

Phuket Gazette

ANDAMAN Edition Volume 17 Issue 41

October 9 - 15, 2010

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net

25 Baht

Festival reels in millions

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

TOURISTS coming to Phuket for the annual Vegetarian Festival from October 8-16 are expected to pump at least 200 million baht into the local economy during the nine-day festival.

Occupancy rates in Phuket Town stood at 50%-60% on Tuesday, but many hotels in the island's capital district were already fully booked for the last three days of the event, said Wanaphapar Suksombul, Assistant Director at the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket Office.

TAT-registered hotels and accommodations in beach areas are already enjoying occupancy rates of about 70%, she added.

Ms Wanaphapar said the TAT expected a 10% rise in the number of visitors this year because the event coincides with school

vacations in Thailand and the three-day China National Day holiday on Monday that marks the start of a long holiday period in China.

Adding to the influx are two more direct flight services to Phuket, both landing on the island for the first time on October 12.

Qatar Airlines inaugural Doha-Kuala Lumpur-Phuket will arrive at 10:25pm, the first of the airline's six-daily-flights-a-week service.

Earlier that day, Air Asia's inaugural direct flight from Ubon Ratchathani will land at 2:20pm.

Ms Wanaphapar added that the bulk of the visitors coming were ethnic Chinese from Singapore, Malaysia, Mainland China, Hong Kong and Thailand. Other important inbound markets during the period are Australia, India and the Middle East, she said.

"Phuket will be more crowded than ever," she said.



A CHOSEN ONE: A 'mah song' holds up 'traditional' blades piercing through his cheek. Photo: Christian Mouchet

Call to keep Veg Fest traditional

PHUKET Shrines Association President Prasert Fakthongphol has asked participating shrines in this year's Vegetarian Festival to have their *mah song* (spirit mediums) use only "traditional" objects to pierce their cheeks.

The request reflects the increasing popularity of "modern"

objects like beach umbrellas, power drills and motorbike parts in recent years.

Among the traditional items he suggested as the instruments of choice are those mentioned in Chinese legends. Such objects run the gamut from swords, axes, and maces to 12-inch spiked-staffs

with figurines of Chinese gods as headpieces.

Maintaining this tradition was difficult because some *mah song* do not register with the shrines.

"They pierce their bodies outside the temples and join the processions on the streets," he said.

Police to launch helmet crackdown island-wide

POLICE across Phuket are preparing to take the helmet crackdown campaign beyond Phuket City Police District to cover the entire island, effective January 1.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Pekad Tantipong told the *Gazette* the move to enforce the traffic law island-wide follows the success of the campaign launched in Phuket Town.

"Since [the campaign was launched on] July 1, people in Phuket Town have been more aware of the importance of wearing helmets.

"Now we rarely see motorcycle riders and passengers without helmets, so I am

expanding this campaign to come into force across all of Phuket."

He assigned the superintendent at each police station on the island to set a team up to promote the campaign and inform residents of the impending crackdown in their respective jurisdictions.

The teams will also ask private and government organizations in their areas to support the campaign by donating helmets.

From January 1, the punishment for passengers found riding without a helmet will be the same as for those in town: First-time offenders must watch the mandatory road-safety and traffic law film.

From July 1 next year, repeat offenders – at least those in Phuket City Police District – will be fined.

In Patong, posters featuring Kathu Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakao and Kathu Traffic Division Inspector Jakkawat Boontawegunsawat, both wearing helmets while sitting on a motorcycle, have been posted throughout the town.

"We are drafting an MoU [memorandum of understanding] for private and government agencies and community leaders to sign to acknowledge and support the crackdown next year," Col Arayapan said.

The MoU being drafted aims to have

organizations introduce separate punishments for their own staff caught breaking the law.

Meanwhile, the state-run National News Bureau of Thailand has reported that all new driver's license applicants and people renewing their licenses will be required to have a doctor's certificate.

Psychological and emotional tests are also included in the examination to guarantee that no mental disabilities are found, NBT reported.

It was not reported whether the new rule will go into force immediately.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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This Week

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A full schedule of the processions for this year's Vegetarian Festival.

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Westin defers taxi decision

MANAGEMENT at the Westin Siray Bay Resort and Spa, a local affiliate with global resort giant Starwood Hotels, has deferred announcing its decision on whether to allow a local taxi counter inside its new luxury resort on Koh Sireh in Phuket.

The announcement followed a meeting on October 1 between resort management and members of the local taxi co-operative, Sirae Island Taxi Service.

While the meeting was under way, about 50 members of the taxi co-op massed at their taxi stand in the front of the resort, waiting for good news.

Inside the resort were the resort's management team, three representatives of the taxi co-op, a representative of the Hello Phuket company and Phuket City Police Superintendent Wanchai Ekporntip as witness.

Praderm Klomsuwan, chosen by the co-op to run the taxi stand,



One of the Koh Sireh drivers and their 'taxi stand hut'.

said this was the co-op's third attempt in two months to set up a counter on resort grounds, just as local tour operator Hello Phuket had already done.

The co-op has 70 drivers offering non-metered fares in vans, sedans and tuk-tuks, but only a small number of guests walk out

of the resort in search of transport, said Mr Praderm.

"Some of our drivers get only one fare in three days," he said.

However, he added that the number of other taxis seen entering the resort to pick up passengers indicated that many more of the resort's guests wanted to use taxis, but did not use local drivers simply because they did not know about them.

"We wear uniforms. We are polite to guests. We keep records of each trip made in order to be able to track down any lost items. We are never rude..."

"We just want the hotel to share their income with local villagers," Mr Praderm said.

The resort has a list of set fares, which start at 300 baht for a taxi ride into central Phuket Town, a ride of about 5 kilometers.

The cost to hire a van to either Phuket Airport or the Big Buddha image in Karon is 1,000 baht.



SOMETHING MISSING? The site of the So Nice bar near Club Med in Kata.

Policeman wanted over Kata bar spat

CHALONG Police are looking to question a fellow police officer over his alleged role in the demolition of a bar in Kata.

Boonlert Thamsue, owner of what was the So Nice bar near Club Med, told police on October 6 that his Maj Wichan Suwannasit arrived around 8am with four other men and pulled down his bar.

Chalong police said Maj Wichan, originally from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, has been trying to evict Mr Boonlert since he bought the plot for two million baht in May.

But Mr Boonlert claims he has rented the plot for about seven years. Before So Nice Bar, which he opened two years ago, he ran a taxi center at the site.

Maj Wichan filed a complaint to evict Mr Boonlert in April. The case is now at court.

Now Mr Boonlert wants to press charges against Maj Wichan, who once was stationed in Chalong, for destroying his property.

Chalong police believe Maj Wichan is still in Phuket and have issued a summons to question him.

500 more cars on the road each month

MORE than 500 new vehicles are being registered each month, compared with 50-100 per month last year, says Phuket Land Transport Office Director Kanok Siripanichkorn.

Around 10% of new registrations are by foreigners and 40% are by Thais from other provinces, he said.

While 2009 saw 23,760 new registrations in Phuket, this year looks to speed past that number, with 21,112 new registrations already made from January to August this year.

So far this year 4,905 cars, 1,261 pickup trucks and 14,833 motorbikes and other vehicles such as vans, tractors and road construction equipment, have been registered.

Registrations last year numbered 4,773 cars, 1,450 pickup trucks, and 17,371 motorbikes and other vehicles.

The number of vehicles registered in other provinces but being taxed in Phuket, from January to August this year, were 27,819. Last year's total was 39,232.

In the same period this year, 26,515 Phuket-registered vehicles were taxed in other provinces; last year there were 37,153.

Nurse in stabbing murder

A NURSE at Bangkok Hospital Phuket has confessed to stabbing her husband to death in Rassada.

Rachada Rattanadilok na Phuket, 40, called Phuket City Police about 10:30pm on October 2.

Officers rushed to the scene, an apartment on Soi Kiatsin, but by that time Mrs Rachada's husband, Nattanachai Padungwithi, 45, had already been rushed to Bangkok Hospital.

At the emergency room police found doctors frantically trying to save Mr Nattanachai, who was

critically injured from a single stab wound to the left side of his chest that severed a coronary artery.

Mrs Rachada, crying over her husband's body, confessed to stabbing her husband.

Neighbors said the couple's relationship was characterized by abuse and that Mr Nattanachai often physically assaulted his wife while drunk.

When trouble began brewing between the couple on October 2, Mrs Rachada grabbed a fruit knife and stabbed her husband.

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The reef project in Karon Bay will use many more of the concrete frames (pictured) used to construct the artificial reef off the coast of Mai Khao earlier this year. Photo: Department of Marine and Coastal Resources

New artificial reef approved

By Sitthipong Nongkaew

THE artificial reef project to regenerate coral growth in Karon Bay has been given the final nod of approval as it passed its second public hearing September 29 without objection.

The dropping of concrete "artificial coral cubes" to the sea floor is set to begin mid-2011.

The hearing was held at the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) and chaired by Karon Municipality deputy mayor Sompong Darbetch.

The 10-million-baht budget for the project was approved in August and will see between 1,600 and 1,800 concrete cubes dropped about 3,000 meters from the shoreline, DMCR officer Prajuab Mokharat said.

This project – similar to, but larger than the one in Mai Khao last March – aims to protect and recover marine ecology, marking the area where sea fishing is illegal. It will also serve to increase the number of dive spots in Karon Bay.

At the hearing, residents had no

objection to the project, but said they would like to see more plans detailing the exact location of the new reef.

They want to participate in choosing the design and location to effectively prevent fishermen from trawling in the bay, they said.

The DMCR has offered to set up a team of their officers, with Karon Municipality representatives, dive tour operators and local residents, to decide the best location for the new reef.

The team is expected to begin work this month.

Governor Tri sets to work

NEW Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha began his first week in office by meeting honorary consuls from 11 nations, assuring them that tourism development was his top priority.

Gov Tri, who has a master's degree from the University of Kentucky in the US, conducted the meeting in English.

The honorary consuls asked to continue the schedule of quarterly meetings between all the honorary consuls and the governor.

The meetings, initiated by former Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop, were a valuable way of exchanging information about problems facing Phuket's expatriate community and working together to find solutions, they said.

Gov Tri acknowledged the request and told the honorary consuls not to worry, because as tourism development is his top priority, assuring the safety of visitors was one of his primary objectives.

He will also work hard to protect tourists from being taken advantage of during their stays here, he said.

Czech Republic Honorary Consul Anurak Tansiroj after the meeting said there were many



Gov Tri with some of the consuls. long-term problems Gov Tri needed to address.

These included taxi prices and public transport issues in general, crime and slow processing of passengers arriving and departing at Phuket International Airport.

"The high season for tourism is coming soon. One of the first problems that needs to be fixed is the services at Phuket Airport.

"There should be more x-ray machines and [luggage] conveyor belts at the airport to better serve the large number of tourists. Some people who arrive at the airport well ahead of time still almost miss their departing flights after waiting so much time standing in line," he said.

These and other issues will be raised again at the next consuls' meeting scheduled for November 22, he said.

Free WiFi in Phuket Town

PHUKET City Municipality is now providing free WiFi internet at Saphan Hin and similar free access at Queen Sirikit Park on Thalang Rd, Phuket Town, is currently under testing.

TOT has signed a contract to provide the 24-hour service at both locales for three years, with the municipality paying 180,000 baht a year for the privilege.

Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupapana said the project targets an initial 600 users a month, with each user expected to stay online for about two hours at a time.

"We expect Phuket to become a 'learning society'," she said.

TOT began testing the service on October 1. Saphan Hin is already operational while the service at Queen Sirikit Park is expected to be up and running soon.

Pamphlets explaining and promoting the service will be available from Phuket City Municipality from October 7, with details of how to log on and the operational range of the networks.

The free service in Phuket Town follows TOT launching a similar project with Wichit Municipality in March to provide free WiFi at Sriphuwana Park.



All that Jazz

SIX people escaped with their lives after a woman drove her new Honda Jazz into the pond at Saphan Hin after a night on the town.

Chamaiporn Rongwang, 23, told police she and her friends were returning to their home in Wichit. She opted to take Soi Saphan Hin as a shortcut. Dangerous enough in the day, the narrow, winding road proved too difficult for Ms Chamaiporn to navigate in the darkness.

She drove the car straight into the pond near the Sipa Building, where the annual Loy Kratong festivities are held.

All six were trapped inside the car by the central locking. Luckily, a window was down and all six scrambled to safety after they opened the door from the outside.

This photo was taken at low tide. The accident occurred at 3am, during high tide.

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Hapless thieves return to scene

BUNGLING thieves abandoned a stolen pickup and their own car after being unable to find the way out of a housing estate in Chonburi October 2.

They were soon arrested – after returning to the scene and asking police officers if they could have their car back.

Sombat Maithong, 45, reported the theft of his Toyota Vigo pickup to Sriracha Police around 3am.

Mr Sombat said he had spent the night at a leaving party for a colleague at the Sriracha District Electricity Office.

He thought nothing of the thieves as they followed him into the Ladda Village estate in a Mitsubishi Lancer, assuming they were residents.

As he was opening his gate, one of the thieves jumped out of the car, got into the pickup and sped off. Mr Sombat shouted for help and called the police.

Before long, Sriracha Police inspector Jirarot Rotphanuphat had found the pickup and the car abandoned in the estate.

QUEER news

In the trunk of the Lancer, police found wire cutters, pieces of metal suitable for picking car locks and various other items.

Shortly afterwards Miss Pacharee Deeram, 18, and Ekaphong Khongruay, 24, pulled up on a motorbike.

Mr Ekaphong told the officers that he was the owner of the car and would like it back. The pair were promptly arrested.

The thieves told police they drove round and round the estate looking for the way out. When the police arrived, they jumped out of the vehicles and fled on foot.

The Mitsubishi Lancer proved too dear to leave behind, however, and the hapless Miss Pacharee and Mr Ekaphong returned hoping to retrieve it.

– Khao Sod

Spat over 'Sarasin Bridge 2' roadworks resolved: Coconut grove gets to stay

By Atchaa Khamlo

ITALIAN Thai Development Co (ITD), the contractor hired to build the new bridge off Phuket, is having a rough time completing the project.

In August, the villagers' complained that earthworks at the site had blocked the village drains, causing the village to flood.

ITD engineers inspected the drains, only to find they were blocked because they had not been cleared in a long time – not because of the construction earthworks.

Mai Khao Tambon Administration Organization has since cleared the drains and now the village floods no more.

Back in August the villagers also complained of northbound traffic being diverted from the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint directly to Thepkasattri Bridge and off the island.

So ITD diverted the traffic back to the old route past the beachfront restaurants that many of the villagers rely on for their livelihood.



A ROAD RUNS THROUGH IT: The home amid the grove. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Then the one project ITD has offered to do free for the villagers hit a snag: the owner of the one house left standing in the way of a free road expansion past the local temple refused to move.

Lantom Saelim, 61, told the *Gazette* she and her husband Gao Saelim, 75, had been living in the house since 1991. They moved there after the land they were living on was used to build Thepkasattri Bridge 20 years ago.

"I am willing to move, but my cousin doesn't want to give the land to the project. So I am staying here for him."

She explained that her cousin has been farming coconut trees on the land, which was handed down to her by her father, since the Sarasin Bridge was built in 1967.

"As my house is not on land being used in the official project [ITD offered to build the road for villagers for free], I have not been offered any compensation for relocation," she added.

However, following a meeting involving no less than the provincial offices of the Highways Dept, Treasury Department and the Crown Land Office, the road will now go ahead, but via a 250-meter detour around the house.

ITD engineer Dr Patthanapong Thongsuk said, "We have yet to determine how much the road will cost as the plans have yet to be drawn up, but it will be more expensive... When we can start building the road depends on how fast [Thalang District Office] approves them."

Police net fish poachers

TWO men from the Rawai sea gypsy community were charged this week for collecting protected fish species off the Phuket coast.

Marine Police deputy inspector Lt Natthapong Preugtharathikul and officials from the Phuket Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation Center (CRCC) arrested Wijit Meesin, 35, and his father-in-law Boontiam Bangjaak, 58, off Koh Racha Yai with 18 specimens of protected species aboard their boat.

Mr Boontiam confessed to the charges, saying the fish were bound for Chatuchak Market in

Bangkok. The two men said they took orders from a Phuket-based middle man.

Paitoon Panchaipum of the CRCC said a rise demand from Bangkok has prompted a surge in poaching of protected species in local waters in recent months.

Waters around Koh Lone, Koh Koh Aeow, Koh Racha Noi and Racha Yai are popular poaching grounds, he said.

It is difficult to catch poachers, he said, as they now leave the fish in buckets and throw them overboard if they see marine police approaching, he said.

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Krabi needs more flights: tourism chief

By Gus Reynolds

THE Chairman of the Krabi Tourism Association, Ittirit Kinglake, recently told the *TTR Weekly* that Krabi needs more airlines to support the hotel industry. He pointed out that room capacity is running ahead of airline seat supply, and that there are not enough flights to Krabi for tourists during the high season.

Currently, almost 20% of Krabi's inbound flights are connecting direct through Singapore or Kuala Lumpur as the flights from Bangkok are often full. Thai Air and Thai AirAsia both have three daily flights from Bangkok, but these are not sufficient to fill hotel rooms.

Mr Ittirit pointed out that with 18,000 rooms in Krabi in the three-



to five-star category and only about 1,600 airline seats a day coming into Krabi, more flights need to be added.

This year, four European charter companies will fly direct to Krabi: Thomas Cook, Nov Air, TUI Fly and FinnAir.

With the upgrading of the new terminal to be used exclusively for international arrivals, capacity at Krabi Airport will increase by about 60%.

While better use of Krabi Airport could boost arrivals, some of



JUST LANDED: Tourists make their way through the Arrivals Hall at Krabi International Airport. Photo: Lesley Chittayanon

the blame of oversupply of hotel rooms also lies with the hotel industry itself.

Thousands of hotel rooms were added by groups with little or no hotel experience and without any economic justification.

As with any economic cycle, the overbuilding during years of prosperity or overblown enthusiasm will take some time to adjust to a more realistic balance. A combination of slowing down of room additions and increased flights to

provide more demand would be the best route to fill the hotel rooms in Krabi.

In the meantime, the tourists are enjoying a wide selection of hotels all cutting their prices to gain market share.

Local school gets Bt250,000 boost

MORE than 100 guests were treated to a night of great food and fun entertainment – all in the name of charity. The Sheraton Krabi Beach Resort held a charity fundraiser late last month to benefit the Baan Klong Muang School located near the resort.

The Starwood Group, which owns the Sheraton Hotel chain, donated hotel vacation packages to destinations throughout Asia to help raise money for the school. Silent auctions were held with guests bidding on holidays in

Bangkok, Hua Hin, Bali, Shanghai, Beijing, Singapore and Japan.


Three live auctions were held as well, and the response was a raucous round of bidding that raised even more money.

The evening included the usual top-notch buffet from Executive Chef Frederic Molinie, a live band and dancing performances by Thai students.

By the end of the night, about 250,000 baht was raised for the Baan Klong Muang School and it was an evening enjoyed by all.




Two dancers entertain the crowd at the fund-raising event.




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RS defends 'Film'. Photo: The Nation

'Star' saga gets messy

A DRUG overdose, threats of lawsuits and the intervention of a Cabinet minister have all been thrown into the mix as the "Film and Annie" baby scandal grows.

Actress Rungrana "Annie" Brooke claims superstar Rattapoom "Film" Tohkongsub is the father of her three-month-old child.

Mr Rattapoom's record lable RS initially cancelled all his contracts.

But in a surprise turnaround, RS chief executive Surachai "Hia Hor" Chetchoisak came to the defense of his beleaguered superstar at a press conference October 28, accusing Ms Rungrana of dating four men at the time of her affair with Mr Rattapoom.

After falling pregnant, she told all four they were the father and demanded 250,000 baht from each man, Mr Surachai claimed.

Ms Rungrana is threatening to sue Mr Surachai for slander.

It has also emerged that the Minister of Social Development and Human Security has called both superstars in a bid to mediate in the dispute.

It has been revealed that Mr Rattapoom overdosed on anti-anxiety pills and spent October 6 in intensive care at BNH hospital.

Friends of Mr Rattapoom believe the overdose was an accident, rather than a suicide attempt.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Newin exposes hit squad

ELEVEN men arrested in Chiang Mai last week were allegedly plotting to overthrow the monarchy and assassinate some of the country's top politicians.

Newin Chidchob, a key power broker in Thailand's governing coalition, claimed he was one of the targets, the others being Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, Deputy PM Suthep Thaugsuban, Defense Minister Prawit Wongsuwan, and ex-Army chief Anupong Paochinda.

Mr Newin said he knew who was behind the plot, and all but named the man responsible as former PM Thaksin Shinawatra.

Police arrested the 11 suspects on the evening of October 2 at the Phu Fa resort in Tambon Mae On, where they were allegedly undergoing training in a "secret mission".

It has been reported that the arrests came after one of the group, Kittichai Chansawasdi, fled the camp "because he was unable to sustain the demanding regimen and had been physically assaulted during training".

Mr Kittichai told investigators the group had been at the resort since September 7 after receiving arms training near the Cambodian border.

Police refused to say whether the men were red-shirt fighters or linked to the infamous "men in black", who were believed to be



behind some of the violence during the red shirt protests in May.

Maj Gen Chaiya Srirampankul, acting commander of Regional Police Bureau 5, said the men were cooperating with the authorities.

"We have information about the weapons training they received, and their involvement in various activities including bomb-related incidents, the anti-monarchy movement, assassination plots and other incidents which caused disruption to public order in Bangkok and elsewhere," he said.

On October 4, Mr Newin, de facto leader of the Bhumjai Thai Party, gave press interviews claiming the men had been paid 20 million baht to kill him.

He strongly hinted at Mr Thaksin's involvement.

"There are a few people in this country who hate me and are angry with me, but there is only one person who can afford to hire somebody to harm me," Mr Newin said.

When pressed for the name of the person, Mr Newin said, "I don't



POINTING THE FINGER: Newin Chidchob says his 'ex-master' was behind a plot to kill him and other top politicians. Photo: The Nation

need to explain. There's only one person. I'm courageous enough to say that he is my ex-master."

Mr Newin was formerly right-hand man to Mr Thaksin and an executive of his now-defunct Thai Rak Thai Party.

As part of the 2007 court rul-

ing which dissolved Thai Rak Thai, Mr Newin was banned from holding political office for five years.

He remains the force behind Bhum Jai Thai, which holds several key Cabinet posts in coalition with the Democrat Party.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Child porn outrage in central Bangkok

CHILD pornography openly on sale on Bangkok's Sukhumvit Road has incurred public outrage, it was reported on October 3.

The material, on sale in VCD format at just 80 baht per disc, was openly on display next to the latest Hollywood blockbusters.

It reportedly featured children from Thailand, Burma, China, the Philippines and Europe.


Many of the covers reportedly showed graphic images of children as young as seven engaged in sex acts.


"This is totally outrageous and should not be tolerated by the authorities," one ambassador who lives in the area said.

"You would have to look hard for any country in the world where this would be allowed, let alone on the main tourist street of the capital," the ambassador said.

A police officer who works on copyright infringement said the trade in pornographic videos was run by "influential people" who could not be touched by the authorities.

— *Phuket Gazette*





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Phuket's week of spiritual reckoning

THOUSANDS of tourists will be arriving on the island this week to witness or take part in this year's Vegetarian Festival.

The festival will open with a ceremony near the Tin Mining Monument in Saphan Hin Park at 9am on October 7, followed by the traditional raising of *go teng* poles to welcome the Chinese gods at all participating shrines throughout the day.

On October 8, all participating shrines will hold ceremonies to make merit and to offer food to the warrior gods. Shrines will also select devotees to assist the *mah song* ("spirit mediums") during next year's festival.

The street processions will start October 9 and continue daily through to October 16.

The processions draw crowds along the streets of the routes, usually resulting in traffic jams in the immediate and nearby areas.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand office in Phuket, with the council of shrine elders coordinating the annual event, has published a schedule, in English and Thai, for this year's events. The booklet is free at all participating shrines and at the TAT Phuket office located next to Queen Sirikit Park on Thalang Rd in Phuket Town.

All of the processions are worth watching, but one not to be missed is the Jui Tui Shrine procession on the morning of October 14. This particular procession is famed for the variety of piercings borne by the *mah song*, ranging from items of spiritual significance to ancient weapons of war to beach umbrellas.

Phuket to lead Veg Fest spending of Bt33.5 bn

THAIS are expected to splurge 26.3% more, 33.5 billion baht altogether, on this year's Vegetarian Festival.

"More people feel that they would like to participate in the Vegetarian Festival as the sentiment in the Kingdom this year was bad after the political turmoil," said Saowanee Thai-rungroj, the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce vice president for research.

"They want to make merit and feel like spending more to create good things for their lives and for

the country," she added.

Last year, spending at the festival rose by 6.2% to 26.55 billion baht, the researchers say.

In a six-day survey conducted starting September 25, some 23.1% of the 1,180 respondents said they would go vegetarian this year, up from just 11.3% last year.

The major reason for the higher outlay this year is merit-making.

Only 1.2% said they would take part because the festival was "trendy", while 3% said it would help fulfill personal aspirations.

In brief, the schedule is as follows:

Saturday, October 9

Choor Su Gong Naka Shrine (Wichit): 7:00am Street procession in Phuket Town

Sunday, October 10

Kuan Te Kun Shrine (Sapam Shrine): 7:00am Street procession in Phuket Town

Monday, October 11

Lim Hu Tai Su Shrine (Samkong Shrine): 7:19am Street procession in Phuket Town

Tuesday, October 12

Jang Ong Shrine (across the street from Vachira

Phuket Hospital): 6:30am Street procession in Phuket Town

Tae Gun Tai Tae Shrine (Baan Pasak): 7:15am Street procession in Baan Pasak-Baan Don, in Thalang

Tha Rue Shrine: 7:30am Street procession in Phuket Town

Choor Su Gong Naka Shrine (Wichit): 2:00pm Street procession through surrounding neighborhood

Wednesday, October 13

Bang Neow Tao Boh Geng Shrine: 6:00am Street procession in Phuket Town

Sam Ong Hu Shrine (Cherng Talay): 7:30am Street procession in Thalang Town



HEART OF THE DRAGON: A 'mah song' in Phuket Town. Photo: Christain Mouchet

Kim Sue Ong Keng Shrine (Baan Don): 8:45am Street procession in Baan Mai Khao

Thursday, October 14

Kim Sue Ong Keng Shrine (Baan Don, Cherng Talay): 7:00am Street procession in Baan Don, Baan Kien, Baan Sakoo, Baan Nai Yang, near the airport and Baan Muang Mai.

Jui Tui Tao Boh Geng Shrine: 8:00am Street procession in Phuket Town

Friday, October 15

Yok Ke Geng Shrine (Choor Su Gong Soi Phaneang, near Samkong): 7:00am Street procession in Phuket Town

Laitu Tao Boh Keng Shrine (Kathu Shrine): 7:00am Street procession in Phuket Town

Tha Rue Shrine: 8:30am Street procession in Thalang Town

Saturday, October 16

Sam Pai Kong Shrine (Bangku Shrine): 3:00pm Street procession in Sapam and Bangku areas.

Sui Boon Tong Shrine (Lor Rong Shrine): 7:00am Street procession in Phuket Town

This is the last day of street processions. In the evening, street processions from every shrine will move toward Saphan Hin, where devotees will perform the final act of sending off the Jade Emperor and his nine emperor gods.

The event will culminate with a bonfire at the Saphan Hin Shrine at midnight.

Sunday, October 17

The lowering of the *go teng* poles will take place at all participating shrines, the first at 4pm at Yok Ke Geng Shrine in Samkong and the last at Kuan Te Kun Shrine in Sapam at 5:45pm.

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Census made easy

Re: Gazette online, Phuket expats urged to complete on-line census, September 18

Expats living here illegally will not complete the census. For those of us who are, [Phuket] Immigration can supply all the details.

Michael G Finn
Phuket

Mangrove destruction goes on...

Re: Gazette online, More mangrove encroachment in Phuket, September 3

While this destruction has been going on, approximately another 10 rai of mangroves have been destroyed. According to the village headman, there are influential people behind it, so police are reluctant to stop the destruction.

Please help protect Phuket's mangroves!

Roman Grimm
Patong

Protecting Burmese women

Re: Call for action over illegal Burmese workers in Phuket, September 13

I would like to pose another question that needs to be addressed.

It seems like a lot of "Burmese" babies are being born, so are we assuming that these are all the result of consensual unions?

After a hard day's work, are these Burmese women – who are already doing the same job as a man – feeling amorous or the desire to procreate and work while pregnant, creating a

Making a veritable meal of a festival

Phuket Gazette

THE lead story on the front page of this issue says it all: the Phuket Vegetarian Festival is a commercial tourism success. Not only is this year's event being heralded to bring a much-welcomed 200-million-baht boost to the island's economy, it is expected to do so during one of Phuket's wettest months.

The festival is not unique and not original, but it has branded the others out of the competition.

There are many other similar festivals, such as the Brahman (Hindu) festivals on the Indian subcontinent, predating the Phuket Festival by centuries that also stage very similar processions, complete with obscure facial piercings, sometimes more so than the Phuket rendition. But tourists want to see the one on Phuket.

The Phuket festival has inspired other vegetarian festivals to be held elsewhere in Thailand this week, namely in other major tourist destinations such as Bangkok, Pattaya and Chiang Mai, as well as in Haad Yai, Phang Nga, Trang and Krabi. Even Penang has similar festivals and processions.

What the island can truly learn from the Vegetarian Festival is how to market an event. Its success has been no mere coincidence. The annual event has been managed, and managed well.

The processions will cause their usual major disruptions to traffic and everyday life wherever they pass by, and that is intentional. The inconvenience to those who do not want to

take part in the festival is temporary, and so becomes part of the "cultural fabric" of the island. It is something all residents on Phuket simply accept as something to persevere with.

Even the *mah song* (spirit mediums) are managed. Each *mah song* joining the processions registers with one of the participating shrines. The organizers take no responsibility for "unregistered" *mah song*, and in years past the Shrines Association – the mainstay of the official organizing body of the event – internally "dealt with" a fake medium who repeatedly sliced open a pig's tongue instead of his own during a procession.

Even before this year's event got under way, it was an interesting surprise to hear senior officials hailing it as the 185th Vegetarian Festival. The year the Chinese laborers fell ill and observed abstinence (albeit bed-ridden abstinence) is well documented, but the year the first Vegetarian Festival was held to mark the occasion seems to be lost in the vague annals of Phuket history. We suppose, "Don't let accuracy get in the way of a good slogan" might have been adopted in this case.

But do such measures cause harm to anyone? Not likely. Do they bring business and help develop an aspect of Phuket's cultural identity? An undoubted yes. And that deserves commendation.

dependent who may or may not have Thai citizenship?

I think it is time for someone to take a closer look at the living conditions and not only create a standard that should be the responsibility of the employer, but also check to see how the Burmese women are being

treated in these camps.

Why are there so many pregnancies? Are these Burmese women being raped? And what is to stop the Burmese men from raping the women? As I am a woman, this is just something I wonder about.

Even female soldiers in US

military camps in Afghanistan were being raped and not reporting it.

I would imagine if this were happening in the Burmese labor camps, the women would feel they had even less rights than the American female soldiers did and even fewer options for

reporting it or stopping it.

Also, perhaps some free birth-control education and distribution might help.

Concerned
Kata

Veg Fest not for me

Re: Phuket Gazette, When Phuket gets possessed, September 25

Having witnessed the past two "vegetarian festivals" in Phuket, I will stay away this year for the following reasons:

- This festival is really not about eating good vegetarian food, it's about not eating meat for 10 days as part of a purification regime. If the festival had genuine vegetarian food, then it truly would be a gastronomic event worth staying for. As it is, most of the restaurants offering "vegetarian" food simply do stir-fry without the meat and many of the really good, inexpensive Phuket Town restaurants close during the festival making it even harder to get a quality meal.

- The practice of impaling oneself with any number of sharpened objects and sticks is grotesque. I have seen these *mah song* several days after the festival and they have terrible scars and infected wounds in their cheeks, which are clearly painful.

- Normally, Phuket is quiet and peaceful, except during the 10 days of the festival when firecrackers are set off at all hours of the day and night – with special intent to create maximum noise (in order to waken the spirits?).

So, for the one time during the year when this otherwise tropical paradise is uninhabitable, I will leave Phuket and head north for some peace, quiet, friendly people and good food.

Name withheld
Phuket

Phuket Gazette

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The views expressed in the Phuket Gazette are those of the writers and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Publisher, the Editor, the shareholders or the directors of The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd.

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Issues & Answers...

Finance for foreigners buying motorbikes?

Is it possible for a foreigner living in Phuket to buy a new scooter on credit? It seems to be available for new cars but the bike showrooms tell me that credit is only available to Thai people even when offered a 50% deposit and six-monthly payments.

Stuart
Phuket Town

Numchoke Pinyosamosorn, Manager of Suzuki dealership Ban Suzuki Plaza Co Ltd on Rattanakosin 200 Pi Road in Phuket Town, replies:

It is common policy among motorcycle showrooms throughout Phuket, including us, to minimize the risk of not being paid for motorcycles that are sold on finance.

That is why motorcycle dealerships do not offer loans to foreigners.

Foreigners can leave the coun-

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IssuesAnswers

try anytime and may not return – and may not pay off the loan.

However, although we do not offer foreigners loans to buy our motorcycles, it is possible for them to buy on credit in the name of the company that the foreigners are shareholders in.

Prathum Saetan, Manager of Honda motorbike dealership United Phuket Commercial Co Ltd on Bangkok Rd in Phuket Town, replies:

We do not offer loans to foreigners to buy our motorcycles, but we do let them buy motorcycles in the name of the company that they are shareholders in.

The required documents to do

so are the company registration document, photocopies of your passport and/or the senior Thai in the company who will be signing on behalf of the company, as well as the house registration (*tabien baan*) document of the Thai person signing.

Pavadee Tongtae, sales representative at the Yamaha dealership Ruampong Motor on Surin Rd in Phuket Town, replies:

We allow foreigners to buy motorcycles though the companies they are shareholders in, but do not offer financing to individual foreigners.

The motorcycle will be registered in the name of the company.

However, we also require the foreigner to have a Thai national living in Phuket as a guarantor.

The guarantor is required to provide photocopies of his or her ID card and house registration document.

The Gazette notes that some banks offer personal loans to foreigners on a case by case basis.

Green Fins fight for cleaner seas

FIRST PERSON

MOST of the garbage in the sea is trash that wasn't properly disposed of on land.

The first step in keeping our waters clean is by managing rubbish in our own houses. I am always recycling and since I started, I have noticed that I produce much less "waste".

Personally, I refuse to use plastic bags and I carry cloth bags with me all the time. If people start using cloth bags, they can easily see how many plastic bags they save in days, weeks and months.

Another simple thing is to use cloth handkerchiefs instead of disposable tissues.

My behaviors did not change all at once; it was a gradual process that has become easy to manage; just start one thing at a time.

Many people assume that all trash will be combined in the end, but if you notice the many people along the way taking out recyclables, which they earn a living from, we can make it easier for them by separating our rubbish.

A lot of people toss garbage anywhere, thinking collection and disposal are the responsibilities of government organizations. However, the burden is too much for local organizations.

Green Fins is working on a campaign to minimize our environmental impact and inform people about sea pollution and coral reefs,



Kanyarat Kosavisutte is in charge of the Phuket chapter of the Green Fins Association, in partnership with the United Nations Environmental Program. Here she tells us about how changing our behavior at home can help protect and preserve marine environments.



which are living things – not rocks. Simple behavior such as not touching them, not anchoring in them and minimizing the amount of rubbish we produce can really help.

Another important point is that people should not feed fish, as they naturally feed on coral, which cleans it and allows it to grow; if they are fed by humans they will abandon their natural behavior. Also, bread left in the water feeds aquatic weeds that can grow quickly and damage coral.

If the coral reefs are destroyed,

tourists will not come here for diving and instead go to other countries.

Many just want more people to come to Thailand [in the immediate future] and don't think about how the environment is impacted and its implications for tourism in the long-term.

As of right now, many good tourists and divers are going to other places.

We are trying to get communities to understand the problem, and even if we don't see any immediate results, at least we can inform people – especially the children.

Colonizing Asia with calories

Island View

By Nicholas Altstadt

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

AMID all the hype over Apple's recent release of the 4G iPhone, Thai consumers have been drooling in expectation for another "American invasion": Krispy Kreme Donuts.

While failures in awarding service contracts and licensing have rendered the latest generation of "revolutionary" iPhones all but useless, the unleashing of over-sweetened American donuts in the land of smiles promises to deliver.

From raising the "palate register" – rendering any fresh vegetable or meat tasteless – to boosting sales in over-sized clothing, the store's high-calorie treats are sure to attract attention.

Krispy Kreme opened its doors at Siam Paragon in Bangkok on the morning of September 28 to a line of people stretching a half-kilometer, some of whom had camped out overnight.

The pastry giant has seen similar devotion in its bid to glaze the East, with people waiting in line for an average of two hours at Tokyo locations – months after opening shop.

Fishing with a clever marketing scheme, Japanese consumers bit, and once the trend setters of Asia have caught on to something, it's only a matter of time until the East is conquered.

Americans, long ago desensitized to assaults on the tastebuds, have come to understand "super-size" as a way of life; Krispy Kreme is just the icing on the cake.

However, the export of this super-size lifestyle and all its tag-along health maladies is something worth considering.

Branding of the likes of Krispy

Kreme, McDonald's, KFC and their ilk have been so successful in their campaigns that they have convinced customers – who are otherwise disgusted by the thought of a 1,000 calorie plus "snack" – that they not only "like" their products, but "need" them.

I remember the Marlboro Man and Joe Camel; they too were amazingly successful at creating "false voids" that needed to be filled with their notorious products.

We don't see them anymore, and for good reason: they are a direct threat to our health.

With 20 or so locations set to open across Thailand – Phuket likely to be one – Krispy Kreme is another regiment joining the food wars, striving to increase obesity, diabetes and open up "fashionable" new markets for pharmaceuticals, over-sized elevators, extra-large cup holders, plus-sized clothes and motorized chairs on wheels.

Maybe it's time to scrutinize the marketing tactics of fast-food restaurants the same way we do tobacco and alcohol: Could we slap a picture of a 300kg diabetic man with an amputated foot on each box of donuts?

Barring some drastic – and highly unlikely – measures taken against fast-food marketing, the rising middle class of Thailand can take a good look at the US to see what's in store.

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

Rats! Can we get rid of them?

I would like to know if there is a rat catcher in Phuket. If so, they should go to SP Buffet Restaurant, just south of the eastern end of Phang Nga Road.

The small car park on the southern edge of the restaurant ends where food waste in black bags is piled and, literally, dozens of very large, very healthy rats enjoy a regular feast.

Roger Neill
Phuket Town

Dr Narinrach Pichyakamin, Director of the Phuket Provincial Health Office replies:

Under Thai law, the Ministry of Health provides information only. We can accept complaints, but we must coordinate with other relevant agencies to follow up.

Suthasinee Jinawat, resident policy advisor at the Phuket City Municipality Health and Environment Division, replies:

Phuket City Municipality provides rat poison and insecticide free to people living under the municipality's jurisdiction, including tenants along Thalang Road.

Residents can collect the poison free every Tuesday. A week later, our officers will go to the affected areas and check to make sure the pests are no longer there.

We can also have our officers spray an area with a poison specifically designed to kill rats.

This is more effective, but costs about 200 baht per application. Residents and tenants must apply to have us do this.

In this particular case, now that we have received the complaint we will assign an officer to inspect that area and exterminate the pests. Our officer will go early as we know this restaurant opens at about 5am.

If we continue to receive complaints about that area we will warn the restaurant owner. If the problem persists we will pass this case to our Sanitation Division, which has the power to order the business to close if it refuses to clean up.



Entrance fee for Bang Wad?

Entry to Bang Wad Dam is still free, but how long will it be free to enter to enjoy?

Richard
Phuket Town

Phuket Provincial Irrigation Office (PPIO) Director Weerawat Aungsupanith replies:

There will be no entrance fee to the area. It is a public road giving access to a public area.

The project is meant for the public to enjoy. The PPIO spent 16 million baht on paving the road, installing storm drains and footpaths along the one-kilometer stretch.

Other parts of the beautification project include a bike path, pavilions, landscaping, public restrooms and lighting.

The project started in August last year and is expected to be complete next month.

The sign at the entrance is now in place.

Asian superyacht event lands major sponsor

By Chris Husted

THE Asia Superyacht Rendezvous, lauded as the largest power and sail superyacht event in Asia, has landed premier independent yacht broker Merle Wood & Associates as a co-sponsor for this year's event.

Headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Merle Wood has established solid international yachting relationships throughout the world, including the US, Europe, the Middle East, Far East, South America and Mexico.

The company has concluded sales in excess of US\$15 billion over the past 18 years.

"The great news was announced by Merle Wood when kicking off the Monaco Yacht Show," organizers said in a press statement issued October 5.

The news follows principal sponsor Feadship signing up last month to mark a decade of supporting the elite Phuket event, this year to be held December 16-18.

It also follows Merle Wood's

Head of Superyacht Division, Francois van Well, celebrating his first major sale as a yacht broker late last month (Sept 20) with the sale of the 61.2-meter Feadship motor yacht Secret.

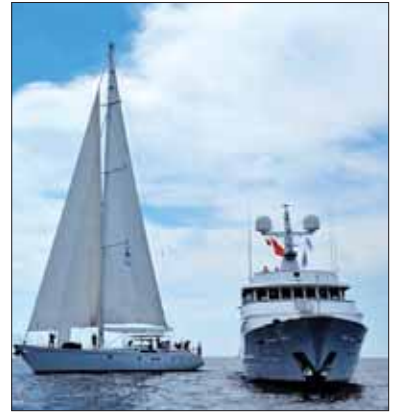
Co-organizers of the Superyacht Rendezvous are Gordon Fernandes, GM of Asia Pacific Superyachts, and Charlie Dwyer, captain of superyacht Yannekee Too.

"The growth potential for Phuket and the surrounding areas is massive as there are thousands

of these floating palaces in Europe – yet there are no berths left for them at marinas – [which is] another major reason to bring their yachts to Asia for the winter," explained Mr Fernandes.

"The whole of the superyacht world is looking to Asia as the next great cruising ground," added Capt Dwyer.

"We are seeing a steady growth of yachts in the region as in general owners and crews love Phuket and the surrounding areas," he said.



The superyachts are coming.

My Storage service opens in Patong

A NEW 50-million baht storage facility providing secure, clean and cost effective self-storage has opened in Patong.

Located in Junceylon, this is the first branch in Thailand for the My Storage company.

Storage space varies in size from one to 40 square meters. The new facility has a minimum rental period of one month.

Managing Director Sukanda Chiaranussati said on August 30: "Patong was chosen because many people live there temporarily, especially foreigners, and they might like to keep their belongings secure."

The company provides a high level of security, with CCTV and personal code services available. Insurance is not included in the monthly rental fee.

There is currently a promotion of 99 baht for the first month for contracts longer than four months.

My Storage plans to open a new service in Bangkok soon.

– **Atchaa Khamlo**

Increased traffic anticipated for Phuket Airport this high season

By Janpen Upatising

WITH high season approaching fast, international airlines have been launching new – and more – flight services to Phuket, with some starting this month.

Phuket International Airport Director Prateung Sornkham confirmed that from October 12, Qatar Airways will operate a new direct flight from Doha to Phuket via Kuala Lumpur.

Qatar's new service will see three flights each way, each week, served by a Boeing 777 configured to carry more than 300 passengers per trip.

Other airlines from the Middle East including Emirates and Etihad, are planning to open routes to Phuket as well, said Mr Prateung.

"It is great news that we have four and five-star airlines bringing international visitors from Middle Eastern countries, which are new [source] markets for Phuket," he added.



FULL HOUSE: More international airlines are starting direct routes to Phuket, which will increase the number of tourists this high season.

In addition, Russian national carrier Aeroflot, according to its website, will fly new Airbus A330 airliners between Moscow and Phuket three times a week, starting December 29.

The ramping up of services is the result of many international road shows promoting how attractive Phuket is in terms of food, accommodation, beaches and services, Mr Prateung said.

Currently about 100 flights a day arrive at Phuket Airport, said the airport director, adding that inbound arrivals are expected to increase to more than 120 flights during this high season.

"In the past three months, over 80,000 passengers visited Phuket each month. Of these, most were from Korea, China, Russia and Scandinavia," he explained.

Mr Prateung also affirmed that



Director of Phuket International Airport Prateung Sornkham.

any potential problems that might arise from political uncertainty in Bangkok would not affect Phuket.

"I explained to airline operators and travel agencies who were worried about these issues that the instability in Bangkok earlier this year will not affect Phuket.

"No matter what happens [in Bangkok], Phuket will remain safe and convenient for tourists."

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Over 3,000 visit hospitality expo

By Alexandra Andersson

FOLLOWING large turnouts for Phuket's first Asian Hospitality and Travel show from October 1 to 3, organizers have announced they plan to host the event annually.

Over 3,000 tourism and hospitality professionals from Southeast Asia and 60 Phuket businesses participated in the three-day event.

Events Thailand co-organizer Jorge De La Torre said the show was a huge step forward for the island's capacity to hold such large-scale events.

"Other shows Phuket has hosted before have not been on such a large scale, or as internationally focused," he said.

About 80% of businesses showcasing their services were Phuket based, and included hotel representatives, product wholesalers and restaurateurs.

Activities over the three days included coffee making demonstrations, cooking and wine tasting competitions, as well as vegetable and ice carving shows.

Businesses paid 49,000 baht for an exhibition booth, with Mr De La Torre saying the demand from businesses was "unprecedented" and is only expected to grow next year.

"We sold out very quickly. Next year we are going to lower the price, but have many more booths



ON SHOW: Phuket tourism and hospitality businesses exhibited their services and products at the event.



available. Then we can focus our marketing efforts on attracting buyers," he said.

Events Thailand Managing Directors Mr De La Torre and Simon Samaan invited 30 interna-

tional industry representatives to attend. Most were from Asian countries with direct inbound Phuket flights.

Travel agents and tour operators from Singapore, Malaysia,

Hong Kong, Japan, Australia and Europe also attended.

"The feedback from 90% of the exhibitors was very positive, they all reported making good contacts and business deals



Organizers Jorge De La Torre (above) and Simon Samaan (below).



thanks to the networking opportunity the show presented," said Mr Samaan.

The event will help establish Phuket as a business center in the future, he said.

by Benz Chaengwattana
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Into the jungle

Books

By James Eckardt

The Lost City of Z By David Grann

A CENTURY ago, Major Percy Fawcett was one of the world's most famous men. He was a legendary explorer, leading six expeditions between 1906 and 1914 into the heart of the Amazon jungle.

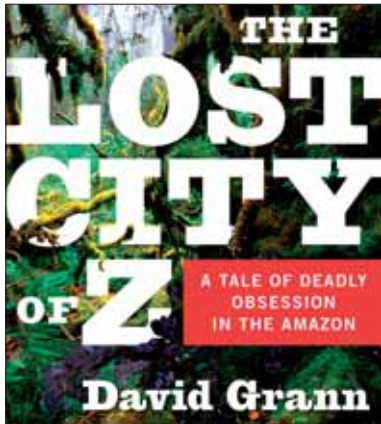
In 1925, he mounted another three man expedition into the Amazon in search of a lost city he named "Z". The three men walked into the jungle and never came out again. This made Percy Fawcett more famous than ever. Many expeditions were mounted in search of him and many of these, too, vanished in the great rain forest of Mato Grosso.

This is the story behind David Grann's *The Lost City of Z* (Vintage Books, New York, 2010, 400pp). Subtitled "A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon", the book chronicles the author's own search for the city of "Z" and the explorer.

David Grann is a mild-mannered 40-year-old writer for New Yorker magazine and utterly unequipped for the task – which makes it all the more compelling.

Grann also pulls out all the plot tricks of a very clever writer. First, he offers a teaser of a prologue as he gets lost in the jungle.

"I had lost my guide. I was out of food and water. . . Then I saw something moving in the trees. 'Who's there?' I called. There was no reply. A figure flitted among the branches, and then another. They were coming closer, and for the first time I asked myself, What the hell am I doing here?"



The book jumps around in time line and location, between Fawcett's life and Amazon expedition, to present day New York with the author searching for clues of what happened to Fawcett.

Eventually, we get to the author's own expedition.

He reaches the capital of Cuiaba, hires a guide and a pickup truck, and heads off through vast fields of soybeans that had once been virgin jungle. In two days they travel the distance that had taken the

Fawcett party a month on foot.

This is when the reader begins to feel cheated. The author never spends a single night sleeping rough.

When he reaches the jungle and the last Indian village where Fawcett had slept, an old woman remembers the Fawcett party and confirms the tribe's memory that the three men left the village heading east into hostile Indian territory.

They observed campfire smoke for three days and then the smoke stopped. The white men were killed by Indians. End of story.

But there's an interesting coda. An American archaeologist named Michael Heckenberger spent many years in the region where Fawcett disappeared.

Heckenberger shows Grann the remains of moats, canals and bridges that indicate a huge Indian settlement, the kind described by the first Spanish explorers down the Amazon, proving that there had once been cities of "Z". They had however, been wiped out by white men's diseases.

Bestsellers

English language books in Thailand

1) The Lost Symbol

Dan Brown (325 baht)

2) True Blue

David Baldacci (350 baht)

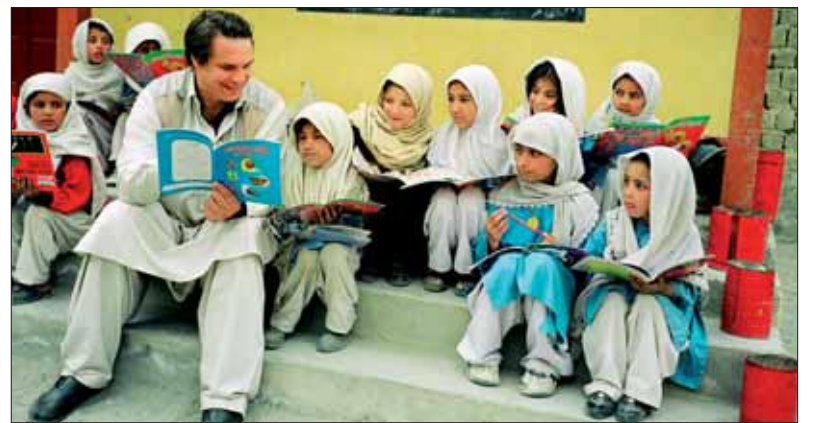
3) The Best Of Thai Cuisine

Sisamon Kongpan (250 baht)

4) The Girl Who Kicked The Hornet's Nest

Stieg Larsson (350 baht)

5) Gone Tomorrow – Lee Child (350 baht)



THE READER: Greg Mortenson reads to Pakistani children. Photo: CA Institute

Behind the pages Greg Mortenson

THOUGH not an author by profession, Greg Mortenson's name is enveloping the literary world at the moment.

His passion is education, and his belief in its ability to free countries from poverty and extremism.

During the Bush and Rumsfeld era he did all he could to promote his alternative and controversial method of fighting terrorism.

Instead of spending huge amounts of public money on arms for war, Mortenson suggests using it to educate Pakistan's and Afghanistan's future generations.

His argument is sane and intelligent, in a time when foreign policy is driven by post 9/11 hysteria.

His life's work of building schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan through the non-profit Central Asia Institute (CAI) has been documented in his *New York Times* number-one bestseller, *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School At A Time*.

It has sold 3.5 million copies and been published in 39 countries.

By 2009 – after 15 years of work – Mortenson had established and supported 131 schools in rural and volatile regions of Pakistan

and Afghanistan. These schools provide education to over 58,000 children, including 44,000 girls, where few education opportunities existed before.

He is also the author of the new bestseller *Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan*. This is a first-person narrative that takes a more detailed look at his theory and the first hand experience it is based on.

His full biography details his life growing up in Tanzania, serving in the US Army in Germany, the death of his sister, Christa, from a massive epileptic seizure and his attempt to climb Pakistan's K2 in her honor.

In 2009, Mortenson received Pakistan's highest civil award, Sitara-e-Pakistan ("Star of Pakistan") for his 15-year effort to promote education and literacy in rural areas.

Several US Congressional representatives nominated Mortenson for the Nobel Peace Prize in both 2008 and 2009. The award recipient is chosen by a secret process and announced in October the following year.

– Alexandra Andersson

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Bilingual school gets nod from Cambridge

By Stephen Fein

KAJONKIETSUKSA School in Wichit was recently approved as an official Cambridge International Examinations Center.

The school will now offer a range of internationally-accepted qualifications, including the Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education, or IGCSE.

University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) is the world's largest provider of international qualifications for 14-19 year olds, offering a broad range of qualifications that also include International A/AS Level.

Obtainable in 150 different countries, CIE qualifications are available in 160 different countries.

"We are delighted the school has become a registered center and look forward to a long and productive relationship which will be of great benefit to students throughout the region." CIE Chief Executive Ann Puntis said.

Kajonkietsuka School Manager Permkiat Ketkul said the school was "extremely proud and honored" to be associated with such a distinguished and renowned educational institution as CIE.

Kajonkietsuka School is the first Thai bilingual school in Southern region to be awarded Cambridge International Center status.

The school also has links with the Prince of Songkla University's (PSU's) Wittayanusorn School in Haad Yai.

Deciphering acronyms

NEARLY every profession serves up a healthy portion of acronym soup, but the TEFL industry has a larger portion than most. Differences between meanings range from the minute, to the major, but the following acronyms are so basic, every teacher ought to know what they stand for.

English language teaching (ELT) and teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) are both umbrella terms for the industry as a whole.

Regardless of location, ELT is not about teaching students their first language (L1). Instead, it's about teaching English as an additional language (L2 or higher).

Demand is high on Phuket for English as a foreign language (TEFL) classes, as English is not the native language here.

Outside class, students typically receive very little exposure to English, so teachers have to consider this when planning lessons. Teaching English as a second language (TESL) is done with non-native speakers inside English speaking countries. There, both students and teachers benefit from

In the Classroom

By Eric Haeg

Those working in Phuket's businesses or vocational schools are often teaching English for specific purposes (ESP). They're engaged in task-based language teaching (TBLT) where vocabulary and conversational skills are specific to the learners' industry. Others teach English for academic purposes (EAP). Conducted in preparation for secondary school or university entrance exams, EAP usually places an emphasis on reading, writing



CONFUSION: Getting to know educational acronyms. Photo: Suchart Changate

and presentation skills. There are three popular assessments of English language proficiency. The international English language testing system (IELTS) is managed by Cambridge University and the British Council (BC). The test has two versions: academic and general training. The competing systems

have similar versions put out by US-based Educational Testing Service (EST). They are the general test of English for international communication (TOEIC) and the academic test of English as a foreign language (TOEFL). When looking for entry-level qualifications, Cambridge University's certification in English language teaching to adults (CELTA) is recognized by most as the industry's standard. Phuket is home to many other similar courses.

Cambridge also offers a diploma

course (DELTA) but it's not the only organization to do so. "Dip.TEFLs" can be gained through a number of accredited centers but they typically require two years of experience before you'll be accepted onto the course.

Other advanced qualifications include the British-based, post graduate certification in education (PGCE) and eventually qualified teacher status (QTS). For non-Brits, North America and most of the Commonwealth is dominated by the postgraduate,

master's degree (MA) in TEFL.

Without one of these advanced qualifications, you can probably rule out working in Phuket's international schools: British International School (BIS), Phuket International Academy (PIA), Quality Schools International (QSI) and Head Start.

Many government schools in Thailand have an English Program (EP). Schools with small budgets may only have a mini English Program (MEP) where students simply get a few more hours of English each week. Some government schools do not have an English program at all.

Every teacher in Thailand needs a work permit (WP) from the Ministry of Labor (MoL) and schools in Thailand are regulated by the Ministry of Education (MoE) who ultimately approve our teacher's license (TL). In addition to this, the Teachers Council of Thailand (TCT) stipulates that foreign teachers take a course on Thai language, culture and professional ethics in order to qualify for a TL. However, enforcement of this is erratic, and many foreigners are left asking, What's this for (WTF)?

We'll explore the TCT course and its exams in next month's column.

If you have a TEFL or TESOL issue you want addressed, contact Eric at kru.phuket@gmail.com

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VEGETARIAN VALUES: Food vendor Yupin Ongprueska (red) with her prized 'ow tau' dish and one of her staff at the festival. Photos: Janpen Upatising

ASIDE from the thunderous roar of exploding fire crackers and the shocking ritualistic piercings of the *mah song* spirit mediums, the Phuket Vegetarian Festival has another allure: great vegetarian food.

From October 8 to 16 from noon until late, hundreds of food stalls line Ranong Road in Phuket

Town, serving tasty morsels not usually found on the island.

Some vendors come from as far away as Nakhon Sri Thammarat and Singburi provinces to sell their vegetarian treats over the nine-day festival.

Here, we tell you where to find some of the best festival fare.

Faces behind the festival's best fare



Warinkarn Dhirawisit

Where: Je Ple kiosk, Ranong Road, opposite the wet market.

Why here: This steaming little soup stall has been a regular fixture at the festival for the past 20 years. Last year, the popularity of Je Ple's vegetarian pink soup with noodles (*yong tau foo*, 35 baht) – commonly known in Thai as *yen*



Watchara Chupen

ta fo – kept stall owner Watchara Chupen, his wife and their staff busy serving almost 24 hours a day.

In your bowl: The ingredients used in Mr Watchara's prized soup are soya "meat" (not really meat), snow fungus, wood ear fungus, fried taro root and fried vegetable dumplings. It's not a task for Mr Watchara to get his ingredients in the morning as the wet market is just 20 meters away from his stall.

Where: Loba Beng Song stall, 15 meters north of Je Ple on Ranong Road.

Why here: Run by the Thep-kulmanon family, this stall serves *loba* (40 baht): the vegetarian version of the pork roll counterpart, commonly known as *lor bak* in Chinese-Hokkien dialect.

In your bowl: Served as either, fried firm tofu or malleable tofu served with chili dipping sauce. The fried tofu is cut into triangular mouthfuls and mixed with corn and minced *Shiitake* mushrooms. Spring rolls made from minced pumpkin, yam bean and taro root are also one of the stall's popular delicacies.

Where: Pae Taw stall, 30 meters north of Loba Beng Song on Ranong Road.

Why here: Food vendor Yupin Ongprueska serves exceptional *ow tau* (fried taro roots mixed with flour, 30 baht).



Pavinee Phichiensoonthon

On the Menu

By Janpen Upatising

The ever-happy Mrs Yupin has been serving her special dish for the past decade, using a recipe passed down from her mother.

In your bowl: Mrs Yupin mixes rice flour and cassava flour together with water, and then deep fries diced taro roots, wood ear fungus, peas, sliced baby corn and bean sprouts in a pan.

To top it off, the *ow tau* will have deep-fried soya "meat" added before serving.

Where: Boonniyom Restaurant on Chao Fa East Road, Chalong, 500 meters before the roundabout heading south.

Why here: Restaurant manager and 12-year vegan Pavinee Phichiensoonthon is passionate about vegetarian and vegan food – and it shows in her dishes.

Her restaurant is open from 5am-6pm over the festival period.

"Eating less meat can help your body and have a positive influence on your life," says the Nakhon Sri Thammarat native.

In your bowl: Dishes of note here are *Kee Lek* curry (senna leaf curry with fried sajo-caju mushrooms, 25 baht), *Tay Poh* curry (a curry with morning glory, mushroom and soya "meat" or fried tofu, 25 baht), and *Kua Gling* (fried soya meat with spice, 25 baht).



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StJohn MacKay

STJOHN (pronounced "Sen Gin") MacKay has been with Asia Island Homes (AIH) for ten years. He began working there with his cousin Colin MacKay, who was building some of the island's first luxury villas. Beginning with Baan Chai Nam and finishing with Samsara, AIH built to international standards.

"Rather than waiting for clients to make substantial deposits to start construction, AIH built projects and then offered them to the public."

StJohn inherited the company in 1994 and currently focuses on internet marketing for the property industry through his own company, Island Property Marketing Ltd.

"Property on Phuket continues to be desirable and I use my skills with search engines to optimize exposure for villa projects who want maximum response."

StJohn was born near Liverpool and enrolled at Lancastershire University to take a course in Applied Physics. But the early death of his father while he was still a student caused the young man to rethink his choice.

"I had always been a good student of the sciences but when my father died, I decided to leave what I thought might be a rather dull career and work in the music industry instead."

StJohn had had a keen interest in music even as a child. He assembled

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

a 10,000 piece collection of long play records, cassettes and tapes, and even built a software synthesizer to explore making music.

After he left university, he looked for a job in the music industry. He landed a position in the export division of Chrysalis Records. The company soon recognized that StJohn could write better descriptions of new music than anyone else and gave him access to an Apple computer to write summaries of new releases for the company's newsletters.

"During the 1990s, I had a particular interest in what is known as Indie music, recorded on independent labels."

StJohn spent most of his spare time checking out the bands in pubs. He estimates he attended 150 gigs a year on average.

"It was exciting to have seen a new band in the back room of a pub with maybe 30 people in the audience, and for that same band to become a sensation some time later."

He was promoted at Chrysalis Records as a buyer for their inde-

pendent new music as he best knew the trends in the music industry. In his spare time, he traveled to Poland, India and the Czech Republic, long before they became major tourist destinations.

But by the late 1990s, he had become disenchanted with the music scene in the UK.

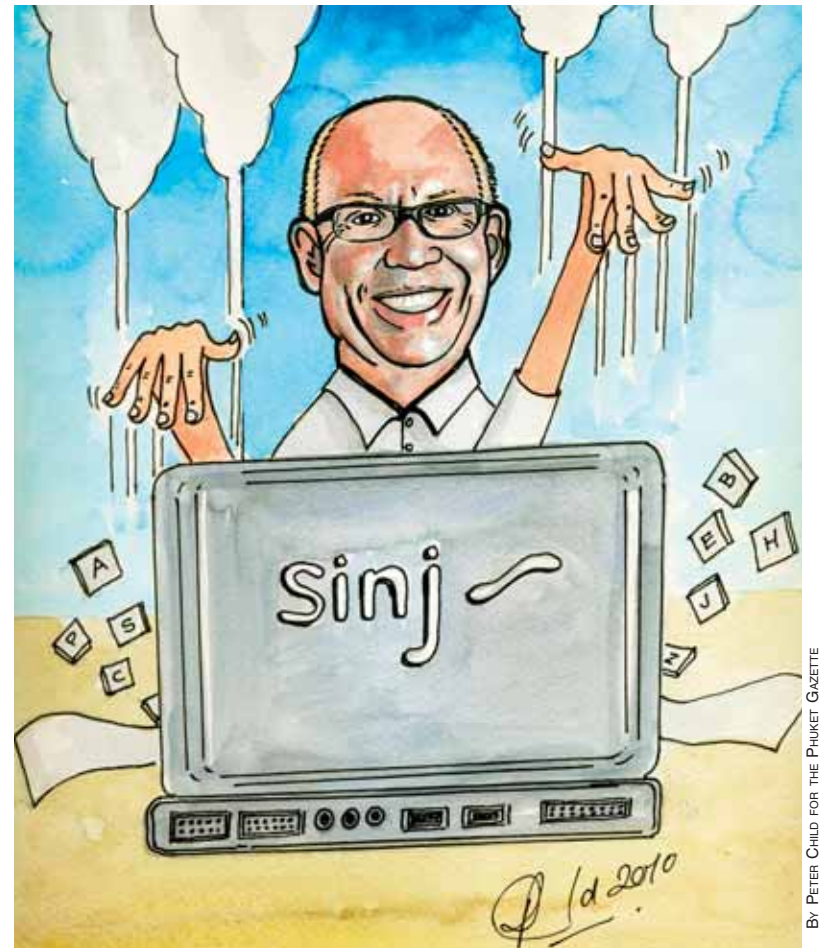
"The music industry in England lost my interest as there was more focus on the bottom line than on letting new talent develop. In 1998, I decided to take a year off and travel. I came to Phuket on my way to Darwin, Australia."

StJohn spent a year in Darwin, drawn to what he describes as a phenomenal music scene. When he returned to England a year later to resume his life, he discovered he had changed.

"I arrived at Heathrow at 5am and by 10am I had bought a ticket to Phuket. There was no going back to England for me."

When he inherited AIH, he quickly became one of Phuket's online marketing experts. StJohn refers to himself as an "information alchemist" who can analyze a website and improve its effectiveness. His clients are located in Phuket, Singapore and Australia.

In his spare time he has been cycling 200 kilometers a week and volunteering his online skills with local charities.



BY PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

About Expat Gallery

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



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Going to Krabi on your gut instinct



ALL SMILES: Stop off at Wat Jeen.

Known for its awesome scenery and diving, Krabi is also a place where you can find great food at bargain prices

By Lesley Chittayanon

TRAVELERS visiting Krabi can find plenty of eateries with a spoonful of some of Southeast Asia's most flavorful culinary delights.

Follow your nose – or the locals – to the best spots. Thai cuisine varies considerably, and in Krabi, it's easy to dip your spoon into a local dish and find a dash of Indian, a sprinkle of Malay or a splash of Chinese flavor.

Chaokhun Restaurant is easy to find from the morning market in the town center – just walk up the hill and turn left at the crossroads; the restaurant is on the right-hand side and opens at the crack of dawn.

It's an intimate set-up on the terrace of a northern-style wooden house, overlooking a small garden, and the perfect spot for a Chinese local-style breakfast.

A tray of steamed and deep fried dim sum (10 baht per dish)

is offered to each table.

After a leisurely breakfast, flag down a purple *songtaew* and head for Neua Klong, 17 kilometers south of Krabi Town. The journey takes 30 minutes and costs 30 baht. Jump out when you see the red tower of the Chinese temple, (Wat Jeen).

Inside the main hall, nuns will show you how to make a Buddhist offering (*wai phra*) by kneeling before a Buddha image and holding incense between your palms in a prayer-like gesture. There is no admission charge but it is customary to make a small donation.

Back on the main road, continue south on foot until you reach Neua Klong market. This market specializes in dried goods used in Chinese-influenced dishes. However, you can find everything from pigs heads to huge shellfish.

From the market, take a motorbike taxi to Lan Rad Na, which is less than a kilometer south out



SPICE OF LIFE: Pots of spices at the Neua Klong market. Photos: Lesley Chittayanon

of town. The ride should cost no more than 20 baht. Serving up their signature Thai-Chinese dish of noodles, vegetables and pork or seafood in a thick broth, this is the perfect spot for a hearty lunch.

After lunch, hop in a *songtaew* and head back to Krabi town. Ask your driver to stop at Tiger Cave Temple (Wat Tham Sua) in Talat Khao. It's a 20 minute trip and costs just 20 baht.

It's an arduous 40 minute climb up 1,237 steps to reach the summit, but being greeted by the huge Buddha set against the sweeping view of the region makes it well worthwhile. This climb is only recommended for people in good health and under the age of 60.

After that uphill burn you will be ready to refuel. It's still early afternoon so take another *songtaew* back into town and board a white *songtaew* destined for Ao Nang. Ask the driver to stop at Chiang Mai Restaurant in Klong Chilat. It's a 20 minute drive and will cost 20 baht.

The deliciously creamy *khao soi*,

signature dish of northern Thailand is a must-try, and the *nam prik ong* dipping sauce suits western palettes as it is a lot less robust than its southern counterpart. A selection of snacks plus cold beers for two won't cost more than 250 baht.

Krabi is small and very easy to get around, so even at 4pm, it isn't too late to embark on another tour. After taking a *songtaew* back into town, hire one of the eager longtail boatmen by the river to take you on a tour of one of Krabi's most famous rock formations, Khao Kanab Nam. Trips vary in price, but a short tour to the rocks and mangrove forest should cost between 700 baht and 1,000 baht.

As the sun begins to set, take a motorbike taxi to Loso Restaurant on Krabi Road. Here, you'll find the province's best Isarn food for the change in your pocket. This rickety little shack is packed to the rafters five days a week and is the perfect spot for dinner.

Som tam kor moo yang (papaya salad with pork) adds an extra meaty bite to this classic northeastern dish, while *som tam ma muang* (mango salad made in similar style) has a zestier flavor. Dinner for two plus a few cold beers won't cost more than 500 baht. Loso is open from 11am until 11pm.

Buses leave from the Phuket Town bus station every hour and the journey takes around three hours (155 baht, from 6am-5pm daily). Alternatively, hire a car for about 1,000 baht per day.

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

Oct 10-12. AOCAP 2010

This is the second annual two-day Alternative Ownership Conference for Hotels and Resorts – Asia Pacific (AOCAP). Leading speakers in the fields of property development, fractional ownership, vacation clubs and exchange registries will share their thoughts and visions for the industry, delivering ideas and experiences and discussing future plans. Book now. Last year the event was very popular and similar numbers are expected this year. From 9am-5pm at the Millennium Resort, Patong, Phuket. T: 089-5127030 E: info@aocap.org W: aocap.org

Oct 12. Friendship Beach Live Music Extravaganza

Featuring performances by *The Colin "Illy" Hill Band*, *The Fuzztones*, *Rockin' Angels*, *Groove Doctors* and more. Special buffet for only 290 baht. Between 6:30-10:30pm at Friendship Beach Resort in Rawai. For reservations please contact Margy at T: 089-9087486 or Charlie at T: 089-728 5304 E: chef@friendshipbeach.com

Oct 13-17. Aqua Aerobics at PIA Sports & Leisure Club

For those people looking for some morning exercise, aqua aerobics sessions at PIA Sports & Leisure Club are exactly what you need. Join us for a free trial lesson this October! Every Tuesday and Thursday, from 8:30-9:30am. The Aquatic Academy is open

Oct 13. Phuket Punchline Comedy

After their sellout show in June, the Phuket Punchline Comedy Club is back with another top night of stand-up comedy. Gracing the comedy stage will be Pierre Hollins from England, Darren Sanders from Australia, and the only UK-based Portuguese comedian, Philberto (right). Each funnyman is a headliner in his own right, and this will be a fantastic night of entertainment. From 8-11pm at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, Patong. Full show details and ticket outlets can be found at our website. Contact Khun Boom at T: 089-6469278 E: info@phuketcomedy.com W: phuketcomedy.com



seven days a week. Other aquatic programs include recreational lap swimming, leisure play, competitive swimming and coaching for a range of sports including triathlons, surf lifesaving and water polo. Monthly costs: 1,120 baht per person (for PIADS / Silverfinz members). 1,400 baht per person (for non PIADS / Silverfinz members).

Oct 14. Fun & Fitness at the Royal Phuket Marina

Get your groove back. Let RPM Health Club take you through your paces with "Fun & Fitness", which will improve your strength and stamina. Free admission every Thursday starting from

October 14 until December 16, from 5:30-7pm in the Town Square. Contact Darren at T: 076-360885 E: darren@rpmhealthclub.com W: rpmhealthclub.com

Oct 15. Phuket-Times.Com Amateur Golf Open

The fourth round in the series will be held from 11am-3pm at the Red Mountain Golf Club. The series has been reduced to eight events due to maintenance work at some golf clubs. The winner of the lowest gross score on the day will gain entry to an Asian Senior Masters pro-am event. A new partnership with Phuket-Times.Com has been formed to assist in the running and organization of the remaining tournaments. Prizes and trophies will be awarded in all flights with the first and second from each flight qualifying for the end-of-season masters. Payment accepted at all golf shops. Entry forms available on-line and at most golf clubs. Contact Neil at T: 082-280 3486 E: phuketamateurgolfopen@gmail.com W: phuket-times.com

Oct 15. Curry Friday

Every second Friday is "Curry Friday" night, where you get the chance to enjoy an authentic Indian curry buffet. Selections include chicken tikka masala, very

spicy mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs, chickpea curry and much more. Served with nan bread and basmati rice. All you can eat for only 399 baht. Draught beer by the glass for just 50 baht. Special discount on beverages. Venue: Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant at Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Time: 7-11:30pm. For reservations, please call: 076-286464, ext 4. For other information contact Mr Seemant Raju at T: 081-6295063 E: sm@karonseasand.com or visit W: karonseasand.com. The next Curry Friday will be held on Oct 29.

Oct 16. StarBlu fashion at Royal Phuket Marina

StarBlu presents their latest collection at RPM. There will be 50% off all items on the day. From 4pm onwards at Les Anages on The Boardwalk. Free admission and free coffee and

tea with cookies. Contact Mr Murat or Khun Tum at T: 086-471 4501 E: muratc@royal-phuketmarina.com W: royal-phuketmarina.com

Oct 17. Ghost Rider's 2nd birthday at Royal Phuket Marina

The Ghost Riders Motorcycle Club have organized a Triumph Roadshow and 2nd Anniversary Sport Run. All types of big bikes (400cc and above) are welcome, particularly sport, sport touring and adventure bike riders. Registration takes place an hour before the scheduled ride. It's free! All island run participants and pillion riders are invited to cocktails at Les Anages at Royal Phuket Marina. From 1-11:30pm. Contact Mr Goran at T: 081-271 2115 E: admin@ghostriders-thailand.com W: ghostriders-thailand.com

Oct 21. Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch

The ever popular PIWC monthly lunch will be held at The Vijit resort in Rawai from 11:30am-2pm. All are welcome. Members price is 450 baht, guests 600 baht. Prior registration is essential. Contact Carole Dux at T: 076-271727 E: info@phuketiwc.com W: phuketiwc.com

Oct 23. Dive for Phuket dogs

Dive Asia welcomes you to another Charity Event. Two dives at Raja Yai Island dedicated to support the Phuket Soi Dog Foundation, a non-profit organization. All profits will be donated to the foundation. The event includes free transfers from Kata, Karon and Patong, breakfast, lunch, fruits, coffee, tea and water. Price: 3,200 baht for divers (plus Gear); 1,600 baht for non-divers; and 4,900 baht for two try dives. T: (Juergen) 081-8953320, or E: reservations@diveasia.com W: diveasia.com/blog/2010/09/d

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Gazette meets the Governor

Gazette Editor Parichart Utintu (left) and Phuket Gazette Managing Director Oranee Hildebrand (right) congratulate Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha on his successful transition to his new office at Provincial Hall.
Photo: Suchart Changate



Rocker Rich Harper tops download charts

PHUKET International Blues Rock Festival star Rich Harper is now Number 1 on Airplaydirect.com worldwide blues radio downloads for September with his new *LIVE in Scandinavia* CD.

"Downloads for Harper's music passed even the mighty Charlie Musselwhite and his new CD *The Well*, which was recorded on the world's largest blues label, Alligator," said organizer Andy Anderson.

"This means that more radio stations in the world that play blues have downloaded [Harper's CD] than any other CD this month. It is mega news for Rich himself, as hopefully his sales will soar through paid downloads such as cdbaby.com and amazon.com," he said.

"This is most welcome news as, since his father died a year ago, Rich moved back to Pennsylvania to care for his ailing mother and therefore cannot spend a lot of time on the road," he added.

The Los Angeles guitarist has been a cornerstone of the Phuket Blues Rock Festival, headlining the annual event for the first three years since its inception in 2005.

Legendary artists Eric Bibb and



PLAYING THE BLUES: Long time Phuket visitor Rich Harper.

Charlie Musselwhite were the headliners in 2009 and 2010, respectively. Mr Harper also made appearances in both years.

"Rumor has it Rich will be back in Thailand for the 2011 Festival with a whole new show," said Mr Anderson.

Other confirmed headliners for the sixth annual Phuket Blues Rock Festival, at the Hilton

Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa on February 25-26, are Curtis Salgado and Candy Kane.

Contact Andy Andersen on T: 086-6822639 or 086-6822639, E: phuketmusic@yahoo.com; W: phuketbluesfestival.com for more information about the Phuket International Blues Festival.

— Phuket Gazette



Ambassador's visit

LUCKY WINNER: Alan Lines (left) receives a Laguna Phuket Advantage Card from British Ambassador to Thailand, Quinton Quayle after his name was drawn in a Laguna Phuket prize draw at the recent birthday celebrations for HM Queen Elizabeth II. The event was attended by 250 guests at The Blue Elephant restaurant in Phuket Town last month.

YOUR
Phuket

Getting all boxed in



SAFE AND SECURE: My Storage recently opened its new service in Patong. From left are Jungceylon CEO Prawit Janyasittikul with My Storage Managing Director Sukanda Chiaranussati and Facility Manager Robert Aberblom.

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Brad Kenny honored



IT'S AN HONOR: Brad Kenny (top, center) from the Rotary Club of Patong Beach received the Sahataya Naval Insignia and Certificate from the Royal Thai Navy (RTN) recently. The award ceremony was held at the RTN Convention Hall in Bangkok and was followed by a special lunch in the RTN VIP lounge.



HARD WORK: Mr Kenny was awarded the honor for his participation in 63 Navy Community Relations and Handclasp projects over the past few years.



Football legend pins a Kata win



STAR POWER: Mom Tri's Boathouse staff were pleasantly surprised when they spotted Bryan Robson – best known for playing midfield for Manchester United and managing the Thai national soccer team – enjoying lunch with his wife on September 25.

Staff from the restaurant were playing the final game of the Boathouse soccer tournament. The two teams thrashing it out against each other on the beach were "Kitchen United", whose players are mostly chefs and kitchen staff, and "FC Bahn Chang", whose players form parts of the accounting and engineering staff at Mom Tri's.

After Kitchen United beat FC Bahn Chang 3-0, Robson graciously accepted the invitation to present trophies to the winners of the Boathouse soccer tournament. Both teams came out feeling like winners when Robson signed the players shirts and posed for pictures with them.



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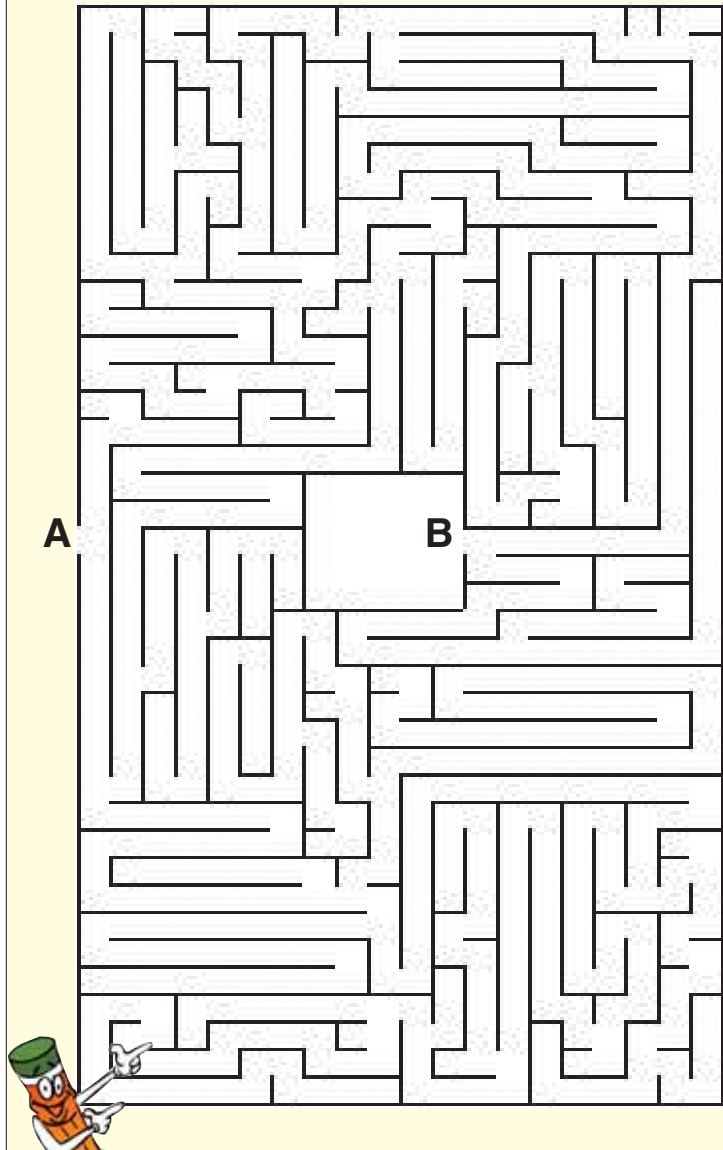
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A *Gazette* staff member completed this maze in three minutes. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.

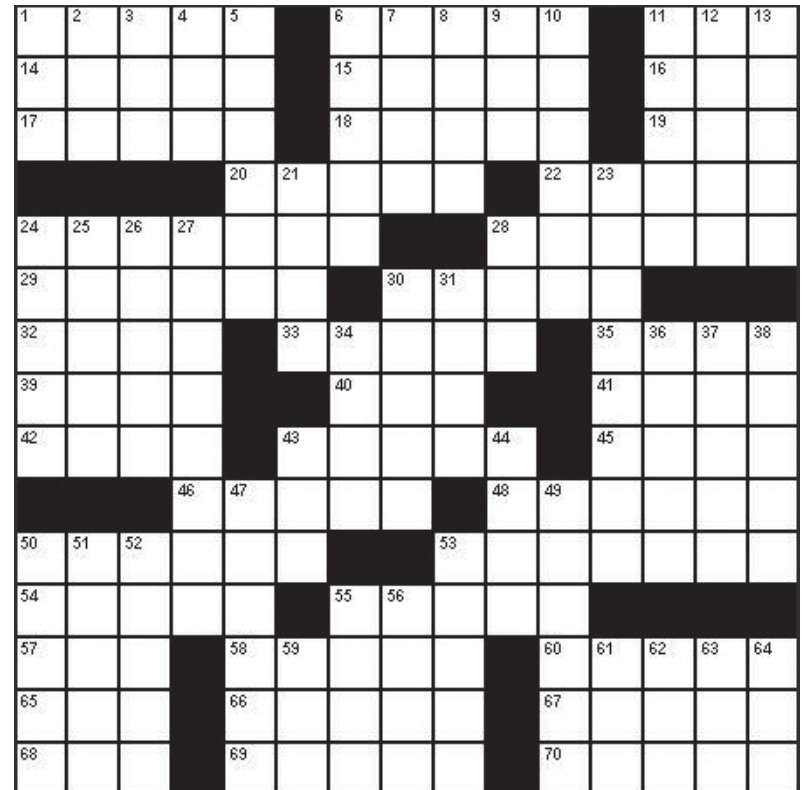


Across

1. Chaplin persona
6. Covered on the inside
11. ___-relief
14. Male and female
15. Bellowing
16. Balderdash
17. Each partner
18. Spoils
19. Before
20. Time instrument
22. Angry
24. The state of the atmosphere
28. Beast
29. Guitarist Segovia
30. Set straight
32. Fizzy drink
33. Lieu
35. Pluck
39. Novelist Waugh
40. Cpl's superior
41. Bristle
42. Fruit-filled pie
43. Secret agents
45. Resound
46. Vast chasm
48. Ancient Greek god
50. Established by law
53. Felt hat
54. Type of sanctum
55. HOMES, e.g.
57. Boxer Laila
58. France's longest river
60. Choose
65. Doze
66. Relative by marriage
67. Look attentively
68. Become an ex-parrot?
69. Metal spikes
70. Designer Simpson

Down

1. Half a fly
2. Accelerate
3. Chopper
4. Debussy's "La ___"
5. Human mind
6. Toil
7. Camaro model
8. Breakfast area
9. Chow down



10. Desiccant
11. Carplike fish
12. Artery that feeds the trunk
13. Alloy of iron and carbon
21. Minus
23. Plant disease
24. Attended
25. ___ Gay
26. European viper
27. Treatise
28. Help
30. Protection
31. After the bell
34. Cookbook amounts

36. Staggers
37. Author Calvino
38. Claw
43. Barrett of Pink Floyd
44. Fill to surfeit
47. Capital of Germany
49. Monetary unit of Ghana
50. Article of food
51. Chou ___
52. Long-billed sandpiper
53. Depicts unfairly
55. Taylor of *Mystic Pizza*
56. Asian sea
59. ___ roll
61. Boy
62. Hot time in Paris
63. Half of D
64. Common article

Provided by BestCrosswords.com.
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Puzzle solutions on page 33

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):

The stars encourage Librans to see their problems from a different perspective this week. There is likelihood that you will turn a negative situation to your advantage by the middle of the month. Where romance is concerned, Leo's patience is running out – if you're not ready for commitment, be prepared to move on. Those with a birthday in the days ahead are predicted to return to their roots in the coming year.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):

A week of surprises lies ahead for those born under the sign of Scorpio. An air sign who you extended an open invitation to is poised to appear. This could lead to a commitment that you will find hard to give. On a more positive note, romance is well starred – Capricorn is clearly impressed by moves you made recently. Wear ruby red to encourage better luck with personal finances.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):

A turning point is reached in a business relationship this week. Sagittarians who have wanted to implement changes should see the situation alter to their advantage.

Those on the lookout for a new employment situation will hear interesting information midweek from a water sign. In the realm of romance, your free spirit could cause ripples in a relationship. Sunday is an auspicious day for a heart to heart talk.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):

Capricorns should see that there is no earthly reason to reject help this week. The stars indicate that a work overload situation needs to be addressed and another earth sign can be trusted with responsibility. Your outlook until the middle of this month remains busy, but a calmer period can be expected after then. Romance is a source of relaxation this weekend as long as you go with the flow.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):

Aquarians should be wary of making sweeping statements this week. If you are not sure of the facts, silence is golden. Where work is concerned, the stars indicate that others may find it difficult to keep up with the pace you set. Slow down to avoid confusion and misunderstandings – your stress levels will also benefit from a quieter atmosphere. Romance is forecast to become more exciting when a Piscean takes the bait.



PISCES (February 20-March 20):

Pisceans who ended the month of September with their affairs in order are forecast to gain more in October. Those who left loose ends untied will have a busy schedule with little time for leisure. Romance falls under auspicious astral conditions this week. However, if you are planning to go on a first date, remember that three's a crowd. Those already committed could have some issues with their partner's choice of friends.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

A parting of the waves is forecast for Arians this week. If this relates to business arrangements, expect a new contact to appear around the middle of October. Those who aim to boost their savings could hear helpful advice from a practical earth sign this weekend. Your romantic forecast is affected by uncertain astral conditions – a new relationship that held promise may become impossible. The number five is lucky on Monday.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Those born under the sign of Taurus who are growing irritated by a colleague's lack of motivation should find a way to communicate with this person. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for an honest discussion. Your dreams of creative achievement are well-starred until the end of October and a pet project gets a green light this week. Romance with a water sign is favorable, but finding happiness with Leo is not on the cards.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

An over the top reaction from a fire sign takes Gemini by surprise this week. The stars indicate that this person has more on their mind than you realize, but clearer communication is highlighted after the middle of the month. Finding the right balance between work and pleasure is important if you want a romantic relationship to flourish. Wear spearmint green to encourage a fresh burst of energy.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Twists and turns along the way are forecast to delay progress for some Cancerians this week. The astrological atmosphere becomes more encouraging after the middle of October. In the meantime, stay focused on practical plans – working with another

water sign who shares your vision is well-starred. If you are interested in relocation, keeping an open mind can lead to a promising possibility this weekend. Wear sapphire blue to encourage more luck in love.

LEO (July 24-August 22):

Leos are forecast to see more success during the middle part of October. Events last week have probably left you feeling insecure about an employment situation, but the stars promise a more positive picture this week. Family members who were angling for change are now forecast to see things from your point of view. Romance with an air sign burns brightly, but a relationship with Pisces is dampened by events this weekend.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23):

Opening a can of worms could cause Virgoans unnecessary stress this week. A financial agreement that you were not entirely satisfied with is unlikely to change. The stars suggest that accepting what is on offer is your best course of action. Money should become less stressful towards the end of this month, but economizing is advisable until then. A water sign gives useful tips to boost your finances this weekend.

PROPERTY Gazette

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Phuket 2.0: Moving past a troubled year

By Nicky Vermeulen

OVER 120 tourism, real estate and business leaders came together for the Phuket 2.0 workshop at the Sheraton Grande Laguna on October 1.

Industry leaders discussed a variety of potential growth markets for Phuket over the next decade.

Speaking for the hotel and property industries was Michael Ayling, Managing Director of Laguna Resorts and Hotels.

Mr Ayling pointed out factors that had adversely affected both industries, but made it clear that the hotel industry had not been hit as hard as the property market.

According to Mr Ayling, past influences on the markets included the global economic

recession, political instability in Thailand and the US and UK property market crash.

He said that the financial crisis resulted in a lack of available finances for consumers to purchase properties and that political instability resulted in foreigners being reluctant to invest in Thailand. He also pointed out that the strengthening of the Thai baht against the euro, pound and dollar made investment in Thailand much less cost-effective.

Despite all the negatives, there are still buyers, Mr Ayling said, pointing out that prices have lowered and the market seems to be moving toward residential and lifestyle purchases more than investments in vacation properties.

Mr Ayling reassured those attending the workshop that the



BACK IN ACTION: Central World reopened September 28 after burning in the red shirt protests in May. Photo: AFP

Phuket hotel sector has not been negatively affected to the same extent as the property markets have been, adding that "Phuket is very resilient".

"Phuket always bounces back quickly after crises," he said.

After a difficult 2009, the industry experienced a positive first quarter this year.

The second and third quarters this year were impacted by the political instability in Bangkok, lowering revenues to 25% below expectations.

The recovery in the fourth quarter indicates there will be a strong start next year.

Mr Ayling added that the main driving factors for Phuket are to maintain traditional tourist markets such as Russia, Europe and the UK and also develop new markets, which currently include India and China.

Although the health of the global economy is uncertain and the availability of finances for property purchases is now low, the idea that Southeast Asia has no emerging alternative to Phuket as competition is a positive sign, Mr Ayling said.

"The fundamentals of the fantastic Thai service culture, great beaches and climate will always dif-

ferentiate Phuket," Mr Ayling said.

He went on to say that Phuket's infrastructure is improving with road and airport upgrades, and the continuous development of marinas, shopping centers, international schools and convention centers.

However, a public transportation system is needed, he said.

"As far as the next decade goes, despite the number of uncertainties, the medium to long-term outlook is very positive.

"There are likely to be bumps along the way, but Phuket has been and will continue to be very resilient in facing its challenges ahead," he said.



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Ultra Villas on the rise in Nai Thon

ONE of the island's most picturesque beaches, Nai Thon, is undergoing a massive makeover.

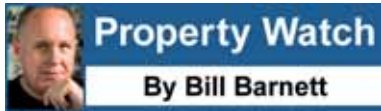
Over the past few years the "UltraVilla" luxury estate Malaiwana has continued to evolve into one of the island's premium addresses.

Speaking to partner and developer Stephen Paine who also spearheaded the successful Surin Heights estate, he was keen to talk about two new projects being launched by the group.

First is the 12-unit, upscale boutique Malaiwana Residences with "to die for" West Coast ocean views. Unit sizes for the "uber" apartments are 600 square meters, featuring 18-meter private swimming pools.

Configured with eight duplexes and four penthouses; prices range between 85 and 95 million baht.

With a public launch set for mid-November, four units have already been sold to buyers looking for top-shelf projects. Construction will start early next year and is expected to be complete by 2013.



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

Second is the 140-seat Malaiwana Beach Club and dining lounge, located on one rai of land at the southern end of Nai Thon Beach.

The venue will also be open to the public.

The new venue will provide some stiff competition for Catch Beach Club in Surin and Baba club at Sri Panwa resort when it opens in the first quarter of next year.

In other developments: At the north end of the Nai Thon Beach, the 281-room, internationally branded Pullman Arcadia resort will be changing the area in a major way.

International hotel chain ACCOR are also eyeing the Nai Thon area.

Across the street, another site is reportedly going to be turned into a well-known branded hotel.

From an impact perspective, the growing inventory of hotel



HIGH LIFE: UltraVillas are popping up fast on hillsides overlooking Phuket beaches. Photo: Jim Welch

rooms does pose questions about how Nai Thon can cope with this many tourists.

At high tide, beach seating remains limited, and no doubt the "Surin Beach effect" with tourists having to pay for a seat and service, looks to be inevitable.

There are two distinct camps in the mass-tourism model, and there are no better examples of these than in Nai Thon.

First is the "UltraVillas" camp dotting hillsides and coastlines consuming forest and natural re-

sources. Those buyers tend to have minimal impact on Nai Thon Beach, with most staying in the confines of their sizable villas for days on end.

The second camp is made up of larger hotels – which are coming in fast to such a small beach. It seems things are going to get a little crowded.

Maybe a government zoning incentive might help here, or a building initiative, that could give incentives to existing residential and hotel owners to upgrade and modernize buildings already there.

A recent announcement of new environmental regulations by the government is creating a rush for developers to get building permits processed before

they take effect.


Sometime this month, a new land usage plan for all of Phuket will be released by the government.

Early indications point to a marked new control strategy. However, the plan will not seriously address redevelopment or control of specific hotel zones, it has been reported.

There is no doubt that UltraVillas are one of Phuket's most appealing property products, but putting them into a mass model could be a step in the wrong direction for the long run.

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

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New phases going up fast

By Sitthipong Nongkaew

THE Royal Place Condominium, located behind a wall of advertising and commercial buildings at the Tesco-Lotus intersection, is entering its third and final stage of completion.

When completed in 2012, the project – spread out on five rai of land – will feature three apartment towers with an additional “shared facilities” building.

The first L-shaped apartment tower is the largest and is the only finished building in The Royal Place Condominium, having opened for residents in 2009. All of the building’s 158 units have been sold.

This bodes well for the second and third towers. The second is set for completion in May 2011 and construction has just begun on the third.

The project was initiated in 2007 with overall costs estimated at about two billion baht.

According to developers, the staggered progress has nothing to do with budget problems, but is down to the limited availability of the Bangkok-based Syntec Construction Co Ltd.

Each of the apartment towers will be eight stories high. They vary in size, with the second tower featuring 102 luxury apartments,



HIGH LIFE: An artist's impression of the soon to be completed condominiums near the Tesco-Lotus intersection. Photo: The Royal Place Condominium

and 171 in the third.

The units themselves are not identical, with the smallest being 30 square meters and the largest being over two times the size at 73sqm.

Prices vary as well: between five and seven million baht.

The condominiums are all very

stylish, with designer Architect Co Ltd having worked on the exterior.

Vichien Supataragul, the project president, explained that the building was designed with modern living in mind and that only premium quality materials have been used in

the interior design.

Residents can also enjoy the swimming pool and restaurant in the central building. When fully complete, this building will include a clubhouse and shopping facilities.

Manassanan Thiensawangkun, Deputy Managing Director said

demand is high for condominiums at The Royal Place.

“About 80% of the units have sold in the second building, and 10% of the units in the third tower have already sold,” he said.

Mr Supataragul added that their target clientele were business people who live in Phuket.



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On the bright track with this bloomer

Gardening

By Green Sleeves

ON FLOWER power alone, the bougainvillea would rate highly on any top 20 list. Of all the flowering shrubs available to gardeners in Phuket, the bougainvillea is one of the most popular. And deservedly so.

There is scarcely a country so where you will not find the shrub decorating the roadside. Indeed in many places, it has adapted itself to highly unpromising conditions.

The road chiseled through the hills between Karon and Kata, for example, has bougainvilleas everywhere, and though they are frequently cut back, they continue to add a splash of color to the rocky hillsides.

They seem to do extremely well on this island, better here than in their much-vaunted Mediterranean setting, where the cold winters can seriously hamper growth.

In Andalucia, I attempted to grow a number before one finally prospered.

Once established though, it grew into a huge bush whose thorny tentacles embraced the entire balcony.

The bougainvillea is not native to either Europe or Asia. It hails from Brazil, where it was discovered by a French explorer by the name of – you guessed it – Louis de Bougainville.

It quickly became popular in eighteenth century Europe, and as happens with popular plants, was soon being hybridized.

Over the next few months, the *Gazette* will feature the top 20 island plants for your Phuket patch. Each week we will review the visual appeal, ease of cultivation and adaptability of each plant. Other virtues such as scent, foliage and blooming period will also be considered. Feel free to add to the list...

The true flowers are small, white and insignificant; the real display is provided by the clustered bracts, three to six in number, that encircle the flowers. These bracts are paper-thin, a trait which has given rise to the popular name of “paper flower”.

While the most common color is pink or purple, many striking cultivars have been produced in a range of colors ranging from pure white through to scarlet and deep crimson.

Now there is even a chrome yellow cultivar. Orange-scarlet hybrids are especially attractive. Double varieties include a deep magenta.

The attractive foliage has paired leaves which are often reddish green in color when young.

But be warned, as with so many tropical shrubs, the stems are armed with lethal spines.

Bougainvillea is in essence a vigorous, woody vine with a naturally sprawling habit, and it will scramble without ceremony over any plants that get in its way.

Since the stems can reach several meters in length, the plant will need to be regularly pruned, unless you plan to cover a large area of wall or trellis very quickly.

Unlike a “true” vine, bougainvillea produces no tendrils, so it may well need support.

Certainly, it does not object to clipping. Hard pruning after blooming will promote a bushier habit and more flowers.

It is also good practice to pinch out the last half inch of new growth to encourage lateral sprouting below the tip.

Because it tolerates pruning, the bougainvillea is often used as a hedge. The spikes will certainly help to repel would-be intruders.

The bougainvillea is a sun-lover, and it flowers best in the dry season when the hours of sunlight are at their peak. Five hours a day is its minimum requirement.

Give it too much water and too little sunlight and it will grow and grow without producing much in the way of color. So just remember that it is less likely to bloom effectively in the monsoon when its root system is moist.

And it will not need much watering in the dry season. This makes bougainvillea most definitely a low maintenance plant.

So how does the bougainvillea rate? Highly for visual appeal, length of flowering period and general adaptability.

It is accepting of dry conditions, has a high tolerance to salt-laden winds, and is remarkably resistant to disease.

Bougainvilleas will take readily from cuttings and can be cultivated as pot plants. Some of the most spectacular and multi-hued specimens can be seen growing in containers in local nurseries. Many are venerable – at least 10 years old.

The downsides are that despite having a thin root system, bougainvilleas are gross feeders and will



BURST OF COLOR: The brilliant bougainvillea. Photo: Alexandra Andersson

take both nutrients and space from any plants in their vicinity.

Their growth habit is unwieldy and invasive. They have vicious spines, and do not attract butterflies because they possess no perfume.

But then again, a tropical garden without a bougainvillea is quite unthinkable.

If you have a garden that you would like to be featured, please email pcampbell45@gmail.com

Tip of the week

Helping to balance nature

THE chemical pesticide industry is a multi-billion dollar business. Fortunately, since Rachel Carson's book “Silent Spring”, it is now more environmentally conscious. Nonetheless, most chemical pesticides are not selective in what they target.

In Thailand's paddy fields, where rice leaf hoppers are a problem, these pests are naturally controlled by spiders which may eat as many as fifteen a day. But the application of commercial dust pesticides will eliminate the spiders as well. Organic pesticides require

less monitoring. Of these, the safest marketed ones are plant-derived. For example, *pyrethrum* from the Dalmatian chrysanthemum; *rotenone* from legumes; *sabadilla* from the lily of the same name; and potassium bicarbonate is the main constituent of Kaligreen and Greencure (which also acts as a fungicide).

In their different ways, they are all effective, and all degrade within a matter of days.

Using these responsibly, will help preserve the balance of nature in your garden.


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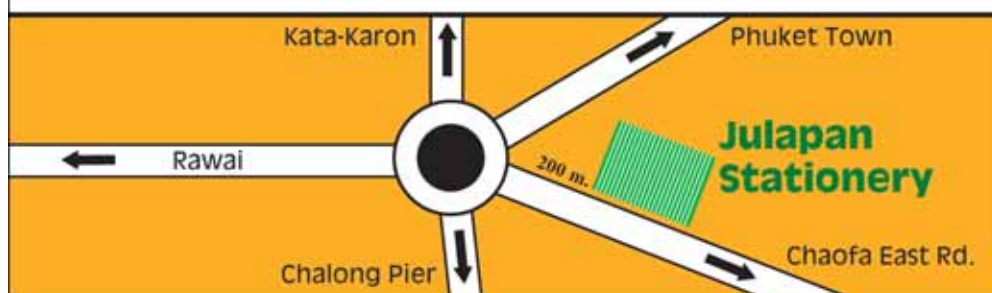
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WAKE/SKI BOAT FOR SALE

2-year-old, 4.2 meters long Chalmers boat with a 60Hp Yamaha Enduro engine. Includes trailer, GPS sonar, Waketower and more. Price: 475,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-949 1913. Email: juraj_t@yahoo.com

43 FT ROBERTS CRUISING YACHT

Fiberglass boat with equipment warranty. It is undergoing major refitting. Price: US\$43,500. Contact for more info. Tel: 081-866 8716. Email: stormbay2@yahoo.com.sg

MOTORSAILER

Neptunian 33. Bluewater cruiser. New paint and varnish, inside and outside. Sailed single-handed from UK. Tel: 081-968 1437 (English). Email: bobedward1@hotmail.com

8m SAILING CATAMARAN

Open bridge, wood, epoxy, fiberglass composite. 15Hp Yamaha. All 2 years old, antifouling new in 2010. Good condition and ready to sail. Equipped to fishing with 6 rods holder. 2 cabins and storage place. Thai registered with book. Price: 440,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: +49-33-22293 0210. Email: stier@net-print.de

SWAN 42 CRUISER/ RACER

Discounted to US\$119,950. Must sell. Ready for King's Cup. Please see our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

NEW BOAT SUNNAV 18FT

For sale. Highest quality with trailer. Price: only 270,000 baht. No engine. Tel: 089-476 7443, 085-352 1940, 076-377577. Contact for more details, email sales@sunnava.com or visit: www.sunnava.com

MOTORSAILER 33'

Neptunian 33. Single-handed, blue water cruising yacht. VHF, radar, autohelm, GPS, depth. Completely refurbished. 2 cabins. Hot water. Contact for more information. Tel: 081-968 1437 (English). Email: bobedward1@hotmail.com

40 FT CRUISING YACHT

Fast fiberglass boat well equipped for cruising. It's been used for circumnavigation. Sale price: US\$85,000. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-866 8716. Email: stormbay2@yahoo.com.sg

ROYAL PHUKET MARINA BERTH

20m front line Royal Phuket Marina berth to let by private owner. Please email for more information on flexible terms and greatly discounted rates. Email: james@shayler.co

AZIMUT 46 (2001)

For sale. New listing. Very good condition, mail for brochure. Please call for more details. Tel: 086-690 0444 (English), 085-887 7414 (Thai). Email: rico@yachtcharter-asia.com

BAREBOAT WANTED

Wanted: bareboat motorsailer for one or two weeks around Phuket for a Swiss inventer and a Lincolnshire farmer with 30 years experience. Please text Graham as above for more information. Tel: +44-179-076 3249, +44-777-447 3916. Email: gla myman@btinternet.com

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Contact: Martin Holmes
Tel: 076 238 803
Fax: 076 273 319
Email: info@leemarine.com

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

■ Yacht Haven Marina Office
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket
Contact: Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 891 3237
Tel/Fax: 076 206 260
Email: jim@leemarine.net

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

19FT ELITE RIB

100Hp, 4 stroke engine. Trailer. Price: 679,000 baht. Contact Kim. Tel: 087-275 5563.

JEANNEAU SUN ODYSSEY 35'

2003, great pocket cruising yacht. Price: US\$79,950. For further information, visit our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

NEW 35 FT POWER CAT

Almost completed. All fiber glass with fly-bridge. Perfect for diving, transfers. Please contact for more info. Email: tony@steppaboats.com

GAME FISHING/ DIVE BOAT

20m long, built 2007. One of the nicest we've seen. Price: 5 million baht. Includes mooring. More details, visit our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

55 FT CRUISING CATAMARAN

6 double cabins, 105sqm sails. 2009 in composite, no engine. Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

BAYLINER 245Hp (2009)

Like new. 300Hp Mercruiser includes air berth. Price: 2.7 million baht. For further information, see our website at: www.boatshedphuket.com

WHARRAM TIKI 30 (2009)

Professional build and nearly new. 4-stroke O/B. Price: 2.15 million baht. For further information, visit our website at: www.boatshedphuket.com

ONAN GENERATOR

Onan MDL3 Marine Generator 12kVA at 1,500rpm, 2,600hrs. Excellent condition. Recently underwent major service: new engine mounts, water pump, hoses, etc. Includes sound shield and muffler. Please call for more details. Tel: 081-821 1812 (English), 081-819 5152 (English & Thai). Email: leigh@glslithotripsy.com

BENETEAU OCEANIS 351 (1995)

Great condition. Awlgrip paint job. Price: US\$ 89,950. For more details, please visit our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

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

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SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES**COFFEE break****Crossword puzzle:**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|
| 1 | T | R | A | M | P | 6 | L | I | N | E | D | 11 | B | A | S |
| 14 | S | E | X | E | S | 15 | A | R | O | A | R | 16 | R | O | T |
| 17 | E | V | E | R | Y | 18 | B | O | O | T | Y | 19 | E | R | E |
| 20 | C | L | O | C | K | 21 | I | R | A | T | E | 22 | | | |
| 24 | W | E | A | T | H | E | R | 25 | A | N | I | M | A | L | |
| 28 | A | N | D | R | E | S | 29 | A | L | I | G | N | | | |
| 32 | S | O | D | A | 33 | S | T | E | A | D | 34 | G | R | I | T |
| 38 | A | L | E | C | 39 | S | G | T | 40 | | 41 | S | E | T | A |
| 42 | T | A | R | T | 43 | S | P | I | E | S | 44 | P | E | A | L |
| 46 | A | B | Y | S | S | 47 | A | P | O | L | L | O | | | |
| 50 | V | E | S | T | E | D | 51 | S | T | E | T | S | O | N | |
| 54 | I | N | N | E | R | 55 | L | A | K | E | S | | | | |
| 57 | A | L | I | 58 | L | O | I | R | E | 59 | E | L | E | C | T |
| 63 | N | A | P | 64 | I | N | L | A | W | 65 | W | A | T | C | H |
| 68 | D | I | E | 69 | N | A | I | L | S | 70 | A | D | E | L | E |

Island Job Mart

LIVE-IN NANNY / MAID WANTED

Experienced live-in nanny to help with 3 children, aged 5, 6 and 7, at the Boat Lagoon. All children at school from 8am to 4pm. Cooking and English speaking skills would be a plus, as would a sense of humour. Tel: 081-893 7027. Email: potter.ian@gmail.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Class Act Media is a company that produces The Phuketian, The Hua Hin Informer and The Samui Informer. We require an advertising sales manager to handle all aspects of our publications. Extensive knowledge of sales techniques, preferably in advertising sales in Thailand. Foreigner/Thai with excellent English. Good salary, bonuses and expenses. Please send CV in English and salary expectations (base salary) to Jason. Tel: 076-620553, 086-479 7471. Email: jason@aclassactmedia.com

URGENTLY NEEDED

Seeking personnel for following positions:

- Receptionist
- Night receptionist
- Sous chef
- Waiter
- Waitress
- Assistant general manager
- Housekeeping
- Engineer
- Cook

Club Bamboo Boutique Resort & Spa

247/1-8, Nanai Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150 Tel: 076-345345-7. Fax: 076-345099.

Mobile: 081-893 0135. Email: accounting@clubbamboo.com

BLISS LOUNGE

We are looking for staff.

Bliss Lounge Patong:

- Bartender (Thai national)
Good fixed salary, tips and bonuses

Bliss Lounge Kata Beach:

- Bartender/Cashier (Thai national)
- Hostess (Thai national)
- Waitress (Thai national)
- Office assistants (Thai national)

Good fixed salary, tips and bonuses

Positions available now!

Interested? Visit us at Patong or give us a call!

Tel: 085-619 4963 (Thai/English). Please send your CV to

Email: info@blissphuket.com

Address: 58/6 Bangla Rd. Soi Patong Resort-Patong Beach

URGENTLY NEEDED

- Receptionist
- Night receptionist
- Sous chef
- Waiter
- Waitress
- Assistant general manager
- Housekeeping
- Engineer
- Cook

Please contact Bamboo Beach Hotel & Spa. Tel: 081-893 0135. Email: accounting1@clubbamboo.com

RECEPTIONIST

Cleaner, security wanted. For guesthouse in Patong. Please contact more information. Tel: 082-598 1386.

TELESALES

Seeking self-motivated native English speakers with excellent communication skills for a telemarketing position. Must be comfortable and confident on the phone. Experience in the service industry or telesales would be an advantage. Salary: basic, plus commission. Tel: 087-269 9206. Email: careers@pp-intl.com

ADMINISTRATOR FOR INTERNET

Must have great computer skills, speak and write excellent English. Thai or western person considered. Tel: 084-440 7651 (English). Email: bookings@villachan.grajang.com

SECRETARY/PA

Real estate and tour company searching for female staff. Thai native, aged 25-35 years old with good spoken English and driving license. Salary + commission and bonus. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

TEACHERS WANTED IN PHUKET

Satree Phuket School is seeking 1 full time, native English speaking mathematics teacher for 11-18 year-old students. Salary with B.A. degree in English, drama or science begins at 35,000 and M.A. degree in English, drama or science begins at 40,000 baht. Both include 4 weeks paid holiday, a government health plan and 3,000 baht housing allowance. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's degree or above, plus TEFL or CELTA certificate or equivalent. We can only reply to applicants who meet the minimum requirements. Please email your CV with covering letter to: joeynho@gmail.com; totp4736@yahoo.com. Or call Tel: 084-666 3557. Be prepared to present all original certificates at interview and do teaching demonstration.



New French & Thai restaurant and guest house in Nai Yang Beach is recruiting immediately...

- Chef de Cuisine (international/French cuisine)
- Chef de Partie / Demi-chef de partie / Commis
- Restaurant Supervisor
- Barmen / Barmaids
- Waiters / Waitresses
- Cook helpers
- Housekeeping

Good benefits!

Under Thai and French management. Good command of English required.

Interested? Please send your CV to la.maison@gmail.com or contact us on 089-993-3964 (Thai and English)
Address: 74/9 Moo 3 T.Saku A.Thalang Phuket 83110



BAR AND PROMOTION STAFF WANTED!

Seduction is opening Factory Bar on Bangla Road in November 2010. Factory Bar will offer international dance music, trendy cocktails and a stylish interior. We are looking for outgoing bar staff and promoters to give out flyers with a commission salary. Good english skills are necessary.

Send your application with photo by email to susanna.karranto@sk-ravintolat.fi or come and fill out a form at the Seduction office.

The office hours are Monday-Friday from 10am-5pm.
Tel. 076-340 215.

TEACHER WANTED

We seek to recruit 3 secondary teachers specialising in Maths, ICT and Science. Tel: 076-612876, 080-534 5006 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-612877. Please send CV to eugene@headstartphuket.com

STAFF WANTED

European-managed restaurant and hotel requires an experienced seafood chef, the salary depends on level of experience. Thai national. Good opportunity. Other positions; English speaking bartenders, waitresses, waiters and kitchen helpers. English speaking hotel receptionists and driver. Guaranteed all season jobs. Hotel located at Ao Nang Beach, Krabi. Tel: 075-637767, 083-640 8003, 085-150 4840 (English & Thai). Fax: 075-637812. Email: aningrestaurant@hotmail.com

THEATRE & RESTAURANT

Palazzo looking for Stage manager and Light - Sound technicians. Must be experienced in the entertainment industry and have good English. Positions: Floor manager, Bar manager, Bar tender, Waiters, with artistic skills and ability to perform in the Entertainment area. Tel: 076-202277 Or email: info@phuket-palazzo.com

STAFF WANTED

For serving seafood and Thai food. Good spoken English. Salary+commission. Tel: 082-283 3154.

LOOKING FOR ACCOUNTS ASST

1 position. Knowledge of basic accounting and English required. Tel: 084-849 7212. Email your resume to: zeycoth@gmail.com

ONLINE JOB APPLICATION
HOTEL - ACCTING - SALES - IT - WEB DESIGN - F&B
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CHEF DE CUISINE
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www.whiteboxphuket.com / 247/5 Prabamee Rd., Kalim Beach, Patong

G-1 Land Co.,Ltd.

Positions:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| • Sales | 2 |
| • Administration | 3 |
| • Administration (Night time) Man | 2 |
| • PR | 1 |
| • Waitress | 2 |
| • Maid | 5 |

Qualifications:

- Male/Female, Thai nationality 25-35 years old
- Experience in the real estate market would be an advantage
- A minimum of 2 years experience in property sales
- Strong command of English, both written and spoken
- Good interpersonal and communication skills

Contact: G- 1 Land Co.,Ltd.

Tel: 076-385441, Fax: 076- 385442

E-mail: info@kamalaregent.com or info@theregent.com



Phuket International Hospital is a leading provider of Plastic Surgery to overseas clients and is seeking to employ a Foreign Coordinator.

Foreign Coordinator Phuket International Aesthetic Center

This is a full time position open to both Thai and Foreign nationals

Duties include assisting the hospital with the daily management and administration of our plastic surgery department.

Essential Qualifications

- Excellent English language skills, including written skills
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Good computer skills
- Willingness to work on weekends

Desirable Qualifications

- Clinical, nursing or other relevant health care skills or experience
- Marketing or Management experience
- Professional presentation
- Demonstrated ability to meet defined objectives and deadlines

Interested candidates should contact Peter Davison for a position description and forward their CV-supporting documents to peter@phuketinternationalhospital.com

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

Assistant Required For Real Estate Agent

Koh Samui
Salary 15-20,000 THB

Thai national with good English, both written and spoken. Must be computer literate and have a minimum of 1 year experience in a real estate company.

In the first instance, please submit your CV with covering letter to emma@palmgroupasia.com



Sunparadise (Thailand) Co Ltd., is a manufacturer for the highest quality Aluminum Window and Door Systems from Switzerland established in Thailand since year 2001. Due to our business expansion, we are looking for highly motivated candidates to join our team.

Marketing / Sales Executive (2 positions)

Position Requirements:

- Male/Female Bachelor's degree in any fields
- Computer literacy (MS Word, Excel, etc.)
- Good command of English conversational, written and willing to learn new things
- Customer service-oriented mindset, high self discipline, eager to learn and self develop
- High responsibility, energetic and self-motivated, self-supervised, punctual and able to handle jobs independently
- Ability to work under dynamic environment and manage aggressive timelines
- Able to provide quality service and support to customers at all times
- Enjoy meeting people with warm and outgoing personality
- Possess a valid car driving license will be an advantage

Interested candidates are invited to write in with full resume, stating present and expected salaries and enclosing a recent photo to email address: supapatr@sunparadise.co.th



THE PARADISE KOH YAO
Island hideaway near phuket
www.theparadise.biz

The Paradise Koh Yao, a contemporary 70-room boutique resort is located on Koh Yao Noi island, a 50-minute boat trip from Phuket. Catering to the experienced traveler looking for unspoiled nature in uncompromised luxury - away from the crowded tourist spots of Phuket and Krabi.

We are seeking outstanding personalities to join our motivated team, committed to personalized and superior customer service.

• Host Chef (in charge of kitchen/restaurant)

Covering all aspects of F&B operations, including kitchen and restaurant. Based at the resort on Koh Yao Noi with regular visits to the Phuket office.

- At least 3-5 years experience in 5 or 4 star Hotels in a Executive Chef or Sous Chef assignment
- Leader personality, motivator
- Guest relation skills
- Implementation of innovative kitchen and restaurant concepts
- Previous assignment in Thailand/Asia an advantage
- Good command of the English language, knowledge of Thai / German is an advantage
- Foreign or Thai national, 35-55 years of age

We also consider candidates being at present an Executive Sous Chef who wants to make the next step up to Executive/Host Chef.

• Assistant Spa Manager/ess

• Reservation Supervisor

• Bar Supervisor

• Purchasing Supervisor

Attractive remuneration package will be offered to the right candidate. Send your latest resume with recent photo, references and salary expectations to gm@theparadise.biz

The Paradise Koh Yao – Boutique Beach Resort & Spa
24 Moo 4, T. Koh Yao Noi, A. Koh Yao, Phang Nga 82160
Tel: 076-584450 Website: www.theparadise.biz



The Racha is one of Thailand's leading 5 Star beach resorts. It is located on the beautiful island of Koh Racha Yai, just 30 minutes by boat from Phuket.

We are growing and looking for the following talented individuals to join our dynamic team:

Marketing & Communications Manager

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing or related fields
- Knowledge of graphic design software packages
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Creative with good initiative and leadership abilities to manage marketing programs, events and projects

Sales Coordinator

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in related fields
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Customer focused, with a service mind

Reservation Officer

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in related fields
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Customer focused, with a service mind

Beach Club Manager

Requirements:

- Prior hospitality management experience
- Enthusiastic, energetic, diligent and personable
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Expatriate preferred

Cost Controller

Requirements:

- Prior hospitality management experience
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Expatriate preferred

Waiter / Waitress / Bartender

Requirements:

- Diploma in hospitality or related fields
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Friendly, approachable and able to work in a team



A member of
Small Luxury Hotels
of the World

If you have what it takes and wish to join a people-oriented company that prides itself in excellence and the belief that people are our most important assets, then please submit your resume and a recent photo to our Human Resources Department as follows:

The Racha
Human Resource Manager
Email: hr@theracha.com
www.theracha.com

42/12-13 Moo 5, Rawai, Muang,
Phuket 83130, Thailand
Tel: +66 (76) 355455 Fax: +66 (76) 355637



SALA Phuket Resort and Spa:

SALA Phuket is a stylish 5 star resort located on Maikhao Beach, Phuket. The property offers 79 luxurious villas and suites on unspoilt beach frontage.

SALA Resorts and spas is a home grown Thai hospitality company which owns and operates three luxury resorts in the Kingdom.

We are looking for the following professionals:

Food & Beverage

- Senior Waiter / Waitress
- Waiter / Waitress
- Pool / Beach Attendant (Life Guard experience an advantage)
- Senior Bartender
- Bartender

Restaurant Manager

- An enthusiastic and experienced restaurant professional
- Excellent leadership and communication skills, understanding how to manage people with an emphasis on training & development
- Candidates with restaurant, bar and room service experience is preferred in return for the right candidate an excellent package is on offer

A chance to join one of the most prestigious and talked about 5 star boutique resorts in Phuket

Front Office

- Front Office Supervisor
- Bell / Driver

Housekeeping

- Room Attendant
- Gardener (Temporary)

Spa

- Spa Beautician

Engineer

- Senior Pool & Pond Cleaner

If you have what it takes and you would like to join our dynamic team, please forward your CV or contact our Human Resources Dept. Contact details below.

Human Resources Department

333 Moo 3, T.Maikhao, A.Talang Phuket 83110 THAILAND
Tel: 076-338888 # 2011-2013 Fax: 076-338810 E-mail: hrphuket@salaphuket.com
For more information about SALA Resorts & Spas Please visit our website at
www.salaresorts.com

Articles For Sale

BABY CAR CAPSULE

Baby car capsule for a new born and up to 1 year old. Keyfit 30 by Chicco, red color and in Good condition. Fits all cars, very quick & easy to put in and take out. Price: 8,000 baht. Tel: 086-270 3517 (English & Thai). Email: john_kennedy67@yahoo.com.sg Website: <http://www.snugasabugbabyslins.com/images/00000118423-ChiccoKeyFit30InfantCarSeat-large.jpg>

MOTOR 12ED KEBAB

Hardly used: 25,000 baht. Commercial food mixer: 9,000 baht. Tel: 089-867 4872.

POND BIO FILTER FOR SALE

Pond Bio Filter Model CBF-1100 1.0 Hp. with UV Light. Included submersible Pump Arwan model: KSV-151. New release price: 30,000 baht. Second hand price: 12,500 baht. Tel: 076-273087, 081-978 5901 (English), 081-956 3775 (Thai). Fax: 076-273087. Email: moose@waterworkwarehouse.net

ELECTRIC HOT PLATES: 2 RING

Electric hot plates, 2 rings. Both rings have quick heat up sensors. Has adapter plug for common house powerpoint, but can be hard wired also. 10 months old. Price when new: 5,500 baht. Will sell for 3,200 baht. Tel: 085-275 3720. Email: russcottent@hotmail.com

SONY PS3 & ACCESSORIES

Comes with second controller and Logitech G25 Steering wheel. Games available include: Guitar Hero 3, Avatar, Transformers 1 & 2, Star Wars: The Force Unleashed & The Complete Saga (Lego), Burnout Paradise City, GT5, Army of Two and Airborne. Contact K. Mike. Tel: 086-951 2455. Email: miketipton@netseven.com

TEAK, RATTAN FURNITURE

High quality furniture for sale: 5-seater modular rattan sofa, 2 plantation chairs, customised Balinese teak shelves, wooden benches & more. Leaving Phuket. Must sell by month end. Call to view. Prices negotiable. Tel: 085-791 0691 (English). Email: vjmisso@gmail.com

HOME THEATER

Bose acoustic mass 15 for sale + bass charger. Contact: Jram. Tel: 080-067 6700.

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

Kebab machine, freezer. Stove, deep fryers more. In good condition. Please call for more info. Tel: 076-366226.

32GB MICRO SDHC + ADAPTER

Brand new 32gb micro SDHC card with a full size sd adapter. Please make sure your phone or camera is compatible before buying as I will not accept return for this reason. 1,000 baht. Tel: 038-406492, 086-822 9421 (English & Thai). Email: asian glory@gmx.com

FURNITURE

Fantastic huge wood dining table and 10 chairs. Price new: 109,000 baht; will sell now for 39,000. Brand new sofa. Price new: 69,000 baht; will sell now for 29,000. Tel: 084-625 5090 (English). Email: cloesena@pt.lu

INTEX POOL FOR SALE - CHEAP

Round Intex Easy Set Inflatable swimming pool - size about 5 meters, 1m deep. Good condition, used only for 2 months. Includes: pool liner, ground cloth, cover, surface skimmer, filter pump, repair kit. 4,000 baht. Tel: 086-682 7818 (English). Email: steffen@calypsophuket.com

Bulletins

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

For Phuket info (English) call 081-8912695, 081-8954763 or email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

English Speaking Meetings
Mission Hospital - Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 PM

Bangkok Hospital - Phuket City
Fri 7 PM

Patong Hospital - Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 7 PM

Green Man Restaurant - Chalong
Tue 1 PM

Scandinavian Speaking
Meetings-Karon
Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April only)
Tel: 086-9443450 Sive, 082-2765998 Nor

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @ 02-23118300 (for Thai language press 3)
www.aathailand.org or email: info@aathailand.org

SPONSOR

a needy child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor.

Please call K. Carol (Tel: 087-417 8860) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-277 6948).

Or email: info@phuketiwcc.com

Business Opportunities

BEST 25 ROOMS HOTEL IN PATONG

This 25 room hotel is located on a busy road in Patong and is on track to gross 4.4 million baht in rooms this year. Will sell the 6 year lease for only 2.2 million baht. Tel: 076-345238, 084-078 2753 (Thai). Email: info.realpro@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.realproreal-estatephuket.com

DIVING COMPANY

Booking office in Chalong, sales shop in Patong. TAT & Insurance. Tel: 084-838 3158. Email: alyousufq8@hotmail.com

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FC Phuket ready for playoffs

By James Goyder

THE five fixtures that will decide FC Phuket's promotional fate have been announced.

Despite winning Division Two (Southern Section) comfortably, the team still needs to qualify from a playoff group in order to secure a place in Division One.

FC Phuket have been drawn in the same group as Samut Prakan, Rayong, Chai Nat, Rajvithae and Loei City. The top two teams will secure a coveted spot in the second tier of Thai football.

The season is not set to finish until December 19, by which time FC Phuket will have played an incredible 11 months of football.



FC Phuket gear up for the playoffs.

Fortunately most of Arjan Songsamssub's men have had a chance to recover as the playoffs have been delayed due to the AFC under-19 Championships.

The fixture list has not been particularly kind to FC Phuket who start off with two away games. While their form at Surakul Stadium has been imperious, the Southern Sea Kirin have sometimes struggled away from home.

The opening match is away to Samut Prakan, who finished second in the Central & Eastern League. The second match is away to Rayong, who finished third in the Central & Eastern League.

It will be essential that FC Phuket can get some points on the board before their first home game against Chai Nat, who finished second in the Northern League.

The other two teams in the group, Loei City and Bangkok FC, could provide the stiffest tests for FC Phuket. Both won their divisions and will feel they are more than capable of finishing in the top two of the playoff group.

FC Phuket travel to Bangkok FC and then have back-to-back games with Loei City immediately before the home game against Bangkok FC.

These four matches are likely to go a long way towards deciding who wins this group.

The good news for FC Phuket is that they finish with two home games, against Rayong and Samut Prakan. If the side are still in contention at this stage, they will feel confident of taking maximum points from the final two matches at "Fortress Surakul".

After all the work that has gone into the radically improved side, it would be a major disappointment if FC Phuket missed out on promotion. They won their division by an incredible 14 points and are clearly far too good for the third tier of Thai football. However, that will count for nothing if FC Phuket are unable to prosper at the end of season playoffs.

It has been an incredible season so far for FC Phuket, but now it all comes down to 10 matches.

FC Phuket fixtures

Sunday Oct 17: Samut Prakan
4pm – away

Sunday Oct 24: Rayong 6pm
away

Saturday Oct 30: Chai Nat 6pm
home

Saturday Nov 6: Bangkok FC 4pm
away

Saturday Nov 13: Loei City 6pm
home

Sunday Nov 21: Loei city 4pm
away

Saturday Nov 27: Bangkok FC
6pm – home

Saturday Dec 4: Chai Nat 4pm
away

Saturday Dec 12: Rayong 6pm
home

Sunday Dec 19: Samut Prakan
6pm – home

Kick off times subject to change, check
The Phuket Gazette for details



STRIVING FORWARD: FC Phuket against Hat Yai earlier this season. Photos: Apinun Saithong

US fighter goes bare knuckle in Burma

By James Goyder

A PHUKET fighter traveled to Burma last week to participate in a brutal bare knuckle *Lethwei* match.

US born Cyrus Washington has been based at Tiger Muay Thai in Phuket for over two years and has fought over 50 times in Thailand.

Lethwei is the Burmese equivalent of Muay Thai, but unlike the Thai version of the sport fighters in *Lethwei* do not wear any gloves.

There are a few other differences between the two sports, as Washington would discover:

"There weren't supposed to be any headbutts but my opponent did it anyway. He kept leading with his head and eventually he paid the price as he ran into an elbow.

"The guy was a Burmese superstar, Saw Nga, and he couldn't

believe that I had knocked him down. His corner called a two minute time out, which apparently is allowed under *Lethwei* rules!

"After that, he was afraid and kept falling over, but I had broken my hand in the earlier round and couldn't finish him," he said

The fight was eventually declared a draw but they decided to award Washington the belt anyway on account of his opponent's reluctance to engage and the fact that his corner had bent the rules by calling a time out.

Washington has also fought in Malaysia, Singapore, Russia and Australia. "There is a big difference between Myanmar and Thailand," he concluded.

For more information about Cyrus Washington and Tiger Muay Thai visit: tigermuaythai.com.

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Aquatics Academy
The aquatic programmes include aqua aerobics, recreational lap swimming, leisure play, competitive swimming and coaching for a range of sports including triathlons, surf lifesaving and water polo.

Upcoming Events

Creative Arts
Drama Class with "Denise Bertrand", Phuket's only freelance drama educator. With over 25 years experience, Denise Bertrand is a child-centered teacher and has a gift of bringing out each child's unique expressive arts talent. Every Wednesday, from 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm at Drama Room, PIA Day School

BSS Premiership 3V3 Tournament
3 V 3 Youth Tournament for kids aged 7 - 12 years old. There are 2 leagues for U9's and U12's, 6 teams of boys and 6 for girls. The leagues are played on the artificial turf FIFA approved soccer field at PIASLC. October 10th, the U9's start from 8:45 am – 11:45 am and the U12's start from 4:45 pm – 7:15 pm

BSS Mid-Term Camp
Brazilian Soccer Schools (BSS) will be heating up the mid-term break during October 18th – 22nd from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm for boys and girls, aged 6 – 16 years old.

Interactive Circus Arts Now!
A brand new KidzSole for the entire family. Try the "I CAN" Interactive Circus Now Programme with a lot of activities, fun and excitement. Trapeze, Swinging, Spanish Web, Adagio, Bike, Big Trampoline, Juggling, Pyramid Building and so much more. Do not miss "Walk On Water" from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm for all kids.

Free Master Class on September 18th and 6-week course starts October 30th
From 10:00 am – 11:00 am for kids 4 – 7 years old,
From 11:00 am – 12:00 pm for kids 8 -12 years old.

Ironkids Camp
PIASLC's first Triathlon specific training camp on October 18th – 22nd for kids 6 – 14 years old, where young athletes will learn everything to complete an IRONKIDS Triathlon. The training includes specific tips on triathlon swimming, cycling on local roads and runs through shaded trails. Athletes will also learn how to transition between events, bike setup and maintenance, pacing and sportsmanship. Swim, cycle, and run to become an IRONKID!

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Big race in small boats

By James Goyder

THE first of a four event Phuket Dinghy Series, hosted by the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, took place at the "Sailing of Phuket" club on September 27 and 28.

Some 21 sailors took part in the event at Tha Nun, next to Sarasin Bridge.

Under the experienced eye of Race Officer Jiray Tipsuk with support from the Royal Thai Navy, five races were held over the weekend.

Fourteen juniors also took part in the Optimist class and seven sailors in the Laser class.

The event brought together sailors from Phuket, Phang Nga, Songkla and Sattahip.

The Optimist fleet was made up of sailors from the Royal Thai Navy sailing academy in Songkla as well as four local juniors from the Sailing of Phuket club and one who had traveled from Sattahip to take part in the event.

In the Laser class, Thai sailor Chat Dawruang won five out of five. Trirat Manthong took second overall with Mak Sarawat third.

Rarely are so many Optimist sailors seen out on the water competing in Phuket.

Sailing at the northern tip of Phuket Island was indeed picturesque, but no prisoners were taken



COASTING: The Lasers take off to a flying start on Day One of the first Phuket Dinghy Series at Tha Nun. Photo: Chanut Nawnarong

out on the water as the juniors battled hard for supremacy.

Flukey winds on the opening day were replaced with more consistent winds the next day. This combined with strong currents made for some ideal conditions for juniors and adults to demonstrate their technical sailing prowess.

Anapat Ngarmdee, 11, reigned supreme with five wins from five. The Sattahip sailor is expected to become a member of the Thai national team next year.

The minor places were hotly contested with places being traded throughout the fleet and lots of action at the mark roundings.

Finally, after five races over the course of the two days, Tanakon Patonma took second place with Suthisarn Keawnin in third.

There are four events planned in the series and the overall winners will be presented with trophies at the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Royal Awards Ceremony on December 11 at Kata Beach Resort & Spa.

The next event in the series will take place at the Sailing of Phuket club October 30-31.

Notice of race and series one results are available on the King's Cup website: kingscup.com

Charity run to help fix little Rino's broken heart

By Marc Mulloy

RUNNERS of all ages from around Phuket are coming together to help young Rino Mangon Vogt, who is bravely battling a rare cardiac condition and urgently needs heart surgery.

Participants in the "Run4Rino Charity Run" at Nai Harn Lake on October 17 will each set a target number of laps to run around the 2.1-kilometer circuit.

Before the run they will gather pledges from friends to donate a certain amount per lap, a maximum number of which will be specified from the outset.

Walking will be allowed, hence anyone willing to help is invited to join in the run and help raise funds for young Rino, who suffers from a condition known as Ebstein's Anomaly.

The event will take place in the cool early morning hours from 7am-9am. Refreshments will be available for all participants and an ambulance will be on standby to assist should someone require medical assistance.

While runners will have two hours to complete as many laps as they can, it is not required that they run the entire time.

Results will be based on the



Run and raise money to help Rino.

honor system, but runners expecting to run the entire two hours are asked to obtain a mark on each lap so that organizers can verify who ran the most laps to help Rino.

Once enough has been raised to pay for Rino's lifesaving operation extra proceeds will go towards surgery for the next child on a list of patients awaiting treatment for Ebstein's Anomaly.

To register for the run contact David: david.m@faramond.com or visit www.rinosheart.com

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