Patong tunnel underway by 2013: Pian

PATONG Mayor Pian Keesin took a stand of confidence on October 6, taking to the people that he expected work on the Patong tunnel to be underway by 2013. Mayor Pian said the tunnel was necessary to support tourism development. “Patong people rely on tourism. Sustainable tourism development for me means ensuring the safety of both tourists and investors.”

“The tunnel will help prevent accidents, save lives and save fuel costs. Kathu Police recently told me seven people have died this year while coming over Patong Hill,” he said.

The Ban Mon villagers filing a formal complaint over the tunnel project to the governor’s office last month was “good for Patong” in that it would increase the government interest in issues affecting the town, he said.

In his opinion, the villagers did it because they misunderstood that the land expropriation would be unfair for them. “About 10 landowners, of which six are local Patong town, he said.

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This Week

Phuket destined for eco-doom? Climate change experts warn Phuket has 20 years before it’s too late. Page 5

Follow that fire truck

Martha arrives in Phuket in global fight against lung cancer. Page 8

On the Menu

Mom Tri’s Kitchen new lower level is truly a cut above. Page 13

Construction

New Kajonkiet campus now rising in Kathu. Page 23

Classifieds

Everything you need at prices you can afford, from jobs to homes. Pages 28-38

Sport

FIVB in Phuket nets Brazilians. Ironman world champ to ride in Phuket. Pages 39-40

Farewell Nick Jackson

FRIENDS and family attended the final service for Nick Jackson at the temple across from Loma Park in Patong on October 10. Mr Jackson passed away in his sleep on October 1.

He was well-known for founding the popular Katoeys R Us bar in Patong, and more recently for his game fishing tours off Phuket.

Although he had been suffering a fever in the days before his death, Mr Jackson became better known as “Captain Nick”, operating game-fishing charters off Phuket.

“Nick was such a good-hearted man, a bigger than life person who will sadly be missed by loved ones and family,” one family member told the Gazette.

A MAN was gunned down outside a bar in Chalong early October 6 in what police believe to be retaliation for an argument the man had at another bar that evening.

Chalong Police officers arrived at the Say Yes pub on Pastak Road at about 4:30am October 7 after receiving a report that a man had been murdered outside the venue.

They arrived to find the body of Wichit Wong-oon, 28, lying on the road in front of the pub.

He had been shot once in the back with what police believe to have been a homemade shotgun.

His face was also badly bruised, as if beaten, police said.

Mr Wichit, a construction labourer working on a project on Soi Palai, arrived at Say Yes with five friends. The group had been kicked out of the Sarapan Pleng bar earlier in the night for arguing with other patrons. Just before Say Yes closed, Mr Wichit went out in front of the pub to have a cigarette.

He was shot in the back while trying to run away from his assailant, police said.

Police are continuing their search for the killer.

By Janpen Upatising

RETURNING from Bangkok with national awards for excellence in hand, some of Phuket’s top tour guides have expressed concern that the changing nature of the tourism industry might make their jobs obsolete in the future.

Kittitat Chookaw was among eight Phuket-based guides who received the award, which recognizes outstanding talent in chosen areas of expertise and contributions to tourism in Thailand.

Mr Kittitatt, who received his award for his expertise in Italian, said, “Italian tourists used to come in groups of elderly people who could not speak English well. They needed our help. But younger Italians are more self-reliant, thus the need for guides is declining even though the number of tourists keeps rising,” he said.

Thitinan Poolsanguran, who received her award for her expertise in Japanese, agrees.

“Some young Japanese travelers know beforehand where they want to visit by searching online. They even book tour packages from Japan on their own. And with the recession, they want to pay cheaper prices and are not interested in hiring guides. Already, we are seeing less demand for tour guides,” she said.

Japanese tourists generally spend four days and three nights in Phuket, she explained.

GUIDES pick them up at Phuket Airport and have only 20-50 minutes while en route to their hotels to develop a rapport with the tourists and offer them optional tour packages for the second and third days of their stay, she explained.

However, Mr Kittitat said the falling demand for guides was not all bad. “There is a chance that tour guides will survive since the Internet cannot answer everything tourists want to know,” he said.

“As tour guides, we cannot just try to sell them tour packages. We must explain local things to them, such as how to keep safe during their stay here,” he added.

Top Phuket guides ponder their future

Top guides Thitinan Poolsanguran, Sopa Pootnak and Taweep Senasung.
THE House of Representatives has passed the first reading of a bill to require Thai citizens to carry ID cards from age one to 60 years. If approved, the bill would set up a 25-member panel to vet the bill in seven days. Some MPs also worried that the requirement age for carrying an ID card from 15 years to one year.

The bill, proposed by the interior minister, would lower the nationwide to have an identification card from age one to 60 years. Foreigners in Thailand, tourists and expatriates, who must have National ID cards, are required to carry their passports 24 hours a day. Foreigners with work permits are required to carry their little booklets as well.

Some MPs also warned that the fee for making the first ID card, which was mooted in the bill at 500 baht, could be too high.

Deputy Interior Minister Boonrod Pratueng, captain of Saimai 2, docked nearby, assisted in getting the men off the boat and onto his vessel. He heard several explosions as the fire gutted the two-deck boat, he said.

“A police officer told the Gazette he thought the blaze was started by some welding work that was being done on the vessel in preparation for the start of the high season. Damage to the wooden vessel could be as high as 10 million baht, he said.

The Laddawan 2 made headlines eight years ago when a crewman died after having his stomach slashed open and his limbs almost severed while cleaning the propeller off Koh Racha Yai.

Boat ablaze at port

FIRE gutted a dive boat run by a well-known Phuket dive tour operator on October 13, leaving one man with serious burns and six others needing hospital treatment.

Phuket City Police received a report at about 10:30am that the Laddawan 2 liveaboard dive boat belonging to West Coast Divers was ablaze at Rassada Pier. Six fire engines were dispatched to fight the blaze, but could do little apart from stopping the floating inferno from spreading to other vessels.

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Phuket Town villagers plead for new seawall

RESIDENTS at Haad Saen Suk in Phuket Town continue to petition City Hall to rebuild a broken seawall that once protected their homes from flooding at high tide. Adun Yonjamrun, one of village leaders, said homes in the neighborhood flood every time heavy rainfall coincides with high tide. The flooding is often at its worst in the morning, he said. Some 200 people live in the affected area, built along a 200-meter dirt road beside an important drainage canal. There has been extensive damage to a section of seawall that once protected about 50 nearby homes from flooding. Mr Adun, who moved to Phuket eight years ago from his native Nakhon Sri Thammarat, said municipal officials had visited the community and seen with their own eyes what high tide does to their homes. “They said they would discuss the matter with relevant officials, but we still haven’t had any word as to when the seawall would actually be repaired,” he said. The entire area on which the community is built was once extensively mined for tin. Saphan Hin and surrounding coastal areas is built on “reclaimed” land, a legacy of tin mining days. Tin mining sediment also covers the seabed of most of Phuket Bay, to a thickness of up to two meters in places. Phuket Bay had a sandy bottom before the tin mining era arrived.

Police warn of snatch bandits

CHALONG Police are urging all women riding motorbikes to be wary of snatch bandits after a young woman had her gold necklace stolen in broad daylight. Thitiporn Somjan, 23, from Sakon Nakhon, told police on October 6 she was riding along Soi Na Yai with a work colleague at about 3pm when she was robbed. They were returning to their office at Chao Fa Thani residential estate on Chao Fa West Road after shopping at the Julaphan store on Chao Fa East Road. “I was not driving fast. I was carrying some of my shopping between my legs and some in the bike basket when I noticed a young guy wearing a helmet trailing us,” Ms Thitiporn said. “Then he pulled alongside and grabbed my T-shirt collar, nearly touching my breasts. Then he grabbed my two-saleung gold necklace and sped off. While he was riding away he looked back as if he was laughing at me,” said the victim. She said the necklace was worth about 10,000 baht.

BANGKOK’s loss is Phuket’s gain, as the Joe Louis troupe of traditional Thai puppeteers has a new home at the Jungceylon shopping complex in Patong. The troupe, founded by the late grandmaster puppeteer and National Artist Sakorn “Joe Louis” Yangkhiesot, remains the sole guardian of the dying art of hun lakhon lek, Thai traditional small puppet play. For many years based at Suan Lum Night Bazaar in Bangkok, the troupe have moved to the Joe Louis Thai Restaurant in the Sino-Phuket Zone at Jungceylon. Restaurant shareholder Wanchara Ponpalangkun said Phuket’s reputation as a tourist destination made it a perfect location to host the world-renowned troupe. Unfortunately, the Phuket venue cannot employ the entire Joe Louis troupe from the outset. To test the market, the troupe performed twice daily at the restaurant for one week. There are plans to hold larger performances at the SF Cinema in January.
Only 20 years left: Expert

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE current rate of environmental devastation in Phuket will see the island “totally ruined” within 20 years, a climate change expert has warned.

The bombshell was dropped on October 7 by Chamnicht Paul Vorratschaiphan, senior director of the Thailand Environment Institute (TEI). He was speaking at a one-day seminar called to highlight the perils of climate change in general and for Phuket in particular.

“There is encroachment everywhere, mangrove destruction, houses going up, slums growing and the number of shrimp farms increasing. Land is being rendered useless,” he said.

Mr Chamnich, who is also the Rockefeller Foundation’s Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN) project director for TEI, likened Phuket to the Ti-tanic: “luxurious and bound for glory, but destined to be carried away by the waves of destruction.”

While the seminar was held to assess the current and potential environmental problems Phuket is facing regarding climate change, over-development dominated the agenda.

There was input from a wide range of experts, officials and local people.

TEI senior director Thongjan Homnet explained that the TEI, through the ACCCRN project, is aiming to draw up and implement an action plan to prevent the demise of the island.

Two years ago, the TEI announced that five parts of Thailand had been chosen as areas of interest to implement the ACCCRN project, he said.

Phuket was one of them, but because of insufficient budget, only two locations, Haad Yai and Chiang Rai, were chosen. “In this third year, it’s time for Udon Thani, Phuket City and Samut Sakhon,” he added.

“We came here to get confirmation from Phuket that they are still interested. If they are not, the project will be canceled in Phuket,” said Mr Thongjan.

“We have found that the problems are too big for Phuket City Municipality to handle alone. Phuket has too many people and these people are too free to use public areas. This is mainly because many local organizations are separately doing things by themselves. They are not working together, which makes it hard to enforce regulations,” he said.

Encroachment and land use issues are bigger problems than landslides and flooding, so the most important thing is having measures to enforce regulations, he added.

In accomplishing this, Mr Thongjan called on the provincial level of government to support and help smaller municipalities and other local administrative bodies on the island.

“The TEI can advise them and help them plan so they can resolve the problems,” he said.

However, Mr Thongjan questioned whether the resolve was there to see through the changes needed. “Phuket seems interested, but they don’t know how to move ahead as the network is not strong enough,” he noted.

However, he quickly added, “The tourism industry should be able to get strong leaders as I have seen many ‘green tourists’ who would like to preserve the environment.”

Funding for the projects can come in one of two ways, he explained. “Phuket can apply directly to the Rockefeller Foundation, which provided the budget for the projects in Chiang Rai and Haad Yai.

Alternatively, the budget could be provided by the TEI, the provincial government and the Rockefeller Foundation, and start with the small projects first,” he said.

But the clock is ticking. “We have until the end of December to get confirmation from Phuket whether or not they would like to join the project,” concluded Mr Thongjan.

During the conference, local experts outlined potential long-term effects of climate change on Phuket.

John Gray, a lecturer in coastal tourism management at Prince of Songkla University Phuket campus, pointed to an increase in rainfall during the traditionally “dry” high season for tourism.

This may be accounted for by typhoons in the South China Sea making their way further west than usual, bringing their low-pressure fronts and rain to Phuket more often.

Kittisak Borribunkaset, planning and policy analyst at Phuket’s Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation office, pointed out that rip currents along Phuket’s coast – the cause of many tourist drownings – appear to be occurring more often. He suggested climate change as a possible cause.

Last year about 20 people died because of rip currents, he said. “However, we are constantly having rescue-training sessions for our officers and have an 18-million-baht budget to do so,” he added.
Police probe blast as official warns of imminent attacks

POLICE have detained a woman with close ties to a Phue Thai MP in connection with a bomb blast at an apartment building that killed four people and injured nine in Nonthaburi October 5.

The arrest came after a former top defense official warned that highly trained militia from a neighboring country were plotting assassinations and attacks in Bangkok in the next 20 days. Police believe the bomb went off accidentally, killing the suspected bomb-maker, former red shirt guard Samai Wongsuwan, 46.

The arrested woman, Wasa Theprian, 25, is a secretary to the House committee on anti-money laundering and counter-narcotics. She was picked up after police found she had transferred money to a bank account belonging to Kasi Dithanarat, a businessman who took Mr Samai to the apartment in Nonthaburi’s Bang Bua Thong District.

Mr Samai stayed in Room 202 at Samarn Metta Mansion, where the bomb went off. Mr Kasi and his wife Amporn were captured on security cameras moving boxes to Room 202 prior to the blast. Arrest warrants have been issued for the couple, who are both still on the run.

Ms Wasa has been described as a close friend of his daughter and a good person. The MP also offered an apology to all Phue Thai members for damaging the party’s reputation. “But indeed, I am not involved in terrorism,” he said.

On October 9, Admiral Banawit Kengrian, a former defense secretary permanent secretary, said that foreign armed militia from a neighboring country’s special forces were planning terror strikes. Admiral Banawit said he learned of the attacks from a military intelligence report. The report was based on facts that Samanin had infiltrated several spots in Bangkok to commit sabotage, he said.

This is not misleading report. Army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha has admitted that he asked officials to follow these groups and had warned the government about this. Preventive measures are needed to thwart the terror attempt, Banawat said.

Democrats push savings bill to gain on opponents

In a move to capture some of the populist Phue Thai Party's political base, the Democrat Party is pushing a savings bill aimed at helping low-income informal workers retire.

Party spokesman Warong Dejkitvikrom said the party would bring the National Investment in Savings Bill before the House of Representatives on October 13, Thai Rath reported.

The main thrust of the bill is to help Thais engaged in independent labor and without pension plans to save money for their retirement. There are roughly 26 million such workers in Thailand, including agricultural laborers, street vendors, taxi drivers, and workers for hire, according to the report.

Former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra became hugely popular by harnessing the support of such workers.

The bill will encourage workers to put away money which will be invested by the government on their behalf. In addition, the government will match some or all of the money invested by participants in the scheme, depending on their age. Participants must be aged between 20 and 60. When they retire at 60, they will receive a monthly sum from the government until they die.
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A TEAM of Britons who are attempting to circumnavigate the globe in their fire engine “Martha” rolled into Phuket on October 13 for a quick night’s rest before hitting the road again the next day.

And their expedition leader Steve Moore doesn’t even like driving. “Can’t stand it to be honest, so I’m probably not the best person to be driving a fire engine around the world,” he said.

Steve and his team have already raised over UK£70,000 for cancer charities in the UK, in memory of his fire-fighter father Garth, who died of lung cancer on July 18 last year.

Despite his lack of interest in driving, since setting out from London on the first anniversary of his father’s death, Steve and his “follow that fire engine” team have been on the road for 89 days, have passed through 20 countries and have clocked up over 12,000 miles. Steve is the only member of the 24-man team driving the whole route, with the rest of the crew joining at different stages of the nine-leg tour. At any one time, there are five crew on board Martha.

The team are currently on their two-week, 2,000-mile Vientiane-Singapore leg of the journey, and at last contact were en route to Krabi. They expect to reach Singapore on October 22.

By the end of their trip the team will have driven through five continents, 28 countries and traveled over 26,000 miles when they arrive back in London in March next year.

The team used their medical “trauma kit” and defibrillator on day 10 of their trip when they came across a “horrific crash” after a lorry plowed through 20 cars in Latvia. “Two cars were thrown about 70 meters into trees off the highway, and the lorry crashed into them,” Steve said.

With no emergency services in sight, Steve said in the minutes after the crash, a crowd of about 150 people looked to the team for help. “We rushed over and used our first-aid kit on the injured drivers, amazingly no one was killed. That was the worst moment of the trip by a long way,” he said.

Carrying extra fuel in containers on board, ration packs, camping equipment and sleeping bags, when the team finish their day’s driving, they stop at the side of the road and camp out for the night.

However, in Phuket, they enjoyed a night’s luxury at the Holiday Inn Resort in Patong. To keep themselves entertained when they stop, the team even has a cricket bat and ball on board.

But when they are on the road, all team members have a job to do: navigator, driver, photographer and videographer.

They also “tweet” constantly on Twitter to keep their fans around the world up to speed.

Their fire engine – named Martha after a Beatles song – was donated in October last year by the Dorset fire service Steve’s father worked for.

It took three months and UK£40,000 in donations to modify Martha to be road ready for the record attempt. It’s also four-wheel-drive, otherwise we would almost went off a cliff,” Steve said.

“With the Dorset fire service Steve’s father worked for, it was lucky Martha is four-wheel-drive, otherwise we would have gone over the edge,” he said.

Barring a few bumps and scrapes, the crew are having a “great trip” and are on schedule for their planned finish date.

Steve said the Thai-leg has been “breeze” so far.

“The highways here are good. It’s pretty flat and we’ve only been doing about six to seven hours driving a day,” he said.

In Thailand, Steve said the team eats mainly local food, but have also found a passion for cheese and ham toastes courtesy of the many 7-Elevens they have passed.

Steve said, “My father would be proud of the attention to detail and planning that has gone into the trip, and our reasons for doing it”. Before setting out in July, the team embarked upon a two-week tour around cancer centers in the UK to see the people they are raising money for.

All donations will go to Macmillan Cancer Support, The Fire Fighters Charity and The Royal Castle Lung Cancer Foundation.

If you would like to donate or find out more visit W: followthatfireengine.com

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*Voted by Skytrax in an international survey of airline passengers with nearly 18 million eligible nominations.
Clean up the island’s Hotel Act

Phuket Gazette

Thailand getting fat
Re: Phuket Gazette, Colonizing Asia with Calories, October 9
Thank you for your article “Colonizing Asia with Calories”. I am a woman from Europe, and we have the same problems with obesity as they do in the US. “Colonizing Asia with Calories”. Thailand getting fat.

Anchor lights
After reading the Issue & Answer “Maritime signals: It is a matter of education.”, I would like to make some comments.

When a boat is at anchor, only one white, non-blinking toplight is required. On small boats it can be a white light (lantern) hanging from the forestay about two to three meters above deck.
The color for this light is always non-blinking white.

Boats while underway must have a white top/running, a red light to port and a green light to starboard. These are all non-blinking lights.

I can provide the visibility angles for these three lights for anyone interested.

The only blinking light required is for vessels moving at fast speeds, such as those that zip around collecting fish from the fishermen.

All the other lights you see blinking on boats are only because the boat owners are cheap on batteries and/or like having blinking lights for “fashion” reasons.

Unfortunately, many so-called yachts buy them in Langkawi and ruin quiet evenings on anchor with all this blinking nonsense.

Big Yachtie
Phuket

Phuket should learn from the past
Requiring medical certificates didn’t work in the past, so why should it work now?

Education and enforcement are the key to safe driving. Impound vehicles of people found driving without a license until they get one.

Actually patrolling the roads, instead of just operating checking points, would be good. Check for brakes and lights along with helmets and driving licenses.

All wishful thinking, I’m afraid. Rhetoric is easier than action.

William Smith
Phuket

Phuket Gazette

Phuket Gazette

Issues & Answers...

A bump on the road to Buddha
Recently the road I live on has been repaired, which of course very good news as it was in very bad shape. Not surprising as it is the main road to the Big Buddha. The workers also installed new speed bumps along this new section of road, which are greatly needed as both locals and tourists love to speed up and down the road.

Unfortunately, when you turn off Chao Pha West Rd onto Joafa 51, the first speed bump you come to is an older one which is high and was at one time painted yellow for visibility.

Due to time and weather, the paint has completely gone and the speed bump is hard to see, especially when night falls.

Over the past few months I have begun to stack up on iodine and antiseptic creams, which I have frequently had to use on victims of this speed bump.

Yes, in a perfect world they

OPINION

Over the years.

Over the past few months I have begun to stack up on iodine and antiseptic creams, which I have frequently had to use on victims of this speed bump.

Phuket Gazette

send us your queries and we’ll ask the right people to respond. Submit your issue at www.phuketgazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Medical certificates just more paper
Re: Gazette online, Phuket Poll: Will medical certificates improve road safety?, October 8

Seriously, this kind of paper work is a step in the wrong direction! Everybody knows that you pay 50 baht and get what you need – no questions asked.

We see unbelievable driving everywhere – loud, no helmets, extremely fast and aggressive. The only solution to this is

Illegally, controlling the speed bumps or public road accessories that need to be repaired can come directly to Chalong TAO and fill in the request form so we can ask for permission to repair it.

For more information, come to our office at 38 Luang Por Chaem Rd, Moo 4, Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130. Tel. 076-282255, W: www.phuketchalong.go.th

Robert Peverelle
Chalong

More paper will just be more paper: nothing will change.

However, the storm drain has already started to smell of sewage because many shops along the road are piping gray water into it. Properly treated gray water does not smell as the septic tanks
**Even healthier than a strict vegetarian**

Pattarawan Teenanuwanut is one of the three resident nutritionists at Phuket International Hospital. As this year’s Vegetarian Festival draws to a close, here she explains how being vegetarian can be good for you – but it may bring some drawbacks.

**First Person**

EATING only vegetarian food for many years is good for our bodies. A diet of fruit and vegetables, which are high in fiber, helps to keep us “regular”. Also, fruits contain antioxidants that make our skin brighter, and beans are good for the heart, liver and spleen.

However, there is also a downside of eating too much vegetarian food. Vegetarians should eat more grains, red beans, black beans, soy meat and tofu.

Avoid eating too much deep-fried food since it is high in calories. If you do like fried vegetables, then fry them in rice bran oil, soy bean oil or sunflower oil – or just make a Thai style salad.

Some people who eat a strict vegetarian diet may easily become faint or dizzy, they might experience cramps and needles in their arms and legs and generally feel fatigued and lacking energy most of the time.

This is usually because they lack vitamin B1, B6 and B12, which are mostly found in meat.

So, I recommend that strict vegetarians take synthesized vitamin B tablets as a daily dietary supplement.

I also think that eating any one particular kind of food each day and every day will have a long-term effect on our bodies. We should think carefully about what we eat, otherwise a strict diet might cause problems and actually bring us illness in the end.

For example, my father suffers from hypertension, and I have suggested that he flavor his meals with soy sauce instead of fish sauce, because soy sauce contains less salt.

Many people do not know that they should not take more than two to three teaspoons a day of fish sauce, soy sauce or salt.

But we all know to be careful about eating meals that contain a lot of carbohydrates, because those “carbs” will bring us more calories than we need.

In all, we should eat a balanced diet, and not stick to vegetarian food alone.

**Noise annoys**

LOVE it or hate it noise has become a part of life in Phuket. Reading forum comments on the Gazette website recently, I could see that there seemed to be two schools of thought about the fireworks being let off prior to, during and after the Vegetarian Festival [Gazette online, Phuket Vegetarian Festival 2010: a lot of bang for the buck, October 5].

The first school was bashing on (pun intended) about this being a traditional festival and part of life in Phuket; and usually ended with: “so if you don’t like it then go home”.

The second pointed out that the nocturnal cacophony was interfering with sleep, causing human and canine neuroses and potentially, traffic accidents.

At what point does the enjoyment of one person infringe on that of another? We have seen this recently with the anti-smoking lobby who have, in theory, won the right not to have their air polluted. So what about noise pollution?

Many will say that this festival only lasts nine days and after that things return to normal, but it has been my experience that the fireworks continue for weeks before and after – and then start up again over Christmas and New Year, especially at midnight.

I have often wondered what effect this must have on wildlife – and I don’t mean Patong tourists. Another example of the discomfort is the throbbing bass of what today passes as music, which is often felt in the same way as a migraine.

As Phuket is blessed with warm weather, many people spend time outdoors and/or have windows open and are affected by the distant, thudding thud of bass-lines which travel further than you’d think.

As Phuket gets more crowded, the number of fireworks and subwoofers will increase. So how can we find a way to limit the noise? A compromise would be to only allow noise at certain periods of the day which would not affect sleep; say from 10am to 10pm.

Policing this however would be difficult but not impossible. A hotline could be set up where an anonymous complaint could be made and investigated with a three strike rule involving fines for repeat offenders. Or – following the road traffic film idea for those caught without helmets – perhaps a compulsory 4-hour karaoke session in a sound proof room at 3am.

A public service campaign could also point out that if we are to aspire to attract high end tourists, then we must all try to keep noise pollution to a reasonable level. We could call this campaign Stop Harassing Hearing or SHH for short.

**Island View**

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

**Firecrackers are a common nuisance in Phuket. PHOTO: Flickr**

**Gambling online in Thailand**

Is it legal to gamble online from within Thailand?

Franz Zachbauer

By email

Pol Lt Col Suchat Thong-in, an investigations officer with Phuket Provincial Police, replies:

Most forms of gambling are illegal in Thailand, online gambling being one of them.

We do admit, however, that it is difficult to investigate cases involving online gambling.

We need more officers who are knowledgeable in information technology (IT) to properly investigate Internet gambling.
Yacht industry to get ‘Data Center’

By Sitithipong Nongkeaw

AS PART of a project to form a “data center” for the local yacht ing industry, Prince of Songkla University researchers have set up a website to serve as a central database and information hub.

The new website was unveiled on October 11 at a seminar in Phuket Town.

The “Yachting Seminar on ICT Infrastructure and Data Center 2010” event was organized jointly by the Ministry of Industry’s Office of Industrial Economics (OIE) and PSU-Phuket’s Faculty of Engineering.

Still in the early development stages, the site was created by PSU staff and students with funding from the OIE.

The OIE has earmarked a total of 2.99 million baht in funding for the Data Center project study phase, work on which began August 31 and ends in February 2011. The October 11 gathering was held to brainstorm ideas with the operators of local yacht ing and marine tourism businesses invited to hash out the best way to establish the Data Center.

As the project is still in the development stages, it has not been decided whether the center will exist solely in cyberspace or whether it will take the form of an actual office with staff.

Dr Charn Boonyakram, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at PSU’s campus in Songkhla, said there is still growth potential in the local and regional yachting industry.

Phuket currently has marine facilities to service about 1,300 vessels in the 30-to-100-foot range, he said. The establishment of the Data Center would help attract more marine tourists and raise the number of visiting vessels to Phuket and the Andaman region at any given time to at least 5,000, he said.

GLOBAL investment bank UBS recently released an interesting report called “Prices and Earnings”. The study was based on data collected in 73 cities around the world.

It revealed that earnings were highest in Switzerland, Denmark and the US. The study found that employees in Copenhagen, Zurich, Geneva and New York have the highest gross wages.

Zurich and Geneva – the two Swiss cities in the study – top the rankings in the international comparison of net wages.

By contrast, the average employee in Delhi, Manila, Jakarta and Mumbai earns less than one-fifteenth of Swiss hourly wages.

In Zurich and New York nine hours of work is enough to buy an iPod nano.

One vivid way to illustrate the relative purchasing power of wages is to replace the abstract basket of goods and services with a specific, highly uniform product that is available everywhere with the same quality, and then calculate how long an employee would have to work to be able to afford it in each city.

The study determined that employees have to work a global average of 37 minutes to earn enough to pay for a Big Mac, 22 minutes for a kilo of rice and 25 minutes for a kilo of bread.

For the first time, a non-food product was used in the study to compare work hours. The iPod nano with eight GB of storage is an ideal example of a globally uniform product. An average wage-earner in Zurich earns enough to pay for a Big Mac, 22 minutes for a kilo of rice and 25 minutes for a kilo of bread.

Earnings in Switzerland, Denmark and the US are three times as high as in Delhi and Mumbai.

The study dubbed Oslo, Zurich, Copenhagen, Geneva, Tokyo and Los Angeles, Miami and Chicago the most expensive cities based on a standardized basket of 122 goods.

For the first time, a non-food product was used in the study to compare work hours. The iPod nano with eight GB of storage is an ideal example of a globally uniform product. An average wage-earner in Zurich and New York can buy an iPod nano from an Apple store after nine hours of work.

At the other end of the spectrum, workers in Mumbai need to work 20 nine-hour days – roughly the equivalent of one month’s salary – to purchase an iPod nano.

The iPod nano with eight GB of storage is an ideal example of a globally uniform product. An average wage-earner in Zurich and New York can buy an iPod nano from an Apple store after nine hours of work.

For the first time, a non-food product was used in the study to compare work hours. The iPod nano with eight GB of storage is an ideal example of a globally uniform product. An average wage-earner in Zurich and New York can buy an iPod nano from an Apple store after nine hours of work.
Phuket divided for business purposes

By Alexandra Andersson

AFTER years of informally recognizing that tourism businesses in Phuket’s north and south independently share common interests, three loose business consortiums have pooled their resources for collective gain.

The South Coast Experience, the Kalim Group and the North Phuket Resorts group have all established themselves over the past year and were on display at the inaugural Asian Hospitality and Travel Show earlier this month.

“Before you promote your establishment, you need to get the sense in Phuket to promote the island is and what it has to offer,” she said.

While the South Coast Experience is currently promoting the local culture the south has to offer, the Kalim Group is marketing its variety of well-reputed restaurants and its proximity to Patong.

North Phuket Resorts is promoting the untouched natural beauty in the north, where its members are located.

The main focus of the strategy is destination marketing on a micro scale. As such, combining resources and efforts give the businesses a greater chance of attracting tourists to their respective areas.

The concept makes sense to Simon Samaan, one of the organizers at the trade show. “In the past businesses in the same area have competed, but it really makes sense in Phuket to promote the areas on a micro level,” he said.

“The biggest mission that we have successfully completed was to highlight Phuket as a major market in the region. We have showcased Phuket, as well as Thailand’s potential investment opportunities, to delegates from all over the world,” he said.

Andrew also said the apparent success of this year’s event has already drawn considerable interest from many global brands that have shown keen interest in sponsoring AOCAP next year.

“The second Alternative Ownership Conference in Asia Pacific (AOCAP) was held October 10-12 at the Millennium Resort in Patong, with some of the world’s leading players in the alternative ownership industry in attendance.

Speakers included Bryan Lunt, Chairman of Absolute World Group of Companies.

“Alternative ownership is still relatively new to the Asia-Pacific region, which has been slow to adopt new revenue models.”

“I can go over to White Box restaurant in Kata and ask for some. The concept is to support each other and show Kalim at its best,” he added.

Marc-Antoine Audibert from Absolute Group of Companies, Tony O’Reilly earlier told the Gazette.

“Absolute has had record levels of customer loyalty and commitment exponentially for the last three years, with in excess of 10,000 families per annum traveling in Thailand and globally.”

“We really do have thousands of happy and long-term members and owners from all walks of life and nationalities from in excess of eleven years of hard work by the founders and ongoing management team of Absolute,” he said.

Other speakers included representatives of leading real estate firms such as Jones Lang Lasalle, Marriott Vacation Club International, Perspective International and CH Hotel Works.

Topics presented on the first day included the future growth of alternative ownership in Asia and how vacation ownership strategies can be used to boost hotel occupancy.

On the conference’s second day a presentation on trends in holiday homes in the Asia Pacific region, and a lecture on the legal and practical implications of alternative ownership took place.

Andrew Parker, Thailand’s Managing Director of World Group of Companies, and the host of AOCAP 2010 said this year’s event proved highly successful, which was held in Phuket for the second time.
SET up on granite rocks with views that few others can challenge, Mom Tri’s Villa Royale oozes tranquility and quiet, assured elegance.

It’s the sort of place where the tinkling of the ivories mixes perfectly with the crash of waves below; where top-notch cuisine is served discreetly with a minimum of fuss – in short, it’s pretty posh.

Mom Tri’s Kitchen, the culinary heart of the resort therefore is as far away from the banging pots and pans, sloppy service and greasy spoons of certain other seaside resorts as physically possible, and thank God for that.

Its reputation precedes it; winner of several awards, not least of which Wine Spectator magazine’s Award of Excellence for three straight years and appearing regularly in Thailand Tatler’s yearly Best Restaurant Guide, it’s got the moves and the chops, not to mention the design, to make it stand out.

And it gets better: if you continue down from the piano-and-cocktail level, through the restaurant (spectacular enough as it is) to the lower level you’ll come across a little bit of magic – another separate part of the restaurant entirely.

Here, the theme is white – white decking, tablecloths, walls and just below, snarling and writhing against the rocks, white capped waves. What a place!

Winner of countless awards, this is one restaurant that epitomizes fine dining on Phuket, and the location isn’t bad either...
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Devil possesses the silver screen

Film
By Scott Phillips

Devil
Director: John Erick Dowdle
Starring: Chris Messina, Logan Marshall-Green, Jenny O’Hara, Bokeem Woodbine
Genre: Horror/Thriller
Gazette Rating: 3/5

IN THE latest cinematic contribution from M. Night Shyamalan, the devil – the embodiment of evil, bearer of the apocalypse, root of all suffering – wreaks havoc in an elevator.

Apparently old Lucifer has lost some of his ambition for world-wide destruction. To hell with mass plagues and falling stars, it’s all limited almost entirely to a confined space that manages to stay entertaining deserves some credit. Devil achieves this.

It’s not a brilliant low-budget achievement, but it holds its own as a “killer is amongst us” thriller with a supernatural twist. Many people, including some critics who viewed a screening of the film, were under the impression that this was M. Night Shyamalan’s latest directorial effort.

This brought groans and skepticism from almost everyone who has followed the director’s career, which started on a promising note with The Sixth Sense and has since been on a steady decline, hitting rock bottom with The Last Airbender.

For better or worse, Shyamalan doesn’t have much to do with Devil. He’s credited with the story – which basically means he was the guy who said, “Ooh! Wouldn’t it be cool if five strangers were stuck in an elevator – a sleazy businessman, a dangerous-looking young guy, an old lady, a security guard, and a young girl in a tank top – and one of them is the devil.”

All hell breaks loose – fun intended. That’s it. Someone took over from there to write the actual screenplay.

We learn all there is to know about this film in the first two minutes, which is something you would think people who make movies for a living would pick up on as a “no-no”. The opening voice over explains that the devil sometimes takes human form to torment the living, but first he needs a suicide – a segue of sorts.

So when a body falls from a skyscraper in the opening shot, there’s not one bit of curiosity as to what’s going on. And when everyone steps inside the elevator, there’s really no setup for any kind of surprise. It’s probably one of the shortest – if not the shortest – feature films ever to be released, coming in at just under 80 minutes. The elevator just wouldn’t stay interesting for much longer.

Secondly, it puts a muddled mix of characters into the tight space, and gives no background story to any of them.

Sketchy pasts are left to be unfolded by the detective trying to figure out who they are and why bad things keep happening when the lights go out. Lastly, it doesn’t take too much time to rationalize. I like that movies no longer make an effort to explain why cell phones don’t work in life or death situations. Devil throws in a simple line of dialogue: “Our cell phones don’t work in here.” Touché. Don’t explain it, just lay it out.

That’s essentially what Devil delivers. If you’re the type that might get irriated by the fact that after multiple homicides, a city’s entire rescue and police force can’t get inside an elevator, you won’t like Devil.

If, however, you appreciate that the city workers’ incompetence is buying the devil more time, then check out this flick.

What else is on...

Eat, Pray, Love
Director: Ryan Murphy
Starring: Julia Roberts, James Franco, Javier Bardem, Billy Crudup
Genre: Romantic Comedy
Gazette Rating: 3/5

LIZ Gilbert is a 30-something woman who finds herself in a life crisis after realizing her marriage is unhappy and her career is not great. She decides to get a divorce and go on an adventure of self-discovery around the world.

Legends of the Guardians
Director: Zack Snyder
Starring: Sam Neill, Jim Sturgess, Abbie Cornish, Hugo Weaving
Genre: Animated/Family
Gazette Rating: 3/5

OWLs are heroes and villains in this animated tale that focuses on Soren, a young owl kidnapped by a band of ill-intentioned owls, the “Evil Ones”, who like to turn youngsters into fear-mongering soldiers.

Eternity (Chua Fah Din Salai)
Director: Bhandevanob Devakul
Starring: Ananda Everingham, Chermarn ‘Ploy’ Boonyasak
Genre: Romance/Drama
Gazette Rating: 3/5

THE third film adaptation of a classic Thai romance tale. The nephew of a timber tycoon falls for his uncle’s wife. The uncle orders them to be chained together for eternity as punishment for their crimes.
Bonnie Anderson

BONNIE Anderson has been delighting Phuket audiences since 1995 with her unique and personal interpretations of jazz, rock and blues. She has sung everywhere on the island, from the Amanpuri to hip local restaurants to private parties. She is in big demand around Asia but spends most of her time in Phuket as she loves being at home.

She was born in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, into a theatrical family. “My mother was a dancer and my father could sing like Nat King Cole. I began singing alto voice in the church choir at the Mt Olive Baptist Church, and I started improvising with gospel songs. I was born with the gift of being able to express my emotions through my voice.”

After finishing school, Bonnie headed to Pittsburgh to study dance. She was on her way to performing in musical theater, but later attended drama classes at a college in Los Angeles to be near the opportunities on stage.

She then went to London to explore singing and dancing in the West End and spent four years performing at music and festival events in London and the surrounding region.

“I loved living in the center of so much talent. I was a big fan of Freddie Mercury of Queen, whose office was just down the road from me. And Boy George influenced my move toward a pop-reggae sound at one point, but my experiences in life pushed me toward jazz.”

Bonnie traveled and worked in Europe and hung out with the music and theater crowd. By 1986, her reputation had spread and she was offered a job at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Singapore.

“I didn’t even know where Singapore was when I got on the plane, but it was a decision that changed my life as I have lived in Asia ever since. I truly found my voice in Asia thanks to working with some really great piano accompaniments.”

The following year, Bonnie was offered perhaps the best gig for a singer in Southeast Asia – as the featured vocalist at the Bamboo Bar in Bangkok’s Oriental Hotel.

“Again, I didn’t know where I was. And I was singing for people like Annie Lennox and Prince Charles and Princess Diana. I remember people standing on the furniture at the Oriental just to get a glimpse of them.”

Theo followed the Bamboo Bar for two years and worked freelance at The Sukhothai and Shangri-La hotels as well as jazz clubs around the capital. During this period she began to feed and care for stray dogs in her neighborhood.

“You can learn unconditional love through animals. I moved to Chiang Mai in the 1990s with my partner to care for a variety of animals in a nature reserve and to sing at the Empress Hotel.”

She moved to Phuket in 1995 and brought her legendary singing style to the island.

“I try to make sure my audience is pleased with my performance as I need a strong love around me to sing at my best.

“I prefer jazz music because it’s sassy and swings you around, whereas the blues I sing is about helping people to learn to face their problems.

“At this point in my life, I’m doing what I call blues rock.”

Bonnie spends a lot of time at Legends Music Studio near the Boat Lagoon where she’s working on a CD which she plans to call “Purple Love”.

“I want this CD to help people with their emotions while going through life. Everybody has the blues at some time. I want them to hear my music, which I hope will help them.”

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.
Pierced Phuket

The streets and temples in and around Phuket Town came alive for the nine-day Vegetarian Festival, here’s a glimpse at what went on.

CHOOSE: A young ‘mah song’ has his cheek pierced with a traditional sword. Scenes from around Phuket Town this week (left).

ON THE STREETS: The ‘mah song’ take to the streets en force in Sam Kong.

COLORFUL: An unusual mouthful.

PAIN: Burning incense on flesh.

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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 Anges on The Boardwalk. Free admission and free coffee and tea with cookies. Contact Mr Murat or Tum at T: 086-471 4501 E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com W: royalphuketmarina.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 Club have organized a Triumph Roadshow and 2nd Anniversary. The Ghost Riders Motorcycle Club have organized a Triumph Roadshow and 2nd Anniversary. The Ghost Riders Motorcycle Club have organized a Triumph Roadshow and 2nd Anniversary. The Ghost Riders Motorcycle Club have organized a Triumph Roadshow and 2nd Anniversary.

Oct 17-21. Women’s Club monthly lunch at The Vijit resort in Rawai
The ever popular PIWC Women’s Club monthly lunch is from 11:30am-2pm. All are welcome. Members price is 450 baht per person (for PIADS Silverfinz members), 1,400 baht per person for non members.

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For more info contact Woody T: 076-290468

Oct 20. World’s largest Thai Dinner by Marriott
Thailand’s top chefs have created an exotic menu that will be served in 3,400 Marriott hotels in 69 countries at the same time. Join us and experience all the flavors of Thailand’s favorite dishes. It’s a feast for the Guinness Book Of Records and we invite you to be a part of it. Price: 1,100++ baht per person at Ginja Taste, JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa. 6pm-8pm. For reservations please contact T: 076-338000 E: jwmarriott.phuket@marriotthotels.com W: jwmarriottphuketresort.com

Oct 23. Chulalongkorn Day – Public Holiday
Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand

Oct 23-24. The 2nd Art Village Weekend @ RPM
Royal Phuket Marina and BMS Events proudly present to you the 2nd Art Village Weekend. This includes a diverse display of art, culture and music. Visit us on 23-24 October 2010 at the Town Square in Royal Phuket Marina. The event is from 5pm-10pm. We are looking forward to seeing you. For more information please contact Murat Can Sakarya T: 081-797 3364 E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com W: royalphuketmarina.com

Oct 23. End of Buddhist Lent Day (Ok Pansa)
On this day, the three-month rain retreat for Buddhist Lent (Khao Pansa) is over for the monks.
Melbourne Cup fans to raise money for Phuket charities

MAGNIFICENT galloping thoroughbreds racing in Australasia’s premier horse race will be broadcast live at 11am on November 2, at the first Melbourne Cup Charity event on Phuket.

The sports event will be held at, and sponsored by, IndoChine Bar and Restaurant at Kalim Beach.

The night will feature sweepstakes, raffle, live auction, and for those wanting to “put on the Ritz” and dress up for the occasion, there will be prizes for the best dressed men and women. But remember to wear a hat.

For around two-and-a-half minutes during the race, all of Australasia stops to watch as millions of dollars are bet on thoroughbreds from Australia, New Zealand and around the world at Flemington Track in Melbourne.

Tickets for the Phuket event cost 1,500 baht.

This includes an Australian themed brunch and welcome drinks.

The raffle and live auction will raise funds for two charities:

The Soi Dog Foundation of Phuket (www.soidog.org) and Barnhem Maung Mai Orphanage (www.barnhem.org). Sponsors of the event are IndoChine Resorts & Villas, Phuket Gazette, PGTV, 91.5 FM Phuket Island Radio, Works.com, Jagota, and Chandon.

For further information on these charities and where the money goes, please contact Cristy on 084-0544367 or at suaysiam@gmail.com.

Qatar Airways fly... IN IT TOGETHER: Qatar Airways marked the launch of their first Phuket-Doha flights on October 12 with a special ceremony. From left are Deputy General Manager of Phuket International Airport, Sutheep Sansiriphan, Qatar Airways Senior Vice President of Commercial Operations East Asia and South West Pacific, Marwan Koleilat and Thalang District Chief, Narunat Suphuptrateep. Photos: Apinun Saithong

Trend-setting Toy Salesman

On October 9 in Phuket Town our photographer spotted the ‘Toy Salesman’ as he likes to be known. If there were an award for ‘most fun’ outfit of the week, it would surely go to him.

Photo: Apinun Saithong

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Farewell party to remember

LEAVING PARTY: Sii Eawsakul, the former CEO of Asia Web Direct/EGM Asian Business Unit – Wotif Group, said farewell to her friends and colleges in extraordinary style at the Watermark restaurant on October 6. At last contact, Khun Sii sent her regards to all her Phuket friends from ‘rainy Kuraburi’, Phang Nga.

ANOTHER QUALITY PROJECT FROM LAND & HOUSES

Land & Houses Park Phuket

Pruerk-Pailin
3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 148 sq.m.

Pruerk-Ampai
3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 167 sq.m.

Ladachon
3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 172 sq.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Area (sq.wa)</th>
<th><em>Total price</em> (baht)</th>
<th>Deposit (baht)</th>
<th>50% Down payment (baht)</th>
<th>Final payment (baht)</th>
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<td>80</td>
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<td>2,740,000</td>
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</tbody>
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* These prices include air-conditioners, wall paper, kitchen and garden
* 2-year-free use of the club facilities except spa and restaurant
* The price and style of the houses may be changed without prior notice

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Email: info@lhphuket.com http://www.lhphuket.com
Across
1. For fear that
2. Travel on water
3. Dolt
4. Cause light to pass through
5. Travel on water
6. Leather shorts
7. Monogram ltr
8. Leather shorts
9. Gave a measured amount
10. Hot time in Paris
11. Indistinct
12. Brown-capped boletus
13. Not e'en once
14. Banned apple spray
15. Hang in the air
16. Beginning
17. Dotted
18. Squealed
19. Conclusion
20. Land
21. Foot covering
22. Conical native American tent
23. Dotted
24. Dotted
25. Dotted
26. Dotted
27. Concealed
28. Like wet ink
29. Asexual
30. Picture theater
31. Threefold
32. Loathing
33. From the beginning: Lat.
34. More sore
35. Long March leader
36. Mum’s mate
37. Strike hard
38. Earth
39. “Is ___ it?”
40. Give an edge to
41. 365 days
42. Direct a gun
43. Song syllable
44. Baseball club
45. Disapproving sound

Libra (September 23-October 22): Librarians could start warming to an idea that previously left them cold. The stars suggest that a trail persuasive earth sign will help you to see benefits that were not obvious before. Those who are single begin to enjoy that status more; however, another air sign is hoping to take flirtation to the next level. If your birthday falls in the coming week, expect to have a more relaxed view of life in the year ahead.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21): Your powers of persuasion become stronger during the second half of October, but Scorpions are advised to use them wisely this week. In the world of work, be sure what you want before going after it. Financial transactions are highlighted to be problematic on Monday and Tuesday – keep receipts safely in case you have to prove a point.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21): A trail of suspicion is revealed, which should be enough reason for Sagittarians to withdraw gracefully from a proposed business project. The stars indicate that November will be a more fortuitous month to further your interests. Your luck in romance improves, although impressing a water sign takes more effort than you hoped. Those in a committed relationship are relieved when their partner gives up an idea that was causing conflict.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19): Where work is concerned, you are more willing to take control. Capricorns whose self-confidence was shaky earlier this month now have reason to believe in themselves more. There is stronger focus on relaxation during the second half of October – this week you could become involved in a new hobby. A warmhearted fire sign has good advice concerning a romantic dilemma.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18): Money matters fall under cloudy astral conditions during the second half of October. Taking financial advice from a water sign could cause Aquarians to go out of the frying pan and into the fire. The stars suggest that it is best to tread water and not become involved in any large commitments. Romance could get complicated if you listen to idle gossip. Wear violet to encourage focused thinking.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Many of those born under the sign of Taurus will be taking a useful message on board this week. The stars suggest that your rather pragmatic approach to work could be altered by influence from a creative air sign. Taking chances is highlighted to enhance success until the end of October. Lucky days for romance are Sunday and Monday. The number five can bring good fortune this weekend.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): The stars predict calm after the storm that disrupted progress in business last week. Gemini will know exactly how to get what they want – negotiations are forecast to go particularly well on Wednesday. There could be something to celebrate this weekend when a fire sign family member or friend has good news. Your romantic outlook depends on how much you are prepared to compromise.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Where business is concerned, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Cancerians are advised to reconsider agreements involving someone who has already shown an untrustworthy side. Relocation remains under positive astral influences – house-hunting this weekend could lead you to your dream home. A passing flirtation may turn into something more permanent next week if you are looking to own more. The number seven can bring some good fortune this Saturday.

Leo (July 23-August 22): History repeats itself for those born under the sign of Leo this week. The area of employment falls under cloudy conditions and you could be vulnerable to unfair demands for the sake of keeping the peace. Tuesday is the most auspicious day to pour oil on troubled waters. Your luck in love strengthens and the possibility of commitment is highlighted.

Virgo (August 23-September 22): Virgians are forecast to find out who their fair weather friends are this week. An air sign acquaintance lets you down at the last moment and this may decide that the relationship has reached its sell-by date. Financial affairs are better starred, with the chance of a windfall this weekend. Flattery gets you nowhere with a stubborn Taurean. Virgians are advised to let this hope for romance fade away.
By Alexandra Andersson

THE largest provider of bilingual private education in Phuket, Kajonkiet, is in the process of building their sixth and seventh schools with a budget of six million baht. Kajonkiet’s existing schools are spread around the island: one in Phuket Town, two in Wichit, one in Cherng Talay and one in Pa Khlok. The first was established in 1954.

These schools teach Thai curriculum, but in three different ways: the Thai Program (TP) is taught entirely in Thai, the English as a Second Language Program (ESC) is taught in both Thai and English, and the English Program (EP) is the Thai curriculum translated and taught entirely in English.

The new schools will be located on 45 rai of land in Kathu, about a kilometer from the Tesco Lotus intersection.

There will be four buildings on the site, one each for Kindergarten, Primary and Mathayom EP, and the fourth will be a four-storey building housing Kajonkiet’s new International Program (IP).

The IP will implement a British curriculum, the first in the school’s 56-year history. The IP program will initially be available to children from 3 to 12, but they hope to eventually teach children up to 18 years of age. The EP program will be available to 3 to 18-year-olds.

“We decided to branch out into international education because our EP program, initiated in 2000, has done very well and we recognize that there is a growing market for international-standard education in Phuket. We want to provide our students with options and the best quality education we can,” a Kajonkiet representative said.

The buildings will occupy 10 rai of the plot when complete. The grounds will also feature a range of sports and academic facilities including: a swimming pool, tennis court, football pitch, basketball and volleyball courts, fully equipped science laboratories and a kitchen.

In-De Consultants designed the structures to be “very modern looking and eco friendly,” maximizing natural lighting and air flow.

Actual construction is being done by Vasi Construction Co Ltd, who have been working on the site since January this year.

The school hopes to open its doors in time for the start of the next school year: April for the EP and September for the IP.

TAKING SHAPE: Kajonkiet’s International School has a long way to go before opening later this year.

NEW INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL TAKES FORM IN KATHU

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Keeping memories alive help forge a community

As I fly from Bangkok to Phuket more often than I care to remember, the trip often becomes routine at the best of times. It all seems to blend into an exotic language variation known as “same sameness.”

Working in both the hotel and property markets on Phuket for nearly a decade has led me to profile the visitors who share these planes with me – it has become a personal expedition of people watching. After all, foreigners coming to Phuket as tourists who may eventually invest in real estate have led to one of the key drivers of the island’s economy.

At random moments, as the landing gear thumps on the tarmac and tourists on board light up with animated excitement, I am awash with an eerie feeling and a lump rises in my throat. As the jet roars down the runway with flaps down hard, I look out the right-side window, watching for a bare patch of hillside and remember September 16, 2007.

On a blustery day with driving sheets of rain coming down, 89 people lost their lives on One-Two-Go Airlines flight OJ269. It’s been estimated that more than half of those who died were tourists. I have this pent up urge to point my finger out the window and tell those who died were tourists. I was driving past the airport just minutes before the accident occurred, headed to Phang Nga with clients for a meeting in Natai.

With sirens screaming. Within half an hour calls started coming in from people asking whether I had heard about the crash. For more than a year after, passengers on planes taxiing to or from the terminal could spot the wreckage of the McDonnell Douglas MD-82 that had been moved to near the beachfront. Eventually the Airports of Thailand (AoT) authorities put up netting so while you could see the outline of the plane, oblivious passengers were unaware of the history behind the heap of machinery.

Again and again I had this compulsion to grab the person sitting in the next seat and tell them exactly what happened. Viewing the scene was like watching one of those horror movies where you turn away at the last moment but can’t help but catch the bloody ending out of the corner of your eye. Whenever I speed past that familiar strip of red clay dirt beside the runway that looks just like any other to the unsuspecting eye, sadness comes over me that is hard to describe.

You can’t help but know deep down that even if the incident didn’t directly affect your own family, the lives lost were all someone’s husband or wife, child, sweetheart. Lives un-lived and dreams burst into flames when the plane caught fire. It was debated by many local residents at the time in talks over coffee or a beer or two, why the crash came and went to quickly.

In these days of continual sensory overload, in which we live an effortless story, the tragedy of the tsunami was still fresh and people had simply had sensory overload from the ongoing series of catastrophes. Recently in the news it was announced that One-Two-Go’s parent airline has announced the consolidation of the brand into the Orient Thai namesake. For now the IATA coded “OG” flights that became synonymous with the accident will cease to exist. Even that link has now been erased from the storyline.

As the One-Two-Go brand is absorbed into its parent company, we take a look back to that fateful day in 2007 when 89 people perished. UNDETERRED: Tourists arrive at Phuket International Airport. Many are unaware, or undeterred, by the One-Two-Go crash in 2007. Photo: Elizabeth Branca.

As the One-Two-Go brand is absorbed into its parent company, we take a look back to that fateful day in 2007 when 89 people perished.

While tourism over years has marched on, and while embarrassingly no fitting memorial exists today for so many who lost their lives (noted, there is one small memorial at the airport), it’s good to reflect on the value of life looking back at both the good and the sad times of life in Phuket with value and respect.

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

Developers expect new zoning regulations

NEW zoning regulations are expected to be laid out in the Government Gazette towards the end of this year for Phuket and Phang Nga. The move follows changes in the past few months to Phuket’s environment regulations and Phang Nga’s town planning regulations.

Some anxious developers have been fast tracking their work for permit submissions to beat what is expected to be new tighter legislation.

Direct from Moscow

LEADING Russian airline Aeroflot will start its direct Moscow-Phuket route on December 29th. Sources say there will be three flights a week on the new winter schedule using the new Airbus A-300 aircraft.
YIELDS for income-producing property investments have remained largely flat for the second quarter of 2010 in Thailand’s major real estate markets, according to a report by leading real estate firm CB Richard Ellis. In Phuket, the hotel industry continues to recover from the 2009 slump as tourist arrivals increase from last year.

But increased competition from other key Asian tourist destinations and the significant increase in supply of hotel rooms in Phuket have contributed to a decrease in average daily room rates by 9% percent from last year, according to a report from C9 Hotelworks. During the first eight months of 2010, the most notable property transaction in Phuket was the sale of the Dusit Laguna Resort by Laguna Resorts & Hotels Plc to Dusit Thani Plc which took place in August 2010. The Thai hotel brand had been managing the Singaporean owned property for 23 years prior to the deal. Dusit Thani Plc acquired the property for over 2.7 billion baht, or around US$ 90 million, according to data from the Stock Exchange of Thailand. The Bank of Thailand held the benchmark interest rate at 1.25 percent per annum throughout most of the second quarter of 2010.

The benchmark rate was hiked on July 14 this year by 25 basis points. According to CBRE, property investment yields are likely to remain if there is no significant increase in bank deposit rates or government bond yields.

Yields in Q2 remain flat, room rates cut

By Anand Singh

PHUKET’S hospitality market has a newcomer that aims to cater to an audience seeking a healthy, active and balanced lifestyle. The Thanyapura Hospitality Group is set to launch three new properties in Phuket and Khao Sok, starting from next month. The 38-room Thanyachitra Retreat, located near the Phuket International Academy (PIA), will be the first to open in mid-November. Plans are afoot to open the 77-room Thanyachiva Lifestyle Resort by November next year. The group aims to promote health and wellness for guests by offering a wide range of health promoting facilities and services in its resorts, including a diverse choice of sports, meditation, yoga and organic cuisine.

“The accommodation, facilities and services we provide at Thanyapura Hospitality Group ensures that we are opening with a wide range of options and locations that will appeal to leisure travelers and companies that may be looking for venues to host their events”, says Chief Operating Officer Martin Michalik.

The Thanyapura Group will also be launching the Thanyamundra Organic Resort in Khao-Sok in mid-November this year. The Thanyamundra is described as a sustainable five-star organic resort. Located on a working organic farm adjacent to Khao-Sok National Park, it hosts two luxury villas, with seven suites and two rooms. Some of its facilities include a state-of-the-art fitness center, a 50 meter lap swimming pool, facilities for meditation and yoga as well as an organic cooking school that will utilize the produce from the organic farm.

The Thanyachitra Retreat in Phuket will offer comfortable accommodation with access to the PIA’s facilities, including Mind Center’s meditation and yoga programs as well as facilities in the PIA’s Sports and Leisure Club.

– Anand Singh

FOCUS ON WELLNESS: The PIA Mind Centre (pictured) is just one of the facilities that will be open to guests staying at the Thanyachitra resort.

Inspired contemporary expression

Nestled atop the hillside above Kata Beach, just a short drive from the white sandy beaches and charming sea-side village of Kata, The Heights Phuket showcases stunning views of the Andaman Sea. With easy access to world-class amenities and recreational experiences, the luxury of complete island living, all from the comfort of one of Phuket’s most exclusive residences.

Simple and functional, the interiors are a true fusion of East & West. Large open terraces, expansive living areas, and the seamless flow of indoor-outdoor spaces, reflect the modern-Asian design of the site. Using quality materials and natural finishes, experience harmonious living in its true form.

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Breath of fresh air in your sanctuary

Gardening
By Green Sleeves

THE canna lily is not technically a lily, nor is it a shrub. It’s a perennial herb. Interestingly, its American origins mean that it is more sub-tropical than tropical, yet it is prominent in Phuket’s floral landscape.

It grows unattended on the verges of many roadside ditches, and decorates its watery environment with bright splashes of color.

An additional benefit these lil-ies offer is a capacity to absorb pollutants in the vicinity of their roots. This is apt for Phuket, since judging by the unsavory odors that sometimes waft around there may be plenty of that.

This is a benefit the original planter, if there ever was one, was probably unaware of.

While the wild canna is usually pink in color and can grow three meters tall, the majority of culti-vars are likely to stop at a meter and a half.

The hybrid canna or *puta raksa* is a truly spectacular plant, with broad and bright green leaves which grow nearly verti-cally from fleshy stems. The leaves tend to grow in a slender roll, and then gradually unfurl.

Over the years, horticulturists have marveled at the beauty of this plant, and have produced cultivators in a variety of colors, one of which has purple leaves.

But the real glory is the flower, which appears at the end of these long stems in a range of hues.

The most distinctive of these are the flamboyant red, both scarlet and a deeper crimson and the yel-low. For some reason, canna flowers attract sun birds, though there is no scent.

Although canna can be culti-vated in pots, they are surprisingly uncommon in plant nurseries. If you do find some to buy, ensure that they are started off in good quality soil, and are given a good initial soaking. And make sure that your purchase has a shoot or growing point as well as top growth.

This perennial herb rates very highly on looks, highly on ease of cultivation and adaptability, and fairly highly on resistance to disease.

Like the *heliconia* it will need plenty of water to give its best, and it can suffer from rust which turns the leaves an unsightly brown. For some reason, canna flowers attract sun birds, though there are no scent.

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

Tip of the week
Help balance nature

DON’T use herbicides in your garden unless you have something very specific in mind, such as the elimination of weeds in your lawn.

In this case, you will need a selective weed-killer like Paraquat.

This will help kill off the broad-leaved weeds whilst still leaving your lawn in relatively good shape.

The downside is that it is the most toxic of all herbicides.

In Thailand, when you see a green plot suddenly gone brown and sere, it is obvious that someone has been spraying it with a non-selective weed-killer.

It’s probably Roundup, a herbicide developed in America, which uses the rather strong chemical glyphosate.

While it is less poisonous than old-fashioned chemicals such as sodium chlorate, and should decompose fairly quickly, its immediate impact is terminal on any plant life it comes in contact with.

And it will affect animal life too. Even seed-eating birds will suffer from the loss of food and habitat in your garden.
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#### 3 BEDROOMS HOUSE
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#### TOWNHOUSE 2 STORIES
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#### BEACHFRONT LAND
- Bang Tao Beach, Khao Lak. Full infrastructure. 21m x 70m Chanote. Price: 5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118, 089-709 2933. Email: info@allaboutwebanddesign.com

#### LAND FOR SALE
- Code L269 19.99 rai Naka yai island. Beachfront code L0033 76.49 rai Hillside opposite Loch Palm Golf Club Kathu district 10 land plots Haadjui project Por bay. Tel: 081-408 4991. www.1kasset.com

#### LAND FOR SALE
- Near the main road to Baan Don-Cheng Talay. 68sq w. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honna.1437@yahoo.co.th

#### LAND AT CHERING TALAY

#### LAI TAI
- House in Rawai. 98 sq wah. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons, sofa, cable TV. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: hatta@ag.199.com

#### LAI TAI
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Near Chalong Temple. Flat and quiet property in a residential area. Price: 4 million baht. Tel: 062-420 3134. Email: paul.phuket@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE
400sqm property in a quiet and panoramic location at Baan Sayuan. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, large covered terrace, and parking, plus storage. Includes Chanote title, company owned. Price: 4.5 million baht. Contact: JasminConsulting@gmx.net

CHALONG/PHUKET TOWN
Tel: 081-788 8280. Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

FULL FURNISHED HOUSE SALE
2/3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 aircons. Nice living room and kitchen, car park, fully furnished. Ready to move in. 2.85 million baht.
Tel: 087-278 9093. Email: prapa2526@gmail.com

4-BED CONTEMPORARY VILLA
Contemporary Villa for sale. 1.5 storeys, 4 en-suite bedrooms, pool w/ Jacuzzi, western kitchen, sala and built-in BBQ. Electric gate, security system, car park for 3 cars, and nice tropical garden on one rai (1,606 sqm) of land. Good price. I also have 4 rai of land, 2 km from Nai Thon Beach. 6 million baht. Email: nisaya@hotmail.com

KATA RESIDENCE FROM 2.9 MTB
Luxury apartments, 80sqm from 2.9 million baht. Free furnishing, Free transfer fee. Tel: 081-788 8280. Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE
For sale, 2 rai, 90sqwah with Chanote title. In Laem Thong, Ao Por. Sale price: 7.5 million baht. Tel: 081-788 9517.

LAND AT PA KHLOK
49 rai, nice flat land. Chanote. 2.5km from Heronies Monument. 1.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 083-180 2143.

LAND + HOUSE, RAWAI
Near Rawai temple. Chanote. 1 ngan, 19 talangwah, 205sqm. Small new house built; much space left. 4.5 million baht.
Tel: 063-983 4758 (English & Thai). Email: ollinine@yahoo.com

SEAVIEW LAND IN AO POR

SEAVIEW LAND IN AO POR
For sale. 2 rai, 90sqwah with Chanote title. In Laem Thong, Ao Por. Sale price: 7.5 million baht. No agent! Tel: 087-898 9646. Email: penprapa@yahoo.com

TWIN VILLAS AT NAI YANG
Only 400 meters from beautiful Nai Yang beach, this modern pool villa is perfectly located. Featuring a chic, clean-cut design coupled with a choice selection of quality materials and furnishings, this villa is an inviting investment for holiday seekers and permanent residents. Price: Bt10.2mil. Contact Khun Penprapa. Tel: 086-267 9646. Email: penprapa2526@gmail.com

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

HOUSE FOR SALE
400sqm property in a quiet and panoramic location at Baan Sayuan. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, large covered terrace, and parking, plus storage. Includes Chanote title, company owned. Price: 4.5 million baht. Contact: JasminConsulting@gmx.net

POOL VILLAS RAWAI
3-4r bedroom villas, including aircon and full furnishing. Prices start at 9.9 million baht, ready to move in. For short or long-term rental. Special offers! Tel: 087-893 8747.

UNIQUE TWIN VILLA RAWAI

NEWLY RENOVATED ONE-STOREY CONDO

2 STORY HOUSE, RAWAI
3bed, 3bath. European kitchen. Built-in wardrobes. Self contained 3 bed, 3 bath. European kitchen. At a good location in Patong. Price: 3.5 million baht. Tel: 083-982 3768. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

OCEANFRONT PLOTS FOR SALE
12 oceanfront plots with 15 meter waterfront. Each 600sqm and ready to build. They're in a peaceful, natural area opposite Yacht Haven Marina. Direct sale from owner. Price: 3.9 million baht per plot. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

KATA RESIDENCE FROM 8.5 MTB
Big 2-bedroom apartments, 140sqm. Now 8.5 million baht. Free transfer fee. Free furnishing. Free Thai company/Chanote. Price: 2.8 million baht. Contact: Khun Penprapa. Tel: 081-538 7050. Email: pakapooms@yahoo.com

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE
Close to Phuket International Airport. 4 ngan. Chanote title. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8260. Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

TROPICAL VILLA FOR SALE
Lovely villa with a guest house, pool and shop for sale in Rawai. Price: 14.5 million baht. Visit: bigjuce.com

CHARMING HOME & POOL
Exclusive hillside. Big pool and shady garden. 3 bed, 4 bath. Office. Very nice. Freehold. Secure. Tel: 076-382266, 083-727 5407 (English). Email: cosmomccambell@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.villa-sale-phuket.com

PATONG STUDIO, 28SQM
Freehold, all new and furnished. Price: 1.75 million baht. Tel: 089-971 5664. Email: ronny2507@gmail.com

OCEANFRONT PLOTS FOR SALE
12 oceanfront plots with 15 meter waterfront. Each 600sqm and ready to build. They're in a peaceful, natural area opposite Yacht Haven Marina. Direct sale from owner. 3.9 million baht per plot. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

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NEW APARTMENT-RENTAL
Competitive rate, available for medium or long term rent in Nai Harn. New 4th floor spacious apartment, 3 double bed rooms, en suite, large modern kitchen, living and dining rooms, study and TV room, with internet connection & TVs. Fully furnished, can move in today! Location: Palm Breeze Resort, Soi Ban Sai Yuan, with elevator, pool & facilities. Contact at K. "Touch" or Stephen. Tel: 076-513370, 089-522 4497 (English), 081-303 4299 (English & Thai). Fax: 076- 513370. Email: stegovew_2005@yahoo.co.uk

KATA CONDO
Large, western, 110 sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, with huge covered terrace. Fully fitted kitchen, bathroom, garden, fully furnished, car, ADSL, parking. Located in quiet area. Tel: 064-840 1262. Email: northbeachu@yahoo.com

GUESTHOUSE KAMALA
Staff apartment, 4 rooms, UBC, cable, satelite, hot water, shower. Lease 3m. Sale price: 1.8 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 089-971 6120.

VILLAS INRAWAI
Fully furnished villas with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Internet, Cable TV, club pool, gym and security. For more info, please call 083-641 9327. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

NICE HOUSES FROM 13,000 B
Move in today! Fully furnished, A/C, cable TV, WiFi, large pool. Tel: 089-475 1200 (English & Thai). Email: info@welcomeinn.com

MAIKHAO VILLA FOR RENT
2-bedroom villa with living room, kitchen, big sala, lovely garden. Furnished to European standard. Saveprice Rent: 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: jyfevet@gmail.com

PHUKET VILLA DAORUNG
Near the monument, 3 aircons, hi-speed internet, cable TV, Long-term rent preferable. Price: 17,500 baht per month or sale 2.95 million baht. Tel: 081-538 7050.

58 MONTHLY PAYMENTS
Of 35,000 baht. Located in Rawai beach. For sale: 29 years leased pool-villa, furnished, WiFi and car park. Tel: 086-940 8911. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

LUXURY POOL VILLA
Near Phuket International Academy in Thalang. 5 bedrooms, partially furnished. Price: 100,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-057 5756. Website: www.thegardenkiptophuket.com

HOUSE IN CHALONG
3-bedroom and 2 bathroom units for rent. Near Palai Beach. Fully furnished with aircon and ADSL. Includes cable TV and car park. Please call for more info. Tel: 089-728 8311.

BUNGALOW IN RAWAI
A 1 bedroom unit with aircon, WiFi and TV for rent. Price: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279-0371. Email: brooksthailand@hotmail.com

TOWNHOUSE PHUKET
For rent near Central Festival, 3 bedrooms, garage, 100sqm, small garden. Price: 14,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: jyfevet@gmail.com

3 BED AT LAND & HOUSE PARK
Very nice house + lovely garden. Very long term rent, furnished. Price: 28,000 baht per month. Special price without furniture: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-529 6928 (English & Thai). Email: bow.jariya@gmail.com

TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT
In Bangla Road area, 4-storey building. Price: 100,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-881 7015. Visit website: www.tvbophuket.com

50 MONTHLY PAYMENTS
Rawai beach, studio, furnished, WiFi, cable TV, 30 years lease 1 million baht pay in 10 years. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

1 MB YEARLY RENTAL
Rawai Beach. 948sqm land, bar, hotel, 9 bedrooms, 9 bathrooms, WiFi. Sale 18 million baht pay in 10 years. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

NEW PATIO APARTMENTS
Large Studio & 2 Bedroom Units. WiFi, gym, 2 swimming pools. 2 bedrooms to town center in Patong. Start at 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-502 8082. Email: solitude001@yahoo.com

B.L. APARTMENT
New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 1633.

CONDO IN PATONG
A fully furnished 1 bedroom unit with WiFi, A1 Phuket Palace Resort. Includes parking space. Tel: 081-892 1621.

CONDO FOR RENT
2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 126 sqm, partly furnished, at Phuket Country Club. Email: p.panphong@gmail.com

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT
A new, fully furnished 2-bedroom storey house with 2 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Tel: 080-575 6537. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

PROPERTY IN PATONG FOR RENT
A fully furnished, 1 bedroom, 65sqm luxury apartment on the ground floor. At a central location in Patong. Long term rent preferred. 1 month minimum. Tel: 087-887 9070. Email: iamscondo@yahoo.com

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

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm. Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.
Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net
We are a “No sale, no fee” business.

See: www.boatshedphuket.com

SELLING YOUR BOAT?

See our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

Below US$35,000. Hurry, best offer accepted. Tel: 089-476 7443, 085-352 1940, 076-377 5577. Contact for more info. Tel: 081-866 8716. Email: stormbay2@yahoo.com.sg

NEW BOAT

SUNNAV 18FT

For sale. Highest quality with trailer. Price: only 270,000 baht. No engine. Tel: 089-476 7443, 085-352 1940, 076-377 5577. Contact for more details. Tel: 084-211 8940. Email: sales@sunnav.com or visit: www.sunnav.com

BAREBOAT WANTED

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

BAYLINER 245HP

(2009)

Like new. 300Hp mercruiser inboard engine. Price: 2.7 million baht. For further information, see our website at: www.boatshedphuket.com

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK’S PUZZLES

Word Detective: Blood

Crossword puzzle:

COFFEE break

October 16 - 22, 2010

Boats & Marine

PHUKET GAZETTE 33

FAST TOUR/ FISHING BOAT

One owner, wonderful, fast tour boat, 150Hp engine with Yamaha SHP for security. Full electronics, toilet, large sun cover. Up to 8 people, cruising at 25/30 knots in comfort. Priced to sell! Tel: 081-968 1437 (English). Email: bobedward1@hotmail.com

WHARRAM TIKI 26’ (2010)

As good as new with a 6Hp 4-stroke O/B, dinghy & outboard engine and mooring. Only 1.3 million baht o.n.o. See our website: www.boatshedphuket.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

WHARRAM TIKI 26’

(2010)

As good as new with a 6Hp 4-stroke O/B, dinghy & outboard engine and mooring. Only 1.3 million baht o.n.o. See our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

SELLING YOUR BOAT?

See: www.boatshedphuket.com

We are a “No sale, no fee” broker. Contact Alan on 084-842 6146.

MOTORSAILER

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

GAME FISHING/ DIVE BOAT

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

JEANNEAU SUN ODYSSEY 35’

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

WAKESKI BOAT FOR SALE

2-year-old, 4.2 meters long Cholmark boat with a 6Hp 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

48 FT ROBERTS CRUISING RACER

Almost completed. All fiberglass with fly-bridge. Perfect for diving, transfers. Email: tony@steppaboats.com

43 FT ROBERTS CRUISING YACHT


NEW 35 FT POWER CAT

SWAN 42 CRUISER/ RACER

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

SWAN 42 CRUISER/ RACER

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

RACER

DINGHY BOAT

9-meter long boat with 205Hp, 4-stroke Suzuki engine. 1 year-old in good condition. Price: 90,000 baht. Contact for more info. Tel: 082-815 3132.

DINGHY BOAT

50 FT CRUISING CATAMARAN

6 double cabins, 105sqm cover. Up to 8 people, 150Hp engine with Yamaha. Price: 1.5 million baht. For more info, please see our website: www.boatshedphuket.com

50 FT CRUISING CATAMARAN

Almost completed. All fiberglass with fly-bridge. Perfect for diving, transfers. Email: tony@steppaboats.com

12m MOTOR YACHT

(1992)

G.R.P. Cummings Diesel 300Hp engine. Just rebuilt. Price: 2.5 million baht. For more info, please see our website: www.boatshedphuket.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

12m MOTOR YACHT

G.R.P. Cummings Diesel 300Hp engine. Just rebuilt. Price: 2.5 million baht. For more info, please see 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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City: State or Province: Zip Code: 

Country: 

We are a “No sale, no fee” broker. Contact Alan on 084-842 6146.

SOLUTIONS TO

THIS WEEK’S PUZZLES

Word Detective: Blood

Crossword puzzle:

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR
Right To Play seeks Thai with fluent English, computer literacy, training and experience to work on education program. Please contact Khun Alisa. Tel: 02-652 9274, 076-321435, 081-122 4803. Fax: 076-321435. Email: info.righttoplayasia@gmail.com

VILLA MANAGER REQUIRED
Must be an experienced manager with excellent spoken and written English, good communication skills, and the ability to structure systems and organize staff, as well as look after guests. We are looking for a Thai person with all skills. Tel: 084-000 0001. Please send CV to bookings@villachangrajang.com

STAFF WANTED
Need a Thai man to help captain on charter boats in Chalong. Salary fixed + commission. Start on November 1st. Must understand English. Tel: 087-277 7395. Email: dreamers@dreamers.info

SALES EXECUTIVE
Seeking sales person to visit hotels, massage centers, spas, wellness stores and more. Must speak Thai and English. Compensation: base salary + commissions on sales. Tel: 087-466 8640. Send CV or resume to xalan@xalanmail.com

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

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED
Full time housekeeper wanted. Should speak English and must like dogs. Cooking Thai and farang food, cleaning house and office in Cherngtalay area. Call K. Sudarat: 081-978 2725. Fax: 076-326144. Email: dae@techworx-projects.com

WEB DESIGN JOBS
Seeking Dutch-speaking customer care reps, web and print designers, Photoshop illustrator. Tel: 084-620 2829. Please send CV to gianni@ictneo.eu

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. Please contact: 076-202277. Email: info@phuket-palazzo.com

BLISS LOUNGE
We are looking for staff. Bliss Lounge Patong:
- Bartender (Thai national)
Good fixed salary, tips and bonuses
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- Thai national is required, - Bartender/Cashier
- Hostess
- Waitress - Office assistants
Good fixed salary, tips and bonuses. Positions available now! Interested? Please send your CV to lb.maisom@yahoo.co.jp or contact us on 089-993 3994 (Thai and English)
Address: 749 Moo 3 T.Salu A.Thailang Phuket 83100

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. Email: careers@pp-intl.com

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

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Don’t wait!

Contact our phone 076-360-590 or email your resume to hotel.panwa@fourpoints.com, or walk in to our pre-opening office.

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YOU’RE GONNA LOVE US!

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Open Position Listing:

- Executive Assistant Manager
- Chef Assistant
- Assistant Executive Housekeeper
- Purchasing Manager
- Assistant Chief Engineer
- Security Manager
- Laundry Manager
- Concierge
- Recreation Manager
- Spa Manager
- Executive Sous Chef
- Restaurant Manager

Four Points by Sheraton Phuket, Panwa

WANTED

LOOKING FOR

DECENT JOB

Thai lady with very good English skills is looking for a personal assistant, creative, and has to learn a new thing 1017 and also a team-player.

Tel: 085-781 1758. Email: take_a_tab@hotmail.com

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

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

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83150 Tel: 076-345345-7. Fax: 076-345099.
Mobile: 081-893 0135.
Email: accounting@clubbamboo.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, government health plan and 3,000 baht housing allowance. Minimum requirements: Bachelor’s degree or above, plus TEFL or CELTA certificate or equivalent. Please only reply to applicants who meet the minimum requirements. Please email your CV with covering letter to: joeynho@gmail.com; toptip4736@yahoo.com. Or call Tel: 084-666 3557. Be prepared to present all original certificates at interview and do teaching demonstration.

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 call for more information. Tel: 081-3430777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

Secretary/PA

Exotissimo Travel Co., Ltd.

ARE YOU READY FOR TRAVEL?

Exotissimo Travel is one of Asia’s leading destination management companies.

We require staff for our operations department in Phuket. Your job is to handle the daily operations for incoming tours into Phuket. You will be responsible for checking in all files created by reservations staff, booking guides and transportation and ensuring that all aspects of every tour are handled correctly.

It is essential you have a pleasant and outgoing manner. You must be an excellent problem solver and be good at dealing with people.

Ideally you should have a minimum of two years experience with a local tour operator or similar position, or at least have an understanding of the complexities of this important job.

You will be a key person in our team and the right applicant can expect an attractive salary with excellent benefits.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree
- Thai national – male or female
- Min. 2 years experience in a travel company
- Good written and spoken English
  (German or French speaking is an advantage)
- Good computer skills (word, excel, outlook)
- Good attitude, hard working, ability to work as part of a team.

Only those with a genuine interest in joining a professional travel company for long-term commitment need apply.

Interested parties are invited to send their CVs with a covering letter in English and a current photo to christophe@exotissimo.com

Applications will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

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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: jori.lassila@gmail.com Website: http://www.snugasababyslings.com/IMGortho.png ChicoKeyFeFoIntFarCarSeat-large.jpg

ELECTRIC HOT PLATES: 2 RINGS
Electric hot plates, 2 rings. Both rings have quick heat up sensors. Has adapter plug for common house power point, 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: ruscott@hotmail.com

MOTOR 12ED KEBAB

SONY PS3 & ACCESSORIES
Comes with second controller, Logitech G25 Steering wheel. Games available include: Guitar Hero 3, Avatar, Team Fortress 1 & 2, Star Wars: The Force Unleashed & The Complete Saga (Legos), Burnout Paradise City, GTS, Army of Two and Airborne. Contact K. Mike Tel: 086-951 2455. Email: mkilepton@netseven.com

TEAK, RATTAN FURNITURE
High quality furniture for sale: 5-seater modular sofa, 2 plantatation chairs, customized Balinese teak shelves, wooden benches & more. Leaving Phuket, Must be sold by next end. Call to view. Prices negotiable. Tel: 085-791 0691 (English). Email: vynoss@gmail.com

WANTED
Want to Sell your Gold? ‘Go to Money’ buys all kinds of gold. Golden jewelry, rings, necklaces, ear rings, etc. Gold watches, gold teeth, gold coins, gold bullion (gold). We buy all kinds of gold. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about our prize or be a sponsor.
Please call K. Carol (Tel: 077-417 8860) or K. Sue (Tel: 077-294 6948). Or email: info @ phuketbwc.com

LAGUNA BAR FOR SALE
The best place in Rawai. Great business opportunity. Guarantee. 4-year contract. For rent: 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-662 3962 (English).

FACTORY IN KATHU
Foreign nationals can own 100% of this blinds and furniture manufacturing/distribution business with a 470sqm office and factory fully equipped to make quality wood blinds and to distribute furniture and import solid T&G wood flooring. Tel: 081-805 4945 (English). Email: greenacredevelopment@gmail.com

15 YEARS RUNNING BUSINESS
For sale. It includes bungalows, a restaurant, a cafe, and a bar owner’s residence. Sub-lease contract incl. return on 3-year investment. 2.5 rai property. Tel: 089-288 0919 (English).

KARON BEACHFRONT HOTEL
For sale. Phuket-Karon beachfront hotel, 1 room + 13 apartments. All furnished. 4-year contract. Price: 1.75 million baht. Tel: 081-894 7273.

RESTAURANT IN KATHU
Alwaterfall. Fully equipped: aircons, 60+ seats, two bars, two bedrooms. Ready to open! Price: 6.75 million baht. Tel: 067-417 8137. Must see in our website: www.phuket-estate.com

Coffeeshop Urgent Sale
One-time offer! Nice coffee/ sandwich shop for sale in Kata, 20 persons. Newly reno- vated and everything included. Write or call for info/pics. 500,000 baht, 8,000 per month. Tel: 086-228 0919 (Eng- lish & Thai), 089-591 7249. Tel: 076-439 7741. Email: morten@kata.co.th

Business Opportunities
DIVING COMPANY
Booking office in Chalong, sales shop in Patong. TAT & Insurance. Tel: 086-838 3158. Email: alyousufq8@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT FOR SALE
Prime location in Patong opposite post office on Rat-U-Thit Rd. For more info, please call. Tel: 081-124 8051. Email: mingrestaurant@hotmail.com INVESTMENT
Solid business investment opportunity. Tel: 085-258 0066. Email: pat@apromgr.com Website: www.apromgr.com/investments

2 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.realrho@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.realproreal estatephuket.com

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**General Classifieds**

**PHUKET GAZETTE**

October 16 - 22, 2010

**Pla Legal**

- **Consultants**
- **Attorneys**
- **Legal Services**

Contact: G.A.M. Legal Alliance

October 16 - 22, 2010

**Other Services**

- **Website Design**
- **Email:** extra_sp@hotmail.com
- **Website:** www.thaishop.in.th/extra

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**PHUKET VISA & BUSINESS**

- **Contact:** K.Pu 086-698 6544
- **Email:** iamtontan@hotmail.com

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**PHUKET HOME NURSING & CARE**

- **Contact:** 076-343131 087-6875510

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**BUDS NURSERY KINDERGARTEN**

- **Contact:** 076-282 232, 080-624 7060
- **Website:** www.buds-phuket.com

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**WEB DESIGN**

- **An interesting website helps your business.**
- **Email:** thesis.phuket@gmail.com
- **Website:** www.designbyconcept.net

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**SPORTY GENTLEMAN**

- **If you are a nice working lady who likes outdoor activities,**
- **Email:** patrik269@yahoo.com

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**FAMILY MASSAGE AT HOME**

- **Calle:** 089-898 0231
- **Email:** vivaphuket@hotmail.com

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**SOMETHING DIFFERENT?**

- **Cartoon pictures for special occasions by Phuket Gazette Expat Gallery artist Peter Child**
- **Tel:** 087-888 7676

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**DIVE COMPRESSOR FOR SALE**

- **Contact:** 084-842 5997
- **Email:** maxphuket@hotmail.com

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**TOOLSD FOR SALE**

- **Electrical hammer drills,**
- **2 battery drills,**
- **A disc grinder,**
- **A small planer,**
- **Screwdrivers,**
- **Chisels,**
- **Drill bits,**
- **Hole saws**
- **Price:** 35,000 baht.
- **Tel:** 089-929 5459.
Wheels & Motors

**Cars for Sale**

**Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution VII**
- Year: 2002
- Mileage: 126,000 km
- Condition: Very good
- Features: Power steering, 4WD, sunroof, alloy wheels
- Price: 550,000 baht
- Contact: 081-123-4567

**Toyota Corona**
- Year: 2000
- Mileage: 150,000 km
- Condition: Good
- Features: Automatic, AC, alloy wheels
- Price: 250,000 baht
- Contact: 082-765-4321

**Honda Civic**
- Year: 2004
- Mileage: 80,000 km
- Condition: Excellent
- Features: Automatic, sunroof, alloy wheels
- Price: 300,000 baht
- Contact: 081-987-6543

**Nissan Sunny**
- Year: 2006
- Mileage: 100,000 km
- Condition: Very good
- Features: Manual, 5-speed, power steering
- Price: 200,000 baht
- Contact: 083-456-7890

**Suzuki Swift**
- Year: 2008
- Mileage: 50,000 km
- Condition: Excellent
- Features: Hatchback, 5-door, automatic
- Price: 220,000 baht
- Contact: 081-901-2345

**Rents**

**Minibus and Car for Rent**

- **Suzuki Katana 750**
  - 1991, good condition, all parts original, green book
  - Phuket registered. Price: 70,000 baht
  - Contact for more details: 081-970-0569

- **Honda XR400**
  - 3 years old, 13,000 km, in good condition
  - Two sets of tires (on and off road). Price: 199,000 baht
  - Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-367-9551 (English)
  - Email: chris.millington@hotmail.co.uk

**Motorbikes**

**Kawasaki Z 750**
- Year: 2001
- Mileage: 50,000 km
- Condition: Excellent
- Features: ABS, 750cc, fully serviced
- Price: 30,000 baht
- Contact for more information. Tel: 081-787-3011

**Suzuki GS500**
- Year: 2007
- Mileage: 10,000 km
- Condition: Like new
- Features: 500cc, automatic
- Price: 35,000 baht
- Contact for more information. Tel: 081-987-6543

**Honda Shadow**
- Year: 1999
- Mileage: 40,000 km
- Condition: Good
- Features: 750cc, automatic
- Price: 25,000 baht
- Contact for more information. Tel: 081-987-6543

**Yamaha FZS1000**
- Year: 2003
- Mileage: 80,000 km
- Condition: Excellent
- Features: 1000cc, 4-cylinder
- Price: 30,000 baht
- Contact for more information. Tel: 081-987-6543

**Rentals**

**Minibus, Vios, Jazz, City**
- For rent with first-class insurance. Price: 7,000 baht per week.
- Monthly rate available. Tel: 081-343-3777
- Email: monthra_phuket@yahoo.com

**Weekly Prices**

**Toyota HiAce**
- Price: 7,000 baht per week
- Features: Van, cargo
- Contact for more details: 081-987-6543

**Pickups**

**Isuzu D-Max (2006)**
- Year: 2006
- Mileage: 100,000 km
- Condition: Excellent
- Features: Automatic, 4WD, alloy wheels
- Price: 350,000 baht
- Contact for more information. Tel: 081-787-3011

- **Honda CR-V**
  - Year: 2004
  - Mileage: 150,000 km
  - Condition: Excellent
  - Features: Manual, GPS, sunroof
  - Price: 300,000 baht
  - Contact for more information. Tel: 081-987-6543

- **Toyota Tacoma**
  - Year: 2007
  - Mileage: 120,000 km
  - Condition: Good
  - Features: Automatic, 4WD, alloy wheels
  - Price: 350,000 baht
  - Contact for more information. Tel: 081-987-6543

- **Isuzu D-Max (2005)**
  - Year: 2005
  - Mileage: 100,000 km
  - Condition: Excellent
  - Features: Automatic, 4WD, alloy wheels
  - Price: 350,000 baht
  - Contact for more information. Tel: 081-987-6543

**Fords**

**Fiesta**
- Year: 2008
- Mileage: 50,000 km
- Condition: Good
- Features: Manual, 3-door
- Price: 30,000 baht
- Contact: 081-987-6543

**Focus**
- Year: 2005
- Mileage: 70,000 km
- Condition: Excellent
- Features: Automatic, 5-door
- Price: 50,000 baht
- Contact: 081-987-6543

- **Sedan**
  - Year: 2006
  - Mileage: 80,000 km
  - Condition: Good
  - Features: Automatic, sunroof
  - Price: 40,000 baht
  - Contact: 081-987-6543
Champs return for triathlons

By James Goyder

REIGNING Ironman 70.3 world champion Michael Raelert of Germany will head a first-class field of professional triathletes coming to Phuket for the third year in a row for the annual Phuket 7s Tournament. Over 220 parents and children are expected to travel to Phuket with the Singapore based soccer school this December. The tournament is for local and international teams alike, and will be refereed.

Promoting a healthy body & a balanced, creative mind

“Denise Bertrand”

At the British International School, there are many will head a first-class field with the Singapore based soccer school taking part will attract global media attention. "The caliber of professional triathlon talent on show, together with enthusiastic amateur fields, will create fascinating sporting spectacles and draw worldwide attention to Phuket," she said. Pros and amateurs that have entered for both races face the challenge of recovering from the LPT to take on the Ironman 70.3 Championship a week later.

The latter event, to take place on a modified LPT course, has been described as “a turbocharged

Who to look out for:

- Former Ironman 70.3 world champion and 2004 Olympic gold medalist (Cahal)
- 12-time Iron distance race champion (Granger)
- Former LPT champion and Ironman 70.3 runner-up (Cigana)
- Experienced Ironman (Granger)
- Recent Ironman 70.3 and London winner (Cigana)

The tournament gets underway on December 12.

The tournament will take place at the British International School and on Sunday the JSSL Arsenal 7s will start. Last year there were teams from Singapore and Beijing competing with local Phuket teams.

“We encourage many local teams to come and enjoy themselves at what has become a yearly fun tournament. Phuket has now become a second home for JSSL Arsenal.” Harvey Davis, the managing director of JSSL Arsenal said.

Anyone wishing to enter a team may register to Phuket for the event.

Laguna Triathlon director Debbie Dionysius thinks the number of professional athletes coming to Phuket will attract global media attention. “The caliber of professional triathlon talent on show, together with enthusiastic amateur fields, will create fascinating sporting spectacles and draw worldwide attention to Phuket,” she said.

Pros and amateurs that have entered for both races face the challenge of recovering from the LPT to take on the Ironman 70.3 Championship a week later.

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Phuket kick off for an Arsenal affiliated football tournament

THE JSSL Arsenal soccer school is returning to Phuket for the third year in a row for the annual Phuket 7s Tournament. Over 220 parents and children are expected to travel to Phuket with the Singapore based soccer school this December. Over 220 parents and children are expected to travel to Phuket with the Singapore based soccer school this December. The tournament is for local and international teams alike, and will be kicking off on December 12.

JSSL Arsenal is Singapore’s largest soccer school with over 800 students. It is affiliated with Arsenal FC in the UK.

The tournament will take place at the British International School and the local teams are welcome to join up free of charge.

The tournament gets underway at 11am, although teams are advised to turn up at least half an hour early to register.

All players who take part will receive a medal, and all games will be refereed.

There will be competitions for five different age groups: Under 7s, Under 9s, Under 11s, Under 15s and Over 15s.

On December 12, they will warm up with friendly matches against the British International School and on Sunday the JSSL Arsenal 7s will start. Last year there were teams from Singapore and Beijing competing with local Phuket teams.

“We encourage many local teams to come and enjoy themselves at what has become a yearly fun tournament. Phuket has now become a second home for JSSL Arsenal.” Harvey Davis, the managing director of JSSL Arsenal said.

Anyone wishing to enter a team may register.

Phuket has managed to shed a staggering 45 kilos of flab in just five months. The Biggest Loser Asia appearance on TV reality show.

The amateur ranks include 12-time Iron distance race champion and 2004 Olympic gold medalist (Cahal). The tournament is for local and international teams alike, and will be refereed.

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Volleyball ladies gunning for gold

By James Goyder

THE world’s best female beach volleyball players have all signed on for this year’s Swatch FIVB Phuket Open.

Last year’s winners Jennifer Kessy and April Ross will be back to defend their title, but will face some stiff competition.

Despite being the reigning world champions these two will not be the favorites to win the event, which is once again being held at a specially constructed arena on Karon Beach.

That honor goes to Brazilians Larissa Franca and Juliana Felisberta.

They are currently ranked number one in the world and have won five tournaments already this year to go with the eight tournament wins they hold from 2009.

The rivalry between these two pairings is well established and the Brazilians will be looking to get revenge on Ross and Kessy who defeated them to win gold at the Swatch FIVB World Championships in Stavanger, Norway, last year.

While those that follow the women’s tour closely will be hoping for a juicy Brazil vs USA final, there are several other teams who will hope to have a go at gold. Zhang Xi and Xue Chen from China are the most likely Asian candidates.

 Ranked number four in the world, it is assumed they will be the number three seeds.

Sara Goller and Laura Ludwig from Germany are also expected to at least reach the semi-finals. They have finished second in three separate tournaments this year and will be looking to go one better in Phuket.

The 2010 Swatch FIVB Phuket Open is scheduled to take place from November 2 to 7.

For more information visit: www.fivb.org.