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Paiboon cleared of vote-buying charges

PAIBOON Upatising, president of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO), was cleared of vote-buying in a ruling by the Appeals Court in Bangkok on Tuesday.

He received a hero's welcome at Phuket International Airport the next morning.

Mobbed by at least 300 supporters, many dressed in pink shirts – Mr Paiboon's campaign color – he thanked the crowds for their support.

"I worked and campaigned honestly the whole time, but I was the victim of people playing politics," he said. "I'm like a diamond that got covered in mud – now I'm shiny again."

The PPAO president, who has been suspended from his duties since May, said he would

be heading straight back to work.

Mr Paiboon said he resented losing four months of work due to people he called 'slanderers', but would do his best to deliver on his campaign promises during the remaining three years of his four-year term.

"I don't have time for revenge," he said. "I'd rather get back to work for my brothers and sisters in Phuket."

The verdict overturned a 'yellow card' ruling by the Election Commission, which found there was sufficient evidence against Mr Paiboon and another PPAO candidate, Sawat Muchawej, to indicate their election wins were aided by electoral fraud.

The court also overturned the ruling against Mr Sawat.

-Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn



Mr Paiboon (left) is greeted by some of his supporters at Phuket International Airport on Wednesday morning.

Coffee money for Phuket's cops



COP OF COFFEE: Col Wanchai holds up an image showing how 'The Seat' coffee shop will look.

PHUKET City Police Superintendent Wanchai Ekpornpit has a passion – other than fighting crime, of course.

Col Wanchai is mad about coffee. That's why he came up with the idea for 'The Seat', a new coffee shop under construction next to Phuket City Police Station.

The Seat is a 'police welfare project' aimed at supplementing the 'meager income' of the station's men in brown.

Every Phuket City Police officer is a shareholder in the project, so each officer will get a cut of the 'coffee money' at the end of each month.

Col Wanchai beamed with excitement as he told the *Gazette* about the project.

"We're going to use the very best beans to attract the city's real coffee lovers," he said.

The cafe will also serve cakes, though Col Wanchai would not be drawn on whether this would include donuts.

Col Wanchai said he hoped people would start to view Phuket City Police Station as "more than just a place to report crimes".

"We want you to feel warm and welcome in our 'police station for the people'," he said.

"People can come and have a cup of coffee and go home with a smile," he said.

Construction is due to finish on September 14.

-Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn

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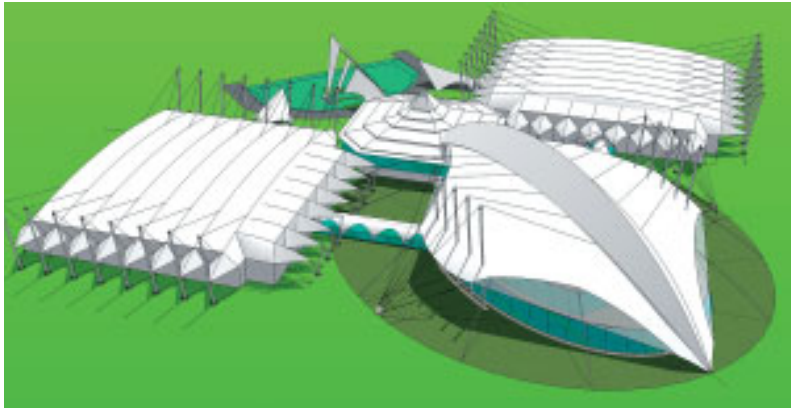
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Green light for Bt2bn conference center



One of the many designs put forward for the International Convention and Exhibition Center. This one, with a 3,000-seat convention hall and 30,000-square-meter exhibition hall, was designed by Axis Group and unveiled in September 2007. Photo courtesy of Axis Group

PHUKET will receive a two billion baht central government budget next fiscal year to build the long-awaited international convention and exhibition center

(ICEC) at the island's northern tip, the Prime Minister's Office has announced.

Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr, who currently serves as Deputy Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister's political affairs section, made the announcement in a press release issued by Phuket Provincial Hall.

The funding will form part of phase two of the government's 100-billion-baht 'Strong Thai Action Plan 2012' stimulus package, aimed at

shoring up the Thai economy.

Terms of the spending plan are still under review by Parliament, but final approval is expected prior to the start of fiscal 2010, which begins on October 1, 2009.

The site of the project will be a 150-rai plot of seaside land in Tah Chat Chai on the northern tip of the island.

Plans for an ICEC to help support the island's hotel industry have been around for decades, but political instability and infighting over where the project should be located have prevented the dream from ever becoming reality.

Detractors with business interests in the more developed southern part of the island feel the location is too remote from the island's main population center.

Proponents say the ICEC will help develop nearby parts of Phang Nga as well as Mai Khao, which is already home to Phuket International Airport and is slated to become the site of Police Region 8 headquarters in a few years' time.

-Pimwara Choksakulpan

'Mermaid' baby passes away

THE Burmese infant born in Phuket with 'mermaid syndrome' has died of kidney failure after a month-long struggle for survival, doctors have confirmed.

The infant, named Nichapa, was born at Vachira Phuket Hospital on July 9 after just 35 weeks of gestation.

She suffered from the rare congenital condition known as Sirenomelia, which is found in roughly one in every 100,000 births.

Vachira Phuket Assistant Director Sirichai Silapa-archa said Nichapa finally succumbed to kidney failure, passing away at 4.38am last Sunday morning after 29 days of life.

Nichapa survived much longer than most infants born with the condition, which is usually fatal after just a few days due to abnormal bladder and renal development.

-Kom Chad Luek



UNIDENTIFIED FALLING OBJECTS: A Phuket family claim around 100 of these small transparent balls fell from the sky onto the roof of their Wichit home on Sunday. The appearance of the strange spheres caused excitement among local villagers, with many making lottery predictions based on numbers surrounding the phenomenon. Officials from Phuket Medical Science Center collected some of the balls but as of Wednesday afternoon had not identified them.

Governor fails to score

GOVERNOR Wichai Phraisa-ngop, some top officials and a lot of police officers crashed some of Phuket City's most popular parties last Friday night – on the hunt for drugs and weapons.

But those who fret about the loose morals of Thailand's youth of today will be relieved to hear the police left empty-handed.

Gov Wichai, Vice Governor Smith Palawatvichai, Phuket Public Health Office officials, customs officers and Phuket City Police took part in the raids at the Kortormor, Sofa and Blue Marina nightclubs.

Revelers were searched for drugs and weapons and subjected to urine testing.

Their identification papers

were also checked to ensure they were over 18 years old.

Not one was found to be breaking the law.

Gov Wichai said random searches were nevertheless crucial in the fight against crime.

"There are more than 300,000 people registered as living here, as well as a lot of tourists and foreign workers," he said.

"Our 1,000 police officers and 70 volunteers just aren't enough to check all the entertainment venues."

"That's why we carry out random searches," he said. "We have to show people we're serious in order to make them obey the law."

-Kitima Pornmongkhonwat

Supercheap roof comes off

SHOPPERS at discount retailer Supercheap got a scare on Saturday when three sections of roof blew off and fell onto the merchandise below, causing considerable damage and public panic.

Fortunately, there were no deaths or injuries.

Additional damage was caused by rain that fell though the open sections onto merchandise before it could be moved to safety.

It is not the first accident that has happened at Supercheap.

A few years ago one of its warehouses was gutted by fire.

Back in 2002, a local Thai-language newspaper carried a report that a female shopper there was killed after being bitten by a king cobra hiding at the bottom of an onion display.

The store's management vehemently denied the report, dismissing it as 'poisonous nonsense' and part of a smear campaign initiated by a rival retailer.

-Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn

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Foreign workers rounded up

FORTY-two foreign workers were arrested during an Immigration police raid on vendor stalls in Karon last Wednesday night.

Phuket Immigration Police Superintendent Col Chanatpol Yongbunjerd said the arrests were part of a crackdown on alien workers violating the terms of their work visas by engaging in work restricted to Thai nationals.

Col Chanatpol said 32 of those arrested – 23 men and 9 women – were working in retail sales; not sewing, as was specified on their work permits.

Retail sales is a profession restricted to Thai nationals under the law, he said.

“The illegal aliens will be prosecuted, repatriated to their home countries and blacklisted so that they can never enter Thailand again,” he said.

Those that had the right documents would be allowed to stay, he added.

The crackdown follows a campaign which aimed to ensure all alien workers were legally registered with the authorities.

“Now that the alien worker registration campaign has ended, we’re strictly checking all alien workers on the island, especially at entry points like piers and the Tah Chat Chai road checkpoint,” Col Chanatpol said.

Under the ‘work visa’ program, Thais may employ



Some of the workers held at Immigration headquarters last week.

qualified nationals from Burma, Laos and Cambodia to work in six different categories of low-wage labor, including fishing and rubber tapping.

Arrested at vending stalls in Karon in a sweep that began at 7pm, the aliens were taken to Phuket Immigration headquarters at Saphan Hin for further examination and processing.

“All of those arrested claimed to be Burmese, but we have to check to see if that is true or not. A document check revealed that some were actually Nepalese,” Col Chanatpol said.

The Immigration crackdown would now continue in other parts of Phuket, he said.

“I can not say what area we will target next, but officers have

to arrest them without resorting to violence,” he added.

However, a crowd of some 30 employers and relatives who gathered in front of the detention area at Phuket Immigration complained that police had used violence in taking the suspects in.

“Some of them got kicked and punched. Even though we presented police with all the right documents to prove that they were legal, they still went ahead and arrested them,” one employer told the *Gazette*.

Some employers showed the media work passes issued by the Burmese regime together with passports and other documents in an effort to show that those arrested were working legally.

- Atchaa Khamlo

Police ordered to end jet-ski rip off trend

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE island’s top police-officer has ordered a fresh crackdown on jet-ski operators who scam tourists after Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban told him the rip offs must end.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekat Tantipong made a frank admission during a press conference last week that some of his own officers were knowingly allowing jet-ski operators to get away with massively overcharging tourists for repairs to the vehicles.

This must stop, he said.

Maj Gen Pekat said he had received a constant stream of complaints about the infamous Phuket jet-ski scam.

“When tourists damage the jet-skis, some operators are asking them for 50-60,000 baht for the repairs,” he said.

“The real cost is often just a couple of thousand baht, but the operators threaten the tourists if they don’t pay up.”

Maj Gen Pekat said Mr Suthep had told both himself and Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop that they had to end the practice.

There were around 200 jet-skis on the island, with 167 of them licensed, he said.

Maj Gen Pekat said he had set three new policies to end the problem.

First, police would prosecute any jet-ski operators who threatened tourists.

Second, police officers would not ignore or collude in the scam.

Third, six unbiased ‘trusted’ people in the community would be appointed to adjudicate in arguments between jet-ski operators and tourists.

These independent adjudicators would determine the real cost of any repairs to jet-skis when arguments broke out.

“Their decisions will have to be accepted by the tourists and the jet-ski operators, otherwise, they can see each other in court,” Maj Gen Pekat said.

Police report rise in prostitution arrests

POLICE reported a dramatic rise in the number of arrests for prostitution in Phuket during August 2009, with 164 arrests representing a 70.8% increase over the same month last year.

Statistics for August released by the Phuket Provincial Police show that drug-related offenses were the most common crimes, with 208 people arrested in 179 cases.

The figure is a 50.4% increase year-on-year.

Coming in a close second was gambling, with 205 arrests in 76 cases, an increase of 35.7%.

There were also 32 arrests for involvement in the underground lottery, statistics for which are tabulated separately.

Among the contraband seized in the drug

arrests were 5,438 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills, 12.8 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine), one kilogram of marijuana and 31 kilograms of *krathom* leaves, a native plant used as a stimulant.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekat Tantipong said there had been an increase in the transport of 1-kilogram bars of dried marijuana onto the island.

Most of it is sourced from the north of Thailand and sold locally at prices ranging from 15,000 baht to 25,000 baht per kilogram, he said.

There were four pre-meditated murder cases last month, one more than August 2008, according to statistics.

Arrests were made in three cases.

-Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn

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Work fallout prompts pylon suicide scare

A THAI man who scaled a power pylon in Koh Kaew earlier this week threatened to leap to his death before eventually being talked down.

Suchart 'Aod' Srimalanon, 23, a Thai Air Asia employee at Phuket International Airport, removed his shoes and climbed the 34-meter-high power pylon just after 8am on September 7.

He then placed a call to a friend and told him he was experiencing problems at work.

His friends arrived at the foot of the pylon, behind the Isuzu garage on Thepkrasatree Road, soon after.

Hot on their heels was a 30-strong team of police, Kusoldham rescue volunteers, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation workers, firemen and a large crowd of worried locals.

Phuket City Police Superintendent Wanchai Ekpornpit led efforts to talk Suchart down, but to no avail.

According to Suchart's friends, he was under a lot of stress with a 'situation' with

one of his colleagues.

At 10.30, Suchart's boss and colleagues arrived on the scene to try and coax him down.

Their efforts worked.

Just before 11am, locals cheered as Suchart left his perch and climbed down straight into the arms of police.

His friends and boss hugged Suchart as he was taken away.

The large inflatable crash mat that had been placed at the foot of the tower wasn't needed.

Neither were his shoes, which were left at the foot of the pylon.

-Atchaa Khamlo



RIGHT: Suchart threatens to jump from the 34-meter pylon. LEFT: Friends and colleagues wait nervously below.



Windmills to the hills

THE Phuket Provincial Energy Office plans to build windmills in the Nakkerd Hills near the Big Buddha statue, a seminar on alternative energy was told on September 3.

Phuket Energy Office chief Jirasuk Tummawetch made the announcement during the seminar, held at the Royal Paradise Hotel in Patong.

The seminar was organized by non-government organizations trying to reduce global warming and conserve energy through improved technology.

The Energy Office wants to increase renewable energy production on the island using such technologies as wind turbines and waste-to-energy production, Mr Jirasuk said.

This would also help reduce the waste disposal crisis Phuket is now facing, he said.

As part of its 'Phuket Green Energy Project', the Energy Office hopes to erect wind turbines in the Nakkerd Hills by 2012.

The nine turbines would be located in hilltop areas, two near the Mingmongkol Buddha image and seven more on Radar Hill, he revealed.

However, more studies need to be conducted to determine if the average sustained winds there justify the large initial investment that would be required, he said.

"We have already asked for a wind meter from the Ministry of Energy," he said.

"It will probably arrive after October 1, when fiscal year 2010 begins, perhaps in November or December.

"After it arrives, the wind meter will record wind speed and direction for a full year, after which time the data will be thoroughly analyzed," he said.

The wind meter will be installed in the parking area of the Mingmongkol Buddha image, where it will apparently reach a towering height of 90 meters, making it about twice as high as the Big Buddha.

-Pimwara Choksakulpan

Rental robbers confess

POLICE last week arrested three confessed members of a car theft ring that preys on car rental businesses.

At a press conference at Tah Chat Chai Police Station on September 3, Tourist Police Commander Adit Knamjitsuksri and Tah Chat Chai Police Superintendent Sakchai Limcharoen identified the suspect as Sitthiporn Chotet-srong, 23 years; Pranapat Thanasintorn, 31, and Benchaporn Sukkrai, 23.

All are residents of Samut Prakan province.

The arrests followed complaints to police from car rental businesses that cars rented out to thieves posing as tourists were never returned.

The 'rented' vehicles were driven to Bangkok, where they were sold on the black market by unscrupulous used car dealers.

The rental companies only knew they have been fleeced when the contract period was up and the 'customer' had vanished without a trace, police said.

Presented as evidence in the case were two Phuket-registered Honda City cars and

all three suspects' fake IDs and driver's licenses.

Three other vehicles are still missing.

Tah Chat Chai Police Superintendent Sakchai Limcharoen said the suspects have been charged with assuming fake identities to commit fraud, producing counterfeit official documents and using the documents to cause injury to others.

They each face up to 10 years in prison, he said.

Bangkok Tourist Police on August 2 arrested Mr Sitthiporn with two stolen cars in the capital.

Tah Chat Chai Police arrested Mr Pranapat and Miss Benchaporn in Phuket a day later.

Police are still investigating to try and arrest the ringleader, identified only as 'Pia'.

There are seven or eight Bangkok-based gangs that steal rental cars to fill specific orders from black market buyers.

Tourist destinations like Phuket are the most common targets and the gangs are very well organized, police said.

-Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn

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Red shirt leaders at a press conference last Friday announce plans to conduct a mass rally on September 19, the third year anniversary of the 2006 coup d'etat. Photo by Nuttapone Tipvateeamorn

Queer News

Tale of mythical creature doesn't hold much water

TAK: Villagers have been puzzling over the veracity of a so-called 'water elephant', which was supposedly found in a stream across the border in Burma.

Two men are in possession of what they claim are photographs and X-rays of the beast, which apparently measures only around 7cm in length.

Water elephants are found mainly in Burma's Karen State, according to local beliefs, and are reputed to have magical powers and bring good luck to their owners.

A scientist who examined X-rays of the beast, however, warned members of the public not to be gullible.

The carcass of the supposed water elephant belongs to a Mr Chuyok (surname not known), a former wood trader in tambon Wale on the Burmese border.

The strange creature was brought to the attention of the press by a soldier serving in the area, Lt Phongsak Thepthian.

Lt Phongsak said Mr Chuyot told him he had bought the water elephant from a Karen man in Burma when he was over the border buying wood in 2001.

Curious to find out if the carcass was a genuine water

elephant, Mr Chuyot and Lt Phongsak reportedly took the creature to be X-rayed at the local hospital. The X-ray revealed what appeared to be a fully formed skeleton.

Lt Phongsak sent copies of the X-ray and photos of the water elephant to journalists to try and establish what it really was.

The journalists passed on the X-rays to Dr Chawalit Withayanon of the Nakhon Ratchasima Fossil Research Institute for examination.

Dr Chawalit dismissed any notions of the X-rays coming from a 'real' water elephant.

He said the X-ray appeared to be a composite of two animals.

The head and spine belong to a shrew, while the legs appear to be from a frog.

Dr Chawalit warned members of the public not to fall for tales of mystical creatures that crop up in the Thai press on a regular basis.

Despite the doctor's warning, with 'genuine' water elephants reportedly selling for upwards of three million baht, the hunt for more specimens will no doubt continue.

Source: Nation Breaking News/Bangkok Biz News

Cable thief gets shock

SONGKHLA: A thief was electrocuted to death while trying to steal copper wire from a disused factory in Haad Yai on Sunday.

The man, who was not carrying any identification, was found dead under a high-voltage electricity pylon at about 9am.

Police said the man was around 40 years old.

Police believe the man was trying to steal the electricity cable leading to the factory believing that the current would be disconnected as the factory was disused.

Source: MCOT

Lost jumbo recovered

TRANG: Police have recovered an elephant that was stolen from a circus in Krabi in June.

Police found Phlai Songkran, a seven-year-old bull elephant, tied to a tree in a plantation in Trang.

The elephant had lost some weight, but was in reasonable health.

Police have yet to make any arrests in connection with the case.

Source: MCOT

'Widow scam' arrests made

KHON KAEN: Police have arrested a woman for allegedly scamming hundreds of thousands of baht from victims across the Northeast.

Wannawanach Butrit legally changed her name 23 times over the past six years and had plastic surgery to change her appearance, police said.

Mrs Butrit, 36, was picked up in Bangkok by officers from the Crime Suppression Division last Friday.

She was then handed over to Khon Kaen Police to be charged.

Police allege that Mrs Wannawanach claimed to be the widow of a wealthy American.

She snared victims by claiming she had been left a 200-million-baht inheritance, but it was in a safe deposit box at the Bank of Thailand, police said.

She allegedly promised victims a share of the money if they lent her the cash needed to bribe officials at the bank to release it.

Khon Kaen Police Deputy Superintendent Thanomsit Wonwijan said the accused worked with two others in the scam.

The group hunted for victims at Chinese shrines, police said.

Mrs Wannawanach is wanted in Khon Kaen, Mahasarakham, Roi Et and Ubon Rachathani.

Last year, she allegedly borrowed 320,000 baht from a victim in Khon Kaen, promising to pay him one million baht when the inheritance was released.

The victim claimed she disappeared with the money.

Another victim alleged that Mrs Wannawanach borrowed their 800,000 baht Honda saloon to go and pick up the money, but she never returned.

Mrs Wannawanach denied all charges of fraud.

She also denied having major surgery to change her appearance, claiming she had just had one nose job.

Mrs Wannawanach said she knew the people who had accused her and would clear the situation up with them personally.

Police called for anyone else who has been scammed by Mrs Wannawanach to come forward.

Source: Thai Rath

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World's oldest man

Phuket-based abbot Luang Pu Supha, who could be the world's oldest living man, will celebrate his 113th birthday next week at the temple named after him in Chalong.

Luang Pu Supha is reputed to have been born on September 17, 1896, making him four days older than American Walter Breuning, who currently claims the Guinness World Records' title of 'Oldest Living Man'.

Luang Pu Supha's birthday celebrations will begin at 4pm on September 16 with a sermon by a leading monk from Chonpratharn-rangsarit Temple.

On September 17, from

6.09am to 9.30am Buddhist monks will honor Luang Pu Supha with mass prayers conducted in his temple grounds, just off Chao Fa Road West.

The revered monk has built a total of 38 temples in Thailand. On his birthday, he will donate 100,000 baht to Vachira Hospital and award scholarships to 139 students.

He will also release 119 birds into the wild, and lunch at 11am with 200 other monks.

At 2pm members of the public will be able to catch a glimpse of the aged monk when prayers and flower-offering ceremonies will commence.

-Fraser Morton

Logo launched for Phuket products



LEFT: Director of performing arts at Rajabhat University Dr Sawit Pongwat poses with some of the logo design entries. RIGHT: The new Phuket logo will appear on high-quality products from Phuket.

A new logo has been drawn up to give high-quality products from Phuket a seal of approval and help boost sales of the island's merchandise.

A total of 77 Phuket-based designers and artists submitted 197 logo designs in a contest held last month.

Phuket's Vice Governor Tri Augkaradacha along with representatives from Phuket Office of Commercial Affairs scrutinized all the logos vying for the title.

The winning logo was conceived by Phuket resident Thawal Ditthasuthum, who earned 30,000 baht for his logo design.

The logo depicts a tropical seascape silhouette with the sun setting behind a palm-tree dotted peninsula.

The logo was selected

by judges for the combination of individual elements which captured the essence of Phuket.

Judges said the gold color in the design depicted progress and the outer ring and top of the logo represents the island's Sino-Portuguese architecture.

The blue represents the Andaman sea, and the 33 white circles represent the province's alternative name, the 'Pearl of the Andaman'.

The Vice Governor said the millions of tourists who arrive on the island each year and purchase consumer products needed a symbol they could trust when making the decision to buy.

"The Phuket Brand will be used for Phuket products deemed fit to bear the official logo," he said.

He added that fostering customers' trust in the logo when making a purchases was an

important stepping stone to building Phuket's identity as a shopping destination.

"Only products that we deem as being of high quality and safe for use will receive the official Phuket brand," he said.

The Phuket Office of Commercial Affairs has already assigned a committee charged with approving products to receive the brand at the start of next year.

For products to qualify, they must be made and owned by Thai nationals and must fall under the categories: food and beverage; fabrics; clothing; accessories; ornaments; herbs and spices; spa products and hotel products.

More information can be obtained from the Office of Commercial Affairs on Montri Road. T: 076-212017.

-Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn

Governor goes hybrid



Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop took possession of a brand new hybrid car earlier this month, courtesy of the Interior Ministry.

The handover ceremony took place at the Governor's mansion on Narison Rd, where Chaipat Na Ranong, assistant managing director of the Toyota Pearl dealership in Koh Kaew, handed over the keys to Gov Wichai.

The hybrid is a black Toyota Camry 2.4-liter sedan equipped with a DVD player, GPS car navigator and rear view camera.

Now the governor's official car, the Camry is one of 76 hybrid vehicles being distributed to governors in every province as part of an environmental awareness campaign.

The Camry was chosen not only because it is environmentally friendly, but also because it will be easy to service and maintain as there are Toyota dealerships throughout Thailand.

The vehicles have been acquired under a three-year purchase plan with monthly installments of 39,200 baht each.

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The road is beside The Point

On the menu WITH Dan Waites

The eternal question: what's The Point? The Point is a fancy new condominium block, "strategically located in the heart of Phuket Island", to quote the marketing line.

This is code.

It means: "it's not next to the beach, nor is it surrounded by lovely little turn-of-the-19th-century shophouses, but what it is next to, see, is a bloody great big road, the bypass road, and down that road you can hurtle at breakneck speed to anywhere you want in minutes. Think strategically, stupid."

Living on this most vital of Phuket arteries, you'd imagine the strategic thinkers who snapped up The Point's 78 state-of-the-art condo units had it made.

But something was missing – and that something was easily accessible food.

Sure, there was the Big-C food court, but that was 200 meters away, and over a footbridge balanced precariously over the highway.

"Do something," The Point's residents pleaded.

"No problem," said the management. "How about a chic new Franco-Italian eatery with a range of affordable classics and fine-dining options to boot?"

"Rather!" said the residents, and The Point Bistro was born.

The bistro opened three months ago and is manned by a team of restaurant professionals flown in from Bangkok – including Yingsak Thongantung, the charmingly attentive restaurant manager, and executive chef Itthipol Samran, who cut his teeth in a number of the big city's high-end French restaurants.

The restaurant is thoroughly modern, but relaxed – and thus worthy of the 'bistro' name.

It's also very well sealed from the hot, dusty bypass road.

The standard menu is mostly devoted to humble Italian fare – pizzas and pastas at very reasonable prices (from around 100 to 150 baht).



The pan-seared tiger prawn was sensitively sweetened with a lobster bisque foam and the roasted Australian rack of lamb was tremendous.



Pizza toppings range from the typical (margarita, seafood, vegetarian) to the tropical (Thai green curry, pork and holy basil).

Other options include bruschetta (70 baht), nicoise salad (100 baht), French onion soup (90 baht), spaghetti with spicy Thai seafood sauce (120 baht) and spaghetti olio (90 baht).

But, walk-by trade on the bypass road being a little unlikely (except perhaps from the odd hapless backpacker), the team have understood the need to provide something a little more special to make the bistro's name as a 'destination' restaurant.

Until the end of September, the restaurant is offering a 'Wine Matching' menu – three courses, with a wine to match each one – for 1,050 baht.

It's a menu designed to show what Itthipol and his team can do – and it's very well executed.

The seared Japanese scallops were mouth-meltingly tender and seductively flavored with a truffle-infused salt, while the marinated salmon was eminently succulent.

A fresh, bright Italian prosecco gave the course a well-deserved lift.

Meanwhile, the roasted Australian rack of lamb was tremendous.

A finely tuned rosemary sauce with soft dauphinois potatoes were superb companions to sweet and tender lamb cuts.

The pan-seared tiger prawn



The restaurant is thoroughly modern, but relaxed – and thus worthy of the 'bistro' name. It's also very well sealed from the hot, dusty bypass road.

– gargantuan, more of a dragon than a tiger – was sensitively sweetened with a lobster bisque foam.

Mains were matched with a chardonnay/viura blend from the Bodegas Nekeas winery in Spain, a structured white with a zippy acidity that worked well as a counterpoint to the sweet mains.

Desserts were a delight.

Soft bitter chocolate pudding and peach flambe in grande marnier were both accompanied by a luxurious home-made vanilla ice cream.

They were washed down with a smooth medium-bodied negroamaro from Italy's Cantina Due Palma winery.

Yingsak was at pains to point out that he wanted to select higher-end wines for the menu, but aimed to keep the price down.

He needn't have apologized, as all three were excellent.

With such a well-run, reasonably priced eatery on their doorstep, The Point's residents are enviably catered for.

The Point may be beside the bypass road – but the road is beside The Point.

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Windows 7 the smart way

The first in a four-part series on Microsoft's new operating system

KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

If you haven't yet decided whether to take the plunge and install Windows 7, permit me to give you a push. Most PC owners in Phuket need Windows 7. If the glitzy interface and better media handling doesn't grab you, the stability and security improvements should.

Windows XP has become a breeding ground for rootkits, viruses, and spyware. Millions of WinXP machines have been turned into zombies, and their owners don't know about it. Antivirus software has turned into a protection racket, and it slows down everything in both WinXP and Vista.

Windows 7 is at least a couple of orders of magnitude more difficult to infect than Windows XP, and it comes with a free, downloadable antivirus program called Microsoft Security Essentials.

You're going to want Windows 7 for a zillion reasons, and security is a big one.

Take it from a guy who's been writing about Windows and wrangling with Microsoft for the better part of two decades. Windows 7 represents an enormous improvement over anything that's come before.

Yes, some of you will thumb your noses at Windows 7. If you've trained your brain and your clicking finger to think like a Mac, I wish you well – Windows 7 won't wow you. If you waddle like a penguin and quote Linus Torvalds in your sleep, Linux still has its benefits. But if you're starting out new, or own a fairly recent PC, Windows 7 has much to offer.

To be sure, Windows 7 has substantial hardware requirements, but it isn't as iron-intensive as Vista. If you own a laptop that's more than three or four years old, it doesn't have enough oomph to do Windows 7 properly.

If you have a desktop PC that's more than five or six years old, Windows 7 will push it beyond its limits. Best to consign really old PCs to the bit bucket.

But if you have a relatively recent laptop, or a not-yet-dead desktop, a few thousand baht should turn it into a road-worthy Windows 7 machine. The vast majority of PC owners on the island should be looking at upgrading as soon as they can.

Sadly, Windows 7 doesn't work with some older pieces of hardware, and a few older programs won't work, either. If you have an old scanner, web camera, or an orphaned software program, you may not be able to use it with Windows 7.

In my experience, anything that works with Vista will work with Windows 7.

Fortunately, there's a relatively simple way to figure out if you're going to have problems with your current hardware and software.

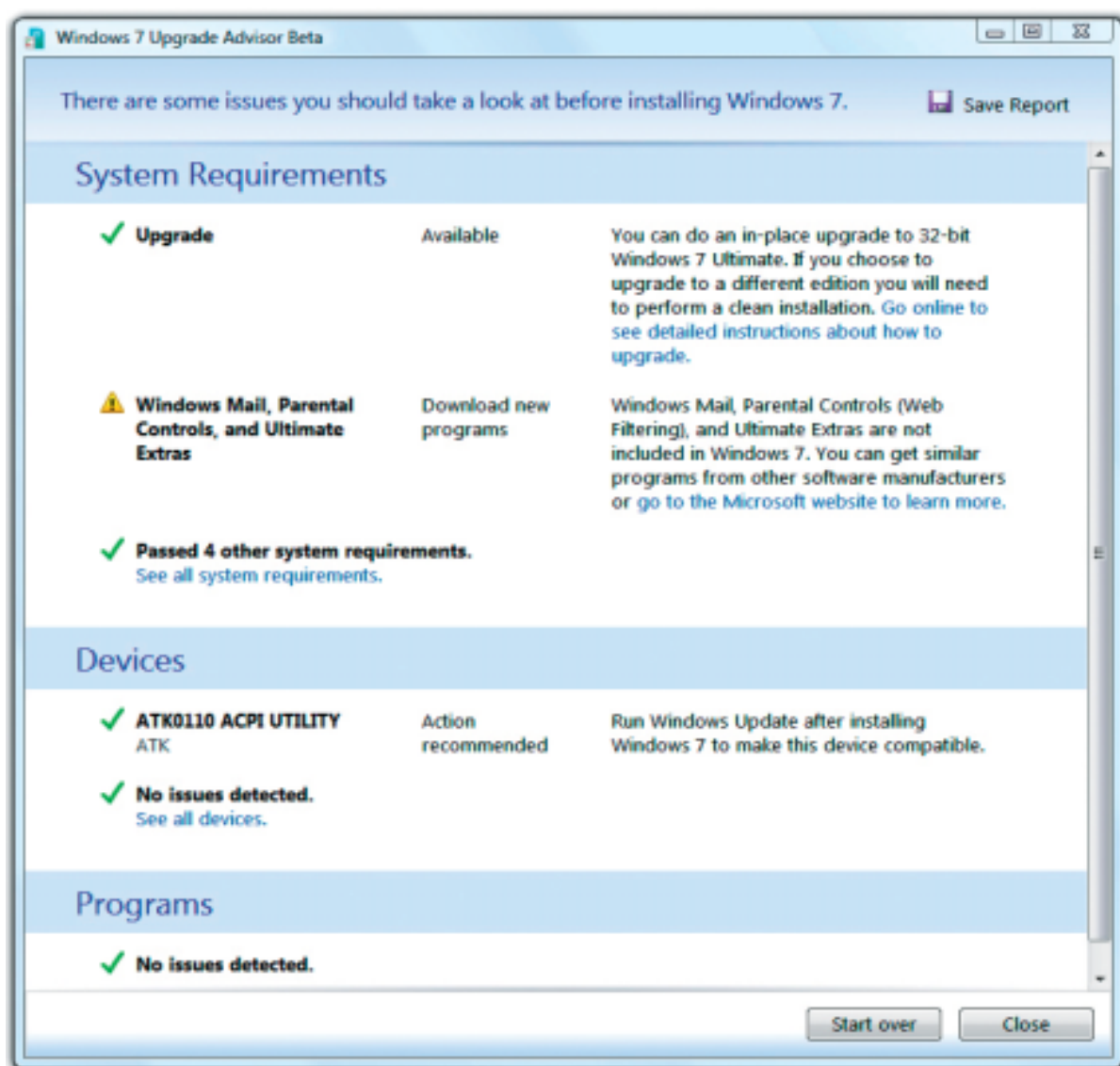
Microsoft's Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor scans your Windows XP or Vista machine and warns you about bumps on the road to enlightenment. Download it at microsoft.com/windows/windows-7/upgrade-advisor.aspx and run it to see where the bodies are buried.

If Windows 7 can run everything on your current Windows XP or Vista machine, you should end up with a report similar to the one shown on this page.

I won't swear the Upgrade Advisor picks up all problematic pieces of hardware and software, but it's pretty darn close.

If your PC passes muster with the Upgrade Advisor, your next step is to make sure it has enough oomph to handle the load. A few thousand baht, tops, will turn most desktop PCs into road-worthy Windows 7 machines. Laptop owners have fewer options, but they're still crucial.

Windows 7 places few



Can your PC handle Windows 7? Use the Upgrade Advisor to find out.

demands on your PC, but you have to give it enough memory, and the video card or chipset has to keep up. Windows 7 needs at least 1GB of memory. Unless you edit movies or continuously re-calculate spreadsheets on the national debt, 2GB of memory will give you some breathing room and anything over 3GB is overkill.

To see how much memory you have on your PC, click Start, right click Computer or My Computer, and choose Properties. If you don't yet have 2GB, you should think about upgrading.

The easiest way to upgrade memory is to haul your computer to your favorite PC shop and say, "fill 'er up".

The whole process should take less than half an hour and cost 1,000 baht or so, depending on how much

memory you already have.

Microsoft has fancy specs for video cards, but there's an easy way to make sure you have enough power in the graphic department.

Take your computer down to your favorite shop and tell them you want the fastest video card that costs less than 1,500 baht.

Get a card installed that costs less than 1,500 baht and you'll end up with video that's more than up to the task.

(Note that, with very rare exceptions, you can't upgrade the video card in a laptop or netbook.)

The real hardware require-

ments for Windows 7 are so minimal you'll be amazed and pleasantly surprised by how fast it runs on an older PC with 1GB of main memory and a fast video card.

In my next column, I'll explain how to buy a real, completely legal copy of Windows 7 for about 1,700 baht. Yes, I know that real copies of Windows XP sell for more than 5,000 baht in Phuket right now. I also know that Windows 7 won't be officially available until October 22. But if you know the tricks, you can get the real Windows 7, right now, for about 1,700 baht.

Woody's latest book, *Green Home Computing For Dummies*, just became widely available in several languages. His next magnum opus, *Windows 7 All-In-One For Dummies*, will be on store shelves in October. Catch the latest Woodifications in *Windows Secrets Newsletter*, *WindowsSecrets.com*, and on the *AskWoody* site, *AskWoody.com*.

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When fashion bites back

By Atchaa Khamlo

Unlike western teenagers, who fear becoming victims of ridicule when forced to have braces fitted on their teeth, many Thai teenagers put the metal implants on their must-have list and see them as fashionable status symbols to be flashed with a smile at every opportunity.

Specialist dentists, or orthodontists, are the only people properly qualified to fit braces, but as demand for braces has increased, so has the number of places that will fit them, many operated by unqualified 'dentists'.

The trend has grown to the point that fake braces designed as fashion accessories are now available at market stalls.

Last month, 17-year-old high-school student Juthamas Chaiyason from Khon Kean became a victim of the fashion after she had braces fitted by an unauthorized practitioner.

Juthamas died a few days after having the braces fitted, apparently from thyroid poisoning and cardiac arrest as a result of her body's reaction to the metals used to make the braces.

In her final days, Juthamas suffered severe pain where her braces had been fitted and had trouble breathing to the point of passing out.



LEFT: Orathai 'Tai' Chunual, a receptionist at Rang Hill Dental Clinic, had colorful braces fitted professionally a year ago. She said having them fitted by a qualified dentist is the safest option. **CENTER:** 'Fashion' braces can be easily obtained at market stalls. **RIGHT:** Janejira 'Gift' Saiwipas, a receptionist at the *Phuket Gazette* office, sports a set of the temporary fashion braces.

Following Juthamas' death, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has launched a clamp down on the availability of fashionable dental products.

The Dental Council of Thailand has also called upon the FDA to ban the sale of dental supplies to anyone other than licensed dentists.

In response, the FDA has announced that it would ask the Medical Supply Committee to list fashionable tooth braces as a medical item so they become controlled products.

There are reportedly about 57,000 websites offering trendy orthodontic services and one-day courses in orthodontic techniques in Thailand.

These websites will come under scrutiny from the FDA.

In Phuket, the brightly colored fashion braces can be found all over the island at various market stalls and fashion accessory shops, and can cost as little as 10 baht a set.

The braces, some of which come with images of flowers and love hearts, serve purely for beautification purposes and those found in shops and markets do not afford the wearer any medical benefits.

Since the widely publicized death of young Juthamas, beauty salons in the Ocean Shopping Plaza have ceased fitting the fashion braces.

One female proprietor whose shop offered this service said she had been ordered not to fit any more braces.

"We have been told by Phuket Public Health Department that we can no longer fit braces."

A stall trader at the weekend night market in Phuket Town said that widespread knowledge of Juthamas' death had slashed sales of his fake braces in half.

"These braces are very cheap, just 10 baht. You can wear them for four to five hours and then throw them away," he said.

However, the market trader, who is not qualified in any orthodontic or dental capacity, said he had "no idea" what material the fake braces, were made from.

Dr Rungsima Leelaprute, a pediatric dental specialist from Bangkok Hospital Phuket, said children considering any kind of dental procedure should always consult a qualified orthodontist.

"It's unsafe not to, and a patient's safety is the foremost priority for qualified dentists and orthodontists," she said.

"Untrained sellers of the fake braces use wire and material that should not come into contact with the mouth," she said.

"A slight cut in the mouth could cause blood to become infected," she added.

Dr Rungsima said that the appropriate age to have braces fitted was usually between 12 and 14 years old or when the adult teeth are fully developed.

Another Phuket-based professional dentist, Dr Authen Hatsadee of Smile Island Dental, said that unqualified clinics fitting the fake braces fittings has been a long-running problem.

Orathai 'Tai' Chunual, a receptionist at Rang Hill Dental Clinic in Phuket Town, had colorful braces fitted professionally over a year ago.

"It is a popular trend among young people in Phuket to get colorful braces, but if you really want them, it's well worth getting the professional ones fitted," she said.

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Fifth birthday festivities at Central

Central Festival Phuket celebrated its fifth anniversary last Saturday with an evening of festive fun at the shopping center's Grand Hall. The event drew prominent people from around the island, including Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop, who delivered a welcome speech to kick off the celebrations.

Guests were treated to fashion parade, dance performances and the chance to get close to a spectacular array of supercars, including the latest Lamborghini, Lotus Elise, Spyder and Hummers.

Another fashionable feature of the festivities was a 'Save Phuket' slogan to encourage conservation and environmental protection.



Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop (center), his wife Thaisika and Central executives put their hands on a globe to encourage conservation with the message 'Save Phuket'.



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Thailand's number one mom

It's easy to imagine that being a parent is one of the toughest, but most spiritually rewarding jobs going.

When kids are very young, they often give their parents a hard time, unintentionally of course, with countless sleepless nights.

As children get a little older, they enter the troublesome twos and shortly after that, the word 'no' becomes a firm fixture in any child's vocabulary.

After a little mellowing period, hormones kick in and mommy and daddy's little angel becomes a moody teenager with conflicting emotions and new urges attacking them from all sides.

Finally, there's adolescence which brings with it an urge to party, meet girls or boys and stay out late, again giving parents sleepless nights and completes the child-raising circle.

It's the parent's job to shape their children, making them decent members of society and for this they get scant reward.

Once a year, our parents get recognition for the other 364 days of hard work they put in each and every year and, more often or not,

the gifts they receive were paid for with money that they themselves had given to their kids.

Kind of makes you wonder why some people do it.

In reality, every mom and dad deserves praise when they do a good job raising their children and many kids will feel that their mom or dad is the best in the world.

Sometimes, all that hard work doesn't go unnoticed.

Last month, Phuket resident Khun Yaowaluck Hongyok was named 'Mom of the Year 2009' in recognition of the charity work that she undertakes with her husband Khun Narong Hongyok, who was named 'Dad of the Year' in 1992.

In a lavish ceremony in Bangkok, Khun Yaowaluck received her award from Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsavali at Suan Umporn Park, a proud moment for Khun Yaowaluck and her family.

"I am very happy and honored to receive this award, it's the best one I've ever received," she said.

"All of my sons and grandchildren are proud of this award and because I have been



SUPER PARENTS: Khun Yaowaluck Hongyok (left) and her husband Khun Narong Hongyok proudly display their awards. Khun Narong won 'Dad of the year' in 1992 and Khun Yaowaluck received this year's award.

honored with this, I can die without regret."

Both Khun Yaowaluck and Khun Narong have dedicated more than half their lives to helping those less fortunate in Phuket and their philanthropic

nature has earned them more than 50 awards at home and abroad.

To qualify for the award, the candidates must fulfill a number of criteria.

They must be Thai nationals, over 50 and in good health. They must dedicate part of their lives to helping people, support charities such as the Thai Red Cross, be a positive role model within the community and be loyal to Thailand, particularly with regards to religion, democracy and the monarchy.

Khun Yaowaluck was nominated for the award by the Phuket Thai Red Cross Society, who forwarded her name to The National Council on Social Welfare of Thailand in recognition of the work she has done.

"I have been president of the Phuket Thai Women's Society, and on the committee of the Phuket Thai Red Cross Society for a long time," she said.

"I am always campaigning for people to give blood and we also helped the Finnish Red Cross establish the new blood donation headquarters."

In the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami, Khun Yaowaluck and her husband donated a lot of their time and money to help people recover from the disaster.

"In 2005, we worked very hard to help all the people affected by the tsunami. We collected food, money, transport, tents and clothes for the sea gypsies and tourists. I also sent money to help."

Khun Yaowaluck currently volunteers at the Chitralada shop at Phuket International Airport.

The Chitralada shop is a project of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, established to help Thai farmers in need.

"In the future, I still want to help people and if there's any project I can do which will help, I'll do it," she said.

If anyone would like to contact Khun Yaowaluck they can do so through the Phuket Thai Red Cross Society.

Khun Narong Hongyok was equally proud of his wife's achievements.

"I always support my wife in everything she does. We work together like champion tennis players. She works hard for charity, and does so selflessly.

"Now we have both received the 'Mom' and 'Dad' of the year award and I would like to thank the people of Phuket and our King and Queen. This is a great honor for our family."

-Khunakorn Terdkiatkhachorn



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EXPAT GALLERY

Tara Sudlow

Tara Sudlow stands out as one of Phuket's top real estate executives, and also as an attractive, charming Australian woman. She is a leading member of a select group of Western women who are making an imprint on the development of the island.

"I grew up on a wheat and sheep farm near Albany in West Australia. Until we moved to Perth, we lived a rather isolated existence. In 1986, my family came to Phuket for a holiday and we stayed at Patong Beach. I was immediately fascinated by the international visitors and the culture of the local Thai people."

During that first holiday, Tara was accepted into a local Thai family with whom she remains close, noting that they are partially responsible for her returning to live in Phuket.

"We returned to Patong Beach for the next couple of years and it always felt like home. Phuket was much different then. There was no coastal road to the north of the island. I enjoyed exploring the dirt paths that led into private beaches and jungles."

Tara attended Curtin University in Perth and graduated in 1993 with a Bachelor's Degree in Property. Her three-year course included the study of valuation, property development, quantity surveying and finance, all

areas of interest that would be useful when she eventually returned to Phuket.

After graduation she joined the Laguna Beach Resort, teaching tennis before moving to the Global Resorts sales team at the Boat Lagoon which was then launching Lighthouse Villas. She eventually became Operations Manager for that project.

In 1999 she joined Laguna Properties as Sales Manager.

In that role, Tara helped put together a business and development plan for Laguna Phuket. Her training and inputs thus made a material contribution to the development of one of Phuket's largest and most successful high-end residential communities.

A few years later, Tara struck out on her own, offering a real estate service that would provide a female perspective to the process of buying property on the island. She opened Phuket Realty in an office at the entrance to Laguna Phuket in 2004.

"My focus is on the luxury villa market. I use my knowledge of developers, their projects and government regulations to advise my clients. We only recommend what we have faith in."

Tara believes that there are many quality villa projects on Phuket that meet an international standard. She speaks enthusias-

tically about Two Villas, a boutique property development company professionally managed by a Thai architect and his wife.

"There can be many problems in buying a home in Thailand. It is essential for each buyer to complete due diligence on a purchase and to get good legal advice. I would love to see property ownership here become more accessible to a broader range of the market as a healthy housing market means improved standards of living for the local community."

Tara enjoys helping builders and developers create new concepts for property projects.

"The market is constantly shifting its priorities to meet what buyers want in a tropical holiday home. Now we are working to create more eco-friendly villas that are sympathetic with the surrounding environment, as buyers are more and more conscious about their impact on Nature."

Tara believes Phuket will remain attractive for investors due to improved infrastructure, better security, and land office regulations that are more transparent.

When asked what the island needs for successful future property development, Tara says, "I think Phuket needs to develop a recognizable, distinctive style, rather than a generic, contemporary, tropical Asian identity. This island has such an interesting history and architectural footprint. I'd like to see that drawn into more future developments."

— Bruce Stanley



BY PETER CHILDS 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.



PHUKET INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

FLOURISHING IN A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

The Phuket International Academy (PIA) is a premier facility within an exceptional natural environment located in the foothills of national parks on the eastern part of Phuket island in Thailand. It is comprised of three interrelated centres: the PIA Day School, the PIA Sports & Wellness Centre and the PIA Mind Centre - and dynamic interactions among these three institutions facilitate developing full human potential in an intellectual, physical and spiritual space - where families can interact in a harmonious, caring and inspirational environment.



PHUKET INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY DAY SCHOOL

The PIA Day School (PIADS) is aspiring to become a full 3-Programme IB World School, and also plans to draw on the uniqueness of Asian culture and the best from Western educational traditions, developing inquiring, knowledgeable, compassionate young people who know how to live with integrity, cultivate genuine happiness, and strive to create a more peaceful and sustainable world.

Student Admissions for the new 2009/2010 Academic Year are now open, and we welcome you to contact us for further information.
Tel: +66 (0)76 336 000 Email: info@phuketinternationalacademy.com



PHUKET INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY SPORTS & WELLNESS CENTRE

The PIA Sports & Wellness Centre (PIASWC), now partly completed, provides a wide range of sports, wellness and recreational facilities for the benefit and enjoyment of the school's pupils, their families, the local Phuket community as well as visiting professional and non professional athletes from around the world to train and compete.



PHUKET INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY MIND CENTRE

The PIA Mind Centre (PIAMC), currently under construction, will offer training that integrates cutting-edge theories and methods from contemporary psychology and neuroscience with the ancient wisdom of the great contemplative traditions of Asia, resulting in exceptional mental health and wellbeing.

For more information on our three centres please visit our website

WWW.PHUKETINTERNATIONALACADEMY.COM



DANCING DRAGONS: Chinese performers took to the streets in Phuket Town last weekend to appease their ancestors in *Por Tor* festival celebrations. The festival marks the first day of the waxing moon in the 7th month of the Chinese calendar. During the festivities, participants made offerings to their ancestors by burning paper and distributing turtle-shaped sweets and cakes believed to encourage longevity.



THERE'S GOLD IN THOSE HILLS: Devout Buddhists held a ceremony at the Big Buddha on Nakkerd Hill on Wednesday, casting a smaller Buddha image in molten metals donated by well wishers. The new image was cast on the auspicious date of 09/09/09 and represents the 'Wednesday Buddha'. It was placed at the foot of the Big Buddha image along with other Buddha images representing the other days of the week.



LUCKY NUMBER NINE: Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop leads a ceremony at Phuket Provincial Hall on Wednesday to mark the date 09/09/09. The date is considered highly auspicious by Thais due to the sequence of nines. Similar ceremonies were held throughout the country at 9.09am in which His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej was honored. King Bhumibol is the ninth monarch of the Chakri dynasty.




BIG DISCOUNTS ANNOUNCED: Staff at Phuket's Homeworks branch launch a discount campaign to celebrate the company's 8th anniversary and the opening of eight stores nationwide. Among the campaign's initiatives are discounts of up to 80% off Homeworks' products and two-baht-weight gold giveaways.



YOGA MOMENT: Young yoga practitioners stretch out at the bigger and better new Abyssan Yoga & Wellness Center on Chao Fa Road. The new center, near Central Festival Phuket, is run by naturopathy and yoga expert Dr Abhishek Agrawal. It opened on August 29.



MORE MANGROVES FOR MUDONG: Staff from the Merlin Hotel and officers from Phuket Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment planted mangrove trees at Klong Mudong Mangrove Forest in Wichit last month.




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Sisters doing it for themselves

By Bruce Stanley

"I love my boyfriend dearly, but sometimes you just want to talk pedicures and shoes."

It only takes a great idea and a positive attitude to change your environment and living proof of this is the recently started 'Chicky Net' initiative.

Chickynet.com is a web-based girls-only social network dedicated to connecting women of all ages in Phuket. Chicky Net provides its members with a platform to freely share their thoughts, recommendations and experiences.

The concept was founded by two girls who moved to Phuket not that long ago.

When Berthe Mandaat arrived in Phuket from Amsterdam, she trawled websites and searched everywhere in the hope of finding other girls who wanted to have some fun.

Berthe recalls, "After three months in Phuket I was fed-up and desperate for female company!"

Luckily for all the girls out there, she decided to do something about it and started a Facebook group for girls in Phuket. The response was overwhelmingly encouraging and after just two months more than 100 members had signed in.

"I would have been ecstatic for 10 girls, but I never expected 100," she admits.

Berthe soon realized it was time to move to a website which could offer more to members, in a user-friendly format and Chickynet.com was born.

Meanwhile, Amy Donovan had arrived in Phuket from South Africa. She also spent a long and dull first month on the island wondering when she might have a social life again.

Amy came across Chicky Net and joined the very next 'chicky brunch'.

"I went from having nothing to do to having too much to choose from overnight," she said.

When Berthe and Amy met there was an instant connection. As they both shared such a passion for the Chicky Net vision, they decided to join forces and take the network to new levels.

Regular events by Chicky Net range from dinners and salsa dancing to family picnics and sailing, and are organized monthly.

The forum contains every topic imaginable – women looking for a decent leg wax or



When Berthe (left) and Amy met there was an instant connection. They both shared such a passion for the Chicky Net vision, they decided to join forces and take the network to new levels.

baby sitter to buying a new car or finding a dermatologist.

Specialist groups are forming organically. There is a 'yummy mummy group' for mums with small children who have weekly play dates, 'the dancing girls' meet for regular salsa lessons at The Green Man and in Phuket Town, while 'the sporty/wannabe sporty group' offers Muay Thai, yoga, pilates and cycling trips around the island.

Other groups include 'the

green chickys' for budding gardeners, 'the doggy walking group', the newly formed 'teenz group' that organizes activities for bored teenagers, 'the party girls' who love to go clubbing and bar hopping and, of course, the monthly 'brunch group'.

Most events are also open to boyfriends, husbands and male friends except the monthly northern and southern brunches which will always be chicky-only zones.

The members – totalling 217

at the last count – range from charity volunteers and interior designers to part-time teachers and managing directors, and everyone is welcome to join, provided you are a chicky!

Sounds interesting? You are very welcome to join the group or take a look by visiting www.chickynet.com to register. For more information email berthe@chickynet.com or amy@chickynet.com.



ANOTHER QUALITY PROJECT FROM LAND & HOUSES

Land & Houses Park Phuket



Pruerk-Pailin

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 148 sq.m.



Pruerk-Ampai

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 167 sq.m.



Pruerk-Amporn

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 224 sq.m.

Model	Area (sq.wa)	*Total price*(baht)	Deposit (baht)	50% Down payment (baht)	Final payment (baht)
Pruerk-Pailin	80	5,630,000	100,000	2,715,000	2,815,000
Pruerk-Ampai	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

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

For further information please contact our office
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Email: info@lhphuket.com <http://www.lhphuket.com>





Central Festival Phuket 5th Anniversary Celebration

- **Get a lucky coupon for a chance to win Package to Club Med Maldives on Bangkok Airways** and other prizes worth 700,000.- with every 1,000.-* purchase
- **Central Festival Phuket will donate 1 mangrove tree for purchases of 1,000.-** to the Save our Mangroves program. You will get a sticker to put on Phuket Island board.
- **Enjoy these special LOW PRICES** on high quality merchandise **with every 500.-* purchase** and more to buy **Save Phuket Save our Planet Bag** at a special price, proceeds will be donated to Save our Mangroves program

Special activities

Grand Hall, 1st Floor

Today – 16 Sep Hot Price Hot Item

An auction for many qualities selected products

Auction: Mon - Fri 17.00-18.00 Sat - Sun 14.30-15.30 and 17.00-18.00

Hot price hours : 14.00 and 19.00

First time in Phuket

"CFP Convention Hall" and Lanlom, 1st Floor

Today – 14 Sep Niche Cars – Luxury Supercar Show



Promotion area, 1st Floor Central Phuket

12 Sep (3.30 pm) Meet Archam Tossaporn Sritula, Fashion Show Beauty Trend from many stars and models

13 Sep (2.30pm) Healthy food recipe from Ploy Chidjan and Mini Concert by Rut "The Star"

17 – 23 Sep Central Festival Phuket Sweet Party
Ice cream lovers can indulge their sweet tooth at this fabulous buffet offering a wide variety of flavours. All for 59.- per hour.
At the Grand Hall A.

*See more information at sale counter

Today – 18 OCT 09



Club Med



Somsak Salon
School Hair Cut
and Beauty

Office
DEPT



EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

September 11-13. 8th Annual Doubles Smash at Dusit Laguna

Inviting all tennis instructors and staff of Laguna Hotels and other hotels in Phuket to participate in this year's Doubles Smash tennis competition. The charity tennis tournament is open to men and women of all ages. A portion of the proceeds from the day will be donated to the Handicapped Children's School in Pa Khlok. The money will be used to buy essentials for the school, such as rice, cooking oil and cleaning supplies. From 8.30am to 8pm at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket. Application fee: 1,000 baht per team. For further information or to apply to take part in the competition contact Ms Vachira Thitalohakul. T: 076-362 999. Ext 7631. E: dtlpgsamgr@dusit.com. W: dusit.com.

September 12. 5th Anniversary Party - Twinpalms Phuket

Come and join the Twinpalms Phuket Resort 5th anniversary celebration on Saturday, September 12. Free entry, dress code: white smart/casual. Complimentary white sangria, white daiquiris, blue martinis and Catch Beach Club cocktails from 7 to 11pm. Light snacks available, international DJs and professional body painters. From 7pm to 2am at Catch Beach Club, Surin Beach. For further information contact our sales department. T: 076-31650. E: sales@twinpalms-phuket.com. W: twinpalms-phuket.com

September 12. ABBATASTIC!

Les Angeles, the Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation and 91.5 FM present Abbatastic! on Saturday, September 12. Includes a fantastic smorgasbord buffet, free flowing wine and beer from 7 to 10pm and amazing entertainment all for 2,500 baht. Great auction and raffle prizes, including two seats for Priscilla, Queen of the Desert and Mama Mia in London's West End and three nights at the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington, England; a weekend in a Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket Private Pool Villa with private BBQ; a night in a Banyan Tree Double Pool Villa for two, with breakfast and 'Dinner of the Senses'; signed Coldplay and Elton John CDs. From 7pm to 12am at Les Angeles, Royal Phuket Marina. For further information contact Tina Hall, Director. T: 076-278146. E: tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org. W: phukethasbeengoodtous.org.

September 19-23. Sense of Occasion at Banyan Tree Phuket

Experience the sensual delights of one of the world's great chefs in the sublime surroundings of one of the world's greatest resorts. Tadashi Sawauchi, Kaiseki Master Chef from Okura Tokyo's classically elegant Yamazato Restaurant, will present an eight course autumn 'Kaiseki Dinner' at Tre' Restaurant. From 7.30 to 11pm for 3,900 baht ++ per person. Limited seating, reservation essential. For reservations T: 076-324374. Ext 8167. For further information contact Kulchada Boonrawd. T: 076-324374. E: kulchada.boonrawd@banyantree.com. W: banyantree.com/phuket/events.ph.

International Cleanup Day September 19-20

Scuba Cat Diving and KonTiki are organizing events for this year's International Cleanup Day on September 19. Lots of activities will take place in different locations, including an underwater cleanup at Koh Racha Yai, staying overnight onboard MV Scuba Cat; a Patong Beach cleanup and a Nai Harn Beach cleanup. Please come join us in the effort to preserve the beauty of Thailand. Invite all your friends and family. These events are for divers and non-divers alike. From 7.30am to 8pm at Racha Yai, Patong and Nai Harn. For further information contact Kath at Scuba Cat (T: 076-293 120) or Michael at Kontiki (T: 076-280 366). E: info@scubacat.com. W: scubacat.com.

September 19. Sea Bees Diving and SSI Clean-Up Day 2009

Sea Bees Diving and SSI Thailand invite you to help clean up our beautiful underwater world. Enjoy a day trip to Racha Yai or Koh Mai Ton for free. Please register now because we expect a high number of participants. Free finger food, free water and coffee. Equipment available for rent. From 9am to 3.30pm at Chalong Pier. For further information contact Volker Ross. T: 076-381765. E: info@sea-bees.com. W: sea-bees.com

September 19-20. Aussie Chef Ben O'Donoghue @ Dusit Thani Laguna

On September 19, we will host a modern wine dinner titled "Penfolds vs BEN" hosted by the world-famous chef Ben O'Donoghue at the Dusit Thani's award-winning Italian restaurant La Trattoria. The fine dining experience from 7 to 10.30pm costs 2,500 baht ++. On September 20, don't miss "Surfing with Chef Ben", a trendy BBQ brunch by the beach with free-flowing Australian Lindemans red and white wines at the breezy Casuarina Beach Restaurant. 1,400 baht ++. From 11.30am until 3pm. For reservations contact Ms Pathama Jangjai. T: 076-362999. Ext 7303. E: dtlpfb@dusit.com W: dusit.com.

September 24-26. Phuket International Hospitality Show

This is the first international hospitality exhibition for Phuket and the nearby provinces of Krabi, Phang Nga and Surat Thani. The show will feature the best food and drink, hotel, bakery, restaurant and food service equipment, supplies and services for the hospitality industry. The three-day show combines a trade exhibition featuring suppliers from all areas of hospitality, a demonstration forum – the Phuket Culinary Fair – and various industry-specific seminars. From 11am to 8pm daily 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: phukethospitalityshow.com.

COMPUTER CLINICS

Free Computer Clinics. Join Woody Leonhard and other Windows victims at his Sunday morning Computer Clinics, which are co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. Woody also writes computer books, including the "Windows For Dummies" series.

The Computer Clinics are designed to help everybody – even (especially!) complete computer novices – and they're absolutely free. Remember, there's no such thing as a dumb question – only easy answers.

Come early to make sure you get a seat: several recent events have been standing room only. For further information contact Woody. T: 076-290468.

E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: KhunWoody.com.

Driving instructions at W: Woody.info.

September 13. FREE Computer Clinic – Laguna

From 10am to 12pm, at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna.

September 20. FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

From 10am to 12pm, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong.

September 27. FREE Computer Clinic – Chalong

From 10am to 12pm, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong.

October 4. FREE Computer Clinic – Patong

From 10am to 12pm, at Sandwich Shoppe Patong.

October 11. Free Computer Clinic – Laguna

From 10am to 12pm, at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna.

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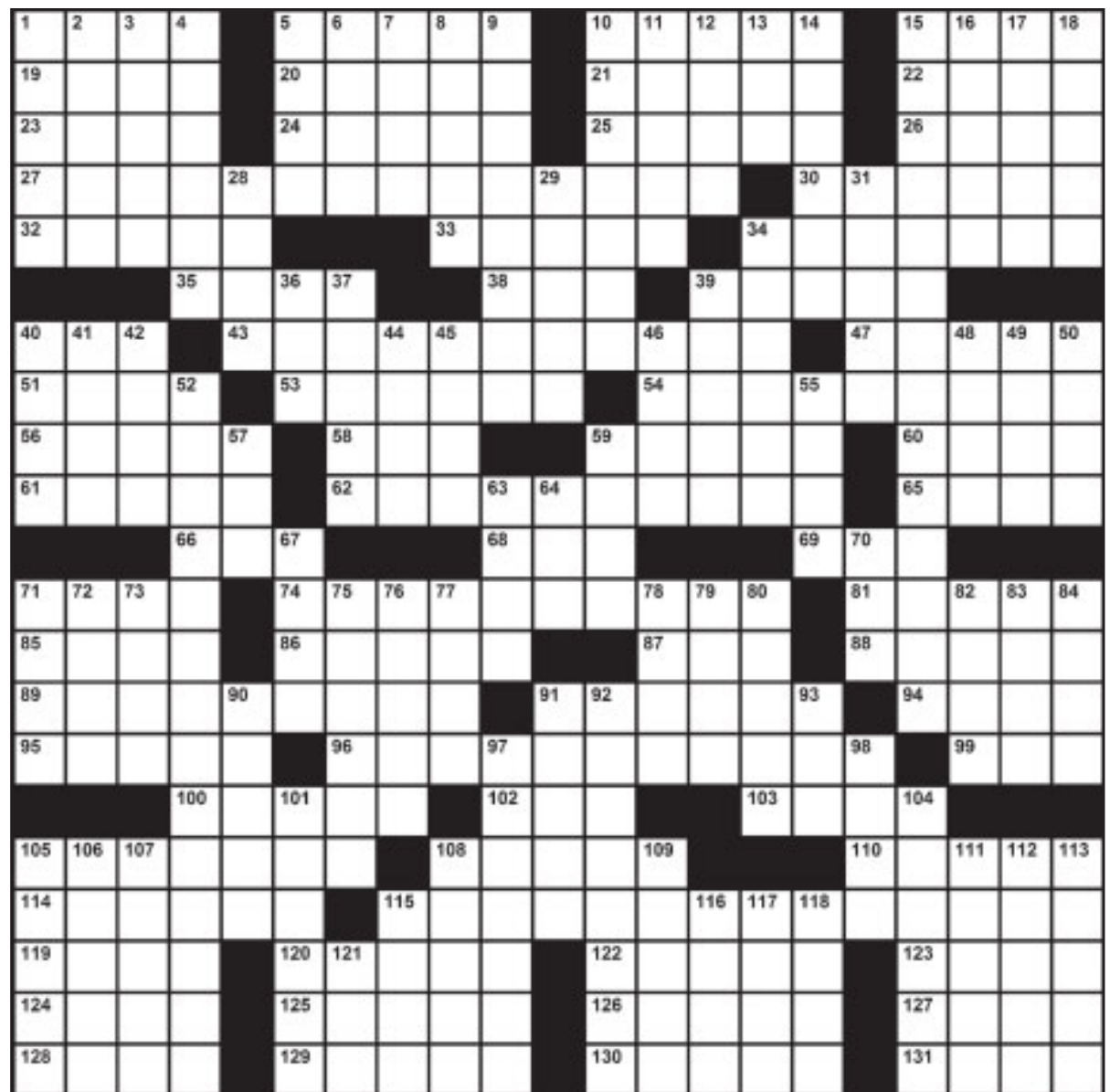
*Submit your guess to
Ja@PhuketGazette.Net
on or before 12 Oct 2009.

PUZZLES

Spot the Difference



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



ACROSS

- 1 Fitness clubs
- 5 "Shaft" scorer Hayes
- 10 QB legend John
- 15 Breezed through, as a test
- 19 Aboriginal Japanese
- 20 "... and ___ a good night!"
- 21 "I ___ vacation!"
- 22 Romance novelist Roberts
- 23 Ammo holder
- 24 Ex-Yankee Hideki
- 25 Alligator's haunt
- 26 Bivalve mollusk
- 27 Lyric from the U.S. national anthem
- 30 Superfluous
- 32 Stem's opposite
- 33 Irregular, as a leaf's edge
- 34 Sticks together
- 35 Aficionado
- 38 Agents like Bond
- 39 Gotten up
- 40 Annoy, in a way
- 43 Earthquake-measuring device
- 47 Anatomical furrow
- 51 "Me too" sort
- 53 With one's head in the clouds
- 54 Like schedule-changing weather
- 56 Jan Peerce was one
- 58 "To ___ is human"
- 59 Memphis blues street
- 60 "Domini" lead-in
- 61 Type of daisy
- 62 "Unchain My Heart" singer
- 65 Farrier's tool
- 66 Abbr. on a Monopoly board
- 68 One of the four elements, in alchemy
- 69 Enjoy Sundance, Utah
- 71 Cost to cross

- 74 Removed trees
- 81 All thumbs
- 85 Tree protuberance
- 86 Basketball or football position
- 87 Donned the feed bag
- 88 Exclude
- 89 Attractive on the boob tube
- 91 Incalculable, as wealth
- 94 "Clue" weapon
- 95 "Two all-beef patties, special ___"
- 96 Like some visits
- 99 Bill-blocking vote
- 100 Make into a law
- 102 2-BR listing
- 103 Addition column
- 105 Sorta cool
- 108 Lend ___ (listen)
- 110 French cap
- 114 Consolidates
- 115 They come from a single egg
- 119 Indian princess
- 120 Everglades denizen
- 122 "... the Wizard of Oz ___ because ..."
- 123 Collection of Norse mythology
- 124 More than suspicious of
- 125 Play the siren
- 126 "Revenge of the ___"
- 127 Posterior
- 128 Atomic number 10
- 129 Church's counterpart
- 130 Say "Hey"
- 131 Sound of a leak

DOWN

- 1 Goldman's partner
- 2 American worker?
- 3 "Pokemon" genre
- 4 Outstanding
- 5 "I'll do ___ you will"
- 6 Arrange methodically
- 7 Kudos for a

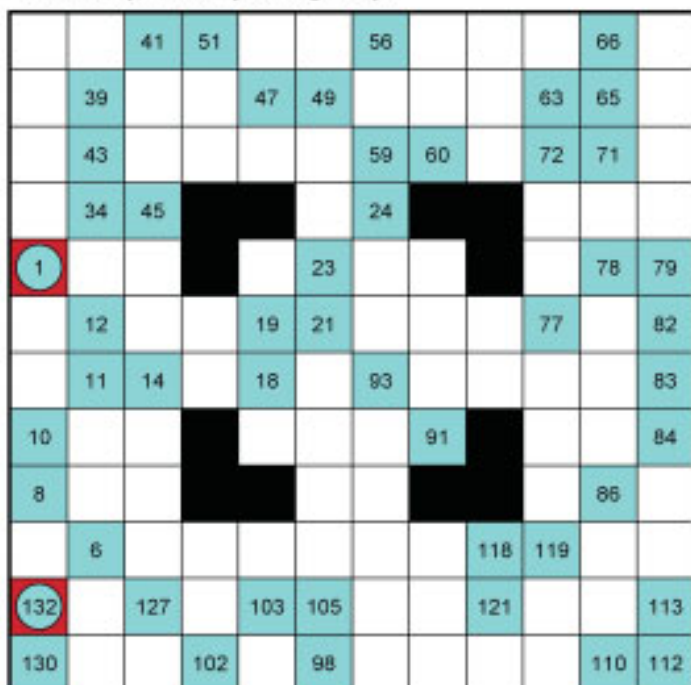
- 8 masseur
- 8 "Three Tall Women"
- 9 playwright Edward
- 9 Site for a poker game, perhaps
- 10 In one large mob
- 11 "50 Ways to ___ Your Lover"
- 12 "While You ___ Sleeping"
- 13 Internet banners, e.g.
- 14 "Gulliver's Travels" brutes
- 15 Coleridge character
- 16 Carpet-buying consideration
- 17 Answering machine button
- 18 Knights' ladies
- 28 Difficult responsibility
- 29 Like suites and sedans
- 31 What we have here
- 34 There's simply no end to it
- 36 Wined and dined
- 37 Hatchet man, at times
- 39 Concerning the kidneys
- 40 '49 alliance
- 41 Acme
- 42 "Match Game" emcee Rayburn
- 44 "... ___, whatever will be, will be"
- 45 Contrary girl
- 46 Bireme feature
- 48 Sofer of "General Hospital"
- 49 Country hotels
- 50 In peak position?
- 52 Where some will take a bow?
- 55 Amount to make do with
- 57 Abbr. for Jesse Jackson
- 59 Cell phone signal strength indicators
- 63 Birthday gift

- 64 accompanier
- 64 Get the lead out
- 67 Slight advantage
- 70 Boxer's nickname, often
- 71 B'way box office buys
- 72 "... penny, two ..." ("Hot Cross Buns" line)
- 73 "To Sir With Love" singer
- 75 Harem guard
- 76 Keel over
- 77 "Free Willy" animal
- 78 Russian pop duo
- 79 Beau Brummell's alma mater
- 80 Former GM electronics subsidiary
- 82 Black, to Blake
- 83 "Come to ___!"
- 84 Certain playing card
- 90 "Aladdin" apparition
- 91 Let out of the corral
- 92 Writing music, e.g.
- 93 Bear's abode
- 97 Shelley Fabares' aunt
- 98 Reason to file Chapter 11
- 101 Financial statement heading
- 104 Wasteful things?
- 105 One of the Great Lakes
- 106 Devoid of logic
- 107 Ford model named for a horse
- 108 More than capable
- 109 A choir may stand on it
- 111 Fair offerings
- 112 Eventually be
- 113 Bygone dictators
- 115 "... la Douce"
- 116 Apple seeds' place
- 117 B ___ (shorthand for burglary)
- 118 For fear that
- 121 Acquire

HIDATO

FIND THE PATH - SOLVE THE PUZZLE

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



www.hidato.com

Difficulty ★★★★★

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www.whatzit.com

August 17, 2009

WHATZIT?

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

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POSTER**P**
BARGAIN
S

Get your brain in gear with the MONSTER QUIZ

1. What common legal item issue by a court of law literally means 'under penalty'?
2. Who was the only person to win world titles on both bikes and cars?
3. What is the oldest swimming stroke?
4. Which European country is divided into areas called Cantons?
5. Which medical tool was developed by Francesco Sagredo in 1612?
6. What weapon was invented by Ernest Swinton and first used in 1916?
7. The word tantalize is derived from the name of which king in Greek mythology?
8. Who created the character Tarzan in 1914?
9. The evergreen shrub *Camellia Sinesis* is better known by what name?
10. In 1901, who first transmitted radio signals across the Atlantic?
11. Who won six consecutive Wimbledon singles titles in the 1980s?
12. What Italian building material when translated means 'baked earth'?
13. What links Buddy Holly, Lyndon B. Johnson and Janice Joplin?
14. Which eponymous character was Thane of Cawdor and Glamis?
15. Who wrote the adventure novel *The 39 steps*?
16. Which team won the Superbowl in 1986 for the first time?
17. What is the food tofu made from?
18. Who was the son of Poseidon and Amphirite, the god and goddess of the sea?
19. Annie Mae Bullock became famous under which name?
20. What linked Armenia, Georgia, Latvia and Moldavia?

Answers below

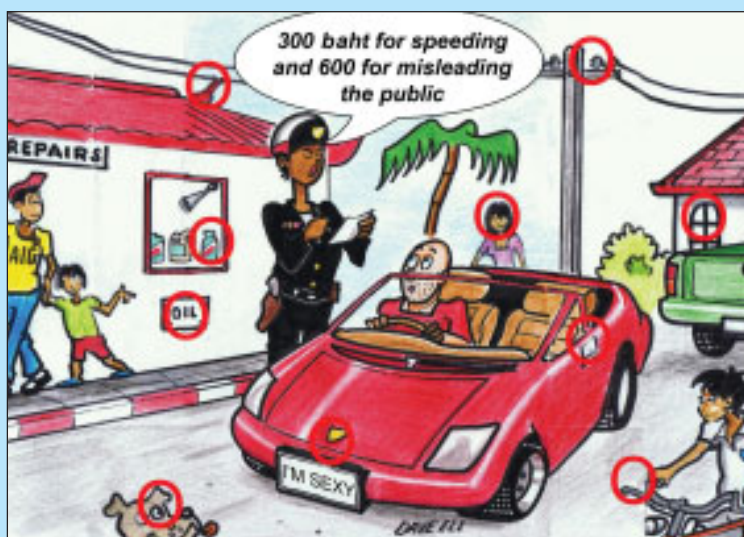
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Puzzle Solutions

WHATZIT? solutions

1. Trojan horse.
2. Breakfast in bed.
3. Snap up a bargain.

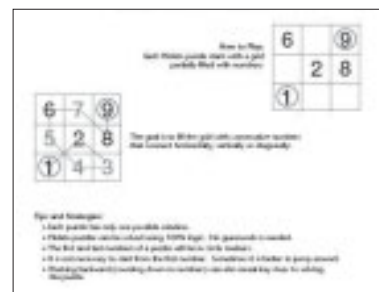
Solution to this week's Spot the Difference



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Subpoena;
2. John Surtees, England;
3. Breaststroke (16th Century);
4. Switzerland;
5. Thermometer;
6. The Tank;
7. Tantalus;
8. Edgar Rice Burroughs;
9. Tea;
10. Marconi;
11. Martina Navratilova;
12. Terracotta;
13. All Born in Texas;
14. Macbeth;
15. John Buchan;
16. New York Giants;
17. Soya Bean Curd;
18. Triton;
19. Tina Turner;
20. Former Soviet states.

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



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Unraveling this lonely cosmos



Off the SHELF

By Patrick Campbell

Many years ago, a youthful Bill Bryson announced his entry into the world of publishing with the lines, "I come from Des Moines. Somebody had to."

That's him in a nutshell: mordantly funny, self-deprecating and compellingly readable.

Now, an established reputation later, he has forsaken the safe haven of the personal reminiscence and taken off in a dangerous new direction with *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, (2004, Random House).

This impetus, fueled by his schoolboy curiosity about the universe and our place in it, was

an interest previously scuppered by boring writers who "wanted to keep the good stuff secret by making it soberly unfathomable".

So Bryson decided to "seek the answers to all those questions no one had explained to me". In the process, Anglophile Bryson went from being one of the world's best-loved travel writers to becoming a successful popularizer, compiling a 'rough guide' to everything from biology to astro-physics.

Bryson himself is enthused too; rightly awestruck by the impossible odds that even allow us 'to be here at all' – an example of the 'Goldilocks Effect' where everything must be just right.

For this reason, he doesn't speculate much about the existence of life beyond our lonely planet, though the sheer unimaginable immensity of the cosmos surely makes this highly probable.

The opening sections are replete with mind-boggling facts. If the Earth is a pea, then Jupiter is 300 yards down the road. But on the same scale, Proxima Centauri, our nearest star, is

10,000 light years away.

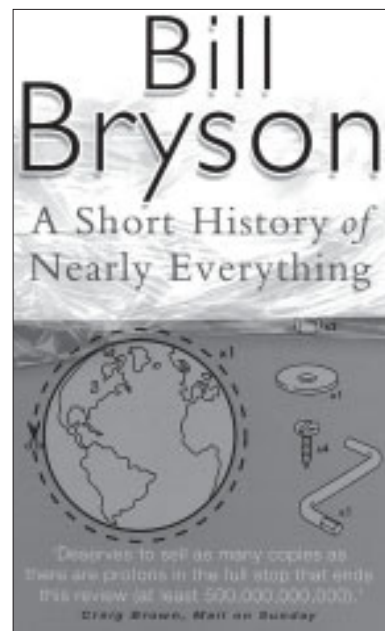
It gets wilder. Our Milky Way contains perhaps 400 billion stars and is only one of maybe 140 billion other galaxies.

Even one human being has "enough potential energy to explode with the force of 30 very large hydrogen bombs, assuming you knew how to liberate it".

But what makes the account so readable is the human interest. "What a piece of work is man," announced Hamlet. Bryson would concur, more or less wholeheartedly. He gives full value to the colossi of science – Newton, Darwin and Einstein, but Bryson is especially good at ferreting out fascinating biographical details.

Thus, the Reverend Bob Evans, armed only with his domestic telescope, has become the world's leading discoverer of supernovae simply because he has an uncanny ability to detect a single change in the teeming night sky.

Then there's Isaac Newton, who pierced his eyeball to the retina to see what would happen – fortunately nothing – and



Cavendish, the first to combine hydrogen and oxygen to form water, but who was given to "subject[ing] himself to graduated jolts of electric current".

For these pioneers were all iconoclasts – literally image breakers – who tackled questions of enormous complexity, often with nothing more than their mathematical genius or their visionary

imaginations to assist them.

How did the universe start? How did life on earth begin? What is the age of our planet?

Closer to home, when did homo sapiens first appear? Why don't the seas get more saline, or more silted up? Why did the human brain get larger?

Many of these questions were answered by scientists so unassuming they never even bothered to announce their findings.

But Bryson is not entirely sanguine about mankind. In his final chapter, entitled 'Goodbye', he poses a puzzled question:

"If we are the highest form of life – maybe anywhere – why do we possess this impulse to exterminate our fellow creatures?" The dodo, the sea cow, Bachman's warbler, the Tasmanian tiger – the list is endless...

He concludes:

"As far as we can tell, we are the best there is. We may be all there is. It's an unnerving thought that we may be the living universe's supreme achievement and its worst nightmare simultaneously."

Horoscopes



Isla Star

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Virgoans may find this a frustrating week as appointments are liable to be changed at the last minute. Another earth sign gives you the runaround on Monday, but it would be wise to keep your cool with this person as future collaboration is forecast to go more smoothly. The number five is lucky on Tuesday.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): A surprise development at work gives Librans the perfect opportunity to move up a level. Those with a partner may not get the support they need to take on new responsibilities. The stars suggest the second half of September will bring unexpected demands on your finance. Wear the color rose pink to encourage understanding.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): The stars continue to affect your confidence positively. Those born under the sign of Scorpio who would like to further their careers will find it easy to create a good impression this week. Wednesday is the most auspicious day for scheduling job interviews, but you will probably have to wait until the end of the month for a definite offer of employment.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): A fairly uneventful week lies ahead for most Sagittarians, although there is activity behind the scenes at work that could be to your advantage later in the month. Someone may have to back out of a holiday arrangement, but another fire sign friend would appreciate taking their place. Those who recently experienced a break up will now

be ready to celebrate their new found single status.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Your week starts with stormy skies overhead due to unsettled astral conditions affecting work. A water sign colleague is jealous of your success – Tuesday is the best day to talk to this person about their negative attitude. The stars indicate that financial gain is due late next week. Wear the color bronze to encourage diplomacy.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): A demanding week lies ahead for those born under the sign of Aquarius. Friends are forecast to arrive from overseas and this is likely to be without prior notice. A romantic date is subject to cancellation this weekend, but you start to see a pattern emerging and may want to dig more deeply for answers.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Those Pisceans seeking other accommodation could be offered a stopgap this week. The stars suggest that a temporary solution to your housing problem may come from a friend who is planning a long trip. This could be a golden opportunity to save some money. An ex-partner is forecast to make contact from overseas around the middle of the month.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Many Arians will be ready to take some financial tips on board this week. A sensible Virgoan friend can help you see ways to economize, but Libra's radical suggestions will make you see red. Where work is concerned, the coast is clear to put forward a

scheme that you have been nurturing for a while. Wednesday is the best day to schedule a serious meeting for. The number six can bring some luck on Sunday.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Returning to your roots is highlighted this week. Those Taureans who are traveling home will learn that it. Finances are affected by benevolent astral conditions – your chances of gain are strong until the end of the month. Meditate on reality, not on how you think things should be.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Geminis should guard against their tempers over-heating this week. Events on Monday and Tuesday could cause you to blow up, but this will only weaken your position. Be prepared to admit you made a wrong move and the atmosphere will lighten. Wear the color lotus pink to encourage a softer outlook.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Cancerians will enjoy sailing on calm waters this week as your outlook benefits from a helpful astral atmosphere. Money matters are well-starred and new work projects should receive the

backing you need. Where romance is concerned, you find the right words on Sunday to convince someone that your motives are heartfelt.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Some Leos realize that the grass really might be greener on the other side of the jungle. A trip away gives you ideas about relocating which probably won't be well received by certain family members. Those who are unattached will have no trouble convincing themselves it's time to move on. Wear the color ruby red to encourage good luck.

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Turbines not the answer

While well intentioned, the plan to erect enormous wind turbines in the Karon hillsides would probably come at too steep a cost to Phuket's environment and landscape to justify the amount of power they would generate, as official studies have already shown.

There is global consensus that development of renewable power resources is an important goal to ensure sustainable, environmentally friendly supplies for future generations. It is also widely agreed that wind farms will play an increasingly important role in that effort.

Some countries are experiencing rapid growth and technological advancement in harnessing the power of wind. Leading the charge are countries like Denmark, where wind farms now account for nearly 20 percent of power production.

In the USA, which now produces more megawatts of wind-power annually than any other country, production almost tripled over the four-year period from 2005 to 2008.

Last month the Thai government announced that private firms have applied to set up wind farms in a number of provinces, with a combined expected production capacity of 1,600 megawatts.

The proposed wind farm in Phuket is just one of several that the Energy Ministry is considering around the country in a bid to increase electricity production in Thailand to 800MW annually by 2012.

While these are fine goals, the *Gazette* feels that the Nakkerd Hills are a poor choice of site for the project.

As anyone who has visited the Big Buddha image knows, the elevation does seem to enjoy the type of sustained winds needed to make putting turbines there plausible – though this has yet to be scientifically confirmed.

However, the prospect of having turbines tower above Phuket's largest religious icon and mar the view of the surrounding hillsides would create such an implausible eyesore that it is surprising that the Mingmongkol Faith 45 foundation is in favor of it, as the Energy Office claims.

It will also be interesting to see what the Royal Forest Department thinks of the plan, which would inevitably endanger the few remaining strands of virgin forest in the south of the island and lead to further encroachment.

From an economic standpoint, the conclusions of an independent review article on the prospects of wind power in Thailand commissioned by the Natural Research Council of Thailand and published last year are telling: "wind power is unlikely to be economically competitive where grid-connected electricity is available... in the foreseeable future."

Let's keep what remains of the beauty of the Nakkerd Hills intact for the future of the island's tourism industry.

– *Stephen Fein*

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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.

Jet-ski solution

A dozen years ago, I was consulting for a company which ran a couple of dozen jet-skis in Hawaii.

We had the same understandable complaints about safety and noise.

The solution was fairly simple: we anchored a platform 200 meters from the beach and kept the jet-skis there during the day.

The customers were ferried out on a slow moving quiet electric boat, so no one was bothered or endangered.

The operator was required to ensure that customers didn't get any closer to the beach than the raft.

We even put up umbrellas and served cold drinks and snacks for additional income, so everyone was happy. There are always equitable solutions to conflicts. Just ask me!

**Elliot Klein
Phuket**

Regulate jet-skis

It's about time that Phuket eliminated all illegal jet-skis on the island.

All jet-skis should have proper documents – registration documents, service records for example – and some type of basic insurance that protects the renter as well as the owner.

I also think it would be a good idea to have the jet-ski owners register their businesses in Phuket with appropriate names such as 'Andaman Jet-ski Rentals'.

Once all that is done, there should be fewer problems.

If these suggestions are put into practice, there should be a government or private agency

assigned to regulate jet-ski businesses, ensuring they are adhering to the rules and regulations.

I don't think jet-skis should be eliminated completely as they are an exciting part of a vacation that families and other tourists like to enjoy.

I am a jet-skier, and I have never had any problems in Phuket or in other places where I have rented jet skis.

Perhaps this is because I am experienced; for many foreigners it is their first time.

**Paul Scott
Chalong**

It's your own fault

I don't understand why people ignore the red flags on the beach – everybody knows what they mean.

If you enter the sea when it is rough and when the red flags are out, it is your own fault if you get into trouble and die.

Blaming the Thai authorities for people drowning when the red flags are out is the same as people who blame the tobacco industry when they are diagnosed with cancer as a result of smoking every day for years. Ridiculous.

I have visited Phuket many times. I'm coming back again in December and even at that time of year when the sea is supposed to be safe, you can sometimes feel the force of the small waves.

Why ignore the warnings?

**Anukka Valle
Finland**

Bang Tao rubbish

Just who is it that is allowing Bang Tao Beach to become a disgraceful rubbish dump?

All the makeshift half-hearted attempts at beach bars

are nothing more than obstructive eye-sores.

Just why are the authorities permitting these dreadful shacks to be constructed along what was once a secluded and pristine beach?

Nobody wants these places, which is why they are empty.

The authorities should get rid of them before tourists decide enough is enough and pack their bags.

I feel sorry for the management and owners of the Dusit Thani hotel, which appears to have become a particular victim of this uncontrolled 'development'.

**Michael Turnbull
Hong Kong**

Same old story

Having heard about the confrontation between some British Marines and jet-ski operators featured in a recent documentary on British TV, it seems the more things change the more they stay the same.

In my role at the Australian Embassy from 1996-98, one of my duties was to travel to ports being visited by Australian warships and brief the crews on those things which may cause them problems – booze, drugs, ladyboys, jet-skis, motorcycle hire and fighting Thais.

I then spent the next four or five days liaising with the police, jet-ski owners, motorbike rental shops and bar owners, trying to prevent my troops getting the short end of the stick.

These problems would be simple to fix if those in power had the desire to fix them.

**Midasthailand
Gazette/Thai Visa
Phuket Forum**

Looking to the future



FIRST PERSON

Last month, the *Gazette* broke the story on the disappearance or destruction of around 90 percent of the Coral Reef Squadron. Sunk less than a year ago in Bang Tao Bay, the project was hailed a huge success and served as a lifeline for the area's dwindling coral reefs and underwater ecosystems. But following the disappearance of the Coral Reef Squadron, many people were quick to write the project off as a total disaster. In the wake of this criticism, Rainer Gottwald, CEO of the Thailand Diving Association's (TDA) Technical Committee, spoke to the *Gazette*'s Daniel Ogunshakin about why the project wasn't a total failure and what the TDA would do differently next time.

Regardless of what has subsequently happened, the Coral Reef Squadron was a worthwhile project which generated a wealth of positive media attention for Phuket.

After the sinking, we had some Hollywood film makers visit the Coral Reef Squadron and shoot underwater footage of the planes.

They told us the scenes would be used for special effects purposes in future motion pictures.

From a PR point of view this kind of publicity was priceless for Phuket and Thailand.

The Coral Reef Squadron also appeared on the pages of hundreds of magazines worldwide and as a result, Phuket and Thailand's reputation benefited from the hype.

It was also a sign to the Kingdom that the TDA was active and was keen to promote environmental conservation and protection, and that we were demonstrating our duty to

preserve some of this world's natural beauty for future generations.

Originally, our dream was to sink a ship in Bang Tao Bay, but because this wasn't possible, we still had to do something to show the dive industry we were serious about marine conservation – and so the Coral Reef Squadron idea was born.

And it was a success. Thousands of divers dived the site and the wrecks are allowing life to flourish and attracting fish, even though some are broken.

Corals are still forming on the wrecks and a lot of fish are still using the structures for shelter against the currents.

Of course, we were disappointed with how things panned out, but we weren't helped by local fishermen who fished illegally above the site, dropping their anchors and nets onto the wrecks below.

I went down with an engineer and he showed me where an anchor had crashed into one of the planes.

When the shell of the plane is damaged, the currents will make short work of the remainder of the wreck.

We also went out to remove the nets time and time again and even tried to catch the fishermen on site, but they were too fast for us.

For future projects, we might have to have more security at the site or perhaps provide the fishermen with their own fish attracting devices.

As for the current state of the Coral Reef Squadron, I believe when the weather is better, we might find more of the site remains than perhaps we first thought.

Because of the weather and currents, we were unable to examine some of the deeper parts of the site and it's quite possible a lot of the wrecks have been covered by sand.

When we did the initial survey to determine where we should sink the planes, we conducted it behind Koh Waew, which is more protected from the

current, but we were told we were unable to sink them there as it would encroach on the national park.

The final decision to place the planes where they are now wasn't made by the TDA, but of course we were obliged to help sink the planes to the bottom because we were aware of the amount of money that had been spent and of the impact it could have on protecting the underwater environment – providing relief for existing dive sites was our main agenda.

Protecting coral reefs and marine life is of the utmost importance for the TDA and for the diving industry.

We don't want to get to the stage where we can only allow five people to dive a certain reef per day.

It would damage the local economy if we were forced to tell people they must stay at home instead of diving because reefs in the area couldn't support any more divers.

This would cause a lot of people in the dive tourism industry to suffer.

Where we can pull together, is to promote the use of artificial reefs and fish attracting devices.

It's our belief that every major beach in Phuket must have fish attracting devices.

We didn't have the opportunity to take control of the project last time because there were too many other organizations involved. It became a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth.

Next time, we would like to use our own specialists who have expertise and experience gained worldwide.

We would also like to take responsibility for the whole project, rather than having people responsible for telling us what to do.

For the time being, we at the TDA are focusing our energies on promoting our Marine Scout project in schools.

The project is recognized by UNESCO, the World Under-

water Association as well as numerous other organizations around the world and they have adopted the Marine Scout project as their own vehicle for educating children.

We have published 50,000 books entitled *Coral Reefs and Mangroves: All we Need to Know* for children, and we're taking the books to local schools to teach kids about the environment and the CMAS 10 golden rules for coral reef preservation.

Young people are the best people to teach about the importance of protecting the underwater environment and marine conservation.

It's harder to get an old buffalo like me to change the way they do things, but young people are easy to teach.

It's easy to make them aware of the beauty that exists around them and the consequences they face if they fail to look after it.

The Marine Scout project will produce results in the future, but for the time being we need to ensure the reefs still exist when the Marine Scout project bears fruit.

Fish attracting devices will take the pressure off existing dive sites and should help to preserve them for generations to come.

Also, next year will see the launch of the internationally recognized TDA/CMAS 'Scientific Diver' program and certification, which will teach divers about the marine environment and conservation.

We at the TDA hope this will push people to make more of an effort to preserve the underwater habitat.

The diving community needs to pull together as one to ensure our industry can survive.

Even if we aren't working directly together on the same projects, if everyone is making the effort to try and make a difference to protect our livelihood it can only be a good thing.

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

Can I work while studying?

I wish to come to Thailand and study on an education visa in a few months.

I have enough money for the course and visa payments, as well as enough money to get settled in for the first six months. After that, I will need to be able to support myself.

Are there any rules that prevent students from gaining employment in Thailand while studying?

**Ian Jones
New York, USA**

Pol Capt Rassarin Teerapattanakul, Sub-Inspector, Phuket Immigration, replies:

No, you can not work in Thailand under a student visa because student visas are not one of the visa categories under which a work permit can be issued.

To work in Thailand you will need a non-immigrant visa of a category that allows a work permit to be issued.

The majority of foreigners working in Thailand have work permits issued under non-immigrant 'B' visas.

It isn't possible to hold both visas concurrently.

For more information contact Phuket Immigration, 482 Phuket Road, T. Taladyai, A. Muang, Phuket 83000. T: 076-221905. F: 076-212108. E: phuketimmigration@gmail.com. W: phuketimmigration.go.th.



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MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

Richard G Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service, and has over 25 years experience in this field.

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In Thailand, Touchwood is a Board of Investment (BOI) approved company which manages two different types of plantations. The first is bamboo (left) which has a wide range of uses. The second is agarwood (*crassna*) which comes from the aquilaria tree (right).

Over the years writing this column, I have from time to time mentioned investments in detail. In all cases they have been managed by registered financial institutions and have been simple for readers to research further. The risks have been obvious.

This week's example is completely different. This is by intention. I do not endorse the following investment; I simply do not know if it is good, bad or indifferent.

The company is Touchwood, and its area of operations is managed forestry. Touchwood Asia's head office is in Bangkok, and its forestry areas cover Thailand, Sri Lanka and Australia.

In Thailand, Touchwood is a Board of Investment (BOI) approved company. It manages two different types of plantations.

The first is bamboo, which is, in fact, classified as a tree. The particular type of bamboo Touchwood works with is known as *Dendrocalamus Asper*.

Bamboo has a wide range of uses, including furniture, construction, flooring, fibers, as well as in the charcoal, energy and refining industries. Byproducts include edible shoots and cattle fodder. It is also the fastest growing plant on the planet.

Touchwood's bamboo investments are over a 13-year term. The company claims that from year three onwards investors will have a return varying from 15 percent to 18 percent per annum. It all depends on the amount you invest. For 20 bamboo trees the investment is US\$5,515, which in turn gives a projected harvest value of US\$17,058.

The largest investment is 450 trees, which costs US\$102,650, with a projected harvest value of US\$383,810, although these figures are not guaranteed.

Once the 13-year term has expired the investor will receive no further returns. If the investment returns 15-18 percent from years four to 13 as claimed,

this would be similar to a very high yielding term certain annuity. During the term of the investment, ownership is fully transferable. This is not likely to be an easy process unless done in the early stages and returns have matched sales brochure estimates.

Touchwood's second possible investment is in agarwood (*crassna*). Its source is the aquilaria tree, which is found in Southeast Asia. It is apparently listed by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) as falling into this category. If it is grown on a plantation it can be traded. It is claimed to be the most expensive resinous wood in the world.

Known by a number of different names, including gaharu, eaglewood, aloeswood, jinko and chen xiang, agarwood is highly aromatic and used in perfume, aromatherapy and incense.

Touchwood says it has virtually endless demand for this product in the Gulf States, where it is used for perfume. It does not require the addition of alcohol in perfume manufacture, which means it adheres to Islamic codes.

Touchwood treats Agarwood as a seven-year investment and, depending on the number of trees, claims annual returns of between 14.5 and 23 percent.

Investors' capital is

returned after the seven-year period.

Although the investments are in Thailand, investments should be made in US dollars. Touchwood states that while investment is possible in Thai baht, it would be taxable. None of the returns are guaranteed.

This is a completely different type of investment – *caveat emptor*. Please direct enquiries to Touchwood. The company's website is available at www.touchwood.com.

Another type of investment is the New Earth Solutions Recycling Facilities Investment Sub-fund, an investment option offered by the Premier Group.

This is a normal unit trust/mutual fund-type investment. The fund is registered in the Isle of Man and is classified as an experienced investor fund that is supervised by the Isle of Man authorities. It is available to the public but any application must reflect the experience of the investor to be able to qualify for this category of fund.

Most investments, in reality, will be via insurance companies, with the institution being the 'experienced investor'. This is all to the benefit of investors because before any fund is accepted by insurance companies it has to run the stringent gauntlet of their investment committees.

New Earth is one of the new 'green' funds. However, it does not concern itself with the

glamorous end of that market. Rather, it deals in waste management and has, through New Earth Solutions, contracts with various city and county councils in the UK such as Bristol City Council, Bournemouth City Council and Leicestershire County Council.

New Earth Solutions receives a fee per tonne of waste it processes, as well as income from the sale of recycled materials. It already has three operational waste treatment facilities, with more to open in 2010 and 2011.

Another group operation is New Earth Energy, which closes the 'loop' between waste treatment and energy recovery.

The underlying holdings of the fund are valued by property

specialists GVA Grimley, who have 180 years of experience in property valuations.

The fund auditors are one of the 'big four': Ernst & Young. Custodian bank is BNP Paribas through its Isle of Man branch. BNP Paribas is France's largest bank.

Premier Group is an established fund management group. I have known its chairman Mike Richardson for over 17 years; since he was managing director of Clerical Medical International, now part of Lloyds Banking Group.

The fund, although very new, has performed well. Returns are: three months +2.66 percent; six months +6.56 percent; one year +12.10 percent, net of annual management fees.



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Academicals give masterclass

A win and a draw was enough to see the Phuket Academicals crowned winners of the Khanasutra Cup held at the British International School (BIS) last Saturday.

The Academicals, comprising teachers from BIS, won their opening match against the visiting Singapore Pirates before battling out an exciting draw with the Phuket Old Boys.

In the other match, the Singapore Pirates upset the Old Boys with two sucker punch goals to leave the Phuket Town-based side in last place.

In the opening match, the Old Boys faced the Singapore Pirates and despite dominating the first half, the Old Boys found themselves trailing at half time courtesy of a defensive mix-up.

After the restart, the Old Boys started brightly once more and bagged a deserved equalizer, striker Ian Readings finding the back of the net.

The home side were enjoying the lions share of the possession, but as they piled forward in search of a winner, a hopeful through ball from the visiting side caught the defense flat footed, allowing the Pirates to grab an unlikely winner.

As the Old Boys were left to dwell on their defeat, Pirates took on the Phuket Academicals in the tournament's second game.

Playing two matches in quick succession took its toll on the visitors and the Academicals

capitalized, rushing out to a 3-0 lead before half time with goals from Callum Ferguson and Mark Lightfoot (two).

The game appeared dead and buried, but to their credit the Pirates managed to claw their way back into the game with a goal either side of half time to trail by one.

Desperately searching for an equalizer, the visitors piled forward but were unable to breach a new-look Academicals defense and were stung on the counter attack.

Mark Lightfoot capped a memorable performance, securing a 4-2 victory for the Academicals by completing his hat-trick.

The Academicals went into the final game knowing that a draw would be enough to guarantee the top spot, and with it the prestigious Khanasutra Cup.

The Old Boys were determined to make up for the disappointment of losing their opening game and controlled much of the early possession.

Another defensive mix up by the Old Boys resulted in a free kick being awarded on the edge of the box which was curled over the wall and into the net by Lightfoot for his fourth goal of the tournament.

The Old Boys pressed forward in search of an equalizer, but a combination of good goalkeeping and lackluster finishing kept them at bay until Pedro Carrera outjumped the Academicals defense to head home.

The second half saw more pressure from the Old Boys and



MISSED OPPORTUNITY: The Phuket Old Boys missed numerous chances in both games and were made to pay as they finished in last place.

Ian Readings smashed home their second goal, leaving the mathematicians on the sidelines scratching their heads over which team was actually winning the tournament.

Moments later, the scores were level again.

A rare Academicals attack resulted in the ball finding its way to Mark Lightfoot, who, turning brilliantly, bemused the Old Boys' defense and created space for himself to calmly slot a late equalizer, ensuring his team topped the group with four points

from their two games.

The Phuket Academicals have lost a number of key players since last season, including veteran goalkeeper Daryl Orchard.

Manager Peter Oldfield was delighted to see the new-look side pick up its first piece of silverware.

"It was good to see the new players fitting in so well and the performance of the 'keeper was encouraging," he said.

"Mark Lightfoot was brilliant, he was superb all day. I

would also like to say a big thank you to the Khanasutra restaurant in Phuket Town for sponsoring this tournament."

The final standings were: Phuket Academicals first with four points, Singapore Pirates second with three points and the Phuket Old Boys third with one point.

Mark Lightfoot's five goals saw him walk away with both the golden boot and the player of the tournament award.

-James Goyder

New Lifesaving Carnival date announced by Lifeguard club

The Phuket Lifesaving Carnival is set to return to Patong next month after the the original event in July was postponed because of bad weather. The carnival is now scheduled to take place on October 3.

Carnival organizers are hoping to attract between 40 and 60 international entrants and as many as 80 local participants for the various events which will include a series of races both in-and-out of the water, and a lifesaving competition.

This year there are categories for all age groups, ranging from under-15s to over-50s, while a category for Thai nationals has been introduced as part of an effort by the organizers to promote water safety and skills within the Thai community.

The event is organized by The Phuket Lifeguard Club which conducts regular training programs for local adults and children in water safety, rescue, first aid and beach management skills.

The carnival will be based at Loma Park in Patong Beach and is sponsored by Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort, Patong Municipality, Phuket International Hospital and Absolute Resorts.

Anyone interested in sponsorship should contact Jayne Macdougall. Email: jayne.macdougall@lemeridien.com. For more information visit www.phuketlifeguard.com.

Saphan Hin to host '09 Futsal Championship

The Andaman Futsal Championship 2009 will take place at Saphan Hin from September 17 to September 20. Registration is open until September 13, with places for up to 72 teams available.

Each team may register a total of 12 players and the competition is open to both Thai and foreign nationals.

The winners will take home 30,000 baht in prize money and the championship trophy, with further cash prizes also on offer for the second- and third-placed teams, and the top goalscorer.

Each match will last 20 minutes, split into two 10-minute halves.

Futsal is similar to normal football but is played indoors with a smaller, harder ball which bounces less and much smaller goals.

This requires a much higher level of technique with the emphasis on improvisation, creativity and control.

For more information contact Sports Authority of Thailand, Phuket Office on 076-241114, 089-6455592 or 081-9286090.

-James Goyder

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Smith takes crown at Kata

Kata-based surfer Jamie Smith made the most of difficult conditions to take the prestigious shortboard crown at the final event of the Quiksilver Thailand Surf Series 2009 at Kata Beach on Sunday.

On home turf and in front of a noisy band of other Kata-based surf enthusiasts, Smith battled hard as waves became increasingly hard to come by to win by a point ahead of second-placed Yudi Andika of Indonesia.

In the other divisions, Aaron Wright lifted the longboard crown, Tiffany Riggs was named Queen of the surf by winning the women's event, while Oliver Penmitt put in a commanding performance in tough conditions to win the groms' (kids) division.

After a day of storms, strong winds and rain washed out the majority of day two of the Island Crown event, sunny skies greeted surfers and spectators, much to the relief of the organizers.

Although the rain had passed over the island, the strong winds still remained, providing competitors with some good waves, but it also made it quite difficult for the surfers to swim out past the breakers.

As a result of the lack of action on Saturday, a number of the heats carried over onto Sunday, resulting in a number of surfers having to compete up to four times over the course of the day.

The increased amount of action out on the water seemed to energize the spectators as a carnival atmosphere descended on the beach with music and prize giveaways put on by organizers.

The Island Crown event at Kata was by far the most attended of the three-part series, underlining the sport's popularity in that area of Phuket and reinforcing Kata's reputation as the home of surfing on the island.

Following the heats and semi finals in the morning, the finals got underway after a break for lunch and excitement levels on the beach rose in anticipation.

Unfortunately, the condition of the waves appeared to deteriorate in the afternoon, leaving surfers to fight hard for good surf amongst the white water.



Kata-based Jamie Smith delivered an inspired performance to claim the final crown of the three-series event, sending his fans wild as they gathered in numbers on the beach. Photos by Tim Hain

In the women's final, South Africa's Luisa Scarpa made a strong start, catching a decent wave to put her on the scoreboard and into an early lead.

Undeterred by her opponent's strong start, Tiffany Riggs started to find some good surf and posted some good scores.

As time dwindled, none of the other competitors were able to overhaul her lead and Riggs held on to win with a two-wave best score of 5.55, 1.35 points ahead of Scarpa in second.

In the groms, surf prodigy Anissa Flynn was looking to bounce back from the disappointment of not making the women's final by completing a clean sweep of titles in the kids' division.

In the two previous events, Oliver Penmitt finished second behind Flynn but was able to turn the tables on his great rival and friend to take his first title of the series.

Penmitt posted a hugely impressive two-wave best score of 9.4, finishing almost three points clear of Amnad Chisaman.

Flynn finished in fourth to complete a disappointing day at

the office.

The longboard final was the most competitive of the day, with less than a single point separating the podium finishers.

In extremely difficult conditions for longboarders, the top three of Aaron Wright, Sammarat Rattamart and Yudi Andika all produced excellent performances, and it was Wright who emerged the victor, defeating Sammarat by just 0.6 points.

With the sun slowly setting, the beach swelled with spectators for the last event of the series – the blue ribbon shortboard division.

With Kamala champion Michael Anthony absent, Kalim champ Ekkarat Sriden was many people's favorite for the title, but local lad Smith had other ideas.

Just minutes after a disappointing fourth-place finish in the longboard, Smith delivered an inspired performance to claim the final crown of the three-series event, sending his fans wild as they gathered in numbers on the beach.

The two-wave best score of 7.65 by Smith was enough to edge out Indonesia's Yudi Andika

by a single point and drew the Quiksilver Thailand Surf Series for 2009 to a memorable close.

Looking back on the series, Quiksilver's Sport Marketing Manager Jake 'the snake' Paterson was delighted at how successful the events have been.

"It was so great to come here and see the growth and development of surfing here, even just over these three events. From the grommets to the older set, they are all really into the sport and learning fast," he said.

Phuket Boardriders Club Chairman Chanin 'Joob' Aiyarak was equally effusive.

"To have Quiksilver, the

government, and our many sponsors give us this opportunity is a dream come true," he said.

"We have been working hard over these last months, years actually, so to see such a successful conclusion today makes it all worthwhile."

-Daniel Ogunshakin

2009 Thailand Surf Series Champions

Shortboard: Ekkarat Sriden

Longboard: Jamie Smith

Women's: Annisa Flynn

Groms: Annisa Flynn

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Luxury villa market in rude health



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.

For most, 2009 has been a year they wish would just end, and New Year's Day is becoming more anticipated than its more well-heeled relation, Christmas.

Over the past two years, the broad Phuket property market, Thaksin Shinawatra's political

demise, a once-in-a-lifetime global recession and the high profile political events within the Kingdom have made Thailand headline news on breaking stories across the globe.

While the broader resort-grade real estate market has hit mid-market products hard because of its reliance on overseas buyers who have been temporarily sidelined because of financial constraints, there has been much speculative talk on the state of upscale property.

Hospitality consulting firm C9 Hotelworks has done some market research on the state of play for the first half of 2009 and compiled the Luxury Villa Market Update. The new results may surprise many naysayers.

Between January and June, luxury villa sales totaled 3.5 billion baht, comprising 19 properties sold at 65 million baht and above.

A resale market has developed with existing villas producing a total of one billion baht in sales from a total luxury market value of 10 billion baht with 92 units for sale.

Comparing geographical demand, 'Millionaires' Mile' in Kamala and Nai Thon and Bang

Tao with their respective Malaiwana and Istana developments led the pack.

During last year's market overview, the east coast registered developments ranked highly, but the three highest profile projects – Cape Yamu, Jumeirah and Sri Panwa – have moved the majority of their inventories into this year, providing buyers with comparable units to those on the west coast shoreline.

Phang Nga and northern Phuket attained the highest price per square meter – in excess of 200,000 baht – as the desirable beachfront locations could demand premium prices.

Mixed-use or hotel-managed properties, as opposed to straight residential offerings, are emerging as the preferred investment vehicle in today's challenging conditions. Sales absorption rates for these properties have registered considerably higher and attained higher pricing based on pricing per square meter by 55 percent.

Projects offering guaranteed yields traded faster than those with optional rental programs.



HOUSE PRICES: Mixed-use or hotel-managed properties as opposed to straight residential offerings are emerging as the preferred investment vehicle in today's challenging conditions.

Interestingly, a number of hotels have been able to convert repeat guests into property buyers on the basis of familiarity and loyalty fostered over the years.

For developers, the first half of 2009 brought some stability to fluctuating commodity costs with many returning to what they were in the first six months of 2008. This shift has primarily come on the back of a reduction in the cost of steel.

There is now less risk to margins than at any other time during the past 12 to 18 months and longer-term volatility appears to be flattening out.

That said, the fact that labor costs have continued to rise along with inflation has many major quantity surveyors believing that costs will remain at the current level for the rest of the year.

Viewing the prospects of recovery remain dependent not only on Thailand's political and economic issues, but the wider global picture.

With continued flat market conditions expected to continue into 2010, anticipated recovery has been pushed back to 2011.

It's important to note that excellent long-term fundamentals are at play for Phuket: its improving international airlift and number of direct flights, high brand concentration and critical mass of brands.

Investment by the government is being pushed into a new international airport terminal and improvement of the islands

road network, while further development of demand generators – marinas, golf courses and the service sector – have continued to grow which all bode well for luxury property.

At the same time, however, the luxury segment is hitting barriers to entry due to limited prime seafront land. This will push new areas of development into Phang Nga and the bay. As a result of the current recession, property launches have been constrained, which has allowed excess product from the supply stream to be absorbed.

Property is by nature a cyclical business, and once normal trading patterns return, there is the potential to capture a good share of the upswing.

Phuket has continued to evolve from a sector mainly promoted by smaller independent developers into something more in line with traditional norms and standards.

Areas to watch for growth are resales, rentals and high-end fractionals. Given the connection now between hotel chains or managed products and shared ownership, I believe by next year we are going to see this segment becoming a significant niche market.

While the broader market needs to move away from its reliance on foreign purchasers and increase domestic sales, the luxury market looks set to keep on the same successful course for the time being.

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You can now access the Internet anywhere in Phuket, even if you're stuck in a remote house in the hills, speeding along in a car or out in a boat in the Andaman.

These are the claims of Phuket-based computer engineer and founder of Phuket IT Solutions Peter Russo, who has invented a range of mobile Wi-Fi Internet access devices that allow users to get online and do all those things on the Internet that take up lots of bandwidth, such as making Skype calls and accessing remote camera systems.

The Mobie Wave devices are based on 3G technology and make a wireless connection to the Internet for a laptop or a Smart phone.

"My concept of the Mobie devices had been germinating for a long time," said Peter.

"The fact that Phuket is an island means there is an abundance of yachting and many remote properties. I felt this would be as good a place as any to develop the devices and put them into practice. The Mobie has been met with a lot of enthusiasm and I'm now working with other developers to create a specialized battery that will make the Mobie 100% portable."

Even one of the world's most respected Phuket-based technology test drivers and Phuket Internet speed expert Woody Leonhard was impressed with MobieWave's Internet access capabilities.

"...Then we plugged the same card to a MobieWave wireless router and ran the same [Internet speed] test on the same computer, using a wireless connection. That test also came in at 1,200 Kbps. The folks at Phuket IT Solutions say the MobieWave includes signal boosting capabilities, to make the CAT AirCard run faster in locations with poor CDMA reception - including, they say, Boat Lagoon. We couldn't test that last Sunday but, if true, it's a bit of icing on the cake."

The MobieWave range is not Phuket IT Solutions' only product. The company provides a range of IT and Internet services, including website design and hosting, Internet marketing and SEO, hospitality software and webcam security systems - a one-stop-shop for Internet and technology needs.

"After having spent time on the island working on specialized projects, I came to realize so many services were in need of up-grading.

"I decided to settle here and establish Phuket IT with my partners Mai and Terry. I felt that my knowledge, with their support and local affiliations, would be the formula needed to succeed." said Peter.

"We offer software programming services that can be tailored to any company's need. We create hotel software booking systems, food and beverage POS solutions, as well as online accounting and invoicing."

The company is receiving national and international recognition for its independent developments in software and communication hardware, and is another pioneering company putting Phuket firmly on the map of international IT hubs.

Phuket IT & Software Solutions' offices are on the bypass road in Rassada.

For more information on the company's internet solutions, visit phuketitsolutions.com or mobiewave.com, or call 076-261988.



The MobieWave range of pocket-sized Internet connection devices create mobile hotspots, allowing users to access the Internet anywhere, even in a car, a train or out in a boat in the Andaman.

With the Wi-Fi devices, VoIP calls can be made using Smart phones. Users can send e mails and access virtual private networks and remote camera systems anywhere.



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- 6 Deferred Payment Plan

*Offer available for a limited period only. Contact Laguna Property for details.

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PROPERTY

For an appointment to preview The Lofts at Laguna Village, please contact:

Laguna Property Centre, Canal Village, Laguna Phuket. T. 076 362 333 property@lagunaphuket.com www.lagunalofts.com

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.

Power up with the right tools



One of this column's purposes, in addition to offering some home-repair tips and build-it-yourself projects, is to help advise readers about tools, home-repair items and/or materials which may not be as good as we could wish.

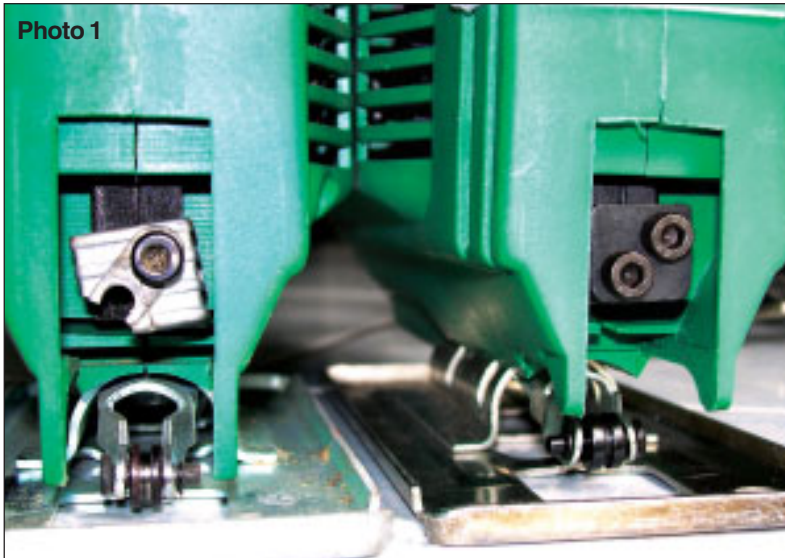
Several frequently used home workshop items that fit this category are jig-saws, drills and drill bits.

For financial reasons, we often have to purchase budget brands at Big C, Tesco-Lotus or Robinson's and make do, but there are some problems with certain budget brands.

First, the hand-held jig-saws. Almost every budget jig-saw sold here uses a small, gray, cast-metal blade retainer on the front of the shaft which holds the blade.

Even with different brands, this piece is as exactly identical. *Don't* buy any saw that has this type of piece.

This small piece, *when*, not *if*, but *when* it breaks, will totally disable your saw, because when that part breaks, there's no way



to hold the blade (photo 1, left). No replacements are available and you must buy another saw.

The best tip to help prolong this crucial piece's life – don't over torque!

This piece is very thin and brittle, since it's cast, not stamped or forged.

It's held in place by two small Allen head screws, which are made of far stronger metal. Insert your blade, align carefully and tighten, but do *not* over-tighten. Once it cracks, that's it!

A small trick which may help. Before inserting a blade, wrap two complete turns of scotch-type tape around the part of the blade's shaft which is covered by this retainer. Any more and the blade won't fit in the retainer's slot.

Two wraps give a sort of 'cushioning effect' and allow the retainer to compress something other than itself.

If you do this, you may

have to go easy on the 'pushing' when using the saw, as the blade may slip if pushed too hard, but a light touch is better anyway. Let the blade do the work, not your arm.

I've recently seen some budget brands which have this piece made of a black-colored metal, that looks to be of better quality, and have bought one to check it out (photo 1, right).

It hasn't broken yet, but I'm waiting... and being careful.

Drills sold here are usually acceptable, but the cheap hammer drills have an annoying tendency for the hammer-mode activator switch to become loose, and slide enough into position to activate the hammer function when not needed.

Not much can be done, due to the switch's cross-wise design.

On projects that required a lot of drilling but no hammer, I've used a tie-wrap to hold a small 'button' of wood over it to keep it in place.

Advice: use a hammer drill for masonry work only, use a standard drill for everything else.

Another problem is the keys used to operate the chuck jaws – the chuck is the three-



jawed vise-like part that holds the drill bits.

These 'keys' are made of cheaper metal than the chuck jaws and can wear down quickly (photo 2 shows, left, the original worn key, and, right, a newer, better one).

Remember when using them to turn them slowly and smoothly, applying downward as well as rotational torque, to keep their teeth in tight contact with the chuck's teeth. Otherwise the key's teeth will

slip and wear down.

Luckily, replacement keys are available and seem to be harder than the ones usually included with new drills. Buy one when you buy your drill – it's always a good idea to have two keys around, just in case one goes missing. Also, keep the chuck jaws lubricated.

Lastly, drill bits. Photo 3 shows, top to bottom, a wood bit, a masonry bit, a quality twist bit used for metal and a cheap twist bit.

Notice the cheap bit's dull-looking metal and its overly deep grooves, creating a visibly thinner cross section.

Cheap bits dull quickly, and being of poorly-tempered metal, will bend, instead of break, when overstressed or overheated.

This is dangerous because a bit that breaks will send your drill into the work-face rather suddenly, but the drill will still be moving away from you.

A drill bit that bends, however, can cause the drill to buck and twist in your hands and instantly bring your fingers into close contact with the business end which is still rapidly spinning a sharp piece of metal.

Avoid packs of ten for a few baht and buy only good, imported bits from Germany, Sweden or the USA.

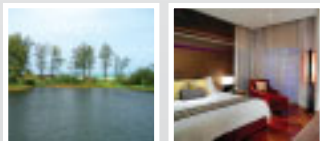
They are much longer-lasting and safer. Remember: you can always earn more money, but you can't grow new fingers.

That's it for now. Have a beer, but always be extra careful when using your power tools! See you next time!

laguna
PROPERTY RESALE

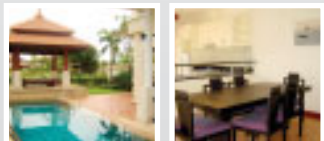
Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket

1 Sheraton Island Villa - Duplex THB 19.9 M



- 3-storey 2 beds 2.5 baths
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2 Laguna Village Townhome THB 21 M



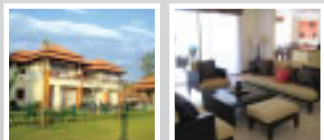
- 2-storey 4 beds 4 baths
- fully furnished
- rental programmed
- lagoon view

3 Laguna Townhome THB 22 M



- 2-storey 3 beds Townhome
- maids' quarter • on golf course
- 25 sqm private pool

4 Laguna Village Residence THB 38 M



- 2-storey detached house
- 4 beds 3 baths • lagoon view
- fully furnished

5 Dusit Thani Pool Villas THB 38 M



- 3-storey Townhome
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Construction Update

Patong

New condo to elevate style in Patong

A new 44-unit condominium development aimed at offering investment opportunities in stylish high-quality accommodation is currently under construction on Prabamee Road in Patong.

Work began on the High Style Condominium development in June this year and is expected to be completed toward the end of 2010.

When complete, the development will offer a wide range of on-site facilities, including parking, a restaurant, a fitness center and a convenience store.

Designed by Supasit Uthairat, construction is being carried out by Phujinda Co Ltd. Consultancy services are being provided by Rich Building Co.

Built on one rai, the project comprises two eight-story buildings, each with car parking facilities. Building (A) will house one car parking area, while building (B) will have two car parks, plus the roof-top fitness center and swimming pool.

The residential development offers customers either one- or two-bedroom units of various sizes.

The units range in size from



High Style Condominium units range in size from 37.6 to 127sqm and offer sea views. Unit prices range from 2.4 to 19 million baht.

37.6 square meters to 127 square meters, each with an en-suite bathroom, a kitchen, dining area, living area and balconies offering sea views over Patong Bay.

Unit prices range from 2.4 million baht to a maximum of 19 million baht.

The developers aim to offer

a secure and modern living environment with stylish interiors and high tech security, including CCTV.

Hire purchase options are available for Thai and foreign buyers, plus a rental pool program for non-Thais.

-Thanasorn Choockate



The eight-story High Style Condominium comprises two buildings offering a total of 44 one- and two-bedroom units.

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Property Gazette

Properties For Sale

NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO



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

2 NICE HOUSES, QUICK SALE



Kathu area. Nice house, private, 215sqm, 2 floors, swimming pool, garden. 8.5 million baht.

House, 23sqm, furnished, 1.7 million baht. Tel: 081-541 2025 (English & Thai), 081-767 6200 (English & Thai).

LAND: RAWAI BEACH

Area: 850sqm, with fantastic possibilities. 3rd row from the sea, 150m to the beach. Chanote Title, registered company. About 2km to Tesco Lotus Chalong. Price: 5.9 million baht. Tel: 089-646 5877. Email: fiski109@get2net.dk

2 HOUSES AND FURNITURE

for sale in Kathu area. Single house, 215sqm, 2 floors, swimming pool. 7 million baht.

House, 23sqm, furnished, 1.7 million baht. Tel: 081-719 4578.

NEW BRAND CONDO

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

HOUSE & FURNITURE FOR SALE

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

CHEAP HOUSE FOR SALE

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

350,000 BAHT CONDO



center Rawai. Sale, lease or rent 5,000 baht per month, furnished, WiFi, pool. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

LAND IN PAKLOK

1.87 rai (or 2,812sqm) set in natural surroundings near Bang Pae Waterfall on north east coast. Great mountain and sea views. A must see! Nor Sor Sam Gor title. Company owned. Topographical survey available. Price: 5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-895 3347 (English & Thai). Email: lamacaBP@gmail.com

BEAUTIFUL 950SQM LAND

in Rawai. Located just 50 meters off Samakkee 2. Cleared land plot ideally suited for a large private villa or can be subdivided into 2 smaller plots. 3.9 million baht. Tel: 081-808-8896.

NEW TOWNHOUSE

for sale. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room. 2 million baht. Tel: 081-895 3661.

LAND FOR SALE IN KATHU

945sqm near Loch Palm golf course. 3,400,000 baht. Tel: 076-323674, 089-724 7211 (English), 084-304 1155 (Thai). Fax: 076-323724. Email: info@botanvillage.com

KARON VILLA TOWNHOUSE

with Chanote title, 2 large bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. Garden extension possible. 6.3 million baht. No agents. Tel: 089-594 0423.

SEAVIEW POOL VILLA 10.8M BAHT



from 10.8 million baht. Surin and Bang Tao Beaches only 2.6km away. New development with all utilities, fantastic views. Home area 341sqm, land area 540sqm, Chanote title. Tel: 084-744-2240. Email: ross@funboatcruises.com

CLUB LERSUANG

Two-bed apartment at Club Lersuang, Bang tao Beach. Fantastic facilities. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 076-271870, 087-079 0650 (English). Email: mlcberg@netvigator.com

LAND PLOTS IN KATHU

15 rai of land with electricity and blue book. 650,000 baht per rai. Be the first to get the best piece. Call our office for more information. Tel: 076-381303. Fax: 076-381303. Email: maria@bayproject.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 email: allservices29@gmail.com

HALF RAI SEAVIEW



land for sale. Top of Soi Phrabarammee 3, Patong, Phuket. Stunning sea and mountain views. Plot size 60m x 1.5m Plot area 900sqm. Title, freehold, Nor Sor Sam Kor, concrete road access, 3 phase electricity, water by supplier or own well, elevation. Slope: 75m above sea level. Price 7.5 million baht. Contact Mr Ronald A. Crane. Tel: 0044 7885 488091. Email: craneprop@hotmail.co.uk

RAWAI HOUSE BARGAIN

2 storey house for sale. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, pool, seaview. 7.2 million baht for quick sale! Tel: 087-800 3942.

CHANOTE 7 RAI

for sale. Mai Khao, 200m from the beach. Connecting condominiums projects a possibility. Can purchase just one or two rai. Tel: 080-719 8627.

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

HOUSES IN KATHU

for sale in Anuphas Golf Ville, Kathu. Both houses have 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, small swimming pool. One house has an added pool room with pool table. Fully furnished to a high standard. Cost furnished 8.5 million baht, unfurnished 8 million baht. Tel: 081-273 3975, 081-854 0061.

LAND NEAR YACHT HAVEN



for sale. Area: 511 square wah, 38,000 baht per square wah. Contact Mr Tachin Tel: 081-7871811, Miss Kob Tel: 081-273 3303.

2 STORY HOUSE CENTER RAWAI

Sale or lease. 160sqm. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, close to beach. 1.8 million baht. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.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.

3 BEDROOMS HOUSE

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

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

2-STOREY HOUSE IN PATONG



sea view, 2-storey house, 60sqw. 2 bedrooms with balconies, 2 bathroom, air-con, fully furnished. Chanote. Price 17 million baht ono. Tel: 087-270-9093.

MODERN HOME FOR SALE/RENT



for rent: 65,000 baht per month no charge for electricity. For sale: 15 million baht. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 1 kitchen, 6 air conditioners, 5 TVs, 1 refrigerator, fully furnished. In Chalong. Tel: 083-690 8080, 084-336 8080.

PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG



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

LAND 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.

PERFECT LAND

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

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

390sqw, nice flat land, quiet area, chanote. In Pasak Soi 5 near Laguna Home. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118, 086-709-2933.

30 RAI IN TOWN

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Property Gazette

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LAND FOR SALE

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

SEAVIEW PATONG

Hillside, 200m from the beach. Chanote and Nor Sor Sam Kor. 4 rai, 1 ngan. Tel: 081-891-8085. Email: sawasdee51@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE

for sale. Chaweng Beach, Koh Samui. 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, front+rear terrace. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-537 3450, 084-447 5997.

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

ROYAL PLACE CONDO

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

KHAO LAK HOUSE

Beautiful new private house: 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 5 additional rooms, 4 aircons, 1 out house. Quiet area, only 4 mins to beach. 6 million baht. Tel: 084-849 8699. Email: ursulaspd@gmx.net

PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND AT PA KHLOK



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

NICE PLOT BEHIND LAYAN HILL ESTATE



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

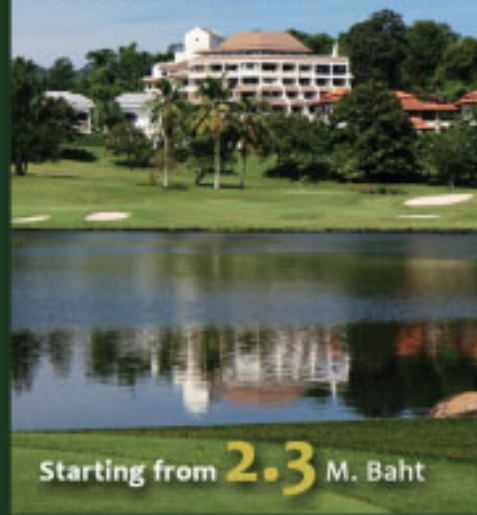
BANGLA SUITES PATONG

Snap up this new freehold condo. 31sqm, situated in the center of the action on Bangla Rd. Great investment! 6% rental return guaranteed. Priced to sell at 4.8 million baht. Call Frank at Real Pro Co Ltd. Tel: 076-345238, 084-078 2753 (English). E: info.realpro@gmail.com

LAND PLOTS IN KATHU

15 rai of land with electricity and blue book. 650,000 baht per rai. Be the first to get the best piece. Call our office for more information. Tel: 076-381303. Fax: 076-381303. Email: maria@bayproject.com

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SOLE AGENT

LAND UP HILL KARON 7 M

Old lady wants to share her money with kids. Asking for 7 million baht. Land: 2 ngan, 10 6/10sqw. Tel: 076-282182, 081-476 3242. Fax: 076-282182. Email: nat@phuket-festival.com

CONTEMPORARY VILLA FOR SALE

4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 4m x 12m pool w/Jacuzzi, living room, dining room, Western kitchen, maid's room, solar hot water, sala, built-in BBQ, parking for 3 cars, electric gate, CCTV & alarm system and nice tropical garden on a 1,606sqm plot with over 400sqm of living area. 16 million baht. Email: nisaya@yahoo.com

HEAVEN ON EARTH



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

SURIN BEACH

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

3 BEDROOM HOUSE - DOWROONG

Detached house for sale. Phuket villa Dowroong, Wichit. Quiet village, very central, 3 bedrooms with aircon & fans, two bathrooms, large Western-style kitchen, living room, dining room, store room, garden, car port. 63sq.wah. Price: 4.9 million baht. Tel: Kik: 081-893 4355 (Thai); Steve: 084-846 3887. Fax: 076-245736. Email: stefuena@hotmail.com for photos.

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT



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

LEELAVADEE POOL VILLA



Chao Fa East Road, Chalong. Modern Thai house, total area: 524sqm with swimming pool, terrace, tropical garden, covered carport and home security. 3 bedrooms, Western and Thai kitchen, living and dining rooms, and 4 bathrooms within air-conditioned surroundings. Tel: 087-689 9679, 089-772 7012. Email: a.tu2.corazon@gmail.com

BEST DEAL IN BOAT LAGOON

4 bedroom pool villa. Plot size: 630sqm, house size: 330sqm. Only 19 million baht for sale or 75,000 baht per month to rent. Tel: 076-238948, 081-968 9046 (English & Thai). Email: webmaster@phuketpropertytrip.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketpropertytrip.com/download/Villa_Presentation.pdf

IN LAND & HOUSE

For sale or rent: 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 081-367 8539.

LAND PLOTS IN KATHU

15 rai of land with electricity and blue book. 650,000 baht per rai. Be the first to get the best piece. Call our office for more information. Tel: 076-381303. Fax: 076-381303. Email: maria@bayproject.com

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To ensure clarity, please email. Do not Fax!

Property Gazette

B.B GUESTHOUSE RAWAI



night life. Sale: 10 million baht. Lease: 1 million baht per year. 9 bedrooms, 9 bathrooms, fully booked. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

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.

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, 081-5365846 (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>

PHANG NHA LAND

21 rai of beachfront land, 10 minutes from Phuket bridge. Ideal for resort project. 15 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-396 3784. Email: oligi10@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE

for sale. Chaweng Beach, Koh Samui. 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, front+rear terrace. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-537 3450, 084-447 5997.

KATA POOL VILLA

New, 6 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, 550sqm. 14 million baht or offers. Tel: 081-091 8908. Email: giepp969@hotmail.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

THE ROYAL PLACE

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

WEST COAST LUNA PHUKET

Beautiful 3 bed, 3 bath villa with private pool and lots more. Brand new. Reduced by 3 million baht to sell at 15.25 million baht. A real bargain. Tel: 089-873 7075. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.lunaphuket.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

LAND IN KATA BEACH

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

NATAI LAND FOR SALE

4 rai and 1 ngan on the main road to Natai Beach. Only 2 km to the beach. 1,000,000 baht per rai. Email: nisaya@yahoo.com

CHALONG BAY

Flat land with views and access to Chalong Bay. Tel: 089-652 1473.

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 FOR SALE/RENT



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

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.

KARON VACANT LAND

Great land for hotel. 200sqm, can build 5-floor seaview hotel. Discounted price offer. Tel: 081-446 0215.

RAWAI 5 BED POOL GUESTHOUSE



for sale: 6.5 million baht. Lease, cheap rent and financing available. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.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

386SQM SOI NAYA, NAI HARN

Concrete road, water, surrounding walls. 2.5 million baht or best offer. Can be split. Tel: 086-684 5368. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

LAND AND HOUSE



Detached, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircon, Western style kitchen, partly furnished. Chalong area. Price 3.7 million baht ono. No agents. Tel: 087-386 8751. Email: andyinhphuket@hotmail.com

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

POOL VILLA RAWAI

4 bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms downstairs. Full Western kitchen, spacious living/dining and sea view upstairs. Popular location. Priced to sell at 9.5 million baht, including company. Tel: 081-693 3406. Email: djjanenz@gmail.com

THE ROYAL PLACE

7th and 5th floor 1 bedroom condo units for sale. Fully furnished, ready for occupancy. Secured complex with pool, gym, restaurant etc. Very central location. Tel: 087-273 0786. Email: napi-at-fifty@hotmail.co.uk

HOUSE IN KAMALA

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

THE ROYAL PLACE

7th and 5th floor 1 bedroom condo units for sale. Fully furnished, ready for occupancy. Secured complex with pool, gym, restaurant etc. Very central location. Tel: 087-273 0786. Email: napi-at-fifty@hotmail.co.uk

LAND NEXT TO MISSION HILL

716sqm corner plot with road and electricity, ready to build. Price 1.6 million baht. Tel: 081-892 1097 (English & Thai). Email: colan007@hotmail.com

HILLSIDE SEAVIEW

16 rai, chanote, 15 minutes from town, quiet area, 4.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-291 6687.

TOWNHOUSE, 2 STOREY



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

HOUSE IN CHALONG



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, loft conversion, aircon. 2.5 million baht ono. Tel: 087-270 7671. Email: marczoenoi@gmail.com

LAKESHORE VILLAS

Fabulous 2 story (3 bed/bath) townhome on this superb development in the heart of Laguna. Reduced by 2.5 million baht to 14.45 million baht. Must sell. Tel: 089-873 7075. For further details, please see our website at <http://www.phuket-lakeshore-villa.com>

CHEAP LAND

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

VILLA FOR SALE OR RENT

4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 4m x 12m pool w/Jacuzzi, living room, dining room, Western kitchen, maid's room, solar hot water, sala, built-in BBQ, parking for 3 cars, electric gate, CCTV & alarm system and nice tropical garden on a 1,606sqm plot with over 400sqm of living area. Email: nisaya@yahoo.com

KOH YAO YAI

Cheap land, good investment. 2.8 rai, Chanote title, water, electricity. Price: 900,000 baht. Tel: 081-892 8208.

1 RAI IN PASAK

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

3 BEDROOM POOL VILLA RAWAI

Fully furnished, aircon, kitchen, big garden with private pool incl cleaning lady. Low season bargain 45,000 baht per month without broker. Sale or rent. Tel: 085-783 1890.

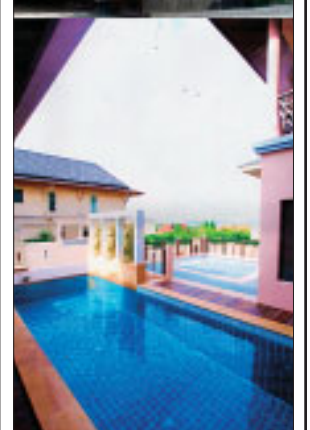
LAND SALE IN THALANG

366sq wah, 1.6 million baht. 500m to Thalang market. Good view. Tel: 081-396 5752.

LAND IN KATA BEACH

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

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

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DAYTRIP DIVEBOAT FOR SALE

4-year-old daytrip diveboat, 48 person capacity, 2 x shower + toilet. 2 Compressors with nitrox panel! Racks for 72 tanks, beautiful saloon, panoramic view on upper deck! All licences and insured for 7 million baht. For just 5,900,000 baht. Make an offer! Tel: 081-968 0571 (English). Email: info@atlantis-diving.net

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Bruce Roberts Spray. 25,000 US\$ steel, in very good condition. Tel: 083-1028478. Email: G2lander@yahoo.com

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Enjoy sailing from Phuket and learn a little. 3 cabins, 2 toilets. Layout excellently maintained and loaded with extras. Thai registered and under maintenance contract with advance bookings. Tel: 076-348117, 081-8916953. Fax: 076-348118. Email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

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Fishing boat 1, 200, 000 baht negotiable. Measures: 15 metres long x 3.4 metres wide. Tel: 080-519 3546, 087-282 5008.

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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>

55 FOOT CATAMARAN

New! 6 double cabins, 20sqm, cockpit, new sails, composite. Tel: 087-461 8089.

WANT NICE FAST BOAT

One engine, max 200hp, rubber (rib) or fiberglass. Max price: 300,000 baht. Tel: 082-802 9125 (English). Email: s.enghamre@telia.com

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SPEEDBOAT FOR SALE

SAVAGE Scorpion 500 16ft speedboat. 75 HP Mercury (2-stroke). 2 yrs old, < 50 hrs use. Very fast (30+ knots). Great for fishing, water skiing etc. Includes VHF, fish-finder/depth, anchor, covers etc. Comes on a good trailer. Viewing by appointment. Tel: 076-273329, 081-882 7917, 089-634 3721. Email: p_brunning@yahoo.com

YAMAHA 2HP OUTBOARD

Good condition 2hp Yamaha for sale. Recently serviced. 7,000 baht ono. Tel: 081-894 1530 (English). Or email: andrew@leemarine.net

WANTED

Small dingy, about 3 or 4 meters, suitable for 3.5hp outboard motor for inshore pleasure. Tel: 076-388569, 085-794 6514. Email: hparkin@hotmail.com

BOAT FOR SALE



3.4m rigid single hull. 25cc Tohatsu outboard engines and cover for rigid hull inflatable boat. One seat removable. Call Mr Dydi. Price: 175,700 baht. Tel: 087-161 6984.

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Feel-free kayak. 18,000 baht. Call or mail for details. Tel: 089-000 0200. Contact for more details at email: tonygbr@hotmail.com



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Selling: a classical Bugis Pinsi-schooner built in 2007 with teak on iron tree. L.o.a: 29 meters/87 ft, beam: 4,4 m. Draft: 2 m.

Engine: 360hp Hino diesel, (cruising speed: 6-9 knots). Generator: 190hp, 45 KVA. Electronics: GPS, radar, DS, VHF and satellite phone. Aft platform for diving/easy access. Certified waste-water handling system, large water tanks and fuel capacity for extended distances. Rigging: main, mizzen, two top sails and one to four forsails. Well equipped kitchen, offering on-shore standards. Extremely elegant teak interior, with four double cabins and one four-berth cabin. Four heads/showers. Air-conditioning on lower deck. Equipment includes 30 life-belts and life rafts for 30 persons. A fast Zodiac, powered by a 60hp Yamaha.

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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.

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Refurbished 2007/8. Twin Yamaha 200hp with low hours. Cabin with dbl berth & toilet. Versatile: cruising, fishing, water skiing. Thai registered. Price: 985,000 baht. Tel: 076-348117, 081-891-9653. Fax: 076-348118. Or sent to email: rob@sailing-thailand.com

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American powerboat, 30 feet, twin Yamaha 250hp 4-stroke engines, only 60 hours. Mail for pics and more info. Email: mangelsson@hotmail.com

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Private speedboat in very good condition for fishing and diving. Also built for private tours. For sale at 1,200,000 baht. For more information, please contact Mr Roman. Tel: 076-485610, 087-881 0031. Fax: 076-485145. website at <http://www.similan.net>

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Island Job Mart

ALL RESORT STAFF REQUIRED

The Phuket Beach Club opens on Bang Tao Beach in November, 2009. With 350 meters of beach front and 85 rai in total, the resort will include an up market restaurant, full child care facilities, an aqua water park, full PADI certified diving centre, water sports centre, and excursions from our 150 meter floating pier...to name a few.

We require all types of staff, including:

– HEAD CHEF. Must be able to cater for 200 plus diners and run a large up-market restaurant operation.

– RESTAURANT MANAGER (2). Day and night shift.

– CHILDCARE ASSISTANTS for our daily year-round children's club, English speaking.

– CHILD CARE MANAGER for our centre.

– WATER SPORTS MANAGER and staff. Must have some experience and knowledge of windsurfing, kayaks, surfing, etc. The ability to teach sailing would be an added bonus.

– SALES EXECUTIVE to promote our club to tour operators and outlets in Phuket and surrounding areas.

– WAITERS AND WAITRESSES (16). Must speak English and MUST have experience.

Please contact for more info at tel: 084-898 1611.

Email: paulmccarthy007@yahoo.co.uk Please send your CV urgently.

For further details, please see our website at <http://phuket-beachclub.com>

LANDSCAPE PROJECT MANAGER

Tropical Landscaping International are seeking a qualified Thai landscape architect or horticulturist to join our Phuket team as a landscape project manager for onsite supervision of projects. Candidates should be English speaking, possess excellent communication skills, have the ability to work in a team and be honest and hard working. Tel: 076-620099. Fax: 076-620098. Please forward full resume including photo, references and expected salary to: info@tropical-landscaping.com

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Must be native English speaker with experience. Start October 1, Chalong. 40 hour week. Email: phuketkindergarten@yahoo.com

SUPER SALES

Want to hire sales staff and sales Manager for English tourist magazine. Determined to make money and grow and responsible. Male or female, good English and a talker. Send email: ajapply@yahoo.com

WEB MARKETING-ADMINISTRATOR

required for established RE agency in Patong. Experience needed, good written & spoken English, good social skills & team player. Good remuneration for the right candidate. Thai nationals only. Reply to this ad or call. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

ASSISTANT OFFICE MANAGER

Tropical Landscaping International are seeking an honest, hard-working, fluent English speaking Thai citizen to join our expanding Phuket office. Duties will include all facets of office management and logistics support for our HK office. Tel: 076-620099. Fax: 076-620098. Please submit full resume, including current photo and references as well as expected salary to: info@tropical-landscaping.com

SALES

The Phuket International Blues Rock Festival, Phuket's biggest music event @ Hilton Arcadia on February 26-27, 2010, needs English speaking person to sell sponsorship. Call Andy. Please contact for more info. Tel: 086-682 2639. Or send email: phuketmusic@yahoo.com

PROPERTY COMPANY

Looking for sales and marketing staff. 10am- 4pm. Call for more information. Tel: 076-527882.

MASSAGER WANTED

Body scrub for 1.5 hour, 5 times per month at home in Kathu. 300 baht per time. For more information. Tel: 081-432 6587.

Excellent Sales Opportunity

Marketing company based in Rawai seeks male or female Thai national as a full-time

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44 Moo 3, Palai Soi 2, Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130

Tel. 076-380650 Fax. 076-380655 Email: info@clxasia.com



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CPA or CA Accountant, required with 3-5 years experience. MYOB is an advantage. For more information please contact Khun Shannon. Tel: 084-443 5983.

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We are looking for a Director of Sales or Sales Manager. Thai national, male preferred, with fluent English to handle agency sales for Korean outbound business. Tel: 076-524621, 081-895 6629 (English), 083-509 5173 (Thai). Fax: 076-524625. Email: jinkang@hanatour.com

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KITCHEN Chef de Partie - Bakery Chef de Partie - Western Commis - Thai Commis Western Steward	Commis - Western Commis - Thai Steward
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Contact in person at our Human Resources Department or email your resume and recent photo to hr@trisara.com

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WEB ADMINISTRATOR

required for established RE agency in Patong. Experience needed, good written and spoken English, good social skills & team player. Good remuneration for the right candidate. Thai nationals only. Reply to this or call. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Send email to: annickenluc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

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Resort management vacancies for sales & marketing, front office, and housekeeping. We also require a chef. Please contact for more details Tel: 081-676 8797 (English). Email: gavinugp@gmail.com

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Island Job Mart

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Leading audio visual company is seeking candidates for the above position. Applicants must be fluent in spoken English and Thai with experience in electrical, lighting and audio installation. Valid driving license essential, own vehicle an advantage. Applicants should send full CV including current salary to cv@enhanceav.com. Tel: 076-527640

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Leading audio visual company is seeking candidates for the above position. Applicants must be fluent in written and spoken English and Thai with good computer skills. Experience in administration and accounts an advantage. Interested applicants please send full CV with current salary to cv@enhanceav.com. Tel: 076-527640 for further information.

SALES EXPERIENCE

Exciting new company in architecture and property development is looking for sales staff. Please contact. Tel: 076-385964, 080-696-5104 (English). Fax: 076-385965. Email: info@modern-zen.com

MAGAZINE SALES

Dynamic and funky magazine needs competent and energetic people to sell magazine advertising space. Tel: 076-385964, 080-696-5104. Fax: 076-385965. Email: info@modern-zen.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



Account Executive-Hotel supplies

Silkroad hotel supplies is aggressively expanding to Phuket, Krabi, and Samui. Wanted: an independent and highly motivated sales person to sell our large range of hotel items and gifts to hotels, spas, and restaurants in Phuket and surrounding provinces.

We offer salary + high commission + allowances and incentives + career growth

Qualification:
Proven sales achievements
Experience selling to hotels
English and computer skills
Must have own car to travel in Phuket/Krabi

Tel: 02-559-3339
job@silkroaddesign.com, www.silkroaddesign.com

TEFL/TESOL TRAINERS

* Trainer. Degree, diploma in TEFL/TESOL, 5 years experience.

* Trainer's assistant, degree certificate in TEFL/TESOL, 2 years experience.

Contact Michael. Send email to: michael.denigan@gmail.com

SCUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR

Scuba Cat Diving Phuket Thailand is looking for an experienced instructor to join our team ASAP. Preferably German, French & English or Danish & English speakers but all are welcome to apply. If you are not able to sell, talk to people, are work shy or lazy, please don't apply because you can't make it with us. If you think that you are the right person, contact us. Tel: 076-293120, 089-872 2026. Fax: 076-293122. Email: info@scubacat.com For further details, please see our website at http://www.scubacat.com

TEACHERS WANTED IN PHUKET

Satree Phuket School is seeking full time English speaking and Asian (including Thai) teachers to teach Mathematics to 11 - 18-year-old students. 4 weeks paid holiday, government health plan.

Minimum requirements: Bachelor's degree or above, plus TEFL or CELTA certificate or equivalent. Asian and Thai teachers should be qualified with TOFEL score 550+ . We can only reply to applicants who meet the minimum requirements. Please Email your CV with covering letter to Ajarn Charoon: ep@satreephuket.ac.th, toptip4736@yahoo.com Tel : 084-666 3557.

WEB DESIGNER WANTED

Professional, experienced web designer wanted now by local e-commerce company. Must speak good English. Send resume and portfolio to email: support@thailove.com

RESTAURANT LOUNGE BAR

in Rawai. Need 1 chef (European and Thai food), 1 pizza chef, 1 chef's assistant, 1 maid, 2 bartenders and 2 waitresses (ladies who can speak English). Need a band to play every night too. Contact Michael. Tel: 089-454 6584 or Valerie 086-781-1837. Or send email to: paul.phuket@gmail.com

RECEPTION & TOUR INFO STAFF

Needed in Patong. Must have experience of hotels, tours and computers. Must also speak and read English. These positions are for Thai nationals only. For more information please tel: 076-340583, 081-827 8442. Or send email: wojidkowbengt@hotmail.com

BAR MANAGER

The Role: bar manager at one of Patong Beach's leading bars, the 'Two Black Sheep'.

This is an an exciting opening for an experienced Bar Manager.

The ideal candidate will have previous bar or hotel management experience and will be responsible for all facets of the business, including stock control, ordering, staff development and ensuring high levels of customer service at all times.

The successful candidate must be highly customer-focused and possess good communication skills and the ability to manage the team effectively.

This is an excellent opportunity for someone looking for an exciting and challenging role.

For further background info. Tel: 089-592 1735 (English). Email: niekeborst@hotmail.com Please see our Website at http://www.twoblacksheep.net/

Security Manager Required (Urgently)

With the following requirements:

1. Bachelor's degree in physical education or military background
2. Five years experience in loss prevention
3. Good spoken English
4. Total knowledge of primary criminal law
5. Good people skills & leadership

Please contact **K. Nattaya** - HR Manager
Phuket Square Ltd.- Jungceylon
Monday - Friday 09.00 - 18.00
Tel. 081-906-5253

Nattaya@jungceylon.com and ranattaya@hotmail.com

CHEF WANTED

Farang or Thai to work in English bar. Must be able to cook farang food especially English pub food. 6 days per week, hrs 12pm -10pm. Bar in Laguna area. Tel: 089-474 0431.

RECEPTIONIST IN KATA

Thai female required for hotel in Kata. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-892 1621.

ENGLISH SPEAKERS WANTED

Easy work, easy money. 50,000 baht a month and up. Please contact for more information at tel: 085-573 0638.

BOOKKEEP NEEDED

in fast-paced environment. Thai national. Some English required. Min 3 years exp. Tel: 087-077 8454 (English). Email: solitude001@aol.com

QUALIFIED TEACHER WANTED

Home room teacher for mixed class (grades 4,5,6). Strong teaching skills in math and science required. Competitive salary. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 076-288923, 086-476 9066. Fax: 076-383201. Or send email to: admin@montessori-thailand.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

A++ Software, based in Thailand, requires a capable personal assistant to the directors. Thai national, must speak and write English well, computer literate, good organisational skills. Salary negotiable, accommodation available. Tel: 087-417 8860. Or email: carol@aplusplussoftware.com

NEED GARDENER & MAID

Experience with hotels, Rawai area, Samia Villa, Soi Suksan (prefer couple) 2. Aged over 40. Tel: 081-797 7898.

WAITRESS/WAITER

2 people needed for fun restaurant in Karon. Professional, experienced, mature people required, little English ok but must have great personality. Good working place and conditions. Start now. Tel: 084-842 0340.

NANNY IN NAI HARN

Looking for a full-time live-out nanny. English speaking and experience with children required. Please contact Lana. Tel: 089-5939155 (English). Email: maria.wilewski@gmail.com

SEO WEBMASTER

wanted. Link building, article writing, coding etc. Advanced knowledge of HTML, PHP, CSS, JS & Flash. Tel: 076-385964, 087-892 5557 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-385965. Or send CV to careers@modern-zen.com.

TRAVEL AGENCY STAFF WANTED

We are currently looking for Thai staff that will support our full time personnel. We need 2 people who can write, read and speak fluent French and English, basic computer skills and knowledge about online booking. Good salary! Please contact Asia Sensations Travel by sending CV. Tel: 076-282906, 081-893 9925 (English). Fax: 076-282867. Email: info@phuket-excursions.com

SALES AND MARKETING

Sales and Marketing Manager for food wholesaler based in Phuket. If you speak multiple languages, have experience in web-site maintenance, graphic design and have been working in the food service industry, we can offer an attractive salary, work permit, visa, private health insurance and company car. Please send email: simon@phuketfood.com

WEB PROGRAMMER

Thai national is wanted for website development. Must have strong skills with HTML and CSS-based websites using Dreamweaver and Photoshop. Some JavaScript (jQuery, Spry) and PHP would be a plus. College degree with good grades and good track record. We want someone reliable and hardworking. Salary: 15,000-20,000 baht plus bonus. For more additional details. Please send email to: recruitment@circumnave.net

QUALIFIED THAI TEACHER PLUS

a native English teacher wanted for new nursery/preschool. Please send email CV to: phuketinternation@asia.com

SALES STAFF REQUIRED

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

KINDERGARTEN EP TEACHING

Vacancy: ELT Phuket International is looking to appoint a qualified, enthusiastic and experienced teacher to start at Bann Mairab School in Kathu on 19 August 2009. Applicants must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree plus a recognised teaching certificate such as TESOL/TEFL/CELTA. We offer: 38,000-40,000 baht per month plus other benefits. Please email a letter of application, CV, recent photograph & email contact details of three referees to: eltorborjor@gmail.com. Will not respond to non-native speaker application.

ENGLISH TEACHER

Wanted for nursery. Rawai. Tel: 081-787 5646. Email: proundly_nicha@yahoo.com

Employment Wanted

LOOKING FOR WORK

I am an Australia citizen, married to a Thai lady. I have purchased a house in Phuket and intend taking up permanent residence in 2010. I have had a good education and the following qualifications: land agents licence, land valuers licence, conveyancers licence, auctioneers licence and commissioner of declarations. I am looking for part-time employment. If interested please contact at: ccopleya@bigpond.net.au

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

TWIN CORDLESS PHONES

Reach cordless digital enhanced telephone with caller ID function. CL-33501DM twin handsets. 1,500 baht. Tel: 083-550 2432 (English). Email: erindadswell@hotmail.com

JIGSAW PUZZLES

1) The Battle of Trafalgar by Thomas Whitcombe: 1,000 pieces, 102cm x 35cm. Price: 350 baht.

2) One of the family by F. G. Cotman: 1,500 pieces, 88cm x 58cm. Price: 450 baht.

No missing pieces. Tel: 076-388874, 086-9402111 (English), 087-270 7698 (Thai). Email: tom_woods6@hotmail.com

40" SAMSUNG LCD TV

LA 40S8 Samsung. New price: 49,990 baht. Now asking 29,990 baht. Tel: 076-319560, 084-441 3871 (English & Thai). Email: sawasdee-khrap@hotmail.com

SINGLE BED 3.5' INDEX

blue as new (5 months old), quality (spring) mattress. New price 9,500 baht, sell for 4,000 baht. Available September 15. Send email for pictures. Tel: 082-803 1706 (English), 084-842 6300 (Thai). Email: walter goossens@yahoo.com

BAGLESS VACUUM CLEANER

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

COCONUT WOOD COFFEE TABLE

Size 75cm x 127cm. Price: 12,500 baht. Tel: 089-500 8357.

CONTEMPORARY DINING

table, glass and steel. Size: 110cm x 190cm. Price: 25,000 baht. Tel: 089-500 8357.

AIRCON: 3,500 BAHT

York brand. 13,000 BTU. Perfect working condition. Good for rooms of about 40 sqm. Please phone between 10am and 8pm. Tel: 084-056 4125. Email: adihousedj@hotmail.com

GYM EQUIPMENT

for sale. Newly painted and chromium. Tel: 086-120 3660. Email: chilligarden@hotmail.com

TUMBLE DRIER

Teka TKS 60002 as new. Cost 18,000 baht. Asking 9,000 baht. Tel: 085-790 2241.

3 DOOR BEER FRIDGE

Call for viewing, 8,000 baht, not including delivery. Tel: 082-277-4568.

BAR DESK

Bar desk in dark brown wood and black imitation leather front with studs. H:110 x W: 350 x D: 120. Six cabinet doors and 2 drawers. 25,000 baht. Tel: 087-386 6223 (English). Email: anderson.peter47@gmail.com

FRAMED CROSS-STITCH PICTURES

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

FRIDGE

Sanden Intercool door display fridge with 3 glass doors. Offers around 20,000 baht. Tel: 081-737 0552. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

TV FOR SALE

Philips 42" rear projection TV. Like new. 5,000 baht. Contact Brian. Tel: 081-206 0445.

EVERYTHING HAS TO GO

Items remaining from my Gazette ad of July 10:

- 2 single children's beds from Index

- vacuum cleaner with washable filters

- small electronic safety box

- wooden toys imported from Europe

- child's bike (suitable for 2-5 year olds)

Tel: 082-803 1706 (English). Email: waltergoossens@yahoo.com

FLATSCREEN TV BARGAIN!

Brand new Samsung 40". Black square, only 4 months old and barely used. Bought 36,000 baht, will let it go for 26,000 baht. Don't miss this deal! Email: phuket beach@me.com

GLASS DISPLAY CABINET

2 shelves and 2 lights on wheels. Approx 1m high x 1.3m wide. 3,000 baht. Tel: 089-196-1773. Email: cindyjcochrane@hotmail.com

SILENT COMPRESSOR

Made in Europe, many uses medical, dental, industrial. Price 10,000 baht, new price 100,000 baht. Tel: 081-892-4804. Website: www.safe wayasia.com

SINK FOR KITCHEN AND FAN

- Chrome steel stainless steel sink for Kitchen: 500 baht (was 2,000 when new)

- Brand new (box not open) standing model fan: 500 baht (was 900 baht when new). I am in Phuket Town near Central. Tel: 084-056 4125. Email: adihousedj@hotmail.com

AIR CON & WEED SNAPPER

Maruyama cutter, price: 4,500 baht. Aircon Samsung 13,000 BTU, price: 5,000 baht. Both work OK. Call Tel: 089-594 4067.

CIGAR HUMIDOR - RAMOS PINTO

Stunning 75-stick humidor in pristine condition with Cigar Master system. 35x23x13 cm. Madrone burl wood confection. Retail at 35,000 baht; am offering at 16,000 with 9 freebie cigars inside, including Cohiba, Churchills, Montecristo. Email for pics: Gordonray@mac.com

SECOND HAND FOR SALE

Many sofas, furniture, sound and music equipment, plus electrical equipment. Tel: 076-220171, 080-080 1427.

FINE CELADON LAMPS



Stylish, hand-made Chiang Mai 'cracked glaze' celadon lamps. Base (37 cm high) with beige woven cotton lampshade (20 cm). Several lamps for sale at 3,800 baht each. Tel: 076-330015, Fax: 076-330561. Email: pr@boathousephuket.com

Audio/Video Equipment

"ROCK CITY" AMPLIFIERS

- 8 pieces of P Audio-1200 power amp: 25,000 baht per piece or all 8 pieces for 150,000 baht (18,750 baht each)

- 8 pieces of P Audio-1800 power amp: 27,000 baht per piece or all 8 pieces for 165,000 baht (20,625 baht each).

Tel: 086-686 4170 (English & Thai). Email: fredrikphuket@yahoo.com

Bulletins

ENGLISH DOG NEWSPAPER

I take the weekly edition of "Dog World" from UK and would be happy to pass on free to anyone who is really interested. Tel: 076-200923, 081-845 2160 (English). Fax: 076-200924. Email: dobermanns@loxinfo.co.th

SPONSOR

a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol (Tel: 087-417 8860) or Sue (Tel: 087-277-6948). Or Email: info@phuketiwc.com

THAILAND-FARANG-SOLUTIONS.ORG

specializing in debt recovery and private investigations. New businesses for sale in Pattaya. "If you have a problem, we have the solution". Email: staff.tfs@gmail.com Please visit to our Website: http://www.thailand-farang-solutions.org

Business Opportunities

LIVE THE DREAM IN PHUKET

Fully-equipped air conditioned sports bar with kitchen, outdoor terrace, projector, bike hire, bbq, etc. Ready to go with new 3x3 year lease. Check it out on our Facebook. Nanai Sports Bar Patong, Phuket. Tel: 089-493 3977. Email: absoluteautos@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE

Bangla Road. 600,000 baht obo. Fully stocked. Tel: 083-968 2093.

MUNOI SUN OIL

Trademark registered in Thailand, product ready for bottling and sale. 850,000 baht. Tel: 089-289 8628.

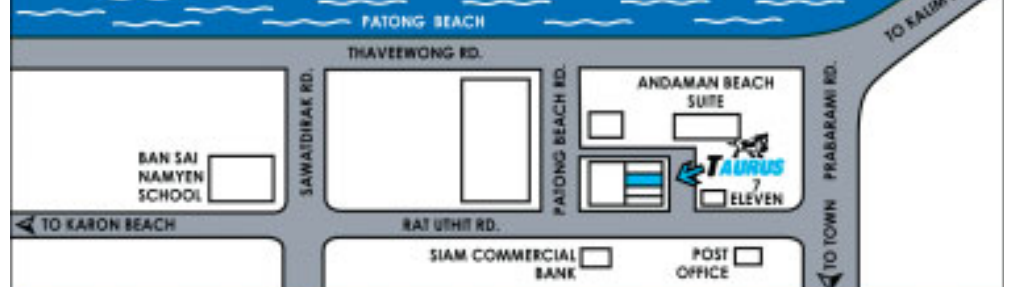
Let us take your ad to the top of Google with a 20% discount!



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

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Live in Patong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with Khun Kai (076-344321-2)

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're PAID! Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously - and FREE - in the Gazette Online!

The Gazette is always on top in Google!

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

RESTAURANT - BAR TO SELL



on main 3 junction Chalongs-Rawai-Naiham. 750sqm. 3.5 million baht. Long-term contract with registered company, fully furnished plus equipment. Tel: 089-725 6994 (Eng), 086-745-3359 (Thai). Email: jorge@eat-card.com

A RARE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

We have the opportunity for you to invest and obtain a share in a successful established worldwide business model where we offer a cash return on a unique monthly and yearly basis! Email: AnnWangsalea@gmail.com

BAR FOR SALE

Bangla Road, Soi Eric. Tel: 087-273 2429, 087-883 1756.

MASSAGE PARLOUR FOR SALE

in Patong. 120sqm with equipment. Tel: 081-495 4761.

EARN AN EXCELLENT INCOME

This is a home-based business that really works. Enquire now. This is NOT MLM. Email: sevenhills54@gmail.com For details, please see our website: <http://www.oursecretsuccess.com>

INVESTMENT IN LANTA

Want partner to open guesthouse and restaurant in Koh Lanta in the shophouse I own. Tel: 081-970-6503 (English & Thai). Email: onthespot.phuket@gmail.com

MASSAGE NANAI + 4 ROOMS

Nice massage and 4 rooms, 3 story house. Quick OFFER! 600,000 baht. I have to sell it NOW! Tel: 085-158 7638. Email: pierre_hammar@yahoo.se

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

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

EXCLUSIVE DEALERSHIP

for Phuket and southern provinces for sale. Tel: 076-521688. Fax: 076-521689. For more info, contact us by email: info@phuketwpc.com Please see the website: <http://www.phuketwpc.com>

8 STUDIOS NAI HARN BEACH

for rent. Bar, restaurant, office, tour office, swimming pool, boutique, staff room, fully furnished, main road, 1km to the beach. 2.2 million baht, 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-091 0964.

MASSAGE SHOP

on the beach road, Patong. Great location. Rent: 18,000 baht per month. 280,000 baht. Contact Carl. Tel: 084-058-2410 (English).

GARDEN RESTAURANT

Soi Tan. 500,000 baht. For rent: 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-794 9687. Email: candny_dog@windowslive.com

FITNESS FOR SALE

Phuket's premier personal fitness training business is for sale. Includes gym and full roster of clients. Email: info@phuketfitness.net

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

just outside of Patong with a great view over Patong Bay, just next to the View Point. It has 50 seats and a fully equipped kitchen. Very low rent and five years left on the contract. Tel: 087-882 1445 (English & Thai). Email: peter_bloom77@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT PATONG

Good location, 80 m from the beach on walk-through street. Invested over 1.5 million baht. Will sell now for 1 million baht. Low rent! Tel: 089-932 5175 (English). Email: wojidkow bengt@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE 750,000 BAHT

Patong junction: Nanai / Banzan rd next to 7eleven. 6 rooms, beauty salon at bottom, separate entrance to room. Selling due to getting bigger family and lack of time. 3.5 year lease left. 30,000 baht monthly rent. Contact Mats at 081-787 2573 or Tab at 085-795 2101.

BAR FOR SALE

Bangla Rd, sensible offers only. Tel: 076-296326, 087-272 2429.

AVOID TOURISM

Tourism could be finished for quite some time to come. Invest in a new commercial store (retail). Concept already developed. Opportunity to invest in this retail business with longevity. Minimum of 10 rai of land required. Will consider land as investment capital also. Apply by email for further details in strictest confidence. Email: mrk_th@yahoo.com

KATA GUESTHOUSE

7 studios, 70% bookings, 14 million baht, finance. Tel: 081-091 8908. Email: giepp969@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT IN KARAN

For sale / lease. "Pasta N Noodle" restaurant. Owner relocating. Please see our website at link below, then call or mail for further details. Tel: 076-344922, 081-892 6829 (English & Thai). Email: jctailor@lox info.co.th Website <http://www.bluewaterphuket.com>

FOR SALE OR PARTNERSHIP

Bar in Bangla Road, Soi Eric. 100sqm indoor, 35sqm balcony. Tel: 087-264 8952.

INTERNET SHOP AT PATONG!

Nice shop and good location. Ready-to-run business. Price: 650,000 baht. Tel: 081-537-7137. Email: paulhoward1968@live.co.uk

BEAUTY SALON NEAR BANGLA

Beauty salon on Soi Sansabai for sale. 200,000 baht + 15,000 baht per month rent. Includes all equipment. Tel: 089-544-3555 (English & Thai). Email: lhamelin@ifrance.com

NEW BAR AT TIGER DISCO

First row bar for sale under the future new Tiger Disco 1. 1 million baht + 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-544-3555 (English & Thai). Email: lhamelin@ifrance.com

PARTNERSHIP

Looking for a bar in Soi Eric, Bangla Road? Tel: 087-264-8952.

BAR FOR SALE

Near Patong in Bell Air Hotel. Sainamyen Road. Contact Waw. Tel: 089-470 5773.

PATONG BAR & RESTAURANT

for sale. Club Andaman opposite Patong Bayshore Hotel. Owner going back to the UK. Tel: 076-296286, 083-646 6233. Fax: 076-296286. Email: kenweedrum@yahoo.co.uk

RESTAURANT RAWAI

Furnished, good location. Sale 300,000 baht or rent 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-052 0160.

BUY OFF PLAN - BEST ROI

Naveen Estate launching condominium and pool villa project now. Tel: 076-381992, 089-971 0928 (English). Email: dir@naveendevlopment.eu More details in our website at: <http://www.Naveenestate.eu>

GUESTHOUSE PATONG

8 fully equipped rooms, internet cafe with 8 computers and apartment. Rent 47,000 baht. 3+3 year lease 2.3 million baht. Tel: 085-786 7010, 085-794 6530.

GUESTHOUSE-RESTAURANT & BAR

Guesthouse with 10 very nice and fully equipped rooms. Charming restaurant with 50 seats, fully equipped, chill out area. Bar, fully equipped, also stage for live concerts. Office with WiFi. Price 1,250,000 baht ono. Lease 40,000 baht per month. Located in Kata. Tel: 087-275 1373. Email: 49art@gmx.at

BUSINESS FOR SALE

480sqm factory, office stock and machinery for manufacturing wood blinds. Kathu area. Contact Nick. Tel: 081-805-4945.

BAR FOR RENT

Rawai beach road fully furnished unit with aircondition, terrace 100% seaview. Yearly rent 250,000 baht. Tel: 087-206 297.

GOOD BUSINESS.. NOT A BAR!

Perfect for couple. Daytime hrs & healthy. Email: nongsaua@hotmail.com

RARE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

We have an opportunity for you to invest and enjoy a share in a successful, proven worldwide business. We uniquely offer a cash return on a monthly basis, as well as per annum. We have a track record return of 20-30% p.a. For more details, contact us in the first instance by email: AnnWangsalea@gmail.com

OFFICE IN CHERNG TALAY

for rent. Good location on the main road. Tel: 081-897 6984.

NICE GUESTHOUSE

in Patong 26 rooms for long lease with restaurant and bar. Tel: 081-925 1730. Email: pla213@hotmail.com

CHARMING GUEST HOUSE

Nai Harn. 8 studios, pool, bar, restaurant, office, shop, cable TV, fully furnished, parking, Chanote. 15 million baht. Tel: 081-091 0964.

GUESTHOUSE PATONG
Looking for a guesthouse? Call Real Pro.

1. 5 rooms and bar, solid cash flow. Rent: 30,000 baht. Sale: 1.4 million baht.

2. 12 rooms, low overhead. Rent: 60,000 baht. Sale: 1.5 million baht ono.

3. 20 rooms, elevator, quality decor. Rent: 170,000 baht. Sale: 2.4 million baht ono.

4. Super investment! Package deal. Popular building, 6 condos, 50sqm, furnished. Easy to manage, easy to rent. Value: 24 million baht. Sell: 16.3 million baht.

Call Real Pro Co Ltd. Contact Frank. Tel: 076-345238, 084-078 2753. Email: info.realpro@gmail.com

RUN A MAGAZINE

Build a life, run a magazine! Much better than a beer bar or restaurant. Call now. Tel: 085-887 7414 (English & Thai). Email: nim@c-publishing.com

NICHE BOAT CHARTER BUSINESS

Only 1 of its kind in Thailand. For more info phone Doug on 66-83-643 5378. Tel: +61-43-266 5103, 083-643 5378 (English). Email: thaipanga@hotmail.com

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Phuket, Similans & Andamans. Includes new boat. Email: wunchart-thannawat@hotmail.com

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Mail: nong.insurance@yahoo.co.th

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VISA RUN

By Bangkok Legal Services Co., Ltd.

PENANG 4,500.-	RANONG 1,500.-	BY PLANE 9,999.- Until Oct 2009
Every Sunday & Wednesday night	Monday - Saturday	Please book 7 days in advance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-star hotel with superior room 2 breakfasts 2 lunches Dinner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer ferry Lunch Soft drink Snacks Visa fee 10\$ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer - Airport 2 breakfasts 2 lunches Dinner

LUXURY MINIBUS - Direct to Thai Consulate

Call 076-304072-3

Thai or English: 081-0803414, English: 081-8540061 (Khun Geoff)
Email: info@bangkoklegalservice.com, www.bangkoklegalservice.com

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VISA 1 year, 3 years TOUR INCLUDE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BUS TRANSFER INSURANCE HOTEL 5 STARS FOOD 6,900.- Every Wed. Morning	TOUR INCLUDE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BUS TRANSFER INSURANCE LUNCH at Hotel LUXURY BOAT VISA FEE (10\$) 1,800.-	TOUR INCLUDE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BUS TRANSFER INSURANCE HOTEL 3 STARS (Single Room) FOOD 4,500.- Every Sun. Evening

CALL EVE 089-195-4877, 081-535-2637
E-mail: evevisarun.keng@gmail.com
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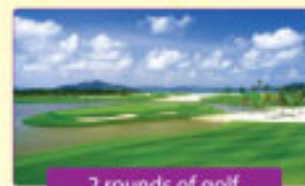
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