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INSIDE



Guy Nowell

King's Cup 2008

The King's Cup Regatta is over for another year. We reveal some of the stories behind the sails.

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Candlelight vigils for His Majesty

PHUKET: Phuketians joined fellow Thais from across the country in candlelight vigils, praying for His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's health.

The most-revered monarch came down with a temperature and sore throat and was unable to give his customary birthday address to the nation on the eve of his 81st Birthday on Decem-

ber 5. According to a series of official announcements by the Royal Household Bureau in subsequent days, HM The King's health gradually improved and his doctors had stopped giving him medicine and intravenous fluids. A statement from the bureau on December 8 was the fourth and the last on His Majesty's recent illness

B6.1m requested to tackle Phuket land encroachment

By Atchaa Khamlo

PHUKET: Nine provincial government agencies will request over 6 million baht in central government funding to tackle problems of encroachment on government land in the province, it was announced following a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on December 8.

The agencies are represented on a special panel chaired by the Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer Piya Bharatasilpin that was formed under a provincial order issued on December 3.

Other panel members include Muang District Chief Khantee Silapa and representatives of agencies responsible for land issues and local administration.

The working committee, with an initial budget of 3.5 million baht, is tasked with prevent-

ing more encroachment on government land and finding solutions to existing land encroachment problems.

At the meeting, nine agencies put forward proposals for anti-encroachment projects with a total price tag of 6,122,623 baht. Funding for the projects would come under the Phuket Provincial Development Plan for the fiscal year beginning 2009.

A detailed proposal must be submitted and approved by the Budget Bureau in December and then signed by the governor.

If approved, the committee would be required to issue progress reports by the fifth of every month.

After the meeting, a source at the Palad's office said the antiencroachment projects are still in the planning stages and it is too early to provide detailed information about what form they would take.

Fourth quarter airport arrivals down almost 50%

PHUKET (MAI KHAO): Passenger numbers at Phuket International Airport (PIA) for the last three months of 2008 are expected to be down about 48% year-on-year due to global economic conditions and recent events in the capital.

Phuket International Airport Director Wicha Nernlop told the *Gazette* that several direct international flights to the airport were canceled during the 10-day political standoff that caused the closure of Suvarnabhumi and Don Meuang airports.

Domestic flights during the same period were down 80% as scheduled flights from Bangkok, mostly from Suvarnabhumi, dried up.

Domestic flight schedules have since returned to normal, however, between six to eight direct international flights a week



Passengers queue for tickets at the One-Two-Go Airlines booth at Phuket International Airport. The budget airline recently resumed its daily Bangkok-Phuket service.

have been canceled.

Mr Wicha said that only 65 out of a scheduled 665 flights originating from abroad landed at PIA during the 10-day period.

These included direct international flights as well as scheduled and charter flights continuing on to Phuket from Suvarna-bhumi.

The number of passengers arriving on these flights was generally low, he added.

To restore the airport's image, Mr Wicha hopes to work with both the public and private sector and continue with scheduled expansion plans that will al-

low the airport to handle record numbers of passengers in the future.

To this end, management at the airport is planning a big event to welcome the six millionth person to arrive at the airport this year. The lucky passenger is expected around Christmas.





Phuket business community pleads for stability

PHUKET: With it still unclear whether the Democrat Party or the Pheu Thai Party will form the next government, top figures in the Phuket tourism and real estate sectors say a return to stability is the key to restoring the local economy.

Tanan Tanphaibul, President of Phuket Real Estate Club, said the Phuket business community was calling for a government that can restore economic and political stability. Businesses said the real estate and tourism sectors on the island had suffered from the double impact of a declining economy and the cancellation of visits, particularly by foreign tourists.

Falling visitor numbers following the turbulent economic and political situation, coupled with the recent seizure of Suvarnabhumi Airport, had adversely impacted the island's tourism industry and had in turn affected the local real-estate business. Unlike other provinces, the real estate business in Phuket relies heavily on the tourism sector, he said.

The new government must be able to restore investor confidence and tackle the ongoing political conflict, he added.

Bhuritt Maswongsa, Vice President of the Phuket Tourist Association, said the number of tourists visiting the island had dropped by 50% due to the political turmoil and the recent airport seizures. Many tourists have canceled bookings due to concerns about their security, he said.

Regarding the formation of a new government, Mr Bhuritt said he needed to see stability, which could restore confidence among tourists and investors as well as Thais, and bring unity to the country. The association's members had discussed the measures they would propose to the government to solve the problems facing the island, including a request for soft loans to improve Phuket's economy and a project for restoring Phuket's tourism image.

Phuket PAD is 'taking a break' PHUKET CITY: With the People's Alliance for Democracy PAD Note: "Small and "s

40 Phuket PAD members attending two funerals in the South.

PHUKET CITY: With the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD)'s "final battle" now over and some signs of political normality returning to the capital, members of the local PAD chapter are taking a break from protest activities and say they will give the next government a chance to work for the good of the people.

Phuket PAD spokesman Natjarong Ekpermsup told the *Gazette* that some 30 Phuket PAD members got together for a dinner party on Sunday night December 7 "just to keep in touch," but said that, for the most part, local PAD members are now enjoying what he described as a "much needed break".

About 1,000 die-hard PAD supporters from Phuket were among those who took part in the



final 10 days of demonstrations in the capital that eventually led to the the closure of Suvarnabhumi and Don Mueang Airports, leaving at least 350,000 foreign tourists stranded inside the country.

The PAD finally called off its protest after a December 2 Constitutional Court ruling that dissolved the People Power Party of ex-Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat and two of its coalition partners for electoral fraud.

On December 8, about 40 Phuket PAD members traveled to Phattalung province to attend the funeral of fellow PAD member Kamonwan "Bow" Muennu, then continued on to neighboring Songkhla for the funeral of Ronnachai Chaisri the following day, Mr Natjarong said.

Ms Kamonwan, 26, was one of two women who died of head injuries during a grenade attack on the PAD encampment at Government House in Bangkok on September 29.

Mr Ronnachai, 29, was

killed after suffering shrapnel wounds to his stomach when an explosive device was hurled into a group of anti-government protesters at Don Mueang Airport early on December 2.

Mr Natjarong said the PAD is willing to give 30 former People Power Party MPs, led by Newin Chidehob a chance to "work for the country" by joining a Democrat Party-led coalition government to be headed by Abhisit Vejjajiva.

Virgin poll: Hilton best

LONDON: Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa has won the Gold Award for Best Hotel in Far East and Australasia 2008, awarded by the UK travel agency, Virgin Holidays. The award reflects levels of customer satisfaction reported in asurvey of more than 3,000 hotels around the world.

This year's ceremony was hosted by Virgin Holidays during the World Travel Mart in London on Sunday November 9.

Green Love at BIS



"SAY GREEN": Year12 British International School CAS students.

PHUKET: Year 12 British International School CAS students hosted a festival earlier in December to raise awareness about local and international environmental issues and solutions. Students used the opportunity to educate each other and the wider community about recycling, waste management and how to implement eco-friendly and sustainable solutions.

Environmental experts from Evason Resort and Six Senses Spa gave lectures to the students on waste management and recycling, and put on an environmental art exhibition.

The group of young eco-warriors were inspired by the Evason's methods of recycling and waste management and have sought to follow its example in maintaining an eco-friendly environment. They have implemented some changes in the school's waste management program by separating food waste in the dining hall.

The group also made two short films on food management and recycling for the school, with the intention of raising awareness among students about environmental issues affecting the world. They also made videos for the public, hoping to inspire changes in behavior and lifestyle and help make Phuket a cleaner, greener place.

RPM International Exhibition & Conference Center open

PHUKET: The RPM International Exhibition & Conference Center was officially opened by Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan at the Royal Phuket Marina on December 4.

Addressing the distinguished gathering at the opening ceremony, which included Royal Phuket Marina owner and developer Mr Gulu Lalvani and more than 50 VIP guests from Thailand and overseas, Gov Preechasaid, "Phuket is one of the world's premier tourist destinations, and I am confident that with the open-

ing of such facilities as the RPM International Exhibition and Conference Center, our island paradise has the potential to become a leading international venue for conventions, expos and large scale private events."

Mr Lalvani reinforced the governor's comments, adding that, "The launch of the waterfront RPM International Exhibition & Conference Center is an important milestone for Royal Phuket Marina as we continue to contribute to the social and economic fabric of the Phuket community."





Phuket car dealers feel the pinch



Sales were a little slower at this year's Andaman Motor Show, which featured six car dealers promoting 15 new models.

By Atchaa Khamlo

PHUKET CITY: Car dealerships at the Andaman Motor Show 2008 at Central Festival Phuket reported reduced sales this year, with almost all citing the current economic crisis as the cause. The show, which ran from December 4 to 10, featured six car dealers promoting 15 new car models.

Wiriyapol Laising, a senior executive at Proton dealership Lifestyle Auto, foresaw about a 50% reduction in sales compared with previous years, telling the *Gazette*, "We have three types of Proton on display at the fair: the Savvy, Neo and Persona. Before the economic crisis we would have expected to sell around 40 Protons, but now we're predicting only about 20."

Mitsubishi has two new offerings on display at the event, the Pajero Sport and the Triton Black Edition.

Salesman Somkid Kinglek of Tiansin Motors expected to make about five sales at the show, commenting, "Sales are down by a little less than 30% due to the economic crisis, with customers being more cautious about buying cars."

Ornuma Thongkaha, a representative from Volvo dealer Haad Yai Automobile, pointed out that Phuket seems to be faring better than other areas.

"With about 10 enquiries per

day, we would expect to complete about half a dozen sales by the end of the week. Although sales have been affected by the economic crisis, it is not a dramatic as the situation in Haad Yai."

Honda reported encouraging levels of interest in the remodeled Honda City as well as the popular Civic model.

Karun Limsakun, a sales consultant at Anuphas Vividhkarn told the *Gazette*, "We are getting about 30 inquiries a day and expect to sell around 60 cars. The effects of the economic crisis are making people more careful about car purchases."

The top end of the market was represented by Lexus and BMW. Nattacha Thitithamtada, a customer services and marketing manager at Lexus Sukhumvit, told the *Gazette*, "Car sales have been affected a little by the economic crisis, with customers trying to barter down the prices, comparing the prices of different models and being particularly interested in smaller cars."

Meanwhile, Paweena Sripanthabut, a customer relations manager at BMW dealer Barcelona Auto, was in sanguine mood. "With two cars expected to sell in the car fair and about 20 people interested a day, the economic crisis isn't causing us many problems because our customers always have the means to buy BMW."

Police nab alleged extortionist thugs

PHUKET CITY: Two young men were arrested on the morning of December 8 in Tambon Rassada for beating an off-duty sailor and stealing his safety helmet and walkie-talkie. They then allegedly used the equipment to pose as government officers in a failed attempt to extort money from Burmese workers.

At a press conference the two suspects were identified as Phuket natives Chalermporn Naweekorn and Chanon Sirinararat, both 22.

The media were told that Jatophongsatorn Netimongkol, a Royal Thai Navy sailor, arrived at Phuket City Police Station at around 5 am that morning to report that he had been beaten and robbed by two men.

Mr Jatophongsatorn told two men identified themselves as

police he had left work at a local beer hall and was dropped off near his home at the government housing complex for Navy personnel at Saphan Hin.

As he was walking the rest of the way, two men came quickly over the bridge on a motorcycle and parked in front of him. The pair then attacked him, stomping on him and punching him in the head and torso. One of the men then held a knife to his neck and grabbed his safety helmet and official radio, before the pair fled.

Police claim that the two men then drove to a work site run by RTH Construction Co Ltd in Rassada and approached Ms Ornuma Detpakdee, owner of the camp's general shop.

Ms Ornuma told police the

police officers and said they were under orders to search Burmese laborers at the camp.

Surprised at this, she called Phuket City Police and when the officers arrived, the two men fled into the jungle but were apprehended.

On questioning, the two men confessed to attacking Mr Jatophongsatorn "because they were drunk".

After fleeing the scene, their motorcycle ran out of gas so they entered the camp with the intention of asking for money to buy more fuel.

They denied impersonating police officers or attempting to extort money.

At the time of going to press the exact charges filed against the pair had not been announced.

Argument ends in wife fatally stabbing husband

PHUKET CITY: A man stabbed in the shoulder by his wife went into shock and died while receiving hospital treatment early Sunday morning.

Phuket City Police Duty Inspector Sarit Butnongsang told the *Gazette* he received the stabbing report from Mor Term Medical Clinic Branch 2, a traditional Thai medicine clinic located on Surin Rd.

In front of the clinic, police found 30-year-old Mrs Nattapim Prajantaboot, covered with bloodstains and in a state of shock.

Relatives had already taken 33-year-old husband Thawatchai Gun Takuapa, to Wachira Hospital for treatment for a stab wound to his left shoulder. At the hospital Mr Thawatchai was conscious and talking to doctors when he suddenly went into shock and died, Lt Col Sarit said.

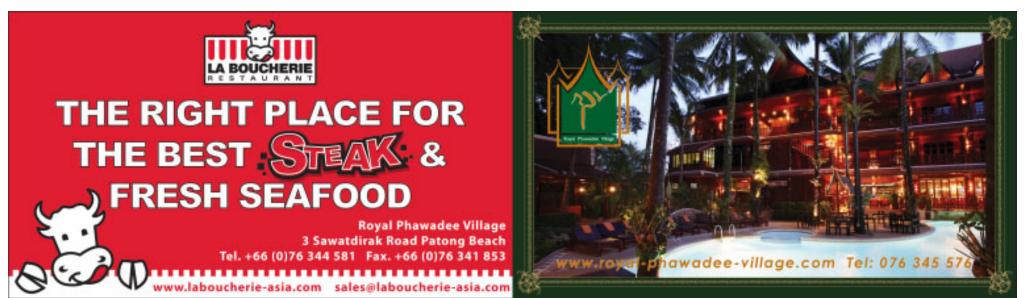
At the clinic, investigators found signs of a violent struggle and the kitchen knife used by Mrs Nattapim to stab her husband. A neighbor told police she heard a loud argument in the clinic beforehand. Mrs Nattapim told police she stabbed her husband in self-

defense when he began to assault her, then immediately called an ambulance for him.

A granddaughter of the doctor who established the clinic, Mrs Nattapim told police that she and Mr Thawatchai had three children together and that he often returned home drunk and assaulted her. She had already filed several reports chronicling the abuse, she added.

Police have not ruled out the possibility that a pre-existing medical condition or other causes may have contributed to Mr Thawatchai's sudden death.





Final report on the Coral Reef Squadron

ollowing the sinking of the fourth and final Douglas C-47 Dakota Skytrain military transport aircraft off Bang Tao Bay on November 29, there was a large ceremony at Layan Beach to celebrate Phuket's newest tourist attraction: the Coral Reef Squadron.

Within days cuttlefish began laying eggs beneath the 10 aircraft and schools of small barracuda and many other fish have already been spotted in and around the aircraft.

Rainer Gottwald, President of the Thai Dive Association (TDA)'s technical committee that oversaw the sinking of the aircraft, said that despite a slow start and difficult conditions, the first three Dakotas and all six Sikorsky S-58 helicopters were safely in place by nightfall on November 28.

Work started tentatively earlier in the week, when one of the concrete support blocks on the first Dakota broke on the way down, leaving the aircraft with one wing on the seabed and the other up at an angle.

Mr Gottwald said he was worried about it at first, but in the end thought the first Dakota looked "the most authentic of all",

ollowing the sinking of the as though it had "come in for an fourth and final Douglas" emergency landing".

The pace of the work picked up noticeably after an inspection dive on November 27 by Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan, a novice diver who ordered workers to move faster so all nine aircraft would be down in time for the grand opening.

The following day workers aboard a huge barge managed to lower two helicopters in the morning, followed by the third Dakota in the early afternoon and the final two helicopters by nightfall. That left only the fourth Dakota to be sunk on the final day as part of the opening ceremony.

The sinking of the final plane was also the most technically challenging because both of its wingtips were still intact, creating a greater displacement problem when the plane hit the water than the other Dakotas, the wingtips of which had been removed or lost over the years.

Even without wingtips, the first three Dakotas had to have workers pound 10-centimeter holes into the the wings to allow them to fill with water and finally submerge, Rainer explained.

"With the wings intact they displace 20,000 tons of water. The



The TDA's Rainer Gottwald (left) and Jens Hofacker (right) give the thumbs up signal from inside one of the Dakotas.

Dakotas are designed to float on the sea for up to three hours. The four one-ton concrete blocks chained beneath the Dakotas actually weighed less than the combined weight of the engine, hydraulics and other components that were removed, so they were even lighter and more buoyant than a fully intact Dakota," he said.

Working with the strippeddown Sikorskys was much easier, he said.

Asked about conditions during the week when the planes were being sunk, Mr Gottwald said, "The weather was not that

good. There were underwater currents and the water quality was very low and there was a lot of rain. In Bang Tao, there is a lot of hillside building going on and the natural drainage systems have been damaged, so if it is raining a lot of sediment is washed out into the bay. After a storm you can see brown mud stretching over 500 metres of the beach," he said.

Even small sediment inputs from land are bad for offshore coral ecosystems, he added.

THE FUTURE

Asked about future reef projects, Mr Gottwald said the Coral Reef Squadron would be the TDA's last project with the For Sea Foundation. The two organizations had disagreements regarding project funding and safety issues at the work site, where the For Sea Foundation brought in a Japanese team of videographers to make a documentary about the project.

The TDA's next artificial reef project might be in Khao Lak, where TDA divers have already done some preliminary offshore survey work. The Khao Lak Hotel General Managers Club has expressed interest in providing funding, once they know how much it might cost, he said.

In addition, the TDA has already been offered 1 million baht in support from the Kenan Institute via UNESCO/ Asia Pacific to create another artificial reef near the Similans, he revealed.

Even larger projects are also being discussed. Mr Gottwald said Gov Preecha is well aware of the problems facing marine ecosystems in the region and is planning to work with the TDA to create the world's largest artificial reef to recover coral, support tourism and help replenish dwindling fish stocks for commercial fishing, he said.

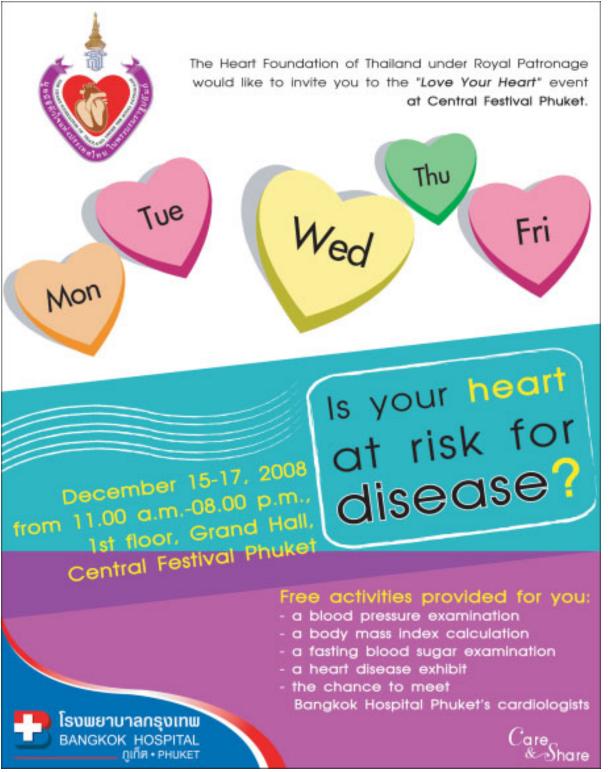
With the Coral Reef Squadron now in place and its first residents taking up accommodation, monitoring of the site falls to the TDA's Scientific Committee.

Reef specialist Niphon Pongsuwan of the Phuket Marine Biological Center and other TDA volunteers will monitor the wrecks to note their colonization by fish and other marine species. In addition, they will keep a close eye on the rate of surface erosion to try and estimate how long the planes will last. They will also check to ensure that the wrecks remain in place and don't migrate inshore or further out to sea under the heavy currents that flow through the area, especially during monsoon season.

Now that the Coral Reef Squadron is in place, the TDA will consult with Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization about the possibility of charging divers a small fee to access the dive site.

One system under consideration is collectible "souvenir chips". A similar system has been used successfully in Curaçao, in the Dutch Antilles, Mr Gottwald said

In the meantime, the site is accessible at no charge to any-





Final touch for Big Buddha's little finger

he final tiles of white jade were placed on the little finger of Phuket's Praputthamingmongkol Eaknakakeeree, "Big Buddha", during a merit-making ceremony that coincided with His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 81st birthday on Friday December 5.

Crowds flocked to the ceremony, which began at 4 am with 300 monks offering morning prayers and accepting alms from the laity. At around 5.30pm, the monks participated in a blessing ceremony to drive away bad spirits and usher in good fortune. Many local people, dressed in white, joined the event to offer prayers at the solemn Bramen ceremony. The monks, who had come from all over Thailand, were on a pilgrimage to Nak Kerd temple for 10 days, from December 1 to 10.

Suporn Vanitchakul, president of the Mingmongkol Faith 45 committee, which raises funds for the project, told the *Gazette* that the image is not yet complete and that eyes will be placed on the image in a ceremony planned for next year.

Work on the Buddha image began more than six years ago and the first of the jade tiles were applied about 18 months ago. The jade sheets were imported from Myanmar, each measuring 15 by 15 centimeters and 2cm thick. Epoxy glue was used on the body of the image to give a strong bond.

"It is very difficult work with, because the sheets of jade are like glass, and a strong adhesive is needed," said Mr Suporn.

Inside the image will be a 436-square-meter museum to display Buddhist exhibitions. Eventually, a meditation park and a grass area for candle-lit processions will surround the Buddha image.

"It is amazing to see the work that has been done with help from so many people, including monetary donations and help from experts in the field of construction. Prasit Lubliam joined the team as our Buddha image





expert, while Burapa Rodari is our resident expert on all the stone decoration," Mr Suporn added.

"We have had donations from all over the world, even from people who are not Buddhists. Some Muslims from Turkey were unable to donate money, but gave us their flags to decorate the image with," he said.

"We now have tourists visiting every day, including big

groups from hotels and resorts around the island. The tourists are impressed by the work and they have been donating money.

"We have about 400 to 500 visitors each day on weekends," he said.

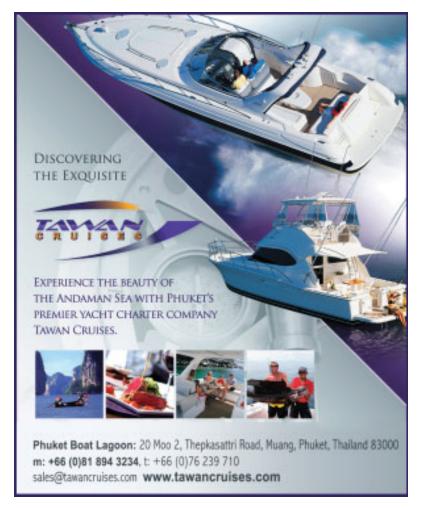
The Big Buddha image, which sits 400 meters above sea level, is in the *pang marnvichai* meditation posture. It measures 45 meters tall and 25 meters wide at the base.

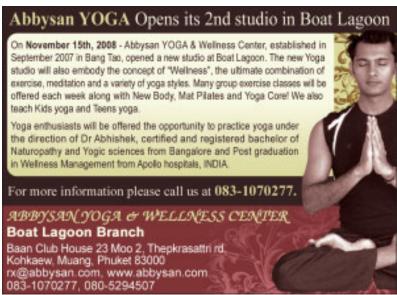




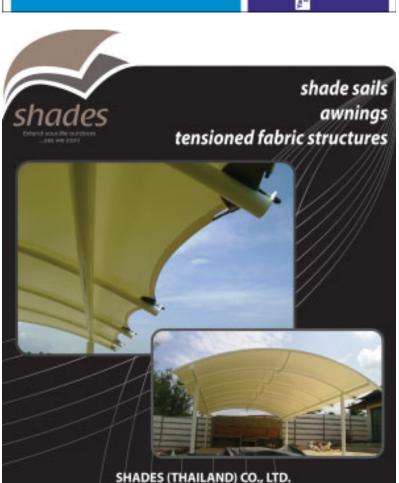












Boat Lagoon Marina, Phuket

Queer News

A fish in the hand is better than two in the pond

ROI-ET: As the old proverb goes, he couldn't hold it with just one he cut up the perch, taking it out "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush". As a young soldier in Isarn recently found out, the same holds true for fish in ponds.

Late last month, Royal Thai Army Private Benchaphon Dangwibul told a reporter in a rather hoarse voice that on November 24 he was on a 10-day furlough from his base in Nakhon Pathom to help his family bring in the rice harvest.

That afternoon he felt like having fish for dinner, so he called to his parents that he was off to a nearby pond to go and catch some – by hand.

After scrabbling about the bottom of the pond for a while, he soon managed to grab a pla mor, or climbing perch. The fish was about four inches long and one inch thick, he said.

He held it tightly in his left hand while he continued to hunt for more fish with his right. He soon found a pla chon, or snakehead fish,

hand.

To free up both hands, he quickly put the perch in his mouth, holding its head firmly between his teeth, while he got to grips with the feisty snakehead.

The perch, however, did not appreciate being clamped in Pte Benchaphon's jaw and started to struggle violently. Eventually it slipped through his teeth and began to slide straight down his throat, where its sharp fins dug into the flesh, wedging it firmly in place and very nearly choking him. Pte Benchaphon waved frantically to his parents, who rushed him to Roi-Et Thonburi Hospital.

Dr Somkiat Wichethaphong, who treated the poor private, said that when the patient was brought in he was writhing with pain. Fortunately, he could still see the fish's tail sticking out, so it hadn't gone in too far. Dr Somkiat said that he used forceps to hold Pte but the fish put up a good fight and Benchaphon's throat open while

bit-by-bit. It took him and his team of nurses more than an hour to get all of the fish out.

Pte Benchaphon was very lucky to have survived, the doctor said. If he hadn't gotten to hospital so quickly he could have died. The patient is now recovering well and has been given permission to go home, Dr Somkiat said.

Thongin Dangwibul, Pte Benchaphon's father, said that he had heard many stories of people dying after getting fish stuck in their throats, but had never thought it could happen to anyone in his family.

It was very lucky that he saw what had happened straight away and that he lived close to a hospital, otherwise his son may have died, he added.

The incident should serve as a lesson to people not to use their mouths to hold fish as they may not be as lucky as his son, Mr Thogin said.

- Source: KomChadLuek

Phuket to host International Dance Festival



PHUKET: Performance artists from 15 nations are set to take to the stage at Jungceylon and Sapan Hin from March 18 to 21 as part of the 9th International Dance Festival.

More than 600 amateur and professional dancers, performance artists and visual artists festival, which will include a

Young Talent Stage to give young artists the chance to show off their skills to the public.

The festival will begin in Bangkok on March 14 before making its way to Phuket for four days before moving on to Chiang Mai until March 25.

Festival activities in Phuket for the general public, workshops, www.friends-of-the-arts.info

street acts, school performances, art markets and exhibitions.

The festival began in 1982 as International Dance Day with support from UNESCO and has since grown into a multi-cultural exchange between Thailand and other nations.

For more information email are expected to participate in the will include free performances info@friends-of-the-arts.info.



Poll: New PM should be truly loyal to the King

BANGKOK: The latest Assumption Business Administration College Poll conducted among teenagers revealed that almost 100% of them insist the next prime minister must be truly loyal to HM the King. More than 97% of Thai teenagers surveyed want to have a new prime minister to be responsible and decisive. Moreover, he "must be patient and politically moral," the survey found.

Aids activists want to end mandatory HIV testing

BANGKOK: Members of activist network Aids Access Foundation have called on government and private organizations to stop compulsory HIV testing for job applicants and employees.

"We found that some state government agencies and private companies still conduct compulsory HIV testing for applicants and employees. It is violating the principal of human rights and world campaigns encouraging people to have HIV testing on a voluntary basis," said network Director Nimitr Tien-udom.

The statement was issued for World Aids Day, held on December 1 each year to raise awareness of the Aids pandemic caused by the spread of HIV.

Mr Nimitr said that according to foundation records, three state agencies and two private companies still conduct compulsory HIV testing.

"The main reason they [state agencies and private companies] conduct compulsory HIV testing is because they think HIV positive people behave badly and can be a burden and a danger to their office colleagues," he said.

In fact anyone can get HIV infection if they do not protect themselves by using condoms during sexual intercourse added Mr Nimitr. Additionally, people living with HIV can access life-saving drugs and work as well as anyone else, he said. Prevention and access to treatment are more important than testing, he added.

Fashion contacts face regulation

BANGKOK: The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has targeted fashionable "Big-Eye" contact lenses, warning wearers they could become blind or contact Aids from them.

The so-called "Big-Eye" contact lenses, which smuggled into Thailand, are widely available on the market. The trend has been influenced by Korean movie stars, who use them to make their eyes look bigger or to change their apparent color.

A senior government ophthalmologist said those who wear Big-Eye lenses could become blind within two days if they use lenses with incorrect shapes, improper packaging or lack proper hygiene.

Dr Thapanawong Tang-uraiwan of Nang Klao Hospital in Bangkok says there's also a risk of contacting Aids if wearers swap the lenses. He called on teenagers who wanted to use them to first consult ophthalmologists.

The Food and Drugs Administration says the issue will be discussed later this month. New rules will then be issued to regulate imports and license sales of both Big Eye lenses and other non-regulated contact lenses to ensure safety standards, such as those imposed on regular contact lenses.

Thailand becoming more unsafe for women, says rights activist

CHIANG MAI: A worryingly high number of spousal abuse cases, gang rapes and other violent crimes against women are being reported in Thailand, a women's rights advocate has said.

Citing a report from the World Health Organization, Friends of Women Foundation Director Thanawadi Thachin told a recent seminar in Chiang Mai that Thailand was one of the 10 countries with the highest incidence of reported spousal abuse cases.

The seminar was held to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

This year alone, her foundation had received more than 700 complaints, 500 of which were for domestic violence.

The rest were about sexual assault and unwanted pregnancy, she said.

Ms Thanawadi said the Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act of 2007 was a boon for women because it ensured that the wrongdoers were severely punished.

However, few women file complaints against abusive husbands due to embarrassment or fear of further assault.

Ms Thanawadi also expressed concern about the emergence of videotapes showing rape, catfights among schoolgirls, teenage girls being gang raped and obscene clips taken by peeping toms.

At least four or five gangrape cases are reported every month, many of which are recorded in the South, she said.



Loans for grads

BANGKOK: The Commission on Higher Education will co-operate with the

Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Co-operatives in offering loans to help university students graduating next March.

The loans will come from the bank's fund pool, which now totals 100 billion baht.

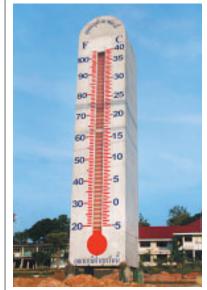
The project is available for those students who graduate but cannot find jobs, said Commission on Higher Education Secretary General Sumeth Yamnun.

Students will be eligible to take out low-interest loans and invest in any business that will generate income for them, he added.

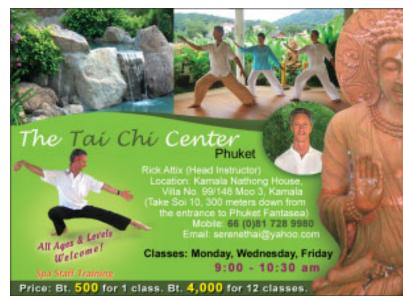
The universities must provide vocational training according to the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives' guidelines.

Graduates with their own land who want to go back to their native districts can also apply for loans under the project.

The Big Chill in Loei district



LOEI: Officials in Loei's Phu Ruea District, which borders Laos, have erected an enormous thermometer in front of the district office in an effort to remind local residents to take precautions against freezing during the current cool season.





Five killed in latest Narathiwat bombing

NARATHIWAT: Daily violence continued in Narathiwat on December 5, HM The King's Birthday, as a bomb went off in a grocery shop, killing five people and injuring many others.

Suspected insurgents lured police to the scene by beating up Wilawan Satikorakul, owner of the store in Chanae district.

Hearing of the assault, the police rushed to the area, only to learn that Wilawan was already in a nearby hospital.

As they stood talking with villagers by the grocery shop, the bomb exploded, killing five and injuring 12.

The dead were all local villagers, while 10 of the injured were police officers.

Initial police investigations found the explosive had been concealed in a plastic market basket. They believe the insurgents hid near the shop and triggered the device after seeing the police and villagers gathered at the scene.

Separatist shot dead

YALA: A suspected insurgent who formerly had a 500,000 baht reward on his head was shot dead by unknown assailants in Yala on December 5. Ahseming Chosa-i, 30, was found lying near his motorbike by the side of the Yala-Kota Bahru road in Bukekla Village 6, Tambon Budee in Muang District. He had been shot multiple times in the head and body.

Witnesses reported that at about 2 pm Mr Ahseming was parked by the side of the road, talking to two men.

Suddenly one of the men pulled out a pistol and shot him five times before both men fled the scene.

While in his early twenties, Mr Ahseming had been suspected of running protection rackets and kidnapping for ransom.

He was also suspected of involvement in the beheading of Sawai Phriklek and his nephew Metha Phriklek in Pattani's Saiburi District in June 2001.

At one point, Region 9 Police had a 500,000 baht bounty on Mr Ahseming's head.

In September 2005, Ahseming gave himself up to the Region 4 Army Commander and was charged with various crimes, but he was later released on bail.

At the time of his death, he was allegedly a member of separatist insurgent group Gerakan Mujahideen Islam Patani.





Army helps flood victims in troubled South



Over 1,000 villages like this one were inundated with floods due to torrential rains recently.

DEEP SOUTH: Fourth Army commander Pichet Wisaijorn on December 6 reported the army had extended assistance to victims of floods that ravaged 1,015 villages in Songkhla, Pattani, Narathiwat and Yala.

The army had dispatched manpower and provided tools to help the victims. They distributed food, drinking water and tents as temporary shelters, and repaired damaged bridges. They also excavated waterways for quicker drainage.

And HRH Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn's representative provided 1,000 relief bags to flood-affected residents at Wat Chontharawat in Narathiwats Rangae district.

Burning down the house

TRANG: A popular nightspot in Trang Town was severely damaged by a fire on December 3. No one was hurt in the blaze, which broke out around 9:30 am at the Maharai Pub on the road to Huay Yot Rd.

Firefighters had to pull down the back wall of the single-story building to fight the fire, which took 45 minutes to extinguish.

The pub is owned by 39-year-old Sombat Phichairat, son of the Deputy President of Trang's Provincial Administration Organization. Mr Sombat said that he had opened the pub a little more than six months ago.

The night before the incident, he locked up at 12:30 am and went home. At the time of the fire, no one was in the disco, which wasn't set to open until 7:30 pm.

Saying he had no disputes with anyone, Mr Sombat speculated that the fire was likely to have been caused by a short circuit rather than arson, though he added that he would wait for the forensics report before drawing any firm conclusions.

Credit crunch

THA SALA: A moneylender was shot dead in the local supermarket she owned in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Tha Sala District on December 4.

Witnesses reported that 38-year-old Duangridee Thepthong was serving in the shop in Tambon Sa Kaow at about 7 am when two youths entered. Pretending to be customers, they asked Mrs Duangridee for something from the shelf behind the counter.

When she turned round, one of the youths pulled out a pistol and shot at her three times, hitting her twice in the neck and

back. The youths then ran to their motorcycle, which was parked outside, and made their escape.

Relatives rushed Mrs Duangridee to Tha Sala Hospital where doctors were unable to save her.

Police said that Mrs Duangridee was one of the biggest moneylenders in Tha Sala, with millions of baht in loans on her books.

Having found no evidence of any personal disputes, investigators believe Mrs Duangridee was likely killed by one of her debtors. Police said the gunmen are probably local youths from the district who were paid to kill Mrs Duangridee.

Ciggies seized

SATUN: Customs officials in Satun seized over 7,000 cartons of smuggled cigarettes after boarding a suspect fishing boat on December 3. The captain of the vessel, who jumped overboard, has not been seen since.







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Wildlife concerns over oil spill

n oil spill off the waters of Donsak and Koh Samui has been blamed on the Seatran Ferry that takes passengers from Surat Thani to Koh Samui.

A group of concerned residents of the Donsak area asked authorities to investigate claims that oil had been dumped into the sea along the mainland coastal waters.

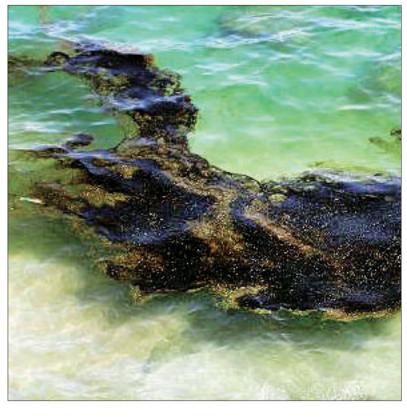
The group contacted authorities with photographs of the oil slick and voiced their fears that the pollution would endanger wild-life in the area as well as the live-lihoods of local fishermen.

Donsak District Chief Pisarn Treethanya agreed to look into the allegations and later reported that Seatran admitted to being responsible for the oil spill. However, the ferry operator said that the spill was not deliberate dumping.

The ferry operator's man-

ager, Pop Nonrayuth, stated that the oil spill was the result of a pipe bursting in one of the ferry's engine rooms. He stressed that the pollution caused by the incident was not deliberate.

Investigating officials stated that the ferry operator has been co-operating fully with the cleanup effort and that environmentally friendly products are being used to to absorb the oil. Mr Treethanya said that the full impact on wildlife from the spill was difficult to assess, but he believes that the spill was confined to a limited area and would not have a significant impact on marine life.



The operator of the Seatran Ferry (above) that takes passengers from Surat Thani to Koh Samui has admitted being responsible for causing the oil slick, which appeared off Koh Samui. The operator is reported to be co-operating fully in the cleanup operation.

FROM THE GULF OF

By Max Rogers



Government crackdown on drugs

SURAT THANI: A meeting of government officials in Surat Thani has highlighted the urgent need to reduce drug use and drug-related crime in the region.

Surat Thani Governor Pracha Taerat told attendees that the province has one of the highest rates of drug-related problems in the Kingdom and asked for complete co-operation and assistance in reducing such statistics.

In a bid to hastily abolish the problem, the governor has ordered police to aggressively tackle the issue over a threemonth period. The program includes a progressive plan to open rehabilitation centres for people caught with narcotics on the islands of Koh Samui and Phangan. Harsh penalties for drug pushers and ringleaders will also be part of the crackdown.

In order to pinpoint sources and penetrate the trade, thorough investigations would be carried out on anyone caught with illegal drugs. However, Governor Pracha did not clarify whether heavy-handed tactics, such as the shoot-to-kill orders that were put in place during the Thaksin administration, would be employed by police.

"All suspects will be given fair trials and we will not give any special treatment to foreign tourists who are caught with illegal drugs," Mr Pracha said.

Another tactic employed in the anti-drug program to reduce any inside corruption or links to drug syndicates is the implementation of background checks on all police and officials. The government's intent is to make the public fully aware of their commitment to rid the island of its longstanding, damaging reputation for drug use.

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Monsoon weather wrecks homes, crocodiles escape farm

Recent flooding in the Southern Provinces has caused chaos and millions of baht worth of damage in many parts of the region.

Koh Samui, along with two other districts in Surat Thani province, were declared flood-disaster zones after days of torrential rain caused widespread damage and major disruption to the region's infrastructure.

Several people were reported to have been trapped in floodwaters throughout the islands and mainland areas.

Rescuers in the region said that all emerged unharmed. A village in Donsak was said to have been evacuated after four-meter waves damaged housing and businesses located along the coastline.

In Kanjanadit, Surat Thani officials announced that 24 crocodiles had gone missing from a crocodile farm when the heavy rains caused the grounds of the crocodile farm to flood.

The crocodiles went missing after floodwaters in the area raised water levels about 80 centimetres, allowing the creatures to escape.

Officials claim that the animals posed no immediate threat as they are only about 50 centimetres in length, but the amphibians' owners and local resudents were apprehensive.

Deputy provincial governor Boonsong Taechamaneerat said that people had been warned to be on the lookout for the creatures and report any sightings to authorities at once.

Annual charity run raises half a million baht for cancer research

The second annual run organised by Four Seasons Resorts that took place last month on Koh Samui raised more than 500,000 baht for cancer research charities, specifically the Oncological Society of Thailand.

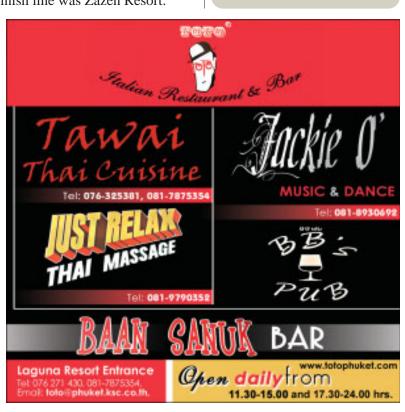
The event was open to men, women, children and group entries and began at Nathon pier. It included a seven-kilometre run and a three-kilometre walk.

Organisers were pleased with the high number of people who turned

out for the cause despite dubious weather conditions. Finalists in the race included Mr Yingsak Jaimatul for the men and Wanida Burapa for the women. Meanwhile, Apisit Chuayuppakarn was the first child to finish.

The first group to cross the finish line was Zazen Resort.





Smokey secrets to home-style hospitality

his week's guest chef is the man behind the menu at the Two Chefs Bar & Grill eateries in Kata-Karon. Billy Agren is a young man from Hudiksvall, a small town in Sweden.

The name of the town is difficult to pronounce, so let's just say it's about 300 kilometers north of Stockholm. It's the kind of place where people go looking for wild mushrooms in the forests and where salmon can be plucked from chilly rivers. It's also a place where people make smokehouses in their spare time to cure their copious catches.

The town's name translates as Happy Hudik, a term coined among travelers who visited the town during the 1800s and spread word of the place's friendly hospitality and lively social life.

Chef Billy is one half of the duo that founded the first Two Chefs restaurant in Kata in 2000. The other half is Henrik Öjelind.

Guest

There are now three Two Chefs eateries in the Kata-Karon area, the latest having opened just two

months ago in Kata Center. The soft-spoken Billy, 31, studied in his home town for three years to become a chef and then worked in his homeland's capital, followed by a stint in Copenhagen, before moving to Phuket.

As was the case in Chef Billy's home town, the Two Chefs venues in Phuket have become popular among Scandinavian travelers due to their word-of-mouth reputation for good hospitality in the way of wholesome, home-style international dishes, many of which include smoked fish or poultry.

Billy told me that their



One of Two Chefs: Billy Agren. smokehouse in Kata.

"We set up the smokehouse here because it means we can serve guests freshly smoked food rather than using pre-packed and imported ingredients," said Billy.

We use two ways of smoking food, Billy explained. "Warm smoking takes three hours and is

done at about 70°C, while cold smoking takes about 20 hours and is done at about 20°C," he said.

Billy explained that the difference in the smoking times and temperatures expresses itself in the taste. Warm-smoked meats have an oven-baked texture, while cold-smoked ones retain their raw texture.

One ingredient Chef Billy imports is wild mushrooms, which he uses to create a rich, creamy sauce for some of his steak and fish dishes.

The mushrooms are picked in the forests of his homeland and gradually air dried to preserve their flavor before they are shipped over here. Among Billy's creations is Pepper smoked

agreed to share with the Phuket Gazette's readers.

Pepper smoked Salmon with **Potato Pie and Horseradish**

Start with a 180 g slab of salmon fillet and soak it in salt water for about two hours. "Use enough salt to make an egg float," Billy

Once the fillet has been thoroughly salted, it needs to be warm smoked.

If you don't have an old fridge that you can drill holes in, and add a chimney to, in order to make a mini smoke room, then nip down to your supermarket and buy a vacuum-packed fillet off one of the refrigerated shelves.

Horse radish cream

The cream is served cold, giving it the texture of softening butter, which needs to be spread on the salmon fillet with a knife.

To make it, simply mix the ingredients by hand.

Ingredients

Sour cream - 1 cup Horse radish – 1 teaspoon A pinch of salt and pepper Juice of ½ yellow lemon 1 teaspoon of chopped dill



Potato Pie (served hot)

Prepare a basic pie dough and pre-bake it for about 20 minutes at 200 °C – just enough to give it a crispy crust. You then fill it with the ingredients before baking the pie for another 30 minutes at 200 °C.

Mix everything together by hand, except the sour cream and eggs, which are mixed separately and poured over the potato mix. The filling is topped off with Cheddar and Parmesan cheeses, which melt as the pie is baked a second time.

Pie Filling Ingredients

2-3 boiled potatoes (diced) A handful of sun-dried tomatoes (chopped) 1 teaspoon of fresh basil (chopped) Dill leaves (chopped) Spring onion (chopped) – a handful Salt and pepper – a pinch each Sour cream -1 cup +2 eggs (mix separately) Cheddar and Parmesan cheese (grated)





Triumph over adversity at the 2008 King's Cup

underway with participants and organizers alike determined that the disruptions in Bangkok would not dampen their enthusiasm for this prestigious annual event.

The vast majority of competitors who did manage to make the journey to Phuket were rewarded with some perfect weather condi-

Kevin Whitcraft, president of the 2008 Regatta commented, "Events in Bangkok haven't affected us that much, which is partly due to the resourcefulness of sailors. I think that sailors can be pretty resilient when it comes to solving

"People have been getting the bus down from Bangkok and a lot of people sailed here. What is happening at the airports just doesn't reflect what is going on in the rest of Thailand. It doesn't even reflect what is going on in the rest of Bangkok," he said.

These sentiments were echoed by King's Cup veteran and 2007 Racing Class champion Frank Pong, "People are being evacuated out of Bangkok and here we are in lovely sunny Phuket and the flights aren't even full. I think there's been a bit of an overreaction,"he said

One shining example of triumph in the face of adversity could be found on Dondang

The day before the Regatta was due to start, skipper Christopher Edwards was desperately seeking crew but was in determined mood. He said "One member of my crew has been stuck in Dubai for four days. We are hoping he will arrive before the end of the Regatta but who knows? He is an important crew member and without a full crew we are severely handicapped but we can sail the boat without him, even if there's only three of us."

In the end, with its depleted

he 2008 King's Cup got crew replenished with a couple of late replacements, Dondang Sarang not only completed the Regatta, but won the Classic class. Christopher Edwards said, "I've won the King's Cup seven times but this was particularly rewarding because it was on a boat which was considered to be uncompetitive with an inexperienced crew. I had an old friend come up from Sydney, who was able to sail in the last couple of races and a Canadian who approached me at one of the parties and turned out to be an extremely competent sailor.

"We really didn't think we had any chance of winning at all and on the first day we were just happy to be participating. Normally, I have a team that I have sailed with in a number of Regattas but this year we just had to form a team as we went along. As the Regatta went on, the crew got to know the boat and they got to know one another. Sailing isn't just about the skipper, it's about team work and camaraderie," he

Flying the flag for Thailand was Radap Kanjanavanit, who won the Multihull class on Cedar Swan. Radap has been sailing since the age of four, and as a teenager had the privilege of sailing with His Majesty The King.

For him, winning was particularly special. "It's an honor to represent Thailand. I feel proud and I hope that in the future there will be more Thai participants, whether from the private sector, the government or the navy.'

Radap was not Thailand's only representative, with the Thai navy taking both first and second places in the IRC 2 class. However, what made Radap's achievement all the more remarkable was that his boat Cedar Swan, built by his late father, yachting legend Dr Rachot Kanjanavanit, was by far the oldest in the multihull fleet.

"Even though she's an old



Flying the flag for Thailand was Radap Kanjanavanit who won the Multihull class on Cedar Swan.

boat she is always in good shape. She has proved she can compete against brand new boats and new technology and I am proud of her. We don't play around or use the boat for cruising; it's only for racing. If you take good care of a boat then the boat will stay in good shape and give you long-lasting service," Radap said.

While there were participants from across the globe competing in the King's Cup there was also a sizeable contingent from Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC).

These are exciting times for Phuket's biggest yacht club, scheduled to move to new premises early in the new year, and there was a strong ACYC presence in the Regatta.

ACYC representative and Phuket resident Scott Duncanson won the Sports Boat class on Raimon Land The Heights, or Somtam Express as it is known

Scott, a former ACYC Commodore, was proud to show that Phuket-based sailors could hold their own against international competition.

He said, "We won our class and Peter Dyer also won the Firefly class so it was a good showing from ACYC."

It is worth remembering that the King's Cup is not just for accomplished veteran sailors.

Perhaps the most unlikely crew participating in this year's Regatta was that of the 700 Yachtclub Pagatoon.

Hailing from South Korea, not only had they never raced in a King's Cup, they had never raced together and their racing experience varied from little to

Far from dreaming of the podium, the crew of the 700 Yachtclub Pagatoon would have settled for a respectable finish.

Under the guidance of veteran skipper Chris Jongerius they managed this, finishing seventh in the Firefly class.

Harold Shim is the founder of the 100 Yacht Club in South Korea and the brains behind the operation.

"We learned a lot about how a successful Regatta is run and will share our newly acquired knowledge and experience with the Regatta organizers in Korea.

"The winds were just perfect for the races, especially for the Firefly 850 class and we were also very impressed with the development of Phuket as a yachting destination resort in Asia.

"It was also heartwarming to see an entire nation of people paying so much respect to their King, and we were proud to have participated in a Regatta that bore the King's royal patronage."

From veteran sailors to virtual beginners, people flocked from all corners of the globe to the 22nd annual King's Cup Re-

Despite the adverse travel conditions almost 100 boats and around 750 crew members made their way to Phuket to enjoy what remains one of the highlights on the Asian yachting calendar.



Governor gets around









ince taking up his post as Phuket governor just over one month ago, Preecha Ruangjan has been seen all over Phuket, taking a hands-on approach to familiarising himself with the island and its inhabitants at a variety of events.

He recently inspected poultry farms and tried his hand at disinfecting the area as a preventative measure against the possibility of a bird flu outbreak in the region. There are reportedly no cases of bird flu in Phuket at this

Mr Preecha also donned farming garb and mucked in with representatives from Phuket Tourist Police volunteers during a morning of activities to promote agro-tourism at a rice mill in Mai Khao on December 4. The governor waded knee-deep into the paddy fields, helping with the rice









harvest and participating in a catfish-catching competition along with a number of local farmers.

Later the same day, Mr Preecha changed into a shirt and jacket to rub shoulders with the island's elite, as he officially opened the 6th Phuket International Marine Expo (PIMEX) at Royal Phuket Marina.

In November, Mr Preecha also found himself in deep water when he was escorted on a scuba dive to be one of the first to see the first plane that had been lowered onto the seabed as part of the Coral Reef Squadron.

Earlier that month, Mr Preecha launched "Meet the Governor" morning assembly sessions in local schools, giving students and teachers a forum to voice their concerns. The governor will be visiting schools on a weekly basis and is booked out until September next year.









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Millennium Resort Patong truly hopes that you will be able to spread some Christmas spirit by helping us raise much needed funds to help the 'New Life Foundation children's orphanage in Phuket.

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This special self funded shelter takes care of children who through various circumstances have been left abandoned. This Christmas we are launching our year round support programme which has been created to bring some happiness into the lives of these unfortunate children not only in 2009 but also throughout the years ahead as well as giving career opportunities to them in the future.

Thank you for your kindness and support in helping them towards a brighter future!



This week



EXHIBITIONISTS: In a ceremony attended by Royal Phuket Marina owner and developer Mr Gulu Lalvani and more than 50 VIP guests from Thailand and overseas, Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan officially opened the island's first dedicated exhibition and conference center in Thailand's exclusive luxury yachting community. The new facility will be known as RPM International Exhibition & Conference Center.



FEVER PITCH: Patcharee Rittipan, assistant sales director of the Royal Phuket City Hotel, offers a welcome bouquet to Peter Reid, the English manager of the Thai national football team. The Thai team was in Phuket to play Vietnam in their opening Group B match of the AFF Suzuki Cup. In the match, played at Surakul stadium, Thailand beat Vietnam 2-0.



HIGHER LEARNING: Teachers accompanied science and mathematics students from Thalang School to visit the exhibition titled "Earth From Above" by the French aerial photographer, Yann Arthus Bertrand, on the first floor of Central Festival on November 29.



MAKING A SPLASH: It was music under the stars as Ricky Zen's Flamingo Splash Lounge geared up for the high season at Kata Beach with live music, Flamingo girls and its signature pool. Vocally versatile Ricky brings his own brand of Las Vegas showbiz to the Kata Beach entertainment scene.



A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND: The Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa was the venue of Phuket's biggest annual charity fundraiser, the Phuket International Woman's Club Gala Ball 2008. The Grand Ball Room had been lavishly decorated in keeping with the theme of "Diamonds are forever". The event raised around 800,000 baht for charity.



CHRISTMAS CARE: Millennium Resort Patong Phuket celebrated the official lighting up of the Christmas trees and festive decorations at its Lakeside Wing lobby. There, the resort announced its official caring campaign in support of Sussex House. Sussex House was established with financial help from Sussex School children, the West Sussex County Council and the Sussex Police in England in response to the Tsunami disaster of 2004.



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Firing for fun in Jungceylon







There are 30 pistols and 70 rifles to choose from, as well as 19 fixed targets and 24 moving targets, which are animated clay pigeon simulations.

esidents of Patong now have a safe outlet for those itchy trigger fingers with the recent opening of a new laser shooting gallery, Mega Force Gun Simulator, at the Jungceylon shopping mall. Phuket Governor Preecha Ruangjan and Phuket Provincial Administration Organization President Paiboon Upatising have already tried their hands and shooting some of the guns, which are real guns that have been adapted to fire lasers instead of live rounds. The 20-million-baht shooting range, owned by All Technology Co Ltd of Bangkok, The fiberglass weapons were imported under license from China

and Taiwan, and would otherwise have been put to military use.

There are 30 pistols and 70 rifles to choose from, as well as 19 fixed targets and 24 moving targets, which are animated clay pigeon simulations. The range features monitors offering closeup views of the targets, allowing players to see just how accurate their shooting has been.

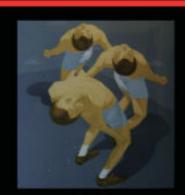
The company says the experience is very different from that offered by arcade machines and far more akin to real-life shooting practice.

Company owner Sakda Sriwiriyapainoon told the *Gazette* he is currently in negotiation with companies from Singapore and Spain to open franchises in those countries. He also plans to offer shooting training for sportsmen and marksmanship students, or anyone else interested in learning to shoot. The training will be run in partnership with Krabi Physical Education College, who will provide teachers for the project.

Beautiful Objects Make You Smile.



Tibet Gilt Bronze Sitting Buddha, Late 19th Century



Guo Wei Dancing Boys



Lady with Lotus Lacquer painting on board



Bui Huu Hung Mandarin's wife



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PIMEX International Boat Show









The King's Cup







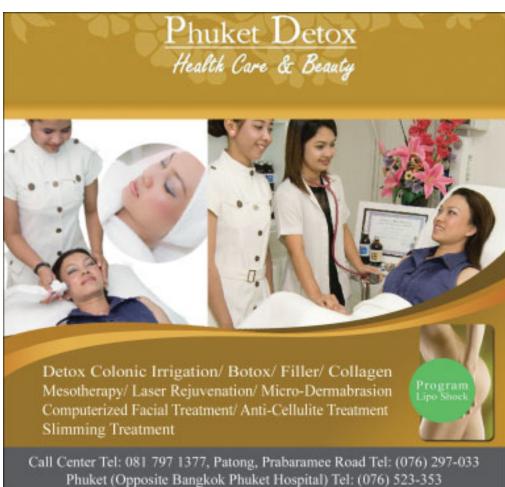












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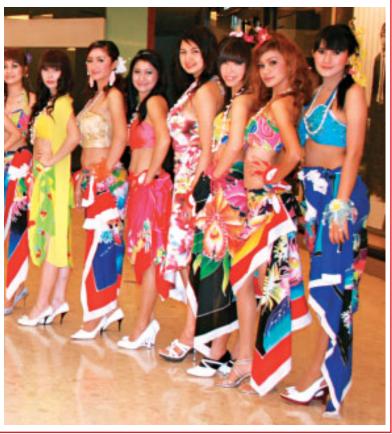




Motor show gets racy

The Sixth Andaman Motor Show at Central Festival from December 4-11 drew car buyers and admirers from around the island. The "pretties" draped over the latest models were also competing for the title of Miss Motorshow 2008.











All aboard the Chevy Cruze

he all-new Chevrolet Cruze, which made its world premiere at the Paris Motor Show, raises the bar for exciting design and build-quality in the world's compact car segment.

With its mid-range price tag, the Cruze replaces the Nubira (Lacetti in some markets) and, for Asian markets, is built, like its predecessor, in South Korea, Europe and the USA.

The Cruze is a four-door sedan that adds a new dimension to traditional three-box sedan design. With its signature grille, concave shoulder line and dual-cockpit interior design theme, it features Chevrolet's new global design language that is becoming a signature on all new products carrying the gold bow tie.

The Cruze is the result of a development process, harnessing GM's global resources, which focused on setting new design and quality benchmarks for value products in the compact car market.

"Our goal was to be revolutionary, not evolutionary," says chief designer Taewan Kim. "We wanted to take a big step forward,



The Cruze four-door sedan features Chevrolet's new global design language that is becoming a signature on all new products carrying the gold bow tie.

making a completely new design statement for Chevrolet products around the world."

On sale in Europe from next spring, the Cruze is the first of Chevrolet's new wave of truly in the area of styling and design.
Initially, three engines will be offered: 1.6-liter, 110 bhp and 1.8-liter, 138 bhp gasoline mod-

global products. Its four-door

coupé-like profile raises the bar

els, and a two-liter, 148 bhp common-rail diesel version.

Both gasoline engines will feature variable valve timing on both inlet and exhaust camshafts,

giving greater power and lower

emissions.

Chevrolet finished strongly in the World Touring Car Championship, winning both end-of-season races in Macau back in mid-November.

Swiss driver Alain Menu claimed an emphatic victory in the penultimate round, while Britain's Rob Huff triumphed in the final race. In 2009, the pair, along with team-mate Nicola Larini, will race the new Chevrolet Cruze.

With the launch of the Cruze

as a 'global car' in 2009, the WTCC is considered to be the perfect platform for Chevrolet to put its new model in the public eye. The racing sedan will be powered by a two-liter gasoline engine, mated to a six-speed sequential gearbox.

The team's drivers are confident that, given sufficient development, the Cruze can match the form of the Lacettis. Said Rob Huff after initial testing: "The Cruze is a great car and feels fast straight out of the box.

We are obviously still at the very early stages of development but already I can feel how much better it handles and what an advantage the car's wider track will bring in a race environment."

The cars will be prepared for Chevrolet once again by RML Motorsport.

The Northamptonshirebased company has a history of

motorsport involvement with Chevrolet's parent company, General Motors, and has managed Chevrolet's WTCC involvement since 2005.

Run by Richard Mallock, the firm has also entered contenders for the Le Mans 24-Hours for Aston Martin. While its parent, GM, is under pressure from the US Congress and the American media, Chevrolet will undoubtedly survive, albeit, perhaps hived off as a separate entity.

The new Cruze further strengthens Chevrolet's global portfolio and heralds a new era for the marque, which is set to make further gains over the coming months with the introduction of more new models, including a new version of the iconic Camaro.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netvigator.com





December 13 - 19, 2008 PHUKET GAZETTE



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am pan

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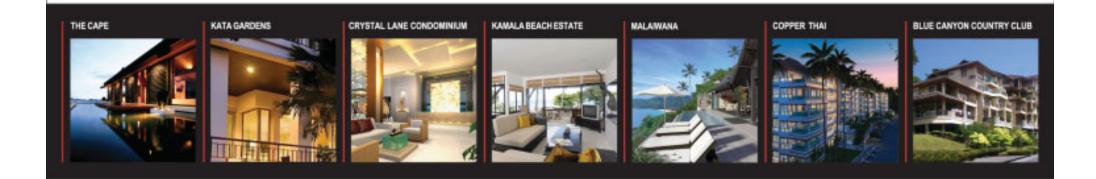
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Price 2,500

per person nett*

PHUKET GAZETTE December 13 - 19, 2008

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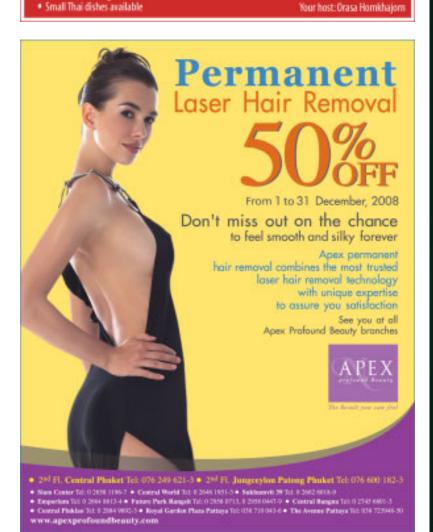
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EVENTS CALENDAR

December 13-14. Christmas Market at the Royal Phuket

A Christmas market will be held from 4.30pm to 8pm on the weekends of December 13/14 and 20/21 at the Royal Phuket Marina (RPM) Town Square. Local and expat residents of Phuket are invited to come along and sell their home-made Christmas cakes, cookies, plum puddings, Christmas baubles, candles, jewelery, etc. Booking fee is 300 baht per evening, payable in advance at Skippers Bar at RPM.

Buskers, Capella singers, Christmas choirs and artists are invited to come and some festive cheer. For more information contact Crystal Riedemann. Tel: 076-360890. Email: crystal@skippersphuket.com. Web: www.skippersphuket.com.

December 14. PC Group Therapy - Laguna.

Is your internet connection driving you nuts? Ready to throw your PC out the window? Need advice on where to buy a computer, or get one repaired?

Join "For Dummies" author Woody Leonhard for his weekly PC Group Therapy sessions. They're absolutely free. Novices most welcome - no experience necessary. Bring your questions, bring your computer, bring your mother-in-law and your worry beads and let's see if we can sort things out. From 10am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Laguna. For directions, see the web site below. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes. For more information contact Woody Leonard. Tel: 089-1960940. Email: woody@khunwoody.com. Web:www.KhunWoody.com.

December 15-20. Phuket Carnival.

This year's Phuket Carnival will take place between December 15 and 20 at Patong Beach. Activities will take place between 9 am and 12 am. This year's carnival is organized and funded by Patong Municipality. There will be One Tambon One Product

(OTOP) sales, arts and culture displays, spa and massage services, and food and beverage services. The entertainment will showcase traditional Thai culture from various regions around the country. Highlights of the carnival will include fireworks on Dec 15, beach clean-up and longtail boat competition off Loma Park at 9am on Dec 16, "Adventure Competition" at Loma Park at 9am on Dec 17 and a "Fancy Parade" along Beach Road at 5pm on Dec 20. For more information contact Thaweepol Promkaew. Tel: 081-677 0121. Email: iamsill@hotmail.com. Web: www.patongcityphuket.org

December 17. Earth Hour Picnic. Save energy for just one hour.

The Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation, along with resorts on Mai Khao Beach and the local community, invite you to join our Earth Hour Picnic to reduce energy for one hour. To join the picnic at JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa or Anantara Phuket, contact the hotels on the numbers listed below one week before the event. To join the local picnic taking place from 5.30pm to 7.00pm between Soi 7 and Soi 8, bring along your own basket and participate in a picnic for a good cause. For more information, contact Michelle. Tel: 081-893 6001. Email: info@maikhaoturtlefound ation.com. Web: www.jwmarriott phuket.com/maikhaoturtle foun-

December 20. "The Night" Christmas House Party.

"The Night," organized by the All Seasons Naiharn Phuket resort, is a live disco featuring DJ Miss Caro from Paris mixing deep and sexy house music, with Oye on percussion and Fluo body painting. The party starts at 8pm and goes till late. Free buffet. No entrance fee. Standard drinks 90 baht. For further information, contact Pim or Chart. Tel: 076-289327. Email: hrm@allseasonsnaiharn-phuket.com.

Upcoming events on the island



Opening Ceremony of the Miracles of Ganesha Collection

by Veerachan Usahanun

From 6.30 pm to 9 pm December 18 at The Miracles of Ganesha Gallery and Studio in Bang Tao Beach, Phuket.

Supported by the Tourism Authority of Thailand and helping to fund Friends of the Asian Elephant Foundation.

Presided over by Governor Preecha Reaungjan, the ceremony will feature a Brahmin blessing, dance and modern fusion Indian music from local musicians.

For more information call 081-4904359.

December 20. M Cuervo Solo

Enjoy Jose Cuervo 100% Blue Agave Tequila at the O2 Lounge, Mercure Patong Phuket, from 8pm to 11pm. Every Saturday night: buy one, get one free. House band: the Legend Trio. For further information contact Mr. Chonlathich na Nakorn. Tel: 076-302100. Email: salespr @ mercure phuket.com.

December 20 – January 17. The Rhythm of the Heart – Art Exhibition. An art exhibition entitled The Rhythm of The Heart by emerging Thai artist Santi Thongsuk will run from December 20 to January 17 at D Gallery, Royal Phuket Marina.

Santi Thongsuk, a versatile artist and devoted Buddhist, won the first ASEAN Art Awards in Singapore (1994). He has participated in a number of domestic and international exhibitions and was represented at the Christie's auction in Bangkok. Exhibition hours are: Tue-Sat, 11am to 7pm; Sunday, 12pm to 6pm. For more information contact Ms Jittiporn Barua. Tel: 076-360867. Email: jittiporn@dgallery.co.th. Web: www.dgallery.co.th.

December 21. PC Group Therapy Chalong.

From 10am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. For directions to Sandwich Shoppe Chalong (ChaoFah East near Wine Connection), see the web site. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes. For more information contact Woody Leonard. Tel: 089-196 0940. Email:woody@khunwoody.com. Web:www.KhunWoody.com.

December 21. Christmas Crafts Workshop.

A Christmas crafts workshop for children aged 3 to 7 years will be held from 1pm to 3pm at Act & Art, 29/74 Chuan Chuen Lagoon. Starter kits are available at a small cost for materials. Maximum 15 kids, registration by phone or email is essential.

Mums are welcome to join in. For further information contact Kru Pla. Tel: 087-270 7163. Email: actandart@rocketmail.com.







THE MOVE

Cape Sienna has appointed Jorge de la Torre Koch to the position of F&B Sales & Marketing Manager. Mr de la Torre Koch, who studied medicine and hotel management at the Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne, has previously held positions at Nestlé Switzerland, Le Meriden Beach Resort Phuket and the Kata Group Phuket.

In his spare time, Jorge is a Royal Thai Immigration Police volunteer as well as the Executive Secretary of Skal International Phuket.



Novotel Beach Resort Panwa Phuket recently appointed Sabine Chemama as Guest Relations Manager. A French citizen, Ms Chemama has extensive experience in the area of guest relations in a number of countries. She previously worked for Voyages FRAM, where she held the position of Activities Guide, before moving to Thomas Cook.

Prior to joining Novotel Beach Resort Panwa Phuket, she was employed as Guest Relations Officer for travel agent Kuoni in the Maldives.



Chalita Kaewdee has been appointed as Reservations Manager at Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa. Ms Chalita is 34 years old, hails from Prajuabkirikhan province, and graduated from the Faculty of Business Administration, Ramkhamhaeng University. She has more than seven years' experience in the hospitality industry.

Ms Chalita's previous positions include Reservations Manager at the Millennium Hilton Bangkok and at the Hyatt Regency Hua Hin.



By Richard G. Watson

Global Portfolios Phuket-based personal financial-planning service Tel: 076-381997 Mobile: 081-0814611 Fax: 076-383185 imm@loxinfo.co.th www.global-portfolios.com

ax havens are used for a wide variety of purposes. A case in point is the Cayman Islands, which in addition to providing traditional offshore services are also home to many thousands of companies. One common usage is "captive" insurance companies.

In addition, many companies use tax havens in combination with their onshore operations, depending on their trading and/or investment strategy. An example of this would be the use of a Dutch Antilles company, which,

The Offshore World

in turn, would link to an onshore Dutch company. It is common in situations such as this for a withholding tax to be individually negotiated with the Dutch tax authorities. This is often referred to as "treaty shopping".

It is no coincidence that all of the world's largest accounting firms can be found in any reputable tax haven. One of their most important functions is to research the most effective ways to enhance returns for companies, taking into account all the complexities involved.

Individuals, in particular expatriates, frequently use tax havens. An everyday example of this would be where an expat is retired in Thailand or Malaysia, as the local authorities would not seek to tax retirees on offshore or overseas income.

As an example, let's assume that individual "A" is 63 years old, a UK national with one million pounds sterling in assets overseas. In this case, income earned in the UK would be taxable. Simply moving the funds offshore to, say, the Channel Islands or Isle of Man would nullify the interest of the UK tax

Leading tax havens offer a

variety of services that are simply not available to residents of most countries. An individual can form a discretionary offshore trust, and retain total control of the assets but leave a "letter of wishes" giving clear instructions of what should happen in the event of his or her death.

There are several advantages to this. An onshore trust in virtually any country that recognizes trusts in its legal structure invariably attracts the attention of the local revenue authorities. Onshore trusts are virtually set in cement and any attempt to include the settlor as a beneficiary will normally lead to the revenue department seeking to "look through" the trust with the objective of raising tax and in many cases taking this a stage further and refusing to recognize it as being a trust. Revenue authorities almost always insist on people divorcing themselves from their own assets for life.

Expats, on the other hand, find tax havens a much more welcoming environment. They can receive an income or capital distributions from a trust as and when required, with no tax consequences. Offshore trusts can be removed if necessary by two

routes. The first, and more often than not, easiest way, is simply to withdraw all the assets from the trust: no assets, no trust. The second route, which is only used in a small minority of cases, is called a "trust bust". This is when a trust is legally terminated after going through a process.

Offshore trusts are guided by a "letter of wishes" or "letter of intent", which, effectively, is a communication from the person placing the assets into a trust normally referred to as the settlor. This guides the trustees on what to do with the funds during the lifetime of the settlor and determines what the settlor wishes to happen after death. These instructions can be amended at any time simply by giving a new "letter of wishes" to the trustees with a later date.

This system works like a will but is far more flexible. An added advantage is that there is no need to go through probate, which is virtually standard in most countries. Probate is a process that can, on average, take between nine months and several years. With an offshore trust there is no delay at all. This can be vitally important where there is a widow or minors involved, or even elderly parents. It is very common in so-called "advanced" countries for the beneficiaries to be bereft of cash for long periods of time while an estate is being finalized. This does not happen with an offshore trust.

Offshore, it is not necessary to have a trust; a will also suffices. On average, it takes about six weeks to finalize an estate. There are no tax authorities involved, rendering the whole situation much less bureaucratic.

An additional way to leave money to beneficiaries is by using an insurance company that supplies an investment platform. Very often, at no additional cost, the insurance company will offer a beneficiary a nomination form for single or multiple beneficiaries. Again, this can be changed at any time.

Another important use of offshore mechanisms is to circumvent religious requirements that often place a husband's assets under the control of a brother rather than the widow.

These structures are usually in place regardless of how incompetent or even criminally minded a brother might be. Where the followers of any religion wish to take a more modern approach to estate planning, there is no better choice than a good offshore lo-

This is a very brief appraisal of offshore matters; more will be included in future articles. The offshore world is huge and growing. The Financial Times estimates that it already incorporates some US\$ 6 trillion in assets. Not bad for an "industry" that had virtually no assets 60 years ago.





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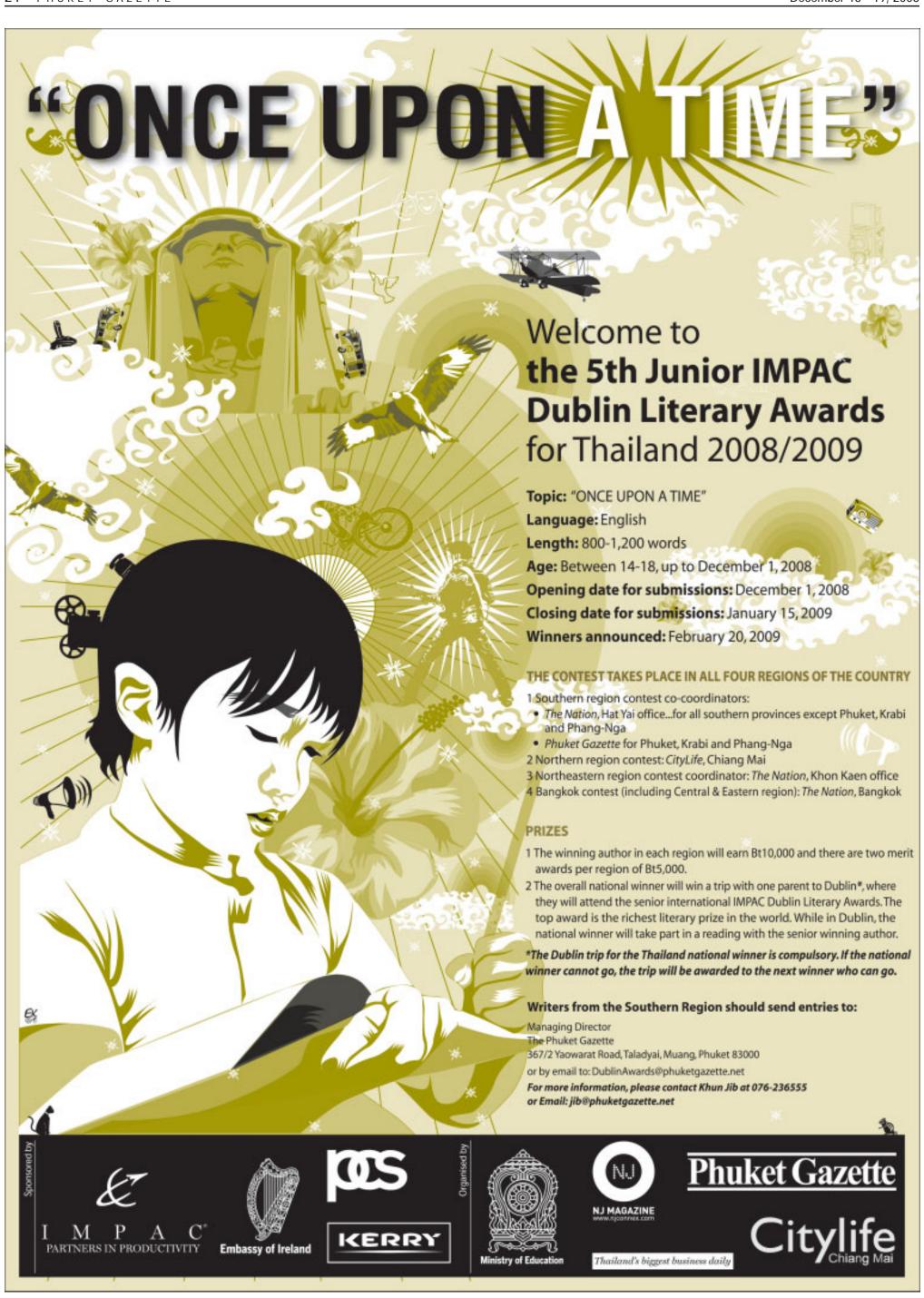
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24 PHUKET GAZETTE December 13 - 19, 2008





Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid are lots of words related to coffee shops. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or downto-up. Score: 15 or more, good; 20 or more, very good; 25 or more, excellent.

Solution on the next page.

							$\overline{}$	$\overline{}$						
Е	С	U	M	M	F	Y	В	Е	Т	Р	Т	F	P	Т
Ι	Ι	V	T	R	N	Ι	U	Т	J	U	G	N	Е	Ι
V	K	Н	О	M	S	Е	Z	Z	Y	R	Q	Α	L	J
S	Y	Т	Т	С	S	Е	K	A	С	Y	Y	U	С	Y
P	Н	Z	U	О	В	R	X	Α	K	S	L	K	M	M
С	A	Ι	L	W	О	W	Q	О	D	P	U	G	U	L
D	Т	Y	A	V	K	M	K	A	F	Q	W	X	С	M
S	N	P	Т	S	S	Z	S	W	S	О	Α	Z	G	Q
С	U	M	Т	L	В	U	S	M	K	Т	Ι	Н	G	Α
Р	Α	С	Е	Α	J	U	G	W	Т	J	Т	Y	Ι	Н
S	L	P	R	Е	Q	С	M	A	R	R	R	V	Α	U
Н	K	G	P	W	A	Ι	Т	Е	R	P	Е	V	F	Z
Н	N	M	Н	U	L	R	J	R	N	D	S	Н	Н	R
Р	Т	О	Ι	С	С	Q	Z	D	K	С	S	Н	С	Y
M	U	U	О	L	D	С	Н	С	Ι	W	D	N	A	S
Q	О	D	N	P	K	В	Ι	P	U	С	W	X	Т	О
J	Е	Ι	Z	Z	S	С	О	N	Z	A	Y	S	K	F
V	K	U	Y	N	F	Т	D	A	О	P	A	Z	N	A
В	Α	N	M	K	M	С	N	Н	С	О	Е	S	L	M
Y	Т	D	N	K	V	S	G	Y	Т	Е	F	Y	Т	В
F	F	M	R	Α	Т	Е	Z	L	F	Α	В	M	R	D
Ι	Α	M	S	Т	K	M	U	F	V	P	Q	С	U	Н
F	R	D	G	W	P	Н	О	J	U	Ι	С	Е	K	Т
X	Q	Z	L	X	R	С	U	K	V	L	Z	K	K	Ι
W	Р	Y	W	Z	С	Q	В	Т	С	С	Т	V	Р	Y

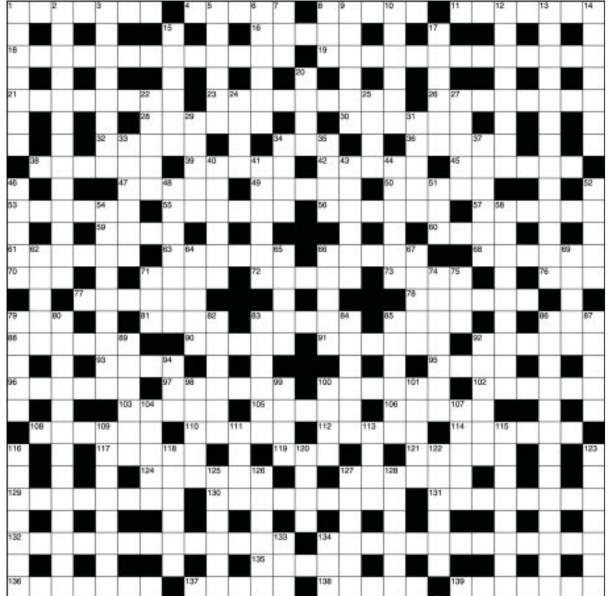
su|do|ku

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

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

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



The BIG Crossword

© Lovatts Puzzles - www.lovatts.com.au

Across

- Escape imprisonment
- Local expression Colour-cube pioneer
- Weepy 11.
- 16.
- Repeat movie 18. Daughters' daughters
- Record of court pro- 88. 19. ceedings
- 21. Casino card game
- 23. Breakfast pastry
- 26. Long race
- Weasel-like furry animal
- Looked sneeringly
- 32. Head parasite
- 34. Livid
- 36. Excessive
- 38. Rodeo ropes
- Rumba-like dance 42. Noblemen
- 45. Uncelebrated (hero) 106. Curt
- 47. Jeans fabric
- 49. Moroccan capital
- 50. Jumped up
- 53. Deadly
- 55. Dined at restaurant 117. Lease (property) (3,3)
- 56. Meal
- 57. Showered
- 59. Spiteful
- Manhandle 60.
- Roams (over)
- Gently pushed 63. University composi- 131. Solidly-built 66. tion
- 68. Young eagle
- 70. Repair set, tool...
- Litter receptacles
- Cavalry sword 72. 73. Marsupial pouches

- 76. Positive reply
- 77. Arranged into levels
- 78. Despicable person Legume
- 81. In existing condition (2,2)
- 83. Harvests
- 85. Famous pop artist,
- ... Warhol
- 86. Liqueur, ... Maria
- ... de corps
- 90. **Valleys**
- Humanitarian, 91. Mother...
- Irritates (skin)
- 93. For... & every
- 95. Clamp
- 96. Pedant
- 97. Irregular
- 100. Deal with
- 102. Resolved, ... out (problems)
- 103. Instances
- 105. Glossy black bird
- 108. Defended
- 110. Precipitous
- 112. Grey-faced
- 114. Lee Harvey...
- again
- 119. Perched
- 121. Chosen path
- 124. Painting stands
- 127. Outcome
- 129. Bath bubbles 130. Folding seat (4,5)
- 132. Protestants
- 134. Warm autumns (6,7) 51. Bank cash dispenser
- 135. Subject matter
- 136. Arid state 137. Non-verse

138. Prudes

54. Conveniences

139. NYC advertising 64. Opened street, ... Avenue 65. Stupefies

Burst

Uncanny

Corpse

Pig's pen

Fittingly

Respect

Family cars

Make fizzy

Ingratitude Reserve, set...

Gossip

Coldest

98. Birds' homes

99. Light sleeps

104. Lazed

111. Model, ...

115. Hailed

100. Animal flesh 101. Category (of art)

109. Able to be rubbed

Macpherson

113. Home stereo (2-2)

116. Lacking taste

123. Intrudes (5,2)

125. Nervier

126. Perfumes

118. More effortless 120. Curved entrance

122. Fuel energy rating

Tells good story

Lingerie item

Quick glances

Best protected

Continuous murmur

66.

67.

71.

74.

75.

79.

80.

82.

83.

84.

85.

86.

87.

89.

92.

94.

Down

- Branch of maths Police raid
- authorisation (6,7)
- Weirdos
- 5. Take away
- NW US state
- Chaps
- Groove
- **Imaginary** 10. Instinctive
- 12. Satisfies
- 13. Fearsomely
- 14. Garment's inner cov-
- erings
- 15. Long narrow views
- 17. Keen insight
- 20. Continent 22. Regale
- 24. Paper quantity
- 25. Soon, in the... future 107. Compass point
- 27. Total,... to (3,2)
- 29. Send (payment)
- 31. Tricks
- 33. Heaps (of)
- 34. Castle ditch
- 35. Expensive
- 37. False
- 40. Rectifies
- 41. Ogres 43. Relaxed (2,4)
- Peruvian pack ani-
- mals
- 46. Smug grin
- 48. Child minders

58. Statuette material

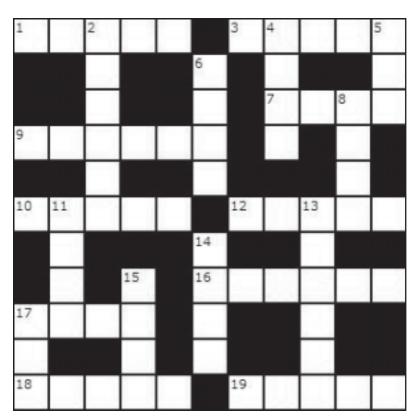
62. City, Buenos...

- 52. Rewords (text)
- scheme 128. Cooking in oil

 - 133. That lady
 - 134. Scamp

127. Money-making

- Solution on next page



Quick Crossword

Across

- In between
- 3. Beneath
- 7. Unwrap
- 9. Unfasten
- 10. Unruly
- 12. Starky &...
- 16. Vision
- 17. Chew
- 18. Push
- 19. Meat

Down

- Chilled
- 4. Midday
- 5. Sprint
- 6. Make a cake
- 8. Grand
- 11. Bad sign
- 13. Method
- 14. People
- 15. Night birds
- 17. Space

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with the

- Which sportsman has the real 1st name of Eldrick?
- What is the title of Natalie Portman's debut
- What is the most unusual aspect of the nonalcoholic Happy Tail Ale?
- Which explorer sailed in the Pelican in 1577?
- In which city is the Taj Mahal located?
- Which was Ian Fleming's 13. What is the only bird first James Bond novel?
- The swashbuckling hero Zorro's name translates 14. What is the name of into English as what?
- Dry Ice is the solid form of what?

- Tim Allen played Tim 'The Tool Man' Taylor on which sit-com?
- 10. Spike was the official name of the dog in Tom & Jerry cartoons. Can you give one of his 2 other names?
- 11. Which city was known as Lutecia by the Romans?
- 12. Which book by Alice Walker was made into a film starring Whoopi Goldberg?
 - which hunts by its sense of smell?
- the sport which combines cross-country skiing and rifle marksmanship?

- 16. Which composer was the 'Waltz King'?
- 15. Which small European country has the capital city of Vaduz?
- 17. Who discovered gravitation and also invented calculus?
- 18. What was the name of Superman's hometown on Earth?
- 19. In what year did the USA enter the First World War?
- 20. What was the title of the TV show 'Bonanza' changed to?

Answers below



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

Puzzle Solutions

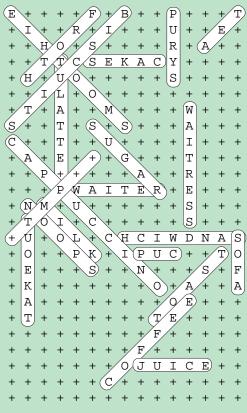
Solution to this week's Quick Crossword

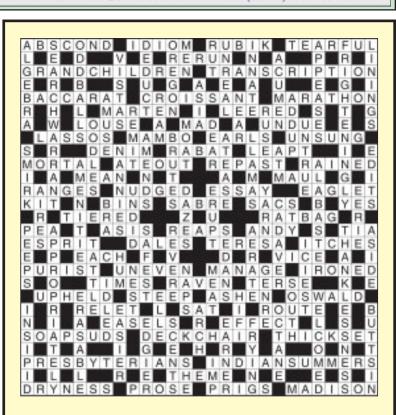


Monster Quiz Answers

1. Tiger Woods; 2. Leon; 3. It is brewed for dogs (USA); 4. Sir Francis Drake; 5. Agra; 6. Casino Royale; 7. The Fox; 8. Carbon Dioxide; 9. Home Improvement; 10. Butch / Killer; 11. Paris; 12. The Colour Purple; 13. Kiwi; 14. Biathlon; 15. Liechtenstein; 16. Johann Strauss; 17. Isaac Newton; 18. Smallville; 19. 1917; 20. 'Ponderosa'.







Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

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

8 4 3 2 7 1 6 5 9

Buddhism: The Fabric of Life in Asia



Ith monks making headlines for all the wrong reasons, Buddhism in Thailand seems to be in peril. Recently, villagers protested against an abbot who had placed pictures of controversial politicians around the base of a Buddha image at his temple in Chon Buri.

It was another example of the clash over orthodoxy – to the rescue of which the laity often quickly arrives.

David Clive Price's Buddhism: The Fabric of Life in Asia is more – and generous – evidence of the Buddhist faith's continuing strength, both in Thailand and elsewhere. He believes Buddhism still has a lot to offer people, and not just Asians.

A Londoner who studied history at Cambridge, Price is one of the many non-Buddhists who are nevertheless awed by Buddhism's power of reason.

His coffee-table book is a visual feast and a useful, well-researched introduction to Buddhism, its history and its different forms, from Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Tibet to Burma, Japan and Thailand.

The photos speak volumes by themselves. Thailand is well represented, with remarkable scenes of Buddhist practice at such notable temples as Suthat and Ratchabophit in Bangkok and Parelai in Isarn.

It's pleasing to see the Kingdom's treasures – like images of the Buddha from the Sukhothai and Ayutthaya periods – shown alongside those of the Khmer civilization and others.

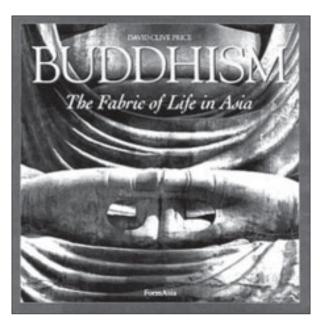
Despite differences in ap-

proach to Buddhist art, there's a continuity of form which runs through the various iconographies presented here. After all, the hand gestures and facial expressions of the Buddha are well known, and the joy lies in studying Buddhism through the shades of its art, as displayed by different schools.

Most impressive of all, are the photos of the great Buddha sculptures in Afghanistan's Bamiyan Valley, as they were before the ruling Taleban destroyed

them in February 2001. This is where Buddhism flourished as early as 400 AD, before the Western Turk Saffarids seized the region in 871.

Then there are the exquisite pagodas of Pagan in Burma, today in ruins – the result of Kublai Khan's invasion in the early 13th century. The author writes that of an original 13,000



pagodas, Kublai's warriors left only 5,000 standing, and left them shattered.

There's a lot more to see in the heritage sites of India, Sri Lanka, Japan and Indonesia. Sadly, the book does not include photos of the Gandhara Buddha sculptures in Pakistan, which are famed for their Greek influence.

But there is ample compen-

sation in the shots illustrating the "Saffron Revolution" in Burma and Tibet. As rare as it is to see monks taking to the streets and confronting authority, it's worth remembering that Buddhism has often given voice to the masses, especially the downtrodden.

Readers will welcome two auspicious signs. The 21st century is witnessing an intellectually stimulating encounter between Buddhism and Western beliefs that has triggered a wider debate on

peace. Secondly, Buddhism has returned to India, in places like Kushinagar, where more temples are being built. These are developments we need to celebrate.

Buddhism by David Clive Price is published by FormAsia and is available at Asia Books, Kinokuniya Books and B2S. It is priced at 1,995 baht.

The Nation

Bumper-to-bumper language lessons

umper stickers in Thai land make for an interesting language lesson and a good way to pass time when you're caught in traffic.

Apart from the typical เมาในขับ (mao mai khap) "Don't Drink and Drive" and เรารักในหลวง (rao rak nai luang) "We Love the King" stickers, one can typically count on Thai bumper stickers to be one of two things: clever and sexually suggestive. Frequently they are both.

One clever sticker I saw recently made me chuckle. On government vehicles you'll see the lettering ใช้ในราชการเทานั้น (Chai nai raatchakaan thao nan) "For Official Government Use Only" below the logo of whatever department it belongs to.

A taxi had adorned its bumper with: ใช้หนีราชการเท่านั้น (Chai nii raatchakaan thao nan) "For Fleeing (from) Government Officials Only", a play on the usual phrase by simply replacing ใน (nai) with หนี (nii).

If your sensibilities aren't too delicate, take a look at the website that Doug Cooper put up sometime back during the Clinton a d m i n i s t r a t i o n : www.seasrc.th.net/sticker/

It's a large collection of Thai bumper stickers. Most are transcribed and many are translated. Some of the translations are wrong, and you have to download a special font to see the phonetic Thai, but it's still a nice collection. The content is not the kind of Thai you'll want to use in po-

umper stickers in Thai lite company, if ever. Be warned. Here's one that's sugges-



tive but relatively mild:

รับสอนกอนวิวาห*/rap son gon wi-waa*, which means "(I teach) wedding night lessons".

And another nice bit of



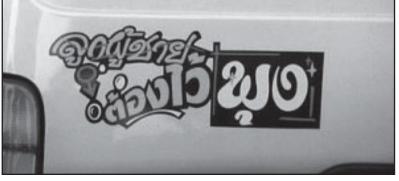
wordplay:

It reads: วัตถุเมาใว wat-too mao wai "Highly intoxicatable". This is a play on วัตถุไวไฟ (wat-too wai fai) "Flammable material", as seen on gas tankers, liquid propane cylidners and so on.

There is another popular one that I've seen so many times, that I began wondering if I'd gone colorblind.

The gimmick is sticker lettering on the rear of the car saying: รถคันนี้สี (X) (rot kan nee see X) "This car is (color)", filling in the blank with any color that the car isn't. The lettering is often the color the car purports to be, but not always.

A typical example is a pink taxi with lettering on its bumper: รถคันนี้สีเขียว (rot kan nee see kieow) "This car is green". I



This rather elaborate bumper sticker on the back of a van equates a paunch or 'beer belly' with a being a 'real man'.

looked around on some Thai message boards, and many people claim it's done to แกเคล็ค (gae klet) as Thais say – "to ward off bad luck", because some colors are considered luckier than others

I'm sure plenty do it to be ironic or trendy.

One more for the road, from the "just-keep-telling-yourselfthat" department:

ลูกผูชายตองใวพุง (look poo chaai tong wai poong) "Real men have a paunch."

There is certainly no lack of bumper stickers on vehicles in



Thailand, and trying to read them can also improve your ability to read some of the highly stylized fonts that are often used on signs and other forms of advertising, look like Chinese, which we see around the Vegetarian Festival. This might even help you to start to develop the confidence you will need to read the most difficult script of all: handwritten Thai.

Note: The phonetic characters

such as Thai script designed to

Note: The phonetic characters used in this column do not carry all the correct Thai tones. To ensure you have the correct pronunciation, ask a native Thai speaker to read them out to you.

Rikker Dockum writes regularly at thai101.blogspot.com and can be contacted at: rdockum@gmail.com

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Hanging out just got harder

One of the latest changes to Immigration regulations lowers from 30 to just 15 the number of days foreign tourists can stay in Thailand after entering through a land border checkpoint without a visa.

The fact that the new order was issued on November 25 – the same day Suvarnabhumi Airport was first closed by People's Alliance for Democracy demonstrators – immediately sparked a number of theories by resident expats as to why the change was introduced. No one could imagine that tourism would be discouraged at a time when it was already in severe crisis.

One of the most popular theories was that the new rule was meant to aid airlines by forcing "visa runners" to change from buses to planes in order to get the extra 30 days, since arrivals at airports would still enable tourists to qualify for 30 days on arrival.

While interesting, this theory is unlikely, considering the speed at which orders are processed in Thai bureaucracy, typically taking months and years, not hours and days.

Probably closer to the truth are those who conjectured that the change was meant to rid the country of "low quality" foreigners, i.e. those who use Thailand's rather generous immigration policies and unsophisticated control mechanisms to stay here longer than they really should – or can afford to – as real tourists.

While the vast majority of these people do no harm, a small fraction do get involved in criminal behavior. Targets include the many foreigners working illegally in various tourism-oriented industries that are found in abundance here in Phuket, such as diving, nightlife entertainment and English language instruction.

Given the fact that the nearest border hop from Phuket involves an uncomfortable 11-hour journey in a "tin can" (minibus) to Ranong – then a boat ride to Burma – Phuket's rather unfortunate location for visa-running means that some foreigners who have chosen to make the island their temporary home will be affected.

However, the change should rightly be viewed as more of a tweak than a major regulatory overhaul, as some people inconvenienced by the new rule seem to view it.

Like every sovereign nation, Thailand has a duty to its people to control entry and exit through its borders in a way that maximizes benefits to the country – such as through business investment and tourism revenue – while minimizing threats, whether they be to national security or the local culture.

The 'Thailand Elite' card, which costs 1.5 million baht, is aimed at a different segment of the market than the new 15-day land-border tourist visa. But it's holders should not expect "fast track" customs clearance should they ever have to "tin can it" to Burma.

- The Editor

Do you have an opinion you want to share? Email editor@phuketgazette.net

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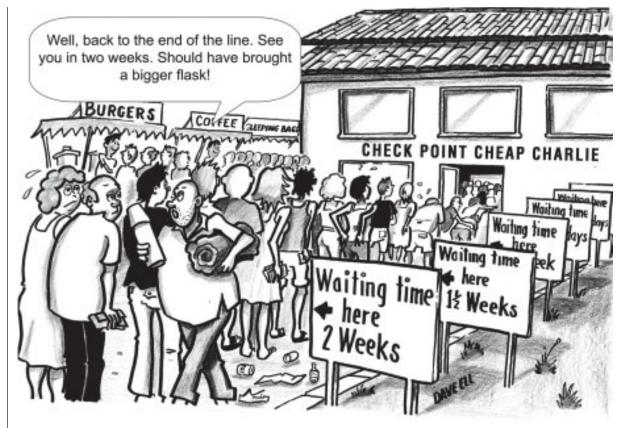
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Letters

The *Gazette* is pleased to receive mail from readers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, fax to 076-213971 or send an email to editor@phuketgazette.net with

your views for publication in our next issue. We reserve the right to edit all letters. Pseudonyms are acceptable only if your full name and address are supplied.

Phuket property: a casualty of karma

It seems like it was only yester-day that some of the property developers – and certainly the majority of the local brokers – were insisting that the property industry in Phuket was a 'special situation' and that everything would be... well, if not fine, then certainly better than in the rest of the world.

Perhaps it won't be long before these super-sales type fortune tellers throw in the towel and leave Phuket. If karma, i.e. 'what goes around, comes around' is to be believed, then certainly their days are numbered, and that would not bother me a bit. We don't need their hype. It brings disgrace to the whole industry, by robbing it of even a modicum of credibility.

Property in Phuket is an industry plagued by a history of arrogant refusal to self-regulate; an emphatic lack of interest in preserving the environment; and a demonstrable and excruciating cynicism toward its market.

Cynicism?

How else can we explain the bald assertions of the sales sharks that, "You better put down a deposit on the house today! There was a nice young Russian couple looking at it just yesterday..." And, "Right now, it's almost impossible to even *find* a piece of land for sale in Phuket." And my favorite: "Prices have been rising every *week* over the past few years."

And how about the advertising? Here are some examples: "4-year guaranteed rental return"; "capital gains of 14% per

year"; "guaranteed rental returns of 8% over 6 years"; "Phuket's year-round holiday season", "[The] villas are available FREE-HOLD to foreigners," etc, etc.

Sure, there are ethical practitioners – perhaps many – in the property business out there, but how can we hope to survive when the shameless hype of the cynics is so ubiquitous, incredible and loud?

Property Victim Patong Beach

Phuket is cheap!

I was interested in the story on the *Gazette* website headlined "Fourth quarter airport arrivals down almost 50%". Well, that's not the only thing that's down 50%. I'm staying in a guest house in Patong. The price here last year was 2,400 baht. This year I'm paying 1,200 baht, including breakfast (which I didn't get last year), and I'm in exactly the same room! Life here is great!!

Guenter von Grotthus Berlin / Patong

A response to the Governor's Letter

It was with great interest that I, as a resident, read the Governor's Letter (*Phuket Gazette*, November 29).

I am sure that every concern he has is shared by most thinking residents of Phuket, not least his concern that the island's natural beauty is already rapidly disappearing for the sake of the high profits of a few individuals. These are primarily the hotel and property developers, whose prof-

its, for the most part, are taken out of Thailand for shareholders in other countries.

Is it any wonder so many farang residents seriously talk about relocating away from Phuket to other parts of Thailand or to Vietnam?

Does the governor have the power and the courage to put a stop to the further destruction of the island's natural beauty by even more hotels, condominiums, villas and resorts? Can I live in the hope that Thailand's deepseated cronyism and corruption will not infiltrate Provincial Hall?

I am afraid my hopes are not high and it may be the global financial crisis that puts a halt to the defacement of Phuket. We can but live in hope.

I wish the governor "all strength to his elbow" as he begins his tenure in office, if he indeed means what he says.

David Cohen Ao Makham

No hooligans in Phuket Football

It was a nice reminder of why I chose to live in Thailand when I watched fans of Thailand and Laos leaving Surakul stadium after the big FAA Suzuki Cup last weekend.

There was no violence at all, or drunkeness, among the fans as they filed out of the gates together.

Where I come from, fights often break out among fans of opposing teams, with some going home more bloodied than the players themselves.

John Hazelwood London / Ao Por

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

The culture of protest and the use of violence

By Chang Noi

he level of violence ful of small accidents. in the political standoff of the last six months is new and disturbing. In Thailand's past history of public protest, the violence $committed \ \bar{} was \ almost \ totally \ the$ work of security forces engaged in repression. This time the violence was committed in the name

All sides contributed in various ways. But as the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) was the main protagonist, violence committed by those on the PAD side has been the most

Security forces killed scores of people while clearing demonstrations in 1976 and 1992, and were responsible for "disappearing" people especially in the late 1940s and early 1950s, in the mopping-up of communism in the 1980s, and in the South in the late 1940s and early 2000s.

Political conflict within the military has often erupted into

But throughout Thailand's modern history of public politics,

the culture of political demonstration has been largely cast in the tradition of nonviolence.



The

revolution of 1932 was achieved without firing a shot or injuring anyone. The Peace Movement demonstrations after World War II were calm and without casualties. The massive student demonstration of October 13-14, 1973 had the atmosphere of a peaceful celebration until the army was ordered to crack down.

In May 1992, there were a couple of incidents when protesters fought back against the police, but the overall tenor of the demonstration was set by Chamlong Srimuang and his Santi Asoke followers, who sat calmly awaiting

The succession of Bangkok demonstrations by the Assembly of the Poor in the mid-1990s saw no casualties except for a hand-

The 99-day Assembly protest in 1997, the largest and longest protest prior to the PAD this year, was marked by no more than a few minor scuffles.

Thousands of smaller demonstrations all over the country in the past 20 years have passed with only a handful of violent incidents attributable usually to over-exuberance.

The PAD protests in 2006 belonged to this same non-violent culture. Violence was confined to verbal abuse. But the campaign that developed from May this year was approached in a mode of warfare.

The PAD sites at Government House, Makhawan Bridge, and the airports were like defensive encampments.

Barbed wire never featured in earlier demonstrations. This time the bales were everywhere. Defensive barriers were built with used tires, commandeered vehicles, plastic water bottles, and airport luggage trolleys.

Yellow shirts and banners served as a form of uniform.

> Leaders wore other military-like gear including neckscarves, epaulette shirts, camouflage

trousers, and combat jerkins. Buildings were besieged. Units were moved around Bangkok streets like troops on maneuver.

From around September onwards, PAD leaders talked regularly about the prospect of a "civil war".

The airport seizure was announced as the "final battle". After this "Hiroshima", we were told to expect "Nagasaki". PAD leaders justified anything by explaining "we are now at war".

A major difference from earlier demonstrations has been the "guards".

During the 99-day protest at Government House in 1997, the Assembly of the Poor had a contingent of guards to serve as lookouts and to keep order. But this



All sides contributed in various ways. But as the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) was the main protagonist, violence committed by those on the PAD side has been the most prominent.

corps was very small compared to the PAD equivalent. The Assembly recruits were members of the demonstrations, not paid professionals; they were unarmed or equipped with nothing more elaborate than a stick.

At the time the PAD moved to the airports, Sondhi Limthongkul stated that the PAD had 10,000 guards on shifts distributed among its protest sites.

That figure might well have been exaggerated for effect, but the true number probably runs into thousands.

Early in the campaign, Sondhi stated that the guards were mostly recruited among expolicemen and ex-soldiers, and were paid by the day.

Later on, the PAD imported units of guards from upcountry, especially from Chonburi, Rayong, Phetchaburi, and towns in the south.

The looting that has been a hallmark of the PAD campaign suggests many were petty criminals. Some have said they came from "private armies".

Most guards were armed with simple weapons such as sticks, lengths of steel pipe, and sling shots. After the first invasion of Government House, over a hundred used golf clubs were confis-

Photos have shown people wielding knives, machetes, and swords. A famous clip featured a PAD guard emptying a handgun on a major Bangkok thoroughfare. An Uzi machine gun was found in the car of one PAD leader's personal bodyguard, and may have been looted from a police cache in Government House. During the October 7 clash, a leader of the PAD guards was blown to pieces by a car full of bombs of some description. Vehicles have also been used as weapons. On October 7, a pickup deliberately drove over a policeman, and a bus was used to ram the police line.

During the token appearance by police at the besieged Suvarnabhumi Airport, a truck was accelerated through the police line. Home-made bombs, shotguns, grenades, pistols, and explosives were found in the PAD vehicles.

On October 7, the PAD itself was on the receiving end of an incompetent police crackdown. From then onwards, shots and bombs were exchanged between the PAD guards and others on almost a nightly basis.

One PAD supporter was dragged from a car and beaten to death in Chiang Mai and grenades were launched into PAD positions causing several deaths. At Suvarnabhumi Airport, PAD guards roughed up several jour-

Until very late in the campaign, the PAD claimed to be acting in the tradition of non-violent protest. That was intellectually very dishonest. More recently the PAD leaders and backers have tried to claim that any violence committed was reactive, and blamed everything on the police. That was even more dishonest.

Violence is intrinsic to politics. When violence becomes part of the political culture, it hands power to those who are willing to use violence most ruth-

History is strewn with examples. In the past, Thailand's culture of protest was framed by a Buddhist appreciation of non-

The PAD has taken a dangerous step away from that tra-

Issues &

Dengue Fever

y son was admitted to hospital for dengue fever last week. I was informed by the doctor at Bangkok Phuket Hospital that it was government policy for a company to come out and spray around my house for mosquitoes. It has now been over a week and I am still chasing and trying to see when someone will come out. Can you tor told me is correct and tell me area. how long it should take? I was told one or two days.

C Baker, Thalang

The Department of Communicable Disease Control replies:

When our department is contacted by a hospital to arrange a house visit, we go to spray within 24 hours, and then again after another seven days.

The reason we haven't been to your house yet is that we haven't been contacted by Bangkok Phuket Hospital about

any pools of stagnant water within 100 meters of your house and try to empty them.

Female mosquitoes can live for a month and a half.

This means it's best to find the root cause of the problem, rather than just treating the symptoms by spraying houses.

You can get more information about controlling mosquitoes at Phuket Provincial Public Health Office which are on Narisorn Road, T. Taladyai, Muang, Phuket.

Tel. 076-211330. Email: admin@pkto.moph.go.th.

please confirm if what the doc-tor told make a common and tall make there being dengue fever in the Worried about Phuket's heritage

Our suggestion is to look for I am a firm believer in keeping of another era is to be retained Phuket's heritage intact and was concerned recently, when in Old Phuket Town to take photographs of the old Sino-Colonial buildings (my hobby), I noticed that 98 Krabi Road has a new building going up at the road

I know that this is not a crime, of course, but I am concerned about the fate of the beautiful old flowered fence and the old gates in front of the new building.

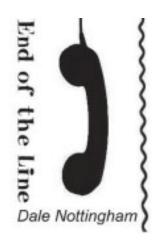
I would like to be reassured, as a concerned historian, that the beautiful workmanship and not removed or bulldozed.

Julie Brixton Phuket.

Khun Waravit Niyomson the secretary of Phuket Provincial Office replies:

Thank you for your concern about the value of old buildings. You can make a formal complaint to Phuket Municipality at City Hall by filling in a complaint form. The form will then be processed for investigation. Tel: 076-212-314. Ext. 409. Address: 52/1 Narison Road T. Taladyai, Muang Phuket.

A Silent Night



fter a hard day's lying around doing nothing I find myself quite exhausted and more than ready for a good night's sleep, a chance to recharge the batteries in preparation for another fulfilling day's slovenly

And living, as I do, in the epicentre of one of Bangkok's more prolific criminal fraternities, I am generally afforded a tranquil night's rest, as most of my neighbors are out burgling rich people.

But not everyone is as for-

luxury of a full eight hours uninterrupted sleep is but the stuff of dreams, if only they could sleep long enough to have any,

The problem, surprisingly, is not one of noisy neighbors, but rather the audibly intrusive snoring of their bed-

"For those blissfully

unaffected by the

problem of snoring, I

can assure you that

it is nothing like the

quaint spectacle

depicted in old Walt

Disney and Tom and

Jerry cartoons."

Indeed, as one of the primary causes of marital friction, the phenomenon of conjugal snoring is not to be sniffed at and is a tragedy that should command the attention of the great minds of our time.

partner.

And so it is with infinite pleasure that I would like to share with

you my less-than-expert opinion on this age-old affliction.

For those blissfully unaffected by the problem of snoring, I can assure you that it is

tunate as me. For many, the nothing like the quaint spectacle depicted in old Walt Disney and Tom and Jerry cartoons.

> Nor is it reminiscent of the gentle timbre of a distant tractor across the valley. Real-life snoring sounds more like having Aeroflot crash into your headboard every eight seconds.

Many chronic sufferers,

driven to despair, have even resorted to surgery in an attempt to cure this traumatic condition.

However, before you decide to pay through the nose to have a doctor shove a scalpel up your, well, nose, you may wish to consider some rather less draconian measures as laid out

in my recent self-help bestseller "Snoring and How to Lick it".

I am pleased to enclose the following extracts for your mindless titillation.

The Snoring Position

The most aurally offensive snoring most commonly occurs while sleeping on your back. Therefore, a simple preventative measure is to ensure that the sonorously afflicted is unable to assume this undesired position.

This may be achieved in a number of ways, such as standing the bed on its end before going to sleep or having your spouse horse-whip your back before you retire for the night.

Alcohol

Getting plastered before you go to bed will pretty much guarantee that you will be snoring louder than a pig digging for truffles. Therefore, a simple lifestyle adjustment is all that is required to fix the problem.

Switch to getting plastered in the morning and you will find that you will sleep more peacefully than Rip Van Winkle.

Men have narrower air passages than women, which makes them more prone to snoring. Accordingly, women whose boyfriend's constant snoring is keeping them up all night might wish to consider sleeping with other women for a while, if only for a bit of peace and quiet.

Obesity

Being an overweight and out-of-shape couch potato greatly increases the likelihood of snoring.

And as your partner lies there, wide awake, staring at the gaping, rippling walrus prostrated in the vast crater on the other side of the bed, she is unlikely to be contemplating anything more romantic than tupperware in the Ukraine or perhaps moving out.

Many couples, unable to find a solution to the problem, resort to sleeping in separate bedrooms, occasionally in different cities. However, this should not be a cause for pessimism, as it will give you much more to talk about when you bump into each other at airports.

In The Stars by Isla Star

Birthday Sagittarians spread their wings during the coming year

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Moonlighting could become your way to boost savings. Those Sagittarians who have not been able to put something aside for Christmas receive an opportunity to earn some extra cash. There may also be a way to turn this employment opportunity into a long-term project. If you are due to celebrate a birthday this week, the year ahead is forecast to include more travel than you have experienced in recent ones.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Those born under the sign of Capricorn are advised to take cautious steps during the remainder of December. A frus-

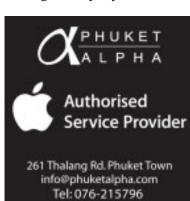
trated Libran is waiting for you to slip up at work so they can steal some limelight. Romance continues to flourish under aus-Back Pain?

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picious astral conditions, although a new partner may not prove to be as popular as you hope with certain family members. Wear chili pepper red to fire up your imagination.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): An eventful week lies ahead for most Aquarians, but your buoyant mood should welcome the excitement. Staying afloat financially becomes less of a concern when a windfall arrives mid-month and an end of year bonus is also forecast. The social scene holds many attractions and you find you have unusual ambitions in common with a new love interest. Wear the color tangerine to encourage a more creative outlook on work.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Pisceans could become suspicious that they are being excluded from a lucrative business deal. Someone born under a fire sign is ready to help you unearth the truth, but a Cancerian colleague's loyalty is doubtful.



Tuesday is the best day to air your feelings. Romance continues to be ambiguous, and this situation is complicated by an ex-partner's return to the scene. The number eight can bring some good fortune this week-

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Arians are forecast to coast along until Thursday when a rocky reunion is hard to navigate. If you still harbor feelings for this person, it would be wisest to stay out of the picture as their romantic interests now lie elsewhere. Work offers interesting diversions when a project that you believed to be impossible becomes suddenly feasible. Wear the color banana yellow to encourage more fun in your life.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans coming to terms with disappointment learn that every cloud has a silver lining. Sudden space in your agenda means that a spur of the moment getaway is arranged before you know it and the remainder of December will prove to be a fulfilling end to the year. In the realm of romance, the discovery that Leo has a soft spot for you is the icing on your cake.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): A particular bee needs to vacate your sun hat before the situation gets out of hand. Leos are advised to focus their thoughts elsewhere this week, and they will realize that the big picture is what matters. Where romance is concerned, a Scorpio friend's well-intended interference colors your weekend. Tuesday is the best day for a work-related discussion to clear the air as the stars will support your efforts to be heard.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): An unusual business venture could be a hard nut to crack, but it's worth persevering. Leo is a sensible choice for an associate, but Libra is forecast to blow hot and cold. Those Cancerians with a secret romantic wish won't be disappointed by events this weekend. Your organizational abilities are appreciated by family who haven't yet made plans for the holiday season. Number three can be lucky on Monday.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Shutters close on a window of opportunity, but you will soon see that a better chance is guaranteed. Leos who are lonely won't be for much longer as Capricorn is dazzled by your charisma. Those already in a committed relationship learn something surprising about their partner early next week. The answer to a monetary mystery is forecast to be revealed this weekend and could cause you to have second thoughts about a friend.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Those born under the sign of Virgo who are tired of keeping their noses to the grindstone will appreciate a chance to blow off steam this weekend. Visiting friends or family could expect you to help them paint the town red, but you should conserve some energy for the last half of December. Your bank balance benefits from a boost midweek - Thursday is the best day for a Christmas shopping spree.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Fireworks are forecast when a close friend takes up with someone from your romantic past. Librans who now have other fish to fry are advised to maintain a cool heart and some distance until their emotions are better balanced. Work provides welcome distraction, particularly midweek when you spot a chance to show what you are really capable of. Wearing the color jungle green can help to

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): An ongoing dispute threatens to cloud your weekend, but Aries is ready to help you to see the other side of the coin. There is an offer of more worthwhile employment in the pipeline, but some sacrifices will need to be made. Those Scorpios who are unsure whether to proceed with a new romantic relationship receive insight early next week. The number seven can bring some good fortune on Sunday.

Rainbows of silk brighten the art scene

rtist Léa Laarakker-Dingjan's vibrant rainbow-effect silk designs can currently be seen in their dazzling glory at her new exhibition, "Silk, The Art of Life", at Mom Tri's boathouse at Kata Beach.

Léa has been living in Thailand since 1987. Educated as a textile specialist, designing lace and fabric, she became an artist, becoming internationally known for her freehand designs on silk. She developed an original solardyeing technique that results in material with a subtle yet dazzling rainbow effect.

Her work includes both abstract and figurative silk paintings and fabric designs used for interior decoration and fashion.

On show will be wall hangings, banners and unique woven silk gift items. With Léa's bold and sweeping brush strokes, the silk fabrics achieve a unique, amazing vividness.

All Léa's silk is manufactured in Ban Reng Khai, a village in northeastern Thailand. Following century-old local techniques and traditions, only vegetable and non-toxic chemical dyes are used to achieve the lustrous coloring and exceptional strength of Léa's silk.

After a visit to the then very



L**□a Laarakker**-Dingjan

poor village in 1987, Lea devoted herself to reviving its lagging silk weaving industry.

In 2001, this led to the establishment of the Ban Reng Khai Foundation (www.banreng khai.com), an independent organization focused on supporting the village's self-sufficiency in all areas, including living conditions, healthcare and education. The Foundation now supports 79 families in five villages in Surin province.

Learning for Living (L4L) the Ban Reng Khai Foundation's student support project. It grew from Léa and her late husband Alex's support of



All LIIa's silk is manufactured in Ban Reng Khai, a village in northeastern Thailand. Following century-old local techniques and traditions, only vegetable and non-toxic chemical dyes are used.

the children of Ban Reng Khai and other villages in Isarn. Currently it shares the cost of education of about 50 students with the children's families.

Léa was knighted by Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands in 1995 for her work and has received several international awards, including the UNESCO Seal of Excellence.

Her work has been shown at more than 40 exhibitions worldwide and is available in Bangkok at the Nai Lert Park Bangkok Hotel. It can also be ordered through Léa's website www.lea-silk.com.

"Silk the Art of Life" can be seen at Mom Tri's Boathouse, Kata Beach, until January 7, 2009. For info, contact Lisa Sol. Tel: 076-330015. Email: pr@boathousephuket.com www.boathousephuket.com



Thailand off to flying start in AFF Suzuki Cup

The island of Phuket played proud host to Group B of the AFF Suzuki Cup, SE Asia's biggest and most prestigious football tournament. Bracketed with Malaysia, Vietnam and Laos, the Thai team's first outing in the Surakul stadium saw them pitted against fellow tournament heavyweight Vietnam. A torrential downpour before the game made for tricky playing conditions, with both sides struggling initially on a slippery pitch.

With Thailand enjoying the lion's share of possession in the first half, it came as no surprise to the capacity crowd when the hosts took the lead with Sutee Suksomkit's deftly curled free kick from 25 yards. Vietnam's misery was further compounded just before the interval when Suchao Nutnum capitalized on a horrendous goal keeping error to tap the ball into an empty net and effectively end the game as a contest.

With three group games in the space of five days the Thais were anxious to conserve their energy and took their foot off the gas in the second half. A convincing 2-0 victory was enough to send the capacity crowd at Sarakul home sodden but satisfied.

The second round of group games produced a classic encounter, with Vietnam clinching a dramatic 88th minute winner to edge Malaysia 3-2, leaving Group B wide open.

Thailand then knew, that if they could dispatch Laos convincingly in the evening match, they would be virtually assured a place in the semi-finals. Manager Peter Reid made 10 changes to the side. Thailand's second string didn't disappoint, taking a commanding 3-0 first-half lead with goals from Ronnachai Rangsiyo, Patiparn Phetphun and Arthit Sunthornphit.

Sunthornphit grabbed a second and Anon Sangsanoi also scored a brace as Thailand strolled to victory and ensured that Laos's participation in the tournament would go no further than the group stage.

At the time of going to press, Thailand are due to face Malaysia in the final fixture, knowing that progress to the latter stages of the competition is virtually assured. Thailand will be joined in the semis by either Malaysia, who could still qualify even if they lose to Thailand, or Vietnam, who are due to face Laos in their final group game.

James Goyder



The Thailand National Football Team pays a flying visit to the Kata Beach Resort.

Quantum Racing snatches victory in King's Cup Regatta

KATA: In gusting winds of up to 20 knots, Ray Roberts' *Quantum Racing* team snatched victory from Neil Pryde's *Hi Fi* and Winkelman and Dodd's *Island Fling* to win the final race of the Racing class in the 22nd King's

Cup Regatta. In one of the tightest competitions ever, the win moved *Quantum Racing* into first place overall in the class and saw its name etched on the coveted King's Cup trophy. *Hi Fi* finished second, relegating Neil

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Pryde and his crew to second place overall.

Underlining the high stan-

Underlining the high standard of sailing in this year's event, in which seven of the 11 race classes were still up for grabs before today's final races, *Island Fling*, who had led the class just the day before, finished fifth by just 16 seconds to place third overall in the Racing class.

In another nail-biting finish, David Ross's *Macquarie-Frangipani Girl* beat Peter Cremers' *Shatoosh* to move into first place overall in the Premier class. John Wardill's *Australian Maid*, a long-term regular in the King's Cup, finished third in the class.

In a fine display of competitive sailing, Scott Duncanson and his crew on Raimon Land The Heights held off rival Kenichi Takahashi on Motor Net to

place second and third respectively in the Sports boat class. By focusing on keeping *Motor Net* in its wake instead of going for an outright win, *The Heights*, which is better known in Phuket as *Somtam Express*, held on to first place overall to win the Sports boat class.

Matt Allen on *Ichi Ban* dominated the IRC 1 class throughout the regatta with six "bullets" (sailing jargon for "first place") and one secondplace finish, and needed only a mediocre result to win the class. Ben Copley's Phuket-based *Katsu* finished second overall in the hotly contested class.

Sailing proud for Thailand in the IRC 2 class were *Royal Thai Navy 1* and *Royal Thai Navy 2*, which finished first and second overall.

In the Firefly 850 class, comprising the high-speed, Phuket-built Firefly catama-

rans, Peter Dyer's SEA Property claimed top honors, with Hans Rahmann's Voodoo Child finishing second overall and Brent Gribble on Twin Sharks placing third.

Despite Thailand's recent political upheaval and the temporary closure of Bangkok's airports just days before this year's King's Cup opened on November 29, this year's event attracted a fleet of 94 boats and well over 1,000 people. The regatta was graced with near perfect sailing conditions, providing some memorable racing maneuvers and results. Many of the racers told the Gazette they look forward to returning to contest the cup next year.

For more results from Saturday's final races, and for the overall results – visit www.kingscup.com



Australians Reign Supreme at 2008 Laguna Phuket Triathlon

LAGUNA: Despite the closure of the country's international airport, some 600 athletes still made it to the Laguna Phuket Triathlon start line to compete in this year's 'Race of Legends'. The race featured an exciting pro competition with three-time Ironman champion Belinda Granger (AUS), 2007 Ironman 70.3 world champion Mirinda Carfrae (AUS) and the 2007 Laguna Phuket Triathlon men's champion, Italian born Massimo Cigana in the field.

The race began at the beachfront of the Laguna Beach Resort with the first wave start taking place at 7am with hundreds of triathletes vying for an early lead in the first leg of the triathlon. The uniquely designed 1.8k swim passed through the Andaman Sea, followed by a beachside lagoon. First out of the water was Taipei's Shen Yen Hsieh with a swim time of 00:23:12, followed by Richie Cunningham, just six seconds behind.

The first pro male to emerge from the 55k bike course through Phuket's tropical countryside was Massimo Cigana in 1:19:55, ahead of second placed Richie Cunningham who came in with a time of 1:22:16, with Chris Legh (AUS) in third at 1:23:30.

It was Laguna Phuket Triathlon veteran Richie Cunningham who eventually secured the 2008 Laguna Phuket



Despite the closure of the country's international airport, some 600 athletes still made it to the Laguna Phuket Triathlon start line to compete in this year's 'Race of Legends'

USD 3,500 prize money with a finishing time of 2:28:19, closely followed by last year's defend-2:28:30 and Chris Legh in third on 2:31:11.

In the pro women's event, both Belinda Granger and Mirinda Carfrae achieved an identical swim time of 00:25:32,

Triathlon champion title and the followed by Alexandra Louison (FRA) in 00:29:40. Belinda Granger was the first off the bike in 1:31:17, followed by Mirinda ing champion Massimo Cigana in Carfrae (AUS) who completed the course in 1:35:03.

> By the end of the run it was Aussie Belinda Granger who came home to claim the pro women's championship in a total time of 2:47:11. Mirinda Carfrae

came in second with a time of 2:50:02 followed by Alexandra Louison in 2:52:39.

The victories of Richie Cunningham and Belinda Granger, who have competed in the Laguna Phuket Triathlon five and six times respectively, have been a long time coming. Both have always made it onto the podium but had never won the





Laguna champion title.

The champion of the Herbalife Corporate Challenge Team Relay was the Inus Herbalife Team 2, winning in 2:29:16. Second place went to Inus Herbalife Team 1 in 2:31:18, followed by The Power of Herbalife Team, finishing in 2:54:27.

The fastest Thai male finisher was Chadarak Chaikomjorn in 2:58:30 while the first Thai woman to cross the line was Mayuree Maidaeng who completed the race in 3:18:15.

For complete race results please visit the Laguna Phuket Triathlon website at www.laguna phukettriathlon.com.

The next Laguna Phuket Triathlon is scheduled to take place on December 6, 2009.



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Indigo Pearl Design



Industrial elegance

choing Phuket's tin mining past, the design of the Indigo Pearl resort in Nai Yang is unique. It's not uncommon for resorts in Thailand to take inspiration from the past, but where others might attempt to emulate the rustic charm of a traditional Thai teak house or draw on timeless Buddhist iconography, at Indigo Pearl, the look and feel has been influenced by that of a Phuket tin factory that existed a century ago.

Indigo Pearl is owned by the Na-Ranong family, and the concept is a homage of sorts to the family's predecessors, all of whom at one time worked in the tin mining industry. Interiors feature polished cement floors and blackened stainless steel with brass rivets. Pankawalla fans, which would in times gone by, have been pulled back and forth by hand, are here electrified and hang from the ceilings of the bar and restaurant. Wire-framed mirand even the wrench-like steel cutlery has an industrial flavor.



Pearl's site was occupied by the Na-Ranong family's Pearl Village Hotel. Having made a success of the venture, the family decided it was time to reinvent the enterprise. "We felt it was time to look into the future and determine how we could really differentiate our offering to attract an urbane client," said Mr Wichit Na-Ranong, the owner and managing director of the resort.

The family spent time study-

eventually developed the Indigo Pearl concept. Following a substantial investment, the resort reopened under its new guise in

As well as creating an engaging resort experience, the Na-Ranong family say they wanted to make a significant contribution to restoring Phuket's position as Asia's premiere tourist destination. "Phuket is my home and has given me the opportunity to enjoy solid business success. We are confident in Phuket's future and believe that this investment will help bring in a new demographic of visitors seeking unique vacation experiences that reflect their sense of style and creativity," added Mr Wichit.

Indigo Pearl has been created under the direction of renowned architect and interior designer Bill Bensley, founder and owner of the Bensley Design Stu-

Well known for his holistic



Prakaikaew Na-Ranong Theerathada, the resort's deputy managing director and daughter of Mr Wichit, to implement the Indigo Pearl concept.

"We wanted the overall feeling to reflect Phuket's heritage as a former tin mining center while offering a distinctive atmosphere that will intrigue urbane travelers.

'They will delight in the smallest details, from the reclaimed building materials through to locally crafted furnishings, as well as grounds that are a modernist transformation of a mature plantation, accented by contemporary and found industrial art," said Mrs Prakaikaew.

Bill Bensley worked in close collaboration with John Underwood, a native Australian and Phuket resident artist in creating the unique furnishings and art pieces seen throughout Indigo Pearl. John's work for Indigo Pearl was developed on the concept of "found industrial art".

The resort scooped the award for "Best Design Concept in South East Asia" at the prestigious annual Hospitality Asia Platinum Awards and topped Tripadvisor's list of 260 hotels and resorts in Phuket most applauded by online voters.

It seems the originality of the Indigo Pearl concept has not gone unnoticed.

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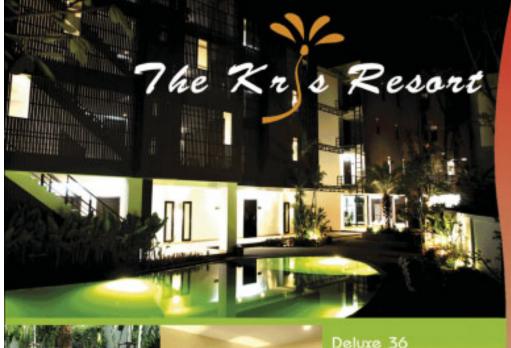


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Home of the Week Naiharn

Beautifully furnished home in Naiharn

his three-bedroom house is situated one kilometer away from Naiharn Beach, a national park on the Andaman Sea. The house is one of a small enclave of homes on a hillside that overlooks a valley where water buffalo graze. The house would be ideal as a retirement or vacation home, lying at the end of a paved culde-sac with very little traffic.

The house features three bedrooms with sitting areas and walk-in closets, four bathrooms, a study with built in book cases, a modern fully equipped kitchen with adjacent pantry/utility room, and an open-plan dining area. From the dining area, steps lead down to a large living room and TV viewing area. The satellite TV system features 73 channels. The TV area opens through sliding doors onto a downstairs terrace with an attached carport behind.

The house is beautifully furnished. The living room features three arm chairs, a long sofa, a shorter sofa, glass-topped end tables, coffee tables, cabinets and various other pieces furniture – all excellent quality and in new condition. The kitchen boasts cus-



The beautifully furnished living room features three arm chairs, a long sofa, a shorter sofa, glass-topped end tables, coffee tables and cabinets – all excellent quality and in new condition.

tom-designed, built-in cabinets of solid rosewood, and concrete countertops topped with dragon's eye granite. All doors are made of teak and a teak table furnishes the hall.

The swimming pool is located in front of the house, with both a downstairs and upstairs terrace overlooking it and the valley beyond. The pool is 15 x 4.6 meters, large enough to get some exercise. It was blasted into solid granite, which provides a natural terrace at one end, shaded by a tamarind tree. Teak tables and chairs are provided on both terraces. A granite ramp

slopes up to the steps from the ground floor terrace. Granite walls retain the terraced lawns, and a two-tone sandwashed sidewalk, supported on columns and beams to prevent settling, encircles the house.

There are two professionally designed septic systems, each

handling two of the four toilets in the house. Each has three digester tanks in series, discharging into separate weeping beds to disperse residual liquids safely underground, making for trouble free sewage disposal. There is a third separate disposal system for wash water. The house has a Bosch security system installed.

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The house is available with Chanote title deeds, and the asking price is 21,000,000 baht or nearest offer.

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PHUKET GAZETTE

PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

ourism remains Phuket's number one economic indicator, and ask any of the island's many visitors what was the deciding factor in their decision to take their holiday here, and more often than not the answer is the beaches.

While we have a myriad of tourist attractions, a growing number of golf courses and marinas, two large shopping centers, spas and international medical treatment, the key demand generator remains these stretches of white sand where the waves make landfall.

As of late, both the national and local media have sparked a good amount of interest in issues ranging from land developers limiting access to local fisherman, to the potential for marinas to damage the marine environment, to recent reports of the new Provincial Governor being denied beach access as he was conducting low profile inspections.

Read between the lines and clearly there is a witches' brew of issues boiling under the surface concerning the course of development being conducted here, and the strange bedfellow it makes with local commerce and the wider community.

Battle for the Beaches



Room at the Beach: With the high season upon us, things are getting a bit more lively at Phuket's beaches, but without the oft maligned services there, would our sands be seeing any tourists at all?

More worrisome, perhaps, is the undertone taken on a broader class issue, being rich versus the poor, and the exploitation of natural resources for personal financial gain.

These are topics that are not going to go away, and this is only the tip of the iceberg in terms of what is shaping up to be a long term challenge for Phuket.

From a legal perspective, all of Thailand's beaches are public

Here in Phuket, no construction is allowed within 30

meters from high tide, and while encroachment is supposed to be reported to the building control department and the police, many such reports are now being addressed directly to the Governor's office for resolution.

The Civil and Commercial Code of Thailand specifically addresses public land and includes not only beaches but also highways, waterways and lakes.

The geography here often makes access an issue as many resorts, such as Le Meridien and Amanpuri/Chedi, have natural boundaries that restrict locals from simply walking onto the beach without passing through private property.

While the environment and protection of the livelihood of those living below the poverty level are admirable objectives, shouldn't the same zealous campaigns be conducted in respect of squatters whose restaurants and shops lay within the public domain, illegal beach chair rental businesses, and the dangerous, and occasionally fatal, jet-ski and parasailing operations?

Arguably, these block the way of locals wanting to enjoy a beach picnic, and there have been large-scale, international protests

about jet-skis damaging marine life, which ultimately affects the fish population and, in turn, the welfare of fishermen.

Look at Prince Edward Island on Canada's eastern seaboard, where fishing the Grand Banks was a primary livelihood for generations, and where, as fishing conditions changed, tourism moved in to supplement, or often replace, that dying way of life.

As with so many issues, much of what is at hand here lies within a nefarious gray area. If you are a tourist visiting Phuket, do you want to spend your days on hot sand with no beach lounger available to you? Or no drinks stand where you can grab a refreshment?

There is a reason that the much loathed and oft maligned beach entrepreneurs are there in the first place.

Visitors to the island want their services. Remove them and where will visitors get a beach chair? It's the same for the jetskis and parasailing.

With limited tourist attractions, these vendors arguably provide a loose tourist infrastructure that has evolved and worked over time.

If you apply the letter of the law across the board, there will no doubt be empty beaches – no lounge chairs, no vendors, and no tourists.

Phuket is a mass market with over 40,000 hotel rooms and 5 million visitors (last year) who need and demand beach-based facilities.

Ultimately, the reality is that there is no quick fix or easy answer.

One thing Thais in general are extremely capable of doing is finding compromise solutions.

While we can point to tourism models in such places as Hawaii, the reality is that a large amount of lower income employment here is generated by these quasi-legal operations.

Logically, on a much wider scale, there is a need for not only beach access but also facilities for adequate parking, sanitation and public toilets, and safety for swimmers as well as those just walking along the oceanfront areas.

Improving education for the impoverished and offering employment opportunities in higher paying tourism jobs would alleviate much of the presumed repression of the pool.

Summing it all up, fishing and marina issues are not going to be resolved in this column. But as in all things in Thailand, there has to be a balanced and pragmatic view as to what the biggest problems really are, and evaluation, planning and action for future solutions.

A fresh face in the Governor's office is an opportunity for new ideas to come forth and, as always, there is potential for improvements.

While a select few may enjoy lovely views of the ocean from their upscale villas, it is likely, over time, that they will be seeing more and more of the public – in the water and on the sand – in front of them.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks (c9hotelworks.com), a Phuket-based hotel and residential property consulting firm. With more than 20 years' experience in the region, he has played an active role in some of the island's biggest developments.







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Property Focus International

Companies increase focus on sustainability

ccording to a recent survey conducted by CoreNet Global and property services provider Jones Lang LaSalle, corporate real estate executives (CRE) are less likely to pay a premium for green office space than they were a year ago, despite energy and sustainability now being considered a business priority.

Of more than 400 CRE executives surveyed globally, 69% said sustainability is a critical business issue for their real estate departments.

When CoreNet and Jones Lang LaSalle asked the same question in 2007, the figure had dropped to 47%.

Furthermore, 40% this year rated energy and sustainability as a "major factor" in their companies' location decisions, with an additional 36% calling it a "tiebreaker" between locations that are otherwise competitive.

According to Chris Wallbank, Asia Pacific Head of Energy and Sustainability Services – Property, Asset and Integrated Facilities Management at Jones Lang LaSalle, Asia is experiencing many of the same trends that accelerated the growth of the green building industries in Europe and North America.

"If you look across Asia at many of the higher quality commercial developments you'll find that most are being designed and built with sustainability as a major consideration. This shift towards sustainability suggests that those in the industry are recognizing its value going into the future"

"However, within Asia, property markets vary significantly and in more mature markets, such as Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan, the opportunity to implement sustainability in new developments is limited by the availability of land that can be developed. Landlords and building owners in these markets who are looking to "green" their existing properties can still do so by retrofitting them," he said.

Despite the high level of importance companies place on sustainability, the number of companies willing to pay more has dropped since 2007.

Nevertheless, a significant 42% of CRE executives are still willing to pay a premium (usually 1 to 5%) to lease green space and 53% said they would pay a premium to retrofit property they own to gain sustainability benefits.

In the 2007 CoreNet-Jones Lang LaSalle survey, 77% said they were willing to pay some level of premium for green space.

"The survey results reinforce the idea that corporate real estate directors are continually looking for ways to deliver greater strategic value to their organizations at a lower cost," said Dr. Prentice Knight, CEO of CoreNet Global.

"They have climbed a steep learning curve on sustainability in



The CHEDI Phuket was designed with sustainability in mind. The resort features "green" concepts that keep running costs low and attempt to harmonize the development with the environment.

the past two years, and have learned how to achieve the benefits of sustainability without overspending to get there."

"A year ago, most CRE directors believed that improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions would cost money, at least in the short run," said Mr Wallbank.

"Today, they realize they can meet sustainability goals and save money at the same time.

"In tough economic times

the ability of efficiency initiatives to deliver bottom-line returns is increasingly important," said Mr Wallbank.

"The business case for sustainable real estate development is compelling when you take into account the evolving business landscape — occupier preferences, stakeholder demands, government regulations — along with immediate cost savings.

"We have seen that savings of up to 15% are achievable in most existing buildings, using conventionally available technology.

"We're not talking rocket science here, it's a simple and straight forward approach to the basic fundamentals of how you run a building efficiently," he

A focus on cost-effective strategies is evident in the responses to a question on how broadly companies have implemented various green initiatives. Recycling, a strategy that requires little upfront cost and engenders goodwill from employees, has been embraced by most companies, with broad implementation at about three-quarters of firms and limited implementation at another 20%.

Energy management, the strategy with the greatest potential for cost savings, has been broadly implemented at nearly 60% of firms and on a more limited basis at another 30%.

Strategies such as purchasing green power and investing in renewable power sources – which may help the environment but offer companies less promising cost/benefit equations – are broadly implemented at less than 20% of companies.

The results of the survey were announced at the CoreNet Global Summit in Orlando, Florida on November 10, 2008. Surveys were conducted in September and October 2008.







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Property Gazette

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URGENT SALE

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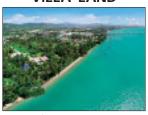
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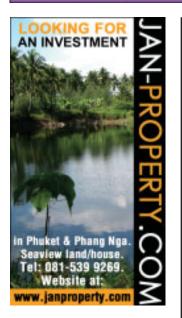
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for rent. 3-story villa, sea view, hill view, garden, pool, 4 bedrooms with 2 en-suite bathrooms, 6 bathrooms, ADSL. Jacuzzi. Big living room, kitchen/ dining, laundry room. 5 aircons. 8m x 3.5m private pool. 2 parking spaces. Tel: 081-677 9837, 089-646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

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3-level house, only 1 minute to beach. Owner moving. 3.6 million baht. Tel: 084-840 5834.

SALE/RENT



Beach. Sale: 7.9 million baht. Rent: 30, 000 baht per month with 100,000 baht deposit. Tel: 081-477 2152. Email: info@

NEW 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT IN KATA CENTRAL

2. 5 bedrooms and 5 bathrooms, all with hot water.

8 aircon units, 3 ceiling fans, landscape lighting

Indoor carport with automatic gate.
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Price = 12.8 million baht. Call (081) 895-7310

and sprinkler system for garden. 1 Jacuzzi and 1 bathtub.

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Separate living, European kitchen and dining areas.
4.5x12m swimming pool with turbo jet (partially indoors).
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Heroines monument. 12.9 million baht + clear land 2.5 million baht. Tel: 084-690 7057.

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Properties For Rent

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Private bedroom, bathroom, aircon, ADSL, Wi-Fi, cable TV. 3,500 baht weekly. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@ yahoo.com

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New, fully furnished, 1 or 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, full aircon. Large Western teak kitchen and bath, 130sqm, large seaview terrace, pool, parking. Weekly, monthly and long-term rates available. Serviced also available. Tel: 089-592 6890. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

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3 bedrooms, 5 min to Boat Lagoon & BIS. 70,000 baht per month. Email: simon@ worrall.info

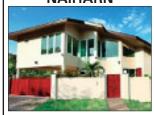
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2 bedroom furnished home for rent with telephone, UBC and aircon. Tel: 089-652-1473. Email: anandaestates @yahoo.com

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POOL VILLA – NAIHARN



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Prime location, 400sqm on 2 floors. At junction to Ao Por Pier with big parking area. Tel: 076-260468. Email: amykoh 18@gmail.com

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BANGTAO HOUSE

for rent. 2 bedrooms, 20,000 baht. Tel: 087-268 8752. Email: phuketmat@yahoo. com. For further details, please visit our website at: www.phukethome.ws

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610sqm, 4 bedrooms, swimming pool and garden, 1,000sqm. The villa is located next to Loch Palm Golf Course. Rent weekly: 130, 000 baht; monthly, 300, 000 baht. Or for sale at US\$ 1.35 million. House agents welcome. Please contact Mr Tuan. Tel: 089-652 3148. Email: pratuan@solicit orthai.com

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Tel: 087-272 0303. Just look at www.phuket-villa-property.com

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Daily Weekly Monthly Rental



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House for rent needed for 6 months. No kids, no pets. 3 bathrooms, furnished, private pool. ADSL Internet is a MUST! Karon, Kata, Nai Harn or Ravvai. Email: kotmax@gmail.com

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from October 8 until March 2009. Could be in Phuket or Krabi, including Koh Lanta. The important things are seaside (or at least sea view) and a swimming pool, Two bedrooms, for a couple. No pets and no parties. Can be a quiet location. Email: office@neubrasilien.at

Property Services

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by self-employed person. I have 7 years' experience with real estate and property management in Australia. Have worked with hotel management in Phuket resorts for 3 years. I provide high-quality service and villa management at fair prices. Can carry out professional duties set out in the management agreement, including housekeeping & maintenance of property. Can organize flight tickets and activities as well as other requests. Tel:087-100 6111. Émail: luckypam@gmail.com

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Siam Real Estate have clients waiting for good quality rentals NOW - both holiday and long-term rentals. If you want to rent your property quickly and get top dollar, contact us immediately. Tel: 076-288908. Email: patrick@siamrealestate.com Please visit our website at www.siamrealestate.com

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Dream sea view, east of the island, approximately 400sqm from 1,990 baht per sqm, 796,000 baht for 30-year lease, longer lease available. 12 houses have been built so far. We speak German and English. Tel: 081-891 8930,

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Two single rooms in a three bedroom house. Available now. Basic furniture. 4,500 baht per month, all in. Call Gareth at the mobile number 085-439 1859. Or email: haigh claire@yahoo.co.uk

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Air conditioned, cable TV, hot shower, free ADSL, new furniture, 4,900 baht per month or 380 baht/day. New room. Tel: 085-888 5144.

KATA SEA VIEW **ROOM**

for rent. Cable TV, kitchen, ADSL. 7,000 baht. Contact. Khun Nui. Tel: 081-968 5904.

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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.

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

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Accommodation **Wanted**

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WANTED FOR RENT

Condo/apt/villa in Kamala, Surin, Bang Tao area. 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, Western kitchen, phone, wi-fi, pool. 3 months from 10th Jan. 25-35,000 baht. Email: patprice52@hotmail.com

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2-3 bed modern villa or condo required immediately for rent. Must be furnished and secure, and should have sea view, terrace, pool, internet, and cable TV. Location could be Kamala, Patong, Kata, Karon, Chalong, Rawai, or Nai Harn, Needed for a minimum of 6-12 months. Tel: 085-666 5504. Email: vishalsood@msn.com

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Renovations, construction, carpentry, real wood, parquet, painting. Contact K. Pueng for additional information at Tel: 087-270 9093 or K. Ne at Tel: 087-689 9679 (English/Thai). Email: allservices29@gmail.com

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3 seater sofa, 2 arm chairs, Italian suede leather, removable cushions. Aquamarine color. Original cost: 280,000 baht, Will sell for 20,000, Tel: 076-279346, 081-597 9744. Fax: 076-279346. Email: peterb@ji-net.com

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5 kg Electrolux dryer: 10,000 baht. Zanussi electric oven: 9,500 baht. Email: pn_guesthouse@yahoo.com

DISHWASHER

A little bit old but it works well. Price: 1,000 baht. Email: pn_guesthouse@yahoo.com

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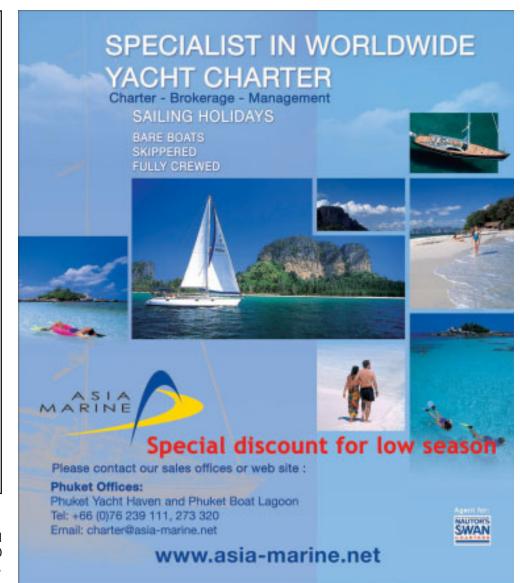
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Please send your resumé with a recent photo or apply in person to Personnel Department.

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- · Good command of spoken and written English
- Pleasant personality and people skills

Good salary package for the right candidates. Please send your resumé and photo to: enquiry@thai-infocenter.com



The new high-end Andara Luxury Boutique Hotel & Villa Resort located at Kamala Beach Phuket is looking for a qualified & energetic person to fill the following position:



PROPERTY SALES EXECUTIVE

Candidates should have proven hotel management experience in similar positions as well as possessing the following:

Qualifications:

- Foreigner only, with at least a Bachelor's Degree in a related field
- . Minimum 5 years' experience in selling Luxury branded residential properties
- Entrepreneurial, excellent service-mind, Positive thinking with "Can Do" attitude
- Ability to understand all aspects of sales management.
- Extensive knowledge and experience in the real estate market with successful sales results is essential.
- Highly professional and able to maintain poise under pressure.

Interested candidates, please send full resume, expected salary & enclose a recent photo by fax or e-mail to **PARADISE GROUP:**The Plaza Surin 5/50 Moo 3, Chemgthalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110 f: 66-76-271242 e: hr@paradisephuket.com and apple@paradisephuket.com



PROFESSIONAL STAFF REQUIRED FOR BANGTAO BEACH RESTAURANT

Front of House & Floor positions available

Please call 089-590 2589 for interview

- ♣ Professional staff only need apply
- ♦ Must speak good/excellent English
- ♠ Training in a 4/5 star restaurant/hotel a must
- Pleasant and hard working attitude
- Attractive salary for the right candidate

CHEF WANTED

Chef needed for new restaurant in Karon. Must have experience cooking Farang food. Please contact for more details Tel: 089-590 3923. Email: logbass@hotmail.com

PADI DIVING INSTRUCTOR

Diving instructor required, full time. Email: tony@diveh2osportz.com

THAI EURO FOOD

Chef needed for Thai-Euro food restaurant in Patong. 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-827 8442. Email: wojid kowbengt@hotmail.com

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www.royalphuketmarina.com

ROYAL PHUKET MARI

A multinational clothing brand located at Royal Phuket Marina is seeking a Full Time Manager & Shop Assistant. English speaking and love of dressing is a must.

Please send photo and CV to Khun Khemchart at khemchartc@royalphuketmarina.com Tel: 076 360 833-38 # 16 Mobile: 081 893 5564

You can visit us @ www.paulropp.com



A growing travel club is seeking for more staff to join our Phuket and Samui branch.

HR/Admin Assistant

- Thai nationality, male
- strong command of English, written and spoken
- good computer literacy
- Minimum 1 year experience in HR field
- know ledge visa and work permit application, plus tax and sss
- no military service obligation
- flexible working hours
- previous work in holiday ownership business/ office secretarial work is a plus

Reservation Officer

- Thai nationality, male or female
- fluent command of English, written and spoken
- good computer literacy
- flexible working hours
- previous work in holiday ownership business/ office secretarial work is a plus

Senior Accountant

- Thai national, male or female
- Bachelor's degree
- At least 5 years experience in general accounting, knowledge of taxes in property business
- Good computer literacy

Good salary package awaits the right candidates. Please submit your resume to the given e-mail address or call for more information

HR Dpt. +66(76) 341427 Fax: +66(76) 341425 Email: hr@ClubAbsolute.com

Website: www.clubabsolute.com

We are a leading international service property firm, committed to providing innovative solutions for clients across a broad range of services and locations. We are looking for the following people to grow with us. Come Be the Best among the Best.

Customer Service Officer x 3 Receptionist x 2 Telesales x 6 Telesales Manager X 1

Job Responsibilities:

- · Making outbound calls to existing customers/prospects to cross-sell travel/properties
- Fixed appointment with Business Development Managers
- · Provide prospects with product information
- Provide top-notch customer service
- Achieve monthly sales targets

Job Requirements:

- Good spoken English is a must
- Preferably some experience in call centre / telesales / customer service
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- · Full training provided

Salary: High basic + commission + incentives with benefits

68 Bangla Rd, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150

Interested candidates please call 076-342941, 0817 471 221 or email your resume to ian@nsre-thailand.com

BANGTAO TROPICAL RESIDENCE

We are seeking 3 Sales Executives, male or female, with at least 2 years' experience within the property sector. Candidates may be Thai or foreign and must be highly organized. Good communication skills are required. Interested parties should contact us at cilcon@hotmail.com or Tel: 076-261772. Fax: 076-261773. For further details, please see our website at http:/ /www.phuketdeluxe base.

NEW TOP COCKTAIL

Lounge bar on Surin beach is looking for experienced barmen and waitresses. Must speak English. Good salary. Contact Thomas. Tel: 086-475 9408

EXPERIENCED HOUSEKEEPER

British family in Singapore requires Thai housekeeper. Must take care of house, laundry, pets, cooking and some childcare. Must have Mor Sam education or above and speak, read and vvrite some English. References required. Tel: +65-96432084. Email: singaporefamily@yahoo.

WAITER & BAR STAFF WANTED

Spice Island, a new and exciting restaurant, is looking for experienced waiters, waitresses and bar staff. Please send your CV to us for consideration. Tel: 081-8937028. Fax: 076-254827. Email: spice.island.phuket@gmail.

RESTAURANT STAFF NEEDED

European/Thai restaurant looking for cook, cook's helper, bartender, waiter, waitress. Telephone: 085-336 0231.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Real estate and adventure company. Sales + marketing experience, English and computer skills. Send resume to Email: klasseds@yahoo.com

SWEDISH / **NORDIC**

travel consultant. We are an expanding travel agency located in Phuket City. We are looking for a Swedish/Nordic travel consultant, 25. Computer/Internet knowledge is essential, as is a past in the travel industry. Pedantic organizational skills and a really good knowledge of Thailand are much desired. Please apply by email. Tel: 076-246427, 081-787 9454. Fax: 076-246180. Email: andersp@loxinfo.co.th

RESTAURANT CASA D'ORASA

We need one professional waiter/waitress, English speaking. We also need one cook's assistant for Italian cuisine. For more information please contact Khun Orasa. for more information at Tel: 087-518 8837. Email: peterwiniker@hotmail.com

AUTOMATION SALE

Salary range: 40,000 to 75,000 baht. Experience an asset. Must have technical knowledge, and be skilled and able to read electrical drawings. Thai national, own car. Send CV to: info@elec-pro.com

WANTED: PERSONAL **ASSISTANT**

Looking for Personal Assistant to English MD of export business. Must speak good English; previous experience preferred. Good salary & benefits. Immediate start. Email or call directly. Tel: 083-201 4621. Email: solutions@colloidalsilverasia. com

INTERNATIONAL **FINANCIAL ADVISORS WANTED**

Mature and motivated individuals with finance and/or strong sales skills for Phuket and Thailand businesses. Please send resume to Marine: careers@pp-intl.com

SECRETARY TO GM

A well presented lady is required to assist GM. Duties include reception, basic bookkeeping, and Liaison with foreign owners and guests. Knowledge of MS Word and Excel is required. Email: Hans@kalimresidence.com

SOUTHERNMED

Creative Designer

Candidates must have the ability to consistently deliver strategic advertising and marketing design solutions across all print and digital mediums.

Qualifications

- University degree in a design related field
 Syears relevant experience in an advertising agency
 Mastery of Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign

- Knowledgeable about standards for design and print

- Freehand drawing skills
 Highly motivated and energetic
 Excellent communication skills

371/5-6 Yaowarat Road. Talad Yai, Muang. Phuket 83000 076 236 637 - jobs@southern-media.net - southern-media.net

Employment Wanted

RESTAURANT European restaurant in Patong is looking for staffs:

EUROPEAN

- Cook
- Cook helper
- Bartender
- Waiter / waitress Tel: 085-336 0231. Email: zsuzsau@hotmail.com

THAI WOMAN

I can read, write and speak very good English, very good German, and basic French. I have good computer skills. I have my own car. I am trustworthy and reliable. If you are looking for a good worker, please do not hesitate to contact me. Email: patty.bamert@gmx.net

SPECIALIST DESIGN

kitchens. Dutchman, specialized in design kitchens and bathrooms, with a lot of experience in renovation and general interior building, is looking for opportunities. I have excellent communication skills, live in Phuket, and speak fluent English, Dutch, and French - and fairly good German. Tel: 085-156 9084. Email: richard 19@hotmail.fr

PAINTER/ECORATOR

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Articles For Sale

STATUE FOR SALE



Beautiful bronze statue of Bacchus, signed by the artist. Price: 120,000 baht o.n.o. Size: 1.60m high, 65 cm deep, 85 cm wide. Tel: 087-888 4769.

THE FIRST YEARS

Imported quality Quinny Speedi SX, three-wheel baby/ toddler stroller with Maxi-Cosi car seat (fit together). 10,000 baht. Good quality traditional dark wood crib with pads and mattress, 7,500 baht, Or everything for 15,000 baht. Tel: 076-282795, 081-787 9454. Fax 076-246180. Email: andersp@loxinfo.co.th

GYM EQUIPMENT

for sale. Good quality new paint and chromium. Email: chilligarden@hotmail.com

GYM EQUIPMENT

DK City tread mill + Smiths machine. 6 months old. Cost 100,000; will accept 50,000, delivery & installation included. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-890 0033. Email: harrycorn@hotmail.co.uk

FISHTANKS / **AQUARIUM**

2 fishtanks for sale: 300 liter with lights, pump, fish, plants. 150 liters with pumps, fish and plants. Very beautiful! Will sell cheap to good hands! Call to make an offer! Tel: 089-867 0424. Email: alikedive @hotmail.com

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3 seater sofa, 2 arm chairs, Italian suede leather, removable cushions. Aquamarine color. Original cost: 280,000 baht. Will sell for 20,000. Tel: 076-279346, 081-597 9744. Fax: 076-279 346. Email: peterb@jinet.com

35 SUN CHAIRS

for sale. Adjustable teak chairs, 1-2 years old, need a varnish. New: 12,000 baht; now: 1,500 baht each. Contact Khun Poo. Tel: 081-091 3724.

FOR SALE

New aircon: 35, 000 BTU, 3 massage beds, all furniture and equipment for massage/ salon. Contact Khun Zai. Tel: 083-635 6239.

CHILD CAR SEAT

Used child's car seat in very good condition. European safety standards. Suits child 9-18kg. 2,000 baht. Email: supanova999@yahoo.com

LG 42" PLASMA TV

Excellent condition, complete with wall brackets. Price: 24,950 baht. Tel: 086-943-

BIKE JACKET AND FULL FACE

- Leather road bike jacket with body armor: 5,000 baht.
- Nolan full face Syncrotech helmet: 5,000 baht.

Second hand but good condition. Tel: 081-895 4480. E-mail for pic: mat@pcphuket.com

GAS GRIDDLE

Cost 20,000 baht, will accept 13,000 baht. Double 3-liter french fries machine. Will accept 10,000 baht. Both new. Located in Rawai. Telephone: 089-473 1351.

GOLD & SILVER

9CT gold watch: 6,000 baht. Lady's dress ring, emerald style: 3,000 baht. My ring: 7,000 baht. 9 CT, solid silver rose bowl: 6,000 baht. Tel: 087-922 3242. Email: patong man123@hotmail.com

BABY / TODDLER STUFF

Imported quality Quinny Speedi SX, three-wheel baby/ toddler stroller with Maxi-Cosi car seat (fits together). 10,000 baht. Good quality traditional dark wood crib with pads and mattress. 7,500 baht. Or everything for 15,000 baht. Tel: 076-282-795, 081-787 9454. Fax: 076-246180. Email: andersp @loxinfo.co.th

SIZE 41 WOMENS' SHOES, HOT!

I bought these on Ebay and they are too big for me. Turquoise leather, open-toe cork wedges, from the UK. Very unique and great condition. Price 650 baht. Email: sylvie @andamanavenue.com

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Tel: 076-232398/9

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Quality teakwood furniture. Display/Book case, Desk, Side/ display table, Sun-lounger with fabric cushion, pair bedside tables w/ drawers, 6 drawer chest, telephone cabinet. Tel: 087-274 7648. Email: deb spatterson@gmail.com

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Phil & Ted's Sport Stroller with Doubles Kit & Travel Bag. Bought while on a 2 week holiday in the UK, not used since. Will post anywhere in Thailand. As new. 27,500 baht. Tel: 042-347499, 085-459 6003. Email: mark leathersich @hotmail.com

MOVING SALE

Never used sofa, bed, mattress, cooker, 3 fridges, coffee machine, 2,000 DVDs in Italian/French, Pioneer DVD recorder, computer scannerlaser, Acer laptop, Samsung TV 21". Tel: 081-294 5441.

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Moving sale. All beautiful and contemporary. For info call after October 20. Contact Ben. Tel: 087-897 5175.

ARTICLES FOR SALE

- 1. Crafted wood antique vase. 2. Glass food display cabinet.
- 3. Painting of Louisiana street scene. Best for restaurant, pub, bar.

Tel: 081-294 5441.

Articles Wanted

WANTED:

Metal detector with operator to look for lost property at Kamala Beach. Please contact Kat. Tel: 087-504 4232.

WANTED: BOAT TRAILER

Twin axle boat trailer needed for a 9m centre console boat. Wood or steel. Must be in good condition. Tel: 081-081 5952. Email: messagejohn@hotmail.com

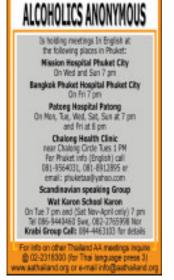
RECUMBENT **EXCERCISE BIKE**

Want to buy a recumbent excercise bike in good condition. Can collect if the right bike found. Tel: 081-892 7948. Email: jypenman@ phuket.ksc.co.th

PLAYSTATION 3 WANTED

Phuket resident wants to buy Playstation 3. Please contact me if you have one available. Tel: 084-855 7803. Email: shellycider@yahoo.com

Bulletins



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a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol (Tel: 087-417 8860) or Sue (Tel: 087-277 6948). Or email: info@phuketiwc.com

TO MISS SUPALAK **YAKLINOM**

Eddie post, David in Patong, please call Thamapol in USA because he misses you very much. Cannot sleep until I hear your voice. Tel: 562 310 3492.

LOOKING FOR BOAT PARTNER

I am looking for someone in Phuket who is interested in buying a small speed boat, such as "Crownline", as a half owner. I live in Rawai. Please contact me, Gary, as above if you might be interested. Tel: 089-090 6969. Email: tropical breez 1@hotmail.com

PHONE LINES: SOI **GLUM YUNG**

Do you want a phone line on Soi Glum Yung in Chalong? We want to get as many people together as possible to apply for more phone lines for this area. Tel: 086-683 1964. Please email for more details. Emai: franklee200 @hotmail.com

LADIES SOCIAL **TENNIS**

Anyone interested in getting a group of Ladies, 40+, together to enjoy social Tennis? Tel: 089-469 8100. Email: didee51@yahoo.com.au

Agents for Classified Advertising

PHUKET

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Tel: 076-282254 Chao Fa East Rd (next to Siam Commercial Bank)

Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe

Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chao Fa East Rd

K.L. Mart

Patak Rd, Chalong

Earth Language School Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City

Sin & Lee

Thalang Rd, Phuket City

Taurus Travel

Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong

41 Minimart

Srisoonthorn Rd, Cherng Talay

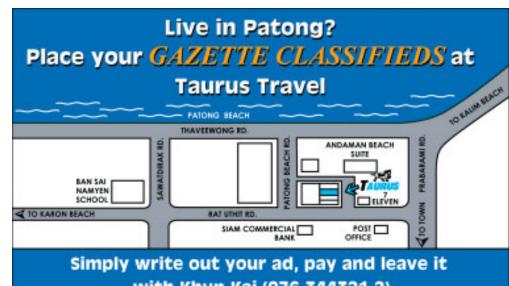
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Property Information Center [PIC]

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for sale in Chalong-Rawai. The restaurant is popular in both low and high seasons, and guaranteed profitable. Email: services0707@ieffhock.com Website: http://www.salam exicali.com/sale/

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for sale. Nanai road, ready to start, price 250,000 baht. Tel: 081-574 5881.

RESTAURANT GUESTHOUSE

for sale. 700 sqm on 2 floors. Patong Nanai. 1.8 million baht. Tel: 089-048 5695.

BAR & RESTAURANT

for lease. On Nai Harn/Rawai Road. Well established venue. 30 covers, 8 years lease. 12,000 baht per month. Built 2 years ago. All fixtures & fittings. All stock. Tel: 087-275 4867. Email: thaichips@ yahoo.co.uk

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For sale: unique business investment opportunity along with Thai registered company and work permit. Email: kbourlis@hotmail.com

PIZZERIA: 1.5 **MILLION BAHT**

ITALIAN RESTAURANT AND PIZZERIA for sale. Prime location in Khaolak (100 km from Phuket), in front of Merlin resort and three other big resorts (about 700 rooms). Equipment like new (only two months old), just opened. Asking just for recuperation of investment cost. Have invested 1.5 million baht. The business comes with a lease at 30,000 baht per month paid every month, not in one lump sum annually. Very good opportunity. I am selling it for retirement. Tel: 076-486178, 084-629 7767. Fax 076-486178. Email: stardust bar@hotmail.com

BAR, RESTAURANT

with big swimming pool in the middle. 4 rooms, pool and billiards. For rent at 18, 400 baht per month; contract 3 + 3 + 3 years. More than 300sqm. Key money: 2 million baht. Phone: 084-639 0392.

BUSINESS IN PARADISE



Shrimp farm with 3 houses: main house, questhouse and bungalow on 25 rai. Great business opportunity. Good yearly income. 15 million baht. Tel: 081-895 4136. Email: jrp@loxinfo.co.th

KOH PHI PHI **GUEST ROOMS**

4 twin and fully equipped guest rooms in modern building with long lease. Close to the beach, entertainment and shops. Valued at 4 million baht, but will offer a substantial reduction for quick sale. Tel: 087-461 3121. Email: sgiandubh69@hotmail.com

SHOP IN PATONG

for rent. Best location. Soi Foodland, 50sgm. All branches. Contact Khun Peter. Tel: 081-892 8526.

BAR IN KARON

for sale. Value for money, fully furnished, pool table, etc. Urgent sale. Owner relocating. 900,000 baht. Tel: 084-757 5751.

BAR FOR SALE

Fully equipped & stocked. Solid turnover & expat customer base. 3-year lease, low rent, no key money, great opportunity. Tel: 084-064

RESTAURANT FOR RENT

Walk in with 400,000 baht, 100,000 baht per month. All equipment, very good revenue. Tel: 084-445 2831.

RESORT FOR SALE

A well-known resort for sale in Koh Jum (Krabi), 7 rai with Chanote title in the center of the beach. Access road, water. Power will be installed mid-2009, www.woodland koh-jum.com

RESTAURANT FOR RENT

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Need help finding a lawyer? Try PhuketGazette.Net

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Game fishing business, boat and company for sale. Tel: 086-124 7528. Email: buch wa@yahoo.com.au. For further details, please see our website at: http://www. phuket-fishing.com

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for rent. With beauty / massage equipment for sale. Aircon 35,000 BTU, 2 years guaranteed. 25,000 baht a month. Tel: 083-635 6239. Email: t remem@hotmail.

GUESTHOUSE/BAR

for sale. Central Patong, long lease, great value for money, short & long-term. 17 suites plus manager's residence. Good returns, short walk to beach. 3.9 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 087-383 6505. Or email property.thai @hotmail.com

RESTAURANT

New kitchen, 40 seats, main road Patong Hill. Price: 2.8 million baht. Tel: 084-848-5704.

BAR FOR SALE

Fully equipped & stocked. Solid turnover & expat customer base. 3-year lease, low rent, no key money, great opportunity. Tel: 084-064 6590.

GUESTHOUSE PATONG

for rent. 10 rooms, furnished, 2 minutes to Patong Beach. Call K. Pam. Tel: 089-866-9615.

ELEGANT SHOPHOUSE

Bargain: 4-story shophouse with Chanote. Fully-equipped restaurant on 1st and 2nd floors. Fully furnished apartment on 3rd and 4th floors. Value: 6.7 million baht. Now priced at only 5.5 million baht. Have to move out. Tel: 081-891 5602.

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BURGER DINER

in excellent location. Great for franchise, prime time to buy, sad to leave. Reduced price for quick sale. Tel: 081-081 6078. Email: skate 1047@hotmail.com

PATONG GUESTHOUSE

18 rooms, bar, restaurant, great location, Thai limited co, 2 work permits. 4.8 million baht. Tel: 080-697 1744.

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Kenika. Make 400,000 baht every 90 days, or 1.6 million baht a year. Telephone: 081-415 1894.

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TURNKEY BUSINESS

Travel agency in Phuket City with TAT license and website. Great location with huge potential. Includes 100 sqm bar/rest, at present sub let. Also extra 3 floors over 4 buildings for commercial or residential use Tel: 089-6186894 for more details.

RESTAURANT, KATHU

for sale. 250,000 baht; rent 120,000 baht. On Kathu main road. Thai food. Tel: 081-719-3928 (Thai), 085-098 4239 (English).

VERY NICE RESTAURANT

for sale 2.5 million baht. All new materials. 6 year lease, renewable. 40 seats + 16 on terrace next to pool. Tel: 084-445 2831.

ICE CREAM SHOP FOR SALE

Fully operating, located in Bzenter in Rawai. Good Value for Money. Tel: 084-1040741. Email: mauro@ touringasiaonline.com

KAMALA BAR

for sale. Good location on beach road. Fully stocked and includes 1 motorbike. Only 850,000 baht. 5-year lease. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-843 4569.

RESTAURANT-BAR IN KATA FOR SALE

Fully-stocked bar with big flat-TV. 2 living rooms, high quality furniture, 1,200,000 baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 083-390 4906. Email: sven.rz@web.de

GUESTHOUSE 6 room guesthouse with

beauty salon on bottom floor. Separate entrance to room, 4 years' contract left. Selling due to getting bigger family. Asking price: 1 million baht. Tel: 081-787 2571, 085-795 2101. Email: machawst @hotmail.com

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To Penang, Malaysia to apply for new visa includes 3-star hotel (single room), food & drink. (Visa fee not included) Day NOV.'08 DEC.'08 JAN.'09 FEB.'09 Wed. 5, 12, 19, 26 3, 10, 17, 24 7, 14, 21, 28 4, 11, 18, 25 Sun. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 7, 14, 21, 28 4, 11, 18, 25 1, 8, 15, 22 Trip To Penang 25,000 - One year visa for age 50 years or over - Thai bank book

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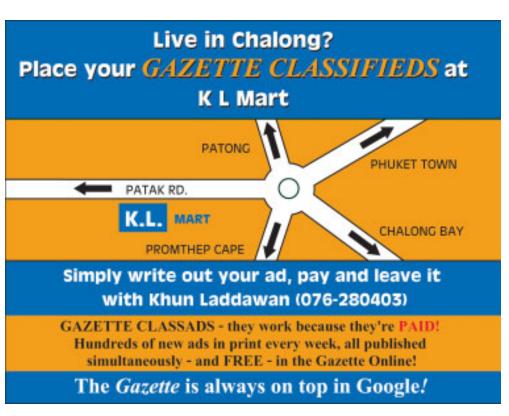
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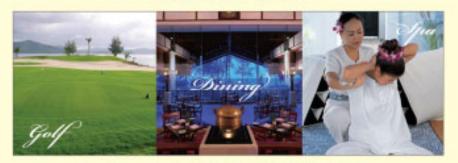
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