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Phuket Gazette

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Phuket tops HIV/AIDS statistics

PHUKET has the highest number of new cases of people with HIV/AIDS in the country, Dr Narinrat Pitchayakamint, chief of the Phuket Provincial Health Office, has confirmed.

The news follows a report by the Public Health Ministry released on November 30, he said.

The report shows that from 1989 to November 30, 2010, a total of 7,061 people in Phuket have been reported as having HIV, and 3,946 have developed AIDS.

A total of 1,712 people in Phuket have died from the condition during the period.

However, Dr Narinrat pointed out that the statistics reflected that Phuket has a registered population of over 300,000, but in reality there were more than 500,000 people on the island today.

Most of those registered as having AIDS were between 25 and 39 years old, and most were low-wage workers and maids, Dr Narinrat said.

"We continually campaign for people to protect themselves from the disease - that's very important in Phuket," he said.

- **Atchaa Khamlo**

Thai Hua to open international school

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

PHUKET Thai Hua School has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Huaqiao University to build a new Chinese International School on the island.

The school will be the first of its kind in Southern Thailand.

The name of the school has yet to be announced, but it will be located on 13 rai behind the existing Thai Hua School campus, located off Wichit Songkram Road in Phuket Town.

The land for the project was donated by Phuket's renowned Ekwahnit family.

Huaqiao University, in China's Fujian province, will manage the new school and provide teaching staff.

In Phuket to sign the MoU on behalf of the Chinese university was its president Qiu Jin.

Signing on behalf of Thai Hua School was its alumni club president, Sombat Atiset, who is providing 200 million baht in funding for the project.

With 33 classrooms and other facilities, the school will have ca-



An artist's impression of the completed school's full campus.

capacity for 1,000 upper-secondary school (M4-M6) students, who can register either as day-students or as boarding school students.

The school plan features seven main buildings: an administration building, classroom block, gymnasium, auditorium, and separate dormitories for female students,

male students and teaching staff. Additional facilities will include an outdoor sport field and basketball court.

Mr Sombat said construction is expected to be completed in time for the new school to open for the start of the 2013 academic year.

Mr Sombat is also president of

the Lock Sien Kok Foundation that aims to improve Thai-Sino ties.

The school will establish Phuket as the center of Chinese language education in the south of Thailand, he said.

It would also prove to be a great benefit to the island's tourism industry, he added.

The school will be the first international school in the region with a curriculum in a language other than English.

Its establishment represents the growing influence of the Chinese language as a means of communication in the global economy, Mr Sombat said.

"The Chinese are becoming more powerful. For a long time we have been thinking of ways to improve Chinese-language skills and cultural ties among local youths.

"To establish a Chinese international school here is the answer.

"After graduation students will be able to continue their education at a university in China without wasting one or two years completing a Chinese-language course," he said.

Tsunameter deployment to start this week

By Janpen Upatising

A MISSION to launch two new tsunami direct-detection units off Thailand's Andaman coast is scheduled to set off from Phuket this week.

Somsak Khaosuwan, Director of the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC), confirmed the launch mission will depart from the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) pier at Panwa Cape on Saturday.

Installation of the Italian-built buoys should be completed by Wednesday if all goes according to plan, he said.

One of the new EnvirTech "tsunameter" units will be deployed about 248 kilometers west of Phuket. The other will be set further north, about 240 kilometers west of the Surin Island chain.

EnvirTech technicians will join NDWC officers to install the units, which comprise highly-sensitive pressure sensors that sit on the seabed as well as surface buoys that transmit via satellite real-time data about the thickness of the water column above them.

The ship carrying the tsunameters arrived this week from Thailand's Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center in the

Gulf of Thailand.

The exact locations for the units will be determined based on sea conditions during the installation mission and other factors, Mr Somsak said.

The spacing of the units is intended to ensure adequate response time to ensure a safe evacuation in the event of a tsunami originating west of Phuket or further to the north along the Sunda Trench, he said.

When the buoys are operational, the NDWC plans to launch a website where the public will be able to monitor real-time water depth data from the units online.



One of the buoys will be located about 250km west of Phuket. Photo: file

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This Week

Thought polio was dead?

Think again. The Health Office is about to launch a new campaign against the dreaded virus. **Page 7**

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Eat, pray, yawn



Julia Roberts' latest introspective film fails to impress. **Page 12**

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Hitting the byways



Explore Phuket and its surrounding provinces by bike. **Page 14**

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The Battle of Cape Yamu



Read about the epic battle off Phuket's east coast. **Page 16**

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Cables going underground



Karon's beachfront road is going to look alot better soon. **Page 21**

Tuesday



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Sport



Swiss and US athletes prove that they are made of iron. **Page 35**

Wednesday



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Villagers continue to fight after a dry decade

By Atchaa Khamlo

AFTER 12 years of suffering water shortages, villagers from Baan Saiyuan in Rawai last week filed their latest complaint with the Governor's Office in the hope of finally ending their water woes.

The villagers' problems began in 1998, when a developer levelled all the trees on a nearby hillside. The work affected a small dam the village depended on to divert fresh water to their community.

Fad Minmong, 61, said, "The dam was in the forest about half a kilometer from our village. It was the main water supply for our village for ages, but then a developer cut down the trees on 25 rai further up the hill.

"Even though the destruction of the forest has stopped, it still affects us. Sometimes when it rains the dirt soils the water stored behind the dam, causing muddy water to flood our village.

"The problem is that the big trees were cut down. The forest is recovering, but the young trees are too small to have much effect," he added.



Villagers inspect the devastation.

Mr Fad explained that the villagers, representing some 400 households, had tried to solve the problem on their own

"We really want to grow more trees in the forest, but we can't because the investor claims the land belongs to him. Some of us have been sued for trespassing on his land and destroying his property. So we stopped doing anything because we don't want trouble," he said.

The complaint filed with the Governor's Office asked for a clear ruling on whether the dam was on private land or protected forest land.

"What we really need is for the Forestry Department to mark which land is national forest and which land belongs to the developer," Mr Fad said.

The village elder added that the never-ending fight to protect the village's main water source had left him feeling dejected. "My friend who always fought beside me has already died of old age," he said.

"We have filed letters of complaint at Provincial Hall about this problem many times throughout the terms of three [previous] Phuket governors, but we have yet to receive any response.

Vice-Governor Nivit Aroonrat closed his meeting with the villagers, saying, "I will ask related officers to inspect the area and report to me, as the problems of local people are important. Then we will move quickly to resolve the problem."

Pobpol Sirilucksanapong, chief of the Forestry Department's Forest Resource Managing Coordinating Center in Phuket, said his office would have to coordinate with the Land Office to confirm which land had titles.

'Mangrove road' gets green light

CONSTRUCTION of the Klong Koh Pee Road project moved a step closer to becoming a reality when Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha last week confirmed the Special Committee on Environment had given the plan the green light.

The road – first proposed 15 years ago and staunchly championed by former Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop – had been held up by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) following their rejection of the project's Environmental Impact Assessment.

The key sticking point was the use of a 600-meter stretch of protected mangrove forest to complete the road.

The approval by the MNRE follows the notification allowing Phuket province to be the sole exception to the nationwide ban on using mangrove forest land.



The flyover, if the budget is approved, will cut across 600m of mangroves.

Under the new regulation, mangrove forest land in Phuket may be used for projects that bring "public benefit".

The road will greatly reduce commuting time between much of the island and Saphan Hin, which is home to a large park, two schools and a university.

A budget of 140 million baht has

been requested for the project. Although the governor still has to meet the Chief of the Department of Rural Roads on December 8 for budget approval, the process is expected to be a mere formality.

If the budget is passed, construction is due to begin in the middle of next year and be completed by the end of 2012.

Kata Royal Condo enters mediation

REPRESENTATIVES of the Kata Royal condominium project met top local officials last week to discuss changes to the project's master plan.

The changes are being negotiated in order to acquiesce to some local villagers who have complained that the completed building will obstruct views of Koh Pu (Crab Island) from Patak Road and other parts of the nearby area.

The condo project is about 1.5 kilometers inland, while Koh Pu is about a kilometer offshore.

Despite a special Provincial Hall committee approving the project,

Vice-Governor Nivit Aroonrat found himself heading the mediation meeting, alongside Karon Mayor Thawee Thongcham.

Also present were representatives of the Phuket Provincial Public Works and Town & Country Planning Office. Karon Public Works Director Wanchai Saeton said, "What we got in the meeting is not the final answer. They just offered an alternative.

"Once they finish the [re-worked] master plan, I have to let the local villagers who objected to the original plan see it and ask them to agree to the changes."

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New bus station not ready to roll

MORE than a year after the new Phuket bus terminal was completed, no date has been set for its opening and the project remains in budgetary and bureaucratic limbo.

The handover ceremony for 128-million-baht facility was held December 4 last year.

Bus stations in Thailand are usually run by the local administrative bodies, but Rassada Municipality said it was "not ready" to operate the station.

After the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization also turned down the offer to operate the station, the Land Transport Office had no choice but to run it by itself.

In early August, Phuket Land Transport Office chief Kanok Siripanichkorn said his agency hoped to have the station running by October 1.

But a new obstacle came later that month, when local residents staged a protest after learning that all off-island buses would have to do U-turns on busy Thepkrasattri Road.



As high season arrives the new bus terminal still stands empty.

The residents feared a traffic nightmare would ensue and complained that no public hearing had been held for the project.

Representatives of all parties later that month agreed that a set of traffic lights should be installed near the Vanich Mansion to enable

buses to begin their U-turns from the left lane, but the controversial plan is still under review by the Highways Department.

Only after that agency approves the plan can a budget request be drafted, Mr Kanok said.

— *Atchaa Khamlo*

In brief...

Caddie gunned down

AMORNRAT Petchtrong, 26, a caddie at the Mission Hills golf club in Phuket was killed by single gunshot to the back of the head on December 8.

Local villagers discovered her body before dawn on an access road about 200 meters from the golf course in Pa Khlok.

An eyewitness told police he was riding a motorbike along the road earlier that morning and saw Ms Amornrat talking with a man.

By the time he passed by again,

a crowd had gathered around her body.

No bullet casings were found at the scene, but police estimated the caliber of the bullet to be .22 inches.

Ms Amornrat's body was taken to Thalang Hospital.

Police are now awaiting the results of the post mortem examination in order to confirm the cause of death and gain other information that might be helpful in their investigation.

Traffic claims another life

NANTAWAN Suebsa, 33, was killed instantly on Tuesday night at the entrance to the Anuphas Manorom housing estate, in front of Promphan supermarket on Chao Fa West Road.

Witnesses said she was waiting for traffic to clear before turning right into the estate when a Subaru sedan driven by Nippon

Itthipon, 37, slammed into the back of her motorbike.

She suffered a severe head injury and both her legs were broken.

Mr Nippon presented himself to police that night. He was charged with reckless driving causing death and released on 100,000-baht bail.

Fears of distemper outbreak

SOI Dog Foundation (SDF) is calling for help in its efforts to prevent an island-wide outbreak of the dreaded canine disease distemper.

"Soi Dog is currently working around the clock doing mass vaccinations of dogs at temples and

other locations," said SDF Vice President John Dalley.

Distemper vaccinations costs 105 baht each, and treating a dog with distemper can cost more than 2,000 baht, said Mr Dalley.

To make a donation to help with the effort, visit soidogs.org.

Phuket set for street fest

AMONG the acts set to storm the streets of Old Phuket Town this month are renowned street artists Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone, better known as The Acrobuffos.

The couple are headlining the first-ever Phuket Street Show Festival on December 17-19.

The festival of street performances in town coincides with the Patong Carnival, which gets under way on December 15.

While the Acrobuffos bill themselves as "laughmakers, street players and knockabout philosophers", they are best known for their interactive "water balloon gladiator fight".

Set in the heart of Old Phuket

Town, event activities will be held on Thalang Road, Krabi Road, Soi Rommanee, Queen Sirikit Park and Phuket Thai Hua School Museum.

Other acts scheduled to perform include Bencha Theater's gravity-defying aerial acrobatic show and Korean comedy duo Funniest, famed for taking traditional circus acts to the streets.

French trio Le Tennis will display their comedy juggling skills, while Brazilian street artist James will show off his BMX moves.

Entry to all festival activities will be free of charge.

Police prep for 'Seven Days of Danger'

PHUKET officials are getting ready for the annual "Seven Days of Danger" road safety campaign, this year to run from December 29 through January 4.

The target for the Phuket Road Safety Operation Center is a 5% decrease in road deaths over the seven days.

Last year during the "Seven Days of Danger" there were 86 road accidents, resulting in eight deaths and 92 injuries.

This year there will be eight main police checkpoints.

In Muang District, the two main checkpoints will be at Moom



The checkpoints are about to begin.

Muang Market (near Phuket Villa California) and at the entrance to the Boat Lagoon.

In Kathu, checkpoints will be operating at Thung Thong Police

Station on Phra Baramee Road, at the Sirirat Road junction at the southern end of Patong, and at the police box on Rob Koh Road near Phuket FantaSea.

In Thalang, the checkpoints will be at Tah Chat Chai, in front of Srisoonthorn Tambon Administration Organization on Thepkrasattri Road, and in front of Chergn Talay Police Station.

However, Phuket City Police Superintendent Wanchai Akpornpit said, "If people continue to drink and drive, accidents will occur no matter how hard police try to catch them."

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Gruesome offering for pig-headed spirits

DESPERATE villagers in Prachuap Khiri Khan province tried an unusual rain-making method last week after two years of drought ruined their coconut harvests.

Instead of appealing for the cloud-seeding techniques famous across the land, they instead decided what was needed was an offering of 249 severed pig's heads to the spirits of the land.

Despite parts of the country experiencing the worst floods in decades, there has been very little rain in Tap Sakae district for two years, leaving the villagers' coconut trees almost barren of fruit.

It has also been very hot, attracting various kinds of insects that eat what coconuts the trees do produce.

Many of the trees are dying and even though the price of coconuts has reached around 25 baht each, the villagers have none to sell.

But local people think they know what caused their misfortune. Around two years ago, contractors built a bridge over nearby Khao Laan Canal. The builders made an offering to the guardian spirits of the area, and



asked that there be no rain while they built the bridge.

When they finished, the contractors forgot to redeem their vow, and the village has suffered drought since.

On December 4, villagers placed 249 severed pig's heads on the bridge and held a ceremony to annul the contractors' request.

In attendance were Wanit Pakkingmueang, president of the National Coconut Association of Thailand, and Tap Sakae District Chief Rutprateep Thampheepat.

The villagers invited all the guardian spirits of the land, including the canal spirit, the marsh spirit, the swamp spirit, the mountain spirit, the port spirit and Mother Earth herself. In return, they asked the spirits to let it rain and to banish the coconut-eating insects.
 - *Khao Sod*

Transient arrested for arson

A HOMELESS man living under a telephone exchange box near Phuket Town has confessed to setting ablaze five cars last month, say police.

Presented to the press last week was Sangworn Toe-udtha, 37, from Phang Nga, who is now facing charges of five counts of arson.

Officers on patrol recognized Mr Sangworn, who was standing by the side of Yaowarat Road near Tesco-Lotus.

His face closely resembled that of the man captured on CCTV footage setting a car alight last month, police said.

The officers inspected his bag and found three lighters, a pair scissors and a screwdriver.

This inspired the officers to search where Sangworn lives – under the DTAC telephone exchange container near Darasamut Junction, just down the road.

Among his belongings, the officers found blue pants matching those worn by the arsonist caught on CCTV.

They also found two section of motorbike tire inner tubes and a piece of black insulation rubber.

The officers brought Mr Sangworn to Phuket Town Police



Police share a moment of levity with Sangworn. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Station for further questioning, during which he confessed to setting five cars on fire in early November, police said.

He set pieces of rubber tires alight and placed them on the front wheel on the victims' cars, which matched a consistent factor in five car arson attacks in Phuket Town last month, police said.

Mr Sangworn apparently confessed that he was drunk when he set each of the cars alight.

The first of the five car fires was on November 2, when Suthida

Srisamutr, 57, found her car ablaze in front of her house on Satun Road at about 11:30pm.

The next night, between midnight and 12:45am, three cars were set alight on Patipat Road; one belonging to Ekkarat Liangpaisarn, 62; another Chairat Saritdisuk, 56; and the third to Bunchana Kettirka, 44.

The midnight arson attacks abated until November 10, when Patcharin Kongpetr, 31, from Songkhla, was roused to find her car on fire on Phang Nga Road around 1am.

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V/Gov Nivit (center) and PPAO President Paiboon (right) join the fun.

Call for better care of disabled

PHUKET Vice-Governor Nivit Aroonrat has joined other leading provincial figures in a call for better facilities for disabled people in Phuket.

At a fun day for the disabled at Saphan Hin, V/Gov Nivit on Wednesday voiced his support for the event, saying such activities helped to raise awareness of the problems disabled people faced in their daily lives.

He also called for people to be more considerate of the needs of disabled people, especially when designing and dedicating restrooms, parking spaces, footpaths and entrances to buildings.

V/Gov Nivit, who chaired the event, was joined by prominent local businessmen and senior government officers, and Provincial Administration Organization President Paiboon Upatising.

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Soi Dogs moves to high-tech

AT THE Soi Dog Foundation (SDF) clinic in Phuket, every day presents new challenges. Life for the veterinarians is not simply a matter of vaccinating and sterilizing street dogs and cats.

Until now, diagnosis and treatment of dogs and cats has been extremely difficult work because veterinarians have been forced to rely on their clinical experience and guesswork. Animals can't tell the doctor what is wrong or describe their symptoms, so modern medical testing equipment is desperately needed.

But thanks to a few caring people, the tide is turning for SDF and the island's long-suffering dogs and cats. Recently six generous expats witnessed first-hand the good work the foundation does and have pitched in to help provide funding for modern medical equipment.

Wayne and Sonya Klapko donated a heart monitor that SDF veterinarians have already been trained to use. One of the Klapko's dogs suffers from an endocrine disorder called Cushing's disease and had to be taken to Bangkok every month for monitoring. With the heart monitor, SDF vets have been able to treat the disease and their pet now has a new lease of life. The machine was given in gratitude for the treatment provided.

Recent arrivals Clive and Alison Manners have donated a portable autoclave, which only recently arrived from the UK. This machine allows surgical instruments

'These machines will help immensely in the treatment of animals here.'

John Dalley, Soi Dog Foundation

to be sterilized quickly and safely between neutering and spaying operations at the foundation's mobile clinics, eliminating the need to send them back to the SDF center each night. Until their generous contribution was made, it was virtually impossible for SDF clinics to work at more remote locations, such as Koh Lanta. Having the autoclave on site allows the clinics to sterilize many more animals in a day than they could before.

Clive, who formerly owned a medical equipment company in Australia, is now looking to source other equipment for the foundation.

Most recently, John and Satomi Higgs bought two brand-new blood analysis machines: a Vet Autoread Hematology Analyser, including a Vet Line Urine tester, and a Vet Test Chemistry Analyser.

Together, the two machines cost about 800,000 baht. The SDF clinic will be one of only five veterinary clinics in Thailand to have this technology. Blood parasites and the conditions they cause are



Hong Kong based Canadian Vet Jennifer Normand-Wilmer, currently taking a one-year break on Phuket, and her Canadian colleague Sylvia McAllister train SDF vets in using the newly donated heart monitor. Photo: SDF

the biggest killer of dogs and cats on Phuket. These machines allow speedy and accurate diagnosis of a wide range of the conditions they spread.

John and Satomi bought the machines for SDF in honor of their two deceased, but still deeply missed, Labrador Retrievers Alpha and Jupiter. These two male siblings the couple shared their lives with while living in Singapore.

Bred in the Australian city of Perth, Alpha led an active life for six years, enjoying running and swimming. The couple were devastated when someone poisoned him.

The source and type of poisoning were never identified due to the lack of appropriate testing equipment.

Alpha died a horrible death after suffering for days while undergoing whatever tests and treatments vets could provide at the time.

"I only wish those vets had access to the types of machines that we are donating to Soi Dogs," John said.

Jupiter lived on, moving to Phuket with the couple when they came here to live four years later.



At "Into the Sea", the signature restaurant at the Evason Phuket & Bon Island, chef Thomas Jakobi's Modern Logical Cuisine showcases his latest innovations in the form of new, creative interpretations of a cuisine that has both visual and textural appeal. The taste and focus on fresh, wholesome and local ingredients are paramount.

The wine program, created by our sommelier, Harry Haan, has been granted the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence for the second year in a row.

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of active life until passing away of old age at 14.

John and Satomi are also giving SDF Jupiter's cart. "We hope that his wheels will be useful to a soi dog in the future, if the need arises," John said.

The two new machines will arrive in January and the company supplying them will deliver demonstration models to the clinic during December.

The SDF has cancelled their sterilization schedule on that day so all staff can be trained in using both machines.

The machines will be named Jupiter and Alpha, in honor of the two dogs whose love, loyalty and sense of fun meant so much to the Higgs.

John and Gill Dalley, directors of Soi Dog Foundation, expressed their deep thanks to the six expats for their outstanding generosity and support for the SDF's work.

"These machines will help immensely in the treatment of animals here," said Mr Dalley. "Next year will see us push ahead with plans to create Thailand's largest and most modern animal hospital outside of the universities.

"First phase work on a dedicated cat facility will also start in the new year, thanks to a generous grant from a foundation based in Switzerland," he added.


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Nation marks HM birthday

THAILAND held lavish festivities last Sunday in celebration of the 83rd birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-reigning monarch.

HM The King, who has been hospitalized for more than a year, used a rare public appearance to urge Thais to "perform your duty to the best".

Thousands flocked to the banks of the Chao Phraya river to enjoy firework displays and floating lanterns on hundreds of illuminated boats that cruised up and down the river.

In the morning, His Majesty granted a public audience to members of the royal family, the military, the Cabinet and high-ranking officials at Amarinthara Winitchai Throne Hall in the Grand Palace.

In his speech, His Majesty urged all Thais to do their duty to the best of their ability – for the

AROUND THE nation

sake of peace, security and happiness.

His Majesty thanked well-wishers for their blessings on his birthday after HRH Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn read out a statement in honor of HM The King.

"I would like to thank all of you for gathering here to give me sincere birthday wishes," His Majesty said.

"Our country has been prospering and peaceful for a long time because we adhere to our nation and join hands to perform our duty by giving the utmost priority to public interests.



Thousands lined the banks of the Chao Phraya to watch the fireworks and floating lanterns. Photo: The Nation

"All of you who are gathering here – and all Thais from all sectors – should seek a clear understanding of your duty and perform your duty to the best, with caution and awareness.

"Being careless and imprudent can lead to mistakes and damage

[to duties] in one's responsibility. When one becomes senseless and unreasonable, one can become forgetful and afraid and can abuse his or her authority. This is very dangerous. This kind of practice can lead to downfall to oneself and to the country.

"As a result, I would like to ask all of you to be prudent and to keep your determination to perform your duty in line with your reasons for the sake of peace and security and sustainable happiness of our people," His Majesty said.

– *Phuket Gazette*



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Leaks reveal US pressure over Bout

TWO diplomatic cables leaked by whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks have revealed the extent of US pressure on the Thai government to extradite alleged Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout.

The leaked cables also show that diplomats had alleged that Bout's Russian supporters paid witnesses to give false testimony at his extradition hearing.

American agents posing as Farc rebels arrested Bout in a sting operation at a Bangkok hotel in March 2008 after he allegedly agreed to sell them millions of dollars of weapons.

On February 12, 2009, the US ambassador in Bangkok, Eric John, voiced his concerns about the case in a meeting with Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva.

He warned that the extradition proceedings had become "tainted



US Ambassador Eric John

as a result of the efforts by Bout's associates to bribe Thai officials".

Ambassador John said the Americans had uncovered several examples of influence and corruption. These included the false testimony by a witness and "evidence of bribery schemes gathered throughout the world".

Shock suicide live on internet

A YOUNG Thai woman this week hanged herself live on the internet while her 25-year-old boyfriend and other internet users looked on.

Nichakorn Srisawat, 24, from Nakhon Sawan, hanged herself with a bedsheet tied to a ceiling fan in her Bangkok apartment after her boyfriend told her he wanted to end their relationship.

The webcam, attached to the computer, was turned in the direction of Ms Nichakorn's body.

When police arrived, the computer was still logged onto the controversial Camfrog video chat network, showing Ms Nichakorn had argued with her boyfriend.

Ms Nichakorn's boyfriend, Theerawat Jeeraphajaroen, told police he had met her on Camfrog and the two had been dating for about a month.

He said Ms Nichakorn was bad-tempered and prone to stress. They had started arguing after her ex-boyfriend had asked to get back together with her.

On the day of the suicide, Mr Theerawat said he told Ms Nichakorn he wanted to split up with her. She reportedly replied that she had no reason to go on living without him.

Camfrog became infamous in Thailand after young Thai women reportedly used it to strip off for money during sex chats with strangers.

– *Kom Chad Luek*

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Phuket ramps up Christmas blood drive

THE Phuket Regional Blood Center is stepping up its blood donation campaign in the run-up to the "Seven Days of Danger", when more supplies will be needed to meet an expected increase in road accidents over the holidays.

The Phuket chapter of the Thai Red Cross Society has announced that the center's mobile blood collection clinic will accept donations at the following locations and times:

- December 7, 9am-3pm: Phuket Immigration Office
- December 9, 9am-3pm: British International School
- December 14, 12pm-4pm: The Nap Hotel, Patong
- December 16, 10am-3pm: Labor Court Region 8, Phuket Town
- December 20, 10am-3pm: Robinson Department Store at Jungceylon, Patong
- December 21, 12pm-4pm: Royal Phuket City Hotel
- December 23, 10am-3pm: Prince of Songkla University, Phuket Campus
- December 24, 12pm-6pm: Central Festival Phuket
- December 28, 10am-3pm: Duangjitt Resort Hotel, Patong

Rotary joins anti-polio effort

By Samaporn Janyanon

PHUKET Rotary Clubs are joining the Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) in the local effort to eradicate polio.

Rotarians will lend a hand at the PPHO's upcoming mobile polio vaccination clinics to be held across the island as part of National Immunization Day for Polio Eradication on December 15.

On the day, free polio vaccinations will be available at all government hospitals from 9am to 4pm and at all government schools from 9am to midday.

The PPHO will also send mobile clinics to administer free vaccinations at foreign worker camps and all foster homes on the island.

Ornnida Puttarak, a Public Health official at Vachira Phuket Hospital, told the Gazette, "We have not had any reported cases of polio for over eight years. We have been very good in keeping the disease in check."

However, she warned that was no reason for health officials to let their guard down. "For countries categorized 'at risk of infection', outbreaks of the disease have been found in neighboring countries.

"There are many migrant children here [in Phuket] who may have brought the disease with them, and this may spread to lo-



Trainee nurses try to administer a polio vaccination to a young Thai boy as his mother looks on. Photo: PPHO

cal children," she said.

As a precaution, the PPHO will freely vaccinate all children under 15 years old, Ms Ornnida explained.

If parents had any doubt as to whether their children had been vaccinated, then do it again, she advised.

"There are no adverse effects of being vaccinated again," Ms Ornnida said.

What is Polio?

Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious viral disease that mainly affects young children. The virus is transmitted through contaminated food and water, and multiplies in the intestine, from where it can invade the nervous system.

Symptoms include fever,

headache, vomiting, stiffness in the neck, and pain in the limbs. In a small proportion of cases, the disease causes paralysis, which is often permanent.

Polio can only be prevented by immunization.

Source: WHO

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Live and let 'loy'

While I agree that the releasing *khom loy* [fire lanterns] should generally be confined to the Loy Krathong event (see *Gazette* Editorial, December 4 issue), I most certainly do not agree that supervision of their release should be limited to hotels and private functions.

Government interference in, and over-regulation of, our everyday lives [in our home countries] is one of the primary reasons that people choose to make Thailand their new home.

Unfortunately, this article typifies the tendency for your reporters to believe that they are the font of knowledge and wisdom in respect of how people should conduct their lives in this country. Such arrogance.

There is no room in this country for do-good *farang* who proclaim that they know best how to regulate people's lives. I suggest your reporters confine themselves to reporting the news rather than pontificating about how the enjoyment of Thais and *farang* should be curtailed.

Many of us left our home countries to get away from this sort of nonsense. Ask for readers' opinions if you must, but don't stand on a soap box.

"Ping"

(real name not supplied)

Patong

Booting Mrs Bout

Re: Thailand invokes Mrs Bout's fire

Hang on a minute, so Mrs Bout is upset about Thailand extraditing her husband to the US – because it is a violation of his rights? Is she worried he is

Learning to become an education hub

CONSTRUCTION of the new international school with a Chinese-language curriculum [see page 1] is good news for Phuket. It will provide an important new option for parents who want to position their children to tap the potential of the world's most-populous nation and its robust economy.

Educational options in Phuket have grown in leaps and bounds over the past two decades with the introduction of four international schools using English-language curricula and a fifth under construction in Kathu.

The desire of Phuket parents to provide international-standard education for their children, one with strong emphasis on learning a foreign language, comes as little surprise given the dismal failure of the Thai government educational system in this regard.

Despite the obvious need for English-speaking staff to meet the needs of Phuket's large and fast-growing tourism economy, management at most state-run schools on the island continues to labor under a bureaucratic mindset that promotes parrot-like regurgitation over independent thought, crowd control over creativity.

Despite talk of "brain-based learning" – is there any other kind? – during the Thaksin years and similar banter by successive governments, little has changed at the Ministry of Education, which despite decentralization efforts remains the nation's largest employer.

Fortunately for Phuket, the private sector has been able to step up and fill much of the gap between where educational opportunities are – and where they should be.

not being given fair treatment? Or is it an issue of legality?

On either, and all, of these three accounts she is being a complete and utter hypocrite and doesn't have a leg to stand on.

Her husband has been literally

fueling the wars of the world for at least a decade with his indiscriminate supply of arms to any person who will have them.

What about the rights of the civilians in Darfur, Afghanistan and Somalia, who find them-

selves at the wrong end of his firearms supply?

Perhaps he was being considerate, and fair, when he put guns in the hands of kidnapped, drugged and indoctrinated child soldiers – I mean he did, after

Phuket Gazette

Like most segments of the Phuket economy where free market forces are allowed to prevail, private education has flourished over the years to the point where Phuket now offers the widest range of educational options in the South, including bilingual programs, tutorial schools, TEFL training schools and more.

Given Phuket's growing population, infrastructure development and increasingly international outlook, it comes as little surprise that the island is developing into an education hub, especially considering the pollution and traffic in Bangkok, Thailand's traditional seat of higher learning.

The trend is not restricted to Phuket proper, but also extends to nearby parts of surrounding provinces. One notable development came in October, when Chulalongkorn University announced that its prestigious Sasin Graduate Institute of Business Administration would open a satellite center in Phang Nga for Thai and international executives.

Not to be overlooked is vocational training, and Phuket is lucky to have no fewer than six vocational colleges that attract students from around Thailand.

This is important if Thailand is to avoid the current "brain drain" confronting many western countries, where there are scores of unemployed people holding advanced degrees – but nobody knows how to fix a broken toilet.

all, give them the means to defend themselves.

As for legal grounds, I am afraid that the legal-justice system has no punishment grave enough to bestow on Bout – not one that will deliver a punishment appropriate for the damage and pain he has caused to such an incredibly large number of people throughout the world.

Mrs Bout has a lot more pressing issues to worry about right now than pointing the finger at Thailand.

Astrid Folkesson,
Chalong

Ironman a great addition

Last Sunday morning I paid a visit to Laguna Phuket to catch some of the action at the inaugural Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific Championship.

Not being a regular follower of the triathlon circuit, arriving at Laguna I was initially surprised to see women competing. I guess the title "Ironman" is a tad misleading, although perhaps it's finally a case where gender correctness has not gone completely mad and called the female category of the event "Ironlady", or worse still, grouped the two sexes together and called it "Iron People 70.3".

Anyway, although it was great to watch the professional athletes push themselves through the pain barrier to fill the top places, what was more heart-warming was watching the 800-plus amateur athletes, of all shapes and sizes, pour their "physical souls" into finishing the grueling race.

The sight of them sweating and smiling as they crossed the finish line will be my abiding memory of Ironman.

John Jenkins
Phuket

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Issues & Answers...

Where can I donate clothing?

Are there any organizations or charities who want secondhand clothes? I know I can donate at Phuket Prison, but was wondering if there were any other options?

Another Steve
Phuket

Phinnarat Sathukanon, coordinator for the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent's tsunami-relief project, replies:

If you have clothing in good condition that would be useful to people, you can donate it at our office at 38/34 Rattanakosin 200 Pi Road, Talad Nua, in Phuket Town. For more information, call us at 076-211766 or email us at phuket_rc@hotmail.com.

Our office is open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. We're closed on public holidays.

The clothing we collect will be sent to areas of Thailand where people are in need.

Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/
IssuesAnswers

Debit cards for foreigners?

I currently have two savings accounts with Kasikorn Bank. Is it possible to get a visa debit card – not credit card – from the bank?

I have been a customer with the bank around 10 years and work abroad, and so I do not have a work permit for Thailand. What documents would I need?

Alexander Thomson
Phuket

Janejira Thawan at the Kasikorn Bank call center replies:

As long as you have a savings

account with Kasikorn Bank, you can apply for a Visa Debit Card at any branch of Kasikorn Bank.

Please bring your passport (original, not a photocopy) and the bankbook for the account you want to have the debit card issued under.

It costs 100 baht to apply for a debit card, 100 baht to replace a lost debit card and 200 baht a year to maintain a debit card.

However, to keep your account active and as part of the conditions for opening a savings account with us, you must process at least one transaction through the account every six months.

If no transactions are made through the account over any six-month period, the bank will automatically deduct 50 baht from the account in order to keep it active.

If the account is not used for 12 months, the bank will automatically close the account.

For more information, call the Kasikorn call center at 02-888 8888 or visit our website at kasikornbank.com

The danger of jet-skis

FIRST PERSON

I WAS present when the Chinese couple rented the jet ski. We agreed on 1,500 baht for half an hour, and I asked one of my staff to teach the Chinese man how to operate it.

When the couple headed out to sea on the jet-ski, the man was driving, with the woman sitting on the back. They were told what time they were due to return and to use Patong Towers as a landmark to find their way back.

I didn't see exactly what happened. For 10 minutes the couple disappeared from view, so I asked my staff to go out on another jet-ski to find them. My staff found the jet-ski stuck on a rock. There was no sign of the couple.

Later a friend told me about the accident, that the couple had slammed into a catamaran, resulting in their deaths.

We had instructed the man on how to operate the jet-ski; he seemed quite capable of driving it.

The jet-ski key was given to the man, but after the accident the key was found strapped to the woman's wrist. It is possible the couple switched seats so he could teach his partner how to drive the jet-ski.

Passengers of a yacht anchored near the scene of the accident told police the couple drove straight into the middle of the catamaran at about 60 knots.

This is my first experience of such a serious accident, where both people on the jet-ski have been killed.

Most jet-ski accidents happen because clients do not listen to us.



Patong jet-ski operator **Anupong Padungsin, 31**, rented the jet-ski involved in the tragic accident last week off Patong Beach that claimed the lives of a Chinese couple on honeymoon. Here he talks about the tragedy and warns of the dangers of jet-skiing.



Foreigners rent jet-skis and race against each other. During high season there can be up to three jet-ski accidents every day.

Unlike a few years ago, tourists are no longer scared of riding jet-skis. They go much farther out to sea, even though some cannot ride the jet-ski very well.

The first thing we always do is teach clients how to ride the jet-ski correctly for five minutes by riding out to sea with them. We teach them important things such as: how to start and stop the engine, how to speed up and slow down, and how to turn left and right.

We always tell them where they shouldn't go and the location of dangerous rocks.

All the regulation details for hiring a jet-ski is in the agreements everybody must sign before renting one. I urge people to read through the agreement and listen to our warnings.

We explain to every client not to leave Patong Bay on the jet-ski, because if they do we will not be able to see them if they get into trouble.

We check every 10 minutes to make sure the jet-ski is in view. If it goes out of view we send staff out to find it.

Tread warily in pimping your ride

Island View

By Blair Christopher

Do you have an opinion to voice?
Email Editor@PhuketGazette.net

YOU wouldn't put a lawnmower engine in a car or a spoiler on a tractor as that wouldn't make any sense. But neither would putting bicycle wheels on a motorbike and driving it a hundred miles per hour.

It's a fad that I can't quite grasp, but one that seems popular on Phuket.

Look out for them and you'll see them, but beware, you will only get a fleeting glance.

You can imagine the scenario that plays out at the local mechanic when some hot-shot hipster wants to modify his or her latest 100cc scooter.

"Yes, I'd like to pimp my bike," says young customer. "It will impress the ladies for sure."

"Certainly, what can we do for you," replies the mechanic.

"Well, I'd like my suspension lowered, new funky mirrors, a few of those skull 'n' bones stickers, Oh and new wheels, please."

"What kind?"

"Bicycle wheels with extra thin tires minus any tread."

It's a teenager thing us oldies can't quite grasp in the same vein as piercing your nose or getting a tattoo, but accessorizing motorcycles with anything other than wheels approved by safety standards is in my view, a tad silly.

Motorcycles can be dangerous, of course, but substituting inappropriate wheels in the name of aesthetics seems as bone-headed as wearing shoes with glass insoles because they look cool. It will only end in pain.

Equally as ridiculous as the bicycle wheel fad, is inverting handlebars on motor-scooters.



Kids about town. Photo: Apinun Saitong

The kids who do this look like they're dislocating their wrists in order to grip the handles which are resting on their knees.

Again, look out for them, and you might catch a glance if only for a second as they speed by.

The inverted handlebars massively reduces a rider's reaction time, ability to perform corrective steering if heading into danger and will inevitably lead to a higher risk of being involved in a serious incident on the road.

I can only hope my boy doesn't buy into these fads when he's old enough to have a motor-scooter.

Kids, please be safe on the roads, and keep in mind that modifying motor-scooters to impress the ladies is not always the safest thing to do.

...asking the questions that affect you...



Can we keep Chalong Pier alight?

I noticed for some time that Chalong Pier is beautifully lit up at night with colorful changing lights. Is this because it's Christmas time? I hope not, because they fit in so nice with the evening atmosphere and give Chalong an elegant modern touch.

Sailor
Chalong

Hirun Homkaew, Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization's Assistant Controller of Chalong Pier, replies:

The colorful lights along Chalong Pier were installed as part of our plans to make the area more beautiful from Loy Krathong Festival 2010, which was held nationwide on November 22,

through to New Year's Eve 2011.

The reason is to promote tourism of Phuket on the "high seas" and give a good impression to the people and tourists who travel here.

Since the lights look nice, and are so much appreciated, we have decided to leave them up for the time being.

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The future of MICE

By Anand Singh

HUMAN resources shortages may be an obstacle to the growth of the Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) industry in Phuket and Thailand. Universities and other educational institutes are being engaged to tackle the problem.

Akapol Sorasuchart, president of the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) says that MICE is a rapidly growing sector in the Thai tourism industry, with annual growth rates of around 20% per year, and a yearly income of up to 45 billion baht.

However, the labor market has found it hard to keep up with this rapid growth and demand, particularly in the supply of personnel with good knowledge of the industry. Entrepreneurs in the industry have warned that the growth of MICE may be hindered in the near future because of serious shortages of qualified personnel.

Mr Akapol said that there are not many

experts on MICE to be found in the labor market as most Thais still do not have a clear idea of the industry, and education in the field is limited.

To tackle this problem, the TCEB has joined hands with Prince of Songkla University (PSU) to create a MICE tourism curriculum.

According to *The Nation*, PSU Director of MBA Tourism Management Assistant Professor Kaedsiri Jaroenwisat and the TCEB signed a Memorandum of Understanding in August. Since then Prof Kaedsiri has been drafting the curriculum, which is to be offered at undergraduate level with a bachelor's degree qualification upon completion. Prof Kaedsiri believes the course should be ready to launch in 2012.

He said students graduating from this course will have a profound understanding of the industry and the different functions of services before, during and after the events take place. They will also be trained

in marketing and other factors related to the industry. It is being considered whether foreign languages, such as Chinese and German, should be offered as optional subjects.

In October this year, the cabinet approved plans for a long awaited International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC) to be built in Mai Khao, with construction likely to get underway by mid 2012. When completed, the 2.6 billion baht center is likely to attract more MICE travellers to Phuket, which will increase demand for local staff with the necessary management skills to work in the MICE industry.

Although no statistics are available specifically for Phuket, TCEB figures show that last year foreign participants visiting Thailand for corporate meetings spent around 15,000 baht each per day, up 10% from their average spending in 2008.

The average length of stay for each participant last year was 5.66 days, up from 4.86 days in 2008.



MICE courses are coming to PSU.

Looking offshore for attractive returns

Island Investor

By Bill Anderson

OFFSHORE portfolio bonds (OPBs) are one of the most attractive, yet misunderstood, financial products available to expat investors.

They should not be confused with government bonds, such as US Treasuries or UK Gilts, which are completely different financial instruments.

OPBs are offered by world-renowned companies such as Friends Provident International, Generali and Royal London 360. In essence, an OPB provides a tax wrapper for investments held within the bond.

This is particularly favorable for Phuket-based expats in avoiding tax on capital gains and income.

Most expats set up their offshore bonds in UK dependent territories, such as the Isle of Man, Guernsey or Jersey. These jurisdictions benefit from strong governments, strong regulatory control and invest-



Want to spend your days in the sun? Then try looking offshore.

ment protection measures.

There are several myths surrounding offshore portfolio bonds. Here are some of the more common assumptions:

Offshore investment is for the very wealthy only. The minimum investment into an offshore bond can be as low as about 470,000 baht but typically starts from about 2.3 million baht. Thousands of expats use them every year. They are commonly used in planning to mitigate inheritance tax,

capital gains tax and income tax.

Offshore investment is based in questionable tax havens. The members of the Association of International Life Offices, such as Friends Provident International and Generali, operate from some of the world's most highly-regulated jurisdictions. The Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey are all on the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) approved "white list".

Offshore investment is all

about tax evasion. The use of offshore bonds should not be confused with "aggressive" or complex tax-avoidance schemes. Offshore bond customers are ordinary law-abiding citizens, not tax evaders.

Offshore investment is exotic and risky. Offshore bonds offer access to all the UK household name fund managers and funds, with a full range of risk profiles from lower risk cash funds through to specialist funds.

In addition, investors can choose funds that are not domiciled in sterling, thereby providing a high degree of diversification.

The benefits of investing through OPBs are numerous. In particular:

Virtually tax-free growth. Often referred to the "gross-up" effect, investment in an offshore bond grows virtually free of income tax and capital gains tax charges unlike, for example, UK Unit Trusts.

No capital gains tax. Fund switches made within an OPB do not trigger a capital gains tax liability. Such switches within a portfolio of onshore unit trusts or direct equities would incur a capital gains tax charge in the year they were made. Offshore bonds offer a more tax efficient structure for active, or passive, investment management.

Regular withdrawals. Investors can take a regular income from their offshore bond on a quarterly, half-yearly or yearly basis.

Inheritance Tax Planning. Structuring your assets through an offshore bond held in trust can mitigate, or avoid altogether, taxes due when transferring wealth.

Outside of an offshore bond, assets above the zero tax band (currently 15.2 million baht, or UK£325,000 for British citizens) that are not held in trust will be subject to inheritance tax of 40% for UK nationals.

Non UK status. As offshore bonds are not UK-based investments, this can help you mitigate UK tax bills if you are a UK expat.

In short, offshore portfolio bonds offer a very attractive way to hold your investments in a tax-efficient form.

For long-term expats who are not planning on returning to the UK, the offshore route is particularly appealing. In addition, by structuring the investment in the bond as a trust, the potential liability to inheritance tax can be mitigated or completely removed over time.

Bill Anderson is the Phuket Associate Director of MBMG International. E: bill@mbmg-international.com



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Pimex on track for another record year

THE Phuket International Boat Show, Pimex 2011, to be held at Royal Phuket Marina from January 6 to 9, is set for yet another record-breaking year, organizers say.

"Pimex 2011 is really shaping up to set a new benchmark this year," said Andy Dowden, Show Director of Informa Yacht Group.

"The event has attracted record interest in its exhibition space and in-water berths have virtually sold-out," he added.

Now in its eighth year, Pimex continues to grow. Last year, the show hosted more than 85 companies and featured 34 yachts, earning the event the title of biggest boat show in the region.

"Between 2009 and 2010, Pimex contributed over 8 billion baht to Phuket's marine leisure industry," said Mr Dowden.

"Last year saw strong boat sales by exhibitors at Pimex and this year we are aiming to surpass that with over 1 billion baht worth of sales," he added.

Next month's show is expected to draw 6,000 visitors over the four days, including over 2,000 trade visitors.

"Luxury automobiles from 10 million baht and boats in excess of 600 million baht, in combination with buyers coming from all over the region, including Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Jakarta and Hong Kong, creates a huge opportunity for marine businesses to reach a wide target audience," Mr Dowden said.

The event's success has drawn support from the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau.

"We believe that Pimex 2011 will increase the already significant momentum in the marine sector and position Phuket as the regional hub for marine events with its world class facilities, easy accessibility via land, sea and air, extensive growth of infrastructure, a skilled English-proficient workforce and of course its wide range of leisure destinations," said Supawan

Teerarat, TCEB Director of Exhibition Department.

The boat brokers and dealerships that will join the show run the gamut from those that offer "affordable daysailers" to high-end luxury yachts.

At the time of going to press, the list of those signed up to join the show included Azimut, Bavaria Yachts, Beneteau, Benetti, Boston Whaler, Chris Craft, Crownline, Corsair Marine, Cranchi, De Birs, Fairline, Ferretti Yachts, Fontaine Pajot, Formula, Hanse, Horizon, Jeanneau, Lagoon, Majesty Yachts, Mustang, Nautor's Swan, Northrop & Johnson, Oryx, Pershing, Princess, Riviera, Sea Ray, Silvercraft, Sunseeker and Windy Boats.

Locally built boats from Cata Thai, Composite Catamarans, Sunnav and Seat Boat will also be on display.

On show for the first time in Asia will be the newest and largest of the Sunseeker range: the Sunseeker 40.



ONBOARD: The interior of the Sunseeker 40 yacht, one of many luxury boats and on-land motoring vehicles that will be on show at Pimex 2011.

The 40-meter yacht was unveiled recently at the Southampton Boat Show in the UK.

Capable of cruising at 24 knots, the vessel has accommodation for up to 12 guests with a layout that allows the crew of nine to move discreetly around the boat.

Designed and built to RINA unrestricted navigation classification, the yacht is available in a choice of cabin configurations.

Options include the newly in-

troduced automated balconies to the forward master suite and main deck.

Matching luxury on water with luxury on land will be international automobile brands Jaguar, Lexus and Land-Rover with some of their latest models on show.

For on-land motoring enthusiasts, selected guests will be given free test drives in Jaguar's latest HK and XJ models.

- *Phuket Gazette*

Tehran the latest direct link

LAST week, Mahan Air began non-stop regular flights from Tehran to Phuket, making it the first airline to do so from the Middle East.

The Iranian company will operate the route with its Airbus A300-600 aircraft, with 243 seats. As this newspaper went to print, the inaugural flight was due to arrive in Phuket on December 7.

Mr Kosol Surinandha, Managing Director of MyAviation Company, the sales agent for Mahan Air in Thailand, said that the first flight to Phuket was fully booked.

Phuket will be Mahan Air's sec-

ond destination in Thailand, and its 16th internationally. Mahan Air already operates eight flights per week between Tehran and Bangkok, and is hoping to increase to nine soon.

According to Mr Kosol, Mahan Air plans to initially operate one flight per week between Phuket and Tehran, but will expand the service to twice weekly by February 2011.

The airline's target is to operate as many as three services per week between Tehran and Phuket, when the approvals are obtained from Thai government departments.

- *Anand Singh*

Gourmet Sunday - an indulgent Sunday with all the trimmings: imported meats, fresh seafood, cheeses, sushi and sashimi, outdoor BBQ, pan-fried goose liver, Swiss specialities, Mövenpick ice cream, Mövenpick coffee and so much more.

Bring the family. The Play Zone will keep the kids entertained while the adults unwind and you can spend the afternoon together at the pool.

Every Sunday, 12.00 noon to 3.00 pm at Pacifica restaurant. THB 1,800 nett per person (inclusive selected wines and cocktails), THB 1,500 nett (food only) per person. 50% off for kids (4-11 years old). For reservations, please contact Mr. Carlos Vizán at +66 76 396 139 or carlos.vizan@moevenpick.com



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Gourmet Sunday more.

Film

By Alexandra Andersson

Eat Pray Love

Director: Ryan Murphy
Starring: Billy Crudup, Hadi Subiyanto, I Gusti Ayu Puspawati, James Franco, Javier Bardem, Julia Roberts, Richard Jenkins.
Genre: Romance
Gazette Rating: 1/5

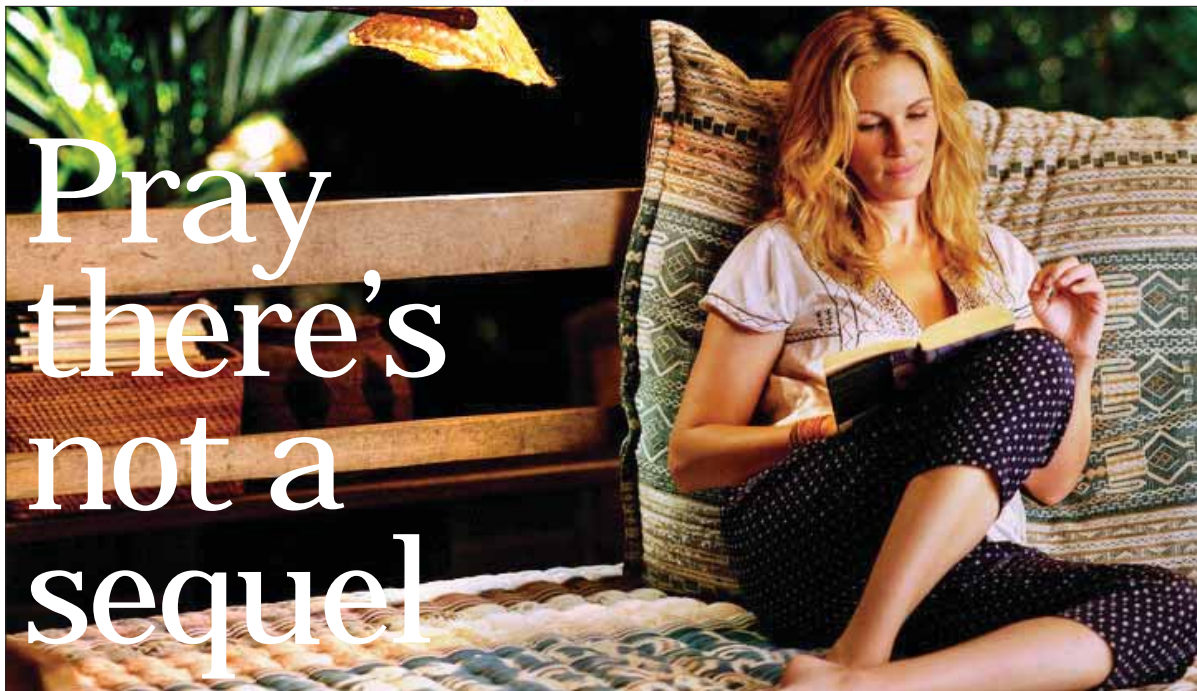
IF WATCHING a raving narcissist on a quest to find herself over two hours sounds like fun to you, then you might like this film.

When Elizabeth Gilbert's post-divorce soul searching memoir *Eat Pray Love* was released in 2006 women everywhere gushed about how they identified with Liz's issues, and the book was profound and life-changing.

I haven't read it, but if it is anything like the cliched catchphrase marathon that the film adaptation is, I worry about womankind.

The storyline goes something like this: Liz (Julia Roberts) wants a baby, then Liz doesn't want a baby. Liz quits her marriage to be independent. Liz immediately falls into the arms of another man, before leaving him as well. Liz goes to Italy to eat, India to pray and Bali to love (note how all these destinations exist to serve Elizabeth, queen of the world). Liz decides she does not want to be independent anymore. She wants to sail off into the sunset with a hunky Brazilian (Javier Bardem) she met in Bali. The End.

The plot is full of themes popular to a modern audience, including love, identity and self-help. And it



Pray there's not a sequel

TIME OUT: Julia Roberts plays a self-obsessed woman in search of herself in the film adaptation of *Eat Pray Love*.

had real potential to impart the same wisdom that so many found in the book, if executed properly.

Director Ryan Murphy uses beautiful cinematography to portray the romanticized globe through which Roberts trots. Ironically however, the montages of food and people she encounters along the way end up being more interesting than when she opens her mouth.

Though many people can relate to Liz's journey, unfortunately her expressed thoughts are, well, full of it, rather than insightful.

Julia Roberts' acting is not to blame for this, her performance, as always, is pretty but bland. The script is the real culprit here.

With gems like "believe in love again," "be careful what you wish for" and "let it be" the dialogue sounds more like a journey through song titles than self discovery.

Throw in patronizing and stereotypical portrayals of each culture Liz visits and any potential for the movie to be enlightening is butchered completely.

The Italians are all hand-waving gluttons, the Indians are all devout and obedient and the Indonesians are apparently all borderline mentally deranged. Nice.

All the while, the oh-so culturally adept journalist Liz befriends them all (they all speak perfect English) for the time she needs them and then moves on to the next batch of friends, awaiting to serve her social needs.

One scene illustrates this particularly well. When trendy New Yorker Liz is staying in an Indian ashram and opting into Hinduism for a couple of months, she befriends a young Indian girl who is fated to an arranged marriage. Liz's flippancy is unintentionally highlighted against this girl, who at her young age is experiencing some genuine emotional torment.

When Liz attends her wedding, instead of feeling empathy for the miserable bride, she is bored and reminisces about her own wedding.

Never mind the poverty, war and injustice other people have to endure, Liz's problems are all consuming – she is approaching middle age, and doesn't know what she wants.

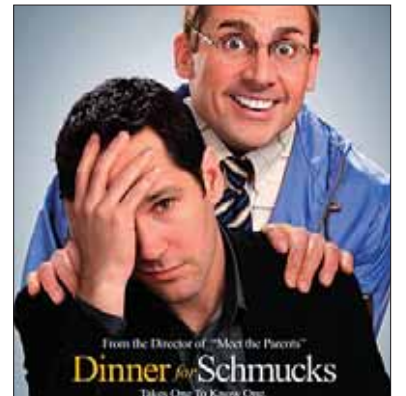
It is safe to say that some will find the lead character a tad irritating, which is a disaster since she is the movie's focal point.

There are some saving graces. There is a bit where a young athletic Australian gets his bum out, and there is also one part where Roberts is meditating and an elephant randomly walks up to her, extending its trunk. For a brief moment you think it might slap her in the face, but alas, it is just the usual friendly gesture elephants in India casually do to visiting strangers, of course.

These scenes of relief are few and far between, on the whole, I would advise that if you have an ounce of integrity do not subject yourself to this film.

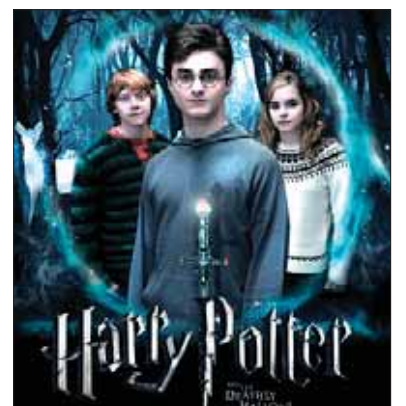
If, however, you are also fickle and self-obsessed, then go for it, you'll love it and it will probably be "life-changing".

What else is on...



Dinner for Schmucks
Director: Jay Roach
Starring: Bruce Greenwood, Jemaine Clement, Paul Rudd, Steve Carell, Zach Galifianakis
Genre: Comedy
Gazette Rating: 4/5

CORPORATE investor Tim (Paul Rudd) and his colleagues are challenged to invite the biggest "schmucks" they can find to dinner. This leads to a stellar cast playing a dinner table of strange, but hilarious, characters: a mouse taxidermist, a mind controller, and a woman who talks to dead pets. This comedy is laugh-out-loud funny, and in the end the schmucks come out on top.



Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1
Director: David Yates
Starring: Alan Rickman, Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Helena Bonham Carter, Ralph Fiennes,
Genre: Adventure / Fantasy
Gazette Rating: 3.5/5

HARRY, Ron and Hermione attempt to find the rest of the Horcruxes to defeat Voldemort, and finish Dumbledore's quest. This film has an especially somber and scary mood. A bit confusing for those who are not die-hard Harry Potter fans.

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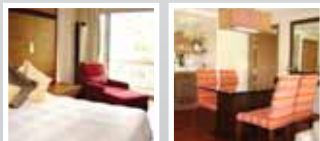
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Opus One ooh la la...

IF THERE'S a dress code at Opus One, we're not sure what it is – but we're certain it's not what we arrived in.

Something black, dashing and looks expensive would fit the mold here, so maybe leave the scuffed shoes and old T-shirt at home.

Located up three dizzying flights of stairs at the top of The Plaza Surin, Opus One French bistro-lounge is not hard to find. It is however, quite a find, and occupies a twilight zone in Phuket's dining scene. It's hard to pigeon-hole.

Straightforwardly French, this place has the glitz of a cocktail lounge without the pretentiousness that usually goes with it. It's plush yet homely, cozy yet grandiose.

Opus One is anything but run-of-the-mill, and since opening eight months ago has etched out a niche as a trendy but affordable bistro with expats and tourists.

While many come here to eat, others come to drink.

There's no ocean view, no beach in sight and it really doesn't feel like you're in Phuket at all.

It's more like a cocktail lounge you'd find in the city. You keep expecting people in suits to in walk carrying newspapers under their arms and whining about how late their train was. They don't, and we are still in Phuket.

There's no room for kitsch decor and paraphernalia here.

The expansive open-air dining area is wrapped head-to-toe in opulence: art deco paintings, heavy-set leather armchairs, a gleaming gold record player, plush handmade cushions and expensive-looking trinkets.

Lighting in the restaurant is dim,

On the Menu

By Fraser Morton

but a few pools of light cast on strategically arranged pockets of tables and chairs make you feel like you are in a *Film Noir* movie scene.

The resident mixologist wearing tailored suit pants and a silk shirt – black, of course – is busy making sure the bar's heavily stocked assortment of spirits are polished and lined up perfectly.

He rubs down a few big names: Glenmorangie, Singleton, Glenfiddich 12 years (all 320 baht per glass).

Then he aligns the real stars: Macallan 12 years and Laphroaig 10 years (340 baht).

Cocktails are also a specialty here and with over 50 to choose from, you can't go wrong.

"We try to give our customers choice in everything we do. We pride ourselves on our classic French cuisine and cocktail and drinks menus," says Managing

Director Angkana Jamsrikaew.

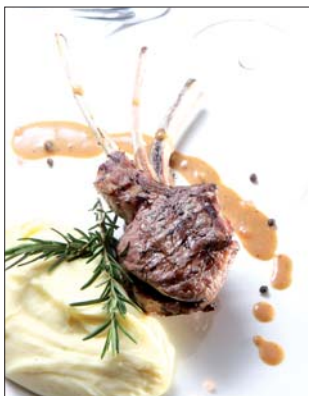
As friends of Angkana arrive – all dressed in black elegant evening wear – we are greeted by French Executive Chef Coste Camille.

He too, is dressed in black, is polite, helpful and full of praise for

Angkana's bistro vision.

For entrees, order the Croque Monsieur with Mixed Salad (280 baht), or the Atlantic Smoked salmon (320 baht), a wondrously malleable hunk of fish, and a safe bet for satisfaction.

We eye the Australian Black Mussels cooked in white sauce, served with French fries (480



SARTORIAL SPLENDOR: From the decor to staff attire, everything looks good at Opus One. Photos: Fraser Morton and Opus One

baht), being served to the blonde and smart shirt at the next table.

They dip freshly baked breads studded with rock salt into their steaming bowl as they mop up juices from the dish. It looks sublime, but we are more than content with our salad and salmon choices.

For mains: Try the Stewed Burgundy Beef with mashed potatoes (580 baht) and you'll exhale a few sounds of pleasure.

Exquisitely presented, succulent meat matched perfectly with puffs of light whipped potatoes.

My fish-eating vegetarian partner opts for the Norwegian Salmon "a la plancha" with light creamed spinach and shaved Parmesan (360 baht). She, too, makes noises of approval.

Waitresses and waiters are all friendly and conform to the theme of sartorial splendor exuded from the decor at Opus One.

Staff aren't over-attentive and allow diners just the right amount of time and space to relax with the menu.

For desserts order the Sorbet Colonel, Lemon Sorbet topped



Managing Director Angkana Jamsrikaew



Executive Chef Coste Camille

with Vodka (140 baht) or Chocolate Fondant (280 baht) for true decadence and an ample dose of extra calories.

A great place to taste city life with a French twist and hang out, drink or enjoy delectable cuisine.

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Dirt riding down south

Discover roads less traveled, nature and adrenaline-fueled fun on two wheels.

By Lesley Chittayanon

A THAI woman whizzing by on a Honda Wave scooter may be an everyday sight, but when Janram Troisfontaine kick-starts her Kawasaki KLX250, all heads turn.

Janram, better known as "Peung," is one of few female dirt-bike enthusiasts in Southern Thailand and the driving force behind Thailand Off-Road Adventures – a company specializing in off-road motorcycle and cycling trips.

Peung, a seasoned rider, has mapped an extensive network of trails in the south including Phuket, Surat Thani, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Krabi and Phang Nga.

Her tours are suitable for both cyclists and motorcyclists of all ability levels.

Junior-size dirt bikes allow little ones to follow in their parents on tours.

From coastal roads to jungle trails, riders and cyclists follow narrow dirt tracks meandering

through thick jungle and hillside plantations, and speed across mountain streams.

It's no easy ride: hairpin bends, slippery mud and sheer drops send adrenalin levels soaring.

Contrary to the off-road dirt biking reputation as high impact, Janram's tours are badged "eco-friendly".

All riders are briefed before setting out.

"We remind them that nature was here first, and that they should always respect the environment and local communities," Peung says.

While the tour company offers set packages, ranging from day rides to eight day off-road adventures, trips can also be customized to suit all.

Off-road cycling is also an option with Peung's company, although a reasonable level of fitness is needed.

Most cycle tours available in the south include mountain bikes, multi-lingual guides, meals,



WHEELIE FUN: Not a sight you would see on Phuket, but tearing along a beach on an off-road bike is said to be quite fun.

refreshments and first-aid supplies in the price.

Accommodation, transfers and support vehicle are also included in trips lasting more than one day.

Exploring the region by bicycle is the ultimate eco-friendly travel experience.

Amazing Bike Tours are also a popular choice, and offer a variety of tours – and starting next year, boat and bike adventures.

On this tour, guests cycle through the countryside by day followed by evening cruises aboard a traditional Chinese junk.

The charming junk, known as *The June Hong Chian Lee*, was built in Penang in 1962 for charcoal transportation and has starred in many movies including *The Man with the Golden Gun*, *Swiss Family Robinson* and *Shanghai*.

After spending the night on the



Photos: Lesley Chittayanon

boat on the Andaman Sea, cyclists wake up to a new adventure each morning. Koh Yao Noi and big sister, Koh Yao Yai are the first stops, and other destinations include Koh

Lanta, Koh Phi Phi and Krabi Town.

This trip is a must for keen cyclists and a great mix of endurance and relaxation.

One of Thailand's champion cyclists, Samai Klinruk, says there are still plenty of off-road adventures to be found in the south.

This Krabi-born cyclist has won many prestigious titles, including a royal championship presented by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

"Visitors can learn about local life in the south and interact with people and the local culture," he said.

"This can be fascinating for newcomers, as they can gain a lot of valuable knowledge about Thailand and insight into its people."

Mr Samai recommends Khao Sok as kayak and elephant tours are usually part of the package on offer by companies in the area.

Travel tips

Peddling prices

PRICES for day trips vary from 1,650 baht per person for a 75-85 kilometer cycle tour with Thailand Off-Road Adventures (based on five-six people) to 2,900 baht per person for a 45-km cycle tour with Amazing Bike Tours. Visit W:Thailand-off-road.com, W:AmazingBikeToursthailand.asia or W:SpiceRoads.com/tours/south for more information.

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Michael Weinstein

MICHAEL Weinstein has been a major player in many of Phuket's high-profile villa projects and land developments. He first arrived on the island in 1993 while on holiday circling the Pacific Ocean with his golf clubs to play at some of Asia's best courses. He was also traveling with three cameras to capture scenes of local life around the region.

The trip was a needed break from hectic and successful work in real estate in New York City where he was a consultant in retail leasing.

He was born in New Jersey but as a child lived with his family in Taiwan and Hong Kong. His father was a graduate of the US military academy at West Point. After he finished school, Michael decided against university and headed to California to become an actor.

"I always had a work ethic and liked to scramble to find opportunities. Even while living in Hollywood I developed three very successful valet parking lot concessions. I then moved to Denver, Colorado and got my real estate license and learned the basics of moving property and leases."

In 1980, Michael moved to New York City to be close to the big real estate deals. He first worked in sales by day and in restaurants by night and on weekends. He also started putting

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

together his own sale and lease transactions by matching clients with properties.

"Eventually, I was hired by ESG, Edward S Gordon, the premier commercial real estate company in Manhattan. Real estate is all about building relationships and the ability to make the deal. I did so well that I only worked for commissions. My last salary job was in 1984."

While the young entrepreneur was busy making deals, he was also traveling every year to the South of France and working on his golf game. He joined the Quaker Ridge Golf Club, where his father had been a member, with a handicap of 18. He has now worked that down to six.

"I started traveling more with the idea that eventually I wanted to play the top 100 golf courses in the world."

In 1989, he founded Retail Consulting Services, a business with partners to represent retailers wanting to expand across America. He also became a partner in Manny's

Car Wash, an award winning New York venue for live Blues music, at 87th and Third Avenue, and a Scandinavian restaurant, Christer's, at 55th and Sixth.

But he still found time to come to Phuket to play golf.

"In 1998, I was looking at a few seaview developments on Phuket and it occurred to me that the future would be in Asia. I decided to close up my businesses in New York and start doing real estate projects here."

During the past 12 years, Michael has been part of teams to make luxury villa projects successful. He began with the Nakathani and Baan Chai Lei. He then opened his own storefront, Phuket Island Interiors, at Tinlay Place in Cherng Talay, from which he launched Phuket Island Villas.

He also worked on Baan Thai Surin Hill as Director of Sales and Marketing before setting up his first development, Layan Estate, which he later sold.

"My talents are best used when I put the right teams together to build projects. I worked on The Bay, Cape Yamu and Alanna Yamu, but now I'm retired so I have more time to spend with my family and work on my golf game. I love living on Phuket, which compares favorably to Maui or St Tropez for quality of life."



By PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

About Expat Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Expat Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket, and for having made those contributions in successful partnerships with Thais. For many, the contributions have entailed significant investment, often in the mid-80s and 90s when the rules of business were, ahh, not always clear. Some are not in business at all, but all have one thing in common: if there were a *Who's Who in Phuket*, they'd be in it.



Inspired contemporary expression

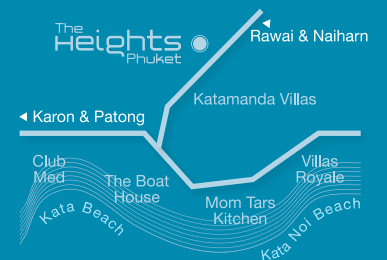
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War and peace off Phuket shores

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

SIAM faced a long list of crises in the early 1800s. In 1809 King Rama I, founder of Bangkok and a distinguished military commander, fell ill and died suddenly.

The Burmese saw this as an opportunity to gather their army of more than 10,000 men and a large navy to prepare for invasion of Siam once more.

The larger part of the Burmese army headed towards Thalang, as Phuket was then called. The townspeople of Thalang, outnumbered and low in supplies, retreated behind the temporary safety of the town walls, as Thalang Town was then the capital of the island.

When the Burmese finally crossed the channel and landed on Phuket, they laid siege to Thalang.

In the war that followed, Siam asked the Malay state of Kedah to send troops to Thalang in order to help the Siamese drive the Burmese from the island. Kedah,



Photo: Jim Welch

WAR AND PEACE: In the early 19th century off Phuket, fierce battles raged between Siamese and Burmese fleets.

which was under Siamese hegemony, could not refuse.

Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin, the ruler of Kedah, appointed his naval commander to sail his ships to

Thalang and join the war on Siam's side. The fleet soon set sail towards Thalang with a Kedah army on board.

It was during this event, that

an unknown chronicler in the court of Kedah wrote an extensive account of the Thai-Burmese war and Kedah's military involvement. The historical poetry is today known as the *Syair Sultan Maulana*. Together, the Malay Syair and the Bangkok annals tell an intriguing story of the brave efforts to save Thalang from the destructive hands of a powerful enemy.

According to the Syair, the newly crowned King Rama II appointed Prince Maha Senanurak to lead a large Siamese army south in an expedition to drive the invaders out.

The Siamese, divided into several forces but totaling more than 10,000 soldiers, travelled by land and sea. One of the armies, commanded by Chao Phraya Yommarat reached the city of Nakhon Sri Thammarat. There, Chao Phraya Yommarat ordered Phraya Tainam to lead the army across the peninsula to relieve Thalang.

Meanwhile in Thalang, the townsfolk had been fending off Burmese assaults on the town's fortifications and were proving a dire obstacle for the invaders.

The Burmese general anticipated heavy losses in taking the town by force, and decided to try another strategy: He ordered the Burmese

stockpile to be burnt and feigned a retreat back to their ships.

The whole of Thalang rejoiced, believing that the enemy had left. The governor let his people to leave the safety of their fortified town walls to gather supplies.

A few days later, the Burmese fleet returned and landed at Cape Yamu. By this time Phraya Tainam had reached Trang and had managed to build more than 80 ships to carry his troops across the bay to Phuket.

As Phraya Tainam's fleet neared Chanak Island, they heard shouts and the beating of Burmese war drums in the distance, where the Burmese were landing.

Phraya Tainam ordered his fleet to steer towards Cape Yamu, where the Siamese fleet encountered the Burmese.

Phraya Tainam ordered his men to immediately engage the enemy. Initially, the Siamese gained the upper hand in the ensuing battle. The Burmese ships lacked artillery because they had just landed all their cannons on Phuket.

Outgunned and heavily battered, the Burmese fleet began to retreat.

But Siamese fortunes turned when an artilleryman on Phraya Tainam's lead warship neglected to make sure the lid of a gunpowder barrel had been closed properly.

Disaster followed. Sparks from the firing guns set the contents of the barrel alight. A terrific explosion followed, blasting the commander's ship to splinters and killing every soldier on board, including Phraya Tainam.

Worse still for the home fleet, sparks and flames from the burning ship flew in all directions, igniting gunpowder barrels on neighboring ships. Soon, several warships in the Siamese fleet were exploding in succession.

The naval battle at Cape Yamu proved a disaster for the Siamese war effort. It prevented them from landing any troops on Phuket. With their commander dead and morale shattered, Phraya Tainam's fleet had to sail back to safe territory.

After the incident, no further expeditions were taken by this fleet to relieve Thalang. In the next Looking Back column, find out what fate lay ahead for Thalang Town.



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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

December 4-11. Phuket King's Cup Regatta

The last night of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta will be held from 8-10:30pm at Kata Beach Resort. Hosted by the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee under the auspices of the Royal Varuna Yacht Club, in conjunction with the Yacht Racing Association of Thailand and the Royal Thai Navy. The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are media sponsors.

Contact Kae Wattana on T:076-273380, E:info@kingscup.com or visit W:kingscup.com for more information.

December 7-11. Kannan at Six Senses Sanctuary

Kannan comes from the South of India and has been practicing yoga for over 20 years. He has achieved numerous titles such as *Yogaraj* (king of yoga) and *Yoga Sironmani* (master of yoga). An hour private sessions costs 4,000 baht. Five one hour sessions cost 18,000 baht. Seven one hour sessions cost 25,000 baht. Ten one hour sessions cost 35,000 baht. A supplementary charge for extra persons in the class will be 50% on top of the price. Available until December 31. Contact Integrative Health on T:076-371400, E:reservations-naka@sixsenses.com or visit W:sixsenses.com/holistic-calendar for more information.

December 7-13. Six Senses Spa Season

Six Senses branded resorts in Thailand will continue their comprehensive wellness offerings

December 18 and 26. Pirates of Phuket

The Andaman Players take to the stage in the rip-roaring musical comedy *The Pirates of Phuket*. Follow the misadventures of three villains and a band of cut-throat pirates. The premiere performance will be at Le Meridien Phuket Resort on December 18, with the gala pantomime at The Green Man on December 26. Visit their website or the Andaman Players' Facebook page for details of upcoming shows. Contact Michael Flynn T: 081-9701963 E: malflynn@gmail.com W: andamanplayers.com for additional information. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV.



with an extensive list of visiting practitioners who specialize in a range of holistic mind-body therapies and programmes. Private sessions available to all, at the Evason Phuket during December, 9am-8pm. For more information, contact our Six Senses Spa at Evason Phuket & Bon Island Area Spa Director, Linda Overman T:076-381010 E:dir-thailand-spa@sixsenses.com W:sixsenses.com/evason-phuket.

December 11. A yoga day at PIA Mind Centre

Experience a day of healthy food and yoga in a fun, open and relaxing atmosphere at PIA's Mind Center. Adults will practice *pranayama* and kids will take a yoga adventure

through the jungle of their minds with Barbara Van Oers. 1,200 baht per adult, 600 baht for kids under 16. Contact Weena or Nantawan on T:076-336030, E:mtc@phuketinternationalacademy.com for more information.

December 14. Tatonka dinner

Annual Christmas gourmet dinner for the Soi Dog Foundation. Early booking essential. From 7-10:30pm, 1,400 baht per person. Contact John on T:087-0508688, or E:john@soidog.org, W: soidog.org.

December 15-20. The biggest open-air party in Phuket

24 Phuket is bringing a selection of top international DJs for the first-ever five-day "Festival on the Sand," on Patong Beach at the end of the beach road. The nightly DJ performances are expected to attract up to 10,000 partygoers during the biggest beach party ever to be held on Phuket. For schedules and updates on DJ performances, visit the website, or befriend us on Facebook for the chance to win special beach festival privileges. Contact Susanna Karranto T:085-7830303, or E: nick@stretchoutmedia.com W: 24phuket.com for more information.

December 16-22. Kris Matela at Six Senses Sanctuary

Kris is a member of the American Sports Massage Team and is cer-

tified in St John Neuromuscular Therapy. He specializes in the clinical treatment of various musculoskeletal imbalances. A 50-minute session is 4,400 baht, or 80-minute session 6,600 baht. Available December 16-27, 9am-7pm at Six Senses Sanctuary. Contact Integrative Health for more information: T:076-371400 E:pr-naka@sixsenses.com.W: sixsenses.com/Holistic-Calendar.

December 17. Acrylic painting workshop & children's art exhibition

Everybody is welcome! The proceeds from selling the children's work will be donated to the World Vision Foundation of Thailand. For the acrylic painting workshop, children of seven years old and up are welcome. Experience is not necessary. Reservations are required due to limited seating availabilities. The theme of this painting work-

shop is "My Dream Marina". There is a charge of 200 baht for the use of the provided materials (canvas, acrylic colors and brush). It will be free of charge if you bring your own materials. From 4-9pm at the Royal Phuket Marina Boardwalk. Contact Boonchai Limtongmadee T:089-668 7620 E: boonchai-1@globalart.co.th W: royalphuketmarina.com for more information.

December 18-24. Paul Emery at Six Senses Sanctuary

Paul is an internationally renowned therapist who has helped thousands of people, from doctors and movie stars to royalty. He is an EFT Trainer; an NLP Master (trained by UK celebrity therapist Paul McKenna); and a TFTdx therapist. Services include: Quantum Emotional & Physical Release (QEPR); Weight-loss Made Easy; Sensitivities and Toxins Identification. All sessions are 8,000 baht for 50 minutes. Available 9am-7pm at Six Senses Sanctuary. Contact Integrative Health for more information T:076-371400 E:pr-naka@sixsenses.com W: sixsenses.com/Holistic-Calendar.

December 18. 4th Annual Phuket Kart Race

The 4th Annual Professional Kart Race will be held between 10am-9pm at Phuket Kart Speedway track in Kathu. This event will see some of the best drivers in Thailand bring their own racing karts to the track to battle it out for the winning title. There will also be races with local Phuket drivers during the day and one VIP race with all proceeds going to a local charity. The race track is in Kathu on the left side of the road coming down the hill from Patong. Drinks and food will be available for sale. Contact Pramot Kolan T:076-202085 E: phuketkart@patongbeachthailand.com W:phuketkart.net for more information about the event.

Free 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 Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

December 12 - Laguna
December 19, 26 - Chalong

For more info contact Woody T: 076-290468

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School of rock



BRITISH ROCK: British International School got into the Christmas spirit last week with a Christmas Fair and Secondary School Christmas Concert.

The concert showcased performances by the students, with various dance shows, a student jazz band, the "Rock School" band and even a teachers' performance.

Over 250 students and parents were seated in the school auditorium to cheer the performers.

Left: Guitarist Paul Mulloy strums his guitar during a performance with his Year 10 Rock Band.

Bright future for Pariwat

Pariwat Pinsawat, Phuket's top-flight 14-year-old golfer, was in devastating form last weekend at Phuket Country Club. The youngster finished top of the leader-board at the end of the two-day event to win the PCC-Mazda Championship Cup.

Not only did he lift the prestigious Amateur Cup, he also went home with a brand-new Mazda2 car after firing a hole-in-one at the course's 14th hole.

Pariwat, who plays off a zero handicap, finished the tournament one under par to land the title ahead of a strong field of 144 players.

It was raining holes-in-one at Phuket Country Club last month, with six different players finding the bottom of the cup in just one stroke at various holes during November.

Pariwat Pinsawat being handed the keys to a new Mazada2. Photo courtesy of Phuket country Club



PHUKET CABLE SKI: The Board Shop had its grand opening recently. Sales advisor Yok Chaiwat (left) with TEN80 promotion girl Sarah Bergekrans, sales advisor Haz Mir, TEN80 promotion girl Soda Preeyaporn and Phuket Cable Ski General Manager Kusol Phancharoen.



WESTIN PHUKET: The Westin Siray Bay Resort & Spa held its grand opening on November 29. The event was attended by over 200 guests.

YOUR Phuket

From left are Vice President and a Managing Director of Starwood Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia, Wayne Buckingham, Pol Gen Phanupong Singhara, Minister of Tourism and Sports Chumpol Silapa-archa, Deputy Minister of Interior Thaworn Senneam, President of CCT Group Vichit Prakobgosol, Counsellor and Consul-General of Chinese Embassy Gao Zhen Ting and Phuket Governor Tri Augaradacha.



BANYAN TREE: Over 30 staff from Banyan Tree distributed 999 trees to drivers at the Central Festival junction to celebrate HM The King's Birthday.



WATERMARK: Santa was on hand at the restaurant's Christmas F Boat Lagoon to entertain the kids, while the Filipino Catholic Choir carols. Ben Gardner (left) ran his busy Egg Co stall with Jessica S Virgi, Ava and Harry Beasley.

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ALL WHITE: The Ippai sailing crew from Japan.



TEAM RUSSIA: Some of the Moscow River Sailing team.



VENTURING OUT: The Venture team from Australia.



Art award

TALENTED YOUTH: Watchareewan Sanguansin, a kindergarten pupil at Wittaya Sathid School, won a drawing competition held at Phuket International Hospital on December 7. Watchareewan received the public choice award in the competition which was held in conjunction with HM The King's birthday celebrations. Photo by Atchaa Khamlo



WALLA WALLA: Crew members from the Walla Walla team enjoy the party at Mom Tri's Boat House.



TEAM JAPAN: A few of the Jelik crew members. Photos by Atchaa Khamlo and Alexandra Andersson



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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

- * These prices include air-conditioners, wall paper, kitchen and garden
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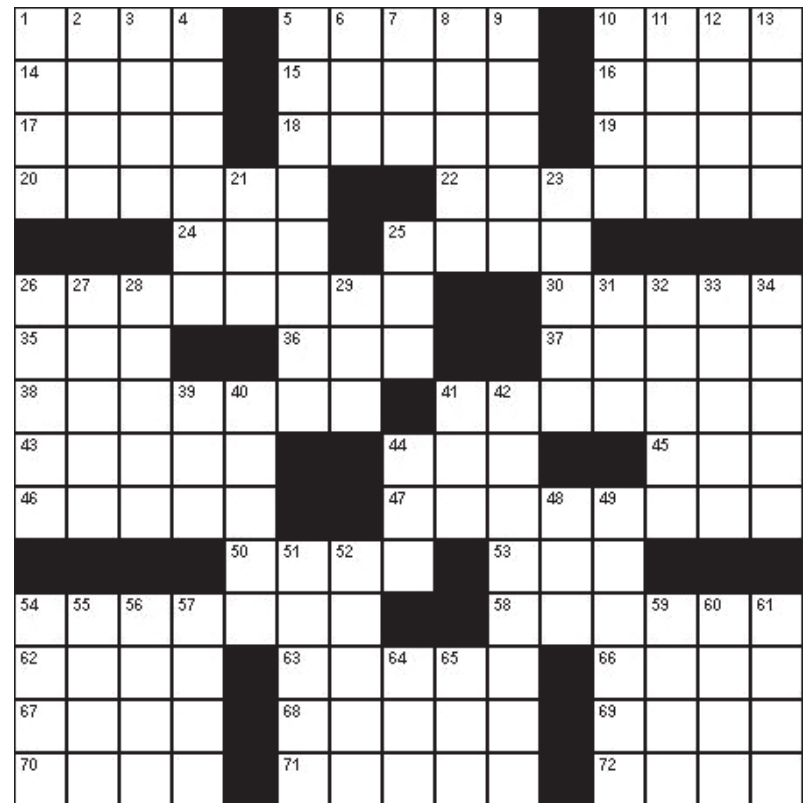
Location Map

The IMPOSSIBLY POSSIBLE QUIZ

1. What are the small indentations on a golf ball called?
2. Who was once known as the King of Soul but is now known as the Godfather of Soul?
3. What country is bordered by the Atlantic and the Indian oceans?
4. What is the most common blood type in humans?
5. When there are two full moons in one month, what is the second one called?
6. How many words in English rhyme with silver?
7. How many notes are in the music scale?
8. What year did Elvis die?
9. Who was the first man in space?
10. In which region of France are chardonnay wines produced?
11. What was Michael Jackson's middle name?
12. Who is the lead singer of Dire Straits?
13. From which US city can one travel south to get to Canada?
14. Where did the ukulele originate from?
15. What does a cartographer make?

Quiz answers on page 29

- Across**
1. Sign of injury
 5. Grasps
 10. Exchange for money
 14. Domesticated
 15. So far
 16. Authentic
 17. Plains native
 18. Grenoble's river
 19. Aware of
 20. Request
 22. Among
 24. Backward tidal movement
 25. Tree frog
 26. Antidote
 30. Trims
 35. WWII Gen ___ Arnold
 36. "Seinfeld" uncle
 37. Pisa place
 38. Place in position
 41. Muslim opponent of Crusaders
 43. Perch
 44. Impresario Hurok
 45. Brian of Roxy Music
 46. Rings of a chain
 47. Magnificent
 50. ...countrymen, lend me your ___
 53. Respect for *Acting* author Hagen
 54. Debase
 58. Colonize
 62. River in central Switzerland
 63. Japanese beer brand
 66. Horne solo
 67. Journey
 68. Salk's conquest
 69. Approach
 70. Actor Omar
 71. Twixt's partner
 72. Sea swallow
- Down**
1. Portico
 2. Burmese, Manx, and Scottish Fold
 3. In a frenzy
 4. Marijuana cigarette
 5. Cat's stomach accumulation
 6. CIA forerunner
 7. Caustic stuff
 8. Bowler hat



9. Alloy of iron and carbon
10. Pack away
11. Sea eagle
12. Stringed instrument
13. Boxer Spinks
21. Japanese sash
23. Rhino relative
25. Monetary unit of Vietnam
26. Pierce
27. Capital of Vietnam
28. Big name in printers
29. Animation unit
31. Loss leader?
32. Ran swiftly
33. Nicholas Gage book

34. Church council
39. Disapproving sound
40. Baffled
41. Bribe
42. Reference
44. Draft org.
48. Hot time in Paris
49. Floating
51. Go with the flow
52. Plant anew
54. Go out with
55. Tombstone lawman
56. Clench
57. Workout count
59. Corner
60. Make-up artist?
61. Acquire through merit
64. Bass, e.g.
65. Go quickly

Provided by BestCrosswords.com. Used with permission.

Puzzle solutions on page 29

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Your luck in most areas strengthens around the middle of December. Some Sagittarians will be caught up in a bureaucratic issue this week. Thursday is the best day to raise a tricky subject with someone in authority. Where romance is concerned, the stars advise taking a new relationship more slowly. Those with a birthday in the coming days will gain more satisfaction from work in the year ahead.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Capricorns who can't decide how to spend the upcoming holidays will be tempted to accept an offer from a water sign. Your financial position remains a little rocky until the start of the New Year, so extravagance should be avoided. In the realm of romance, it appears that admirers are competing for your attention this weekend. Those with a partner are reminded that actions speak louder than words.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Your energy continues to be productive, with emphasis on surprise gain this week. Working with family members is only a good idea if agreements are clearly made. The stars suggest that a fire sign's quick

temper could be a stumbling block to a new project. Personal finances are subject to mistakes midweek – double check all transactions to avoid frustration later on. The number nine can bring good fortune this weekend.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Negotiations and communication are well-starred this week. Pisceans are advised to take advantage of these benevolent astral conditions – a work-related issue that you have been pushing aside can now be dealt with successfully. Where romance is concerned, you will start to focus more on what you have in common with someone rather than differences. Those seeking love are forecast to be attracted to a Capricorn this weekend.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): A question is about to be answered. Arians may find the answer hard to accept, but the stars suggest that you will soon turn the situation to your advantage. Taking the wrong direction in romance can be avoided by talks – your partner will appreciate more honesty. Financial matters start to look brighter, but holiday plans should be kept realistic. The number five can be lucky on Tuesday.



TAURUS (April 21-May 21): A weight is lifted from your shoulders this week. The stars suggest that news received will be exactly what Taureans have been hoping to hear. Your plans for the holiday season are subject to change when friends come up with a more exciting idea. Going further afield this weekend can lead to a new romantic interest, but first impressions could be misleading. Wear a piece of crystal to encourage spiritual reflection.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): With the holiday season fast approaching, there are signs that many of those born under the sign of Gemini are finding it difficult to multi-task. The stars advise making a priority list this week to avoid letting people down later in the month. Where romance is concerned, it may be best to make a clean sweep. An out of character gesture by a fire sign friend leaves you puzzled this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): An active week lies ahead for Cancerians, with emphasis on deadlines being suddenly brought forward ahead of the Christmas period. Finances are well-starred around the middle of this month – a work-related bonus should mean that you can afford to be more generous than usual with holiday gifts. Your tendency towards jealousy starts to affect a romantic relationship. The scent of sandalwood can help you tune into reality. The number three is lucky on Monday.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Leos are usually able to walk away from unhappy situations without a backward look. However, the stars indicate that you may have problems coming to terms with something that happened recently. An air sign friend has some words of wisdom this weekend and a busy social scene will help cheer you up. Keep your distance from a power struggle at work early next week – getting involved will only result in regrets.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Friends focus strongly for Virgoans this week. Someone born under the sign of Aries is forecast to need your understanding. Although your

feelings about what's happening in their life may be mixed, simply lending a sympathetic ear will be appreciated. In the realm of romance, your ego gets a timely boost when a water sign flirts this weekend. Wear moss green to encourage an open mind.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): It should be possible for Librans to have their cake and eat it too this week. Open your arms to opportunities and success will follow. Those with itchy feet will be keen to accept an invitation from an overseas friend – travel later this month could lead the way towards relocation next year. Creativity is highlighted until the end of this month; inspiration comes from an unlikely source this weekend.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): After a choppy start to December, Scorpios should coast effortlessly through this week. The only downside could involve your tendency to speak first and think later. An air sign friend is likely to be upset by your words midweek. Work begins to be more challenging when a superior finally allows you to have free rein. Even though romance isn't on your mind at the moment, the stars suggest that Leo has the power to change that.

PROPERTY Gazette

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Karon power cables going underground

By Anand Singh

UNSIGHTLY and at times dangerous overhead power cables are instead being laid underground along the two-kilometer stretch of road along the Karon beachfront.

Karon Mayor Thawee Thongcham said the work on Karon Beach road is a pilot project that will eventually lead to overhead power cables being installed underground throughout Karon Municipality.

If successfully done, it could become a model project for other municipalities in Phuket to follow. "Karon is an attractive tourist

beach with a beautiful ocean view, tall trees and hillside scenery, but like many other attractions in Phuket it is marred by ugly power cables that run alongside its roads," said Mr Thawee.

"The plan to put electricity cables underground has been an important agenda for a long time. We have been pushing for the project to happen for over 10 years and have petitioned for the required budget on many different levels," Mr Thawee said.

When the budget was finally approved earlier this year, the municipality decided to start with Karon Beach. Of the three beaches



Photo: Anand Singh

GOING UNDER: Work on Karon Beach road is set for completion in February, with Kata Noi and Kata next in line.

in Karon Municipality's ambit – Karon, Kata and Kata Noi – it posed the least engineering challenges in moving the power lines underground.

However, the project proved more difficult than expected because of the different government departments and private companies involved, said Mr Thawee. These include telecom giants TOT, TT&T and CAT, all of whom run telephone lines overhead.

"We secured an overall budget of 45 million baht for the first phase of the project...The electricity authority was allocated 25 million baht from the total budget.

They will take care of the planning and engineering works. The municipality received a 20 million baht budget to do its part," Mr Thawee explained.

The two-kilometer stretch along Karon Beach is just the first phase of the project.

"We plan to lay power lines underground in Kata and Kata Noi as well. I think the overall budget we will need to rid Karon of overhead power cables will be over 200 million baht, which is quite a lot of money. That is why we cannot do it all at once," Mr Thawee said.

The Karon beach road project is expected to be completed

by February next year.

The next area to be targeted is likely to be the road along Kata Noi Beach, since it is a small area and thus requires a smaller budget, Mr Thawee explained.

There are also hotel operators in the area willing to contribute funds to the public construction budget, he added.

The final phase of the project will therefore be Kata Beach, which will most likely be left to last because it is a large area, with more engineering complications and potential problems that may arise with local business operators affected by the construction.

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Learning from property cycles of decades passed



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

THOSE of us of a certain age have come to appreciate that learning from the past is never a bad idea. Those around Southeast Asia in the 1990s witnessed the region virtually burst at the seams with new property developments.

Bolstered by a “golden age” of rises in the stock market, appreciating currencies and the resulting property market boom, a generation of *nouveau riche* was born.

Budding entrepreneurs and strong conglomerates enjoyed home-field advantage with access to credit, connections to land-owners and the ability to manoeuvre the political landscape to push development projects through.

It was a Field of Dreams “build it and they will come” mentality until the market crashes of 1997 – the “Asian contagion”.

Welcome to 2010, and round two of the “tiger economy’s” fight for success.

As Asia is leading the world out of the 2008 global economic crisis, many are asking the question: “Are the good times here to stay?” In other words, “Has the region learned from its mistakes in the first round of the ‘fight’ which saw it knocked down to the mat?”



BOOM TO BUST: One of many buildings in Bangkok left unfinished due to overdevelopment and the financial crisis in 1997. Photo: Extractor2000

The playing field is much different now than it was in the 1990s. At that time, the West was leading the world with its quest for dominance in all things military and economic.

Now it is the East that is poised for global leadership with China and India behind the wheel.

Although the sub-prime mortgage crisis in the US sparked

decreases in oil prices, a hedge fund “Houdini act” plunging UK and Euro currencies and a global recession, Thailand is experiencing a reverse trend.

Despite a series of political hijinks – which have been all-too-well documented in the media – Thailand has seen a skyrocketing domestic property market, massive liquidity in firms listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET), and a “rubber-band effect” of recovery, even seeing growth in the personal holdings of high-net-worth individuals.

Today, as we start what looks to be a new economic cycle, the sustained period of overbuilding, primarily in Bangkok, has reached a critical point.

Both established properties and new developments are carrying significant amounts of debt.

The Bangkok “syndrome” is having a trickle-down effect on resort destinations including Phuket, Koh Samui and Chiang Mai.

The hospitality industry is continuing to push the limits with entrepreneurs developing even more hotels in virtually every part of the country.

As Thailand struggles to recover momentum in the tourism industry, it is faced with the likelihood that a mass model for development has to be adopted in order to tap into new demand and increase in numbers of tourists.

It’s a tricky issue, as even growth for growth’s sake – without a mass model – can be sustained for long periods of time, causing significant damage in the long term.

The most profound effect on hospitality investment is that business decisions are not based on sound financial logic.

Rather than making an economically wise investment, prospective hotel owners often want to develop a new property as a showpiece or legacy – leaving existing hotels out to pasture.

So, we have arrived at a crucial point and have to start asking the question: “When is enough, enough?”

Curbing Thailand’s enthusiasm for new hotels is not going to be easy, but it is – and must stay – on the government’s agenda.

Greater incentives for redevelopment such as zoning and tax incentives for upgrading existing properties are a logical starting point.

While 1997 seems like a long time ago, it remains a painful memory of just how things can, and often do, go wrong.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through www.c9hotelworks.com.

In brief...

Calling all villa techies

CHERG Talay is now home to automation and audio-visual firm Techworx. With offices already in Koh Samui and Pattaya, the Phuket showroom is located near Tesco Lotus Express and Wine Connection in Cherg Talay.

One cornerstone product on offer is Creston Home Automation which includes Apple iPad control over lighting, TV, DVD, blinds and/or curtains, and gaming such as Xbox. Installations can be planned for new homes as well as retrofitting advice and services are available.

Real project rises

THAI Stock Exchange (SET)-listed property developer Pruska Real Estate Plc has launched a 248-unit housing project in Thalang. Units comprising three bedrooms and two bathrooms are configured in two-story attached townhouses with an area of 120 square meters. Prices for units in the Pruksa Ville housing estate start from 1.39 million baht. Construction has already begun with completion scheduled for 2012.

Phuket is increasingly the target of large SET-listed development companies with Land and House and Supalai already on the island.

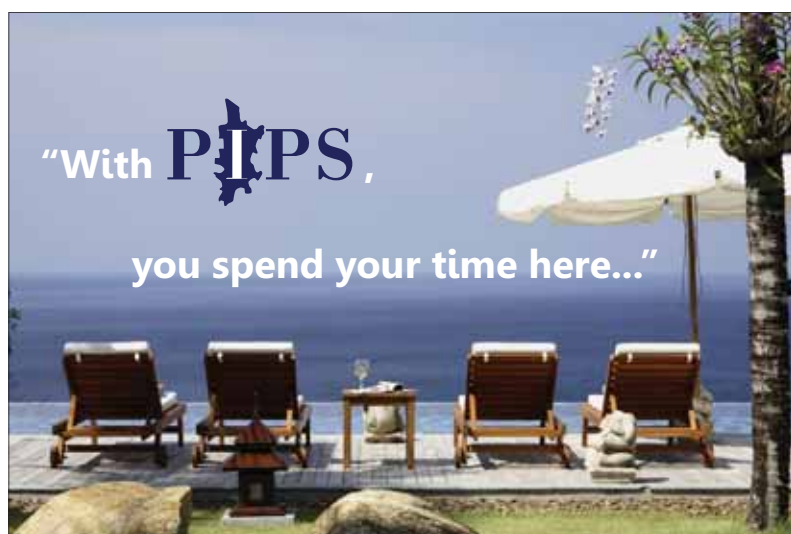
Wyndham’s new venture

INTERNATIONAL chain Wyndham are set to open a 234 key beach resort in Khao Lak next August. The oceanfront property has three outlets, 300 square meters of meeting space and an extensive spa and fitness center.

The group which includes brands Ramada and Days Inn are close to announcing three new properties in Phuket.

The group are also recruiting in a number of job sectors.

Do you have any breaking news about Phuket property? Email property@phuketgazette.net



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Getting your money in the bank

Property Legal
By Michael Greth

MANY foreigners in Thailand want to open and maintain a bank account, to either facilitate business activities or just for convenience when visiting.

Generally, the opening and maintenance of both Thai baht and foreign currency bank accounts by foreigners in Thailand is allowed, but is subject to conditions prescribed by the Bank of Thailand.

In theory, the conditions applying to foreigners opening bank accounts may be clearly regulated in laws and regulations, however, in practice, a foreign applicant may experience that it can be a time consuming and confusing challenge.

The reasons for this may vary but generally derive not only from language barriers between Thai bank employees and foreign customers, but also from different banks with differing policies on this issue.

Sometimes it becomes even more confusing when different bank employees in the banks' separate branches, or even within same branch, interpret or apply regulations differently.



MONEY MATTERS: Many foreigners find opening a bank account in Thailand a straightforward process. Photo: ADwarf

This means that in practice one foreigner may experience the bank account opening process in Thailand as straightforward and simple, while others may have difficulties, or even be refused by one bank, but allowed by another. The amount and nature of the

documentation required when applying for a bank account normally depends on the type of account you wish to open, and, in addition, your immigration status.

If the applicant is visiting Thailand as a tourist, working in Thailand and holding a valid busi-

ness visa, or maintaining permanent residence makes a lot of difference to the process.

In general, applying for a Thai bank account becomes less complicated if the applicant is able to demonstrate with acceptable documentation that he or she is legally

working or maintaining permanent residence in Thailand. For such applicants, additional banking services are usually also available.

Upon provision of all required documentation to the satisfaction of the bank employee in charge, the applicant is required to deposit a minimum amount into the bank account as part of the opening process.

The amount may vary, mainly depending on the type of bank account requested. In case of a Thai Baht Savings Account, a minimum deposit of 500 baht is usually sufficient.

Upon completion of the Thai Baht Savings Account opening process, a debit (ATM) card may be issued which allows the account holder to withdraw funds from cash machines.

The opening of a bank account usually requires the personal presence and signature of the applicant.

Nevertheless if a foreigner encounters difficulties opening a bank account, they may wish for professional assistance from, for example, a law firm, in which case their attendance is recommended.

Contact the International Law Office, Patong Beach Co. Ltd. E:michael@ilo-phuket.com T: 076-222191-5.



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Blowing their own trumpet

Next on the list of Phuket's Top 20 flowers is the stunning *Solandra*, an angel trumpet variety.



Photo: Eperales/Flickr

LOUD: The *Solandra* is Phuket's version of the Angel Trumpet.

Gardening

By Green Sleeves

AN ALL-time favorite flower for many is *datura suevolens*, now known in up-to-date gardening books as the *brugmansia*, or its common nickname angel's trumpet. In Thailand it is known as *lam pong*.

While it is very tempting, it can unfortunately not go into the Top 20 list for one simple reason – it doesn't relish Phuket's climate. On the slopes of Doi Inthanon near Chaing Mai, the angel's trumpet grows everywhere.

Rarified, mountain air habitats

suit the blossom. *Brugmansias* do not like excess humidity, and in any case, Phuket is a tad too hot for them.

The Top 20 spot this week goes to another shrub with trumpet-shaped blooms called *Solandra* or the cup of gold.

The *Brugmansia* deserves honorable mention, simply due to its stunning looks. Its exotic, pendulous trumpets are truly spectacular. Often six to eight inches long, the paper-thin blooms droop elegantly from arching gray-green foliage.

One cultivar, *plena*, has wider, bell-like flowers that may exceed a foot in length.

Maybe the best place in Phuket for your angel's trumpet is in a pot. It is certainly a favorite for containers, both on patios as an accent plant, and in living rooms, where it

always attracts attention.

Two provisos though: It is highly poisonous, and it needs to be handled with care, since its branches are remarkably brittle.

So the closest alternative, and this week's entry to the Top 20 has got to be *Solandra grandiflora*, or *tuay tong*, a member of the same family, and also from the Americas.

Incidentally, this genus also includes the deadly nightshade.

Solandra, also known familiarly as the chalice vine or cup of gold, is a better garden choice than *brugmansia* because it is less fastidious and usually a more prolific bloomer.

But be warned: It is a vine, and for this reason will definitely require some support if you want it to climb rapidly.

The aerial rootlets will attach themselves to anything in its vicinity, and so this plant is best placed against a wall, trellis or arch.

As a consequence, it will spread rapidly along a wall, maybe extending more than 10 meters. Don't, for example, make the mistake of planting one in an open bed next to the swimming pool.

It blooms beautifully, but is really too heavy and cumbersome for its situation. Extra staked support is advised.

But the flowers are magnificent. The Latin epithet *grandiflora* is well deserved.

Like those of the *brugmansia*, the blooms are trumpet-shaped, but they are heavier, more fleshy, and if anything, even more dra-

MAGNIFICENT: The *brugmansia* is a favourite of many gardeners, and can be found in northern Thailand. Photo: Pizzodisevo/Flickr

matic than those of the angel's trumpet.

Usually a deep cream, the chalice-like blooms have fluted edges, and are scored inside with 10 dark lines. Everything about this shrub is alluring – from the vase-like, sealed buds to the glossy, ever-green leaves.

To counterbalance this fleshiness, the flowers exude a delicate, lemony fragrance.

Once established, the chalice vine is easy to cultivate. It can be propagated from heeled cuttings, and has the merit of blooming several times a year. It will tolerate severe pruning and will flower on new growth.

The only real problem is that it is a real heavyweight and will need support. If you happen to see one around, it will, inaudibly, be blowing its own trumpet.

If you have a garden that you would like to be featured on this page, e-mail pcampbell45@gmail.com

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Tip of the week

Dig, dig, dig

THE digging implements used in Thailand differ from those used in the west.

For example: in order to make deep holes for new plants, you will need a mattock (a short, broad-bladed hoe) or even a pickaxe, especially in the dry season when the soil is hard.

A spade is always useful, but less for digging than for distributing soil or compost.

It is best used with a wheelbarrow at hand. Of the many

types of wheelbarrow available at gardening centers around the island, the one with two wheels and a plastic pan is a good choice.

It tips up quite easily if the weight is at the front and is durable and rust-free.

For small jobs such as transplanting or close weeding, a trowel or hand fork is indispensable.

For raking up dead leaves, a metal rake is the best choice.

Property Classifieds

Properties For Sale

BEAUTIFUL LAND QUIET LAND PLOT



in Naiham. A walled property with Chanote title. It has an electric gate and private concrete entryway. About 600sqm in total, including all facilities with a private well and water tank. The plot is beside a property with luxury villas. Ready to build on. Asking price: 2.6 million baht. Tel: 083-388 8036 (English or German), 089-972 5378 (Thai).

BANG TAO BEACH APARTMENT

Absolute beachfront, 2 bedroom plus study apartment at Baan Chai Nam. Great location and pool, beautiful sunsets. Well managed estate. 7 million baht, everything included. Tel: +61-439-886520 (English). Email for photos. Email: mark footner@hotmail.com

BUNGALOW

In Chalong with 3 bedrooms, a lounge/diner, a modern kitchen and bathroom. It has aircons, covered parking and a landscaped garden on 65sq wah. Price: 3.95 million baht. Tel: 089-922 2800. Email: simonchinner@yahoo.com

FOR SALE



2 bedroom, 2 bathroom condo - 126sqm. Big terrace overlooking Phang Nga Bay with stunning ocean views. Located in the secure and quiet EAST COAST OCEAN VILLA's estate. Shared swimming pool and 24 hr security. Price: 6.5 million baht ONO. For info, please tel: 084-189 3070.

PATONG CONDO

Close to Jungceylon. Brand-new 1-bedroom apartment. Freehold. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

KOH MAPHRAO 37+ RAI

280 meters of seafont at the most beautiful spot on the island. Must see. Price: negotiable. Tel: 081-891 8930 (English/German), Buijai baan 081-956 3374 (Thai).

1,100SQM LAND PLOTS

Very nice land plots on a secure development estate, 500m from a golf course. For sale only. Price: 1.89 million baht. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

VILLA IN RAWAI



4 bedrooms in Rawai, Chalong. For more information: www.debes.com

FRUIT FARM 7.5 RAI

Tropical private farm north of Khao Lak, situated by the river. Beautiful exotic fruit farm property of 12,000 sqm. Houses, pool, marina. 18 million baht. Tel: +46-708-500227, 084-745 1418 (Thai). Email: consulting.asia@telia.com www.consulting.asia.co.th

PATONG TOWER

1 bedroom full oceanfront foreign freehold 69.41sqm. 8 million baht. Email: egarand@aol.com

TOWNHOUSE

2 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms with furniture and aircons. It has a whirlpool. Price: 2.7 million baht. Tel: 089-588 5692.

PRIME LAND

In Layan Soi 7, close to the beach, a lake, a main road and an electricity supply. Ideal for a private house. Tel: 081-787 4383, 081-968 3549.

VERY SPACIOUS EUROPEAN



Villa in quiet area in Rawai. Quality building by Dutch constructor. Large living area and huge terrace. 3 bedrooms with aircon, 3 en-suite bathrooms, 1 separate guest toilet. Western kitchen, garage, beautiful garden, laundry, True Visions TV. 650sqm plot with Chanote title. Price: 9.8 million baht. Please contact Paula. Tel: 084-844 1486. Email: meeuwissenpaula@hotmail.com

PATONG TOWNHOUSE

In a quiet soi off Nanai Road, near shops and markets. Includes 2 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes and 2 bathrooms, one with a bathtub. Comes with quality interior design and a large European-style kitchen. We accept offers over 5.5 million baht. Tel: 089-290 8147 (Thai), 089-989 9535 (English).

PATONG CONDO 1.7 MILLION BAH

With a pool and new decor. 5 minutes' walk to the beach, 3 minutes' walk to Jungceylon. Tel: 081-087 9639.

HOUSE IN CENTER RAWAI

For rent with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, ADSL, cable TV, living room, kitchen and parking space. Rent: 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

RUBBER PLANTATION 48 RAI



For sale. Located on the main road to Laguna Phuket. Suitable for a housing project. 4 million baht per rai (Nor Sor 3 Kor). Please contact owner's representative. No agents please. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: pakapoms@yahoo.com

KATHU LUXURY POOL VILLAS



2 minutes from BIS and 12 minutes from Patong: 2- and 3-bedroom villas with swimming pool. From 8.5 million baht. Tel: 076-321445, 089-724 7211 (English). Email: info@botanvillage.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketcottages.com

NEW POOL VILLA SAIYUAN



On 400sqm land with Chanote title. An L-shaped 1.5-storey building with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with a jacuzzi. 150sqm living room area and a European-style kitchen. Tel: 080-077 9747 (English), 082-423 1223 (Thai). Email: tord_olsson@tele2.se, cafeopera@live.se

SEAVIEW LAND

North end of Bang Sak Beach. 68 meters of road frontage. 2 rai 3 ngan and 52 sq wah. Price: 7.5 million baht. 6km north of Le Meridien Khao Lak Beach & Spa Resort. Tel: 081-894 7644.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. No agent. Tel: 081-956 2406.

NAI HARN APART



Furnished 106sqm unit on top floor. Freehold with a swimming pool and gym. Price: 4.8 million baht. Tel: 087-283 3358.

BEAUTIFUL BANG TAO

Beach garden penthouse. Includes a jacuzzi, roof and garden. Near beach. Price: 9.95 million baht. Tel: 084-630 2416. Email: jonhassall@aol.com

BEACHFRONT LAND AT MAI KAO



7.5 rai plot with 168 meters of ocean frontage. Nor Sor 3 Kor, ready to build. Surrounded by a peaceful and natural environment, it's an ideal place for a secure investment. Price: 15 million baht per rai. For more info, please call 081-970 9196. Email: helena.klaic@pick-place.si Website at: www.maikao.info

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.

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB CONDO

1 Bed, 1 Bath on 5th floor. 59 square meters. Freehold. Needs renovation. 1.9 million baht. Tel: 081-085 6715 (English). Email: surlamer05@yahoo.com

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

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

ROYAL PLACE CONDO

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

NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO



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

BANG TAO PENTHOUSE

140sqm unit, plus a roof, garden and private pool at a beach resort. Price: 16 million baht. Comes with 2 pools, a gym, WiFi and 24-hour security. Tel: 084-716 0502.

30 RAI IN TOWN

Long lease. Near Daorung School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

NICE AND SPACIOUS HOUSE



In Heritage Project, Kathu. 2 floors, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 1 maidroom. 234sq wah. 18 million baht. Tel: 081-8920190 (Warit), 089-6464823 (Rattana). Email: prayoon_jp@hotmail.com

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2 LUXURY POOL VILLAS

in Nai Ham. 3 buildings with 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms in Balinese and Thai style, built from teak and other first-class materials. 800sqm land with Chanote title. Includes a wall fence and an electric gate. The property has a pool with a waterfall and jacuzzi, a maid's house, a covered terrace and carport. Asking price: 16 million baht. Tel: 083-388 8036 (English or German), 089-972 5378 (Thai).

THAI-STYLE VILLA IN CHALONG

Luxurious, lakeside, Thai-style villa in Chalong. Has 8 rooms and a swimming pool. Price: 38 million baht. Tel: 081-892 8740.

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.

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

BRAND-NEW CONDO

Mid Town, Royal Place Project. Studio condo, fully furnished, reasonable price. Tel: 086-4769612.

SURIN BEACH

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

URGENT SALE

New detached house in Phanason 3, Thalang. 253.25sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double garage, furnished and landscaped garden. 2.8 million baht. Contact Phing. Tel: 087-278 0067. Email: sweetpinkylive@live.co.uk

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

BEAUTIFUL RAWAI POOL VILLA

Price reduced from 9.5 to 8.25 million baht: Luxury, two-bedroom, two-bathroom pool villa in established small development. Attracts good rental returns. Nicely furnished and very private. Priced for quick sale. Tel: 084-837 9403, 080-145 8697. Email: craighoy@publicaffairsasia.com

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.

URGENT SALE! KAMALA

50% auction. Price: 39 million baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 087-077 7314.

PHUKET VILLA CONDO PATONG

New condo. 1km to beach, near Bangla Rd and Jungceylon, 1bed, 1 bath, fully furnished. 3.9 million baht for 42sqm and 3.8 million baht for 44.5sqm Tel:081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

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.

BEACHFRONT LAND

Bang Sak Beach, Khao Lak. Full infrastructure. 21m x 70m Chanote. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 087-003 6078 (English & Thai). Email: pong_ja19_9@yahoo.com

4.9MB POOL HOUSE

With an L-shape design in Rawai. 2 fully furnished bedrooms with a western-style kitchen. 260sqm, freehold, in a quiet area, with a mountain view. Close to Nai Ham. Tel: 086-478 0201. Email: laongfa@hotmail.com

BOAT LAGOON MARINA

Houses 23/65 + 76 for sale. Freehold. Last units. Price: 6.9 million and 8.9 million baht. For further details pls call Khun Pen. Tel: 081-968 9046.

BEACHFRONT CONDO

Located in north Patong, freehold, top floor, 2 bedrooms. Price: 9.7 million baht. Renting also possible. For photos call 086-276 5117. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

2-STORY HOUSE IN PATONG

sea view. 50 Pi Road, 49sqm. 4-bedroom with balconies, 2 bathroom, aircon, fully furnished. Chanote. Price 17 million baht ono. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

HOUSE IN RAWAI

Single house in a quiet area with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a nice garden on 400sqm. Includes a European kitchen, dining room. Only 4.2 million baht. Tel: 081-787 3716.

TOWNHOUSE IN SUPALAI CITY RESORY

near Super Cheap. 3 floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Land area: 84sqm. House area: 162sqm. It has a master bedroom with aircon. Price: 2.5 million baht. Contact Amnuayvit. Tel: 081-693 2441. Email: amnuayvit@tttmaxnet.com

STUDIO FOR REDUCED PRICE

46sqm furnished apartment in Patong. Price: 2.7 million baht. Freehold. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

CHALONG FLAT LAND

30 rai at 4.5 million baht per rai. 1km from Chalong temple, 300 meters down the soi. Partial land available. Tel: 081-719 2984.

68 RAI THALANG LAND

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PHUKET VILLA

1- and 2-bedroom apartments in a new deluxe condo in center Patong with a gym, swimming pool. Top quality, freehold. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

1/2 RAI OF LAND

In Bang Jo, 5 mins to Laguna. 2.1 million baht with company. Size: 20x40m. Quiet area. Tel: 081-078 0014. Email: homeinphuket@live.com

SUPERIOR SHOPHOUSE IN KATHU

in Goldenville Village, best maintained 4-storey shophouse with aircons and solar water heater. For immediate sale. Qualified for restaurant. Selling price: 5.5 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 086-905 0056 (English), 087-518 8837 (Thai). Email: peterwiniker@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE

Near Supalai Resort on the east coast of Phuket slope. A 3-rai plot with road and electricity access. Price: 3.6 million baht per rai. No agents please. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: pakapoms@yahoo.com

KHAO LAK TROPICAL VILLAS

Enjoy peace and tranquility in the heart of the natural resort of Khao Lak. Khao Lak Tropical Villas is a boutique development of 19 spacious pool villas from 180-530sqm, set on the edge of the national park. Live your life with Nature. Tel: 087-283 7161 (English). Email: info@khaolaktropicalvillas.com For further details, please see our website at www.khaolaktropicalvilla.com

4-BED, 5-BATH HOUSE

5 minutes to Lotus and Central Phuket Festival. It has 4 bedrooms and 5 bathrooms with a large balcony. With Chanote title. 836sqm or 209sq wah with a swimming pool. Fully furnished teak-wood building. Includes Internet, cable TV, a garden, car parking and a dog house. Price: 16 million baht. Contact Amnuayvit. Tel: 081-693 2441. Email: amnuayvit@tttmaxnet.com

NICE NATAI LAND

25 rai for lease at 6 million baht each. 200 meters attached to beach-main road. Okay to be subdivided into plots. Tel: 081-719 2984.

MOUNTAIN VIEW RAWAI

2 lots of 750sqm in quiet country setting with a mountain backdrop. Price: 2.9 million baht and 3.5 million baht respectively. Tel: 085-503 1255 (English).

POOL VILLAS IN RAWAI

3- and 4-bedroom villas with 1 or 2-storey. Fully furnished and with full aircon. Ready to move in. Prices start from 9.9 million baht. Tel: 087-893 8747.

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LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

LAND FOR SALE

4 rai at Bang Jo near main road. For a quick sale from owner: 13 million baht. Tel: 081-956 0527. Email: tuenjai1@hotmail.com

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Fully furnished, aircon, cable TV, WiFi, pool. From 14,000 baht. As holiday house, 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-475 1200 (English & Thai). Email: info@welcome-inn.com For further details, please see our website at www.welcome-inn.com

CLOSE TO LAGUNA

4 bedrooms, 3 baths, fully furnished. 50,000 baht per month. Interesting! Walkable to Club House: Tennis, basketball court and swimming pool. Tel: 081-956 5966 (English & Thai). Email: phuket-property@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.c2phuket.com/misc/detail.php?post_id=41832

500,000 BAHT YEARLY RENTAL



Rawai Beach. 400sqm, guesthouse, 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms. 30-year lease 7.2 million baht paid over 10 years. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

58 MONTHLY PAYMENTS



of 35,000 baht. Located at Rawai Beach. For sale: 28 years leased pool villa, furnished, WiFi and car park. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

LARGE GOLF VILLA



At Phuket Country Club. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a maid's room, and a pool house. It has a large garden. Price: 85,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-277 2691. Email: davidinasia@hotmail.com

LOCH PALM STUDIO

Large, new, Eurostyle, aircon, 2 terraces, private entrance, security, garden. Electricity and internet included. Lease at 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-283 9806 (English). Email: leonsk@yahoo.com

1-BEDROOM APARTMENT

in Patong. A big, nicely furnished, airy 1-bedroom apartment with a kitchen in central Patong. Long-term monthly rent: 30,000 baht. Tel: 086-276 7608.

ONE-BEDROOM CONDO

- New, fully furnished condo with WiFi and a pool near Central Festival.

- Beachfront condo, 2 bedrooms for long-term rent. Tel: 081-892 0038. Email: info@orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished 2 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, with an LCD TV, washing machine, aircons, and a whirlpool. Price: 21,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-588 5692.

HOUSE NEAR LAGUNA

In Pasak 3. Fully furnished. Rent: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-690 2119. Email: ruangruk27@hotmail.com

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT

A new, fully furnished 2-storey house with 2 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Price: 25,000 baht per month. Contact K. Nee. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at http://panwagreen.weebly.com

PATONG TOWER CONDO - A BEAUTY



Beautiful Patong Tower Beach Condo with stunning 280 degree panoramic views of the ocean, mountains and town. Large outdoor patio and wrap around balcony. Completely renovated. Internet and washing machine. Available from December 1st, 2010. Tel: (86) 1381634 4147. Email: PatongTowerRental@yahoo.com. For further details, please see our website at www.PatongTowerRental.com

COZY ROOMS FOR RENT

Fully furnished, Boutique decor house in town: 1- and 2-bedroom for 12,000 and 20,000 baht. Tel: 089-668 3639 (English & Thai). Email: zhunau mann@gmail.com

CHALONG NEW HOME

2-bedroom home with telephone, aircon and cable TV. Tel: 089-652 1473 (English). Email: anandaestates@yahoo.com

KATA CONDO



Large, western, 110sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, with huge covered terrace Fully fitted teak kitchen, baths with granite tops, fully furnished, cable, ADSL, parking. Located in a quiet area. Tel: 084-840 1262. Email: north8east98@yahoo.com

KAMALA BEACH HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 250sqm. Available Jan 1. 2 pools, jacuzzi and fully furnished. 5 minutes to beach. Tel: 081-892 7082, 084-716 0502.

HOUSE IN CHALONG

For rent. Near Palai beach. A fully furnished house with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircons and ADSL. Includes cable TV and car park. Tel: 089-728 8311.

LUXURY 1-BEDROOM

A fully furnished ground-floor unit at pool side. 65sqm in the heart of Patong. Long-term rent preferred, 1 month minimum. Tel: 087-887 9070. Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

KATA HILL HOUSE

Close to Kata Beach on a quiet hillside. Fully-furnished 2 bedrooms with aircon, 2 baths, living, kitchen, and dining rooms, terrace, car park, TV and Internet. Price: 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827. Email: nij017@hotmail.com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

1-and 2-bedroom houses for rent. Starting from 10,000 baht per month. At Palai, near Chalong Bay. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at http://palaigreen.weebly.com

PHUKET VILLA

Deluxe apartment in a new condo in Patong center with a gym, swimming pool and 24-hour security. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

SEA VIEW RAWAI

160 degree Sea View. New 300sqm 2-3 bedroom, 3 bath, gourmet kitchen, huge terrace, 100m to the beach. 60,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-474 5629 (English), 081-537 1704 (Thai). Email: dgsworld@gmail.com

30 RAI FOR LEASE

Flat land in new Daorung School. Very good location for business. Tel: 081-691 2526.

POOL VILLAS FOR RENT

in Bang Tao. 2 to 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms with satellite TV, ADSL, automatic gate. Furnished. Tel: 085-674 6786.

LUXURY POOL VILLAS



Near Laguna. New top-quality pool villas with 3 bedrooms and jacuzzi on 500sqm land. Includes Chanote title, freehold. 5 minutes to Laguna Beach and Bang Tao Beach. Rent on a one-year contract: 60,000 baht per month. Sale price: 15.3 million baht. Tel: 084-843 6837. Email: suchada_villas@hotmail.com

APARTMENTS



The Royal Place Condo, 1 bedroom, kitchen, bathroom and living room, swimming pool, etc. From 13,000 baht per month. We can also supply motorcycle and truck. Tel: 081-539 9612, 087-633 1472. Email: chris palmer56@gmail.com

BRAND NEW HOUSE PATONG

First rental. At a quiet location. Fully furnished with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircons and European-style kitchen. For more info please call 084-185 8536.

LUXURY VILLAS IN RAWAI

Fully furnished, airconditioned 3- or 4-bedroom villas with a private pool and large garden. At a quiet location in a gated community with 24-hour security. Ready to move in. Tel: 087-893 8747.

3 BR POOL CONDO YAMU

Luxury 3-bedroom condo with private pool for rent at Cape Yamu. Fully furnished. Brand-new, sea views, onsite manager, all facilities. Prefer long-term. 75,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-894 1530 (English). Email: andrew@leemarine.net

KAMALA VILLA WITH OWN POOL

Available christmas and new year due to cancellation. 3 bedrooms, all en-suite. Quiet, cozy, views, beautiful! Tel: 089-729 1403 (English & Thai). Email: imconnac@aol.com For further details, please see our website at www.villakamala.com

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement. Then hand it to any of our agents.

_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____|_____| (heading)

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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.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.
Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

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

Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it
with **Khun Anna (086-478 0201)**

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're PAID!
Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published
simultaneously - and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

THAILAND'S LEADING BROKERAGE & NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP

Special Kings Cup Listings



LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage

Please visit our website for more listings

- Mills 51 (1999)**
 - Volvo D2 55hp new 2009
 - Dry Sailed
 - Gori folding prop
 - Full instrument package
 - Carbon rig
 - New keel, rudder 2006
 - 12 sails less than 1yr
 - Safety equipment
- Beneteau First 53FS (1992)** \$330,000 USD
- Swan 42CS (2007)** \$600,000 AUD
- Simons 56 (2005)** \$998,000 USD
- Firefly 850 Cat (2006)** 1,800,000 THB


leemarine.com

Dealership Office: The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
 Brokerage Office: The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
 Yacht Haven Marina Office: The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
 Pattaya Office: Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach

Boatshedphuket.com
INTERNATIONAL YACHT BROKERS

SELLING YOUR BOAT?
We can meet you on board, take up to 80 photos and full details. We will accompany all viewings, and provide non exclusive brokerage on a no sale no fee basis.

Boat of the moment



Ref: 112642
Wharram Tiki 26 (2010) as new Condition: 1,200,000 baht Offers invited
www.boatshedphuket.com

T: +66 76 239 745
M: +66 84 8426146
boats@boatshedphuket.com

www.boatshedphuket.com
Part of the Boatshed.com Yacht Brokerage Group with offices across the world.

ALUMINUM SPEEDBOAT
6.3 meters LOA, Marine grade aluminum construction. 115 Suzuki 4-stroke with 110-liter fuel tank. Imported trailer all like new condition. Asking 1.2 million baht. See at Max Marine showroom. Call for more info. Tel: 076-617269 (English & Thai). Email: craig@maxmarine.asia

RACING YACHT FOR SALE
Inglis 47' racing yacht. Lift keel, sweptback spreaders, masthead and fractional asymmetrical. 1.5 bowsprit, twin wheels and aft nav station. In excellent condition and ready to race. Contact for more info Tel: +61-418-939336 (English). Email: nomadaust@hotmail.com

DINGHY WANTED
Inflatable, without outboard engine, 4.5 to 6 meters in length. Must be in good condition. Call for more info. Tel: 084-712 7451. Email: info@mobydick-adventures.com

55 FOOT CRUISING CATAMARAN
6 double cabins, 105sqm sails. In composite. Ready to sail! Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

£29,000 ONO
38ft steel videos sailing yacht. Nice condition. Inspections in January ashore at Langkawi. Call for more details. Tel: +44-013-06640898. Email: brianralphgoodwin@yahoo.com

BIG GAME FISHING
13 meters, purpose-built big game fishing boat. Totally rebuilt. Hino 200Hp Diesel plus the latest electronics. Price: 4.5 million baht. Tel: 082-218 3177. Email: deudale@yahoo.co.uk

MOTORSAILER
Neptunian motorsailer. VHF, GPS, depth, radar, autohelm. 2 cabins. Full galley. Single handed, blue-water cruiser. Tel: 081-968 1437 (English). Email: bobedward1@hotmail.com

GULF CRAFT 36' 5.5 MB



Perfect for island-hopping in safety and comfort. Can be used as a private charter boat (17 Passengers + 3 crew) and comes with optional tour contracts with five-star resorts. Contact Ross for more info and photos. Must sell now! Tel: 084-744 2240. Email: ross@funboatcruises.com For more details, please visit our website at http://www.funboatcruises.com/mvsting_deck

BAYLINER 285 FOR SALE
Year 2005. 29ft length, 300Hp Mercruiser 350MPI engine, FWC, dinghy with 5Hp 4-stroke Suzuki engine + davit system, 2KVA Honda generator, windlass, trailer. Thai registered. Price: 2.4 million baht. Tel: 086-076 0141 (English). Email: kirill_tar@yahoo.com

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:

1	R	A	T	A	5	T	A	B	L	A	10	B	A	K	E					
14	E	L	A	L	15	O	R	E	A	D	16	A	L	O	E					
17	D	E	L	I	18	R	E	A	V	E	19	N	A	I	L					
20	O	C	C	I	21	D	E	N	T	A	L	22	I	Z	E					
					23	O	R	A			24	A	N	A						
		25	S	U	P	P	O	S	28	I	T	I	T	I	O	U	S			
33	M	A	T	T	E				34	T	O	D	O		35	R	N	A		
36	A	S	T	A		37	G	R	A	T	E			38	R	A	I	N		
40	S	H	E			41	R	E	A	L				42	S	E	C	T	S	
43	C	A	R	D	44	I	O	M	Y	45	O	P	A	T	H	Y				
					47	E	N	D			48	N	O	N						
					49	I	N	D	E	50	F	A	T	I	G	52	A	B	L	E
56	A	L	T	O					58	T	I	T	A	N		59	B	O	I	L
60	P	A	C	T					61	I	N	A	P	T		62	B	A	N	E
63	R	O	H	E					64	C	E	D	E	S		65	A	R	E	A

Quiz answers:
1. Dimples 2. James Brown 3. South Africa 4. Type O 5. Blue moon 6. None 7. Eight 8. 1977 9. Yuri Gagarin 10. Burgundy 11. Joseph 12. Mark Knoffler 13. Detroit 14. Hawaii 15. Maps

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

TO: The Phuket Co Ltd, 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd
T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE for a full year - 52 issues!

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa / Mastercard

Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)
 Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)
 Thai Baht 9,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)

Surname (as appears on card) _____ Given name(s) (as on card) _____

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____
Last 3 digits on back of card

Issuing Bank: _____ Country: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please Deliver To:

Street address _____
 City _____ State or Province _____ Zip Code _____
 Country: _____

Looking for a boat bargain? From 995,000 Euro down to 549,000 Euro - 1997 20M PRINCESS TOP CONDITION

WWW.PRINCESS4SALE.COM

Visit the website for more information. Sales by Lee Marine, Andrew de Bruin. Tel: 081- 894 1530.



One of Phuket's biggest Dive Centers has free positions in the following departments:

- 1 Accountant, Chalong office, Phuket
- 1 Russian speaking snorkel guide, Phuket
- 1 Thai booking staff, Chalong office, Phuket

For the accountant the following qualifications are needed:

- Able to speak and write English
- Minimum 2 years of working experience with accounting
- Knowledge of Quick Book will be an advantage
- Knowledge of official papers as work permits, TAT license and related company papers will be an advantage.

For the Russian snorkel guide the following qualifications are needed:


- Able to speak Russian fluently and communicate in English
- Service minded and able to sort out problems quickly
- Presentable and flexible

For the Thai booking staff the following qualifications are needed:

- Knowledge of the English language
- Knowledge of the dive business
- Knowledge of hotel locations on Phuket
- Knowledge of working with a computer
- Presentable and flexible

Interested candidates are welcome to Email a resume immediately. We will then call you to make an appointment for an interview.

Chalong: Phone: 076-383052
Email: info@scandinavian-divers.com



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

Sales & Marketing Manager (Expat or Thai National)

Job Descriptions and Responsibilities:

- Take charge of all sales and marketing activities
- Provide leadership to the day-to-day operations of the sales and marketing department, while maintaining focus on the company's strategic goals
- Develop the strategic marketing plan for all projects
- Develop, maintain and improve business relations with all customers of the company
- Operate with outside agents and other service providers
- Develop, implement and manage eMarketing strategies, plan activities for the assigned RPM products, which align with brand strategies; ensure KPIs(key performance indicators), and other goals/objectives will be met or exceeded

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in a real estate and / or marketing related field
- Minimum of 5 years experience in sales & marketing management capacity in real estate, residential sales is a must
- International experience with a large real estate developer is a major advantage
- Developed communication and presentation skills
- Strong motivational, innovative, and interpersonal skills
- Proven leadership ability to influence, develop, and empower employee to achieve objectives

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

HR Department
Royal Phuket Marina
 68 Moo.2 Thepkrasette Rd, Kohkaew, Muang, Phuket
 Tel: 076-360833-38 Fax: 076-360840 Email : prasertm@royalphuketmarina.com

NEED FOOT MASSAGE SPECIALIS
 We are seeking staff for a new shop at Big C. A good income. Please contact for more info. Tel: 081-537 6866.

GERMANY COMPANY
 That sells electrics seeks a sales engineer in Phuket. A minimum of 2 years' electrical experience. Must have car. Tel: 02-673 9857-9. Email: hr@thjungasia.com

PREMIER HOLIDAY CLUB PHUKET
 Seeking admin assistant (2 positions), receptionist (2 positions), HR assistant (2 positions). Tel: 076-326292. Should submit a resume with a recent photograph to email: admin@premierpropertyleisure.com or fax: 076-326293. For further details, please see our website at www.premierpropertyleisure.com

STAFF FOR OFFICE
 Thai lady with good English for working in dive center office. Send CV or call. Tel: 085-222 4140, 085-222 4041. Email: dasa@lovediving.net

SALES EXECUTIVE/RM
 Five years experience in property sales or hotel management required. Tel: 076-318400, 081-989 5466 (English & Thai). Email: cilcon@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.bangtaotropicalresidence.com

REPRESENTATIVE FOR BOOTH
 Tropical Properties is looking for a motivated Thai person to work at our permanent booth at Jungceylon. No experience required. Training provided. Good knowledge of English is essential. Salary + commissions. Tel: 076-345700, 087-882 2856. Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

DUTCH SPEAKING
 Customer care representative wanted. Negotiable salary. Call now. Tel: 084-628 2629. Email: gianni@ictned.eu

PADI DIVE INSTRUCTORS
 PADI dive instructors required for Khao Lak high season. Must speak German/English and have sales ability. Tel: 086-274 8358. Email: nbingley@gmail.com

VILLA MANAGER REQUIRED
 Must have excellent spoken and written English skills. Experience in property and people management essential. Good communicator, structured and system-oriented. Thai National required. Tel: 084-848 0000. Send CV and salary requirement to info@villachangrajang.com



REQUIRED for IMMEDIATE start in BALI

The Karma Royal Group, Asia's premier property & resort developer experienced unparalleled growth in 2010.

Therefore, a new exhibition centre is being opened and we need 5 enthusiastic 'Go Getters'. The positions are required to be filled NOW!!

If you are NOT in a position to relocate to Bali immediately, please DO NOT apply as this offer is not for you!!!!

Interested candidates send your full CV immediately to:
ekayanti@royalperspective.com



Brush, a new and very refreshing "Art Bar/Restaurant and Lounge" in Kalim Beach (planned opening 15th of December 2010) is looking to refresh the culinary scene as well as set up a unique Lounge which will be the most artistic and original place to dine or entertain in Phuket. Before the opening, we are seeking talented Thai national team members to join this exciting new project in Phuket.

KITCHEN	
Head Chef	BHT 20-25000
Demi Chef De Partie	BHT 15000
RESTAURANT	
Assistant Restaurant Manager	BHT 20-25000
Hostesses	BHT 15000
Waiter/esses	BHT 12000
BAR	
Bar Manager	BHT 30000
Barmen	BHT 15000

Apply by contacting Cedric Girard on Phone number: 0828125421 or send your resume/CV to cedric@brushphuket.com

Brush Restaurant & Lounge
 Kalim Beach, Patong, Phuket, Thailand
 WWW.BRUSHPHUKET.COM

MULTILINGUAL RECEPTIONIST
 French/German speaking receptionist required for busy holiday club check-in desk. Tel: 076-326292, 080-693 3346, 087-929 5254 (English). Fax: 076-326291. Email: pauljackson381970@hotmail.com

WEBMASTER POSITION
 We require an experienced English-speaking Webmaster. Second language a plus. Send CV with photo. Tel: 081-892 7847. Email: patrick@oceanic-global.com Website: www.oceanic-global.com

TELESALES
 Seeking self-motivated native English speakers with excellent communication skills for a telemarketing position. Must be comfortable and confident on the phone. Experience in the service industry or telesales would be an advantage. Email: careers@pp-intl.com

50,000BHT+
 Looking for Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, German and Danish sales professionals for our new resort in Kata. Free work permit and full training provided. Email: manager-kata@premierpropertyleisure.com



Banyan Tree Phuket

Banyan Tree Phuket is currently seeking highly motivated and result oriented candidates with IDEALS to join our professional team in the following positions :

- Director of Engineering
- Chief Engineer
- Executive Housekeeper
- Sales Manager
- Revenue Management Manager
- Security Manager
- F&B Service Manager
- Assistant Financial Controller


Key Requirements :

- Minimum of 3-5 years of experience in the field or position
- Good command of English
- Strong Managerial skills
- Ability to lead, motivate and develop a team of individuals
- Ability to work under pressure
- Capable of preparing reports and presentations in English
- Working knowledge of local culture

Please submit your application and full resume with recent photo to:
 Ms. Prapaipan Reingpat
 prapaipan.reingpat@banyantree.com
 Director of Human Resources
 Banyan Tree Phuket
 33, 33/27 Srisoonthorn Road
 Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110
 Fax: 076 325 013

www.banyantree.com • www.angsana.com • www.lagunaphuket.com

www.erawana.com

ERAWANA
 Erawana Co., Ltd. has developed over 100 villas in Phuket since 2003. To support our continuously growing business, we are currently seeking energetic, open-minded individuals who are highly motivated to apply for the following position:

Sales Manager

- Prepare all sales and marketing materials
- Present projects to potential customers
- Support existing customers (after sales service)
- Improve relationship with other sales agents
- Manage entire sales process (legal, land office, etc.)

Please note that this position is only open to native English speakers. Compensation package includes a base salary starting from 50,000 baht, commissions based on sales performance and annual bonus.

If you are willing to work hard and are result-oriented, please send your resume to info@erawana.com. We regret that only short-listed candidates will be notified.

Office Address Erawana Co., Ltd.
 19/10 Moo 6, Soi Khok Tanode 2, Baan Don-Layan Rd., Thalang, Phuket 83110
 Tel: 076-275 022-3 Mobile: 089-729 2989
 E-mail: info@erawana.com

Hunter | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

PROPERTY RENTALS SUPPORT EXECUTIVE


Due to expansion, we require a Thai national with exceptional English skills (both written and spoken). The ideal candidate, fulfilling a support role within our rentals department, would be self-motivated and demonstrate excellent organisational and client liaison skills. Additionally, the candidate would possess outstanding systems management and computer literacy abilities. Must have own car; will be based in our Cherngtalay office.

OFFICE ASSISTANT

We require a Thai national with exceptional English skills (both written and spoken). The ideal candidate will be reliable, self-motivated and demonstrate excellent organisational skills. The position is based in our Surin office.

Attractive salary, immediate start for the right applicant.

Please email your CV in the first instance and in confidence to
admin.phuket@sothebysrealty.com


Marriott VACATION CLUB
 ASIA-PACIFIC

Marriott Vacation Club, Asia Pacific, a leader in the global vacation ownership business, is looking for a competent individuals and active professionals to join our team in the following positions;

Phuket & Koh Samui Based

- MARKETING ASSISTANT
- MARKETING CUSTOMER CONTACT
- RECEPTIONIST
- MARKETING EXECUTIVE
- MARKETING OPC
- SALES & MARKETING CALL CENTER
- SALES ASSISTANT
- GENERAL ADMIN ASSISTANT
- SALES EXECUTIVE MULTI LANGUAGES
(ENGLISH, RUSSIAN, GERMAN, CHINESE, JAPANESE, BAHASA)

Bangkok Base

- TELE MARKETING

Require self-motivated, confident people with excellent interpersonal skills and proactive, proficiency in English is necessary. Candidates with the above qualifications should submit a resume with a recent photograph to teerawit.koonlachet@vacationclub.com or fax 076-303625 or mail to:

MVCI, Asia Pacific
 234 Maikhao, Talang
 Phuket 83110, Thailand

Or Apply in person
 on Monday - Friday
 at 10.00 am - 3.00 pm

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

Advertising Sales

- ▶ Thai, age 26 and up with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Bachelor's degree in marketing or related fields
- ▶ Experience in sales and marketing
- ▶ Good command of spoken & written English
- ▶ Must have own transportation and drivers license

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to na@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
 A. Muang, Phuket 83000
 Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

TEACHER WANTED
 HeadStart International School, Phuket, is currently seeking qualified, experienced and caring teachers for the following positions:

- Thai Principal, Primary
- PE
- French
- Art
- Mandarin

Ability to teach across all Key Stages essential.
 Tel: 076-612876 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-612877. Please email CVs with referees to school@headstartphuket.com

Employment Wanted

Phuket Gazette

In connection with a major expansion in its **Classified Advertising** business due to the launch of the newspaper's Nationwide Edition, the *Phuket Gazette* seeks to add three **Classified Advertising Administrators** to its existing team of five.

Qualified candidates will be:

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged at least 26
- ▶ Service-minded with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai

and should have:

- ▶ A Bachelors Degree from a recognizable university
- ▶ A good sense of organization and respect for details
- ▶ Knowledge of basic office software

Knowledge of InDesign, Pagemaker or Quark Express would be a plus.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Tassanee Suwannarat, Classifieds Manager, at Nee@PhuketGazette.Net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
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Fri 7 PM

Patong Hospital - Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 17 PM

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Favorites land Ironman titles in emphatic style

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FORMER US Navy lieutenant Timothy O'Donnell was crowned inaugural Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific Champion at Laguna Phuket Resort on Sunday after a dominant performance in the men's race.

In the female category it was all smiles for Caroline Steffen as she landed top honors to cap off a superb year in which she has won four triathlon titles.

O'Donnell, 30, started the men's race as hot favorite and produced a clinical display to clinch the title two minutes ahead of

Women's champ Caroline Steffen



last week's Laguna Phuket Triathlon champion, Italian Massimo Cigano. Hideo Fukui of Japan finished third.

First out of the water following the 1.9km swim, O'Donnell extended his advantage during the punishing 90km cycle, before pushing himself through the 21.1km for winning time of 03:59:42.

The champion, who finished third behind German Michael Raelert at the Ironman 70.3 World Championship earlier this year, was delighted to end 2010 with a victory, while also full of praise for the grueling Phuket Ironman course.

"It is a great course and it was a real pleasure to be out there racing. The cycle was tough. There is some pretty stiff hills out there. When you are barely breaking four hours you know it's a hard course," said the champion, before adding "it was a lot of fun to end the season with such a unique race."

O'Donnell's win comes less than a month after his partner, Australian Mirinda Carfrae, was crowned Ironman World Women's Champion in Hawaii.

In the Ironman women's section, Swiss star Steffen powered her way to a commanding victory to make up for the

disappointment of finishing second to Carfrae at the World Championships.

Steffen, nicknamed "Xena", was embroiled in a titanic battle with last weekend's Laguna Phuket winner Belinda Granger during the bike section of the course, but managed to pull away from the chasing pack during the run.

Her winning time 04:20:13 was almost five minutes ahead of second placed Melissa Rollison of Australia, who overhauled Granger late on to claim runner-up spot.

"I'm thrilled to win such a fantastic challenge. It's such an exciting course with unique features, like the bike bridge and the swim in both sea and across fresh water - it's just an amazing place to compete in triathlon," said Steffen.

The 50-strong professionals were joined at Laguna Phuket by over 800 amateur athletes from 51 countries, all racing for a share of the \$75,000 prize purse.

The first Thai male finisher was Jaray Jearani, while first Thai female was Mayuree Maidaeng.



IRONMAN: Men's winner Timothy O'Donnell
Photos: Apinun Saithong

Lomas boys set sights on Bangkok

PHUKET Lomas Rugby will take three teams to Bangkok later this month for the Kasetsart University annual festival of rugby.

A total of 47 young rugby stars will make the trip to the capital for the two-day event on December 18-19, ranging in ages from 10 to 15 years old.

The Lomas will enter teams in three divisions: Under-10, Under-12 and Under-15.

The competition will mark the first-ever tour for the Lomas Under-10s, with many of their players having never been outside Phuket.

"The playing strip has been designed, the supporters t-shirts are being printed, and all the lads are excited about going," said Lomas Head Coach, Patrick Cotter.

"This is by far the biggest tour we've attempted and we wish all the teams good luck and an enjoyable experience," he added.

Patong Municipality will supply transport to Bangkok for the players, while Island Furniture are the team's sponsor.



GASPING FOR GLORY: A competitor in the swim section.

Hundreds expected to enter QSI Fun Run

THE ninth annual QSI International School Phuket Fun Run will take place on Saturday January 22 at Bang Wad Dam in Kathu.

Students from other schools are also welcome to take part.

QSI International School is a not-for-profit educational institution, and some of the funds raised at the 2010 Fun Run will go towards the artificial surfacing of a sports field currently under construction at the school, which will be used by students and the local community.

At next month's event there will be five runs on offer to competitors and registration will take place at 8am on the day of the event.

Opening the day will be two 1-kilometer runs for different age groups and the individual 6.5km Fun Run.

This year will see the introduction of a 6.5km Team Challenge open to businesses, NGOs, and

social teams, while there will be a 13km run for the more serious competitors.

"Each year the QSI Fun Run grows in numbers of participants and supporters, with in excess of 200 runners at the last event. It is

a family oriented occasion and provides an excellent opportunity for us to reach out to the local community, as well as for parents, students, faculty and friends to enjoy a healthy and fun day out together," said Alan Siporin, QSI

International School Director.

For more details on how to enter yourself, family or team, contact: Jan (Thai and English) T: 084-8945678 or Alan Siporin (English) T:084-8504631.

- Andrew Jennings

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