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England's Ray Clemence talks
to The Gazette while in Phuket.

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Nation celebrates

THE Nation today celebrates the 82nd anniversary of their beloved monarch His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

At the time of going to press, His Majesty was scheduled to grant an audience to Royal family members, members of Parliament and state officials at the Amarin Winitchai Throne Hall this morning.

Most other royal functions related to his normal birthday celebrations were earlier postponed.

Some of the postponements are rare while others are unprecedented.

The Trooping of the Colours by the Royal Guards, a tradition since 1953 ahead of His Majesty's birthday, was postponed indefinitely for the first time this year.

However, Thais will take heart in His Majesty's presence at the Amarin Winitchai Throne Hall on his birthday, his first public appearance outside Bangkok's Siriraj Hospital since his admission about 10 weeks ago.

sion about 10 weeks ago.

His Majesty, also known as King Rama IX, was born on December 5, 1927, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. He then acceded to the Throne at age 18 on June 9, 1946.

A variety of performances and celebrations are planned in the capital, for which hundreds of thousands of people are expected to attend, many of them having made their way to Bangkok from other provinces.

In Phuket, individual municipal authorities have scheduled various activities to mark His Majesty's 82nd birthday.

A procession is scheduled to start at 2.30pm from the Sea Pearl Intersection to Loma Park on Patong Beach, where Patong municipality officials will pay their respects to an image of His Majesty The King.

As December 5 is also marked as Fathers' Day in Thailand, Patong Mayor Pian Keesin will hand out 'Best Father' awards and prizes for paintings,



His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej (King Rama IX) turns 82 today.

poems and writing celebrating Fathers' Day.

Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop is scheduled at 4pm to join officials and the public in

paying respects to the King and singing the National Anthem.

A football match will then be held in honor of the King.

— Phuket Gazette

Lifeguards leave Phuket beaches for high season

AT the peak of the high season, Phuket's beaches have been left without the lifeguards who have saved hundreds of lives in the past year.

The contract to supply lifeguards at Phuket beaches expired on November 18 but it has not been renewed.

Lifeguard service provider LP Laikhum Co was awarded the contract in mid-June to provide five months of service. However, the company has not renewed due to a number of issues.

Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) aims to improve the provincial lifeguard service and have a new contractor running it by the start of the new year.

The PPAO is still waiting for the firm to return all of the PPAO-owned equipment it was issued under the contract, a source at the PPAO's procurement division told the Gazette.

The PPAO would like to find a new firm to take over the contract, which it hopes to have signed by the year's end.

An expansion in the number of lifeguards from 67 to 83 is planned, the source said.

Managerial issues were said to be the root of the problem.

"The problem is the way they manage their team. They should work harder and co-operate in a better and friendlier manner with local groups, such as the jet-ski operators," a PPAO

spokesperson said.

PPAO President Paiboon Upatising was earlier quoted as saying that calm seas in the high season made it safe for people to enter the sea without lifeguard protection at this time of the year.

Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukhabaan has asked jet-ski operators to look out for tourists and provide them assistance if needed.

A source at LP Laikhum provided statistics showing that the lifeguards had saved many lives in the five-month period.

There were 743 'incidents' while lifeguards were on duty: 270 in Kata, 234 in Patong, 141 in Karon and 98 in Nai Harn.

Eight deaths were also

recorded in total; Karon being the deadliest beach with four fatalities, followed by Patong (2), Kata (1) and Surin (1), he said.

A high-ranking source at LP Laikhum said the main problem was paying the lifeguards.

"Our professional lifeguards should be paid up to 12,000 baht a month, but in fact it is just 9,200 baht per month, which is quite low," he said.

Another problem is the equipment we are required to buy under the contract, some of which is not really useful.

For example, we had to buy rubber rafts but we never used them. It would be better if we had jet-skis," he said.

— Kitima Pornmongkhonwat

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Toy boy and lover face murder charges



The burned out car found on a quiet lane in Chalong Village 7.

A 21-YEAR-OLD man suspected of murdering elderly Japanese citizen Yukiho Yamada and burning his body in Phuket continues to insist he acted alone. However, police remain skeptical of the suspect's claim.

Suwit Maengsri told police that his 50-year-old lover Tubtim Saehak (Mr Yamada's wife) was not involved in either the killing or the disposal of the body.

Police have charged Mr Suwit and Mrs Tubtim with conspiracy to murder and disposal of the victim's body.

Police doubt Mr Suwit's story due to testimony from Wichit Mapan, who witnessed the burning of Mr Yamada's body inside the victim's Honda Civic.

Mr Wichit claims he heard someone say 'We can't go any further, it's a dead end,' shortly before the car was set alight, leading police to suspect that Mrs Tubtim was present.

Mr Suwit told police he resolved to kill Mr Yamada after hearing Mrs Tubtim's stories of her husband's appalling treatment of her.

Mrs Tubtim said 75-year-old Mr Yamada ordered her to find him prostitutes and that if they did not satisfy him he blamed her and beat her.

Mr Suwit said he told his lover of his plan to kill Mr Yamada a week before the killing, ignoring her attempts to dissuade him.

Mr Suwit confessed to entering the couple's house on November 23, then hitting Mr Yamada twice in the face with a crowbar, knocking him unconscious. He also stabbed the victim in the leg with a knife before fleeing the scene.

Mr Suwit returned to the house to dispose of the body at 3am on November 25. He hauled Mr Yamada's corpse into the married couple's car, and drove to a quiet lane in Chalong Village 7, he said.

When the car got stuck in mud, he set it on fire and fled, he claimed. Mr Suwit was arrested on November 28.

-Sitthipong Nongkeaw

Norwegian consul opens

THE Norwegian Embassy officially opened its Honorary Consulate for Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi on November 26 with an inauguration ceremony at the Muang Mai Building on Thepkasattri Road in Rasada.

The ceremony was presided over by Norwegian Minister of the Environment and International Development Erik Solheim.

Also present were the Norwegian Ambassador to Thailand Merete Fjeld Brattested and Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-Ngop along with several local officials and dignitaries.

The newly-assigned Norwegian consul Pornphan Sitthichaivijit and her staff will operate out of the third floor of the Muang Mai Building.

The inauguration follows the office's soft opening on July 9.

The consulate provides services to the growing number of Norwegians who visit the Andaman region every year and those who want to conduct consular affairs without having to



Norwegian Honorary Consul Pornphan Sitthichaivijit (left) with Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-Ngop and Norwegian officials.

make the trip to the consulate in Bangkok.

Approximately 120,000 Norwegians (about 2.5% of the population) visit Thailand each year, about one third of them visiting Phuket.

Ms Pornphan said that as a Phuket native, she was honored to be appointed as the region's honorary consul for Norway, adding that she would do her best to serve both Thais and Norwegians.

"Although the post is

regional, it plays an important part in building the international reputations of both countries," she said.

The Norwegian consulate's offices are open on weekdays – except Wednesdays – from 10am to 12pm and from 1pm to 3pm.

To contact the office call 076-237156.

See next week's issue of the *Gazette* for a full list of Phuket's consular offices, also listed in the *Gazette Guide 2010*.

-Pimwara Choksakulpan

Gas pump samaritan tracks down expat

A GAS station attendant returned a purse containing 10,000 baht (US\$300) in cash and other valuables to a British woman who dropped it while filling up.

Expat Kathleen Gooch-Firmin pulled in to the PTT filling station on Chao Fah East Road about 8.30am on November 29 to fill up gasoline canisters in preparation for the King's Cup Regatta.

She dropped her purse while in a rush to fill the canisters and get to the starting line on time for the children's dinghy race.

"I didn't realize it until I'd reached my destination in Kata.

I started to drive back but thought there was really little chance of finding it. But on my way back to the station, I received a telephone call from Tops Supermarket, giving me a number to call as someone had found my purse," she explained.

Staff at the PTT station had opened the purse to look for contact information about its owner. Inside was a 'TOPS Spot Award Card'.

The PTT staff then coordinated with TOPS staff in getting Mrs Gooch-Firmin's wallet back to her.

"Upon returning to the filling station my purse was given back.

The young female pump attendant had found it and handed it in.... I was so relieved to see the cash, ATM cards, credit cards, personal membership cards, my Thai driving license – everything was there. Losing all of this would have caused me a tremendous hassle," she said.

"I was so pleased with the garage for its efforts to contact me, and so thankful to the female pump attendant," she said.

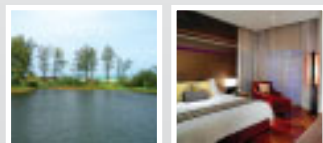
After a great deal of persuasion by Mrs Gooch-Firmin, the female attendant reluctantly accepted a 1,000-baht reward for her honesty and good work.

-Stephen Michael Fein

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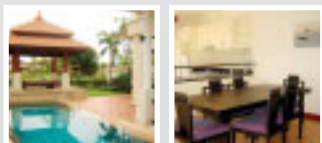
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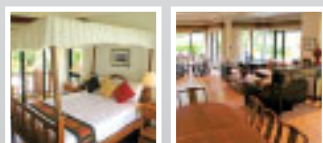
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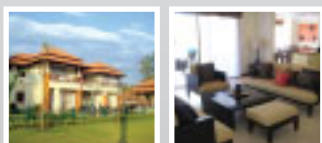
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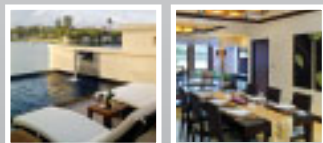
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Man arrested for pilfering pond life



Pol Sub-Lt Teerawat Amnatcharoenying holds up the suspect's fishing rod said to be used in the early morning offence.

A 26-YEAR-OLD man faces up to three years in prison after being caught fishing in a public park.

Khomsan Kaewkhampha, an unemployed Phuket City resident, set out for an early morning fishing session on November 25.

When he arrived at the main pond in Rama IX Park (Suan Luang Park) in Phuket City, Mr Khomsan baited his hook with a snake head, cast out his line and waited for a bite.

After reeling in two catfish, Mr Khomsan was spotted by a Phuket City Police officer and three municipality workers who were on patrol in the park.

Mr Khomsan was promptly arrested and his two fishing rods, two catfish and two snake heads were seized by police.

He has since been charged with theft Pol Sub-Lt Teerawat Amnatcharoenying told the *Gazette*.

Mr Khomsan confessed to the charges, but claims he did not know it was illegal to fish in Phuket public parks and that he

was fishing for food for his family.

His wife told the *Gazette* that her husband had lived behind Suan Luang Park his entire life and had always fished at the lake.

But Sub-Lt Teerawat said the fish belong to Phuket City Municipality and that stealing them can result in up to three years in prison and a 6,000 baht fine if found guilty.

"His sentence could be suspended because he confessed," Sub-Lt Teerawat said.

This is not the first time the pond has been the site of controversy.

Two days prior to Mr Khomsan's arrest, a man was shot dead in an intense shoot out with police at the site.

His body was floating in the pond for over an hour before it was recovered.

In August last year, four fishermen were arrested for using chemicals in the same pond to poison at least 80 kilos of fish.

-Pimwara Choksakulpan and Fraser Morton

Body found off Karon identified as Australian

CHALONG Police have confirmed that the body of a man found floating off Karon Beach on November 30 is that of 31-year-old Australian Ben Douglas Richards, who went missing from a villa hotel in the Surin Beach area two days prior.

Chalong Police investigator Boonlert Onklang said Mr Richards had been staying at a friend's villa when he went missing.

At the time of writing, medical staff at Vachira Phuket Hospital were yet to determine the exact cause of death, but police suspect suicide because the Australian had reportedly talked about taking his own life before his disappearance, Col Boonlert said.

A staff member at Baan Thai Surin Hill confirmed Mr Richards had been staying there.

"I am not sure when he first arrived, but it seems he was here quite a long time. His relatives have already viewed the remains at Vachira Phuket Hospital and positively identified



The sight of the badly decomposing body being pulled ashore scared many tourists. It was quickly wrapped with a sheet.

the man as Mr Richards," the staff member said.

Mr Richards' remains are likely to be sent to Bangkok for further examination into the cause of death after all the necessary paperwork has been completed, Col Boonlert said.

Chalong Police were initially notified of the body's discovery by staff at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort around

noon on November 30.

Phuket Ruamjai Kupai Foundation workers used one of the resort's boats to recover the body, which was discovered floating about seven kilometers offshore.

The site of the decomposing body being dragged ashore shocked tourists at the popular beach, causing many to come out of the water.

-Atchaa Khamlo

Court sentences killers of British sailor

TWO Burmese fishermen were sentenced to 25 years in prison for the March 2009 murder of British yachtsman Malcolm Robertson off the coast of Satun province, *The Guardian* has reported.

At the time of the murder, the semi-retired couple were on their way from Phuket to Langkawi in Malaysia, where they planned to leave their yacht and fly back to the UK.

The Foreign Office confirmed that two adult Burmese nationals were sentenced at Satun

Provincial Court on November 26.

Both men pleaded guilty to the charges and their sentences were halved, to 25 years and eight months each.

A 17-year-old minor also convicted of murder in the case will get a lighter sentence and will be held in custody until he

reaches the age of 24.

The trio, arrested following a dramatic boat chase after the killing, said they were desperate for food and water after being marooned on a tiny island near where the Robertsons anchored their sailboat the *Mr Bean*.

-Gazette reporters

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Whopping fines for excess weight

ONE unfortunate tourist to Thailand was hit with such an exorbitant excess baggage fine he may as well have bought another seat on the flight for his luggage, *Time* magazine reported recently.

The amount in question was approximately US\$2,200 (approx. 66,000 baht).

Bob Wolfe of New York and his wife were reported to have flown aboard a Thai International Airways (THAI) flight from Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport to Panama.

However, when Mr Wolfe arrived at the check-in counter, he was told that his four bags were each about 2kg to 3kg over the 32-kg limit.

He would have to pay a penalty, check-in staff told him.

After being sent to a THAI office, Mr Wolfe was reported as having said a number of employees discussed at length how much he should be charged.

More than an hour later, the figure of 66,000 baht was reached.

Mr Wolfe reluctantly paid the fine, vowing to pursue the matter when he returned home, *Time* reported.

As of November 24, when the *Time* article appeared, Mr Wolfe was still unsure of why he was charged so much – or how the figure was arrived at.

He tried in vain to get a full explanation of why he was charged so much and to gain a partial refund, the article said.

The airline's eventual response was that Mr Wolfe was charged three times the normal fee because his bags were not only overweight, but also oversized.

Passengers with bags over 32kg with total dimensions of more than 80 inches get hit with a triple penalty, the carrier explained.

But Mr Wolfe insisted that at no point were his bags' dimensions measured by any THAI staff.

Measuring his first two bags, he found that they were 60 and 67 inches respectively.

All four bags were reported to be under the 80-inch limit and thus should not have been subject to the triple penalty.

He sent photographs of his bags next to a tape measure to the *Time* journalist, who passed the images on to THAI.

Time reported that they first contacted THAI in August.



Check-in counters at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok, where a Thai Airways source said tourists are often charged thousands of baht in excess baggage fines.

When they went to print with their article in November, they were still awaiting a final conclusion on Mr Wolfe's case from the airline.

Meanwhile, the *Gazette* contacted THAI to investigate the case.

A senior THAI spokesperson confirmed the amount Mr Wolfe was charged for his excess baggage, saying his case was not unusual.

Bags are charged US\$150

(3,000 baht) per kilogram over the weight limit, the source said.

"This regulation is clearly marked on all THAI tickets, but most travelers do not pay attention to it," the source said.

All Star Alliance carriers apply the same excess baggage fees and Mr Wolfe's charge was by no means a record, he said.

The source also said they had personally charged one traveler 100,000 baht or US\$3,000 for excess baggage.

"They were carrying unpolished diamonds, so I assume the owner could afford to pay the fine."

On November 27, a Russian couple flying out of Suvarnabhumi Airport paid more than 40,000 baht in excess baggage charges.

"They didn't complain, but they were very rich," the source said.

However, another spokesperson claimed Mr Wolfe did not fly with THAI at all, but with fellow Star Alliance carrier All Nippon Airways (ANA), from Bangkok to Panama.

The two airlines operate a code-share agreement on the

route, which means a flight operated by an airline is co-marketed as a flight for one or more other airlines that can issue tickets on it.

The spokesperson added that THAI staff were simply acting as the ground handlers for ANA and that Mr Wolfe's case would therefore have to be dealt with by ANA.

The spokesperson also claimed Mr Wolfe's bags measured more than 62 inches; the maximum bag size for ANA, not THAI flights.

So, as yet, it seems a final outcome to Mr Wolfe's case is a long way off – in Tokyo perhaps.

The underlying message in Mr Wolfe's case is the following: if asked to pay an excess baggage fee, ask to see the airline's policy in writing and ensure your bags are measured and weighed in front of you.

Always read the small print on your ticket when packing and be prepared to jettison any unnecessary items that may put you over the specified limits.

-Pimwara Choksakulpan and Fraser Morton

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Queer News

Dispute turns explosive

TRAT: A quarry worker and his wife were blown up after the man apparently detonated a quantity of C-4 plastic explosive during a domestic dispute on November 19.

The blast, heard for up to 50km away, had villagers fearing an invasion by the Cambodian army.

Police and rescue workers found the house of Phen Buntham, 42, and his wife Saijai Buntham completely destroyed by the blast. The bodies of the pair had been thrown in different directions by the force of the explosion.

Mr Phen's brother-in-law Samphan Bunkhong said Mr Phen was the head of the explosives team at the quarry where they both worked in Bor Rai District. Every day, Mr Phen checked out around 50 bars of C-4 from the explosives depot. If any were unused at the end of the day, he was supposed to return them to the depot.

Mr Phen must have taken some of the explosives home that day, Mr Samphan said.

He believed Mr Phen must have detonated the explosives himself, as they are hard to detonate

without using an electric fuse. As Mr Phen and his wife were known to engage in fierce fighting, Mr Phen could have detonated the blasts in the heat of an argument, Mr Samphan speculated.

Mrs Saijai's younger sister Panchan Phromma said the couple had been arguing constantly in the days before the blast, though the fights had never turned physical. Mrs Panchan said she also believed the pair had likely died following a heated domestic dispute.

Inspector Seri Somphaibun from Bor Rai police declined to comment on the details of the case pending receipt of a report from Border Patrol Police explosives experts.

He would question the quarry owner to ensure that precautions to control explosives were adequate, he added.

Villagers in neighbouring sub-districts up to 50km away reported hearing the explosion. With Bor Rai District lying along the Thai-Cambodian border, many residents thought fighting had broken out between the two countries, it was reported.

Source: Khao Sod

Turkish couple nabbed for series of robberies

CHIANG RAI: Police arrested a Turkish couple on November 27 for a string of bank robberies in Northern Thailand.

The couple were picked up by police in Chiang Mai after they allegedly stole 28,000 baht from the Chiang Rai branch of Siam City Bank two days earlier.

Police accused 20-year-old Ilurk Ramazan and 26-year-old Haci Gokcoz of using a sedative drug to confuse the teller at the bank's foreign exchange counter,

then swiping the cash.

CCTV footage showed the thieves escaping in a car. A check on the car's registration revealed it had been rented out in Chiang Mai. This led police to the guesthouse the Turks were staying in, near the Chiang Mai Night Bazaar.

Chiang Rai Muang District Police Superintendent Jaran Rengtham said the suspects initially denied involvement in the robbery.

After being shown CCTV footage, however, Mr Ramazan confessed. Ms Gokcoz continued to deny the allegations.

She also refused to show her face to police, saying it was against her religion.

A teller from the bank identified the pair as the robbers.

Police say the pair are suspects for a number of similar robberies in Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai and Lampang.

Source: Nation Channel

Wild boar terrorizes village

PITSANULOKE: Forestry officers are hunting for a vicious wild boar that has been terrorizing villagers – and their pets – since escaping from its pen on November 29.

A team of 10 forestry officers from Khao Noi Khao Pradu Wildlife Preservation Area in Wat Bod District hunted for the 80-kilogram beast after villagers reported it had been rampaging through their fields.

After some time of hunting,

local farmer Thapthim Taenklad, 45, told the officers that the boar was in her cassava field, held at bay by her pack of 10 dogs.

When officers arrived at the scene with equipment to subdue the animal, they found the boar had successfully fought off the dogs, injuring a number of them. It then made its escape. Officers have now requested tranquillizer darts.

The Boar's owner, 48-year-old Lim Niammai, said the boar is a three-year-old male called 'Jao

Praeng'. Chief stud on her farm, Jao Praeng is very fierce and a skilled escape artist, Mrs Lim said.

Forestry officers have warned locals to be careful when walking through the forest.

Wild boars are surprisingly dangerous animals. Every year they are responsible for a number of human fatalities worldwide. In October last year, a German man out hunting died after being attacked by a wild boar near Berlin.

Source: Khao Sod



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What is Hyaluronic acid? Hyaluronic acid or Hyaluronan or HA is actually a polymer of disaccharides, so it is actually sugar. It occurs in all living organisms and is a major component of connective tissue. Its main function is to aid in the body's water maintenance (by binding water molecules to tissue), providing essential moisture for body processes and molecular transport, creating volume in the skin, giving the eyes their shape and lubricating joints. As we age, the HA levels in our bodies decrease, contributing to certain joint ailments and the physical features of aging such as wrinkles. HA can also be degraded by UV and pollutants. As stated, you can see how HA play a big role in the skin. HA quickly gains a reputation among



the media as an ideal skin moisturizer and anti-aging agent. HA for skin care products usually takes two forms - topical skin creams and injection treatments. When especially combined with a high-potency Vitamin C serum, topical HA creams can be quite effective at rejuvenating and hydrating skin. It has been shown to decrease dryness in the skin and offers great potential for the revitalization of the skin. It helps to keep skin smooth. Hyaluronic acid plays a critical role in improving skin condition and wounds. HA injection form can be extracted from animal and non-animal sources. Non-animal HA can last from 6 - 12 months. There might be a minimal discomfort with the injection, but anaesthesia can be applied topically. After the treatment, adverse reactions such as swelling, bruising, redness and tenderness might occur. It can smoothe out the wrinkles and add volume to lips. Injectable HA is available in different formulas for different purposes such as fine lines, deep furrows and volume augmentation. Mostly we have known that HA is injected locally into problem areas. This recently released formula to be injected all over (face, neck, décolletage, hands) can rejuvenate the skin. It rejuvenates all skin types. It's the treatment choice for dry skin, but even oily skin will benefit from improved hydration. Wrinkly skin can be moistened leading to smoother and younger skin. With this new formula, it is recommended 2 - 3 treatments every fourth week, with maintenance treatments every 4 - 6 months. There are several names in the market of HA. You should select the name you're familiar and comfortable with since it means longer lasting and less unwanted effects. For more information, you can send me an enquiry to dr.thanaruch@gmail.com

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High-tech car wash takes off



Xpress Wash in Phuket Town uses the latest German automotive cleaning technology to send cars off with a brand new look. The WashTec system is the first of its kind in Phuket.

Living in Phuket with the beach so close, cars rarely stay clean for long.

Fortunately, Phuket motorists with their rides caked in dirt and mud have a new, quick-cleaning option with the launch of the Xpress Car Wash system located just south of Dawruang School on Chao Fa East Road.

The automated car wash reproduces that once shiny finish with Xpress' new WashTec cleaning facility.

The car wash puts vehicles

through a 24-step cleaning process in just five minutes.

The German-made Xpress WashTec system is the first of its kind in Phuket.

Vehicles are waxed and lathered on a conveyor takes them through a series of non-abrasive brushes.

Virtually every exterior component of the vehicle receives some treatment.

A chemical wash and high-pressure hoses remove dust and insect remains, the body gets a

shampoo brush wash, while an underbody washer removes dirt and salt residue from the underside of the vehicle.

Rims are then treated with special detergent and the wheels get a power scrub.

A series of dryers makes sure cars don't drive away with any streaks, and foam wax is applied to send vehicles off with a shine.

Drivers can also choose from a range of car-cleaning options, including budget and premium packages.

Nai Yang Beach given pearl polish



Indigo Pearl employees take part in a fashion parade of clothes made from recycled items to promote the resort's ongoing rubbish recycling program in the local area.

Staff the Indigo Pearl Resort have been getting knee-deep in trash in a bid to promote more environmentally friendly practices in the local area. Recently launching the '4Rs' campaign, which pushes a 'reduce, reuse, recycle, and be responsible' message, the team at the Nai Yang resort are introducing and promoting new ways to recycle used goods.

The campaign is community driven, and has seen Indigo Pearl staffers host demonstrations outlining the importance of recycling practices to local businesses.

So far, the campaign has seen an army of Indigo Pearl eco-warriors and local residents collect cans, paper, plastic bottles and other reusable debris from Nai Yang Beach and the surrounding area.

Sifting and sorting, the clean-up teams have achieved a marked success in sorting hundreds of bags of refuse and reusable materials, which have then been collected by local municipality collection teams.

Indigo Pearl also insists it is only using 'all natural' fertilizers in their organic gardens as part of the campaign.

An enzyme-activated oxidation water filtration system which turns dirty water into clean water has also been employed under the wing of the campaign.

The new filtration system is tested twice a month and benefits the local community.

Organic soaps and spa products are also exclusively used throughout the resort as part of the '4Rs' campaign, and even eco-friendly laundry detergents are now being used.

After a successful campaign launch, an Indigo Pearl spokesperson said that many more eco-aware practices will be launched in the coming months.

Plans to reuse fruit waste that can be turned into organic fertilizer, selling food waste to pig farms and providing staff-incentive schemes (which will see staff bringing their trash to work) are also expected soon.

A color-coded recycle bin system is also planned to be stationed at various locations around Nai Yang.

For more information on the '4Rs' campaign contact Panchan Noimecharoen. T: 076-327 006, 076-327 015.

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CENTRAL FESTIVAL PHUKET



Wine Connection ventures into fantasyland

On the menu WITH Fraser Morton

The Gazette arrives at Wine Connection's new Jungceylon-based Deli & Bistro soaked from rain and in no mood to dodge crowds.

Dinner in a shopping mall – in Patong no less – we are not overly excited. A night in a loud, populous, family-orientated, theme park-esque mall, may be some people's idea of relaxing, but for this writer – it's anything but.

Situated almost within spitting distance of global burger joints, coffee shops and sandwich shops, and within earshot of an Irish pub across Sino Street – Wine Connection's expansive new offering dominates two sizable shop units.

Opened in July, The Deli & Bistro is the latest addition to Wine Connection's ever-expanding Thai empire, now totaling 20 outlets.

As we wait to be seated, we drink in the scene. The customers, a pretty fair cross-section of Phuketians and tourists, nibble on deli treats and nurse wine glasses.

Singha-shirts and board shorts, button-down collars and slicked-back-hair. Leggy

middle-aged blondes and fresh-faced teens.

All forms of Phuket life that share an affinity for European cuisine are on show. They slouch in pockets of sofas and scatterings of tables and chairs which litter the outdoor dining area. With ample seating (enough for three football teams) and with bums parked in almost every available pew, it seems Wine Connection's new outfit is succeeding in reeling in the crowds.

No easy feat, considering on this particular night, three restaurants in close proximity had not a single patron sitting outside.

As we take a nosy inside, we sniff the baskets of fresh bread that greet visitors as they enter. The rolling shop area is a visual feast, festooned with bottles, jars, boxes and packets of imported European treats.

A bevy of staff neatly decked out in company threads busily stock shelves, man deli counters and scamper from the kitchen with trays topped with steaming plates.

A pasta and thin crusted pizza dressed with what looks like Parma ham is ferried out to waiting customers. Our gaze follows the pizza until it's out of sight, and we are momentarily disappointed when it's gone.

Right on time, Wine Connection's CEO Michael Trocherie, bounds into the store. A firm handshake and introduction



Wine Connection's new deli and bistro concept is taking off in Patong. Aided by competitive pricing and vast wine and cheese selection, the Jungceylon-based outfit is attracting an eclectic bunch. Photos FM.

aside, we walk, he talks.

We are drawn to the cheese deli counter, while Mr Trocherie explains that being an agent and importer for all the products that Wine Connection sells, allows him to maintain competitive pricing.

Simplicity is key to the Wine Connection recipe, he says, while handing us a deli ordering form.

The simple system he refers to is a box-ticking form which customers hand to deli staff or waitresses, to either eat in-house or take away.

As we peruse the cake stand, we eye the Tiramisu, which Michael says is his chef's special.

A selection of over 600 wine labels, stacked ceiling-high in the rear of the shop, is our last port of call before taking a weight off outside. Our better halves joined us at the table.

The menu works on the sound principle of taking something good and doing as little to it as possible. There are Sicilian boscaiola olives stuffed with anchovies, pimento olives served on sticks, platters of Spanish chorizo, Italian salted pancetta, duck terrine – and ricotta and Parma ham salad, which we dipped in to while we thought

about what to order.

We were struck by chronic indecision, so our host orders for the table. Moments later a sweet waitress props down a gargantuan cheese platter (290 baht). Europe's best cheese offerings fight for attention. Dutch Gouda, Italian red pepper-spiced pecorino and a French duo of roquefort and brie de meaux – a fantasy land for the cheese-obsessed.

Wandering teenage eyes from the table next to ours, and a hushed "wow, the cheese selection looks good" from the red dress sitting to our right makes us savor our platter all the more. They too are cheese-obsessed, but can only look at our platter.

By the time our cheese knives are unsheathed, two more glasses of New Zealand Mahana sauvignon blanc (899 baht per bottle) have arrived. The first two glasses went down well, and we expect these will too.

Taking matters into our own hands this time, we order mains. We opt for the roast duck with blackcurrant sauce, partnered by wafer thin potatoes (320 baht). My better half orders penne pasta pesto (140 baht).

Three swigs of wine later,

the mains are on our forks. Between, scoffs my better half winks in approval. "Fresh, subtle and a Parmesan worthy of a mention," she pitches in.

The succulent duck dripped in sweet blackcurrant sauce is perfectly conceived and executed. Tender and exceptionally well presented, the portion size was the only concern upon first arrival.

But, luck was on our side, as we still had room left for a desert. Tiramisu was the only choice after Mr Trocherie's earlier claim. We can substantiate his claim, the Tiramisu is special and is under priced at (80 baht) in our book.

As we leave, we think about where the Wine Connection brand will be in 20 years. As Mr Trocherie said, the company which is so well-known as wine importers, are shifting their business model into the Deli & Bistro realm, with a Bangkok-based operation opening in January.

Fair pricing, polite staff, an expansive wine list and a cheese-lovers fantasyland, Wine Connection's new joint ticked all our boxes on the night. For more information call 076-366 091.

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Swing your way to a top



Martin Platts
martin@thegolfguru.com

Welcome to the first article in a new series on improving your golf game. In the next few articles, I will explain some different ways to improve your game so you can have more fun on the course. Too often do clients say to me, 'I love golf, but golf doesn't love me.'

The great thing about golfers, for beginners and experienced players, is that working on their game does not feel like a chore. All golfers love playing golf and want to get better, which in turns makes them happier in and around the golf course.

Golf is like any other game, but sometimes we forget to just play the sport and have fun. Like good old John Daly used to say: 'just grip it and rip it'.

We have a tendency to get

too involved with the technical side of our golf swing. Sure, over a long period of time it is important to have the best equipment possible so it can hold up under pressure, but then we tend to try to buy our way out of trouble by purchasing the latest and greatest clubs. These clubs are, of course, guaranteed by the manufacturers to work, implying that for the right price, anyone's game can improve overnight.

But equipment is not that critical to the average golfer. When I play golf, people sometimes laugh at me – not so much the way I swing but more for what's in my golf bag.

The other day I asked the caddie for my putter – a Macgregor Iron Master which is over 40 years old – and she said, 'Is this your putter or a chipper?' Yes, the caddies in Phuket do have a great sense of humour, especially when they see that I still carry a ping 1 iron (the old joke goes, 'Even God can't hit with a 1 iron').

I was also the last person to switch from 'wooden' woods to metal woods. At least I have switched from the balata ball to



the latest all-swing-all-dancing ball, and yes, my ball can really dance.

So why not learn how to use the dusty old clubs you already have? They say that golf is 90% mental, and the other 10% is part mental, too!

The mind probably plays a bigger role than we think. I would like to see if we can get you playing better golf by starting with your mind, so here it goes:

I think it's a good idea to start by introducing the personal score chart on the opposing page. This chart will help you pinpoint the greatest area of need in your game, so you know where to begin training.

Eventually, you'll see your score getting lower and lower, giving you more confidence to play a better golf game.

Take a look at the following statistics (taken from the 2009 PGA Tour) and scenarios. Try using them to assess your golf game by briefly noting how you feel about each club being discussed. Take into account the overall performance that golf club typically has on the course. This might be a reality check, as you may notice some similar trends.

Driving: 'I hit the ball 300 yards off the tee but not on the fairway. Is that a 10?' The old expression goes, 'There are a lot of long hitters in the woods', so take into account direction as well as distance. On the PGA, longest driver Robert Garrigus averaged 312.3 yards against the tour average of 288 yards. Top driving accuracy was from Joe Durrant, who scored 74.76% (10.4 out of 14 fairways); the tour average was 62.71% (8.7 out of 14). Fred Funk (what a great name) was the shortest hitter on the tour, averaging only 249 yards, but he was also one of the most accurate drivers.

Irons: 'I always hit well with my 7 iron. Is that a 10?' Well, how many greens do you hit in regulation? Again, look at some of the PGA statistics: Greens in regulation leader was John Senden at 70.89% (12.6 greens on 18 holes), yet the tour average was 64.36% (11.5 greens on 18 holes), which does not sound that many, but these guys are all earning over one million dollars!

Pitching: Hitting the green is okay, but how close you hit the ball to the flag is very important. The closer to the flag the higher the percentage of a holing putt.

Chipping: Did you chip it in to the hole or close enough for a tap? If not, just chipping it on the green is a low mark.

Bunkers: Did you just get it out of the bunker or did you put the ball in the hole? If it's close enough for a tap, high marks for that.

Scrambling: No surprise here: Tour leader Tiger Woods gets it up and down 68.18% of the time. The tour average was 57.44%.

Putting: In the good old days, we allowed two putts per green, so over 18 holes, 36 putts would be normal. The pros usually come in around 27 putts on tour; the 120th putter on tour had 29 putts per round, which is only a two-putt difference, but over four rounds, eight shots makes a big difference. Putting tour leader was Brad Faxon with 27.91% (9 single putts in 18 holes). Faxon is not the most well known player of all time, but has career earnings that top the 17-million dollar mark. The tour average was 29.19%.



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golf game

Whether you are a top professional golfer, intermediate player or beginner, the break down of your golf game is made up of the following percentages:

Woods and irons account for 35% of your score.

Pitching, chipping and bunkers account for 22% of your score.

Putting accounts for a whopping 43% of your score.

So if you have the opportunity to practice for 100 minutes, you should spend an average of the following times on each part of your game:

Woods and Irons:	35 minutes
Pitching:	8 minutes
Chipping:	8 minutes
Bunkers:	7 minutes
Putting:	42 minutes

I will explain in a later article that it's not just about the stats, it's the routine before each shot. Through practice, that routine is what creates the accumulation of consistency needed to improve your stats and lower your score.

Use this chart to give yourself points out of 10 for each club.

Unfortunately, we have a tendency to practice what we're good at, rather than work on the parts of the game that we're not so proficient in.

Tiger Woods is always talking about eliminating his mistakes, not just practicing all the shots he plays well, so look at your scores and work on the aspect of your game that has the lowest marks.

In golf, you're only as good as your bad shot, so improve that bad shot and your score will come down.

If there is a particular part of your game you would like me to run through send me an e-mail and I can discuss that in a future article.

Rate Yourself

Use this chart to rate your ability with each club, so you know which parts of your game need improvement. We will use this chart with future articles to help improve your game.

CLUB	SCORE/10
Driver	
3 wood	
5 wood	
7 wood	
Hybrid 3	
Hybrid 4	
Hybrid 5	
Iron 3	
Iron 4	
Iron 5	
Iron 6	
Iron 7	
Iron 8	
Iron 9	
Pitching clubs	
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Bunker shots (green side, long bunkers)	
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‘What we’ve missed is luck’

As part of the England national football team over the past 13 years and currently in the employ of head coach Fabio Capello, few people are more qualified to talk about the Three Lions of England than former Liverpool, Tottenham and England goalkeeper Ray Clemence.

The *Gazette's* Daniel Ogunshakin caught up with Ray at the Loy Kratong Lounge of the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket to talk about his thoughts on Thailand, his time at Liverpool and England's chances in South Africa.

In a career that spanned 23 years, he made more than 1,000 appearances at club level, represented his country 61 times and is one of the most decorated footballers in England's history.

Clemence began his playing career at Scunthorpe United before making the switch to Bill Shankly's Liverpool in 1967.

During his spell at Liverpool,

Clemence won five league titles, three European Cups, two UEFA Cups, the FA Cup and a League Cup as an integral part of a Liverpool team that swept all before them.

In 1972, Clemence made his debut for England and would feature in the side over the course of the next 12 years.

Despite being an international for more than a decade, he only accumulated 61 caps due to the presence of Peter Shilton, another equally gifted goalkeeper, and indecision by the England management which alternated between the two.

After winning his third European Cup at Anfield, Clemence joined Tottenham Hotspur. He remained at the club for the next seven years, racking up 330 appearances and winning another FA Cup and a UEFA Cup before retiring.

In 1996, he was approached by then England manager Glenn

Hoddle to take on the role of goalkeeping coach for the national side.

Clemence would hold that position under the next three coaches – Kevin Keegan, Sven Goran Eriksson and Steve McClaren – before being replaced by Franco Tancredi when Fabio Capello took over at the helm.

Still part of the squad, Clemence recently enjoyed a 10-day visit to Phuket before the business of helping plot England's World Cup finals campaign gets underway.

Given the way the England team has performed in recent months, it was no surprise to find Ray in high spirits and feeling relaxed. And like so many who visit the 'Land of Smiles', he is full of praise for the local people with their warm smiles and welcoming personality.

"I just think the people here are so special," he said.

“Nothing is too much trouble and everything is done with a smile, no matter what you ask them.”

Sporting quite a tan, it's clear that Ray and his wife also enjoy the weather that Phuket has to offer.

"At this time of year it [the weather] couldn't be better, whereas in England it's wet, cold and it's dark," he said.

"It's just a wonderful place to have a little break before Christmas."

With international football not being played week in, week out, it's easy to imagine that people in Ray's position can get away on a regular basis. Somewhat surprisingly, however, that's not the case.

"I don't get away as much as I'd like, but then most people don't get away as often as they'd like," he said.

“What my job does offer me is the opportunity to get away at times when maybe other people don’t.

“From September through to November we’ve had a busy program with qualifying for the



Former Liverpool, Tottenham and England goalkeeper Ray Clemence believes the England football team has what it takes to go far at next year's World Cup finals in South Africa.

World Cup and the friendly game [against Brazil] in Doha.

“Between then and the World Cup draw we’ve had two to three weeks where things were calming down, so it was the ideal opportunity to have 10 days away with my wife.

"Once the draw has taken place, things will start getting busy again. There'll be so much preparation work to be done to make sure we're in the right frame of mind and are physically and mentally prepared."

The conversation switches to his playing days and like most former players, Ray's eyes twinkle as we look back at his time at Liverpool when the club dominated English and European football.

"It was just a fantastic time to be at Liverpool Football Club," he said.

"We were winning everything there was to win, you had 54,000 people at Anfield every single week willing you to win the game and you had a repartee with the fans."

With less than 200 days to go until the World Cup in South Africa kicks off, excitement is building across the globe as football

fans begin to debate who might lift the famous trophy on July 11.

As part of the England coaching setup, Ray knows better than most about England's chances of victory in 2010, but when asked, he was determined not to talk up England's chances too much.

"What we have to do is to make sure we keep our feet on the ground," he said.

"Our world ranking is seven. If you look at it that way, we should be in the quarter finals and anything past that is a bonus."

"Can we go all the way? If you get to a semifinal anything can happen. That's where you need a little bit of luck and your best players playing well on the day. We've not had that in the past.

"I would never say we can win the World Cup because it's the kiss of death.

"We all want it desperately and it's been a long time. We have a confident squad and if everyone is fit and on good form, then I'll think we'll go a long way. I hope I'm sitting here next November on my holiday showing you a medal."

England fans certainly hope so too.

-Daniel Ogunshakin



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SOLE AGENT

EXPAT GALLERY

Julie Hirunchai

Julie Hirunchai remembers her first visit to Phuket in 1982. "I stayed at Kata Beach where there was only a dirt road along the beach. This was before any of the resorts were built. Phuket was my idea of heaven."

She stayed longer than planned on that first visit to the island as some local youth caused her to crash her rented motorbike when they grabbed her purse. It took months to heal before she could continue with her holiday on to Nepal where she hiked to the base camp at Mt Everest.

The long time spent on Phuket inspired her to return in 1985 on another holiday. This time she met her future husband, Pan Hirunchai, who was working at Nai Harn Beach.

"I knew then that I had found my life partner so I returned home to Banff, Canada, sold my condo, quit my job and moved to Phuket."

Julie was born in Sydney, Australia, but her family moved to Canada when she was a child. After secondary school, she moved to Banff where she worked at the stylish Banff Springs Hotel during the high season and traveled to Europe and New Zealand during her free time.

After moving to Phuket to be with her new husband, Julie

and Pan opened a restaurant at Chalong Bay called Pan's Lighthouse. It became the center of expat life in the southern part of the island. She had an idyllic life in the tropics. Her daughter, Pearl Anne, was born in 1990.

Julie began selling second-hand books at Pan's Lighthouse. Her father in Canada would scour garage sales and send boxes of books to his daughter. They sold quickly to yachties and other expats who had no other source of reading material.

What started as a sideline business evolved into the Good Earth Secondhand Bookstore when Julie opened her own shop in Kata Village.

"Ever since I made the move to Phuket, I've been living by my wits. When we had to close Pan's Lighthouse when our lease expired, I decided to open the island's first secondhand bookstore. It carried over 6,000 titles divided into many international languages."

"The Good Earth" soon became the meeting point for island expats who came to trade books, buy regional handicrafts, talk to Julie and taste the freshly baked treats and exotic teas that she served to her many customers.

Her salon became the preferred place for many of Phuket's resident writers and artists to

meet and compare notes on the evolving demographics and rapidly changing lifestyles here.

During the 1990s, Kata Village had a number of art galleries and restaurants owned by interesting expats who frequented Julie's place for her charming hospitality. The Good Earth often doubled as a therapy salon for foreigners facing crises and seeking bilingual Julie's wise advice about the many challenges facing expatriates in the early days of the island's transition to cosmopolitanism.

Sadly, in 2004 Julie was given notice of a big rent hike on her premises. The art galleries and restaurants were closing and the bars were moving in.

"I had to close as I could no longer afford the rent. I thought about what I wanted to do and decided to take an Ashtanga yoga teacher training course. I had been working with yoga since the early 90s and wanted to deepen my own practice. I chose Ashtanga as I like its strength building capabilities, particularly for the upper body."

Today, Julie has her own yoga shala, the Ganesh Studio, next to her home in Rawai where she teaches private students as well as regular classes at the Karuna Meditation Center at Naka Thani Village. Her daughter has moved to Australia for university and Julie continues to bring light and laughter to her many friends on the island.

— 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.

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Please contact debbie@phuketinternationalacademy.com for further information and registration.

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PLAY TIME: The new international preschool Bright Star Academy held an open day for kids and parents to come and see what the new school is all about on November 28. The school, located at Boat Lagoon, caters to children aged two to seven.



BIRTHDAY BOY: Juan Carlos Torres Rosero (blue shirt), owner and executive chef of Cha3 restaurant in Phuket City, celebrated his birthday with a party at the restaurant with some close friends last month.



MAKING AN IMPRESSION: Members of the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) visited students at Phuket Vocational College. They joined a party held to celebrate 14 years of 'Impression Memory' last month. Members purchased arts and crafts made by the students, who also cooked a meal and gave massages. Over the past 14 years the PIWC has donated almost 4.4 million baht in scholarships to students at the college.



NEW LIFE: More than one hundred people, including staff from the Phuket Marine Biological Center, the Third Naval Area Command, tourist volunteers and students from Koh Phi Phi School launched a 'Coral Reef Rehabilitation' project last week to mark His Majesty King Bhumipol Adulyadej's birthday on December 5.



ITS ONLY ROCK N ROLL BUT I LIKE IT: Staff strike a pose at the island's shiny new Hard Rock Cafe in Patong, which opened last week.



CONGRATULATIONS: Joshua Lee (center), Managing Director of Lee Marine International Marine Brokerage in Phuket, accepts the first Pershing S.p.A 'Best Pershing Dealer in Asia-Pacific' award from Pershing's head of new market development Alessandro Diomedi. The award was presented at a ceremony in Singapore. Also pictured is Tilli Antonelli, founder and president of the Italian-based yacht maker. Lee Marine facilitated the purchase and arrival of the first Pershing 80' super yacht, *Cavallino*, which will be based in Phuket.



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BEHIND THE WHEEL

By Jeff Heselwood



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Looking Back

By Anand Singh

The mysterious missing face

three sculptures that were excavated in 1966 have attracted much attention. The artifacts date back to a time long before the Thai kingdom was ever forged.

The town of Takua-Pa itself was once an ancient port populated as early as the third century AD.

Many experts speculate Takua-Pa to be the ancient town of Takola that Alexandrian geographer Claudius Ptolemy wrote about.

At that time South East Asia was considered a new world for the more civilized kingdoms in India. Most of the early towns and cities in this region were founded by Indian settlers, many of whom were led by exiled kings and princes from the subcontinent, looking to carve out their own kingdoms in the relatively primitive new land.

India's Brahmanic religion found a foothold in this region and flourished far before the establishment of Buddhism, so it's not surprising that sculptures of Hindu deities have been unearthed around South East Asia.

According to historical accounts, the sculptures once found safe haven atop a hill known as Phra Narai Hill in Phang-Nga province. Many experts believe the sculptures date back to the eighth century AD, but some say they may date back as the sixth century AD.

The largest of the sculptures resembled the Hindu god Narayana.

Also known as Vishnu, he is one of the three most important gods in Hindu tradition, believed to be the sustainer of all life on earth. The hill may have been a site of worship for Brahman devotees in ancient times. Locals interpret them to be images of Rama, Sita and Laxman, characters from the popular



According to legend, these sculptures of Hindu deities were stolen by Burmese invaders and left propped against trees near the Takua Pa River, where they became entwined in the trees' roots.

Indian folktale 'Ramayana'.

According to literature, the god Narayana reincarnated in human form as King Rama. His consort the goddess Lakshmi, reincarnated as Sita, Rama's wife.

Laxman on the other hand took birth as Rama's brother. However, archaeologists have identified the female kneeling sculpture as 'Bhudevi', the Hindu goddess representing the earth, who is also a devotee of the god Narayana.

Local stories may shed some light on how the sculptures began their journey from atop Phra Narai hill down to the plains where they were discovered hundreds of years later.

At the beginning of the first reign during the mid 18th century, invading Burmese armies spearheaded into the different regions of Siam. They came as far as invading Phuket Island.

Takua-Pa and the surrounding region was in the path of one of the armies was severely ravaged. Marauding around the south, the Burmese came across the ancient sculptures on Phra

Narai Hill whilst in search of plunder.

Perhaps realizing that the idols were in fact ancient artifacts, they moved them from their original resting place, intending to take them back to Burma. For unknown reasons the Burmese only transported the sculptures as far as the plains near the Takua-Pa River. They rested them against a tree and left them there. Neglected and forgotten, the ancient sculptures stood there beside the tree, slowly becoming entwined in the bark and roots of the tree.

In 1966 a road was built through Takua-Pa district and people saw them more often.

Vandals reportedly visited the site and sawed off the faces of the kneeling sculptures depicting Laxman and Bhudevi.

They then threw Bhudevi's image into the nearby Bang-Pid canal. Months later during the dry season, it reemerged, part of it sunken in the dry mud of the canal. Bhudevi's faceless sculpture was rescued by locals and kept in a nearby temple.

Following such cases of

theft and vandalism, in August of 1966 authorities from the national museum in Nakhon-Si-Thammarat province set out to work on rescuing the other two sculptures from their tangled state. It was then discovered that the large standing sculpture of Narayana also had its head detached from the body.

Luckily the team found half the missing head buried in the earth near the site where the sculptures were excavated.

Interestingly, this fragment was made of a different material to the stone that was used to sculpt the other images, perhaps suggesting that the image had been vandalized before and a new face had been made for it.

This piece of the missing face gave historical artists enough clues to be able to reconstruct a new face for the standing sculpture.

As for the stolen head of Bhudevi, it ended up being sold to the London-based fine arts dealer Spink & Son. However, in May 1973, it was returned to the Fine Arts Department of Thailand.

Today three pieces of the ancient artworks: the large standing sculpture of Narayana, the 'kneeling sculpture of Laxman' and the 'face of Bhudevi', have found a home at the Thalang National Museum in Phuket.

The rest of the sculpture of Bhudevi is still kept at Narainikaram Temple, in Kapong district, Phang-Nga province.

Anand Singh is an avid Phuket historian. He lived on Phuket from the age of 3 to 21. He speaks fluent Thai and is currently completing his degree in economics at the University of Birmingham.

Anand can be contacted at as.pkt@hotmail.com.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Third Annual Phuket Kart Races – December 19



Phuket Kart Speedway will hold its third annual Phuket Kart Races on December 19. Come see some of the best drivers from all over Thailand battle for a spot on the podium. Racing starts at midday and will continue throughout the day. The track is located on the left side of the road heading from Kathu to Patong. Refreshments will be available. From 11am to 11.30pm. For further information contact Nuy Kolan. T: 076-202085. E: phuketkart@hotmail.com. W: phuketkart.net.

December 5. His Majesty the King's Birthday Public Holiday

HM the King's 82nd Birthday. Also marked as Fathers' Day in Thailand.

December 5 - 7. Banana Adventure Weekend

Want to do something different? Banana Adventure Weekend on Coral Island provides the perfect place for beach camping. We provide junior (7-12yr) and senior (13-16yr) camps which involve a structured program of activities, including snorkeling, kayaking, beach volleyball, team building and problem solving tasks. In the evenings we will have treasure hunts, night snorkeling, a BBQ and board games to keep the troops occupied. For a fun and safe adventure, join us on Banana Beach. From 10am to 11pm. For further information contact Martyn. T: 084-308 0827. E: info@bananaadventurecamps.com. W: bananaadventurecamps.com.

December 6. Laguna Phuket Triathlon 2009

Southeast Asia's premier multi-sport event, the Laguna Phuket Triathlon 2009, will take place on Sunday, December 6. This internationally renowned event is

known as the 'Race of Legends' and has sold out for the last four years.

Now in its sixteenth year, the triathlon promises to be bigger and better in 2009 with an expected field of over 900 athletes taking part. The event comprises a grueling 1.8k swim, 55k cycle and 12k run. From 7.30am to 3pm. For more information contact Ms Prapa Hammin. T: 076-324060. E: prapah@lagunaphuket.com. W: lagunaphukettriathlon.com.

December 6. Free Computer Clinic – Patong

From 10am to 12pm, at Sandwich Shoppe Patong. For further information contact Woody Leonhard. T: 076-290468. E: woody@KhunWoody.com. W: KhunWoody.com.

December 9. A 4 Charity Art Exhibition

The Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation is showcasing artwork by talented students from Kamala School's orphanage. Local and internationally renowned artists are also donating some of their best pieces for the cause.

Held at Hung Fat's restaurant in Kalim, a 1,000-baht ticket gets you two glasses of wine and canapés, plus the chance to purchase art works. All proceeds go toward changing the lives of the children. There will also be an auction and raffle with prizes. From 6pm to 11pm. For further information contact Tina Hall. T: 076-278146.

E: info@phukethasbeengoodtous.org.

W: phukethasbeengoodtous.org.

December 10. Constitution Day - Public Holiday

December 12. Kick Off The Holiday Season

Home & Life invite you to an evening of entertainment and great food. Bring your children and have them meet Santa Claus. Enjoy our Christmas tree and carols with a Christmas choir, surprises for the children and more entertainment with live DJ music.

Admission fee: one small gift for a child (gifts will be distributed to disadvantaged children in Phuket). All proceeds will go to the Home & Life Orphanage.

From 6pm to 11.30pm at Town Square, Royal Phuket Marina. For further information contact Mr Murat Can Sakarya. T: 081-797 3364.

E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com.

W: royalphuketmarina.com.

December 13. Free Computer Clinic – Laguna

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

For further information contact Woody Leonhard.

T: 076-290468. E: woody@KhunWoody.com.

W: KhunWoody.com.

December 17 - 18. Asia Superyacht Rendezvous

The Asia Superyacht Rendezvous, sponsored by Feadship, The Chedi resort and Asia Pacific Superyachts.com, will be a true rendezvous of these magnificent vessels. From 17.30pm onwards on December 17 and from 10am until late on December 18. Located at the Chedi Resort in Surin. For more information contact Charlie Dwyer.

T: 081-797 4100. E: charlie@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

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*Write your name/surname in Thai and English, age, school name, class, e-mail address and contact number at the top of your entry.

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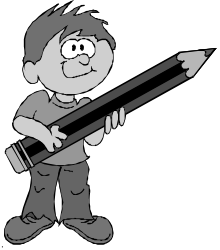


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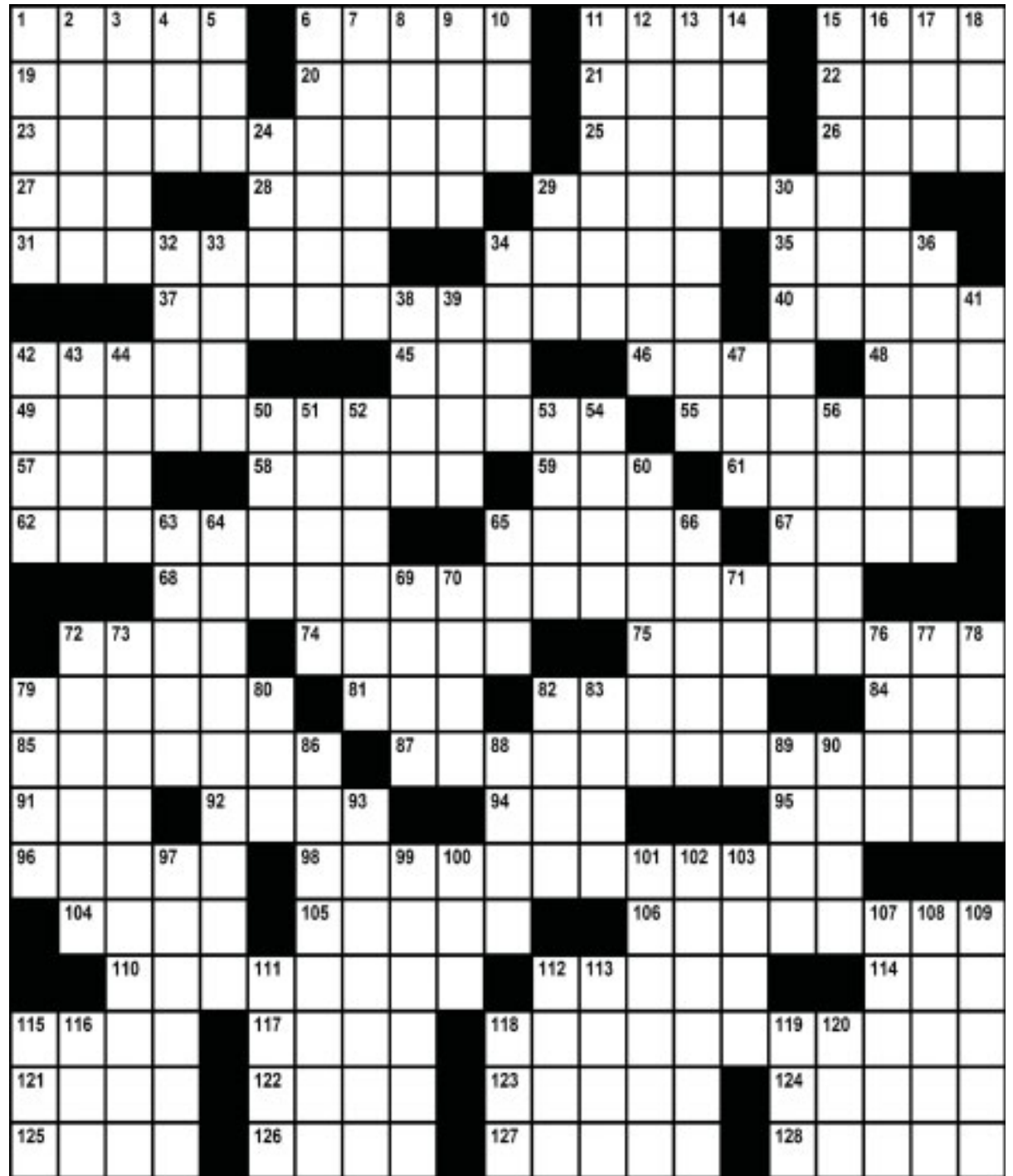
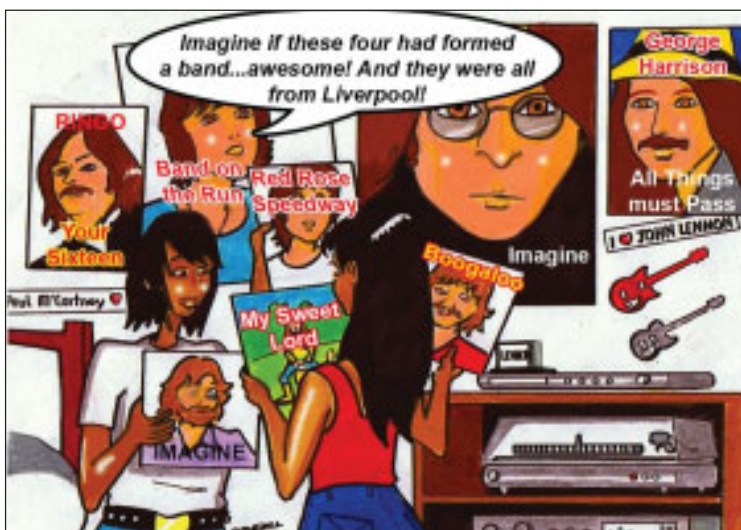
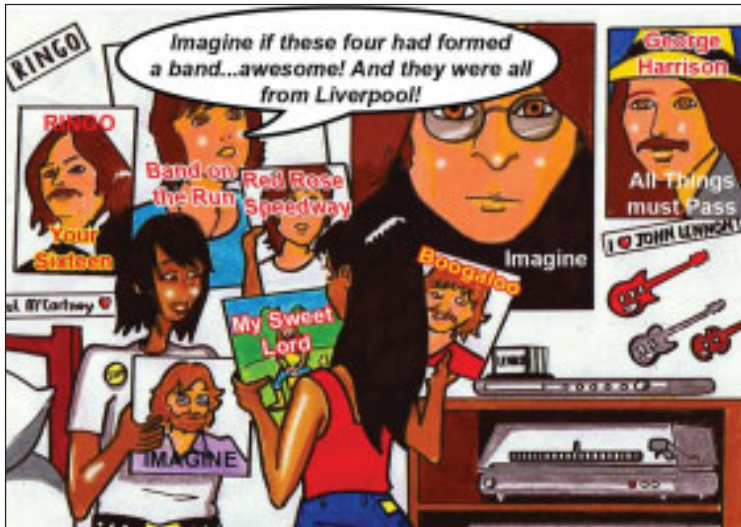
The Nation

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 Desert conveyance
6 Milan's La ____
11 Wife's place, in a Chaucer story
15 Tutor in "The King and I"
19 Consolidate
20 Council Bluffs resident
21 Fertilizer compound
22 Acts the masseur
23 Japan, to the U.S., once
25 100 Iranian dinars
26 Apply acid artistically
27 "The Addams Family" cousin
28 Onstage thought bubble
29 Underwater peak
31 Part of VCR
34 They're like herrings
35 Negative responses
37 Item-seeking event
40 Tet celebrant
42 Adds to the kitty
45 Be in need of a lift
46 Anguine fish
48 Luge team
49 Offensive line?
55 Cobbles, in a way
57 Familia member
58 Actor in a crowd
59 Photog.'s blow-up
61 "Empty hand" skill
62 One run in
65 Faint flicker
67 Rolling stone's lack
68 Takes the wrong way
72 Free TV commercials, for short
74 Sick partner?
75 Belief
79 One of the Clintons
81 Prefix with "dairy"
82 Device for

- 84 upward mobility
Sebastian with four Olympic medals
85 Trial balloons
87 Truman was known for it
91 Alphabet-sequence
92 Zip around France?
94 Big mouth, slangily
95 Wide at the top, as a chimney flue
96 Words with "date" or "precedent"
98 Not to be trusted
104 Civil Rights Act creation
105 Be a part of, as a play
106 Like a chalkboard
110 Musical score scribes
112 Do a front-end job
114 "La Cage ____ Folles"
115 With no ends sticking out
117 Kedrova of "Zorba the Greek"
118 It may come from the grapevine
121 Bit of old Italian bread?
122 "Half a ____ is better than none"
123 Mischievous spirit in "The Tempest"
124 Pancho, to Cisco
125 Father's concern?
126 "As I Lay Dying" character
127 Be parental
128 A Barbary State capital

DOWN

- 1 Like a die
2 Writer Loos
3 Hands, or hand protection
4 Mature tadpole, of a sort
5 Caustic cleansing agent
6 Cancun catnap

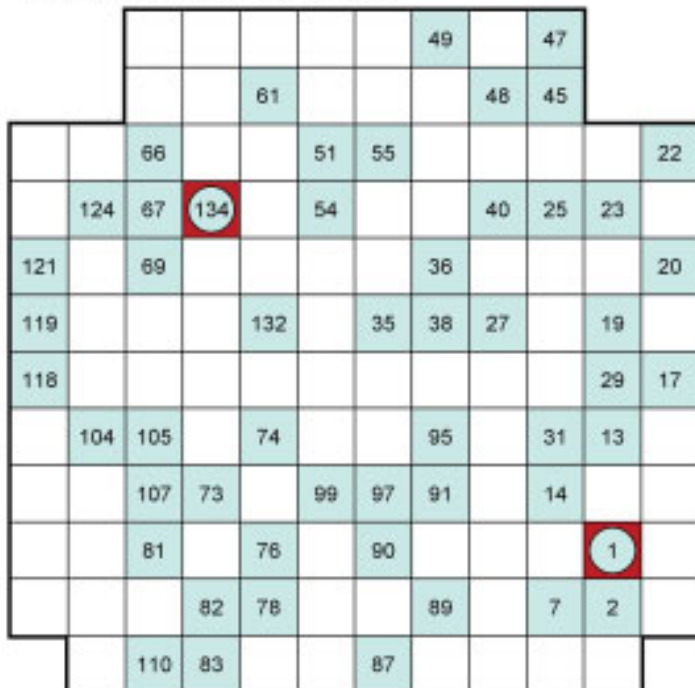
- 7 Small ungulate mammals of Africa
8 Impressed and then some
9 Fabric with gold or silver threads
10 Undefined amount
11 Agency
12 Clew-giver of myth
13 Trucker, often
14 Wings go-with
15 Rock concert sites
16 Crackpot's output
17 "Bonanza" ailer
18 Smokestack output
24 Insurance determination
29 "Mum's the word!"
30 Free of guilt
32 "Don't changel" to a printer
33 Emerald Isle language
34 Flower with a bulb
36 Waterfalls
38 Kalinin's place
39 Prince of India (Var.)
41 Holder of spectacles
42 "____ boy!"
43 Depilatory brand
44 Anastasia's father, e.g.
47 Albanian monetary unit
50 "Shall we dance?" reply
51 Clerical leave
52 Act as a substitute
53 Sustenance for a sea urchin
54 U.S. dept. with a lightning bolt on its seal
56 Irregular, as if gnawed away
60 Flock-related
63 Stampless correspondence
64 Whoopi Goldberg film
65 First word of the

- British national anthem
66 The Governor's spouse
69 Some Olympians, nowadays
70 Sofer of soaps
71 Flier around a lighthouse
72 Carolina river
73 Aids in closing deals
76 Elite Eight org.
77 Bit players
78 A foot wide?
79 Gallantry-in-war medals (Abbr.)
80 Angular front?
82 The Man of Cardinals history
83 "Mistake," for example
86 Medicated state
88 Capital of Rhone
89 Alternatives to creams
90 Eye layer in which the iris is situated
93 Cage with an Oscar
97 Part of ASAP
99 Machine-gun by plane
100 Gospel standard, "____ Eye Is on the Sparrow"
101 Treats again, as an inflammation
102 Pattern of diamonds
103 Detonation din
107 Geological depression
108 One of the Super Mario Brothers
109 Baseball team that became the Nationals
111 "... and to ____ good night"
112 Subtle emanation
113 Ten percent of DXXX
115 Scary Hollywood street
116 Airline ticket word
118 "The Bell ____" (Sylvia Plath book)
119 Certain grain
120 Dallas inst.

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August 17, 2009

WHATZIT?TM

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

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PIT

TUNE TUNE TUNE
TUNE TUNE TUNE

COFFEE

Get your brain in gear with the MONSTER QUIZ

1. Which Mediterranean country's orchestra is bigger than its army?
2. What links stags' tails, pickled worms, gallstones and tomatoes?
3. Baked beans were originally served in what sauce?
4. Where can you buy a copy of *Penguin News*?
5. Who was the hero of the old TV cop series *Dragnet*?
6. Which African country was colonized by the United States?
7. What was Britain known as before it became Britain?
8. Which part of a frog do you rub if you wish to hypnotise it?
9. Multi-millionaire Russell Sage famously saved money by not doing what everyday thing?
10. How has USA president James Buchanan differed from all the rest?
11. What's involved in 20 percent of car accidents in Sweden?
12. What's unusual about evangelist Amy Semple McPherson's coffin?
13. Who would use a swozzle?
14. What does a tailor do with his plonker?
15. Churches in Malta have two what?
16. Marnie Nixon did what for Deborah Kerr, Natalie Wood and Audrey Hepburn?
17. Which Italian tractor maker started building cars in the 1960s?
18. What first appeared on page one of *The Times* on May 3, 1966?
19. Enrico Caruso allegedly put what in opera singer Nellie Melba's hand when she was singing 'Your tiny hand frozen'?
20. What would you do with an Edzell Blue?

Answers below

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Puzzle Solutions

WHATZIT? solutions

1. Bottomless pit.
2. Wheel of fortune.
3. Cafe au lait.

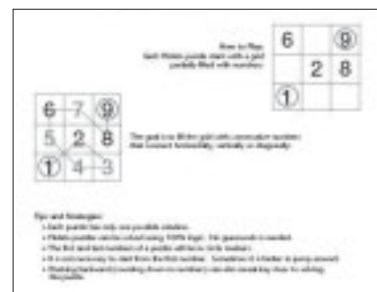
Solution to this week's Spot the Difference



Monster Quiz Answers

1. Monaco; 2. Once Thought to be Aphrodisiacs; 3. Treacle - Molasses; 4. Falkland Islands; 5. Sergeant Joe Friday; 6. Liberia; 7. Albion; 8. Its Belly; 9. Wearing underwear; 10. He was a Batchelor; 11. A moose; 12. Contains a Telephone; 13. A Marionette; 14. Press Suits; 15. Clocks – one right and one wrong to confuse devil; 16. Dubbed over their singing voices; 17. Ferruccio Lamborghini; 18. News Stories; 19. A Hot Sausage; 20. Eat it. It's a potato.

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



Hidato Puzzle Solution

64	63	62	61	60	59	58	57	56	55
128	127	126	125	124	123	122	121	120	119
118	117	116	115	114	113	112	111	110	109
108	107	106	105	104	103	102	101	100	99
98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91	90	89
88	87	86	85	84	83	82	81	80	79
78	77	76	75	74	73	72	71	70	69
68	67	66	65	64	63	62	61	60	59
58	57	56	55	54	53	52	51	50	49
48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	40	39
38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29
28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19
18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9
8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	0

Solution to this week's crossword

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

Old people behaving badly



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Colin Cotterill is a writer, cartoonist and child protection activist. His first few novels achieved painfully small sales, but he hit the jackpot with his ongoing *Dr Seri* series, five mystery thrillers about the National Coroner of Laos who mixes a lifetime in the jungle as a communist guerrilla with spirit possession by an ancient shaman and huge dollops of humor.

Full disclosure here: I've known Colin for 20 years and he drew the cartoons for all 38 of my stories in the book *Thai Jinks: Madcap Misadventures on Land and Sea in Thailand*.

Now he has turned his hand to a collection of 16 short stories entitled *Ageing*

Disgracefully (iUniverse, New York, 175pp, 2009). The subtitle, *Short Stories about Atrocious Old People*, reveals the theme. There are also a half dozen other tales told by cartoons in Colin's inimitably grotesque style.

The stories pretty much follow the curve of Colin's life, starting in England, moving on to Australia, Thailand, Laos and the United States.

Each story is fronted by a hand-written introduction and more cartoons. It's a very handsome production.

In the first story, Colin basically takes the facts of his mother's life and recasts her as a hilariously improbable bank robber and hostage taker.

In Australia, an old woman who has married five husbands and murdered them all gets set to confront a burglar, while an elderly wife cleverly winds up her ex-husband by convincing him that she has taken up a new career in a brothel.

The theme of *The One-Legged Marathon Runner of 126 Wildebeest Crescent* is literary rivalry. Andrew McCreadie Jones spent a few

years in Burundi and made a modest living afterward by writing 'cozy thrillers' (non-violent) about the place.

He is caught by a clerk in a book store re-stacking a book shelf with his own works (something I've done myself). The clerk remarks:

"Burundi? I mean, honestly, who gives a toss about Burundi?"

"Who gives a . . ." Well, I tell you, panda eyes, I give a toss. In fact I give a momentous toss. My toss is barely containable."

We move then to Laos and a reunion with the delightful Dr Seri. This time it's a closed room mystery with a missing corpse. Again the murderer is ancient.

In Phuket, an old and cynical journalist, Nimit Gertpakdee, is confronted with the mystery of a mass murderer of tourists on the beach. He is also very angry.

"Every story he filed made him angrier than the one before. Every word they changed, those slimy editors, every fact they altered, every downright lie they inserted just made him spit blood. It wasn't a wonder he didn't have any energy. A man who spat

blood for over forty years probably didn't have a lot left."

But he has enough energy and cunning to come up with a most improbable killer.

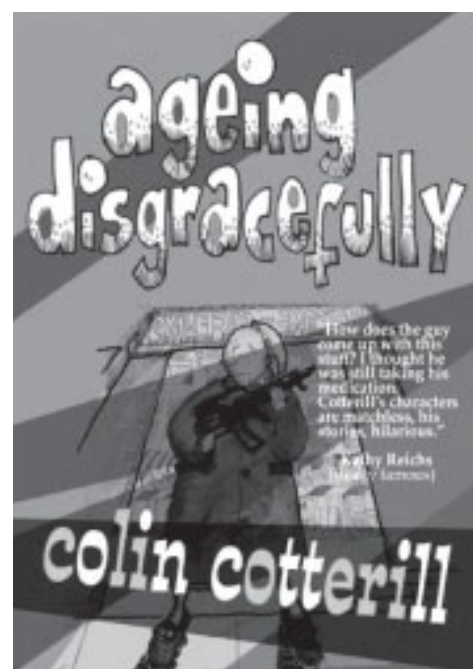
My favorite story is a multi-leveled one that takes place one night at a 7-Eleven in Chicago. The night clerk muses:

"Abrupt, rude and high ruled the darkness. Spaced-out junkies. Aliens who landed in the A/C fluorescent universe and were fascinated by everything, but didn't have any earth money to make a purchase.

"Gang members on their way home from a hectic night of drive-by slayings. Street teenagers seeing how many profanities they could squeeze into a sentence.

"Bag ladies asking what they would get in exchange for a perfectly good right shoe. The clerk knew how to respond to rude and weird. He was one of them."

By the end of the story, Colin has wrapped up many weird characters and narrative



threads very skillfully and very movingly.

My only problem is the introduction in which he writes how he was once stuck outside a 7-Eleven and got the idea for the story.

This is like a magician telling you how he came to invent a trick and then doing the trick.

Still, the calligraphy is beautiful, as are the cartoons. I tore through the book in a single sitting.

Horoscopes



Isla Star

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): This weekend is an ideal time for Sagittarians to start buying Christmas gifts. As the holiday month commences, you have bargaining power on your side, but don't push your luck too far. Finances are subject to favorable astral conditions until early next year, but spending too generously on a new romantic partner should be avoided. Those with a birthday during the coming week are forecast to find true love in the year ahead.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Relationships are not well-starred this week – there are signs that minor disagreements could lead to a troublesome period. Those born under the sign of Capricorn who want to avoid being caught in the firing line should maintain a low profile until the middle of December. A slow start to the month gives you the chance to catch up on personal administration and the stars predict that you could discover that money is owed to you.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Love looks promising this week. Aquarians who are single should have the chance to make contact this weekend with someone they've been admiring from afar. If you're already committed, there are indications that a partner wants to make a radical change in some way. This might take some getting used to. A business idea that you thought was pie in the sky starts to appear more practical when Leo offers some insight.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): A red herring could cause Pisceans to lose valuable time at work this week. Someone born under a fire sign may be deliberately misleading you; asking for others' feedback will help you to avoid being taken for a ride. The stars suggest that January will be a better month to make business agreements. On a personal level, what goes around comes around when someone wants to repay your recent good deed.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Arians looking for the real deal in business will be motivated by a meeting with another fire sign late next week. After a shaky start during the first few days of December, your confidence at work receives an astral boost and this should lead to success later in the month. In the realm of romance, you begin to see that still waters run deep when a new flame reveals a surprising side to their character.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): A last-minute visit from friends is a ray of sunshine in your life this week. Taureans who have been feeling homesick lately will begin to see they are in the right place at the right time. Your luckiest day for finances is Tuesday. Romance comes out of the blue this weekend when another earth sign makes the right moves. Wear the color chili red to promote enthusiasm.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): This week, many Geminis discover their assets are worth more than previously thought.

During the first half of December, an astral shower of good luck is forecast to bring financial improvement. An overflow of family visitors could cause you to crave peace and quiet; this is the perfect time to develop interest in a new solitary hobby. Wear the color mint green to encourage a calm outlook.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Although a business deal may fall through early next week, all is not lost for Cancerians. Your attention is set to be diverted by a new scheme, proposed by a reliable earth sign acquaintance. Where your social life is concerned, you should avoid being a stick in the mud. The stars suggest there is more fun to be had than you imagine so free yourself from those shackles. The number eight can bring good fortune this weekend.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Remaining cool as a cucumber could prove to be a challenge for those born under the sign of Leo this week. Sudden developments in the world of work will require your attention for much of the time. Family may also demand more energy than usual; the stars forecast that someone close to you becomes involved in a complicated situation. Wear the color silver to encourage a lighter outlook on life.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): The heat is on for those Virgoans searching for better employment. Your unwillingness to venture into new territory

could stand in the way of an attractive job opportunity. A Libran friend is ready to offer experienced advice and Tuesday is the best day to schedule interviews for. Romance with Pisces is well-starred, but trying to impress Aquarius will prove to be a waste of time. Wear sapphire blue to encourage confidence.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Playing it safe is the recommended course of action for Librans this week. Your luck remains moderate in most areas of life until the middle of the month when more chances can be taken. This weekend, you learn that an earth sign friend has been less than truthful and this could cause

some serious ripples in your relationship. Wednesday is the best day for an honest conversation which should clear the air. Wear the color plum to encourage better understanding.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Those born under the sign of Scorpio who are trying to make plans for the holiday season receive a surprise invitation from an old friend. Although you may have to disappoint others, the stars predict that meeting up with this person again will be worth the effort. Someone you thought was romantically interested in you has a change of heart, but Capricorn is forecast to become more than a friend.

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Five years on, where does Phuket stand?

With the fifth anniversary of the tsunami approaching, now is a good time to reflect on how well prepared Phuket is, should a similar disaster befall us in the future.

Sadly, we are still a long way from where we should be, even though public awareness of the threat of tsunamis is understandably much higher than it was before.

Apart from the change from wood to plastic loungers in some locations, most Phuket beaches appear to have changed little in terms of limiting possible damage and loss of life.

Some of the most devastated areas, most notably Patong, are more dangerously overdeveloped than ever – chock full of obstacles that would prevent a rapid evacuation, should one be necessary. In many cases, especially along the beach road north of Soi Bangla, there are even fewer possible escape routes due to all the commercial development.

Even worse is the fact that for months Thailand has lacked an operating tsunami direct detection unit, the vital first link in conducting a successful evacuation. The first buoy, donated by the US and deployed northwest of Phuket in 2006, ceased transmitting a few months ago. The reason? Red tape and bureaucratic reshuffling by the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) rendered the agency incapable of the simple act of changing the buoy's battery, as agreed with the US.

The NDWC is now in a race against time to rectify the situation in a mission that begins next week. If successful, this might spare Thailand the embarrassment of having this unforgivable failure come under international scrutiny on the tsunami anniversary.

On a more positive note, the British Government recently put in place a new Internet-based tracking system called 'LOCATE' that is intended to provide real-time data about UK nationals in Thailand.

There are as many as 80,000 British subjects in Thailand at any given time in the high season, with some 5,000 residing in Phuket full-time, according to some estimates.

Inevitably, some get into trouble. Imagine how much easier the work of the British Embassy would have been after the tsunami if all UK nationals had been registered on such a database.

It doesn't take a tsunami to justify implementing such a system, however. LOCATE should be a tremendous aid to consular officials, expat residents and their families back home in times of crisis. We encourage all UK nationals to register with the site and hope other countries, especially Thailand, learn to make better use of the amazing technologies available for disaster prevention and mitigation purposes.

Stephen Michael Fein

The Phuket Gazette

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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.

Charge ineffective

I don't think charging one baht for a plastic bag would deter anybody after an expensive shopping trip to TOPS or Lotus.

It is actually difficult not to use them when shopping for a week's worth of groceries.

However, getting smaller convenience stores to participate would definitely make a difference.

Most people only purchase small items or quantities from those stores and it's all packed in a plastic bag, often to be immediately discarded right at the entrance. Just look at how messy the area is around most convenience stores.

I always have a hard time explaining to cashiers why I don't need an extra plastic spoon when I am just buying a yogurt.

These shops are responsible for a lot of trash on the streets of Phuket, mostly from kids and teenagers who buy snacks for immediate consumption, only to litter the streets with them once they're finished.

Phuket's streets and roadsides tell the tale.

**Michael Bosch
Phuket**

Start at the top

Taking on the plastic waste problem has to start at the top.

Everyone seems to make frequent stops at convenience stores, all of which love to give away plastic.

If the employees were trained to ask, "Do you need a bag?" and use more discretion with the number of bags, straws and utensils they give out, it would set an example to everybody.

Taking it a step further, stores could charge two baht for plastic bags and promote the use

of canvas bags.

I would also love to see yellow, blue and green recycling bins positioned outside the stores that allow only the proper material to be deposited in each one.

Although I am glad the large department stores are participating in a pay-for-plastic campaign, it's the convenience stores that are on every corner and distributing the most plastic.

**David Hamilton
Karon Beach**

The poor will suffer

The plastic bag fee seems like a good idea on the surface, but all it does is hurt the poor.

Most Thais with little money ride motor bikes and buy food from vendors in small plastic bags.

The people with money who drive cars can afford to buy the plastic bags.

Having a car to carry their own container is easy for them, but the poor on a motor bike have fewer options.

What I would like to see is all large department stores stopping their staff putting everything into plastic bags unless it is absolutely necessary.

Get all the supermarkets to stop bagging unless the person has a lot of small items that really need a bag. This would cut way down on the plastic problem without charging the extra fee.

**Mike Jackson
Chalong**

Clear the beach

With regard to the posting 'Jet-skis now insured' [*Gazette online*, November 26], it seems to be a case of so far so good.

The next step should be for Patong beach to have the waterfront cleared of all the beach

chairs so there can be space for emergency vehicles and people to walk. I think we would all share a common benefit in clearing up some of the beach.

**Niku Harris
Patong**

A positive step

This insurance for jet-skis is good news ['Phuket jet-skis now insured', *Gazette online*, November 26].

As you may remember, we were involved in one of the scam cases and our story was published in a previous issue of the *Gazette* [*Phuket Gazette*, August 15].

Thanks to the combined efforts of your newspaper, the governor, the insurance companies, the jet-ski owners and common sense, the standard for this part of the tourist industry has been raised.

It is an important step in successfully marketing Thailand as a safe and upstanding country.

**Marnix van Hesteren
Amsterdam, Netherlands**

Out of control

When will the police in this country start jailing the countless drunken drivers that show such a careless disregard for life? ['Reckless driver kills monk, merit maker', *Gazette online*, November 24]

On top of that, when will they make driving tests mandatory and stop allowing seven-year-old kids to drive their whole family around on a motorbike or tuk-tuk?

The enforcement of the driving laws in Thailand needs to catch up with the rest of the world.

That elderly monk and young man did not deserve to die because of one driver's reckless behavior.

**Liz Johnson
Trang**

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

Biggest loser: life in the fat lane



FIRST PERSON

Garry Holden is a 41-year-old British expat who weighs 125kg (275lbs) and was therefore heavy enough to qualify as a contestant on the premier season of *The Biggest Loser Asia*, the world's number one weight-loss reality TV show. Mr

Holden currently works as a DJ in Phuket and his work takes him all around the island and its nearby provinces. Although he loves making his living in a party environment, he says it does have its downsides as it allows him to live a life of excess. Here, as he prepares for the show, he shares the story of his struggle with 'life in the fat lane'.

I have been a big lad for as long as I can remember. I'm generally known as a 'jolly chap' or as many larger people are often described, 'bubbly'. I'm the guy who makes the 'fat' jokes before anyone else can.

I even created a job where being fat didn't matter and became the family entertainer known as 'Mr Jelly Belly'. Hey, it worked for me; it didn't matter that I had to dress up as a clown!

As a teenager, I remember a comment my birth father once made on my return home from getting a hair cut: "Don't worry about your hair son, it's the rest of you that needs sorting out." That comment has always stuck with me and although I'm no psychiatrist, I often wonder if subconsciously that's why I've shaved my head for so long.

A couple of years ago I quit smoking, something I never thought I could do on my own. Yet despite my success overcoming that, I have never been able to conquer my weight issues.

Like many people, I have tried pretty much every diet and have fallen at every hurdle, not only putting the weight back on, but adding extra pounds on top. Over the years this has amassed to what is not a pretty sight. I'm all too easily frustrated and im-

patient with dieting, so it's never a difficult decision to just give up. Besides it's much more enjoyable putting it on, right?

Or so I thought. Food has always been a great source of comfort to me; the one thing I can always rely on. Food never lets me down or disappoints me. It is only now I realize food has been keeping me a prisoner in my own body.

It's not so much what I am eating, rather the amount. I often consume enough for two or even three people in a day.

While I don't always eat fast food, if I do go to McDonald's or Burger King, I end up ordering one meal for myself and another for my 'imaginary friend', just so the staff don't know it's all for me.

Then I hide in my truck and eat it all in secret, with a diet coke of course! Yes, I am secretly ashamed and yet somehow it continues to control me.

Living in Phuket as an overweight man has never been easy. Most people feel the heat, but when you're carrying an extra 100lbs, it's no laughing matter.

If I don't have to move very far or very fast, then I won't. I can always chafe my way around Central – at least it's in the air con – but walking long distances outside? Forget it!

Phuket has so many beautiful beaches and yet I've never been able to take advantage of them; I've always been too embarrassed to take my shirt off. Being surrounded by 'normal' size people in swimming shorts totally depresses me.

I used to think I could hide behind a T-shirt, but in reality I just look like the fat guy too embarrassed to get undressed.

Carrying the weight is more than a heavy burden. Aside from the obvious difficulty of finding clothes that fit and running the gauntlets of Patong's markets with the cries, "yes sir, we have elephant size", premiums for my health insurance have sky-rocketed. It costs a lot to be this size, and there is certainly no dignity in being overweight.

It's time to cut the fat. I'm 41 years old and weigh almost 280lbs (125kg). If I don't do something about this now, I'll be lucky if I reach 50.

The thought of my coffin being too heavy to lift is just too much to bear. This isn't fair to me and it certainly isn't fair to my wife – she never signed up for this. The opportunity to appear on *The Biggest Loser Asia* couldn't have come at a more critical time.

I am an avid fan of *The*



Mr Holden's 'Armani goal outfit': the jeans he is determined to comfortably fit into by the end of *The Biggest Loser Asia* competition.

Biggest Loser and have even had the audacity to criticize the 'fatty' contestants while munching away on junk food from the comfort of my sofa. I never considered myself to be in 'their league' and yet here I am.

The morning after I sent an online audition tape, I received a call from the show's casting directors asking me to fly to Kuala Lumpur to meet them. Taking the

first step towards changing my life, I said 'yes'.

I would like to share this journey with you and invite you to follow me on *The Biggest Loser Asia*, Tuesday nights at 8pm exclusively on the Hallmark channel.

You can also watch my online audition on Youtube. Search for: Garry Holden The Biggest Loser Asia.

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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213971, or submit your issue
at www.phuketgazette.net

What can I do about my sleepless squatter problem?

Can anyone help me with a squatter problem on government land next to the Sky Inn Condo Hotel just off Rat-U-Thit Road in Patong?

Recently, about a hundred people moved into make-shift tin shacks opposite my building. They stay up all night making noise and disturbing the peace.

They have erected their shacks on what I understand to be government land and the population of the tin shack village seems to be getting larger by the day.

Is there anything that can be done to move these people on?

Michael Johnson
Patong

A Kathu Police Officer replies:

You can make a formal complaint at Kathu Police Office.

If there is a problem with noise pollution, you can call us and we will investigate the problem immediately.

You should also take photographs of the people in question as further evidence to substantiate your claim.

For more information contact Kathu Police Station, 68 Sainamyen Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150. T: 076-342719-20. F: 076-342769. E: pk.kathu@gmail.com.

Can I import seeds from overseas to use in Phuket?

I'm having a lot of difficulty finding the seeds I'd like to plant in my garden.

I am an avid gardener and have found gardening to be a popular hobby here in Phuket, so I am constantly looking for new seeds to use in my garden.

While I have searched all over for them locally, there are many seeds available from vendors overseas.

I'm wondering if there would be any problems with Customs if I have seeds sent here by mail.

Danny Pickett
Kathu

Phuket Customs officer Mr Pinit replies:

You have to first check with Department of Agriculture to see if the seed is permitted to be imported into Thailand. You must know the scientific name of the seeds and what country are they from.

If your seeds are permitted, you have to apply for a certificate from The Department of Agriculture before importing them.

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

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

Australian Mr Andrew Lachlan Dickson was appointed as Resident Manager at JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa on October 26, bringing with him 10 years spa management experience. Before moving to Phuket, Mr Dickson was Director of Operations at Wallea Beach Marriott Resort and Spa, supervising indoor and outdoor facilities covering 117,000-sq feet.



Australian Mr Damian Clowes this month became Vice President – Corporate Services at the Outrigger Asia division's regional office in Phuket, to design, implement and monitor the administrative, legal and tax functions for Outrigger's portfolio in Asia. Mr Clowes' experience includes positions held at Dean, Pricewaterhouse Coopers and Rouse & Co.



Mr Klaus Christandl joined the Sheraton Grande Laguna, a Luxury Collection Resort in Phuket, as the hotel's new General Manager on November 16. Previously in Egypt as general manager of the Sheraton Miramar Resort, he reports to Wayne Buckingham, Regional Vice President of Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia for Starwood Hotels & Resorts.



The best investments in a crisis



MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

Richard G. Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service, and has over 25 years experience in this field. Office: 076-381 997. Mobile: 081-0814-611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th www.globalportfolios.com.

There were horrendous losses for investors in the UK property market in late 2007 as the financial crises tightened its grip.

Until then, investing in funds that covered a wide range of property had been one of the more popular methods of investment.

Those who invested in shopping centers, office blocks and warehouses – to name but three – suffered the most. Losses in this sector started at around 35 percent and went all the way up to and beyond 90 percent.

However, other funds targeting more specialized areas such as ground rents and student accommodation fared a lot better.

Seeing how these different areas fared in this financial crisis has enabled investors to ascertain the best and worst investments in UK property funds.

With the onset of a credit crisis, many made the huge mistake of using 'leverage' (borrowing to increase returns) and were



Properties in south-east London. Photo: AFP / Carl de Souza

forced to suspend redemptions to investors, as they simply did not have the liquidity available.

Most of the property funds in this area will be closed for a few years and some will eventually sell all their assets and return what cash remains to investors.

In contrast, the sector that outperformed all others was student accommodation funds.

In this area, ground rent and student accommodation funds management company Brandeaux stood out from its peers.

Brandeaux has been featured frequently in this column because its student accommodation and ground rent funds have performed so well.

But by mid December 2008, even Brandeaux was forced to suspend dealing in its funds, which was caused by a significant 'cash call' on its funds.

Investors were looking for cash, and with all other property funds closed, Brandeaux became

the only port in a storm.

Here's a brief outline for those who don't know about this sector:

Student accommodation funds target university students. There are now more than 100 universities in the UK with a full time student population in excess of 2 million that is growing at a rate of three to five percent per annum.

While a number of students make their own arrangements for accommodation, many are still left looking for quality digs and some universities insist on students staying in university-approved accommodation for at least the first year.

People often think of university students as being in their late teens to mid 20s but in reality, as one property executive stated, 'there seems to be an inexhaustible supply of people in their thirties who are currently lawyers wanting to be accountants and vice versa'.

Most student accom-

modation properties are substantial buildings that house 400 to 600 students, usually with private ensuite rooms combined with common areas for study, cooking, and socializing. Laundry facilities, parking and 24-hour swipe card access for security are also usually included.

The vast majority of purpose-built student accommodations are closely tied to universities, but UK universities aren't wealthy so they are dependent on private companies to finance accommodation.

Some of the accommodation blocks, even the larger ones, contain individual living areas. Self-contained apartments with three to five bedrooms are common for students who complete their education with friends.

Brandeaux's student accommodation fund is now open for investment and withdrawals. Brandeaux state that withdrawals may take up to six months but I have found that two weeks is more accurate. They also say that occupancy rates in their properties are at 100 percent.

Rent, when measured on a like-for-like basis, rose 6.8 percent in 2008/2009 and is set to rise 8.6 percent for

2009/2010, well in excess of the rate of inflation.

Returns for investors are outstanding: one year to October 31 brings a net return of 9.72 percent, while three years to October 31 brings a return of 34.66 percent, a compounded annual return of 10.43 percent.

This is certainly one sector that did not suffer from the credit crisis.

A newcomer to the student accommodation market is a company called Coral Portfolio. Two of its directors are ex board members of Brandeaux. Coral Portfolio manage a Luxembourg registered fund, which means it is European Union regulated.

The Coral approach is different to Brandeaux's. Coral invests in a variety of student accommodation portfolios, making it a 'fund of funds'.

Coral points out that demand for beds far

outstrips supply. Only 10 percent is being met by the private sector with university-specific accommodation.

The Coral portfolio started in March 2009 with a 'pound sterling class', which has already increased by seven percent. The euro and US dollar share class were launched in June. Both have risen by five percent.

The custodian bank and administrator is Deutsche Bank, the auditors are Ernst & Young and the investment advisor is Strutt and Parker Real Estate Financial Services.

Neither Brandeaux nor Coral deal directly with the public, but can be accessed via a number of platforms.

In summary, the problems caused by the global recession/credit crunch left student accommodation as the best performing sector.



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Vikings bag Andaman 7s title

Singapore-based Danish side Viking Raffles recorded a comfortable 2-0 victory over pre-tournament favorites Stiff Chilli Wanderers in the Open Cup final of the fourth Andaman Soccer 7s tournament on November 21.

Danish professional footballer Dennis Olsen was the undoubted star of the final as his efforts helped his side to title.

Elsewhere there were wins for Sunbelt FC, 100 Pacers, Olympic Gauloise, Friday Dragons and Abu Dhabi Thistle in the Masters Cup, the Open Bowl, the Open Plate, the Masters Bowl and the Masters Plate respectively.

The first of two weekends of seven-a-side football took place at the FIFA Tsunami Pitch in Ao Makham last weekend.

A total of 27 teams lined up for the annual event, including some traveling from as far afield as Australia, Japan and India.

After two days of football and in many cases some heavy socializing, Sunbelt FC and the Hanoi Drink Team were the only remaining sides in the Masters

Cup, while Viking Raffles and the Stiff Chilli Wanderers, both from Singapore, faced each other in the final of the Open Cup.

In the first match, Sunbelt FC from Thailand defeated Vietnam's Hanoi Drink Team 2-0 to claim the Masters Cup.

In the second match, the Stiff Chilli Wanderers went into the Open final as heavy favorites, thanks largely due to the strength of the squad that traveled to Phuket.

The Stiff Chilli Wanderers have an entire 11-a-side league at their disposal and select the very best players for these tournaments.

However, the Viking Raffles had an ace up their sleeve in the form of Dennis Olsen, a professional footballer who plies his trade in Denmark's first division, but is currently on holiday visiting a friend in Singapore.

Olsen, blessed with both speed and skill, consistently tore the Stiff Chilli Wanderers' defense apart as the Raffles cruised to a two-goal victory, the second coming courtesy of an uncharacteristic goalkeeping



The Stiff Chilli Wanderers (white) were heavy favorites to lift the title, but the Viking Raffles (red), led by Danish professional footballer Dennis Olsen, proved to be too strong.

error by former professional footballer Scott Starr.

For Olsen, the trip to Phuket was a welcome break from the rigors of professional football.

"It's my first time in Phuket, but it has been great fun," he said.

"I think I must have slept for

a grand total of 10 hours in the four nights I have spent here, but I still managed to play OK."

For organizer Tim Hodgson, the tournament couldn't have gone better.

"The weather has been perfect, the standard of football has

been high and both the finals were very evenly contested," he said.

"It was nice for the Viking Raffles to win because they have never won the cup before, whereas the Stiff Chilli Wanderers are regular winners."

-James Goyder

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NICE TOUCH: The Danish Vikings team presented their winnings to the Phuket Sunshine Village at the closing ceremony of the 2009 Phuket Sport Fishing Tournament. Photo by Tony Pope, Island Life Photos

Midnight Sun fishing team from Finland produced a dramatic late charge on day three of the 2009 Phuket International Sport Fishing Tournament to snatch a dramatic victory over the Naughty Boys by just 14 points. By the end of the three-day competition it was just a two-horse race as both Midnight Sun and the Naughty boys finished well clear of the chasing pack, with third-placed team Bode.de trailing the runners up by a whopping 92 points.

Tournament organizer Uwe Schitteck was delighted to see such an exciting end to the event.

"The tournament was great and it was really exciting on the final day and Midnight Sun raced to the top of the leader board," he said. "I am already looking forward to next year's tournament."

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King's Cup Regatta returns to its roots

Action at the 23rd King's Cup Regatta got underway last weekend with two days of competitive dinghy racing off Kata Beach.

Now in its 22nd year, the event is Asia's biggest and most popular regatta.

Inaugurated in 1987 to celebrate the 60th birthday of His Majesty the King of Thailand, the event has since been held every year during the first week of December, and has grown in stature each year.

This year's regatta boasted a record fleet of 110 boats, all vying for first place in their respective fields, culminating this Saturday, also His Majesty the King's birthday.

The regatta began life as an event with a strong dinghy presence and went back to its roots this year.

The fleet on the water during the opening weekend comprised four Tasers, eight Lasers and four Topaz dinghies.

Six children from the Sunshine Village had the chance to participate in this prestigious event, courtesy of Topper Sail



Taser class winners Philip Lawson and Thanasorn 'Nid' Chookate on G-String during the opening weekend of this year's regatta.

Photo by Duncan Worthington

Phuket, who donated the four Topaz dinghies.

The pairing of Jonas Johansson and Tanawat Sarawaree secured victory in the Topaz class and they were presented with their award at the King's Cup opening party at the Kata Beach Resort and Spa.

In the Laser class, 16-year-old Anusorn Loywat emerged as the winner, beating off seven other challengers, but it was the Tasers which provided the most competitive racing of the weekend.

After a series of tight races,

the pairing of Philip Lawson and the *Phuket Gazette's* own Thanasorn 'Nid' Chookate were crowned the eventual winners.

Ms Thanasorn was delighted to get her first taste of King's Cup action.

"I have been sailing for six years but this is the first time we have won anything at a major regatta," she said.

"I know the King's Cup used to have dinghies. It's good that they're back again. I hope we can race again next year."

-James Goyder

Sea Dragons unveil new coach for 2010



A tough-tackling center half in his day, Narong is promising to bring a more professional approach to training for Phuket FC.

Former Thailand international player Narong Arjarayutt has been appointed as the new manager of Phuket FC. The move comes as part of sweeping changes being made by club officials as they look to avoid a repeat of the disappointing 2009 campaign.

Narong, a tough-tackling center half and capped 12 times by the War Elephants in his days as a player, is hoping that a more professional approach will show dividends once the season begins.

"I think Phuket FC has the potential to be a Division One and maybe even a Premier Division team, but it will not happen overnight. People will have to be patient," he said.

In other news, Phuket FC have announced a partnership with Thai Premier League champions Muang Thong United.

Coaches of the 2009 champions have been helping with pre-season preparations and it's believed that some reserve and youth players from United could line up for the Sea Dragons next season.

Phuket FC officials have pledged to give the existing squad every opportunity to prove itself before bringing in players from the Nonthaburi side or overseas.

-James Goyder

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Give yourself a well hung rack



This week, we'll talk about an item which almost every household in Thailand has: your basic, garden-variety clothes-drying rack. This article will show how to install a simple system of cross-bracing to your own rack to ensure the longest possible life.

Constructed of very light-gauge aluminum tubing and PVC-type plastic 'joints', the basic design of this item has several flaws.

First, it has no cross-bracing to eliminate flexing caused by being pulled and moved about. Thus the torque and flexing are transferred directly to the PVC 'joints' which crack over time from these forces, as they have no reinforcing 'ribs' as they ought to. This design would be adequate if the object were never moved, but most of these racks do not enjoy such a sedentary lifestyle.

Second, the joints themselves are made of the cheapest possible plastic, and

will experience material fatigue over time from flexing, exposure to UV rays (sunshine) and rain.

Third, the wheels are adequate when new, but their open design collects dirt and debris, and quickly renders them stiff and reluctant to turn. Thus, when they should be spinning and allowing the rack to be moved easily about, they instead create additional drag, which increases the flexing that occurs when the item is grasped and pulled, loosening the joints and leading to a weakened overall structure.

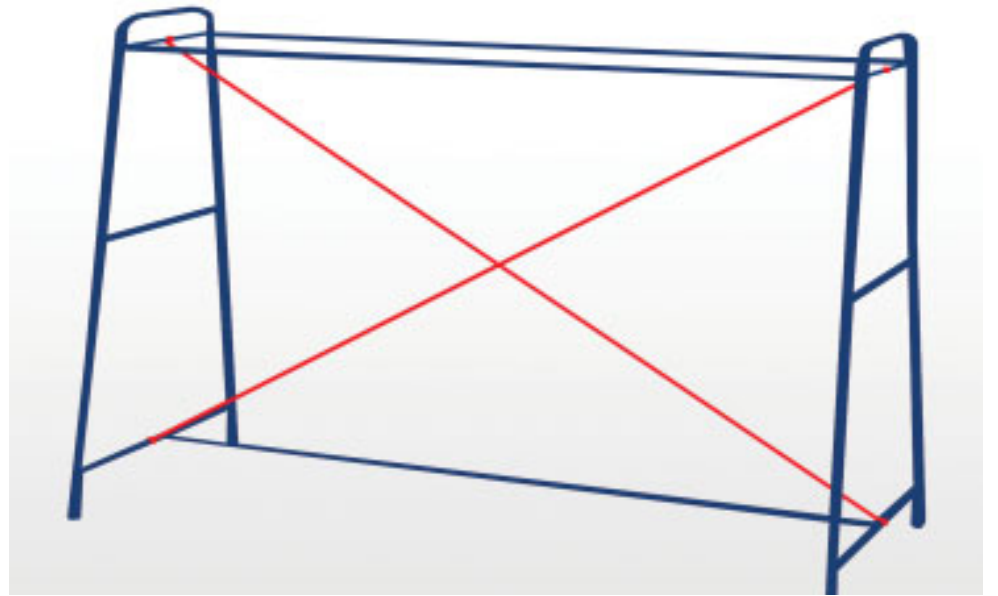
If you don't want your rack to experience any of the aforementioned problems, then here are a few simple procedures to help it last to a ripe old age.

The easiest way to brace an item like this is with two pieces of 'picture-wire', sold in rolls at most hardware stores. This wire is inexpensive and can be used for many things around the house, so it's handy to keep a roll in the workroom.

First, measure the distance from one side's lower cross-piece to the opposite side's middle cross-piece, add about 8 inches, and then cut two pieces to that length. Most of these racks seem to be of the same size, and mine measures 62 inches across this space.

Take an end of one of the wire pieces, and wrap it several times around the lower cross-piece, right in the center, then twist the short end around the long section, leaving the long part hanging.

Repeat with the opposite side.



Next, position the rack with one of its narrow sides against a wall. Take the wire from that side's lower cross-piece, and draw it up to the center of the middle cross-piece on the other narrow side as you hold the rack firmly against the wall. This will keep the upright pieces vertically parallel as you loop the wire around the middle cross-piece and pull it till it's snug, but not tight enough to bend the legs.

Keeping tension on the wire, loop it around another time or two, then twist the short end around the long end tightly, making your turns around the long section as close as possible to the cross-piece. If you twist the short end around the long section further out from the cross-piece, the twists will eventually slide back toward the cross piece, and the looseness will render the braces ineffective. Snip off any excess.

Tip: to avoid a sharp point, use your needlenose pliers to bend the cut tip into a fishhook-shape, then squeeze shut.

Now, turn the rack around, position the other narrow side against the wall and re-

peat the whole process. The rack now has two wires which will form an 'X' beneath the middle set of tubes. These wires will not interfere with hanging clothes from the middle set of cross-pieces, yet now when the legs are gripped and the rack moved, it will feel distinctly more rigid.

Last, the wheels. If your rack is old, clean the wheels thoroughly of any dirt or debris, especially around the central axle.

Next, take your trusty spray-can of silicone lubricant and squirt a generous dose into the wheels. No need to be precise here, as these wheels are bearing-less, so spray mostly at the inner axle, spin the wheels to distribute the lube, then spray again.

Try to avoid using motor oil, as motor oil is petroleum, and most cheap types of plastics, such as these wheels, are also based on some form of petro-chemical. Therefore, lubing with motor oil will 'soften' (partially dissolve) the surface of the plastic over time.

Another reason is that motor-oil, being thicker and hence 'stickier', is more likely to attract and retain the very kinds of debris we are trying to avoid. Silicone is more of a 'dry' lube, so lint and threads from the clothes, grass, and other wind-blown debris will not adhere to it as they will to motor-oil.

That's it! Hang those clothes out in the sun, and have a beer while they dry! See you next time!

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BayCliff powers up project in Patong



LEFT: An artist's impression of the planned BayCliff hotel and office development in Patong, construction of which will begin early next year. RIGHT: Marking the project's launch are (from left) Phuket Vice Governor Theerayut Iamkrakul; The BayCliff Group CEO Viriyah Likitvong; Director, Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) area 2 (Nakorn Sir Thammarat) Throngpol Yuwanichayakul; and House of Representatives Suratthani member Chan Thaugsuban.

Construction on a new hotel/office building in Patong will begin in early 2010 as part of a joint project between The BayCliff Development Company and the Provincial Electricity Authority.

Dubbed 'The BayCliff Hotel', the buildings will be erected on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee

Road in Patong.

The buildings, spread across seven floors, will house a 286-room hotel with a range of accommodation options and offices for the Electricity Authority.

The top floor will feature a dining room, conference room, rooftop pool and a sky lounge.

Other facilities include an

all-day restaurant, fitness center, spa and business center.

Wireless internet will also be available throughout.

The ground floor of one of the buildings will house 1,600 square meters of office space for the Provincial Electricity Authority of Patong to service the area.

The BayCliff management

aims to attract guests by designing the hotel with the concept of creating a home away from home.

In doing so, they hope to attract a range of overseas tourists, providing them with a 'comfort and coziness that makes them feel right at home'.

Room prices are expected to range from 80 to 150 US dollars

per night.

A state-of-the-art security system will also be installed, featuring CCTV cameras, fire alarms with sprinkler system and 24-hour surveillance by security guards.

Construction of the entire development is expected to be completed by 2012.

-Thansorn Chookate



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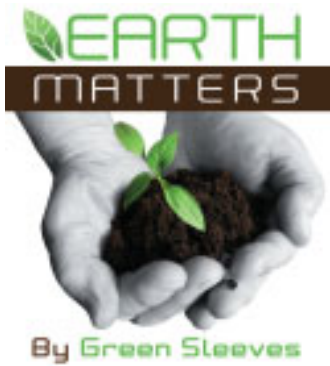
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Thailand's exotic kitchen garden



Today, I'd like to look at some of the more exotic 'veggies' available in Thai markets, those that frequently don't make their way to European supermarkets. A couple are members of the aubergine family, but are unlikely to be found outside the tropics.

Take the *ma-eok*. Two of these gray-green leaved plants sprouted in the arid soil of a barren plot next to my house. Hairy leaved and armed with fierce spines, I was amazed to see them produce a crop of equally hirsute yellow fruits.

My Thai partner picked these round, mini-tennis-ball like objects, scraped off the rough outside and popped them in a curry, to which they added a sour piquancy. Yet another member of the eggplant family and clearly easy to grow.

At the time, I wished I had kept some seeds. No sweat. The fruits were on sale at the market today – at all of 10 baht a pack.

And there are more. The long eggplant also grows into a small bush, but unlike the *ma-eok*, it has elongated cylindrical fruits which may reach twenty

centimeters or more. A close relative of the purple variety familiar to us, these are smooth and shiny, usually pale green, but occasionally violet or even purplish black.

Sweeter than other aubergines when cooked, it can be eaten fresh or fried in oil or egg-yolk, European style. Sometimes, it is roasted and skinned, then combined with chilli sauce (*nam prik*). It may even find its way into *tom yam* soup.

It grows everywhere in Thailand and packets of seeds are readily available.

The same can be said of the very different *ma khua phuang* or turkey berry. It has the characteristic flower of the solanum family – like a potato or deadly nightshade bloom in appearance – but the fruit is small (one cm), round, and surprisingly hard.

It resembles a pea and often appears on plates of greens at lunchtime in Thailand. Pleasantly crunchy and bitter to the taste, it is added to classic green or red curries like its larger cousin the brinjal.

I found it easy to propagate from seed in my Chalong garden. It is erect, spinous and may reach two or three meters in height. A proven favorite with Thais, the turkey berry can also be recommended to hypochondriacs, since it has remarkable medicinal properties.

There are other eggplant varieties in cultivation in Southeast Asia. A trip round the local market will probably reveal a smooth yellow cultivar known to Thais as *khuea lueang* and to *farangs* as the Thai yellow egg-



Pickings from the Thai exotic kitchen garden. Pictured: The flavorsome long eggplant (above); the characteristic flower of turkey berry (top right); and Chinese bitter gourd, also called ampalaya (bottom right).



plant. It is less widely grown, because it has an astringent taste and is rarely eaten raw.

Likewise the *ma waeng* (*solanum trilobatum*) which is a climber and produces pea-sized green and white striped fruit.

There are a few things that kitchen gardeners should note. One, all varieties can be disease prone, especially if planted where other aubergines have already been cultivated, and are particularly vulnerable to a fungal infection called verticillium. Two, the flowers do not readily attract bees, so the plants do not always set fruit. Three, almost all varieties have spiny stems. These provisos apart, all eggplants are rewarding to grow and eat.

Another family of edible climbers is found in Thailand – the gourds. Once used almost exclusively as vessels for liquids, the hollow, dried out shells are now more familiar in the West as decorative objects on coffee tables. Here, however, they are enthusiastically eaten.

By far the most popular is the Chinese bitter gourd, or

ampalaya (*momordica charantia*), an odd-looking thing which looks like a ridged and warty cucumber, or, in another incarnation, like a dark green, rough-skinned and pointed specimen.

It is cooked, as so many vegetables are, when green and unripe, a familiar adjunct to a speciality soup in which pork mince is stuffed inside hollow sections or added to curries, or *nam prik* sauce.

Like all members of the gourd family – and that includes melons and loofahs – it is a vine, which means that its tough, but thin stems and tendrils will need support if you decide to cultivate it in your backyard.

Apart from those familiar pollination problems, which can be circumvented by hand dusting the flowers, the ampalaya is easy to grow from seed. And your Thai neighbors will be very impressed if you do so...

I could spend time on the bottle gourd, but, despite the availability of seeds, it is less commonly grown – today only one market stall in Rawai had them

on sale and it is more rewarding to look at loofahs and melons.

The angled loofah (*Luffa acutangula*) is another climber, and produces long green ridged fruit. It is eaten fresh when young and sweet, or cooked in the usual ways.

The largest member of the family is the smooth loofah which has dark green streaks when young, then turns yellowish when fully mature.

A small variety, often a weed that appears on garden fences or twines around other plants, is the small ivy gourd (*coccinea grandis*). The small (two cm) green and white fruit resemble those of the brinjal. It goes bright red when ripe and looks decorative; it is, however, rarely eaten in that state.

What is good about all these odd fellows is that they are not only easy to grow from seed, but will flourish in most soils and at most times of the year, provided they get sufficient moisture.

After all, the fruits are, like their cousins the marrow and cucumber, 90 percent water.

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Property Gazette

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for sale. Mission Heights community. 7 mins to Blue Canyon Golf Club, 10 mins to airport. House: 454 sqm, land: 1,444 sqm, 4 beds, 4 baths, Western kitchen, 16x6m pool, fully furnished with solar heating. Tel: 081-344 4473, 081-862 2962.

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

GOLF CONDOS KATHU

2 freehold condos at Phuket Country Club. 132sqm. 3.9 million baht. 5.5 million baht (renovated). Tel: 081-922 4045 (Seb), 085-794 1511 (Wal).

3-BEDROOM PRIVATE POOL

villa for sale. Fully furnished, close to beaches, shopping and restaurants. Location: Chalong/Rawai. Set in lovely tropical garden. Tel: 085-788 8299. Email: nattacha14@hotmail.com

KATA BEACH HOUSE

3 floors great area, must sell, moving quickly. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-303 2202.

CONDO FOR SALE

Furnished, pool and spa. 750,000 baht. Tel: 089-966 0568. Email: gidmansimon@yahoo.co.uk

17 RAI WITH PALM TREES

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

KARON SEAVIEW

land, 200sqm. Good to build guesthouse. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-303 2202.

BEACHFRONT CONDO

North Patong. 2 bedrooms, freehold, great seaview. 9.7 million baht. For pics, please contact Tel: 086-276 5117. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

SEA VIEW LAND

Koh Lanta hill estate project. 17 rai, chanote, concrete road, electricity, water, company masterplan. 33 million baht. Tel: 089-909 3882.

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

CONDO / PENTHOUSE, KATHU GOLF

Condo/penthouse style. Center of golf course. Freehold, nice view, 135 sqm. 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, big living room, Western kitchen and terrace. 5.6 million baht. Tel: 076-7629 3149, 081-824-1385. Fax: 076-293149. Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

BANGKOK CONDO

Located Sukhumvit Soi 4, Nana, 21st floor, 60sqm. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-303 2202.

LAKESHORE VILLAS

Luxury townhome. 2 bed, 3 bath large kitchen and store room. Very private, quiet, pool & garden. In exclusive estate next to Laguna. Price 14 million baht. Tel: 081-719 5454, 081-894 5848.

2 MILLION BAHT OFF



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TOWNHOUSE, 2 STOREY



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

HOUSE IN KAMALA

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

PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

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

HOUSE SALE, THALANG

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KARON BEACH PHUKET

8 plots, 400sqm each, land title deed, hillside, seaview. Tel: +00-491-7140 6753. Email: naruchai@gmx.de

LAND NEAR RPM

87sq wah, Chanote title. Near Toyota show room on Bypass Road & Royal Phuket Marina. For Sale: 2.6 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 081-894 2009.

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Last nice plot under 6 million baht. Asking 5.8 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 081-623 3784, 085-795 5383. Email: chartsri@yahoo.com

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Corner block to the rear of the estate. 19,000 baht per wah. Email: lowprofile@mail.com

PATONG BEACH CONDO

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4 RAI FOR SALE

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

HEAVEN ON EARTH



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

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Property Gazette

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Kamala. Quiet forest location. 5.9 million baht. Email: dyhkt@hotmail.co.uk

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3 BEDROOMS HOUSE

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Property Gazette

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NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO



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for 5.8 million baht in Rawai. Nice plot, quiet area. Picture and info. Tel: 081-623 3784. Email: chartsri@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT

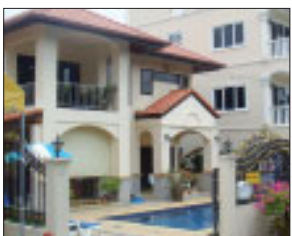
Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircon, hot water, washing machine, ADSL, WiFi, tel, garden. 10 minutes to Bang Tao beach. Price 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: sara_supertik@yahoo.co.th

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

HOUSE RAWAI/ NAI HARN



for sale. 3-bedroom house with 2 bathrooms, 9x4m swimming pool, 2 car parking spaces and aircon. In Rawai/Nai Harn. Just minutes from the finest beaches and scenery to be found in Phuket. 10.5 million baht. Tel: 087-882 9604. Email: artipmj@yahoo.com

CONDO PATONG

for sale. Furnished, 1 bedroom. At Phuket Palace in Patong. Freehold. Price 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-892 1621.

3 STORY SPACIOUS TOWNHOUSE

Chalong, sale or rent. 3-bdrm, 3-bthrm, 2-carport. Spacious living/dining area and Western kitchen as well as plenty of storage space. Master bedroom with large ensuite bathroom and a walk-in closet. Tel: 086-947 3880. Email: bpang@windowlive.com

HOUSE FOR SALE, RAWAI

2-storey, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths plus self-contained bungalow. 6.8 million baht. For sale by owner. No agents please. Tel: 087-628 3673 (English & Thai), 081-078 1112 (English). Email: islanderbar3@hotmail.com

OCEAN VIEW CONDO

2 bedrooms, big kitchen, new balcony, pool, parking. Kata. Tel: 084-851 0703. Email: st@kl.lv

2 RAI IN AO MAKHAM



Chanote, in Soi Rat-U-Thit 1, public utility area. easy access in and out. Just 12 million baht for both rai. Tel: 076-522938, 087-689 9679, 089-588 5458. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

PATONG BEACH UNIT

1 bedroom or studio, 14th floor, great view in great complex, large pool. Will trade up on house in Phuket Town. 25 million baht. Tel: 082-824 0040.

NEW DETACHED HOUSE



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

SURIN NEW HOUSE, GOOD DEAL!

2km from Heronines' Monument, all facilities in close proximity: airport, British International School, hospitals. New 3-bed villa for sale in The Valley 2. Nice garden in front of the house. Ready to move, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, covered garage for 2 cars. Land plot: 240sqm. Living space: 130sqm. By owner 2.8 million baht. Less than list price. Tel: 086-273 4149, 086-271 3260.

EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY IN CHALONG

in Chalong. An exclusive contemporary and luxury property. 600sqm of living space, mature landscaping garden of 2,000sqm, swimming pool, sala and more in a huge secure green park in Chalong. Tel: 086-273 4149, 086-271 3260. For full details visit our website: www.tamata-phuket.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.

LAND FOR SALE PATONG BEACH

Very nice hillside plot with sea view, quiet and natural setting with a waterfall. Part of a small community of 3 houses with all infrastructure in place. Use of communal swimming pool. Fair price for the right customer. Tel: 081-891 3466 (English). Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

PATONG CONDO-PRIVATE SALE

Make an offer. I own four apartments and want to sell two! These are 54sqm, one-bedroom apartments, only 4 months old. Complex has swimming pool, gym, under-cover parking. White and bright with front view looking over garden/pool. Tel: 085-069 0938. Email: nnorthwo@hotmail.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

HOUSE NEAR LAGUNA

for sale. 36sq wah, 2 bed, 2 bathrooms with bath, 2 hot shower, 3 aircon, UBC, carport, Western kitchen, 1.7 million baht. Tel: 083-105 9689.

900SQM CHERNG TALAY

land for sale. 3 million baht. Tel: 086-047 2463 (English), 086-161 1136 (Thai).

HOUSE IN KATHU

2-storey, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool, 215sq wah. Price: 6.7 million baht. Tel: 081-892 1250.

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

TO: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd, 367/2 Yaowarat Road, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand.

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☐ Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)

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To ensure clarity, please email. Do not Fax!

Live in Rawai?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
'The Network' property office

Don's Café
Sattuan Road
Rawai
Kata-Karon
Phuket Town
Chaofa East Rd
Chalong Pier

**Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it
with Khun Anna (089-729 1391)**

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 Online* is always on top in Google!

Boats & Marine

THAILAND'S LEADING BROKERAGE & NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP

LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage

Please visit our website for more listings

► **Grand Banks 47 Heritage (2006)**

- Twin Diesel Cummins 490HP
- Bow Thruster
- Electric windlass with remotes on the fly
- Bridge and internal helm station
- Air Conditioning Throughout
- Water maker
- Large capacity refrigeration
- Class B responder/transmitter

\$798,750 USD

► **Bonnetan 535 (1992)**

\$350,000 USD

► **Pearson Countess 46 (1978)**

\$97,000 USD

► **Apreamare 45 (2002)**

305,000 Euro

► **Wripack 69 (2004)**

1,500,000 Euro

leemarine.com

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

Brokerage Office: The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 968 1437
tel/fax: 076 239 729
email: andrew@leemarine.net

Yacht Haven Marina Office: The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 891 3237
tel/fax: 076 206 260
email: jim@leemarine.net

Pattaya Office: Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach
Contact: Mark Heath
Mobile: 081 787 9408
tel: 038 235 061 fax: 038 235 062
Email: mark@leemarine.net

Princess 20M
Available Immediately

• MAN engines, twin Gensets, 1997.
• Huge inventory - refit 2008.
• Excellent condition - must see to appreciate.
• Owner open to serious offers. Price only 795,000 Euro.
• Free crew and berth at RPM for one year. Guarantee.

Contact: Andrew de Bruin. Mobile: 081 894 1530. Email: andrew@leemarine.net

65 FOOT POWER CATAMARAN

6 double cabins, 2 saloons, huge space, wood-composite, 14,000 euros. Tel: 087-461-8089.

SALE: MV SEA OF FANTASY II

– MV Sea of Fantasy II (former MV Nam Sai) immediately available for sale or rent. 25 meters long, 5.3 meters wide, built in October 2006.

– Registered and insured to Oct 2010.

– Capacity: 70 guests + 5 crew.

– Shipyard overhaul in Oct 2009.

– Similan Park License till Nov 2010.

– 3 compressors (900 l/min), 80 aluminum tanks & weights.

– 2 x Hino V 25 10-cylinder diesels.

– 2 generators (20 Kw + 30 Kw).

– 12 knots cruising speed.

Tel: 081-787 4043 (English), 081-882 5069 (Thai). For more details. Email: wolly.woerner@gmail.com

BENETEAU CYCLES 50.4

Ready to go, all-purpose sailing boat for quick profitable business! Tropical sailing, large fixed bimini, sprayhood, fan in every cabin, solar panels and dinghy davit. Equipped for charter, but never chartered. Ready to start the new charter season. Yanmar 110hp. 1000L water + 450L diesel. Dinghy: 3.10m heavy duty + 8hp outboard Yamaha. Enjoy sailing! Visit www.tamata-phuket.com Price 225,000 Euro. Tel: 086-273 4149.

CLASSIC YACHT NEEDS CAPTAIN

Experienced sailor to look after and maintain a 50' wooden sloop - 'work for sailing'. Contact for more information at Email: pontificator2000@yahoo.com

7M RIB 225HP NEW!

2009, never used, Merc 225, galvanized dual axle trailer, all equipment, Bimini. 12 pax, CE, 60 knots. Two available in Kamala. Super price at 890,000 baht. More info by phone. Tel: 084-699 2618. Email: emanuel.par@gmail.com

BOAT HULL/MERCURY/DINGHY

10-meter plywood hull (speed-boat project not completed). 150,000 baht

– 40HP Mercury Sea Pro. Many new parts, ready to run. 75,000 baht

– 3.5m dinghy. 20,000 baht or best offer! Tel: 081-968 3118 (English & Thai), 081-271 3228 (English & Thai). Or email: moodiving@yahoo.com

OUTBOARDER YAMAHA

5hp, 2.5 years old, newly serviced. 22,500 baht. Tel: 081-892 0750

55 FOOT CATAMARAN

6 huge double cabins, center cockpit, 105sqm sail area. 2.2 million baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

REGAL 3560 2004

Immaculate condition. Low hours. US\$250,000. Please see our web site at www.boatshedphuket.com

KINGS CUP REGATTA

Experience the cup on a 17m luxurious sailing yacht. Be there to watch all the action. Please call Tommy. Tel: 081-158 7405.

SWAN 42, 1982

Huge sail wardrobe for racing or cruising. \$150,000. For further details. Tel: 084-842 6146. Please see our website at <http://www.boatshedphuket.com>

SEALING 260, 1995

300hp, Mercruiser diesel. 1,750,000 baht. For further details. Tel: 084-842 6146. please see our website at <http://www.boatshedphuket.com>

INTREPID 390 SPORT

Kevlar GRP Sportfisher yacht, 3x250HP Mariner EFI outboards, 40+ knots. 5 KVA generator, aircon, sleeps 4 bath-room, elec toilet, full galley, microwave, fridge, sink. Asking 2.2 million baht. Tel: 081-842 3961. Email: gerrit.bijlsma@planet.nl

YACHT CHARTER



Sunseeker Manhattan 58. One-day tour: 110,000 baht+. Price includes captain, crew, cook, snorkeling & fishing equipment. Tel: 076-238976. Email: sales@sunnava.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.sunnava.com>

MARINE PLYWOOD BS1088

We have marine plywood, British Standard 1,088, in 15mm, 9mm and 6mm for sale. Best for boat building or for sub-layer on laminate flooring. Tel: 087-265 9977 (English & Thai). Email: jimmys@loxinfo.co.th

Live in Cherng Talay?
Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at 41 Minimart

Map showing location of 41 Minimart near Laguna gateway, Chaba Restaurant, Lifestyle & Leisure Plaza Del Mar, Golf Guru, Police Station, and Tinlay Place.

Simply write out your ad, pay for it and leave it with Khun Kung (076-324312).

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!

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To ensure clarity, please email. Do not Fax!

Island Job Mart



Additional Show Artists, MCs, DJs, Musicians wanted to audition and register.

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

We provide high quality show artists and bands to resorts, hotels, restaurants.

Contact Khun Woo: 087 463 8863.
Email: info@coconutheadentertainment.com
www.coconutheadentertainment.com



JUNIOR SALES COORDINATOR

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

Qualifications:

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

WEB PROGRAMMER AND DESIGNER

To design, code, implement, optimise and maintain websites and to provide ongoing customer support.

Qualifications:

- University degree, or equivalent experience.
- Mastery of CSS, HTML, XHTML.
- Demonstrated skills with scripting language such as PHP, SQL and Javascript.
- Web optimisation and page ranking techniques.
- Must be knowledgeable about standards design methodology and usability testing.
- Excellent communication and English skills.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Delivering creative and strategic advertising and marketing design solutions across all mediums.

Qualifications:

- University degree, or equivalent experience.
- 5 years relevant experience in an advertising agency.
- Excellent English skills.

Tel: 076 236 637
jobs@southern-media.net

BANG TAO TROPICAL RESIDENCE

We are currently outsourcing for management position and staff. We are looking for 20 to 30 energetic young individuals to join our working team in our new Condo Hotel in Phuket. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-261772, 083-5222089 (English & Thai). For further details, please see our website at: <http://www.bangtao-tropicalresidence.com>

STAFF WANTED

English speaking girl for reception in a Patong guesthouse. For more information. Tel: 087-471 0033.

NANNY FOR CHILD

Looking for a full time live-out nanny. English speaking and experience with children required. Please contact Maria. Tel: 082-288 3128 (English). Email: maria.wilewski@gmail.com



Anantara Phuket Resort & Spa, Mai Khao Beach

If you enjoy being the best, delivering the highest of standards and are a technical expert in your area then you may want to come and be part of the Anantara Story.....We are looking for the following professionals to join us.

Sales & Marketing

- Assistant Director of Sales based in Phuket

Job qualification

1. Bachelor Degree or higher in sales and marketing in hospitality field
2. Mature with sales management experience with 5 star resort for 5-7 years
3. Team player, yet independent and possess a keen passion for hospitality services.
4. Good command of spoken and written English
5. Event and banquet management experience is an advantage
6. Possess a positive sense of leadership and management

Engineering

- Engineer / AC Technician
- Mechanic
- General Technician / Shift Engineer
- Handyman

Housekeeping

- Villa Supervisor
- Villa Attendant x4

Kitchen

- Sous Chef

Villa Operations

- Villa Host Supervisor
- Villa Personal Assistant (Butler)
- Villa Host x3
- Bellman / Driver x2
- Guest Service Center x3

Food & Beverage

- Assistant F&B Manager
- Restaurant Supervisor (Male)
- F&B Attendant x3 (Male/Female)

We enjoy a 5-day work week (average 45 hours per week) and free transport to and from Phuket Town.

As part of our recruitment process you will be assessed on your level of English – this is a key skill for all of our team.

Please submit your CV with covering letter stating the position you are applying to email address recruit_phuket@anantara.com or contact Human Resources Department, Anantara Phuket Resort & Spa
Phone: + 66 (0) 76 336100-9 Ext.553
Fax: + 66 (0) 76336166

Good Luck with your application!

SALES CENTER POSITION

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

2 SWEDISH RESTAURANTS

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

HANDYMAN WANTED

Full time, flexible, Thai national. Tel: 081-537 6866.

NEED AN HONEST COUPLE

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

SECRETARY TO DIRECTOR SALES

Dive Supply Co Ltd Phuket is one of the leading distributors and wholesalers, and exporter of big brand scuba and watersport equipment in Southeast Asia. We are looking for a Thai national to work as secretary to the Director of Sales and Marketing. Email: info@divesupply.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.divesupply.com/jobs>

CAMERON HANSEN GALLERY

Full time and part time sales staff now required in Patong and Kata. Nice working environment, great salary and commissions for the right person. The position is open to Thai and Philippine nationals, and English speaking skills are necessary. Tel: 089-646 8580. Email: cameronhansen@yahoo.co.uk Please visit our website at <http://www.cameronhansen.net>

FOOD STAFF, PATONG

Need good staff to sell food in Patong at NIGHT. Starting time is 8pm. GOOD SALARY. Tel: 085-158 7638 (English & Thai). Email: pierre_hammar@yahoo.com

HOUSEKEEPER/ BOAT HOSTESS

An expat couple is seeking someone to be a housekeeper for their villa in Surin Beach and hostess on their boat. Duties include cleaning of the villa and boat and acting as boat hostess for day or overnight trips. You must have good English and the highest professional standards, and you must not get seasick. Salary: 10,000 to 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-271 3211 (English). Or send email: sonya_norris@yahoo.com.au

EXPERIENCED BOAT BUILDER

part time. Needed to assist in building a cruiser from plywood coated with fiberglass. Hours are flexible. Located close to Chalong pier. Full-time boat builders also needed for those positions. English is not required. Please call Gunnar between 9 and 12 am. Tel: 089-287 4007.

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

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

RECEPTIONIST

for beautiful guesthouse in Karon. Thai national. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-271 8254. Email: ninapartments@hotmail.com

MAID

Live out maid wanted for cleaning outdoor areas and garden for private villa. Must have experience looking after dogs & cats and will be required to stay in villa to look after pets when the owners are traveling. Must have good English. Very good salary for the right person. Tel: 081-271 3211 (English). Email: sonya_norris@yahoo.com.au

TSBA ASSOCIATES REQUIRED

Sell businesses in Phuket. Experience unnecessary, full training given. Contact Phil. Tel: 087-034 0568 (English). Email: phil@tsba.info

MASSAGE - MAID

Good pay. Thai lady wanted to give daily massage to 70-year-old American and take care of house in Chalong. Email: ltnesneg@aol.com

PATONG RESTAURANT

seek experienced cook as partner. Tel: 087-267 7965. Email: ric.ddd@gmail.com

OFFICE STAFF WANTED

Must have some experience. Computer skills needed. Must talk Thai and English. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-443 5983.

COOK/ BOAT GIRL

wanted for unique small charter yacht. If you are English speaking, 25+ with experience and reference. Tel: 083-102 7801.

STAFF WANTED

English speaking girl for reception in a Patong guesthouse. Tel: 087-4710 033.

BOOKKEEPER / OFFICE ASSISTANT

English speaking Thai national bookkeeper/office assistant required on the beautiful, quiet island of Koh Jum at Koh Jum Beach Villas, a resort community of luxury private homes, open all year. Experience in Excel and MS office, please. Opportunity for advancement. Tel: 084-773 2792, 083-330 0747 (English). Email: info@kohjumbeachvillas.com For further details, please see our website at <http://www.kohjumbeachvillas.com>

2 ENGLISH SPEAKING LADIES

Morning & afternoon work - must have own motorbike or car. Tel: 083-102 8922 (English). Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

SALES NEEDED

Female, good English. Showroom in Rawai. More details call Khun Kob. Tel: 081-658 5962.

ACCOUNTANT

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

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

Wanted immediately for accounting company located in Chermg Talay. Tel: 089-488 8929 (English). Fax: 076-620198. Email: tri@cpag.co.th

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Looking for a better candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.PhuketGazette.Net/!**

Island Job Mart

THE PERFECT CHOICE FOR YOUR NEXT CAREER MOVE

Radisson Plaza Resort Phuket Panwa Beach

The Radisson Plaza Resort Phuket Panwa Beach is located 45 minute's drive from Phuket International Airport and 20 minutes from Phuket Town.

The resort property comprises 211 Pool Villas, Ocean Villas, and stylish accommodations, together with a well-being spa, meeting facilities, four food and beverage outlets, three swimming pools, a fitness centre and supervised kid's club along a secluded beach on Makham Bay.

The Radisson Plaza Resort Phuket Panwa Beach is looking for potential candidates and invites applications from individuals who are passionate and devoted to serving others.

1. Revenue and Reservations Manager
2. Executive Housekeeper
3. Events Manager or Event Coordinator
4. Spa Manager

Qualifications:-

- Male/Female, and only local contract
- Bachelor's degree from related field
- Computer literacy and hotel computer systems knowledge
- Direct experience would be an advantage
- Highly innovative and result-oriented, ability to work with sensitive, confidential information while maintaining confidentiality.
- Excellent in people development and management skills
- Fluent in both spoken and written English

Interested candidates are invited to send a full resume, stating present and expected salaries, and enclosing a recent photograph to ssuthasiri@radisson.com

Radisson
PLAZA
RESORT PHUKET PANWA BEACH

AVISTA
Resort and Spa, Kata, Phuket

Join our team to build a dream!

A low-rise modern resort hotel set on gently sloping land against a backdrop of lush green hills with dreamy views across the Andaman Sea, Avista Resort and Spa is architecturally designed to blend into its natural surroundings. We have 143 lavishly appointed guestrooms, with the standard room size being amongst the most spacious on the island at almost 50 sqm.

Pre-opening vacancies.

Guest Relations Officers Scandinavian

Qualifications:

- Preferably from any of the Scandinavian countries, Europe or Russia.
- Female, 20-30 years of age.
- Minimum experience of 2 years in the hospitality sector in 4/5-star hotels.
- Excellent communication skills. English and Scandinavian languages.
- Pleasing personality, positive attitude and proactive thinking.

Purchasing Manager

Qualifications:

- Thai nationals
- 30-45 years of age.
- Minimum experience of 3 years in the same position in 4/5-star hotels.
- Pleasing personality, positive attitude and proactive thinking.
- Good interpersonal skills.

Salary and Benefits:

For both positions we offer a competitive salary package with benefits and guaranteed service charge of 3,500 baht. Fourteen public holidays, annual vacation, staff transportation, staff canteen, and uniform.

Applicants may forward the full resume mentioning qualifications, expected salary and recent full size photograph to the HR Manager at gmi@avistaphuket.com Tel: 076 284815 Fax: 076 284814 Visit us at: <http://www.avistaphuket.com>

AVISTA
Resort and Spa, Kata, Phuket

Hotel Address Leam Sai Road, Kata, Phuket 83100

Tel: +66 (0) 7628 4815 Fax: +66 (0) 7628 4814

Sales & Marketing Office Bangkok Business Centre 18th Floor, Ekkamai 63, Klongton Nua, Wattana, Bangkok 10110 Tel: +66 (02) 714 3547-8 Fax: +66 (02) 714 3549

skydance
helicopters

Reinforcements needed!

Helicopter company, operating tours and charters, looking for highly talented professionals to join our fun and exciting team! Like to fly? Here's your chance to take the skies!

Position: SALES CONSULTANT

Responsibilities:

Sales consultants are responsible for finding new travel agents and hotels, selling our products and maintaining relationships with them throughout Southern Thailand, mainly in Phuket. Assure that the agents and their customers' requirements are satisfied in accordance to the company's objectives. Prepare presentations for clients and reports to management.

Qualifications:

- Excellent customer service and experienced in selling in the tourism market/industries
- Organized team player with the ability to multi-task and keep cool under pressure.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and self-motivated.
- Excellent communication/presentation skills in Thai and/or English.
- Minimum computer literacy in MS Office and internet.
- Able to work irregular hours.

What we offer:

Professional work environment, career growth, competitive salary and/or commission, health insurance, company phone, traveling expenses.

Skydance Helicopters is an equal opportunity employer. Interested candidates are invited to submit their resume along with salary requirements to: hr@skydance.aero or info@skydance.aero

5/3 M. 5 Viset Rd., T. Rawai, Muang, Phuket 83130.

www.skydance.aero

(Agents inquiries welcomed!)

ROYAL PHUKET MARINA

Royal Phuket Marina is Asia's most sophisticated and high-tech yachting haven, a world-class destination combining luxury waterfront living with a state-of-the-art marina. We are now looking for enthusiastic and motivated candidates for the following position:

Sales Executive – Property

- Thai national, minimum of 2 years experience in real estate sales.
- Bachelor's degree in related field, preferable in real estate.
- Excellent command of English and computer literacy.
- Strong motivational, innovative, interpersonal skills.
- International experience with a large real estate developer an advantage.

Interested candidates please send fully detailed CV, recent photo, current and expected salary with other related documents to:

HR Department

Royal Phuket Marina

68 Moo.2 Thepkasettre Rd, Kohkaew, Muang, Phuket

Tel: 076-360833-38 Fax : 076-360840

Email: prasertm@royalphuketmarina.com

BEAUTICIAN / MESSAGE LADY

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

OFFICE MANAGER / PA CHALONG

Chalong-based health product manufacturer seeking Office Manager/PA. Aged 20-30, must speak good English, computer skills, some accounting experience, own transport, references from past employers, experience with exporting preferred. Good salary & benefits. Send resume with photo to tiso@email.com

OFFICE MANAGER

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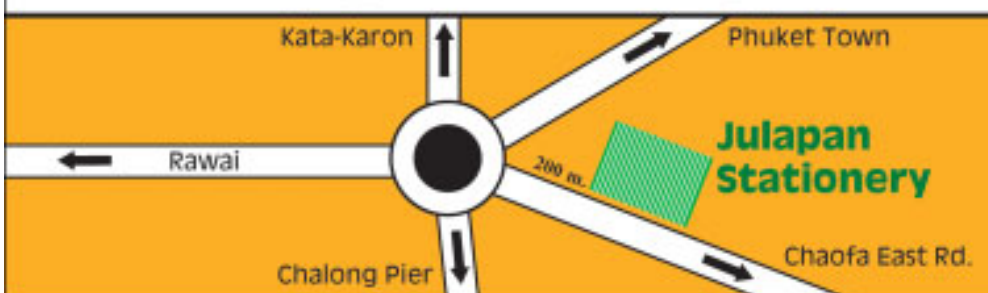
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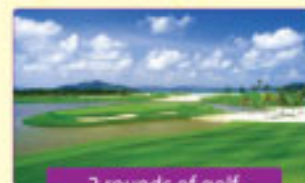


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