resort is an advantage
- Previous experience of opening new hotel/resort would be a priority

We offer competitive salaries, minimum guaranteed service charge 7,000.-Baht, 5-days working/ 2-days off a week, 15 days Public Holiday, duty meals, uniforms with service laundry, group health insurance, talent training and development etc. Interested persons please send detailed full resume & enclosed a recent photo and expected salary by e-mail at recruit@paresaresorts.com

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Come and join a successful established holiday ownership company. We are offering the best commission rates in Thailand for professional sales reps: English, Scandinavian and German. The BEST training, the BEST commission and the BEST pay structure. Tel: 086-120 4282. Email: infosalesphuket@gmail.com

OFFICE MANAGER

for fast growing real estate developer. Excellent English skills required, computer literate, must have own transportation. Career opportunity with excellent salary plus commissions. Thai nationals. Send resume to soidatamail@gmail.com

PART TIME INCOME

Work from home, using the internet. Must be fluent in English. Call me (Rick) after 6:30pm. Tel: 085-473 1629. Email: rickray@hotmail.com

PHUKET MARBELLA VILLA MGMT

Assistant needed for our head operations manager. Thai / English essential as are computing skills. We need a person with proven abilities in the field of customer relations in order to assure that all receive the services and attention expected in the management of their properties. Please contact at tel: 076-527594, 089-1956722 (English & Thai). Email: jziment@gmail.com, kung@phuketmarbella.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.phuketmarbella.com>

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- Handle all dealer returns and credits with the assistance and approval of Mectron Asia/Pacific
- Perform any other administrative functions and responsibilities requested by Mectron Asia/Pacific

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Sun	17, 24, 31	7, 14, 21, 28	12, 19, 26	2, 9, 16, 23												
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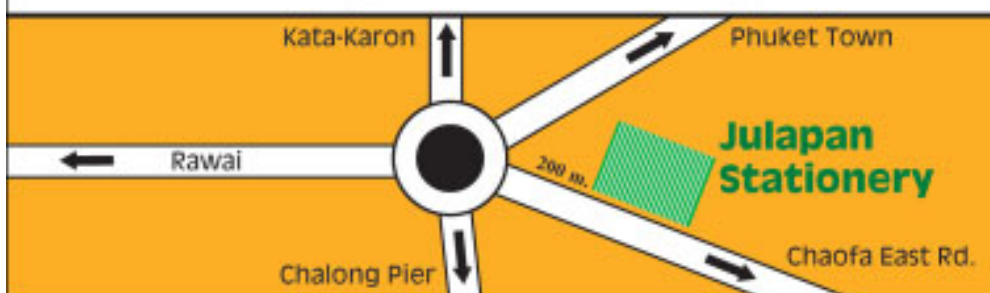
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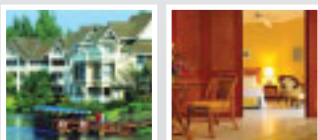
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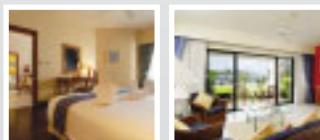
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1 Allamanda Studio THB 6.5 M



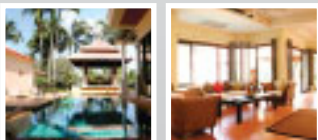
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- fully furnished
- lagoon view apartment
- freehold

2 Allamanda 2 Bedroom Suite THB 7.5 M



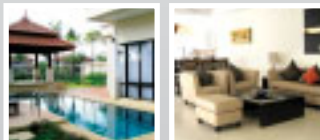
- 2 beds 2 baths
- fully furnished
- golf view apartment
- rental pool available

3 Laguna Townhome THB 19 M



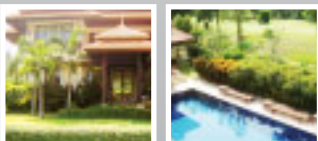
- 3 beds 4 baths Townhome
- maid quarter
- 25 sqm private pool
- over 8th hole golf course view

4 Laguna Village Townhomes II THB 23 M



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- newly completed

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