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Phuket Gazette

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2010 FIFA World Cup pull-out poster



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Second incinerator to ease trash crisis

PHUKET City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana has confirmed that construction of Phuket's long-awaited second solid waste incinerator is to begin next month, while a 43-million-baht project to improve the surrounding landfill is now complete.

"Construction of the new plant was delayed because the original plans had to be modified for the incinerator to pass its Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) review, but now they are ready and construction will begin in late July.

"It should be finished by December next year," Mayor Somjai told the *Gazette*.

According to a Phuket City Municipality press release issued on June 5, the 43-million-baht project has just been completed and will help alleviate Phuket's mounting solid waste problem.

Residents on the island currently generate about 500 tonnes of trash daily, but the existing incinerator at Saphan Hin can only dispose of about half that amount.



GARBAGE DAY: Every day around 250 tonnes of trash that cannot be burned by the existing incinerator (pictured) pile up on Saphan Hin landfills.

The rest goes into five landfill plots covering around 120 rai around the incinerator.

In use since 1993, the landfills already hold about a million tonnes of trash piled up to 15

meters high in some places, five meters below ground and 10 meters above.

Both the incinerator and landfills are run by Phuket City Municipality, but must accept

trash from all 20 local administrative districts on the island.

The landfill improvement project, just completed by Boonchai Panich (1979) Co Ltd, took 400 days to finish from its starting date in April last year.

Workers extended three landfills to boost their capacity, while sealing off a fourth plot that was full to capacity and re-arranging a fifth plot so it can accommodate more waste.

The project also included installation of a drainage system and wastewater treatment plant.

The project ended May 6 this year, but despite boosting the total landfill capacity by an extra 110,000 tonnes, authorities expect the entire landfill to be filled within about one year.

That realization prompted the Phuket Provincial Trash Management Committee to invoke a new policy requiring all 20 local administrations to ensure trash is separated at the point of collection, thereby reducing the volume of trash that reaches the incinerator.

Continued on page two

Governor Wichai rues fatal Patong landslide

THE GOVERNOR of Phuket has expressed sorrow and frustration over the mudslide that killed two workmen in Patong on June 6.

Gov Wichai Phraisa-ngop said he has continually spoken out about the problem of dangerous hillside development, but could do little since ultimate responsibility rests with organizations that are not under his control.

The slide hit at around

1:30pm as workers used a backhoe and other heavy equipment to excavate terraces in a hillside plot of a resort project on Soi Sang Krasee (Nanai Soi 1) off Nanai Road in Patong.

Construction workers were able to pull 45-year-old project foreman Thawisak Nukaeo alive from the mud, but the resident of Phang Nga's Takua Thung District later died at Patong Hospital.

It took the workers about 20

minutes to find and unearth the body of a 35-year-old Burmese laborer identified only as "Neung" from the spot where he was buried alive.

Another Burmese worker, identified only as "Sorn", also suffered injuries requiring hospital treatment.

In a bitter irony, the mudslide was apparently triggered by the workers' efforts to construct a retaining wall at the site.

Patong Deputy Mayor

Chairat Sukhabaan visited the site and said the upslope soil was thoroughly saturated after four days of almost continuous heavy rain.

Patong Mayor Pian Keesin has ordered a temporary work stoppage at the site to check the project's environmental impact assessment report to ensure that the construction was properly permitted and proceeding according to regulations.

- *Nation and Gazette staff*

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'I thought I was going to die'

British victim of terrifying macaque attack on 'Monkey Beach' speaks to the *Gazette*

A BRITISH woman with a life-long fear of monkeys was seriously injured when several primates attacked her on Phi Phi Don Island in Krabi.

Dee Darwell, 56, arrived in Phuket on May 18 before setting off on a one-day trip to Phi Phi Don and surrounding islands with a Phuket-based tour company on May 21.

One stop was Monkey Beach, so named for its population of crab-eating macaques.

Ms Darwell, whose father kept an "evil" chimpanzee that fostered her "intense dislike for monkeys", agreed to take the boat trip with her friend.

Arriving around noon, Ms Darwell first considered staying on board while some 35 tourists went ashore. But rather than endure the sun, she opted to lay her towel on a shaded rock on a section of shoreline that appeared to be monkey-free – but wasn't.

She was frightened by the appearance of one monkey, which grabbed her wrist and pounced on her right arm, sinking its teeth into the flesh and not letting go.

"I was absolutely petrified. I was shaking from head to foot and I froze," she said

Another tourist witnessed what was happening, but screamed and ran off as more monkeys joined in the attack.

"Then another, bigger monkey bit my arm, just next to the other one biting me, and all of a sudden I was surrounded by monkeys," she said.

Three or four of the creatures attacked her from all sides, leaving bruises all over her body.

"I thought, 'This is it, I'm going to die, I'm going to be savaged by these monkeys.' Then I went into shock," she said.

Ms Darwell does not remember how she was rescued, but was later told that the boat crew had somehow scared off the monkeys.

The next thing she remembers was the blood pumping out of a deep gash near her right wrist.

The boat crew cleaned the wound, covered it with a bandage, but did not take her back to Phuket for the immediate medical attention she needed, she said.

"I didn't want to make a fuss in front of everyone on the tour, but for sure they should have ferried me straight back to the hospital," she said.

Instead of taking her back to Phuket, the tour continued as scheduled with a stop for lunch,



SAVAGED: Dee Darwell, from Peterborough in Cambridgeshire. **INSET:** A crab-eating macaque.

where she had to pay for a beach chair and couldn't eat because of the pain and her "dazed" state, she told the *Gazette*.

She said she was given only

paracetamol for the "intense" pain.

Arriving back in Phuket in the late afternoon, she went to Patong Hospital, where the

wound was cleaned and dressed. Sensing a worsening infection on May 28, she went to Bangkok Hospital Phuket and underwent surgery to remove rotten flesh.

Ms Darwell said that her primary complaint was with the lack of clear warning given about potential dangers.

The guide responsible for the tour told the *Gazette* that company staff did warn her of the dangers of infection and offered to take her to a hospital immediately, but a friend with her said that she could take her herself.

"We bring tourists to this beach every day, and we always warn them about the monkeys. But, in a group of about 40 tourists, you're always going to have someone who doesn't listen..."

"We also don't want to have problems like this. Tourists don't have to get off the boat if they don't want to. It's not often that tourists we bring here get attacked by monkeys," he said.

Ms Darwell feels there is much more that needs to be done to ensure safety at Monkey Island, but ended on a positive note by saying "Come to Thailand because it's the most beautiful place and the people are lovely – just keep away from the monkeys."

– *Nicholas Altstadt*

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New incinerator

Continued from page one

Brought into effect at a meeting on May 27, the new policy was coupled with a directive ordering local administrations to form a provincial Nature and Environment Protection Volunteer Network with "branches" in each of the local administrations' areas of authority. The network is to teach and promote trash

separation and recycling to local residents.

Each local administration is also to set up designated trash-separation centers.

Residents are to separate their trash into recyclable materials, organic waste and hazardous materials, all ready for separate collection by local garbage men.

Penalties for residents not separating their trash are still being considered, as are fees to cover the cost of fitting out the garbage trucks so that trash stays separated after collection.

A big problem in the past has been that trash sorted at curbside

has been mixed back together at collection. This reduces efficiency at the incinerator because organic waste contains a great deal of water vapor, which lowers the burning temperature and results in lost electric power production, incomplete combustion and higher levels of chemical pollutants released into the atmosphere. Wet trash causes the same problems.

Local administrations are studying what penalties can be levied for non-compliance with the policies and will present their findings to the Phuket Provincial Trash Management Committee soon.

– *Sitthipong Nongkaew*



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The accident caused a long tailback on the bypass road southbound.

Slippery road causes five-vehicle pile-up

SLIPPERY road conditions led to a five-vehicle pile-up on the bypass road that left one pick-up upended in a roadside drainage ditch and several people injured.

The accident happened at about 6:15pm on June 3 in the southbound lanes near Thanachart Bank, about two kilometers north of the Tesco Lotus junction.

Just after light rain started, a motorcycle with a pillion passenger lost control in the left-hand lane, causing 27-year-old Jirawat Chuaybumrung to slam on the brakes of his green sedan to avoid running them over.

His car was hit from behind by a red pick-up truck carrying four passengers, all heading home from work at the time.

Then a silver pick-up tried to swerve into the passing lane to avoid hitting the two vehicles in front, but was smashed hard

on its right side by a large Laguna Phuket bus carrying 40 staff back to town from Cherng Talay.

The silver pickup, with 45-year old driver Usah Saenganun and four passengers, smashed into the red pick-up and ended up in a roadside drainage ditch.

Several people were taken to hospital, but there were no serious injuries.

Mr Jirawat, who was with his wife and seven-month-old baby, said, "We are okay, but the baby was a bit shocked."

Accidents are a daily occurrence on the bypass road, which is currently being resurfaced. Completed in early 2006 under a 111-million-baht road building project, the surface has since become uneven and potholed.

Motorists, especially those on motorbikes, are advised to proceed with extreme caution while the work continues.

- *Sitthipong Nongkaew*

Man murdered by Leo-wielding Laotian laborer

A DRUNKEN Lao man was arrested on June 3 for allegedly killing a friend by slashing his throat with a broken beer bottle. He reportedly confessed to the crime, saying he acted out of rage after the man used his money to buy beer instead of rice whisky.

Chalong Police led by Wichit Intorrarnorn held a press conference at noon to announce the arrest on murder charges of the 43-year-old Lao national identified only as 'Eddie'.

The suspect was drinking rice whisky with two friends at a workers' camp on Soi San Chao Kuan Oo in Chalong Village 1 just before midnight when Mr Eddie gave 100 baht to Wattana Kangkij to go buy more whisky, according to police.

Mr Wattana, a 20-year-old resident of Rassada, returned to the table with two large bottles of Leo beer instead.

This sent the Laotian into a rage. He allegedly took one of the bottles and smashed the youth in the left temple with it, then took the sharp remains of the bottleneck and sliced the man's neck as he lay on the ground.

Witnesses rushed the man to Vachira Phuket Hospital, but he died on the way.



Confessed murderer 'Mr Eddie' of Laos and the broken beer bottle he used to slice his friend's throat (inset).

When Chalong Police arrived they found the Lao covered with blood and babbling his confession.

He will be charged with premeditated murder.

Police collected as evidence

the bottleneck, known in Thai as *paak chalaam* because it resembles the open mouth of the great white shark that appeared in the blockbuster movie *Jaws*.

- *Gazette reporter*

PTA plans Australian roadshow

IN A BID to tempt more tourists from down under, the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) is planning a September roadshow in Australia.

PTA President Somboon Jirayut said he was targeting Australia because there were direct

flights to Phuket from most major cities there, including Perth, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne.

"The association is also planning road shows in China, Korea and Japan - probably next year, but it's not confirmed yet," he said.

Thai Airways International

(THAI) was planning new direct routes to Phuket from seven cities abroad, Mr Somboon said.

The THAI board would probably name the cities near the start of the next high season, he said.

- *Atchaa Khamlo*



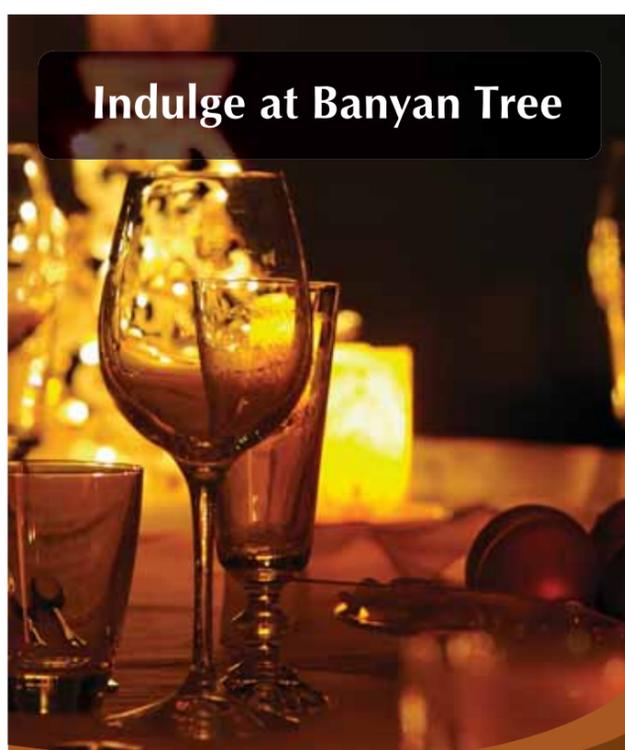
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The professional beggars making

A handful of beggars ply the streets of Patong, taking cash handouts from tourists who think they are helping those who can't help themselves. But according to local politicians and officials, these beggars make good money and turn to the 'profession' not out of desperation – but out of choice. **Atchaa Khamlo reports.**

One night last October, former Kathu Police Superintendent Grissak Songmoonark stopped a bedraggled middle-aged beggar on Soi Bangla, Patong's famous entertainment strip.

In front of a crowd of curious tourists, the colonel emptied the contents of the man's satchel onto a table.

What emerged was not soiled bedding, dirty clothes or anything else one might expect a beggar to carry – but more than 3,500 baht in coins and notes. The man said he had collected the money in just three hours.

The problem

Charoen Thonman, assistant to the deputy mayor of Patong, has been working to fix social problems in the resort town for 20 years. He said the beggar's haul that night was nothing out of the ordinary.

Beggars in Patong take home an average of between 2,000 and 3,000 baht every night, Mr Charoen said.

"Sometimes I joke about quitting my job and working as a beggar, the salary is better," he said.

An officer from the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security said his department had caught 11 men and two women begging in Phuket so far this year.

"It's more than last year because we've gone out to catch them more often," he said. "They always ask for money in crowded places, such as the markets in Karon and Patong."

When this reporter visited Patong one night in May, there were at least six beggars working Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road alone.

Three women had children with them

A 60-year-old woman from Suphanburi was sitting in a dark



Markets are popular spots for beggars in Phuket Town, Patong and Karon.

area on the sidewalk.

"I was driven out of my home town by my children," she said. "I've been begging for three or four months. I come here by

bus around 6pm and return to my house near Suan Luang at 4am," she said.

She earned between 100 and 200 baht a night, she said.

"I'm sitting in the dark to hide from the police and I constantly move from place to place."

Another old lady from Ranong was begging with her three-year-old granddaughter.

"We are very poor and my daughter's husband is in jail," she said.

"My sister and daughter earn some money, but not enough. We live in Phuket Town. Every day my daughter drops us off and picks us up here on a borrowed motorbike. "I'm saving money for my niece's education."

But Mr Charoen was skeptical that either woman was telling the truth.

"If they have problems with money, they could ask for help from the welfare department. There are various projects offering help, including free education. But they don't ask, because their begging job is much easier," he said.

Many of the beggars are from Thailand's poor northeast region of Isarn.

Panee Sithikarn, chief of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security's Phuket office, said beggars came to Phuket during the off-season for rice farming in Isarn and rented houses together.

"Many of them are families who sell *somtam* (spicy papaya salad), grilled chicken and meatballs during the day and beg at night," she said.

Investigation has revealed that a number of them share a house on Surin Road, while others are renting rooms in an unnamed apartment block close by. Both are in Phuket Town.

A woman living in the neighborhood who asked not to be named said the beggars left their accommodation between 2pm and 4pm each day, returning at night.

"They don't let the neighbors know what they are doing, but we know they are working as beggars," she said. "Once a year they go back to their home town. I think they have a lot of money. They have a car."

Deception

Many Patong residents interviewed by the *Gazette* said

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a living on the streets of Phuket



A family of beggars from Thailand's poor Northeast lives in this house in Phuket Town.



Beggars are a common sight on the streets of Patong.

that not only did beggars make good money, but that many feigned injury to drum up misplaced sympathy.

One shop owner on the beach road said he often saw a "blind" beggar standing on the beach smoking cigarettes and staring out to sea.

"Right away he's back to being blind again and asking people for money," he said.

Mr Charoen said one able-bodied beggar took a motorbike taxi to his begging spot every day.

"As soon as he gets there he transforms himself into a handicapped person, getting the driver to help him off the bike as if he can't get off on his own," he said.

Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukhabaan said beggars worked in teams and were picked up and dropped off from Patong together.

"They have money, they're not even poor at all. They treat begging as their occupation," he said.

"It's about the country's image," he said. "Some of them

use bad words in front of foreigners if they don't give them money," he said.

Response

Patong authorities would like to see the beggars taken off the streets, but there are obstacles.

"When we arrest one them, they call their friends and they all run away," Mr Charoen said. "And when we do catch them, they're gone for a while, but come back again. We can't watch them all the time."

The authorities were also concerned about appearing to victimize old people. "If we arrest the old ones, local people won't approve, so it's sensitive," he said.

Mr Chairat said that strictly speaking, it wasn't the municipality's duty to deal with the beggars.

"We just cooperate with related departments and make things convenient for them. Sometimes we catch the beggars and send them to the police," he said.

Mr Chairat said his officers

had tried asking them to stop, but they wouldn't listen. When that didn't work, they tried a tougher approach.

"We wanted to scare them into stopping begging. Sometimes we caught them and released them on Tri Trang Hill," he said, referring to the relatively isolated headland at the south end on Patong Bay.

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security is also taking action.

Its officers periodically round the beggars up and send them to the Southern Home for the Destitute (Sichon Home) in Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

There they are fed and given vocational training. But the beggars aren't forced to stay there.

"Sichon is not a prison, so it can't hold them. They are free to come back and if we find them, we catch them again," said Mrs Pannee.

Any illegal aliens caught begging are sent home, while those with mental health problems are sent to the local Public Health Office.

The law

The treatment of beggars is governed by the Begging Act of 1941. Under the law, beggars

cannot be jailed, but can be fined.

A process of reform of the Begging Act now underway could eventually lead to compulsory licensing and registration of all beggars.

Mrs Pannee would still like people to stop giving them money.

"We have to help others by not giving them money," she said. "If we give them money, they will come back again. They are in every province, but Phuket is an international tourism destination and foreigners give them a lot.

"As there are so many good-hearted people and tourists, it's hard to solve this problem," she said.

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Queer News



CATCALLS FOR CLOUDBURSTS: Local villagers participate in a traditional ceremony hoping to bring relief to the drought stricken community.

Record drought brings back bizarre tradition

PHICHIT: After suffering from the worst drought in a decade, some 200 villagers in tambon Don Sua Leuang resurrected an old local tradition in which female cats are paraded around the village and doused with water in the hopes that their screams will induce the rain gods to release their bounty.

The ritual took place at 2pm on June 5 in the small rice-farming area of this tambon, located in Pho Prathap Chang District.

Nang Boontham, 53, said there wasn't enough water to plant her 50-rai paddy and that she feared the annual flooding of the low-lying area would be worse this year if villagers didn't get their paddy production underway soon.

Don Sua Leuang Tambon Administration Organization

President Wisan Junthong said this year's drought was especially bad because the village was not receiving extra water from the Ping River in neighboring Kamphaeng Phet Province, as usual. The canal that usually channeled water to the area was currently being worked on, he said.

Normally villagers in the area would begin planting as soon as rains arrived after Royal Ploughing Day in early May. When June arrived without rainfall, the villagers decided to hold the cat parade.

The ritual is one of many folk beliefs used by villagers in the North and Northeast to induce rainfall. The most popular involve firing homemade rockets into the sky.

Source: Kom Chad Luek

Dealer, girlfriend killed in shootout

RATCHABURI: Police shot dead a suspected drug dealer and a female companion on June 3. The man was also a suspect in the murder of two police officers early last month.

Commissioner of Police Region 7 Phongsan Jiam-on said he received intelligence that the suspect, 43-year-old Wisan 'Tee Damern' Saensoi, was hiding in the mountains of Pak Thor District.

Ratchaburi police used four-wheel-drive vehicles to sur-

round the area. A fierce firefight then broke out, police said.

When the shooting died down, police found Mr Wisan and 29-year-old Wassana Chanhorn dead in a pick-up truck. Both had been shot multiple times in the head and body. Police said an Uzi submachine gun was lying next to Mr Wisan's body.

Police said they also found a 9mm pistol, a shotgun, an M1 carbine, 500 rounds of ammunition and 1,000 ya bah (metham-

phetamine) pills in the truck.

Mr Wisan was wanted in connection with the murder of Pol Sen Sgt Maj Thane Buaphan and Pol Sgt Maj Somrit Uthairit, who were shot dead on May 2 while searching for a suspected drug dealer.

Another suspect in the case, Wijai Nakhwan, gave himself up in early May. He said he was scared he would be killed by police if he remained on the run.

Source: Khao sod

Game over

BANGKOK: A drunken man blew himself up with a grenade in an apartment block in the early hours of June 1 after becoming angry when friends refused to let him play a computer game.

Adisak Loppaiphon, 32, was killed, while friends Muhama Deuloh, 30, Yuhandri Khomkamhang, 23, and Abdulhalem Jaeha, 20, were hospitalized with severe shrapnel wounds.

Police said the three injured men lived in Chankaphor Apartments in Bang Kapi district.

As they sat playing the game on the night of the incident, Mr Adisak called and asked to join in, but was refused.

Mr Adisak, who was very drunk, reportedly pulled out an MK2 grenade and removed the pin.

He threatened to drop it if he wasn't allowed to play.

The three survivors rushed out of the room, but not fast enough to escape the blast.

Meanwhile, police are investigating whether the men have any connection to political violence.

Source: NBN/Khao Sod



The blackened Mahidol Witthayanusorn School after the arson attack.

Burnt out on studying

NAKHON PATHOM: A 16-year-old boy is undergoing mental evaluation after setting fire to the prestigious Mahidol Witthayanusorn School in Nakhon Pathom on June 6.

The boy had complained he was "so distressed that he did not want any more schooling," his father told police.

The young arsonist's torching of his own school building, causing an estimated Bt130 million in damages, has doubly shocked authorities because he

said it was inspired by the recent arson attacks which followed the red-shirt protests.

"The boy said it seemed okay for adults to burn buildings, so he decided to copy them," said Nakhon Pathom Governor Panatda Disakul.

"However, when the blaze escalated, he called 191 several times," Gov Panatda said.

"He said if he could turn back the clock, he would not have set the fire."

Source: The Nation

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Giving kids a bright, colorful future

Minor International hosted their 43rd annual Founders Day at venues across the country on June 4. The event in Phuket took place at Hongyok Bamrung School in Mai Khao, also marked the third year of participation and support from Anantara Phuket Villas.

The project, started in 1967 by Minor International Founder and CEO William Heinecke, falls under the company's corporate social responsibility program and promotes their involvement in the community to address social and environmental issues.

Anantara Phuket Villas joined the Founders Day program in 2008 and coordinates with local schools in the area throughout the year to contribute.

This year, Anantara sponsored scholarships to students at selected schools located near the

villa estate and engaged in various activities with the children and staff at nearby Hongyok Bamrung School.

First on the agenda was the scholarship presentation, with five students from five schools receiving scholarship funds of 1,000 baht each. To be eligible to receive scholarship funds, students had to have good grades for their school subjects and outstanding musical or sporting potential. The children also had to come from financially disadvantaged homes.

Next on the agenda were games and lunch, where VIP guests joined the children. For dessert, the kids were treated to ice cream from Swenson's, which Minor International owns. To mark World Environment Day, this year on June 5, and to add greener initiatives to the local community, school officials and the hotel staff planted sap-



Artist Christopher Hogan (back center) and Anantara Phuket Villas General Manager Mark Hehir with the children after their special art class. Student Panupong (right), 12, painting. Photos by Nicky Vermeulen

lings donated by Anantara before heading off to watch the children engage in a special art class led by renowned Australian artist and sculptor Christopher Hogan.

Hogan, currently the guest resident artist at Anantara, taught the children to use viewfinders

to discover interesting subjects to paint and guided them on mixing colors and painting techniques.

Well known and respected the world over for his macro paintings and sculptures, Hogan frequently jets off to exotic locations for commissioned proj-

ects. He took part in the Minor Founders Day initiative this year as a feature of his own social responsibility program to teach and illuminate additional untapped potential and skills in disadvantaged communities.

- Nicky Vermeulen

Bare-headed riders told to brace for fines



Phuket City Police Superintendent Wanchai Ekpornpit and Traffic Police Inspector Narong Kittiphongiwat promote the new helmet campaign.

AS PART of a campaign to achieve '100% wearing helmets in Phuket Town', Phuket City Traffic Police will begin issuing fines to bare-headed riders on July 1. Under the crackdown, both motorbike riders and passengers will be required to wear helmets.

The effort began in June when police began issuing warnings to those not wearing helmets. Now that two months of solid warnings have elapsed, police will begin issuing fines.

An often-ignored Thai traffic law states that both drivers and passengers without helmets can be fined up to 500 baht. A driver transporting a passenger not wearing a helmet is subject to an additional fine of up to 1,000 baht.

The Phuket Land Transport

Office has run public service announcements on a local cable television channel in recent months warning motorbike passengers they face fines if caught without a helmet.

Some riders who flaunt the law will not be left empty-handed after forking over cash for their fines, however. As part of a public awareness campaign, Phuket City Police have been giving about 3,000 helmets free to offending drivers in preparation for the July crackdown.

According to statistics

provided by the Phuket City Traffic Department, which covers five tambons in Muang Phuket District, accidents and fatalities are on the rise.

In Muang District alone, there were 1,239 accidents resulting in 36 deaths in 2008, while 2009 saw 1,733 accidents with 48 deaths.

Phuket City Police Superintendent Wanchai Ekpornpit expects to see less fatalities from motorbike accidents once the crackdown is in full effect.

- Gazette reporters

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Cultivating a backyard pharmacy



Turmeric is native to Southeast Asia and is part of the ginger family.



THE LOVELY AND THE LETHAL: (Clockwise from left): Ornamental ginger is mostly grown for its looks, not flavor. When ingested, the highly toxic allemanda leaves can kill a human. Spiky milk pods provide a paste used in body paint and lipstick in India.

THE majority of amateur gardeners could easily identify an aloe vera plant as treatment to soothe a burn, but to ease an upset stomach, most would overlook their own fruitful garden, full of natural remedies. Instead, they would likely make

their way to the pharmacy to buy a familiar remedy. That trusted brand-name formula is most likely to be based on chemicals that were originally discovered in plants. While this isn't a major revelation, most people do not

realize just how many plants in a home garden have contributed to modern medicine. Mother Nature holds a recipe book of remedies that have soothed sore throats, settled stomachs and cured diseases for centuries. Around 50% of today's

prescription drugs are derived from chemicals first found in plants. Since ancient times, man has experimented with thousands of plants to treat dozens of ailments. Even some animals have the ability to seek out bitter herbs in response to illness.

aromatic and therapeutic tea. Ginger is often used to relieve a long list of ailments including nausea, congestion, coughs, headaches, indigestion and inflammation. Research also suggests it may help with arthritic pain and diabetes.

A garden can double up as a pharmacy, which can be done without green fingers and a white coat to reap the benefits. When considering entering the field with clean rubber garden boots, it's best to stick to certain plants, as some are very toxic.

Without being a gardening enthusiast or a closet chemist, anyone can create a few handy herbal concoctions with just a little bit of plant knowledge.

Medicinal plants are hardy; they can survive and flourish with little water or fertilizer.

Extracting the useful chemicals is also easy, usually involving little more effort than making a pot of tea.

Na Tin Spicy Garden, just outside the beach resort of Ao Nang, in Krabi province, is a lush and leafy enclave and home to hundreds of medicinal and edible plants.

Retired pharmacist and keen botanist Piet created the garden in hope of enriching visitors' appreciation and knowledge of medicinal plants and herbs.

On guided tours, Piet points out plants that have contributed to various conventional drugs, ranging from testosterone to laxatives.

He explains, "In some species the chemicals are found in the roots, while in others the leaves contain a useful sap."

"The best genus for a beginner herbalist is ginger, which includes turmeric and galangal. It is very easy to grow, isn't toxic, and can be used as both a spice and a medicine."

The rhizome – the knuckled root stalk – is the useful part which can be peeled, sliced and stewed with honey to make a

Turmeric is another useful household herb. The active ingredient, curcumin, found in the rhizomes, has many healing properties, as well as culinary, cosmetic and horticultural uses. Herbalists believe turmeric is a powerful anti-inflammatory, and can provide considerable relief for rheumatoid arthritis sufferers.

The herb is strongly linked with cancer prevention, particularly colonic cancer, and is believed to prevent Alzheimer's disease, lower cholesterol and treat irritable bowel syndrome.

Turmeric is found in sun screens and the Thai government is currently funding a project involving the extraction of compounds that might have antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and skin lightening properties.

The plant is also an ant deterrent, making it a welcome addition to any Thai garden.

The ginger family is the ideal species for the amateur herbalist as it is easy to grow, prepare and store. The turmeric rhizome should be boiled, dried in the oven and ground into a deep orange powder, ready for use.

Na Tin Spicy Garden is an A-to-Z of herbal remedies, and home to many familiar plants such as coffee, tea, black pepper, chili and an array of fruit trees, but behind pretty petals and delicate scents, there are also potential killers.

Allamanda and oleander are both popular ornamental plants in Thailand, but in Africa the milky juice and seeds are traditionally used for poison darts.

Find out more about plants that can cure you, or kill you, at Na Tin Spicy Garden. W: natinspicygarden.com.

– Lesley Chittayanon

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Finding beauty in the Midas touch

SENSES Beauty and Wellness at the Med Park in Boat Lagoon have the privilege of boasting about their latest 'golden' beauty treatment, which is believed to be the first of its kind in Phuket.

Their luxurious 24-karat gold facial treatment has had women on the island occupying every slot in Senses' appointment schedule – and with good reason. The treatment leaves skin lighter, brighter and firmer; with less lines and a more youthful look.

Despite having an abundant history in healing remedies, gold has not been used frequently in modern-day beauty treatments, apparently due to the level of difficulty in getting the gold to penetrate the skin.

But gold has reinvented itself a number of times and has had a number of uses throughout history that range from being the original currency to jewelry and medicine, as well as for its industrial and chemical uses.

Regardless of gold's visceral appearance, it has always held a picture of luxury and wealth, and has induced several acute cases of commodity fetishism.

For today's woman, the

penchant for and value of gold has skyrocketed with its latest debut as a beauty treatment.

Cleopatra, the last ruler of Egypt and a woman known for her lavish extremism, slept with a gold mask on every night and it is said that when she died at the age of 39, her skin was as soft and supple as that of a 15-year-old girl.

Her gold beauty regime was credited for her extraordinary beauty and her power over men and could be where all the fuss over gold's aesthetic qualities stems from.

The basic make-up of the 24-karat gold facial (the purest form of gold available) sees only the highest grade of gold leaf applied to the face with the assistance of a serum used to help the skin with absorption.

This treatment stimulates cell growth as the skin tries to reject the precious metal by building up more cells.

Normally, the body only produces new skin cells every 28 days, but through the acceleration caused by the skin's reaction to the gold, it can slow down the aging process, which is primarily caused by the depletion of collagen over time.



President of Senses Beauty & Wellness Kathy Namchoo (left) with long-term friend, business partner and movie star Jayme Booher.

As a result, skin looks firmer and tighter.

Other benefits of the gold facial include the reduction and appearance of fine lines, wrinkles, sun damage and age spots as well as leaving skin soft and glowing

for days afterwards.

The only side effect known to be caused by the gold facial is the hefty depletion of resources from your pocket.

Having said that, a piece of gold jewelry may hold the

timeless ticket back into a woman's good graces, but the glow of eternal youth and the potential to cheat the aging process is a gift you can't put a price on.

– Nicky Vermeulen

Woody's clinic turns three



Phuket's unique Sunday-morning Computer Clinics turn three years old on June 20 with a Gala Geekfest that promises food, fun, and – most importantly – answers to guests' most pressing computer questions. From humble beginnings three years ago, to large gatherings that frequently run standing-room-only, the free clinics have drawn international attention and recognition. The anniversary will take place at 10am at Woody's Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong.

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Incoming flight of the funny men

PHUKET is in for a real treat at this month's Punchline Comedy Club at the Mercure Hotel in Patong on June 22. Popular stand-up comedian and "Flight of the Conchords" star Arj Barker will be headlining the show along with award-winning TV writer and Irishman Caimh McDonnell and UK musical comedian Rob Deering.

In an interview with the *Phuket Gazette*, Barker jested about his hopes of "catching up with a beautiful deep-voiced lady" he met last time he was in Phuket.

He is due to kick off his Asian Punchline Comedy Club tour on June 17 in Hong Kong, where he will perform for three nights before he and the other comedians he will be sharing the stage with arrive in Phuket on June 20. The trio will then head up to Bangkok for two nights.

Barker, 35, hails from San Anselmo in California and has appeared on several popular TV shows, including "Premium Blend" in 1997 and "Late Night with Conan O'Brien", both in the US, as well as Australian comedy show "The Glass House".

He has twice hosted "Comedy Central Presents..." and appeared on the Australian show "Thank God You're Here".

He also co-wrote and performed in *The Marijuana-Logues*,



Rob Deering (left) and Caimh McDonnell will be entertaining alongside Arj Barker at the Punchline Comedy Club this month.

an off-Broadway satirical imitation of *The Vagina Monologues*.

Barker has been a respected name on the international comedy circuit for over a decade and received a giant boost in popularity after playing "Dave" in HBO's "Flight of the Conchords" – a comedy centering on the day-to-day lives of two Kiwi shepherds turned musos who abandon their hometown in New Zealand to make it big as musicians in New York.

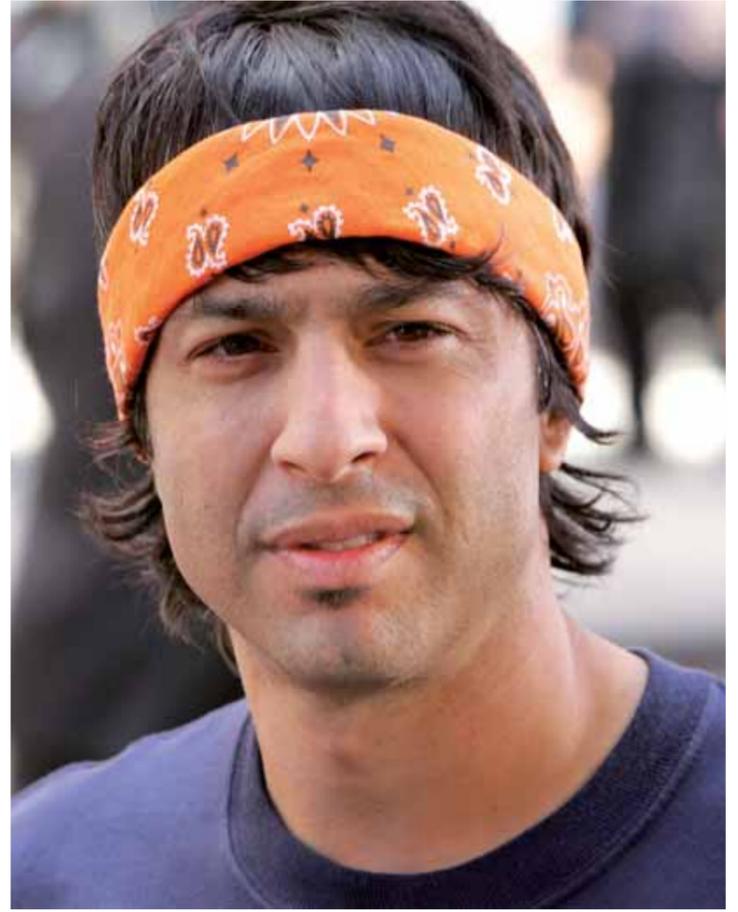
Barker's character, Dave, is a friend of the two main characters, Jemaine and Bret, and works for his family's pawn shop while providing them with what they consider valuable advice relating to life in America and women. Dave still lives with his parents but denies it with the creative

cover-up of having crazy roommates who just think they're his parents.

Australian newspaper *The Age* rated Barker highly, saying, "Barker is an intelligent, droll comic with a dark turn of thought and a fantastic, disturbing stage persona. There is a richness to Barker's work and a maturity and gift for extrapolation which set him apart."

Other critic opinions range from genius and criminally talented to hilarious and world classed. He has become a household name in Australia and recently recorded a one-hour stand-up special for Comedy Central entitled "LYAO" (Laugh Your Ass Off) and released a DVD with the same title.

An extract from one of his



American TV star and comedian Arj Barker will be performing at this month's Punchline Comedy Club.

shows in December last year showcases Barker's idiosyncratic perspective:

"Everyone's coming up to me half in tears saying, 'Arj what about global warming, what about climate change and the planet?' And everybody's convinced that the earth has a problem because it's so hot.

"But how come I don't hear a single intelligent individual aside from myself suggest the seemingly obvious possibility that the Earth is just fine thank you, but that there's something wrong with the sun!

"I'm not a scientist, but I'm pretty sure that son of a bitch is

where all the heat is coming from.

"All I'm saying is, when I burn my toast, I don't blame the bread. [crowd cheers] Wow! You guys really love toast jokes."

Sadly, neither the lovable Dave nor "Flight Of The Conchords" will be returning to screens again for a third season, but the equally lovable Arj will be touring and performing shows worldwide.

"I'm doing a load of gigs this summer all over," Barker told the *Gazette*. "Aside from Thailand, I also have gigs in Ireland, Amsterdam, Edinburgh and even New Jersey."

– Nicky Vermeulen

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EXPAT GALLERY

Susan Usher

Susan Usher is better known on Phuket as *Lady Pie* in honor of the delicious Aussie pies she makes and sells at her boutique bakery and restaurant in Cherng Talay, and at the Villa Market in Chalong.

She was born in the Snowy Mountains of Australia.

"My parents were part of the migration from England known as the '£10 Poms', who emigrated in the 1950s. They came by boat with my three elder sisters. I was the first of their family born in Australia."

Susan's father ran the kitchens in the Snowy Mountain labor camps that were building dams and hydro-electric stations. She fondly remembers her parents busy in the kitchen, and the special occasions when the family would buy the local meat pies for dinner.

"We didn't have a lot of money, but living in the Snowy Mountains was wonderful for all the outdoor activities. There was no television so we kids spent a lot of time together walking in the bush and enjoying nature."

After finishing school, Susan began working in finance companies. In 1975, she was appointed Business Manager for a building society and was eventually promoted to General Manager.

In 1987, she made a complete change of life.

"I decided to leave what I was doing and live a life on the sea. I walked away from my home with only a fishing knife, cutting board and a few casual clothes."

With a new partner, Susan began sailing around Australia and the Pacific Islands, including New Caledonia and Tonga, on their catamaran, *Fleur de Luna*. They also delivered boats to Bali and Susan made marine covers to support their lifestyle.

"We traveled with a huge generator and an industrial sewing machine, and had to anchor away from the other boats while we worked making repairs and canvas covers."

They arrived in Phuket en route to Italy in 1993. Shortly thereafter, Susan's partner became a motorbike fatality and Khun Kanit, owner of the Boat Lagoon, who had heard of Susan's talent for making marine covers, offered her the opportunity to work at his marina. She spent the next three years managing yachts.

Susan met her husband, Harry Usher, in 1997, which began a new era of adventure for her. They sailed to the Solomon Islands and did voluntary work at a rural training center. Susan taught the men how to cook and sew while Harry created a land management plan for the area.

"We were volunteers and the local people gave us lobsters to show their appreciation. For an entire year, we ate lobsters. I've not been able to even think about lobsters since then."

In 2004, while on a visit to her family in Australia, Susan spotted a pie making machine. She decided to buy one as ground minced meat pies are her favorite meal.

"I brought it back to Phuket and spent the next year and a half living on the beach at Kamala and practicing to get the dough right for the pastry base in the humid local climate."

Their life was turned upside down when their home was completely washed away in the 2004 tsunami and they lost everything they owned.

But the next year, Susan opened her pie making business in her current location in Cherng Talay. She sells savory pies with chicken, beef and pork, and dessert pies filled with various fruits. She has recently begun to export her pies to Laos and Vietnam.

Susan is a keen member of the Hash House Harriers where she runs and rides her mountain bike. She is known in the Hash as *Chastity Belt*. She works 12 hours a day with her business and is an active member on organizing committees for local yacht regattas.

Susan beams enthusiasm at her life on Phuket and plans to expand her *Lady Pie* business around the region.

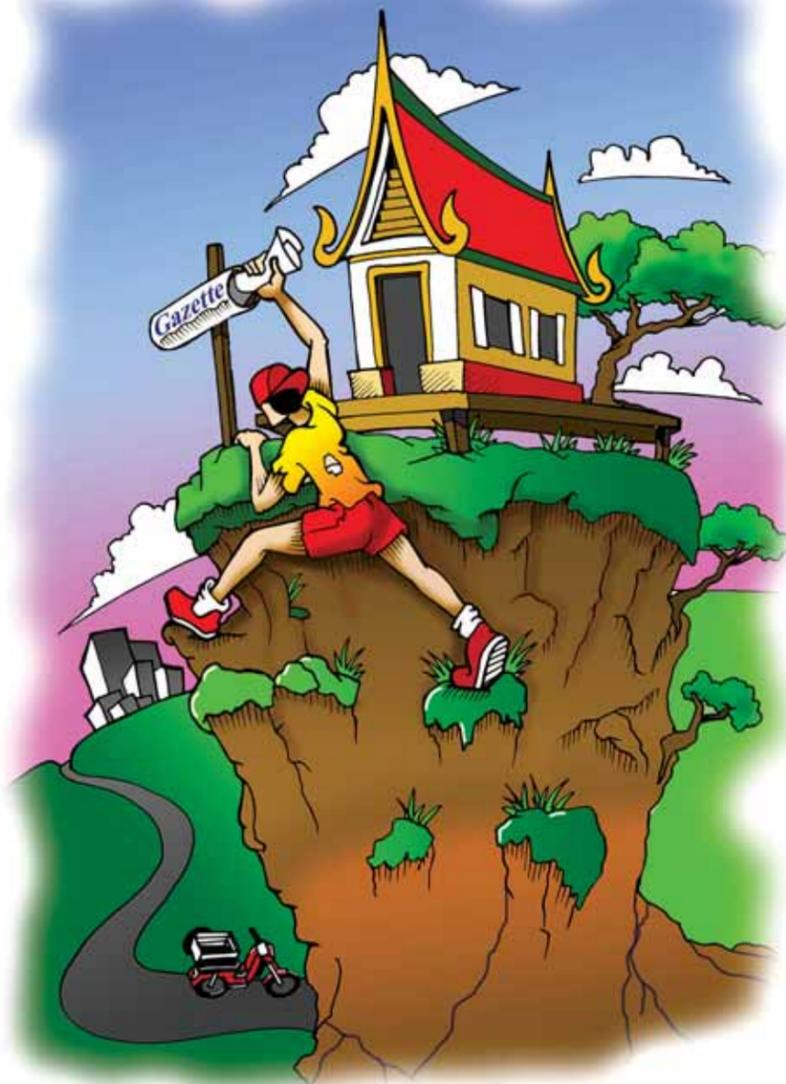
- Bruce Stanley



BY PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

ABOUT EXPAT GALLERY

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



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PUPPETEERING FOR HEALTH: Performers from the Joe Louis Puppet Theatre put on a traditional Thai puppet show for the 'Be Healthy Fair', held from May 22 to June 6 as part of Bangkok Hospital Phuket's 15th anniversary celebrations. Also pictured are CRM Coordinator Roenruedee Mingsonwong (right) and Deputy Director Dr Bodin La-ied (2nd from right).



EAT TO THE BEAT: The latest in the 'Fine Wine Dine' culinary club events mixed the tastes of food and wine with the beats of Thai DJ Nakadia at the Climax Absolute Bangla in Patong. From left: Jorge De la Torre Koch, Jose Luis Duran, Andrew Parker and DJ Nakadia.



ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, ROW! The happy winners of the annual canoing competition at Klong Mudong on June 6, organized by Wichit Municipality.



GOING FOR A THAI-TANIUM RECORD: Aspiring young rapper Patrick Larsen (2nd from right) poses with Thai hip-hop group Thaitanium. Larsen attends QSI in Phuket and recently went to Bangkok to record a song with the trio.



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It's a very cool cat, this Trat

On the menu WITH Wilko

DINERS expecting Dusit Thani Laguna's La Trattoria to be a dark, Tuscany-themed terracotta-floored ristorante with busy but faintly mustachioed waitresses, waiters prone to burst into baritone Florentine melody and clusters of empty Chianti bottles hanging from the ceiling are in for a big surprise.

The newly-done-over 'Trat' is spanking white-and-sky-blue and as pleasing to the eye as a Venetian spring dawn.

And whether the lilting scrapings of the gypsy's horse-hair against catgut of old? Gone, replaced by cool, piped-in music. La Trät is a stunning beauty of a restaurant and stands out on an island where many dining locations sport decor as restrained and as subtle as an assegai blow to the head.

Set in the rolling and verdant seaside grounds of the hotel, La Trät is the stomping ground of Chef Silvano Amolini – a true gentleman, a gifted linguist and an industriously applied



Though not for the first time, La Trattoria was aptly named one of the best restaurants in the country by Thailand Tatler magazine.



maestro of la cucina Italiana.

Silvano, now nine years in Thailand, knows the ropes when it comes to sourcing the best and freshest culinary ingredients and this, as any restaurateur worth his extra-virgin olive oil will readily admit, is half the battle won. His skillful culinary flirting in major and minor keys is as much a reason for his success as his insistence on the high quality of the revisited classic Italian food at La Trattoria.

La Trät is a sizable affair, with 66 tables inside and plenty of alfresco covers, but tonight we have the place almost to ourselves. Apparently this is an autograph hunter's nirvana, as the impressive roll-call of celebs who have dined here includes presidents, crowned royalty, movie stars, athletes and a certain Jean-Claude Van Damme.

We kick off with a fresh cod mousse on a bed of creamy po-

tato and bright-red salmon caviar. Warm sea bass salad with fresh tomato celery and grilled mushrooms is next and it's clear that Chef Silvano is on form tonight. This is all helped down with an eminently quaffable Spanish merlot.

Then arrives the asparagus risotto with baked scallops and puréed red pepper, followed by slow-braised turbot with calamari and broccoli purée – all a subtle

maze of tastes and textures.

Musical experts say that if you were to separate Ringo Starr's drumming from any given Beatles track and play it without the backing music, most people would identify the song by its distinctive beat.

In the same vein, at a blind-tasting of Silvano's cooking compared with others, his signature subtlety would give him away in a jiffy. His dishes are instantly recognizable.

But his desserts are a different story. Our dessert is a stomping riot of flavors presented as gorgonzola cheese chocolate served with black olives. It is high indescribable, except to say that I was tempted to ask if La Trät had, by any chance, a bottle of port hidden away somewhere near the cooking sherry. Cheesy chocolate? What next?

Still, it's the practical and hurried diner's way of enjoying dessert and a cheese platter in half the time.

Most dishes at La Trattoria will cost somewhere in the region of 300 baht with mains nearer 500 baht.

La Trattoria at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket. 390 Srisoonthorn Road, Cherng Talay. Tel: 076-362999.



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Puerk-Ampai

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 167 sq.m.



Ladachon

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 172 sq.m.

Model	Area (sq.wa)	*Total price*(baht)	Deposit (baht)	50% Down payment (baht)	Final payment (baht)
Puerk-Pailin	80	5,680,000	100,000	2,740,000	2,840,000
Puerk-Ampai	111	6,570,000	100,000	3,185,000	3,285,000
Ladachon	100.72	6,980,000	100,000	3,390,000	3,490,000

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Location Map

Car of the year heads to Thailand



After being named 'Car of the Year', the VW Polo is on track to be released in Thailand.



THE widely successful Volkswagen Polo is expected to be launched shortly in Thailand with a price tag anticipated to be around 700,000-800,000 baht, depending on the options selected.

The three-door Polo is the

latest car in Volkswagen's lineup to reflect the brand's new 'VW Design DNA'. Developed by chief designer Walter de Silva, the signature new face is a key aspect of this styling. It exhibits a strong horizontal orientation of basic surfaces and a clarity of

forms that de Silva refers to as 'La Semplicità'.

The first model to sport the new design 'genes' debuted in 2008: the Scirocco. Today, this coupé retains its value more consistently than any other car in Germany. The second wave of the

new DNA also debuted in 2008 in the current Golf. In the summer of 2009, Volkswagen then sent the five-door Polo with the new design out to customers; immediately it was a highly acclaimed success.

The design has clearly worked, as the new 2010 Polo was voted 'Car of the Year' by an international panel comprising 59 leading motoring journalists from 29 European countries. In addition, it has won a raft of awards in its native Germany.

The new Polo boasts low fuel consumption and produces fewer emissions without comprising its fun driving performance. It sports a 1.2 liter, 105 bhp (77 kW) direct injection, turbocharged motor or 1.4 liter 84 bhp normally aspirated engine.

The units produce an impressive 175Nm and 132Nm of torque, respectively delivered at just 1,500rpm in the case of the turbo unit.

A 74 bhp, 1.2 liter is one of three diesel engines also on offer. The Polo BlueMotion 1.2 TDI epitomizes the potential of the new diesel engines: with an average fuel consumption of 3.3 liters per 100 kilometers and 87g CO₂ per kilometer, this model is currently the world's most economical five-seater with the lowest emissions.

The various power units are mated to a seven-speed DSG automatic transmission or five-speed manual gearbox.

Safety properties of the new Polo have already been tested to the stricter EuroNCAP requirements by an independent testing group. The car attained the best possible results with a rating of five stars. This is really no surprise as Volkswagen

equipped the fifth-generation Polo with a safety package consisting of an optimized body structure and highly effective restraint and assistance systems.

As Dr Ulrich Hackenber, member of the Board for Development for the Volkswagen Brand, explained, "We achieved the top rating for the Polo, in spite of more stringent Euro NCAP crash test conditions.

"The same applies to the sixth generation Golf and the Tiguan. We are very proud of this because safety has a long tradition at Volkswagen and will also be a guide for the development of new models in the future."

"In the summer of 2009, Volkswagen sent the five-door Polo with the new design out to customers; immediately it was a highly acclaimed success."

The car features a network of airbags as standard equipment, including combined head-thorax airbags (integrated in the backrests of the front seats), as well as belt pre-tensioners

and seatbelt limiters, plus a seatbelt warning indicator, head restraints that counteract whiplash, three rear head restraints and Isofix mounting preparation for suitable child seats.

The new Polo is the only car in its class equipped with the electronic stability programme (ESP) for greater driver control. All-round disc brakes with anti-lock braking system spell great stopping power and hill-hold control makes driving and parking easy even on steep slopes.

This has all resulted in one of the safest small cars in the world.

Visually, the new Polo is extremely distinctive and includes turn indicators incorporated into the door mirrors, 15-inch alloy wheels, front and rear fog lamps and green-tinted heat-insulating side and rear windows.

— Jeff Heselwood

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Session Schedule: please arrive 20 minutes before the beginning of the sessions

Friday 18th: 7 - 9pm

Saturday 19th: 9 am - noon
2 - 5pm

Sunday 20th: 9 am - noon
2 - 5pm

Cost:

Non residential: 1,800Baht / person

Residential:* Single: 5,800Baht / person
Double: 4,500Baht / person

*Accommodation at the PIA Mind Centre boutique hotel.

Includes: Full room and board during retreat days only. All meals for non retreat days will be charged accordingly.

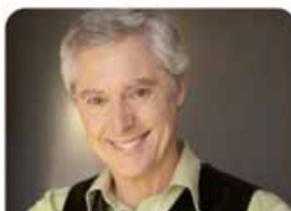
Venue: Phuket International Academy Mind Centre

Contact:

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PIA Mind Centre offers training in the cultivation of cognitive and emotional balance. It provides a blend of contemporary psychology and neuroscience alongside ancient Asian contemplative practices. Delivered through residential retreats and weekend seminars PIA MC is open to all. Working in close interaction with the PIA Day School and the PIA Sports, Arts & Wellness Centre, the programmes offered through PIA MC will contribute to everyone's enhanced mental balance and wellbeing.

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B. Alan Wallace is a dynamic lecturer, progressive scholar, and one of the most prolific writers and translators of Tibetan Buddhism in the West. Alan has taught Buddhist meditation and philosophy worldwide since 1976 and has served as interpreter for numerous Tibetan scholars and contemplatives, including H.H. the Dalai Lama. After earning his undergraduate degree in physics and the philosophy of science at Amherst College in 1987, he went on to earn his Ph.D. in religious studies at Stanford University in 1995. He is the Chairman of the Phuket International Academy Mind Centre (PIAMC) in Phuket, where he leads intensive, eight-week meditation retreats and shorter weekend retreats. Also the Founder and President of the Santa Barbara Institute for Consciousness Studies.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Brazilian Soccer Sundays June 6 – July 18



Beginning with just four children back in 1996, The Brazilian Soccer School has quickly become one of the largest and respected soccer training camps for children in the world. The seven-week course offered in Phuket is being held every Sunday until July 18 at Royal Phuket Marina with students separated into under-10s and under-8s groups. The price is 2,450 baht per child, per course. Professional Brazilian Soccer School coaches ensure a safe environment. For further information contact Martin Hill. T: 085-331 0295. E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com. W: royalphuketmarina.com.

June 6 – August 8. Belly Dancing Courses

The 10-session course 'Introduction to Baladi' teaches beginner techniques for aspiring belly dancers and will be conducted by the famous Malika. The course will be split into three levels to offer both beginner and choreography courses. Participants will need shorts and a hip scarf to start. Tickets are 600 baht per person, per session. Held Sundays from 12:30pm - 2pm, RPM Health Club. For further information contact Murat Can Sakarya. T: 081-797 3364. E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com.

June 9. Phuket Amateur Open Golf

The first in a series of 11 monthly tournaments kicks off to find Phuket's 'Best Amateur Golfer'. Players finishing in first or second place in the first 10 tournaments will qualify for the 11th, the Masters Championship in 2011. The first tee-off is at 7:30am; the last is at noon. There are 144 places available and entry forms are available at all courses and driving ranges on Phuket. From 7am - 12:30pm at Laguna Golf Club. For further information call T: 082-280 3486. E: phuketamateurgolfopen@gmail.com. W: phuketamateurgolfopen.com.

June 11. Curry Fridays

Indian food buffs are invited to enjoy an authentic Indian curry buffet on the second and fourth Friday of each month. Selections include all-time favorites chicken tikka masala, mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs, chickpea curry and more. All you can eat for 399 baht. Draft beer by the glass for 50 baht. From 7pm - 11:30pm at Navrang Mahal, Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. For further information contact Seemant Raju. T: 076-286464 ext 4. E: sm@karonseasand.com. W: karonseasand.com.

June 13. Laguna Phuket International Marathon

The Laguna Phuket International Marathon is the largest and fastest-growing destination marathon in Southeast Asia. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV, race day on Sunday will comprise a marathon, a half-marathon, a 10.5km run, a 2km kids' run, and a 5km walk. The marathon's scenic course will start and end at Laguna Phuket and will pass through tropical rain forests, rubber plantations and local villages, will head north towards Nai Yang Beach and finally turn back to Laguna Phuket. For further information contact T: 02-236 2931. W: phuketmarathon.com.

June 13. Phuket Yacht Club SW Monsoon Race and Fun Day

All are invited to a fun-filled day of sailing, swimming, cold beers and beach BBQ. Arrive after the marathon for a pleasant and relaxing afternoon, meet new friends and see a different part of the island. Volunteers are also welcome to help with boats and/or the BBQ. From 10:30am - 4pm at Ao Yon Bay. For more information Contact Donna Stephens. T: 086-120 0752. E: phuketyachtclub@gmail.com. W: phuketyachtclub.info.

June 18 – 20. Four Immeasurables Retreat at the PIA Mind Center

Phuket International Academy Mind Center (PIAMC) is holding an exclusive meditation retreat titled 'Four Immeasurables' hosted by Dr B Alan Wallace. Presently accepting bookings, this weekend retreat will consist of

teachings, guided meditations, and discussions. Registration price starts at 1,800 baht per person, per day. For further information and accommodation options contact the PIA Mind Center. T: 076-376000. E: mtc@phuketinternationalacademy.com. W: phuketinternationalacademy.com.

June 22. Live International Stand-Up Comedy

The Phuket Punchline Comedy Club returns this June with a TV star headliner. American comedian Arj Barker's recent appearance as 'Dave' in the hit HBO comedy "Flight of the Conchords" has catapulted him to fame around the world. Also featured is musical comedian Rob Deering and genial Irishman Caimh McDonnell. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. For further information contact Boom. T: 089-646 9278. E: info@phuketcomedy.com. W: phuketcomedy.com.

July 4. 4th of July Picnic

Everyone is invited to an American-style picnic, located across from Makro on the road to Kathu, 1km from Central Festival. Hot dogs, hamburgers, ribs and beverages will be on sale, while plenty of music and games will provide ongoing entertainment. Bring the kids - free entry and fireworks at sunset. From 10am - 7pm at Headstart International School Phuket. For further information contact David Rucker. T: 087-266 7514. E: rucker4012@aol.com. W: navyleaguephuket.org.

July 4. 4th of July Party & BBQ Buffet at Coyote Phuket

Join Coyote Phuket for its first Annual 4th of July Deck Party & BBQ Buffet with 100-baht drink specials all day. From 2pm until late at Patong Beach Rd, above Starbucks. For further information contact the manager or Chef Matt. T: 076-344366. E: info@coyotephuket.com. W: coyotephuket.com.

Computer Clinics

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

June 13, July 11 – Laguna
June 20, 27 – Chalong
July 4 – Patong
For more info contact Woody T: 076-290468

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

Manish Hegde is the new Director of Event Management at JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa. He has a degree in hotel management from Sophia Polytechnic in Mumbai and has worked as Associate Head of Catering Sales at Leela Palace Kempinski in Bangalore and as Catering Sales Manager at Grand Hyatt Hotel Mumbai. Before joining JW Marriott, he was Head of Catering Sales & Events at the 'The LaLit' in Mumbai.



Siriwan Nipatchareon has been promoted to Director of Sales and Marketing at Radisson Plaza Resort Phuket Panwa Beach. A Bangkok native with more than 10 years' experience in the hospitality trade, Ms Siriwan played a key role in managing the resort's pre-opening sales activities. Before joining the Radisson at Panwa, Ms Siriwan was Director of Sales at the Ramada Resort Karon Beach from 2006 to 2008.



Erica Robinson has been appointed Director of Marketing Communications at Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket. Ms Robinson has more than 10 years' experience in marketing and public relations, and has held several key management and leadership roles within Starwood's leading Fiji and Sydney properties, most recently as Marketing Communications Manager for the Sheraton & Westin Resorts, Denarau Island in Fiji.



New Novotel gets Bt1.2bn loan

IN A towering testament to confidence in Phuket's tourism market, Kasikorn Bank, or 'K Bank', recently approved a 1.2-billion-baht loan to Bayshore Wing Co Ltd to construct a four-star, 305-room Novotel franchise hotel in Patong.

News of the approved loan came last month as debates continue on whether Phuket's tourism-dependant economy will suffer from the dual threat of the ongoing world economic crisis and the political turmoil in Bangkok.

But K Bank Executive Vice-President Vasin Vanichvoranun and developer Pobchai Jivavisitnon have both expressed confidence that Phuket's appeal as an international tourist destination will withstand both economic and political woes.

"Phuket is always good for tourism," said Mr Pobchai.

Mr Vasin and First Senior Vice-President Tawit Thanachanan approved the full request of 1.2 billion baht last month and the first foundations were laid shortly after.

Though the hotel will be branded a Novotel, under French-based Accor hotel conglomerate, the loan was granted to the prominent Bangkok-based Jivavisitnon family, who own and operate Bayshore Wing.

They will provide 100% of the funding for the project and will retain full ownership upon completion, while Novotel will manage the facility.

The Jivavisitnon family also



Pobchai Jivavisitnon, 30.

owns the Novotel Phuket Resort in Patong, as well as the Patong Bayshore Hotel.

Construction on the new Novotel hotel is just beginning on the former site of the Patong Bayshore on Rath-U-Thit 200 Pi Road, which was torn down in April with the intention to build the new hotel in its place.

The new Novotel is in large part the vision of the family's up-and-coming businessman Pobchai Jivavisitnon, who at 30 years of age will handle virtually all of the ownership responsibilities.

Mr Pobchai has been hands-on with the development thus far, approving design concepts and overseeing construction.

He is aiming to produce a contemporary-style hotel that combines aspects of Asian architecture to use in conjunction with the Accor name to appeal to what he says is a vast high-end target market that includes Scandinavians and Europeans in the high season and Australians, Koreans,



Novotel's new four-star hotel in Patong is currently under construction.

and Emirates in the low season.

"Accor is a well-known chain in the world and is very suitable for Phuket," said Mr Pobchai.

Once completed, the new Novotel will occupy 10 rai of land, include a 1,900-square-meter swimming pool and complete four-star facilities, including a spa, fitness club, business center and a fine dining options.

The loan is expected to be repaid over a 10-year period after the hotel opens, which is currently scheduled for December 2011.

— *Nicky Vermeulen and Scott Phillips*





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PUZZLES

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

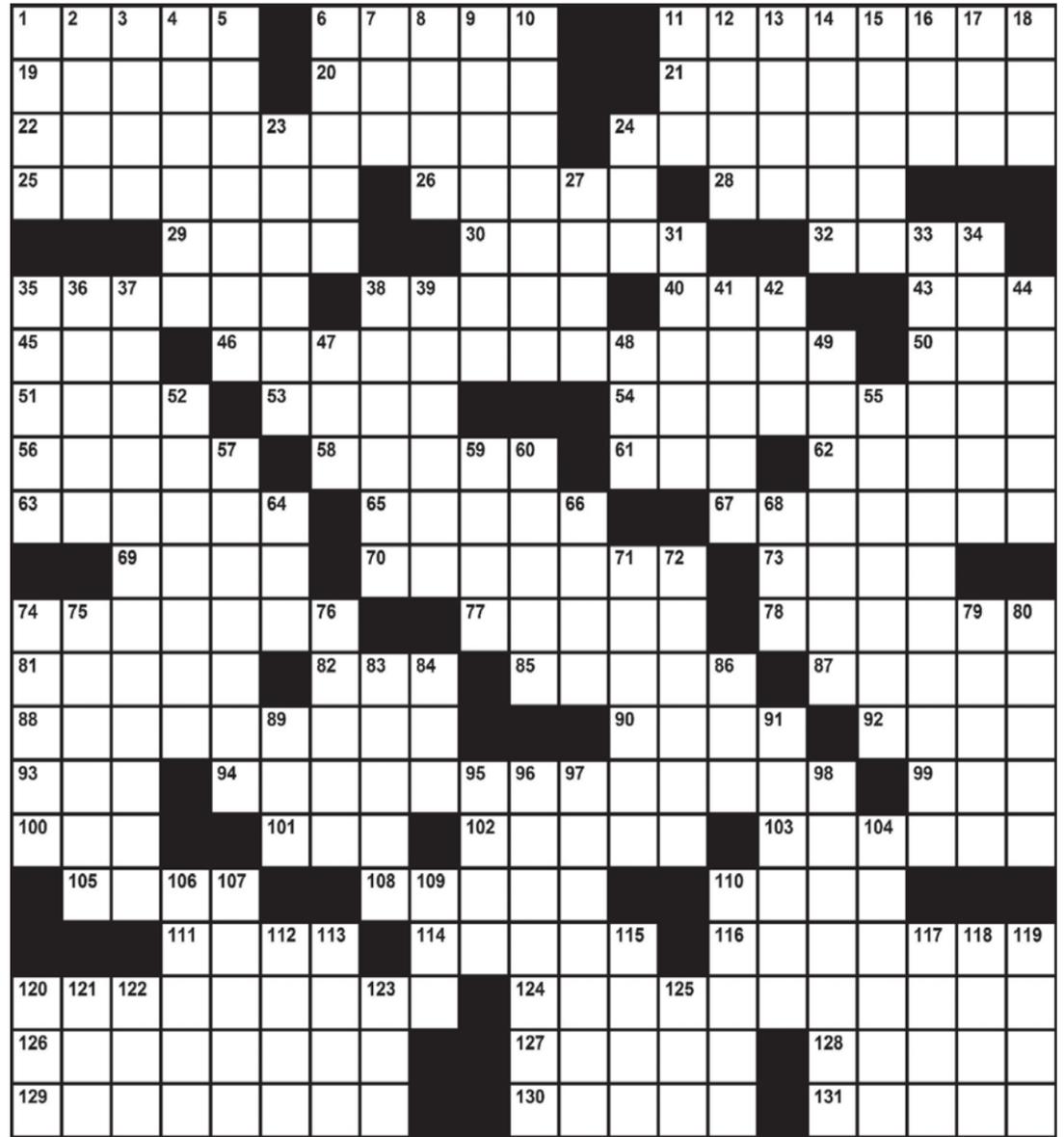
HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS Solution: 9 letters

A S C S E L C I T R A P G C M
 K P M O S A R U A U R O R A S
 S I P O L I G H T O D A G N R
 A R G E T O D Q T D L N R A I
 L A O A A A R O E O E O G D N
 A L O R N R N S P T R R E A G
 D I S C O S S B O R E A L I S
 L N E T R U I S I E M A E T H
 E G B I O H P M N A R R C H A
 I **(E)** A C C H A I N U A E T E P
 F **(L)** Y T E G S I T Y F E R M E
 L **(O)** A R E H T A S F T A O I D
 A **(P)** E R I O N S E S C S N S A
 S D N A B O T O H P U L S E W
 H D N A L N I F Y A W R O N N

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Alaska, Appears, Arctic, Atoms, Auras, Auroras, Bands, Borealis, Canada, Colors, Corona, Dance, Dawn, Effect, Electrons, Field, Finland, Flash, Goddess, Goose Bay, Greenish, Image, Ions, Light, Magnetosphere, Manitoba, Mirror, Natural, Norway, Particles, Patch, Photo, Polar, Pole, Protons, Pulse, Rays, Ring-shaped, Russia, Spiraling, THEMIS



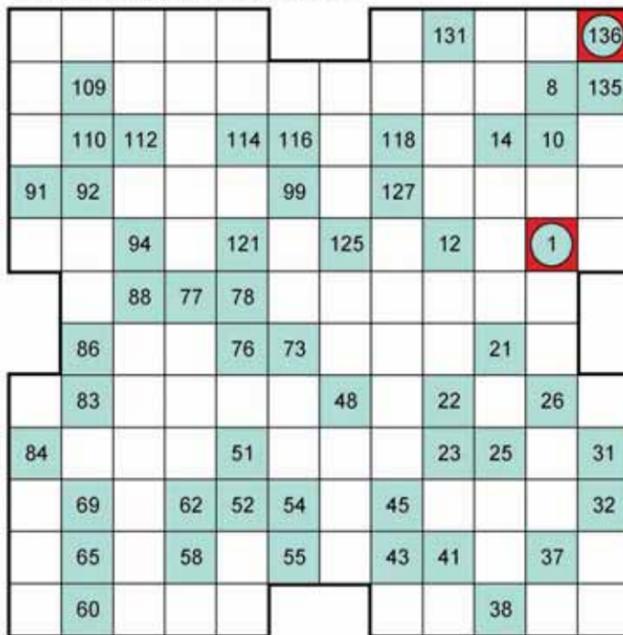
ACROSS

- 1 Proofreader's inverted "v"
- 6 Reactions to shocks
- 11 Native of this planet
- 19 Come ___ (mature)
- 20 Nirvana-reacher
- 21 So cute it hurts
- 22 Thing to walk on outdoors
- 24 Matter of interest
- 25 Rapunzel's "ladder"
- 26 Weights of Asia
- 28 Pre-revolution ruler
- 29 Spooky (Var.)
- 30 Forty-niner's filing
- 32 Document error, perhaps
- 35 Plaster of Paris ingredient
- 38 Hardly hale-looking
- 40 Clamor
- 43 Official who works at home
- 45 Engineering sch. in Troy, N.Y.
- 46 Arizona tourist attraction
- 50 Little character of Oz?
- 51 Circle sections
- 53 Defense org.
- 54 Dupe
- 56 Honors with a party
- 58 Katmandu locale
- 61 Brief life story
- 62 More in need of bronzer
- 63 "Oy vey!" cause
- 65 Wrinkly fruits
- 67 Bulb sites
- 69 Frosty coating
- 70 Criticism made without careful consideration
- 73 Decays
- 74 Clambake morsel
- 77 Work for Moffo or a buffo
- 78 Songs in a Christmas Eve service
- 81 Social division
- 82 "Hold ___ second"
- 85 Take illegally
- 87 Expressing purpose
- 88 Like will-gotten gains
- 90 E-mail button
- 92 "... happily ___ after"
- 93 Yoko of "Double Fantasy"
- 94 Rule permanently in force
- 99 Swellhead's trouble
- 100 "So, what else is ___?"
- 101 Compass direction opposite NNW
- 102 Dawns, in poetry
- 103 Emulated a lion
- 105 Invitation abbr.
- 108 Alaska or Hawaii, e.g.
- 110 Salty soup paste
- 111 Straight up at the bar
- 114 Harbingers
- 116 Partly cover
- 120 Having a good memory
- 124 Those on the cutting edge
- 126 Garrison Keillor specialty
- 127 "Not on ___!" ("No way!")
- 128 Smiley on TV
- 129 Achilles' heel
- 130 Pat Boone's singing daughter
- 131 Up to now
- DOWN**
- 1 Egyptian
- 2 Winston Churchill's "___ Country"
- 3 "Two thumbs up!" review
- 4 Protective breastplates (Var.)
- 5 Become rigid with fear or stress
- 6 Like long-winded orators
- 7 Simon's partner Garfunkel
- 8 It's thrown at the Summer Olympics
- 9 Elan
- 10 Prepared, as for a daunting task
- 11 Musical flair
- 12 Access for a collier
- 13 CD-___ (computer data holders)
- 14 Halloween trick preventer, in theory
- 15 Franklin's successor
- 16 CEO's degree, maybe
- 17 Key near the space bar
- 18 Word before a maiden name
- 23 Stuttgart citizen
- 24 Air pressure letters on tires
- 27 Settle on the tarmac
- 31 Pastoral people of Kenya
- 33 You, right now
- 34 Breakfast choice
- 35 It's a white-collar crime
- 36 WWI battle site in Belgium
- 37 Movies
- 38 Get the pot going
- 39 Like bumper-to-bumper traffic
- 41 Singer's samples, briefly
- 42 Spherical shape
- 44 Jury composition
- 47 Suffix with "Christ"
- 48 Recede, as the tide
- 49 Fall garment
- 52 Arranged in sequence
- 55 Where to tie a yellow ribbon, in song
- 57 Cooks just below the boiling point
- 59 Low-voiced woman
- 60 Says a myth that's amiss?
- 64 Match a bet
- 66 Ed Sullivan had a really big one
- 68 Tolkien terror
- 71 Devout petition
- 72 Narrows down
- 74 Descendant
- 75 Leather worker
- 76 Duty lists
- 79 Feudal vassal or lord
- 80 New England seafood selection
- 83 Hawaiian state birds
- 84 Recipe direction
- 86 Put a halt to
- 89 "___ about time!"
- 91 Establish by deduction
- 95 Islamic prayer leader
- 96 Place to jot things down
- 97 Explosive shell thrown by hand
- 98 Stone of fame
- 104 Lines from the heart
- 106 T-shirt style
- 107 Is unresolved
- 109 Stubbed thing
- 110 Walk leisurely
- 112 At the summit of
- 113 One of the Jackson 5
- 115 Strikebreaking employee
- 117 Impose, as a tax store
- 118 India in the record store
- 119 Sibilant "hey"
- 120 Uncooked
- 121 67.5 degrees, direction-wise
- 122 Chinese restaurant quaff
- 123 Physician for Fido
- 125 Tarzan creator's initials

HIDATO

FIND THE PATH - SOLVE THE PUZZLE

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



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1/10

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MONSTER QUIZ

1. *Green Eggs And Ham* is a book by which author?
2. Greenland is an autonomous constituent country within which European kingdom?
3. In the British version of the board game Monopoly, the green properties are Regent Street, Oxford Street and what else?
4. Which Shakespeare play refers to jealousy as the 'green-eyed monster'?
5. Which bird is the national symbol of New Zealand?
6. What is the name of the John Lennon memorial in Central Park, New York?
7. Which American actor starred in the movies *Some Like It Hot*, *The Odd Couple* and *Grumpy Old Men*?
8. What is the name of the purple academic character in the board game Clue?
9. Which famous singers' daughter has the middle names Honeyblossom Michelle Charlotte Angel Vanessa?
10. Which 1885 Mark Twain novel, set in Mississippi, is the sequel to *The Adventures Of Tom Sawyer*?
11. What is the name of the record company founded by The Beatles in 1968?
12. Tom Joad was the main character in which John Steinbeck novel set during the Great Depression of the 1930's?
13. What is the name of the annual award ceremony held the day before the Oscars and recognizes the worst films and actors from the previous year?
14. Fleegle, Bingo, Drooper and Snork were collectively known as what on TV?
15. Which movie sees Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis dressed as women in a girl band?
16. In which of Shakespeare's plays does the character Viola pose as a boy, Cesario?
17. Barry Humphries plays Dame Edna Everage, but which character does he play as the "Australian cultural attache"?
18. Who plays the killer in the 1960 film *Psycho* where he dresses in his mother's clothes?
19. Which character in the TV series *MASH* dresses as a woman?
20. In which film does Michael Caine play a murderous transvestite psychiatrist?

Answers below



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Puzzle Solutions

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

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

Monster Quiz Answers

1. Dr Seuss
2. Denmark
3. Bond Street
4. *Othello*
5. Kiwi
6. Strawberry Fields
7. Jack Lemmon
8. Professor Plum
9. Peaches Geldof
10. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
11. Apple
12. *The Grapes of Wrath*
13. The Golden Raspberry Awards
14. The Banana Splits
15. *Some like it hot*
16. *Twelfth Night*
17. Sir Les Patterson
18. Anthony Perkins
19. Corporal Klinger
20. *Dressed To Kill*

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

How to Play
Each Hidato puzzle starts with a grid partially filled with numbers.

The goal is to fill the grid with consecutive numbers that connect horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

Tips and Strategies:
• Each puzzle has only one possible solution.
• Hidato puzzles can be solved using 100% logic. No guesswork is needed.
• The first and last numbers of a puzzle will be in circle markers.
• It is not necessary to start from the first number. Sometimes it is better to jump around.
• Working backward (counting down in numbers) can also reveal key clues to solving the puzzle.

WHATZIT? solutions

1. Cut and dried.
2. Eat out.
3. Late in life.

Hidato Sol.

1/10

106	105	104	103	102		130	131	133	134	136	
107	109	111	113	115	101	117	129	132	9	8	135
108	110	112	97	114	116	100	118	128	14	10	7
91	92	93	96	98	99	119	127	13	11	15	6
90	89	94	95	121	120	125	126	12	16	1	5
	87	88	77	78	122	123	124	17	2	4	
	86	80	79	76	73	74	18	20	21	3	
85	83	81	71	72	75	48	19	22	24	26	27
84	82	70	63	51	50	49	47	23	25	28	31
68	69	64	62	52	54	46	45	42	29	30	32
67	65	61	58	53	55	44	43	41	36	37	33
66	60	59	57	56			40	39	38	35	34



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

STEPHEN E. Ambrose wrote 23 books of history, mostly about World War II. He was a competent, workmanlike historian who doggedly did his legwork and interviewed multiple sources.

He was not quite a brilliant historian like Anthony Beevor, who wrote magisterial tomes about the major WWII battles, but he still had a long list of reputable titles to his name.

Ambrose is best known for *Band of Brothers*, his intimate profile of the soldiers of the 101st Airborne. *Wild Blue* (Simon & Schuster New York, 2002, 299pp) is his penultimate book, written the year before his death. Subtitled "741 Squadron—On a Wing and a Prayer over Occupied Europe", the story focuses mainly on George McGovern and his Liberation B-24 bomber crew.

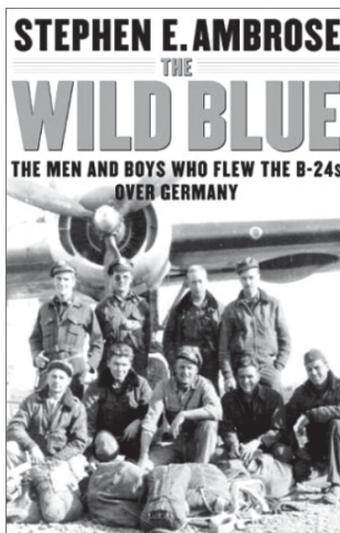
Ambrose's anti-Catch 22

McGovern, former senator and presidential candidate, was a long-time friend of Ambrose who gathered his story and those of his squadron mates for *Wild Blue*.

They were stationed in Cerignola, Italy, sleeping on cots in tents which they fixed up with floorboards and heating stoves. From there they flew over the Swiss Alps on bombing missions to Austria, Germany and Poland.

This is the backdrop of Joseph Heller's novel *Catch-22*, the black comedy featuring venal, stupid and power-mad officers. But as Heller told Ambrose on the 50th anniversary of VE Day, "They were all invention. Every single officer — from when I went into the service to going over to Italy to flying the missions to when I got discharged — every one of them were good."

So it was for McGovern. Half the book is taken up the the stateside training of the bomber crews where the incompetent were ruthlessly 'washed out'. Ambrose devotes nearly half his book to describing the gargantuan effort to build a fleet of heavy



bombers and train their crews.

By the time they arrived in Italy, the airmen were at peak physical and mental condition. They would need it. Missions lasted eight or ten hours, every day for as long as a week, under conditions of cramped space, extreme cold and murderous flak barrages.

McGovern flew his first mission on November 11, 1944. By this time, the Allies had com-

plete air supremacy. McGovern never saw a German fighter. He was escorted by long-range P-15 fighters that ruled the skies. It was a long way from previous years when bombers went in unescorted and were shot down in droves. A third of the American bomber crewmen in WWII were killed.

But the long war of attrition eventually swung in favor of the Allies. Inexorably, the Germans were deprived of fuel, munitions and rolling stock; their dwindling fleet of aircraft wiped out as they sat stalled on runways. At the invasion of Normandy, only two German fighters took to the air. Ambrose writes:

"Of all the bombs that struck the Reich during the war, 72 percent fell after July 1, 1944. The official history notes, 'In the following nine months the bombing campaign wrecked the enlarged German economy until it could no longer support military operations or supply the basic needs of the population. By January 1945, Germany has been almost paralyzed economically, and by April she was ruined.'"

It's a familiar story, but Ambrose comes up with some engrossing details.

Downed airmen were being held in a POW camp in Romania. They were in a no man's land between the retreating Germans and the advancing Russians.

"One of the internees, Lt. Col. James A Gunn III, took matters into his own hands. He climbed into the radio compartment of a ME 109 after painting it with the stars and stripes.

"He had persuaded Captain Cantacuzene, a prince of the royal family of Romania, who was the top Romanian ace against Allied aircraft, to be his pilot."

They landed in Italy and returned with a fleet of B-17s that evacuated all 1,274 the prisoners to Italy.

McGovern needed to pilot 35 bombing missions before being rotated home. On his last mission to Linz in Germany, his plane was shot up badly, but he managed to make it back to base.

Eventually he would fly his plane and crew back to America and a new destiny.

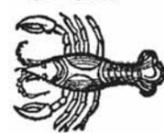
Horoscopes



Isla Star



GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Personal relationships continue to be well highlighted for those born under the sign of Gemini. Monetary gain is less important, but you should find easy ways to economize. If your status is single, a casual date with a water sign is forecast to go well. Those with a birthday in the week ahead find ways to combine travel with business in the coming year. The number six can be lucky in the upcoming weekend.



CANCER (June 22-July 23): In the world of work, advice from an ex colleague could be pearls of wisdom. Those Cancerians who have been caught up in an uncomfortable situation should be able to scuttle out of it early next week. Your luck in love is subject to unsettled astral conditions — playing it cool is the best approach to a partner's argumentative mood this weekend. Wear the color oyster gray to encourage a calm outlook.



LEO (July 24-August 22): Leos should be firing on all cylinders this week. The stars suggest that your sharp

energy will mean that you can finally overtake competition in the business world. Tuesday is the best day for finalizing agreements and Thursday for seeking new investment possibilities. Your personal life settles down after a stormy start to the month, but those considering commitment are advised to wait a while longer. The number three is lucky this weekend.



VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Your preference for a quiet life may cause ripples in a romantic relationship. Those born under the sign of Virgo whose partner is sending out warning signals are advised to make some compromises this week. Work is forecast to bring unexpected rewards — your reliability is a key factor towards success this month. An air sign friend has surprising news that could have a positive effect on your summer holiday plans.



LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Those born under the sign of Libra who have something pressing on their minds will be able to air their feelings this week. The stars suggest that Monday or Tuesday are the best days to make a valid point. A water sign colleague is ready to back you up. Your luck in love continues to be good with emphasis on a new relationship becoming more serious. The number nine can be lucky in the upcoming weekend.



SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Your quick temper could mean that those close to you are walking on eggshells this week. Scorpios who are in a bad mood are advised to be aware of the effect this may have on others. The stars predict that you may have to settle for less than expected to solve a problem, but laying this matter to rest is the important point. Wear the color powder blue to encourage more patience.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): A situation that you believed to be water under the bridge may arise again. Those born under the sign of Sagittarius who want to achieve closure quickly are advised to seek the help of someone with similar experience. Money matters are less well-starred during the second half of June — start looking at ways to economize now to avoid being strapped for cash later. The number one could bring good fortune this Sunday.

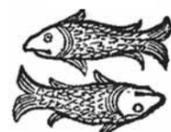


CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Capricorns continue to coast along fairly smoothly. The second half of June should be a stimulating time, with the spotlight falling on spontaneous travel. Your sharp instincts are appreciated in the world of work when others fail to spot mistakes that are crystal clear to

you. Romance is subject to misunderstandings this weekend when crossed wires could cause a date to be delayed. The number five is expected to be lucky this Sunday.



AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Calmer conditions should prevail for Aquarians until the end of June. After a trying start to the month, efforts you made to improve employment circumstances start to pay off — possible all at the same time. A job offer is predicted to be what you were hoping for and there are signs that financial gain will come from other sources as well. Lucky days for romance are Sunday and Monday.



PISCES (February 20-March 20): Some Pisceans could be disappointed to find out they are not the only fish in the ocean. The stars suggest that a romantic crush is about to be affected by reality, but there are also predictions that you will meet an attractive Aquarian who is truly single. Your financial outlook continues to be positive and bargains are to be found on a shopping trip this weekend. The number eight is lucky on Monday.



ARIES (March 21-April 20): An earth sign friend will need sympathetic ear this weekend, but many Arians will have

enough on their minds. The stars indicate that a busy period lies ahead and you won't have much free time until the end of the month. Aiming for a healthier diet and a regular exercise routine will help you to be more productive. Wednesday is the most auspicious day to schedule meetings related to finance.



TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Your opinion of a water sign colleague or friend changes when you see how valuable their support is this week. The remainder of June is forecast to be an auspicious time of achievement, with the focus on creative projects. An idea you put on the back burner at the start of this year should be presented to those with influence while the stars are on your side. The number four is lucky in the upcoming weekend.



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Latest landslide tragedy exposes lax standards

Like so many accidents in Phuket, the fatal mudslide at a building site in Patong last weekend could have been prevented if any of the parties involved – in this case the developer, building contractor and local officials – had done their jobs professionally and exercised common sense (*see page one*).

If the lives of the two men buried alive are not to be lost in vain, responsible officials in every local administrative body on the island must see this tragedy as a wake up call.

They must take immediate steps to identify dangerous projects in areas under their control and ensure that safety and environmental protection measures specified in environmental impact assessments are strictly adhered to.

The timing of the mudslide comes as no surprise, falling during the first period of sustained heavy rains to hit Patong this year – and just days after the provincial government recognized the threat of landslides there by announcing the island's first-ever "landslide preparedness drills", to be held in Patong on June 28 and 29.

Whatever the outcome of those drills, disaster response is simply no substitute for disaster prevention.

A closer look at the project site after the disaster revealed that the contractor took some action to prevent erosion, such as laying out plastic sheeting to minimize the impact of rain on exposed soil and constructing a retaining wall, in front of which the Thai foreman and at least two Burmese workers were eventually trapped when waterlogged mud slid onto them.

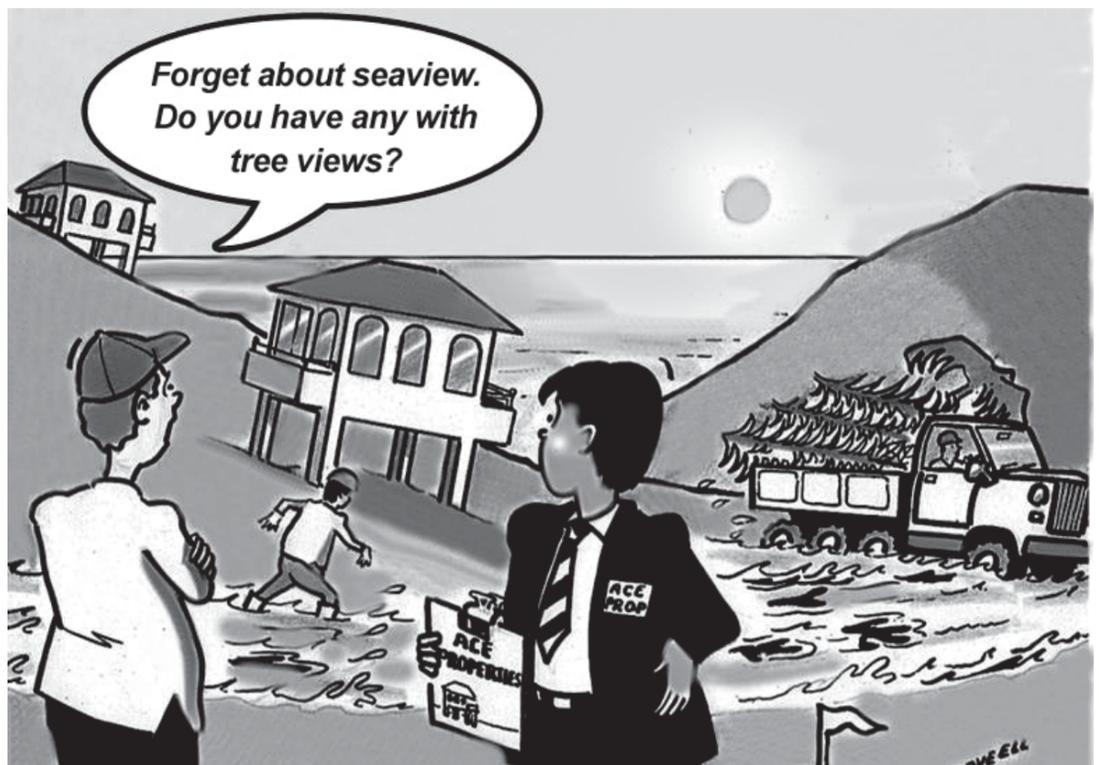
However, the presence during a torrential downpour of heavy equipment in upslope, terraced areas gouged out of unconsolidated deposits showed that completing the project quickly – not safety – was the primary concern.

It is difficult to imagine the horror of being buried alive, which in most cases does not cause instant death but a slow and painful passing due to suffocation.

As in a similar tragedy in Patong in 2008, most of the victims were Burmese laborers, who despite their generally excellent work ethic are considered little more than expendable factors-of-production by many in the local building industry.

The monsoon season is just beginning and there are numerous other sites around the island at risk of bigger, possibly catastrophic landslides.

Sadly, many elected officials in the highest risk areas seem to spend more time lobbying for relaxation of the 80-meter rule and ignoring obvious encroachment cases than working to ensure the safety of work at building sites they have authorized.



Letters

The *Gazette* is pleased to receive mail from readers. Please write to us at 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000, fax: 076-615240 or email: to editor@phuketgazette.net

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.

Home buyers beware

Not sure what inspired the *Gazette* to post the story on villa ownership on your website, but man it is worthwhile [*Gazette online, Pitfalls for expats in Phuket: Do you really own your villa?*, June 8].

It just goes to show how so caught up in bureaucracy Thailand can get.

Just like other aspects of Thai law that affect farang living here on Phuket, of course the rules were made to catch the bad guys – but how often are the innocent punished by unclear rules and the law so poorly made that gaping loopholes let bad guys off scot-free? Too often, in my books.

And please don't forget to run an update if this ever changes. It is so, so important.

**Terry Seagram
Phuket Town**

Dragging on about Dragons

Let me get this right: in your story about feng shui concerns over the Patong tunnel, it is "according to Chinese legend Phuket is a golden sea dragon emerging from the Indian Ocean" [*Phuket Gazette, Enter the dragon: feng shui concerns over Patong Tunnel*, June 5].

Really?

I have sincere admiration for ancient Chinese cartographers and the maritime skills of masters such as Zheng He, but since when did the Chinese realize Phuket was in the shape of a dragon?

I'd say about the time aerial photography became more commonplace and someone finally noticed, "Hey! Look! Phuket

looks like a dragon!"

Sure, if you look at the photo the wrong way up and from the right angle.

As for the proposed Patong tunnel striking through the very "heart of the dragon", let me guess – is it a prophesy long-heralded by Chinese merchants in Phuket Town?

But probably not their Patong-based brethren.

Shame on you, Phuket Town businessfolk. This was uncalled for.

**Dave Inferglassen
Patong**

Exposing setbacks

The 2020 World Expo will be a wonderful experience for Phuket and will surely boost its image as a well developed, world-class tourist destination.

Authorities should be able to begin promoting it as soon as they see taxi services improved, tuk-tuks eradicated, road flooding stopped, crime reduced, migrant workers hidden, Patong Tunnel built, corruption put on a leash, the airport expanded and the light rail system approved and built.

Other than those and a few other minor hitches, I think hosting the Expo is a great idea.

**Simon Wargel
Phuket Town**

Review is "bollocks"

I've read *Bangkok Days*, the subject of James Eckardt's ire in his book review [*Phuket Gazette, Boring into a Bangkok daze*, May 22], and I'd say it's Eckardt's review that's "a load of old bollocks," not Lawrence Osborne's excellent book.

There are shelves groaning under bad books about Bangkok

in every bookshop in Thailand, but this is not one of them.

Osborne's writing is evocative of the strange, unnameable energy that makes so many fall in love with the Thai capital.

True, there are gaps in Osborne's knowledge of Thailand – but as he admits early on, this is not meant to be a guide to Thai culture.

The sad cases he encounters during his time in Bangkok are sketched far better than the usual cliché Far East sexpats we've seen before.

As Eckardt points out, Osborne doesn't have much fun. But so what. How much more interesting to follow a thoughtful writer who avoids getting carried away with the party – and sees the sadness beneath the smiles.

**Jim Higgs
England**

The consumer loses

Recently 48 million baht worth of imitation goods were destroyed at International Customs and tourists caught with the goods are being arrested.

The entire planet is aware of the shopping agenda in this country – it's about as infamous as the sex tourism industry.

So why are tourists paying the price when the authorities know plain well where to find the culprits selling them?

Both the vendors and the authorities are scoring from this: tourists give money to the vendors and once again to the authorities just to be able to leave the country.

Why is it okay to sell knockoffs and sex, but not to purchase them?

**Sarah Hart
Patong**

The Phuket Gazette

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Editor: Parichat Utintu
Managing Editor: Chris Husted
News Editor: Stephen Fein

Editorial Team:

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

Improving Phuket's tourism image



FIRST PERSON

Buayan Suwanmanee, 52, has been director of the Phuket office of the Tourism and Sports Ministry since October last year. The Songkhla native earned a bachelor's degree in Community Development Education from Prince of Songkla University (PSU), Pattani campus, in 1980 before getting his master's in Public Administration from the Faculty of Management Sciences at PSU Haad Yai campus. When the Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MOTS) was formed in 2004, he became director of the Pattani office before coming to Phuket. Here Mr Buayan talks about his office's objectives and his view on improving tourism in Phuket. **Compiled by Sitthipong Nongkaew.**

Our office is under the direct control of the MOTS and our duty is to represent the ministry in each province, resolving any problems or obstacles to tourism- and sports-related activities and developing improvement strategies.

We cooperate closely with many private and government organizations, such as the Tourism Authority of Thailand, in fulfilling our mandate.

Right now we are stretched a bit, with only five full-time members and only 12 or 13 people altogether. It sometimes takes a while to respond to community needs and it's difficult to cover everything, but we try.

We have gained a lot of trust from various operators in helping them develop activities related to tourism and sports.

The Phuket office has taken part in many activities, such as the Laguna Marathon and Phuket Fun Fly, in which we assisted in coordinating with local administrations.

Phuket is a province that has a high standard of tourism, and events such as major sporting competitions are inevitably tied to tourism.

In Pattani, where I used to be posted, there is still the problem of terrorism (as it is one of the troubled provinces in the Deep South), so our policy was more directed toward sports activities for community development than for tourism. That is quite different from Phuket.

Tourism activities in Pattani

were more about culture and tradition, to show that it's still safe to visit. Phuket is different. It is safe, and so has high potential.

So how are we ensuring a sustainable future for Phuket?

Well, one example is that we are promoting local tourism which encourages people to love and take care of their own natural resources while benefiting from them.

For this we need the participation of local communities to preserve nature and traditions by taking care of their surroundings.

There are many villages in Phuket that have potential to be developed as cultural preservation sites, such as Baan Khanan village, which we are helping to develop as a homestay destination.

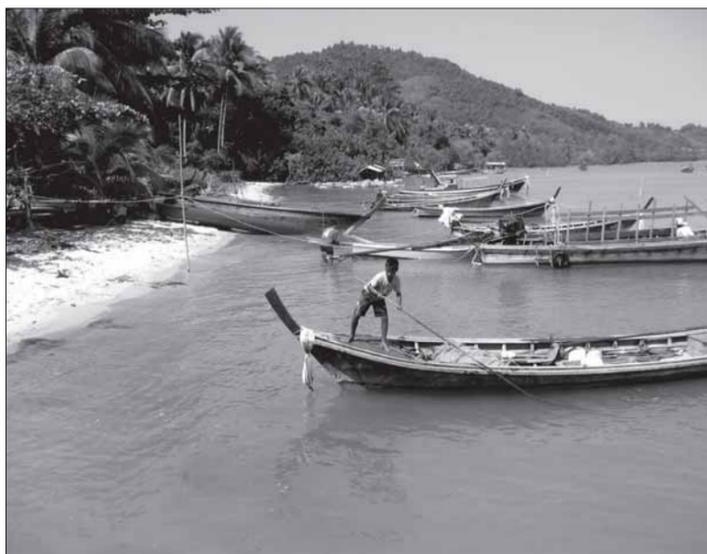
This could be a new alternative for tourists instead of the beaches or staying in hotels. They can choose to stay with local communities and experience their way of life and culture.

Today, as far as I know, Baan Khanan can accommodate about 40 visitors in 10 homestay residences.

As inspiration in developing similar projects, we are going to invite about 100 residents from different villages in Phuket to travel to Koh Yao Noi and see the award-winning homestay community there.

I expect them to learn from that good example, then they can develop their own communities for homestay tourism development.

I'd prefer to see the development of homestay destinations



Homestays are popular on Koh Yao (pictured). Mr Buayan would like to see more of them in Phuket.

as a method of cultural preservation and environmental conservation. It really depends on the communities' wishes, if they want to do this. We can't just think about it from our side.

We have to be sensitive to the readiness of communities to deal with this because I don't want to see them just turned into resorts.

Our duty is to take care of the people and promote activities where locals can enjoy more direct benefits from tourism. I would like to see income from the industry not just going into one hand, but spreading among locals.

Often it's not clear to them how the income from the tourism industry makes its way into their pockets.

Locals often feel that in-

come from tourism goes to rich businessmen and foreigners, so it is my challenge to help the villagers prepare their own businesses in their communities.

Promoting this kind of tourism will help improve the image of the industry in Phuket.

I think a big problem in Phuket right now is transport. There are too many people on this small island and the current transportation system cannot handle it.

There has been talk of infrastructure projects such as a light rail system which could greatly improve services on the island.

I think we need something other than just taxis and buses, but I know that would be expensive to do.

By targeting 'quality' tour-

ists, such as people interested in culture, honeymooners and medical tourists with the potential to spend a lot of money, these projects may be possible.

Also, we could reduce the number of tourists and ease the burden on transportation by attracting only tourists who don't harm the environment and culture – and probably don't come here to get drunk.

In addition to standardizing things like spa and medical services, security is important in attracting tourists. Our agency is currently coordinating with the Tourist Police to train 'tourist volunteers'.

The volunteers learn about tourism in general, how to be good hosts, and how to help tourists in various situations. They also learn how to prevent tourists from doing something wrong here.

They come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, and we are very proud that there are many foreigners volunteering. I understand that tourists trust people who speak the same language as they do.

Most of them said that the reason they have volunteered is to give back to the society they have lived and worked in for a long time.

Phuket is a destination that provides a natural experience to the visitor, but someday it could be spoiled. We need to preserve culture and way of life by encouraging appreciation and respect among both locals and tourists.

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

Where can I get CO₂ for my MIG welder?

I have a metal inert gas (MIG) welding machine and I need carbon dioxide to operate it. Where in Phuket can I get my CO₂ bottle refilled?

Leif Bjoerstorp
Phuket

A staff member from Poontawee Oxygen Company replies:

We have CO₂ tanks available for rent. You can come to our office and put down a fully refundable 5,500 baht deposit per tank. The CO₂ costs 590 baht and there is a 100-baht-per-month rental fee for the tank, making the total cost, minus the deposit, 690 baht per month.

You have to come and change the tank once a month.

For more information contact Poontawee Oxygen Company: 28/2 Moo 5, Thepkrasattri Road, T. Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200. T: 076-238642.

How to get a refund for a broken camera?

Recently I went to a well-known camera store and bought a camera that later malfunctioned. They replaced it with another, which also broke, and they are refusing a refund. What can I do?

Name and address supplied

An officer at the Consumer Protection Board at Phuket Provincial Hall replies:

You can come to the Consumer Protection Board office at Phuket Provincial Hall Damrongtham Center to file a complaint. You must bring the receipt and insurance paperwork along, otherwise we cannot do anything for you. After we review the documents, we will contact the shop from which you bought the goods. Please bring a translator with you.

For more information contact the Consumer Protection Board at Phuket Provincial Hall: 5 Narisorn Road, A. Muang, Phuket 83000. T: 076-213203, 076-222886, E: phuket@moi.go.th

Thai prodigy swings into top flight

THAI youngster Pinsawat Pariwat was a last-minute addition to the Mercedes-Benz Masters Thailand tournament at Laguna Phuket Golf Club last week, but the 13-year-old seized the opportunity with both hands to finish an impressive fifth place.

The competition featured some of the best golfers from the region with US\$60,000 in prize money at stake.

Juvic Pagunsan from the Philippines was the eventual overall winner, but Pinsawat stole the headlines with a performance that caught the eye of the worldwide media.

The youngster surpassed all expectations and finished fifth from a field of 122 golfers. He was one of only five amateurs in the tournament and the next highest placed amateur finished 35th.

The teenager, who attends Sattree Phuket School in Phuket Town, is keeping his feet firmly on the ground. "I learned a lot this



Pinsawat with his grandfather and caddie, Khun Prachuab.

week playing with the professionals. I need to work on my drive to play well at this level. I was not hitting it straight. This week has given me so much confidence ahead of my first trip to play in America next month," he said.

Pinsawat was fortunate to have an experienced caddie: his grandfather Prachuab Sabcharoen, himself a professional golfer. Had Pinsawat been a professional and entitled to receive prize money, he would have received more than US\$2,000 for his fifth-place finish.

The teenager would not



IN FULL SWING: Pinsawat Pariwat, 13, placed an impressive fifth from a field of 122 golfers. Photos courtesy of Mercedes Masters Tour

even have played in the event had it not been for the intervention of British Honorary Consul Martin Carpenter, who persuaded the sponsors to invite the teenage prodigy.

"I knew Pinsawat was good enough to take part because

even at his young age he has enormous experience playing in high-profile junior and adult amateur tournaments. This was his first event in a field of professional golfers, though, and I was not expecting him to do quite this well.

"However, those who are familiar with the ability, temperament and playing capabilities of Khun Pinsawat and Khun Prachuab were not surprised," Mr Carpenter said.

"Many of us believe his time will surely come for collecting prize money. At the moment his concentration is also on his schooling and education, which he is also doing pretty good at," he added.

After his precocious performance, Pinsawat is now considered one of the most exciting prospects on the international golfing scene. He will be back in action next month at the Junior World Championships in San Diego.

Overall winner of the tournament, 32-year-old Pagunsan, took home US\$9,750 in prize money. Although a highly experienced professional golfer, he has not been playing to his full potential in recent years and his previous big win was at the 2007 Pertamina Indonesia President Invitational.

Pagunsan was delighted to get back to winning. "This is really special. It is only my second win as a professional overseas. My wife and young daughter are also here, so it's very emotional.

"I have been working hard on my swing with my coach, Junced. It was too upright and so we had to flatten my backswing. It's now working and my confidence is sky high," he said.

- James Goyder

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In the shade of mixed-use property



PROPERTY WATCH

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

GLOSSY ads and promises of investment returns that hit the moon abound. Seduced by an illusion of vacations for life in some tropical paradise, potential buyers are given an offer to sit back with a sweet mojito and settle into an afternoon cabana snooze, dreaming of an endless money train.

For those at the top of the market, throw in hotel-management that offers alluring service at every whim, and the dream gets even sweeter.

Truth be known, though, in so many cases the honeymoon ends early and property investors get a metaphorical rude awakening: rising on a soggy mattress with the whirl of an electric fan echoing in their ears, covered in lime peels that have had the life squeezed out of them.

Indeed, hotel-style managed investment property has a long history of being both sweet and sour.

The lag between trends in the West and those here in the East continues to be pronounced, even in the digital age of all things connected and wired.

For many, the West could stand to learn a few things from

the East, but in this case it's the reverse.

Here in Phuket, the method most frequently used to split revenue from hotel-managed condos between private owners and management/developers could use a lesson from the West.

Over the past decade, Phuket has somehow – possibly by accident – become an innovator in the region for resort-grade property. It's hard to exactly track the origins, but the 50%-50% split for rental revenue between private owners and management/developers came into being and has continued through much of the property cycle on the island.

Elsewhere in the world, such as Hawaii, the revenue is split on the bottom line after deducting expenses. Although practices in revenue sharing vary from place to place and time to time, this is the most widely used method.

Not so in Phuket. Perhaps it's the local lack of trust of operators and how they might inflate expenses, or the lack of a better business model, but the prevailing Phuket practice runs counter to how a large portion of the property world operates.

With many contracts in Phuket, however, often the 50% is not 50% at all, but instead subject to deductions such as agent commissions, credit card commissions and reserves for replacements or repairs. After these, the 50% suddenly becomes substantially lower.

At the other end of the spectrum are overanxious developers using ramped-up promises to sell more units or new developers who simply do not have the experience to look at the long-term implications of sustaining hospitality-led residential projects.



LIVING THE DREAM? Investors interested in hotel-managed condos or villas on Phuket sometimes get a rude awakening that is anything but paradise. Photo: Wikimedia

Hotels remain capital-intensive operations and mixed-use villas or condos are no different. Cash calls are frequent and only increase over the lifespan of a property.

What is now happening on the island is the fruition of operating projects: units sold off-plan are being commissioned and the actual numbers are rolling in.

While management of these run the gamut from international chains to estate management to self management, at the end of the day, the simple fact remains that the developers have put themselves in the position of having to operate a rental project for the time being.

In many cases, very high rental returns – more than 60% for example – have been promised to owners. Once developers pay

expenses and management, this often leaves little, or in some cases, even negative cash flow.

A net effect has seen unprepared developers slowly come to realize that perhaps owning a hotel-type operation is not a good business model and that cash injections and a long-term horizon is something they didn't sign up for.

At the same time, however, as traditional full-service hotels continue to come on stream, exacerbating supply outpacing demand, rental returns will start shrinking and buyers will start looking for a scapegoat.

This will ultimately lead to unhappy property buyers and disgruntled developers who expected to not only double their profits on selling units, but to

receive a lifetime of free money by running a hotel.

Sadly, for most, that money train has already left the station.

Also, in keeping with the reality check, there are no instant fixes for the situation. Over time, market practices will change and become more sophisticated.

Revenue-sharing models that work on sound financial models and are sustainable will no doubt move into the market and the older practices will be grandfathered out, but not before a good amount of pain is felt by both buyers and sellers.

But for now, for some, it's time to get back to that chilled margarita. The sun has reached the top of the day and, hey, isn't that a train I hear chugging in the distance?

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Construction Update

Kata

CONSTRUCTION workers laying a long stretch of foundation across the road from the Karon Municipality offices on Patak (West) Road in Kata are expected to complete their project by the end of October, paving the way for commercial tenants to move into the new K Plaza shopping center.

Project developer Phuket K Land and House Co Ltd broke ground at the three-rai site on May 1, with a six-month schedule for completion.

Project Manager Tanawut Pooantisampunt told the Gazette, "The company has thought about the current stage of property development in the Kata Beach area and decided on a medium-sized plaza to be called 'K Plaza'.

"We want the plaza to look beautiful, modern and clean, featuring full amenities that include bathrooms and a parking lot."

The 113-unit 'bazaar' is being built in line with the same design concept as Bangkok's famed Suan Lum Night Bazaar, Mr Tanawut explained.

"The project has been designed as 113 single-story shops, available as either 12-square-meter or 16sqm standard units," he said.

"The company wants the clients [tenants] to be able to offer local residents and tourists



The K Plaza, currently under construction in Kata, will boast 113 individual shops and a 100-meter-long common area.

New Kata plaza on its way

more choices in shopping and help provide a boost to the country's economy," he added.

The units will be configured as either 3m x 4m or 4m x 4m individual rooms, all adjoining in a continuous 100-meter-long 'common building', the 'plaza'.

"On the right hand side of the building we will also construct a six-meter-wide road leading to the parking lot at the rear of the complex," said Mr Tanawut.

"The project is being marketed to target long-term tenants

without restrictions on the goods or services they provide because we want to see a great variety of products catering to the needs of all shoppers," Mr Tanawut explained.

"The company is giving all kinds of customers the chance to rent a unit here," he added.

The prices of the units vary depending on the location of each unit, said Mr Tanawut.

He declined to specify the project's total investment cost.

- *Sitthipong Nongkaew*



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The Villa Chan Grajang - offered for US\$8 million - is currently one of the hottest homes up for bid in Phuket.

Luxury, simply by definition

THE word 'luxury' is currently the most over-used adjective used to describe property for sale on Phuket. But for ultra-exclusive estates such as Villa Chan Grajang, which went on sale last week for US\$8 million (about 261 million baht),

there really should be a new word used to differentiate them from their 'luxurious' peers.

Located in the Surin Beach enclave on the west coast of Phuket, Villa Chan Grajang was completed in November 2008 and now stands high above the bay

on two rai of land, featuring Indian Ocean views over the beaches of Surin, Bang Tao and the west coast.

Villa Chan Grajang comprises of two villas, each with its own swimming pool, with a total indoor and outdoor living space of 2,272 square meters. The main villa has four bedroom suites and the guest villa has two bedroom suites, all with sumptuous en suite bathrooms. All four bedroom suites have private sea view decks.

Adding to the allure of this beautiful estate is the fact that Villa Chan Grajang is impeccably maintained, staffed and operated by a five-star-trained staff and the estate currently operates as Phuket's most successful luxury vacation rental unit with a staggering 95% occupancy rate.

Despite the lingering world recession and the recent political problems in Bangkok, the estate has remained virtually full of affluent vacationers from around

the world. "This is a unique investment property", says Joanne Baylis from Awesome Villas, "where the new owners will need to decide whether they want to keep the villa all to themselves or continue to generate income through vacation rentals."

The villas are contemporary in design, with interiors by Angela Hall and include pieces from Bali, China, the US and Thailand, and feature an eclectic mix of Asian and Western furnishings.

The main villa boasts a stunning 22 x 5 meter infinity pool that is ideal for recreation or exercise. The Balinese outdoor wooden table seats 12, perfect for a barbeque or a lazy breakfast, while the dining room with its solid teak table and views over Surin Beach offers a cooler option.

The snooker room sports a three-quarter size snooker table, dartboard, bar area and an extensive board game collection, as well as TV and DVD player. The

entertainment room, with its 50-inch plasma TV screen, also has a fully equipped gym with imported exercise machines.

Villa Chan Grajang's indoor and outdoor living areas are wired with Bose sound systems with iPod docks, DVD and CD players in the major bedrooms. In front of the main villa is also a 30-meter golf chipping and putting area, as well as an extensive lawn area for kids – and adults – to play on.

The guest villa has its own pool and modern Western kitchen facilities, allowing guests complete privacy away from the main villa.

The estate, a three-minute drive from Surin Beach, is set in Ayara, a gated community with 24-hour estate security that combines exclusivity and privacy.

For more information about Villa Chan Grajang visit the website at awesomevillas.com.

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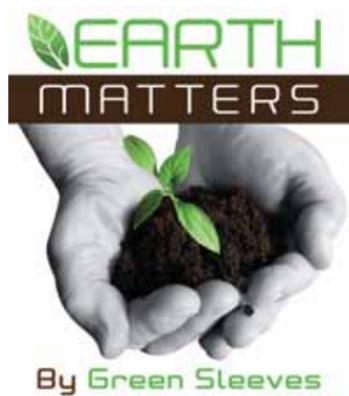
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Standing firm through rain or shine



NOW that the monsoon rains are upon Phuket again, gardeners can start thinking about acquiring some new plants.

The prolonged dry spell has meant fewer visits to garden centers, and certainly none to buy either small five or ten baht container plants, or the more expensive kind of undercover, foliage plants that enjoy a pampered life beneath green netting.

This is because the shade-loving flora in Phuket gardens already suffer some casualties in the extended drought.

Worst hit have been *alocasias* [elephant ears], *caladiums*, *marantas* and *calathea*s.

Ideally, all of these require jungle-like conditions to flourish where there are high levels of humidity.

Without such steamy conditions, they suffer from die-back, some prematurely producing brown leaves that need to be removed. A few give up the ghost entirely.

Other foliage plants fare better: for instance, the *dief-fenbachias* [dumb-cane], the *philodendrons* and, surprisingly, the *aglaonemas* [Chinese ever-green].

Those in earthenware pots in shady positions near the house have done best of all – for the obvious reason that they have been watered on a daily basis.

Now is the time to take stock, replenish and re-think, not just to replace the losses, but to try out some new varieties. So here goes.

In Western countries, one of the most common house plants is the *spathyphyllum*, or peace lily. Indeed, in a recent American poll of common house plants,



Philodendrons (left) and peace lilies fare well in both the rainy and dry seasons and require relatively low maintenance.

it was voted number one.

Relatively easy to cultivate indoors in temperate climates where it tolerates very low light levels, it possesses the added benefit of being an efficient absorber of atmospheric pollutants.

An evergreen, herbaceous perennial, the peace lily will flourish in Phuket so long as it gets sufficient water and shade. It produces a large cream, spathe-shaped bract (known as a spadix) that forms a semi-circular hood around a tight, erect column of flowers.

In this respect, it bears a passing resemblance to the arum lily. The plant also produces lots of glossy, dark green leaves that, in the right environment, can exceed 40 centimeters.

It will spread quite quickly in a moist environment, thereby providing lush and verdant

ground cover. Try it instead of *caladiums*, perhaps as a grouping under a tree.

Philodendrons are another foliage plant that should be used more in the garden.

Some members of this genus [*araceae*] of some 350 species are spectacular climbers.

There are variegated specimens, for instance, near the Laguna resort, which have climbed a full 30 feet into their host trees and brought forth heart-shaped leaves of even greater size than their usual big leaves.

They have a tendency to take over and some even clamber into the crown of their host.

The particular variety, *erubescens*, has purplish stems with leaves that are dark green on top and deep purple below.

Other varieties include *scandens*, which have purple-

bronze leaves that later turn dark green, and *radiatum*, which at first possesses typical heart-shaped leaves. As the plant matures, the foliage becomes deeply lobed.

Other *philodendrons* can be cultivated as self-standing shrubs.

These are technically called 'self-heading', that is to say their leaves sprout from a thick trunk that gets progressively taller.

Less spectacular maybe than their aerial cousins, but excellent as ground cover.

Like all members of the family, they will require a pretty constant supply of moisture and indirect sunlight.

Many cultivars are grown as house plants in Europe and America, for example, fiddleleaf [*bipennifolium*], which has violin or ivy-shaped leaves, or the velvetleaf [*hederaceum*] variety, which has a trailing habit.

Like all *philodendrons*, they are best grown from stem cuttings, but such is their obliging nature that they will flourish in small water containers for months, if not years on end.

Growing in wall-mounted ceramic vases, they add a jungly touch to almost any room.

As for the garden varieties, no other plants will give the garden a more authentically tropical look.

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Property Gazette

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Property Gazette

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

PERFECT LAND

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

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

in Ao Makhham. 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.

NAI YANG GARDEN VILLA

Land 1 rai with 4 houses, 7 bedrooms and bathrooms, swimming pool, fully furnished, 2km to beach, 5km to airport. Sale price only 9.5 million baht. Tel: 081-691 9346. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

for sale. Each building has 3 floors. On big road at Kamala Beach, near Krungsri Bank. Price 20 million baht. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

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

CHEAP HOUSE FOR SALE

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

FIRE SALE

Top quality. 63sqm, 1 bedroom, pool side condominium in the center of Patong. Includes quality furniture. Previously for sale at 5.2 million baht. Now 3.9 million baht or nearest offer. Tel: 087-887 9070.

HOUSE IN KAMALA



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

PAY IN 6 YEARS, NO INTEREST



Sale price: 12 million baht. 648sqm of land, bar/hotel, 9 bedrooms, 9 bathrooms, furnished, WiFi. Location: Rawai Beach. Contact. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

SEAVIEW LAND IN AO POR



For sale. 2 rai, 90sq wah with Chanote title. In Laem Thong, Ao Por. Sale price: 6 million baht o.n.o. No agent! Tel: 087-270 9093.

LAND AT PA KHLOK

1 rai, 18sq wah, Nor Sor 3 Kor, Tha-Rue - Pa Khlok - Muang Mai Road. Near Mission Hill. Price 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND NEAR GOLF COURSE IN KATHU

Near Loch Palm, 600 sq.m. with Nor Sor 3 Kor. Price: 2.6 million baht. 076-321445, 089-724 7211. Email: info@botanvillage.com

POOL VILLA URGENT SALE

350sqm villa. 4 floors in the mountain above Amari Coral Beach Resort, Patong. Garden of 800sqm with 10x5m pool. Carport, huge aquarium. Sea-view from 3rd and 4th floors. Urgent sale required. Reasonable bids will be considered. Tel: 076-292214, 081-979 3860. Email: steen8jansen@gmail.com

HOUSE 2.6 MILLION BAHT

for sale. 2 bedrooms, furniture, car park. Location: Kamala beach. Contact: K. Natalie. Tel: 089-472 5162.

HEAVEN ON EARTH



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

BAAN BAI MAI



for sale in Samkong near Bangkok hospital. 2 storey, 2 bed, 2 bath, 1 car parking space. Email: info@allaboutwebanddesign.com

LAND 1/2 RAI NEAR LAGUNA

In Bang Jo, nice quiet area, near beaches. Price: 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-078 0014 (English). Email: homeinphuket@live.com

PORNSAWAN CONDO

Studio condo. 1.35 million baht. 63.72sqm, 1 bedroom, 2 bathroom, living room, 2 aircons, kitchen, furniture built in. Tel: 081-676 4195.

LAND AT PA KHLOK



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

PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG



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

LAND AT PATONG BEACH

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

48 RAI KHAO LAK / BANG SAK

250m from the beach. Chanote, Nor Sor 3. Only 1.7 million baht. Call or mail for further info. Tel: 080-522 4089 (English), 081-397 4957 (Thai). Email: kamala@phuket.ksc.co.th

HOUSE & BUSINESS RAWAI

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

5-STAR CONDO

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

NEW HOUSE IN THE BANYAN VILLA



for sale. 3.4 million baht, near Land and Houses Park. 29.5sq wah, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, hill view, common pool, club house. Tel: 089-873 1009 (English), 081-893 8524.

PAY IN 5 YEARS, NO INTEREST



Rawai beach. For lease or sale. Land and villa, 400sqm. 6 beds, 6 baths, fully furnished. Sale price: 7.5 million baht. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

KRABI, AO-NANG POOL VILLAS

Land area 320sqm., 2 bedrooms. 6-7 million baht. Second home with strong rental income. Tel: 087-897 7380. Email: mrxaxelmay@gmail.com

PATONG LUXURY SEAVIEW VILLA

Villa in Patong with stunning sea view. Ready to move in, Chanote title. Price: 23 Million baht. Tel: 086-982 2888 (English & Thai). Fax: 02-960 7051. Email: prim_purdue@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.awphuket.com

NEW HOUSE IN NAI HARN-RAWAI



for sale or rent. 3-story villa, sea view, hill view, garden, pool, 4 bedrooms with 2 en-suite bathrooms, 6 bathrooms, ADSL, Jacuzzi. Big living room, kitchen/dining, laundry room. 5 aircons. 8m x 3.5m private pool. 2 parking spaces. Tel: 081-677 9837, 089-646 4786. Email: sync_koji@hotmail.com

SINGLE HOUSE

for sale in Supalai Hill, near Heroines Monument. 55sqm, 3 beds, 2 baths. Call K. Aree for more info. Tel: 083-649 1218.

SHOPHOUSE AT SURIN BEACH

3 storey. Good location. Price 17 million baht. Call Khun Nantana. Tel: 084-261 1161.

SINGLE HOUSE

for sale in Supalai Hill, near Heroines Monument. 55sqm, 3 beds, 2 baths. Call K. Aree for more info. Tel: 083-649 1218.

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!

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To ensure clarity, please email. Do not Fax!

Property Gazette

**NICE HOUSE
88 SQ WAH**



4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons, sofa, cable TV. Near Jomthong Village on Khwang Rd. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 086-774 2034. Email: hataimata@hotmail.com

RAWAI HOUSE

2-story, 3-bed, 3-bath house with self contained Bungalow on 720 sq meters of land in a quiet part of Rawai. 6.8 million baht. No agents, please. Tel: 087-628 3673 (Thai), 081-078 1112 (English). Email: islander bar3@hotmail.com

**MODERN HOUSE
PATONG**

Newly built 2-bedroom house. Please call for more info. Tel: 084-185 8536.

**LAND NEAR NANAI
ROAD**

for sale. 90 wah, near Nanai Road with mountain and ocean views. Tel: 076-296326, 087-883 1756.

**VERY NICE
SEAVIEW LAND**



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

**SEAVIEW LAND
IN AO MAKHAM**



For sale. Chanote title, easy access in and out with concrete road. Price: 12 million baht per rai. No agent! Tel: 087-2709093.

**TWIN VILLAS
AT NAI YANG**



Only 600 meters from beautiful Nai Yang beach, this modern pool villa is perfectly located. Featuring a chic, clean-cut design coupled with a choice selection of quality materials and furniture, this villa is a promising investment for holiday seekers and permanent residents. Price: Bt10.2mil. Contact Khun Penprapa. Tel: 087-898 9646. Email: pen prapa2526@gmail.com

**NICE PLOT BEHIND
LAYAN HILL ESTATE**



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

**NEW HOUSE
KAMALA BEACH**

Western style, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, fully furnished, aircon, phone, ADSL, quiet. Mountain view, close to beach. 6 million baht. Tel: 083-645 3546.

**PIECE OF LAND -
RAWAI**

Nice piece of land in Rawai. 5 rai. Chanote. Price: 7million baht/rai. Straight from first owner! Tel: 089-592 1869. Email: sara@futuregraphics.be

NEW TOWNHOUSE



2 stories, 100sqm, corner position with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Quiet location, 2 carparks, 2 minutes to Super Cheap. Price: 2.5 million baht. No agents! Tel: 087-270 9093.

**TOWNHOUSE FOR
SALE OR RENT**



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

**NAI HARN LUXURY
CONDO**



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

**BEAUTIFUL
NAI YANG LAND**



9.5 rai, beachfront. 5 minutes to Phuket airport. Asking price: 120 million baht. Chanote. Must see. No agents. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

SALE & RENT VILLA

7 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, kitchen, garden top floor, swimming pool. For sale: 19 million baht. For rent: 70,000 baht. Tel: 087-267 7281 (Italian) or 085-243 3878 (Thai).

CHEAP PATONG POOL

Villa with a seaview, 6 rooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 aircons, 2 kitchens. Quick sale. Price: 6.4 million baht only, sold before at 12 million baht. Tel: 087-053 6016.

**PATONG LUXURY
SHOP HOUSE**

4 floors, private car park, and great mountain view. Beside premium hotels on Prachanukro Road. Tel: 081-892 4126.

**BEAUTIFUL HOUSE,
FULLY FURNISHED**



Ready to move in, 254 sqm. 2 floors. Near Downrun school, Laemchan area, close to Phuket Town, nice living room and garden, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 car parks, very nice and quiet area. Price: 6.8 million baht. Tel: 081-541 2025.

KOH YAO YAI LAND

Beautiful land set among the tropical jungle of the island. While this property is classed as inland, it is positioned a mere 500 meter walk to beautiful sandy beach (Klong Son Bay) of Phang Nga Bay. Nor Sor Sam Kor 5,033 rai of land. Ask price 9.5 MB, includes one (Dusita) Thai house. Tel: 076-289122, 084-848 7474 (English & Thai). Email: kasina_navamachiti@yahoo.com

**KATA OCEAN VIEW
B 4.9M**

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

SURIN BEACH

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

**FREEHOLD FINISHED
CONDO**

2 bed, 1 bath, 105 sqm furnished condo. Asking 8.49 million baht or nearest offer. Tel: 087-077 8454 (English), 081-137 1001 (Thai). Email: solitude001@aol.com

3 RAI LAND IN TRANG



for sale. 3 rai in Baan Po, Muang, Trang. Very good location for business, suitable for house projects. Electricity, access road. Sale by owner. With Chanote. Price: 9 million baht ono. No agents please! Tel: 075-210646, 087-270 9093.

NICE HOUSE IN KATHU

For sale. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, private swimming pool and garden. Price: 12 million baht. Contact: K. Pla. Tel: 081-925 1730.

NEW CONDO PATONG

Brand-new, fully furnished, 1-bedroom condo. Freehold. Email: jkgk24@hotmail.com

**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

**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.

2 HOUSES IN PATONG



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

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Phuket Gazette
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The
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Sales and Marketing Executive

The Two Villas Group is a team of creative, forward-thinking property developers with 15 years' experience who have so far created 18 residential environments in Phuket's Nai Harn, Bang Tao and Panwa Bay coastal areas.

Qualification

1. Male/Female, Thai nationality, 25 - 30 years old
2. Bachelor degree from a reputable university
3. Experience in real estate market will be an advantage
4. A minimum of 3 years' experience in sales property
5. Strong command of English, both written and spoken
6. Good interpersonal and communication skills

Contact: Niksa Tel: 076261999 Fax: 076-261541
info@twovillas.com
www.twovillas.com

PROLIVING Company Limited is a property development company. We are engaging in a high end luxury condominium project located on the beach side of Patong beach, Phuket. We are recruiting talented and collaborative individuals that are interested in joining a dynamic team.

SALES / MARKETING MANAGER

The position requires a business minded person to lead and supervise all sales and marketing for all projects.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Male / Female Age 30 +
- University graduate with Bachelor Degree or higher
- Minimum two years experience in dealing with high end sales / marketing at managerial level
- Experience in Phuket real estate is a plus
- Superior record in achieving sales target
- Exceptional command of English
- Excellent planning and organization skills
- Strong interpersonal skills, self-motivated and first-rate team player
- Job location in Patong, Phuket

SALES ASSOCIATE

QUALIFICATIONS:

- University graduate with Bachelor Degree or higher
- Experience in Phuket real estate is a plus
- Minimum two years experience in dealing with high end luxury condominium sales
- Able to work in a fast track environment
- Good command of English
- Job location in Patong, Phuket

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

QUALIFICATIONS:

- University graduate with Bachelor Degree or higher in accounting or finance
- Two years experience at supervisor level
- Good command of English
- Handle daily accounting operations (i.e. A/P, A/R, GL)
- Submission of monthly withholding and VAT
- Liaison with accounting firm
- Job location in Patong, Phuket

Interested candidates, please send your resume and picture to: sotorn.dansirikul@gmail.com

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Sales/ Administrator required

Qualifications:

- Good command of written and spoken English
- Outgoing personality and self-confident
- Computer skills
- Mature/ self-motivated/ fast learner
- Thai national, female
- Knowledge of bookkeeping
- Salary based on experience
- Candidates send your CV To islandcurtains@yahoo.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

Web Programmer (3 positions)

General Duties:

- Designs, programs, implements and maintains computerized business systems for use on the Internet or Intranet
- Develops both internal and external website and web-based applications/features
- Researches and develops new web technologies
- Provides continuing diagnostic support for applications and execution of web services.

Requirements:

- Bachelor Degree in Computer Science/Programming
- Proficient in asp, asp.net, PHP, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, XML, MsSQL, MySQL and Ajax programming
- At least 2 years' experience in programming
- Ability to work within tight schedules
- Independent and attentive to detail
- Able to communicate effectively and show good problem solving skills
- Fluent in English, written and spoken
- Must be a team player.

Web promoter & IT support (1 position)

General Duties:

- Search engine optimization
- Manual directory submission
- Link exchange development and admin
- Procurement from PC hardware/software suppliers and building system providers
- Maintenance of PCs, networking, and building system functionality
- Troubleshooting re user problems
- Independent resolution of hardware break-fix issues, network connectivity, and application related questions
- Weekly conversion of Pagemaker files to PDFs, and compilation of the Digital Gazette
- Conversion of AVI to Flash video for PGTV
- Other related tasks.

Requirements:

- Degree in IT or equivalent work experience
- Minimum of 2 years' experience in web promotion and IT support
- Understanding of search engine algorithms (a must)
- Excellent skills in Search Engine Optimization
- Knowledge of promotional techniques through Google/Yahoo/MSN
- Fluent in English, written and spoken
- Proficiency in Internet research
- Ability to maintain web pages.

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

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MARKETING

Permanent position - Work with our website, agent and direct marketing. Good spoken and written English, and computer skills are required. Salary: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-331615. Fax: 076-331616. Email: inq@sailing-thailand.com

LINUX PROGRAMMERS NEEDED

American company seeking Linux programmers in Patong. English language required. Experience with C language or Perl required. Device driver experience and kernel level programming, or user interface programming with Perl and knowledge of Linux administration. Please send resume and salary requirements to Michael Anderson. Email: manderson@streamscale.com

MALE MASSEUSES WANTED

Earn good extra many with our outcall massage service for couples. No need to be qualified, training can be provided. Please email: messagephuket@gmail.com for more details.

TELE MARKETING JOB

Native English speaker, top rates. Working in Patong. For more information. Tel: 086-479 4027.

NEW INT'L PRIMARY SCHOOL IN RAWAI

The IPC is seeking to appoint a head teacher. Must have PGCD and minimum 5 years experience. Be a leader with passion to inspire and motivate both staff and pupils. Please send your CV to: careers@palmhouseprimaryschool.com

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BEAUTY THERAPISTS WANTED

Position open for Thai nationals with excellent English and sales skills and with at least 1 year experience in luxury resort. Send your resume with recent photo to: sparecruit@hotmail.co.uk

SALE MANAGER WANTED

Russian real estate agency looking for a sale manager assistant. Thai female, 25-35, fluent in English, higher education. Salary: 15,000 baht. Please send your resume to: sales@tr-d.ru

SPEAK ITALIAN: IT'S POSSIBLE

With qualified and experienced teacher. Call for more details. Tel: 084-851 8099.

ADMIN ASSISTANT/PA

Highly motivated self-starter to support the management of an international media services company.

- Very good English required.
- Good organizational skills and attention to detail.

Email or fax resume. Fax: 076-223392. Email: mark@gsd-digital.com

DIVE INSTRUCTORS KOH JUM

Dive Instructor (or a team of 1 dive master and 1 instructor) wanted at luxurious Koh Jum Beach Villas on the island of Koh Jum. Salary commensurate with experience. Email resume to info@kohjumbeachvillas.com For further details, please see our website at www.kohjumbeachvillas.com

ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER

- Females 25 - 35 years
- Must have bachelor's degree
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Must have own transportation
- Must be active and have interest in fitness and sport industry

Good salary + commission + benefits.
Tel: 076-610227.
Email: cj@searaspports.com

LEATHER STITCHING

Person with experience in stitching and use of sewing machines required for work with leather. Tel: 081-956 0571 (English). Email: jean-yves@bayokcreation.com

BEAUTY THERAPISTS WANTED

Position open for Thai nationals with excellent English and sales skills and with at least 1 year experience in luxury resort. Send your resume with recent photo to: sparecruit@hotmail.co.uk

ACCOUNTING

Permanent position. Experience with all facets of accounting including sales, purchases and tax required. Salary: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-331615. Fax: 076-331616. Email: inq@sailing-thailand.com

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Island Job Mart

WANTED

housemaid and gardener for Farang home. Must have experience. Please contact Khun Ya. Tel: 081-797 7898.

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Dynamic, mobile, sales and marketing professional required to develop our private holiday villa rental portfolio in Phuket. High business ethics, sound commercial understanding with great presentation & interpersonal skills essential. Superb earning potential with retainer & expenses paid. Work permit available for the right person. Contact Paul by email sales@thailandholidayhomes.co.uk For further details, please see our website at www.thailandholidayhomes.co.uk

FARANG LIVING IN PHUKET

is looking for part-time secretary with computer knowledge Thai-English. if possible with driving license. Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

SURVEYORS WANTED

Male or female wanted to assist with survey's. Must understand basic English. Good basic salary plus commission. Contact Jay. Tel: 084-851 7529. Email: jamerward@yahoo.co.uk

THAI MAID WANTED

to work in house in Hong Kong. Required Sept 2010 to work for mature couple in Clear Water Bay, Hong Kong. Must be fond of dogs and cooking. Only basic English required. Excellent conditions. Interview can be arranged in Phuket. Tel: +001-852-9468 6499. Fax: +001-852-2849 8448. Email: jdyer@netvigator.com

NURSERY TEACHER

Native English, teach 3-7-year-old kids in Pawai. Tel: 084-714 4104. Email: motherandchild.rawai@yahoo.com

SALES STAFF WANTED

Full time, Thai national. English is a plus. Tel: 081-537 6866.

GRAPHIC/FASHION DESIGNER

Must have good command of English and computer skills. Salary: 25,000 baht per month. Email: boxergirl@boxergirl.net Website: www.boXXerworld.com

APARTMENT MANAGER WANTED

Thai national, able to speak & write english, Multi tasking and dependable. Start on 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-288 8696 (English & Thai). Email: solitude001@aol.com



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Sai Taan is a fast growing property developer based in Phuket. Due to continued expansion we are looking for an ambitious, hard working finance manager/controller.

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- Develop and monitor cashflow plans & company budgets
- Provide weekly and monthly financial reports
- Manage current book keeping staff.

Key Qualifications:

- degree from recognised, leading university
- excellent spoken & written English is a must
- at least 6 years experience
- willing and able to learn necessary accounting regulations related to property business
- hard working & ambitious
- able to take initiative and work independently
- ideally some experience with a real estate development company.

We are looking for someone capable and ambitious to join our small team. This is an opportunity to join a small team and make a real contribution, while learning the details of the property development business. Competitive salary for the right candidate.

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Qualifications:

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- Able to work directly with the Principal

Working Hours: Monday-Friday 09.00-18.00

If you are interested in this position, please submit your CV with covering letter in English to: admin_phuket@limcharoen.com or contact Khun Pias 076-342 882-4.

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SEEKING EXPERIENCED CANDIDATES FOR COMMUNICATION LIASION POSITION

Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand are working together through the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project to improve the lives of coastal populations through better management of the Bay of Bengal environment and its fisheries.

The BOBLME Project will soon be based in Phuket. We want to establish a local presence, encourage a sense of ownership among stakeholders in the eight participating countries; promote BOBLME as a major source of information and advice; and communicate the results and progress of the project to stakeholders, especially to people in the coastal communities. One of the major tasks in 2010 will be to set up of media liaison outlets in each of the countries partnered with the project. These outlets will convey the project messages in appropriate language, and actively seek communication opportunities locally.

We are looking for an individual or company to take a leading role in the implementation of our communications strategy over the next four years.

For more information on the role and responsibilities, please see our website; www.boblme.org.

Interested individuals or companies should send a CV or company profile together with a covering letter outlining your professional competence to the Regional Coordinator Dr Chris O'Brien on chris.obrien@fao.org by June 11, 2010. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



Our client, CLX Group, is one of the world's leading prepress companies from Europe. The group maintains a strong international position in color management and image retouching for the prepress production of catalogs, magazines, and advertising campaigns.

With over 35 years of experience, CLX has witnessed numerous technological developments. It combines its deep knowledge of the business with cutting-edge technologies and provides organizational and technological solutions to optimize media production processes. The Phuket operations have been well established and are growing well.

With the recent expansion plan, our client would like to fill the following positions to support their Phuket operation:

Production Supervisor (1 position)

Responsible for quality control and managing the assigned production team in Phuket to ensure projects are delivered to clients within timescales and to the quality expected.

Requirements:

- English and Thai language skills are a must.
- At least 3 years of experience in managing a small retouch team. Good QC experience is a must.
- Strong attention to detail and ability to provide quality control.
- Must have good interpersonal, people management and communication skills.

Assistant Production Supervisor (5 positions)

Responsible for proofing and maintaining the quality of images and data. Work closely with the production team in Asia and Europe to ensure projects are delivered to clients within timescales and to the quality expected.

Requirements:

- English is a plus, but not necessary.
- At least 5 years of experience in photo retouching within the prepress industry. Good QC experience is a plus.
- Strong attention to detail and ability to provide quality control.

Retouch Operator (15 positions)

Responsible for image retouching, color correction, or compositing on assigned projects. Duties also include production support related projects. Work with the management and production team to achieve desired results.

Requirements:

- English is a plus, but not necessary.
- At least 2 years of experience in photo retouching within the prepress industry.
- Strong attention to detail.

Requirements for all positions:

- Thai nationality only.
- Must have a solid understanding of color and image retouching and demonstrate extensive knowledge in Photoshop (Mac) and be comfortable working in a very multi-functional, hands-on role.
- Must have a proven ability to organize and manage multiple projects simultaneously.
- Highly self-motivated and willing to work towards tight deadlines.
- Proactive and assertive to work with the team. Must also fit in with the CLX Asia's culture – an energetic, fast paced, youthful and people oriented approach.

CLX Asia offers excellent benefits including highly competitive salary and a very supportive work environment. If you are enthusiastic about a prepress profession and desire a working environment where your skills can be developed and supported, please state which role you are interested in and email your CV and a covering letter to: resumes@premediajobs.com

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Next to a 520 room resort, with high traffic. Reason for sale is relocation. Tel: 076-344922, 081-892 6829. Email: jctailor@loxinfo.co.th For further details, please see our website at: www.bluewaterphuket.com

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No key money, good location, double units, underneath hotel. Price: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-597 5474.

KARON BEACH BAR

For rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, good location. Fully furnished, ready to move in. No key money. No utilities. Tel: 081-893 8324.

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Restaurant & bar for sale or lease. Good location on Koh Lanta. Cheap, cheap deal. Want quick sale! Tel: 086-974 3085 (English & Thai). Email: kohlantathebritcafe@yahoo.com

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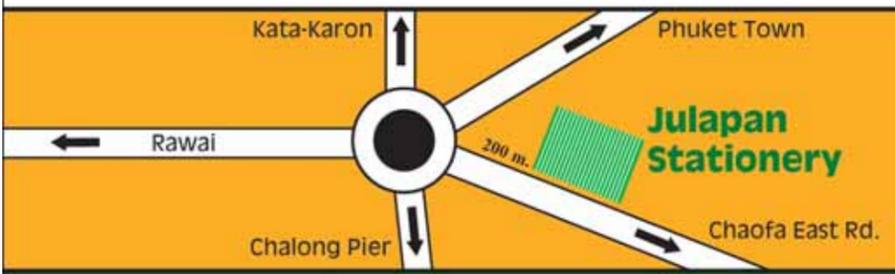
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Short or long term, includes insurance. Call for more info. Tel: 081-555 742, 082-833 3842.

Others

ELECTRIC GOLFCART

Gem car, four seats, new batteries. Cost when new: 460,000 baht. Will sell for 320,000 baht. Tel: 081-487 4812.



Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

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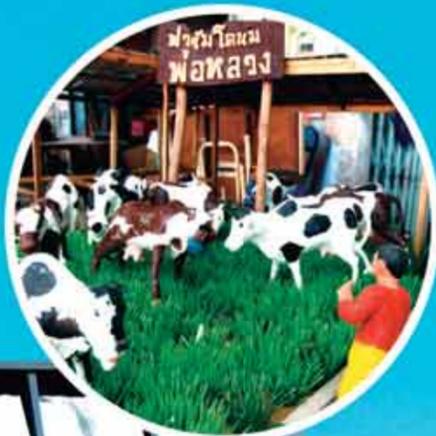
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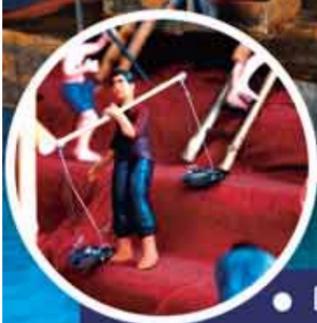
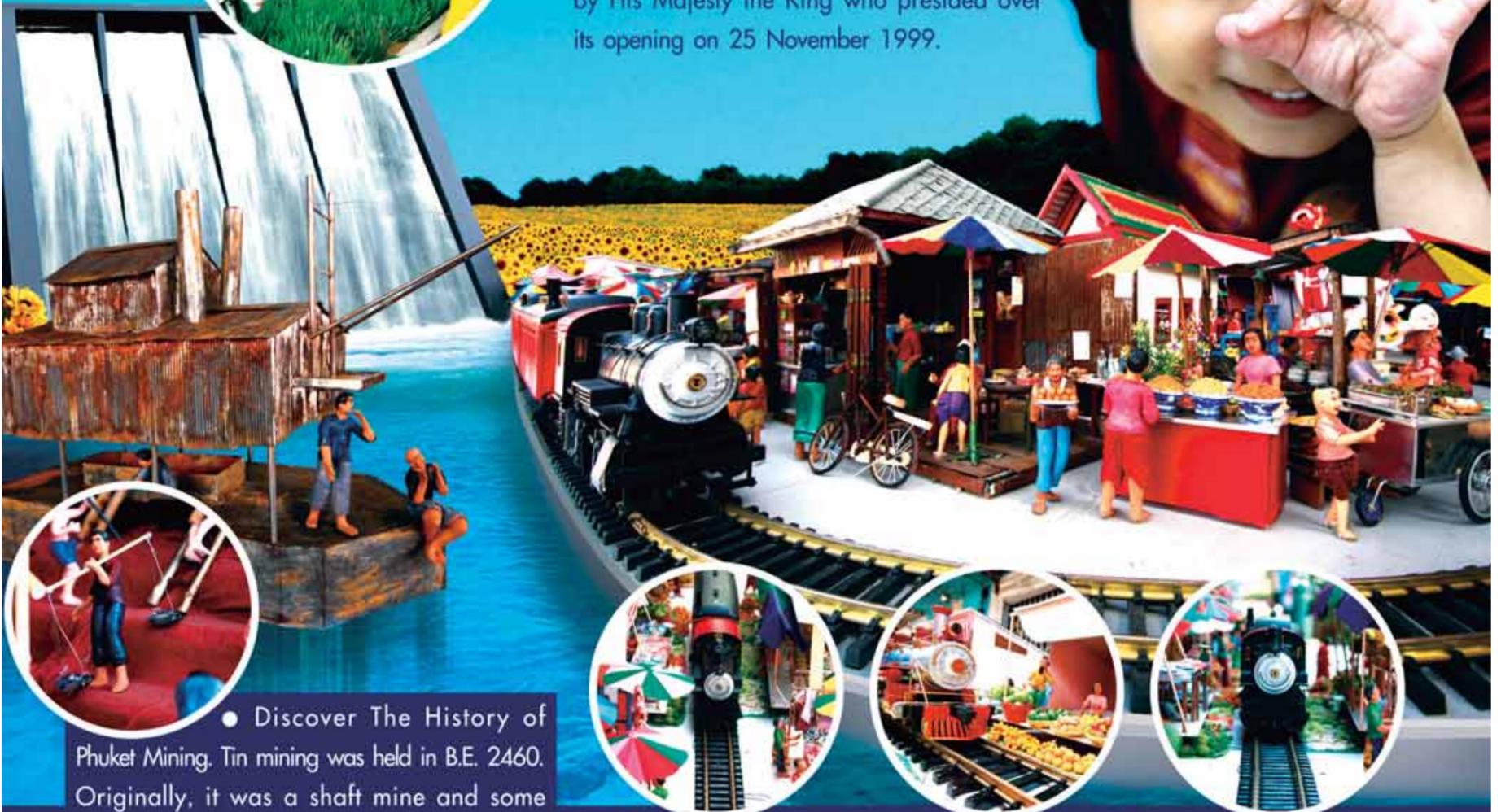
Amazing Thai Miniature World IV

11 - 20 June 2010 @ Silang Hall, Jungceylon Patong - Phuket

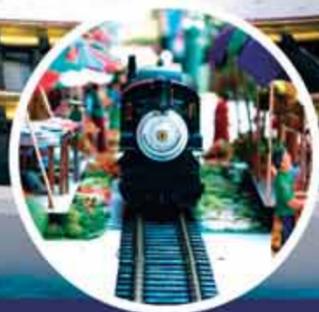
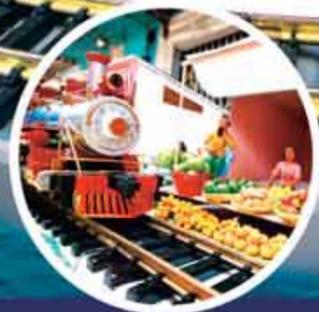
Perk up your experience with Amazing Miniature Exhibition with lights, sound and real virtual motion by a Thailand's top miniature craftsman



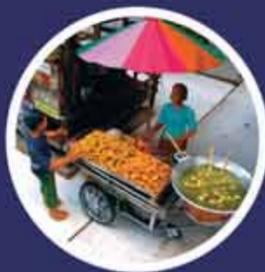
- Commemorate His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's talents through Khuen Pa Sak Cholasit (Pasak Cholasit Dam) miniature, the biggest reservoir in Central Thailand. It was constructed as part of the Maenam Pa Sak Royal Development Project, and was granted the name by His Majesty the King who presided over its opening on 25 November 1999.



- Discover The History of Phuket Mining. Tin mining was held in B.E. 2460. Originally, it was a shaft mine and some carried mine, later some area was operated as a draw mine, Dredging and some was an injected mine.



- Be wowed with unique traditional lifestyle of Maeklong Railway Market or Talad Rom Hoop's villager where market stalls are set up on the rails. The excited vendors have to move their goods to clear a passage way for an arriving train, and push back the stalls into position after the train is gone.



- Demonstration and DIY miniature items everyday
- Shop miniature items and souvenirs on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of Coronation

Operating Hours: 11 am. till 10 pm. For more information, please contact: Phuket Office: +66 76 600 111 Bangkok Office: +66 2 663 7593 Email: info@jungceylon.com Website: www.jungceylon.com

