

Phuket Gazette

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**Aussie Amb:
Safety is
our priority**



Ambassador Wise (left) with Governor Tri Augkaradacha

THE new Australian ambassador to Thailand has named the safety of Australian tourists as his mission's top priority in Phuket.

In Phuket this week, Ambassador James Wise said, "The problem that we worry about most of all in Phuket, and anywhere else in the world, is that Australians are as safe and secure as can be."

"Also, when they do find themselves in trouble, we hope they get the same treatment as local people," he added.

As part of his first official visit to Phuket, Amb Wise met with Governor Tri Augkaradacha.

"The governor is very frank about the problems with taxis, jet-skis and tuk-tuks. He is very focused on those problems and he wants to fix them – that we appreciate very much," he said.

Task force to target all illegal workers

By Janpen Upatising

THOUSANDS of migrant workers in Phuket could face arrest and possible deportation as Thai employment officials gear up for a major crackdown on all illegal workers.

The move follows the creation of a Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO) task force set up to identify and arrest any foreigners found working without appropriate permits.

Headed by PPEO chief Noppadol Ployudee, the team includes members of Phuket Immigration Police, Phuket Police and Phuket Marine Police.

"The team is working to monitor, arrest, prosecute and deport all illegal foreign workers," said Mr Noppadol.

"The arrests will not be limited to Burmese, Lao and Cambodian workers. We will arrest any foreigner found working secretly without a permit," he added.

The move follows confirmation that Burmese workers are starting their own businesses on Phuket as a result of the national verification system, which gives them identification documents similar to a passport.



DISSATISFIED: Dr Phrommin Sritabutr is not happy with the lack of progress in reigning in illegal foreign workers. Photo: Janpen Upatising

The roundup of unregistered migrant workers will intensify in Phuket, officials say.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and Deputy Prime Minister Sanan Kachornprasart have ordered an independent team to investigate illegal workers throughout southern Thailand.

The regional task force, part of Bangkok's nationwide crackdown on illegal Burmese workers, will

be responsible for the 14 southern provinces. It will also be led by Mr Noppadol.

A meeting on Friday in Bangkok will determine policy and operational plans for each regional team. The meeting will be chaired by Employment Department Deputy Director Sumeth Mahosot.

"I still don't know exactly when the operation in Phuket will start. After we hear the policy and

receive orders at the meeting on Friday, we will do the planning and then proceed with the operation," said Mr Noppadol.

The deportation of thousands of migrant Burmese workers from Phuket would likely have a major impact on the local economy, which relies heavily on their labor.

Phuket business owners continue to voice concerns about losing Burmese employees to businesses and professions not specified in their work permits.

At a recent meeting at Provincial Hall, Dr Phrommin Sritabutr expressed frustration at the current "passport" and work permit system, saying efforts to bring illegal workers in line had proved fruitless.

"I'm not satisfied with the result of today's meeting," said the deputy chairman of a Labor Ministry subcommittee on foreign labor.

"It's the third meeting here, but we haven't addressed the key issue. Now foreign workers with these 'passports' can work and go anywhere."

"They will spread around the country. It's just not possible to keep these workers under control," he said.

Mother, daughter slain in hail of bullets

POLICE are hunting the killers of well-known real estate agent Jeerati Nakmee and her daughter Kiriyaorn Anutthato.

Ms Jeerati, 41, and Kiriyaorn, 21, were killed when their car was riddled with bullets by gunmen inside the Yoojaroen Project 1 estate in Pa Khlok last Saturday.

A second daughter, Ananthira, 15, was hit in the groin and arm. She was rushed to Thalang Hospital for emergency treatment.

Police believe the motive was related to

a dispute over a property deal.

Witnesses told police the attack was carried out by at least three men in a pickup truck armed with shotguns and .357 magnums.

Mrs Jeerati had five bullet wounds to the chest. Police found a .38 caliber revolver by her left hand. Mrs Kiriyaorn had several bullet wounds to the head and back.

The car windows were heavily damaged by bullets, some of which was caused by

bullets fired from inside the car. Police collected as evidence several Chanote land title deeds found inside the vehicle.

Investigators have established that about two months ago a gang of young men forced their way into Mrs Jeerati's home, attacking the three women and demanding they pay several million baht or face execution. Police have not ruled out bad debt to a moneylender or other possible motives.

– Wichai Witthawat



The car was riddled with bullet holes.

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This Week

Strange but true

A Ratchaburi family are sharing a bed with a 2.5 meter water monitor lizard. **Page 4**

Business



What lays in store for Carrefour after Big C buyout. **Page 13**

Adventure travel



Hash House Harrier mountain bikers take on Madagascar. **Page 14**

Construction



Plan Estate project heads into the middle market. **Page 21**

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Everything you need at prices you can afford, from jobs to homes.

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Sport



Asian Games medal winners inspire local dinghy racers.

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Petroleum exploration underway off Phuket

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

STATE oil firm PTT is conducting a study off the coast of Phuket that could lead to test boreholes being drilled there by 2012, the company says.

The work falls under the second phase of work being carried out by PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited, or PTTEP.

Visit Coothongkul, PTTEP Vice President in charge of projects in the Andaman region, told a press conference on Monday the company has development rights to three concession areas covering a total area of 68,820 square meters off the Andaman coast.

Work on the three-phase project began in February 2007 with an environmental impact assessment (EIA) by consulting firm Pro-En Technologies and a seismic study by Malaysian firm CGGVeritas.

The first phase, which ran one year, was completed under a 200-million-baht budget.

The second phase, which runs three years starting from February 2010, started with a petroleum geology study that is now underway.

If the results are positive, the company will go ahead and drill



The green dots show where boreholes will be drilled if the results of the geological study now underway show potential for significant reserves.

test boreholes in three locations, one in each concession area.

If the geological study fails to detect significant reserves, PTTEP will have until February 2012 to return the concession areas to the government.

PTTEP's initial budget estimate for the phase-two work is 180 million baht.

Due to the high costs and risky nature of deep sea petroleum exploration, PTTEP is looking for foreign partners to share investment costs. Thus far seven firms have shown interest, said Mr Visit.

The press conference, at the Phuket Merlin Hotel in Phuket Town, was held to keep the public updated about the project.

Failure to provide such information could lead to negative public opinion, he said.

A press conference was held in Phuket in 2007 before phase-one work began.

Sidhichai Jayant, PTTEP Vice President for external affairs, said good public relations was essential for such a large project given its potential environmental and social impacts.

New mooring buoys on their way

MORE than 80 new mooring buoys are being installed around Phuket ahead of the coming high season.

Prajuab Mokarat, a technician at the Phuket office of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation (DMCR), told the *Gazette* the DMCR has begun installing the orange mooring buoys at sites off Kata, Karon, Bang Tao and Koh Racha.

The project is an expanded version of the DMCR's annual "replace the buoy" operation, he explained.

Each year, the office collects buoys from many of the mooring sites around Phuket to stop them from floating away during the



Longtail boatmen from Cherg Talay lend a hand installing the new buoys. Photo: DMCR

strong storms that pound the coast during the rainy season, he said.

Come mid-November, DMRC Phuket officers do their rounds reinstalling the buoys.

Of the 20 old mooring buoys retrieved at the beginning of the wet season, 10 will be redeployed off Kata-Karon and the other 10 at Bang Tao, Mr Prajuab said.

The new buoys will be installed as follows: 26 at Bang Tao, 15-20 at Patong, 15 at Kata-Karon, 20 at Koh Racha, 10 at Koh Maithon and five to seven buoys at Koh Hei, he said.

The new buoys cost 20,000 baht apiece, not including the cost of installing them.

"We aim to have all the buoys installed by the end of December," said Mr Prajuab.





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Thanks from the heart

Rino, 10, survives heart operation

By Marc Mulloy

RINO Mangon Vogt, a 10-year-old suffering from a rare and congenital heart condition known as Ebstein's Anomaly, had his successful life-saving operation in Bangkok on Sunday.

The *Phuket Gazette* first ran the story on August 14, which was picked up by the ThaiVisa website and this media attention led to the generous donations needed to pay for expensive treatment, including 750,000 baht from a client of a Hong Kong music consultant who requested anonymity.

Rino's father, well-known musician, songwriter and filmmaker Ritchie Newton, started Rino's Heart campaign after a Bangkok cardiologist gave the devastating diagnosis in June.

The same cardiologist, Dr Poomiporn Katanyuwong, was one of the 11 medical staff who assisted in Sunday's surgery at the Bangkok Heart Hospital.

"Throughout the whole ordeal Rino has been so brave. He knew that this operation was his only hope and when they wheeled him away at 1:30pm he smiled and waved at his mother and I, it was at this point that I cried," said Ritchie.

Some six hours later Dr Booniporn announced that the procedure had gone well.

The intervention involved re-



BRAVEHEART: Young Rino.

pairing the faulty tricuspid valve and adding a ring. While this was going on, the heart was stopped by lowering its temperature to 4°C and Rino was put on a life-support system.

Once it was all over, the doctors commented that his heart was so enlarged that he may only have lived another three to four months without treatment.

"I saw Rino at 8:30pm and it was very hard for a father to watch his son with so many tubes sticking out of him. The next morning he was awake and complaining of pain and of being hungry," said Ritchie.

"A German VOX TV camera crew had been following his progress for a show about expats called 'Goodbye Germany'. When

Rino complained about the lights I had to ask them to leave," he added.

Rino is expected to be released from hospital by early December, after which father and son will remain another week in the Sheraton Grande Bangkok for convalescence and checkups before returning home to Koh Samui.

"People have been so kind. The hotel has given us free board and the breakfast is paid by the same anonymous contributor who paid 750,000 baht towards the operation. Even the hospital administrators reduced the cost of the surgery.

"To all those who helped me to save Rino I give my heartfelt thanks," said Ritchie.

This has been a life-changing experience for Ritchie and Rino and they will now try to help other children with their charity, Powerhearts, Ritchie said.

"We will be ambassadors and, with our first-hand experience, will be able to bring hope to other sufferers. My business partner Martin Goetz and I have heard of a boy with Muscular Dystrophy whose father cannot afford the 15,000 euros for treatment.

"There is also a girl in Isarn, who needs the same treatment as Rino. We will continue to help saving lives," he said.

More information about Rino can be found at rinosheart.com.

In brief...

Tsunami drill Dec 24

A FULL tsunami evacuation drill will be held on December 24, provincial officials have announced.

The full drill will be the culmination of three days of practice starting on December 22.

Drills will take place at Saphan Hin and Phuket International Airport, where officials will practice the evacuation of casualties.

Officials will receive theoretical training on how to give assistance during the weeks leading up to the drills.

On December 22 and 23 they will receive practical training at Phuket Disaster Prevention and Mitigation College.

Phuket's last tsunami evacuation drill took place across the island on September 13.

Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation chief Wiboon Sanguanpong said he would call for the warning tower on Soi Bangla to be made louder so it could be heard better in windy conditions.

Visas to Japan now by post

ALL applications for general visas to Japan can now be submitted though the mail at the Thai Post Intake Center at the main post office in Phuket Town.

All courier charges covering the transport of documents will be borne by VFS Global, the outsource partner for visa processing that works under contract with the Embassy of Japan in Thailand.

Once a visa has been processed, an applicant will have the choice of collecting the passport at the Intake Center or having it delivered directly to their doorstep, VFS said in a press release.



Burmese man slain in Patong

A BURMESE worker named by police as Samran Suparb, 38, was shot dead by an ethnic Mon last Saturday, report police.

The assassin asked workers at a camp on Soi Khaun Yang, off Patong hill road, about Mr Samran's whereabouts at about 10am, said police.

As soon as he found Mr

Samran in his small room, the suspect promptly shot him in his right eye, killing him.

Police found a handgun and bullet at the scene.

Mr Samran had moved into the room about a week earlier.

Police did not name the suspect, describing him only as a "Mon man".

Police close file on mystery murder-suicide

POLICE have closed the case file on the bizarre murder-suicide that shocked Phuket Town earlier this month.

Diners at Khrua Pailin Restaurant were stunned when restaurateur Budit Anurakbudit stood up from a table of friends, walked across the restaurant to his sister-in-law Wassana Jarit and shot her point-blank in the head before turning the gun on himself.

Despite questioning many people, police have been unable to determine what caused the bizarre course of events that evening.

Alcohol was not a factor as Mr

Budit wasn't drinking that night, Duty Police Officer Sian Kaewthong told the *Gazette*.

Before the shooting Mr Budit got up from the table several times and went over to speak briefly to his cashier Ms Wassana, witnesses told police.

"Only the two of them [Budit and Wassana] knew what was going on... nobody else at the scene knew what they talked about," Lt Col Sian said.

Having reached a dead end,

police decided to end the investigation and close the case, he said.

Budit's wife, who asked to be identified only as "Pueng", told police that she knew of no serious problems her husband might have been facing.

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In bed with my lizard

QUEER news

DO HUGE monitor lizards make strange bedfellows? One family in Ratchaburi doesn't seem to think so.

Bunchoo Rotchum, 75, his wife Somya, 65, and their two-year-old granddaughter Donlaya are sharing their bed with a 2.5-meter water monitor, causing a sensation in their village in tambon Pikunthong.

The creature, which the family named "Jaothong", wandered into their home on November 17 and never left.

They found Jaothong curled up in their wardrobe.

Mr Bunchoo said he'd heard that it was good luck if a monitor lizard walked into a house, so rather than chase Jaothong out, the family lit candles to welcome it.

Jaothong crawled out of the wardrobe and onto the family's bed. Since then he has spent every night inside the mosquito net



GOOD IN BED: Mr Bunchoo said the lizard is not a threat. Photo: The Nation

with his three lizard loving friends.

Mr Bunchoo insists Jaothong is perfectly safe. The lizard eats with the family and enjoys all the same food as his human companions.

Mr Bunchoo said he thought Jaothong might have had a connection with the family in a past life.

They live in a wooden shack next to a canal inhabited by many monitor lizards.

One of the creatures once walked into house number 59 on the same street. The family reportedly bought lottery tickets with "59" as the final two digits – and won.

Villagers are said to be waiting for the next draw so they can buy tickets with the digits "127" in them – the number of the Rotchum family home.

– Kom Chad Luek

DEA to launch own drug lord souvenirs

OFFICERS from the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) met with their Thai counterparts in Phuket this week to discuss when and where they will hand out souvenir items bearing images of some of the "most wanted" drug traffickers in Asia.

Attending the meeting at Tourist Police headquarters in Phuket Town were DEA Group supervisor David McConell and special agents Scott Seeley-Hacker and Mark Grey, all from the DEA office in Bangkok.

The officers presented items including T-shirts, pens, beverage coasters, matchboxes and even "beer condoms", all featuring photos and names of some of the DEA's most wanted criminals in the region.

At the top of the list is Wei Hsueh-kang, an ethnic Chinese drug trafficker and high-ranking official of the United Wa State Army (UWSA), the leading heroin and ya bah (methamphetamine) trafficking organization in Southeast Asia.

He has also been known to use Thai aliases Charnchai Chiwininitpanya and Prasit Chiwininitpanya.

The DEA is offering up to US\$2 million for information leading to Wei's capture and successful



prosecution. Information is available at dea-rewards.com

Also at the presentation were Drug Suppression Division officers from across Phuket, including Royal Thai Police Narcotics Suppression Bureau officers Sutthirat Tojumba and Narkpong Potha, who head up the provincial drug suppression unit.

The DEA officers explained that the giveaway is aimed at raising awareness of the cash rewards on offer and encouraging people to contact authorities if they think they have spotted any of the suspects here in Phuket.

The items will be handed out at four popular locales over a five-day period yet to be announced.

Soi Bangla has been named as one of the areas.

The other three have yet to be decided on. – Atchaa Kamlo

When a nose knows

POLICE last week arrested three young suspects passing through the Tah Chat Chai road checkpoint with more than 3,500 ya bah (methamphetamine) pills and almost 200 grams of the drug in crystallized form.

Tah Chat Chai Police identified the threesome as Badin Thongthai, 24, Pornpaween Taopetr, 19, and Pathompong Homnang, 19.

Their arrest followed some good police work by an officer at the checkpoint, who noticed the smell of ya bah emanating from inside the vehicle during a routine inspection.

Mr Badin told police he picked up the shipment from two young women in Krabi.

He was on his way to deliver the drugs to a buyer in Ban Kho En in Mai Khao, just five kilome-

ters south of the checkpoint, when stopped by police.

Mr Badin, who admitted to charges of drug possession with intent to supply, told police Ms Pornpaween and Mr Pathompong agreed to accompany him in return for payment.

Ms Pornpaween and Mr Pathompong denied this, said they were just along for the ride.

Both are students at well-known universities on the island.

Mr Badin was less forthcoming when it came to supplying information that might allow police to track down the kingpin.

He did not know who would collect the drugs in Ban Kho En, the name of the person who hired him or even how much he stood to get paid had he completed the mission, he claimed.

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POLICE are investigating a report by a Dutch national who says he was abducted and threatened at gunpoint in an extortion attempt allegedly masterminded by a local tour operator.

On November 15, Krabi Provincial Police Commander Wittayadech Woradilok announced the arrest of 34-year-old Jureeporn Songkong, owner of Krabi-based travel company Guitar Tours, on suspicion of her connection in the alleged kidnapping of Dutch national Willem Foppen, 47.

Mr Foppen said two armed men in masks forcibly blindfolded and handcuffed him as he was returning to Ms Jureeporn's car after the two had dinner together at a local restaurant.

After being ordered into the car, he was forced to hand over his credit cards and mobile phone. Ms Jureeporn was instructed to drive the car and follow the gunman's directions, Mr Foppen said.

In his statement to the police, Mr Foppen alleged that after about one hour's drive he was put on the floor of an unknown house, where he remained blindfolded and handcuffed.

In numerous intervals, Ms Jureeporn exited the building with the men while he was left with another man guarding him, he stated.

Tour operator charged over abduction, extortion



"At first they asked for 200,000 baht. When I told them I didn't have access to that amount of money they demanded my PIN numbers," Mr Foppen told the Gazette.

"They threatened to shoot me if I did not come up with the money," he said.

"I feared they would shoot me regardless of the money, so I began to prepare myself. In my mind I said goodbye to my wife, family and friends," he added.

Mr Foppen alleged that he was held at the house for 24 hours before the men finally sped off, leaving him and Ms Jureeporn free to go.

"Before leaving they warned me not to file a complaint... if I did, my house would be bombed, or worse," he said.

After their release, Ms Jureeporn also instructed him not to contact the police as the "gangsters" would kill him, Mr Foppen said.

Mr Foppen initially believed Ms Jureeporn was also a victim.

When he contacted his bank to cancel his cards, however, he was told that a total of 270,000 baht in had been withdrawn from various accounts. Most of the funds had been transferred to a bank account in Ms Jureeporn's name, he said.

Immediately suspecting Ms Jureeporn's involvement, Mr Foppen contacted police.

After taking his statement, police visited the bank to review transactions records and CCTV footage. That was when police deduced that the house Mr Foppen was held in must have been in

neighboring Trang province.

After finding sufficient evidence against Ms Jureeporn, they filed for an arrest warrant that was immediately issued by the court.

Ms Jureeporn was arrested shortly after. Her SUV vehicle confiscated and bank accounts frozen.

Police took his case very seriously and began to hunt for the other men involved, Mr Foppen said.

Mr Foppen, who was present when police questioned Ms Jureeporn, said she at first denied the allegations and insisted she had also been kidnapped.

But she then asked him that if he would drop the charges if she returned the money.

After Mr Foppen declined the

offer, she resumed claiming she had also been a victim.

'At first they asked for 200,000 baht... They threatened to shoot me if I did not come up with the money'

Ms Jureeporn was held for a short time before her release on bail.

At present, police are questioning another suspect.

"When we dated she seemed like a secure woman, with her own business. She never asked for money. I am extremely shocked that someone I know is capable of such a hard criminal

act," said Mr Foppen, who had a brief relationship with the accused.

"I am mentally traumatized, as well as feeling severe insecurity and tension. I have no idea where this case will go from here... I am waiting to see how the Thai courts will handle such a case," he said.

— Phuket Gazette

'Tis the season

THE annual Krabi Andaman Festival, this year held November 13-15, was once again a lively affair. The atmosphere was alight and locals' spirits were high as they celebrated the coming of a new, and hopefully prosperous, tourist season.

The first day's activities involved net casting, shrimp catching and shell collecting off the coast of Koh Klang. Back on dry land a clean-up left Krabi's key attractions, including Ao Nang Beach, the Emerald Pool and Klong Muang Beach, rubbish-free.

Sunday's events aimed to rehabilitate the area's natural resources and promote eco-tourism. Kayak-bound volunteers planted new mangroves around Ao Thalane and its network of canals, while other participants planted a miniature forest of saplings at Nong Talay.

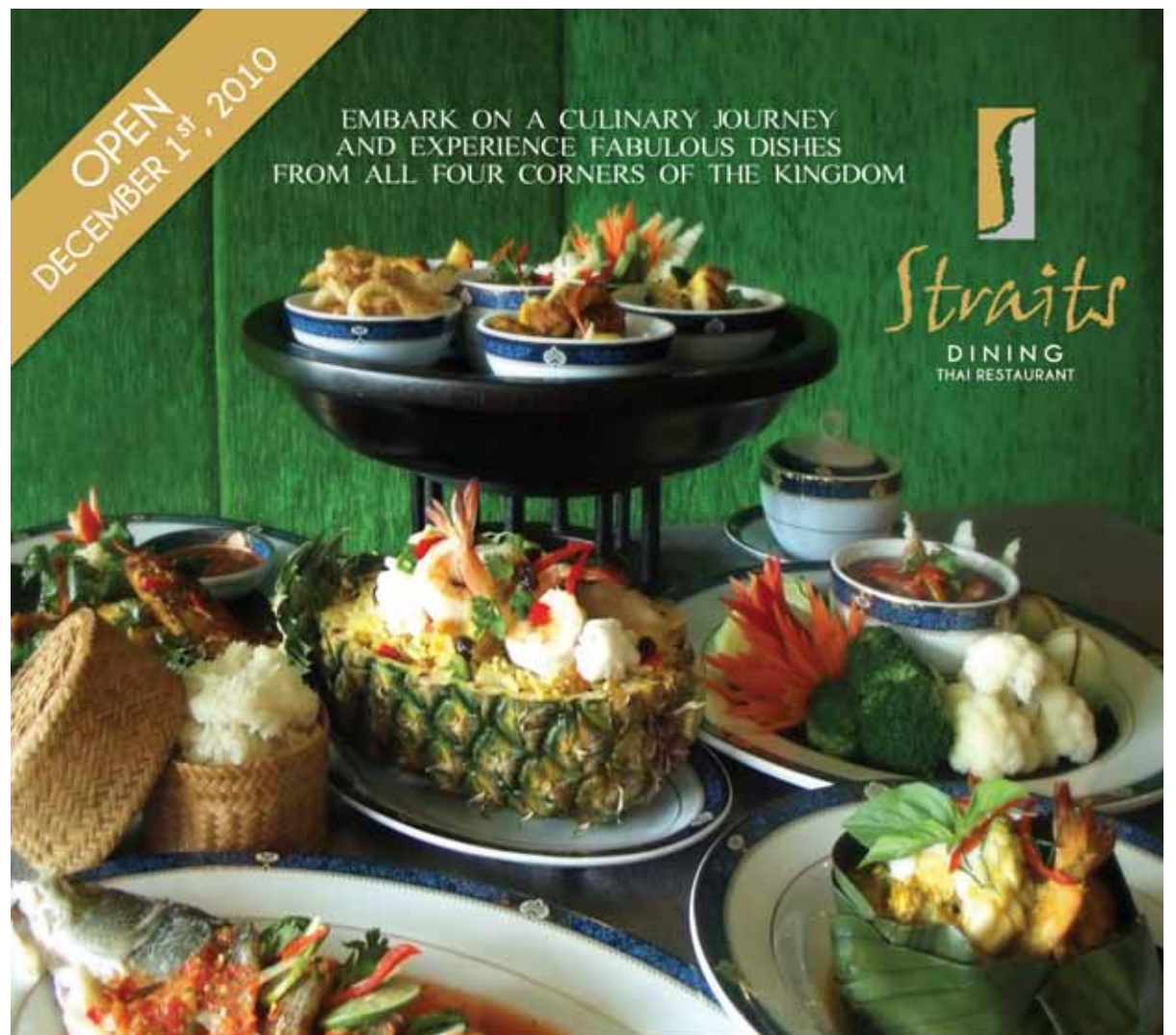
Monday was set aside for spiritual offerings and worship. A row



319 longtails were blessed during the festival. Photo: TAT

of 319 longtail boats rested on the shore of Ao Nang Beach, while their tails were adorned with a rainbow of ribbons. This is the ritual to worship the Guardian Goddess of Boats, who is believed to keep the area's fisherman safe while at sea.

To round it all off, food stalls representing the area's best restaurants lined up along Nopparat Thara Beach selling an array of local delicacies to enjoy while watching the fantastic cultural show. — Lesley Chittayanon



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Consuls target tuk-tuk, taxi fares

By Pimwara Choksakulpan
and Andrew Jennings

THE Phuket Governor joined top-level local officials at a meeting with the honorary consuls from 15 countries on Monday to discuss a wide range of tourist concerns.

Hanns Schumacher, German Ambassador to Thailand, attended the meeting. Top of the agenda was the planned resolution to Phuket's tuk-tuk and taxi problems, which for years have been the bane of tourists.

A lack of standard fares has left payment a matter of negotiation between passenger and driver.

Speaking through an interpreter, Gov Tri Augkaradacha made clear that the tuk-tuk and taxi fare dilemma has been his number one priority since taking over as governor

two months ago. He said there had been "much progress" and added he expects to find a solution before the next honorary consuls meeting in February.

Phuket Land Transport Office Director Kanok Siripanchkorn said planning is underway to introduce standard tuk-tuk and taxi fares in Patong, although he was unable to confirm an exact date for when they will begin.

Mr Kanok added that the governor had already met with the Patong Taxi Coopera-



Hanns Schumacher

tive to discuss the roll out of standard fares.

Australian honorary consul Larry Cunningham voiced concerns in relation to the aggressive behavior of some tuk-tuk drivers toward tourists, including threatening passengers with guns.

"The problems regarding foreigners and taxis... we keep hearing it will improve, but it hasn't," he said. "Every person who has a good holiday on Phuket tells five or six people that they had a great time. Every person who has a bad experience tells at least 100 people," he added.

In response, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Pekad Tantipong said there had been very few cases of threatening behavior by drivers, considering that six million tourists visit every year and there are about 3,000 tuk-tuks and taxis in Phuket.

"Most tourists threatened were drunk passengers refusing to pay fare agreed," said Maj Gen Pekad.

He acknowledged that some tuk-tuk and taxi drivers do carry guns, but only to protect themselves.

Four consuls reported separate cases where tourists had their passport confiscated by police, allegedly with no just cause.

Mr Cunningham recounted a recent case where an Australian was in an traffic accident in Patong. The man agreed to pay 250,000 baht in damages, but was then asked for 100,000 baht to get his passport back from police.

When Mr Cunningham went to Kathu Police Station, police said it was "a misunderstanding" and the tourist did not have to pay.

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English language tests for UK spousal visas

THAI spouses applying for visas to join or marry British partners in the UK now have to pass an English language test that is unavailable in Phuket.

"From November 29, any non-European migrant who wants to enter or remain in the UK as the partner of a British citizen or a person settled in the UK will need to show that they can speak and understand English, by taking an approved English language test," according to an official British Embassy announcement.

"The new rules will apply to anyone applying as the husband, wife, civil partner, unmarried partner, same-sex partner, fiancé(e) or prospective civil partner of a UK citizen or a person settled in this country," it read.

The tests will be mandatory for people applying from within the UK as well as visa applicants from overseas, it added.

"This new requirement was announced in June this year and as we get close to the implementation date we'd like to remind those planning on applying for a marriage visa to the UK that from November 29 they will be required to pass a compulsory English Language Test," said Ed Mackie, UK Border Agency Regional Manager, East Asia.

Applicants will be required to provide evidence with their application that they have passed an acceptable English test with one of the UK Border Agency's approved test providers.

Details of approved English-language test providers testing at "A1 level" in Thailand can be found at: www.vfs-uk-th.com

The test centers are in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Pattaya and Khon Kaen.

There are none in southern Thailand.

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Brit PM says: Phuket, I'm not coming



Brit PM David Cameron. Photo: AFP

BRITISH Prime Minister David Cameron has canceled his family's Christmas vacation in Phuket following claims the lavish trip would damage his public image.

Mr Cameron faced criticism from human rights' groups that the holiday would be seen as an endorsement of Thai government policies.

Critics cited the country's political prisoners, extent of censorship and lack of accountability for the deaths of some 90 people during this year's red-shirt protests.

But the decisive factor appears to be the cost. Although Mr Cameron was to pay for the holiday, security would be paid for the British taxpayer – to the tune of £50,000 (roughly 2.5 million baht).

The UK premier was expected to stay at one of Phuket's most exclusive resorts at a cost of around 50,000 baht per night.

Scores mourn fetus find

THAILAND's abortion laws have come under the spotlight following the discovery of more than 2,000 human fetuses at a temple morgue in Bangkok.

Two undertakers, Suchart Phoom and Suthep Chabangbon, have been arrested and charged with concealing the bodies, which are believed to have come from around 20 illegal abortion clinics.

Police also arrested 33-year-old former nurse Lanchakorn Janthamanas for allegedly running an abortion clinic.

The temple at the center of the gruesome scandal, Wat Phai Ngern, will hold a grand merit-making ceremony and demolish the morgue on November 27.

Abortions are illegal under Thai law except where the woman has been raped, the baby is abnormal or the pregnancy poses a serious risk to the mother's health.

The clinics allegedly paid the men 200 baht for every fetus they received. They were supposed to secretly burn the bodies in the temple furnace during normal cremations.

When the furnace broke, the pair started storing the fetuses in plastic bags in a temporary body storage area. After the space became full, the men began burying the bodies in a pit on temple grounds.

But an overwhelming stench caused local people to complain, alerting the police to the men's activities.

Officers went to the temple November 16 and found a total of



A woman adds to the offerings and flowers laid before three morgues at Wat Phai Ngern, where more than 2,000 dead fetuses were found to mourn the unborn. Photo: The Nation

AROUND THE nation

348 fetuses, and arrested Mr Suchart and Mr Suthep.

In the following days more bodies were discovered. At the time of writing, the total had reached 2,002.

The two morticians have been

released on 100,000 baht bail. They said they wanted to ordain as monks to repent for their actions.

Nevertheless, they told *The Nation* that condemnation should be directed at the mothers and the people who performed the abortions – not them.

The discovery led police to broaden the investigation, launching raids on clinics suspected of performing abortions.

On November 17 police arrested Ms Lanchakorn. She reportedly told investigators she

had been paid 500 baht to deliver the fetuses to the temple morgue.

The morgue where the bodies were found will now reportedly be torn down and replaced with a meditation center.

The fetuses are to be cremated after autopsies are performed.

As part of the Public Health Ministry's extended inquiry into the discovery of the fetuses, abortion pills of an estimated value of more than 30 million baht were seized from a Bangkok shophouse on Tuesday.

Thailand invokes Mrs Bout's fire

THE wife of alleged international arms dealer Viktor Bout claims the Thai government illegally extradited her husband to the United States.

Alla Bout said she would sue the Thai authorities, including Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, for authorizing the extradition.

Last week Mr Bout, 43, pleaded not guilty in a New York courtroom to four terror charges, including conspiring to kill Americans.

The Russian former air force officer is suspected

of being one of the world's largest private arms dealers. He was arrested in Bangkok in 2008 after allegedly offering to sell weapons to US agents posing as members of the leftist rebel Farc group of Colombia.

At a press conference at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand (FCCT), Mrs Bout said she hoped to convince the Thai government to bring her husband back to Thailand and release him, CNN reported.

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by Benz Chaengwattana

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A festering issue

News in the media about the discovery of 2,000+ dead fetuses found dumped and decomposing in a temple in Bangkok are shocking.

And the terrible thing is that I am sure it is just a small part of something much, much bigger.

This discovery does, however, clearly highlight the huge gap that exists in Thailand between government policy and the people it is applied to.

Despite the danger – both in terms of health and breaking the law – Thais are making the decision to abort their unborn babies, which is, regardless of legality, not an easy decision to make.

The find of these fetuses presents an opportunity for the government to straighten out their priorities.

It makes it clear that abortion is something that is going to happen – with or without laws forbidding it.

This presents the government with the opportunity to decide that providing these undoubtedly fragile women with a safe environment and emotional support is far more responsible than allowing thousands of corpses to fester in plastic bags in a dark rooms, which I am sure exist all over the country.

Respect for the deceased and health and safety concerns are surely more important than condemning women who terminate their pregnancies.

*Perturbed,
Chalong*

Learning the language a must

Re: Gazette online, UK language testing for spousal immigrants starts Monday, November 23

Drug detection ability a doggone shame

A POLICE officer this week was able to sniff out thousands of poorly-concealed ya bah (methamphetamine) pills being smuggled onto the island in a car at the Tah Chat Chai Police Checkpoint (see page 4).

This raises the question of why detection dogs are not on permanent duty there.

As an island, Phuket enjoys a natural security advantage: all vehicles must cross a bridge to get on or off the island, creating a choke point where criminals can be prevented from entering or leaving by road.

Unfortunately, not enough has been done at the island's northern tip over the years to maximize this advantage. As a result, the island is awash with ya bah and other illegal narcotics, as well as handguns and other contraband.

Although a considerable amount is intercepted at the checkpoint, it is just the tip of a very large iceberg.

If a human can sniff out 3,550 ya bah pills, how many could a well-trained drug-detection dog keep off the streets? The olfactory superiority of the canine over man is well documented.

Not only can dogs be trained to sniff out even trace amounts of narcotics, they have also been trained to detect everything from explosives to bedbugs – another useful skill on an island with over 50,000 hotel rooms.

Training a dog to sniff out drugs and other

Phuket Gazette

substances is simple in theory, but not in practice.

For a start, less than 20% of dogs have the genetic predisposition for the work, which explains why the South Korean government once funded their program Toppy (from "Tomorrow's Puppy") to supply cloned Golden Retrievers with exceptional abilities for its Customs Service.

Training difficulties are well-known to Muang District Chief Supachai Pochanukul, whose two pups were sent to Phuket International Dog School, but turned out to be not up to snuff. Fortunately two more dogs are now in training, hopefully to be deployed by the New Year.

As a resort island, Phuket doesn't need scores of German Shepherds patrolling the streets like scenes from WWII Europe. There are also several other valid criticisms of their effectiveness in large crowd settings.

But given that the island has squandered millions on the now-discredited Alpha 6 "molecular resonance" detectors, isn't it time to get detection dogs back at the island's most important police checkpoint?

After all, they are happy to work for dog food and water – and there are a lot of them out of work on the island's streets these days.

Thanks for the reminder that the UK Border Patrol Agency will be requiring people applying for spousal visas to pass an English-language test.

I couldn't believe when even some of my friends complained that only Thais are required to do this. They're not. Anyone outside the EU looking for a visa that effectively indicates they are

relocating to the UK must pass the test.

That said, I still do not agree with the new policy. I wouldn't make people pass a test before issuing them a visa.

But I would make attendance or at least completion of English-language studies once they are in the UK mandatory. There is a huge difference.

And I would make the same apply here. Foreigners married to Thais and living in Thailand must learn Thai – myself included. My Thai-language ability is bare-pass conversational at best, but it is much better than many foreigners who have lived here for decades.

*Tongue Thai'd
Phuket*

No need for aerophobia

Re: Phuket Gazette, Airplane accidents start taking off, November 20

In response to the aviation article on airplane accidents increasing every year, I would like to ask why that writer felt it necessary to instill the fear of flying in us?

Most people setting foot on an airplane have already pondered the possibly fatal decision of doing so and have accepted that if this is there time to go, then so be it.

Would it not make more sense to try and reassure people that while there are accidents and incidents, the aviation industry has improved and people can surely feel a lot safer flying on a plane than in, say, 1922?

With huge increases in the numbers of people and planes taking to the sky, there surely are "more" problems occurring, but there has hardly been an increase in accident rates. Let's be real about this and avoid fear mongering.

*Shaken, not stirred
Phuket*

Manila magic

Huge news overlooked this week is Pope Benedict XVI's comments on condom use.

I'm not worried about the West, where much of the international news has been focused, but in the Philippines it means a world of difference to millions people.

Finally we have a modicum of common sense being handed down to the common people.

*Tom
Box 23, Cyberspace*

Phuket Gazette

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Issues & Answers...

Where to report animal cruelty?

Hi, I would like to know if there is an organization where to report cruelty to animals?

*Adjhan
Phuket*

Sawan Sangbunlung, secretary-general of the Thai Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals replies:

If you see people being cruel to animals, you can report it to the local police by calling 191 or report it to the Tourist Police by calling their hotline at 1155.

The criminal code clearly states in articles 381 and 382 that: In article 381, "Those who commit cruelty to animals shall be sentenced to one month in prison or a fine of 1,000 baht or both."

In article 382, "Those who force an animal to work beyond its capacity or cause injury to an animal shall be sentenced to one month in prison or a fine of 1,000 baht or both."

Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.
Submit your issue at
www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

John Dalley, vice-president of the Soi Dog Foundation in Phuket, replies:

I suggest you call the police in this matter, as our foundation has no right to handle such cases. Our charity helps Phuket's stray dogs and cats by treating those that would otherwise be left suffering and feeding those that would otherwise go hungry.

We have also sterilized over 18,000 cats and dogs in Phuket and nearby areas.

We are now operating a brand new Soi Dog Foundation shelter in Mai Khao, situated just north of the Phuket Airport on Soi 10, near the Mai Khao Health Station.

Pol Maj Gen Pekad Tantipong, Phuket Provincial Police Commander, replies:

Please call 191 or 1155 and police will be dispatched to the scene. We mostly fine the offender(s).

Where's the soda?

I see many sugar-free products being sold in Thailand these days, but my wife has a hard time getting Pepsi Max at times.

Why do we have to be a "one-flavor-diet-soda" kinda town?

Couldn't we get Sprite Zero back on the shelves? Where'd it go anyways? How about some other diet soda selections?

Diabetes is on the rise here, and not just in the expat community. So please Pepsi and Coca-Cola, can you broaden the selection?

*Large William
Patong*

Kittichet Plotthong, Phuket Branch Manager of Haadthip Co Ltd, replies:

Unravelling the lethal Legionnaire's Disease

FIRST PERSON

As a representative of Thailand in the European Legionnaires' Disease Surveillance Network (ELDSNet), it is my responsibility to report any deaths of Europeans caused by the disease.

There have been 22 reported infections of Legionnaire's Disease (Legionellosis), of which Phuket Province had the most.

ELDSNet will inform all EU governments of Legionnaire's cases, which will then caution citizens to avoid staying in accommodation establishments that have been reported.

Most foreigners who contract the disease in Thailand may experience no immediate symptoms.

The incubation period is long – about 10 days – and symptoms can be as mild as a cough.

But when the foreigner returns home, the condition can become more serious and that is when the European hospital will send a report to the EU.

Thai people are not quite as interested in checking for Legionnaire's as it takes time and is expensive. Often doctors will give them the drugs for treating both pneumonia and Legionnaire's, without checking to see if the disease is present.

Also, Thais and long-term expats build up an immunity to the disease, and therefore it goes either unnoticed or untreated due to the mild symptoms.

Cases that are reported are



Dr Rome Buathong works for the Bureau of Epidemiology, Department of Communicable Disease Control, at the Thai Ministry of Health. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in International Health at the Royal Tropical Institute in Amsterdam.

Here, he explains the complications of tracking Legionnaire's disease and the need for regulations to stop its spread.

thanks to information provided by Phuket hospitals.

In one instance, blood tests from 123 Thai hotel staff showed 78 had the disease, but only three had showed symptoms of a fever that didn't require treatment, while 75 were immune.

The Legionella bacteria, which causes the disease, originates from natural water sources such as brooks, wells and tin mining ponds.

We are trying to control the disease without adversely affecting the hotels and the heart of Phuket's industry: tourism. But we have to accept that the disease could be found everywhere. Thankfully, the disease does not transfer between humans, just from the environment.

It is easy to cooperate with the international hotel chains, but it can be difficult with local hotel owners as sometimes they don't understand what needs to be done.

If the pipes are not cleaned regularly, sediment will collect and

provide conditions for the disease to thrive. Hotel owners must be aware that they have to clean them at least once a year.

Pipes need to be treated with chlorine regularly for decontamination.

The Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO) can inspect hotels if any cases are reported. Otherwise, it is up to the Department of Health to conduct regular inspections.

For example, say two foreigners get a fever, the hospitals will inform PPHO officers to investigate and establish disease control, as we don't want the disease to spread.

There are no ministerial regulations forcing hotels to clean up, it is left up to the hotel.

Ideally, future regulations will see hotels inspected once or twice a year and forced to clean water sources and piping with chlorine to control the bacteria.

Non-compliance could mean that their hotel license would not be extended.

Dumbo, not mumbo jumbo

Island View

By Nicky Vermeulen

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



Elephant painting at the Thai Elephant Conservation Center, Lampang. Photo: Randy Everette

AMONG the many reasons people visit Thailand is the chance of close interaction with Asian elephants, including once-in-a-lifetime opportunities of jungle trekking on an elephant's back.

Elephants are also seen along roadsides, in front of restaurants and on the beach drawing crowds.

They are used in jaw-dropping extravaganza shows, dressed up in costume, painted and trained to do impressive tricks and poses.

Elephants have also been used in the past in most of Asia for heavy labor and warfare, trained and led by humans for the sole purpose of charging and trampling enemy lines.

They are obedient and intelligent beyond comprehension.

Unfortunately, what many people don't realize – or choose to ignore – is that with such training to break enemy ranks and strike picture-perfect poses comes the reality of breaking the elephant's spirit into submission.

The reality of some elephants' lives and the way they are kept is nothing short of brutal abuse and a tremendous violation of animal rights that very few outsiders are witness to.

A centuries-old belief in most of the Far East is that it is pretty much impossible to control an animal that can eventually weigh up to eight tonnes without them fearing their keepers.

In order to get the largest animal on land to fear their keepers, a method known as the "crushing" ritual is used.

The ritual involves separating baby elephants from their moth-

ers and tying them up and putting them into a small cage for three to six days.

During the spirit "crushing", the elephants are beaten, stabbed through their ears and feet, deprived of sleep, food and water until they submit.

Other witness reports account elephants being beaten violently and repetitively with a hammer on their head in the same spot as previous abuse injuries.

This is not the only way.

Training measures at the Elephant Nature Park in Chiang Mai, for instance, have proved that elephants respond well to positive reinforcement and perhaps that applying the "take it easy like Thais do" approach is a method worth applying to Thailand's animals as well.

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

We distribute two different sugar-free Coca-Cola products: Coke Zero and Coke Light. We had some problems with distribution this month because our factory in Songkhla was closed from November 1 to 10 due to flooding.

We couldn't transport our product, so we used this opportunity to help others in the flooded areas of the South by giving them water for survival.

Arug Bua Bung Bai, supervisor at Serm Suk Co Ltd, replies:

The only sugar free product we produce for Thailand is Pepsi Max. We supply the product when ordered and have not received any orders from Patong recently.

What's it cost to park a motorbike?

I often shop at Robinson shopping center in Phuket Town and park my motorbike opposite the main entrance, alongside many other parked vehicles. I usually pay one or two baht to park there.

One day I finally found a place outside the entrance to KFC, which is in the same building.

I was shopping for less than an hour. When I came out, a parking attendant demanded that I pay five baht for parking.

I pointed out the signs at the entrance say the fee is one baht for the first hour and two baht thereafter. He said it wasn't the same.

If it is different prices to park on different sides of Robinson, I suggest a sign to inform visitors.

Holy Phuket

Sompis Boonpun, head of Real Property Procurement, Phuket City Municipality, replies:

Phuket City Municipality is responsible for collecting parking fees along Dilok Uthit 1 Road and Thavorn Wong Wong Road, which include the area mentioned. The fees are posted and anyone paying the fee will get a municipality receipt, every time they pay.

If anyone has experienced impolite treatment from our officers regarding motorcycle parking

fees, they can call us at 076-221300 or file a complaint via our website at www.phuketcity.go.th.

Bel exit strategy

The entrance/exit of Bel Air Panwa Phuket is dangerous. I nearly hit vehicles coming out of this place three times in two days. Please do something before it's too late.

Concerned Cape Panwa

Ornsiri Mhudlev, Bel Air Panwa Phuket Reservation Supervisor, replies:

I admit that the hotel's entrance and exit are on foothill that is quite dangerous. If drivers don't cautiously exit the hotel, drivers coming down the hill may crash into them.

To prevent accidents, we have a security guard looking after traffic 24 hours a day.

I would also like guests to check to the left before exiting to make sure a sad story doesn't unfold.

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Rising China is a sound investment

ANY investor on Phuket worth his or her salt has been keeping an eye on China, the behemoth of opportunity for nearly the past decade.

China joined G7, the Group of Seven industrialized countries, about 15 years ago. Around that time, the UK was the world's fourth-largest economy after the US, Japan and Germany.

About five to seven years later, China overtook the UK. Then it displaced Germany, the number three. This year China also overtook the second-placed Japan.

Last month, a research study predicted that China would become the world's biggest economy by 2030 at the latest. There is a real possibility based on current growth rates that it could happen even sooner.

On one hand, China's development has been faster than earlier thought. On the other, the decline of the US has been faster than expected, mainly due to its massive public debts which currently stand at 92% of the country's GDP.

Public debts of more than 60% of a country's GDP are not good as they slow down economic growth.

Island Investor

By Bill Anderson

Several European Union economies also have high public debts, some of up 90% or even 110% of GDP, as in Greece and other peripheral European countries.

The US made a major policy mistake back in 2002 when it should have had a recession, but Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve (the Fed) at the time, put more money into the economy instead. This made the US problem worse in the years that followed.

Another major mistake was in 2008 when the US did not allow GM, AIG and other big companies to go bust, which would have been a much better long-term solution to the economic crisis. Instead, it took the short-term solution by bailing out these big companies to avoid the ensuing social and political issues that would have occurred.

Politically, it might be hard to do the right thing, but economically it makes much more sense.

So far, the stimulus measures have not worked and the Fed is now implementing Quantitative Easing 2 (QE2) to inject even more money into the system, while the official unemployment rate remains at almost 10%.

The jobless figure would be much higher at 16.7% if all the unemployed and disenfranchised workers, not just those actively seeking work and available to work, were counted.

It seems the US has turned to Keynes' economic theory in the wake of the 2008 crisis, with massive government intervention. But its version was only one half Keynesian, because Keynesian economics also suggest that you keep a reserve for the bad days.

But there weren't any reserves in the US, like sovereign funds in some other countries. Conversely, there are massive public debts.

In a democracy there is short-term pressure to do the wrong things. For example, the Federal Reserve is part of the US political system and its chairman is installed by politicians.

On the other hand, China is a one-party system so it's easier for



ROCKETING VALUE: Investors should bank on China . Photo: Thewamphyri

them to manage the economy and take the tough decisions.

Ironically, China's stock market has underperformed compared to most other markets this year. Some concern lies with China's ability to manage such a booming economy and there have been some signs of caution as China has started to implement some liquidity tightening measures.

However, the China growth story remains intact. The recent volatility in the stock market is a reflection of its emerging market status and the increasing impor-

ance it has to a world economy struggling for growth.

From an investor's perspective it would seem wise to allocate a small portion of assets to the Chinese market. But, as it is extremely volatile in nature, only a small percentage would be appropriate.

The world economic order is changing rapidly. China will play an integral, and increasing, part in coming years.

Bill Anderson is the Phuket Associate Director of MBMG International.
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Big C mulls major takeover

By Anand Singh

CARREFOUR hypermarket in Jungceylon shopping center is tipped to remain unchanged, at least until the beginning of next year.

Big C was announced the winner of the bid to take over the France-based hypermarket operator earlier this month. Carrefour is the world's second biggest retailer, surpassed only by Wal-Mart. Speculation persists as to how Big C will rebrand the 42 Carrefour branches in Thailand.

"For now it is business as usual for us," says Atinya Pontip, secretary to the General Manager of Carrefour Jungceylon.

"We have not received any orders from our headquarters in Bangkok since the takeover agreement," she added.

According to Sophavadee Chantrathavorn, Managing Director of 124 Communications, who have been managing Big C's public relations, Big C has signed a purchase contract for the Carrefour branches, but it needs to be agreed on by the shareholders.

"Big C shareholders will vote on the purchase agreement in a meeting scheduled for January next year. If the majority of shareholders agree on the plan, the transactions will go ahead," Ms Sophavadee said.

"For the time being, Big C has no concrete plans for the 42 Carrefour branches that might be taken over," she added.



CONSUMER CHANGE: A lady steps out of a Carrefour branch in Bangkok. All 42 Thailand branches of the French hypermarket could soon be rebranded.

However an anonymous source at 124 Communications has said that it is likely that all 42 Carrefour branches might simply be rebranded as Big C hypermarkets or one of its newly created brands. However until the purchase is finalized one can only speculate how Big C will run its additional branches.

Prawit Janyasittikul, CEO of Jungceylon Patong, was optimistic for Carrefour Jungceylon to be rebranded as a Big C store and said it will be good for the shopping mall and consumers in the area.

"If Carrefour Jungceylon is rebranded as Big C, it will benefit Patong consumers because it is a large hypermarket brand with

strong leverage over its suppliers, which enables it to retail at low prices. The takeover of Carrefour stores nationwide will only further strengthen its position in the retail market," Mr Prawit said.

Carrefour has in the past, focused on premium products that target the middle and upper market segments, in contrast to Big C's low pricing model.

When asked whether the two brands are compatible, and if this change will affect consumer choices after the rebranding, Mr Prawit said Big C will have to study consumer profiles in areas that used to be supplied by Carrefour.

But regardless of its plans, Big C is unlikely to blunder by losing Carrefour's loyal customers.

Mr Prawit also denied rumors that a new Tesco Lotus hypermarket might be opening in Patong soon. In this case, if Big C does take over Carrefour Jungceylon, it will still be the only hypermarket store in Patong for the foreseeable future.

"Jungceylon Patong has been open for four years. We are quite well established so I am not worried about competition. Any addition to the market at this stage, even another Tesco Lotus, is welcome because it will benefit consumers and diversify Patong as a shopping avenue for tourists," Mr Prawit added.

Orient Thai to get 12 new aircraft

ORIENT Thai Airlines has signed a contract to purchase 12 new jets from the Russian aircraft maker Sukhoi Civil Aircraft Company (SCAC).

The airline is expecting delivery of its first two Sukhoi Superjet 100/95B aircraft by November next year and all 12 aircraft are to be delivered to Orient Thai by 2014.

The airline will use the new aircraft to service its domestic and short-haul routes.

Earlier this year *The Nation* reported that Orient Thai signed a letter of intent with SCAC, for the purchase of the 12 Sukhoi Superjets to replace its aging domestic fleet, consisting mostly of McDonnell Douglas MD-80s.

It is hoped the new aircraft can rejuvenate the airline's fleet and



Photo: Hyougushi/Flickr

improve the airline's image.

The Sukhoi Superjet 100 is a newly developed regional aircraft capable of seating up to 95 passengers.

The jet's design pays attention to fuel efficiency and can reduce fuel consumption by up to 10% compared to rival aircraft of the same size.

— Anand Singh

Indulge on Sunday: Pan-fried goose liver, fresh seafood (oyster, lobster, crabs and more), BBQ grilled to your liking, sushi and sashimi, live cooking stations, imported cheeses, Swiss specialties and bakery, and more. Round off your Gourmet Sunday with Mövenpick ice cream and a Mövenpick coffee (available only here). Unmistakably Swiss.

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Off-road in Madagascar

Travel Tips

Following their trip to Madagascar, the Phuket Mountain Bike Hash House Harriers had some travel tips they wished to share:

Malaria, including the deadly cerebral Malaria is rife on the island. Consult with your doctor on the latest health risks in the country before departure. **Flights** from Phuket to Antananarivo on Air Madagascar or Kenya Airways cost just over 50,000 baht return.

The **national languages** are Malagasy and French. English is not widely spoken.

Currency is the Arie, and daily living costs are minimal. The Hashers spent about 100,000 baht each over 14 days. This included their support vehicle and lodgings.

Tours can be arranged by Sobeba Expeditions W:sobeha.com

By Fraser Morton

THINK Madagascar and adventure travel may not be the first thing that springs to mind.

But for a group of Phuket mountain bikers, the world's fourth largest island was recently the stage for an epic adventure holiday – and the chance to sample the local beer.

Undeterred by travel warnings from the British Foreign Office, reports of an imminent coup, widespread malaria, and rising crime against tourists, the Phuket Mountain Bike Hash House Harriers embarked on their 14-day tour.

On Phuket, the "Hashers" meet once a month to ride mountain bike trails around the island and in Phang Nga. They ride hard, then they drink beer. Their Madagascar tour would follow the same structure, but with more beer.

The goal: To complete a grueling 870 kilometer cross-country cycle along mountain roads and isolated jungle trails from the capital Antananarivo to Maroanetra on the northeast coast. Then of course, they would drink more beer.

Led by Scottish tour organizer Colin Mackay, 50, the Hashers arrived at the capital's airport surprised to find the airstrip occupied by a group of loitering goats.

Among the Phuket Hashers, were local expat businessmen Allan Mossop, Harry Usher, Harold Schwarz, Jock Crombie, Heath Norris and Thalang Tambon Administration Organization officer Pajon Kaewmark.

Pajon, who has organized numerous mountain bike events on Phuket, also designed fetching technicolored lemur cycle shirts for the group.

Setting out from the capital at 1,200 meters above sea-level, the Hashers cycled over 380 kilometers along mountain passes to the east coast.

"It was tough going," Colin said. According to the group's GPS, they ascended over 7,200 meters, and descended 8,400 meters on the trip.

Despite fierce competition for agricultural land, Madagascar still has huge swaths of remote jungle, home to mammals and wildlife found nowhere else on Earth.



The Phuket Mountain Bike Hash House Harriers and a young local in Madagascar.

Colin said the Hashers were often separated on the road, and passed many gangs of men armed with machetes and axes. But fortunately they were woodcutters, not bandits. He said the men shouted "*salama vazaha*", meaning "welcome foreigner".

"Everyone was very friendly." Australian Harry Usher said wherever the Hashers went, they were met with smiles, cold beer, tomato salad and French bread.

Harry says for local fare, *zebu* (the local cattle) steaks and *soupe chinoise*, a thick noodle vegetable

soup are a must try.

The Hashers enlisted the aid of local guide Fredel Mamindra, who helped plan their route, arrange accommodation – far from five-star – and organize a support vehicle. He also helped keep the beer supplies topped up.

After the initial three-day slog over the mountains, the team arrived at the east coast town of Tamatave, for a day's rest and some time sampling "the very drinkable local Three Horse beer".

Setting off in the morning with a few sore heads, the Hashers cycled 500 kilometers north over six days, taking in the sights along Pirate Coast – a haven for Indian pirates in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Today, most locals call the region the "Vanilla Coast", due to the quantity of vanilla crops.

While the Hashers said most lodgings they stayed at were "modest", they had "quite edible food".

By the end of the trip the Hashers only had a few skinned knees and bruises from falls on the road, but no serious accidents or illnesses.

The Hashers arrived at their final destination, Maroanetra, on schedule where they celebrated with beers – of course – and some of the local vanilla rum.

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Chef Didi Maier: 'love should follow dessert'

On the Menu

By Bruce Stanley

DIDI Maier presented an exquisite seven course dinner last week to celebrate Mom Tri's Villa Royale being named Luxury Romantic Hotel by the World Luxury Hotel Awards.

Each course was paired with a wine chosen from the Villa Royale's new wine cellar which received the Award of Excellence from *Wine Spectator* magazine.

Chef Didi presented a menu of traditional Austrian cuisine which he added his own flavors and tastes. He offered boutique portion sizes in each of the seven courses as he believes that his guest must be ready for love after dessert.

"Food must be a little bit fun. I want people to think about the textures and tastes. While I believe that the basic menu



From left are Mete Izmen, Wilaiporn Pitimanaaree, Rungtip Hongjakpet, Sylvie Yaffe, Adisak Pitakrojananont and Wichien Juthamongkol.

should be traditional, I added some European, Thai and molecular influences."

Chef Didi was awarded the Newcomer Award honoring him as the best new chef in Austria in 2009. He works out of the family's Hubertus Hotel in

Filzmoos, Austria, where guests pay 1000 Euros for a day of gourmet cuisine and lodging in one of the hotel's 28 rooms.

"We have to maintain a very high standard as guests often arrive by helicopter from Salzburg 70 kilometers away. And we have celebrities such as Tom Cruise who has dined with us so we must present the best food and service possible," he said.

Didi brought 70 kilos of foods from Austria to prepare his dinner at Villa Royale including the signature confit of duckling breast and deer from the neighboring Filzmoos forest.

Invited guests included author William Warren and Dutch painters, Leo Musch and Dineke Derksen. Mr. Warren has written over 50 books explaining the architectural, design and landscape history of Thailand. He perhaps is best known for his book about



Dutch artists Leo Musch and Dineke Derksen with ML Tri Devakul and author William Warren. Photos: Dan Miles and Bruce Stanley



AUSTRIA'S BEST: Chef Didi Maier at Mom Tri's Villa Royale.

his friend, Jim Thompson, who revitalized the Thai silk industry. Leo Musch and Dineke Derksen have held many sessions teaching their popular techniques in painting. Most recently, they are working on commissions in China.

Chef Didi presents his cuisine three or four times a year abroad.

He spent three days preparing in the kitchens at Villa Royale for this event and judging from the applause at the end of the dessert of *ganache* of chocolate and *cassis* with blackberry ice cream, this 27-year-old chef has a bright future as one of Europe's leading culinary artists.

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ВНИМАНИЕ! ВНИМАНИЕ!

30 November 2010 at 6pm on the island of Phuket, on the site recently celebrated grand opening, the theater-restaurant «PALAZZO» will be an official presentation of the project «RUSSIAN CLUB»!

The project will present by tourist company «RUSSET» and real estate company «EAST-WEST», which promises that event will surprise its guests a holiday atmosphere and friendly atmosphere. At the event, guests can enjoy not only pleasant music in conjunction with the dishes of Russian cuisine, but also to talk informally with representatives of various businesses in Phuket.

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The Pirates are coming

Theater group gets in character for a musical misadventure and a journey back in time

By Alexander Maycock

WHO invented banana pancakes? Where did all these tailors come from? And what's the original source of Phuket's now ubiquitous lady-boys?

If these are the kind of questions that keep you up at night, then you should book yourself in for a history lesson with The Andaman Players (TAP) and their new musical comedy – The Pirates of Phuket.

Set in 1875, this rip-roaring musical misadventure promises some answers to the above questions and others, while taking oblique license with what little history we do know about the island at that time.

"The late 19th century was a momentous time for Phuket. It was being eyed up for take-over by several foreign powers, but – thanks to the fates and the indomitable spirit of the islanders – it managed to maintain its freedom," says writer, Simon J Hand.

"Of course, the history of the time is a bit sketchy and was written by the winners. I wanted to explore what happened to the losers."

So, The Pirates of Phuket finds a devious Eastern villain clashing with an avaricious western trader, while a sultry seductress attempts to pervert the course of history to her own ends. But all their plans are thrown to the fates when an armada of cut-throat pirates invades the island.



STAGE READY: The Andaman Players get in character at a rehearsal last week. Photos: Dan Miles

TAP stalwarts Marc Mulloy, Baz Daniel and Denise Bertrand take the leads as the feckless and finagling foreigners, but the true heroes are to be found among the

new generation of Players – particularly Rianne Davies, Paul Mulloy and Sascha Hendriks.

"These kids really bring the show to life. It's great to know that there is so much young talent on Phuket now," Mr Hand says.

"They can act, sing, play musical instruments. It creates a whole new dynamic for this show and for anything we do in the future."

The players have a reputation for putting on madcap comedies over Christmas, but previously they have adapted western pantos to fit the local audience – such as last year's smash hit, Sinbad the Sea-Gypsy.

This is the first time they have created an entirely new comedic caper specifically about Phuket. This is also the first time that the Players have taken their Christmas comedy on the road.

"The Boxing Day Panto at the Green Man is something of a tradition, and we'll be there on December 26 as usual," says Mr Hand.

"But we decided early on that 'Pirates' was just too much fun for one venue and it seemed a



shame not to let the tourists in on the laughs."

The Pirates of Phuket opens at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort on December 18, with other venues to be confirmed soon. Madcap comedy, silly songs, outrageous characters and an askew view of Phuket's history will leave the kids rolling in the aisles, and give the grown-ups plenty of hearty belly laughs.

For more information visit [W: andamanplayers.com](http://W:andamanplayers.com) or The Andaman Players on Facebook.



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Dirk Naumann

DIRK Naumann is the Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany on Phuket. He spent nearly 40 years in the pharmaceutical industry before retiring to the island.

He was born in Hamburg during World War II. His earliest memories are of the intense bombing raids by the British pilots at war's end. His mother, who had a Doctorate in Philology and was fluent in seven languages, was determined that her two sons would study English.

The young Dirk was sent to England to do that in the mid-1950s. One of his host fathers took him on a visit to a pharmaceutical company which led to his eventually being accepted into a three year apprenticeship program.

His first posting was to Manchester with Ciba Geigy as a management trainee. He soon discovered that his supervisor had been the pilot during the war that had bombed his home in Hamburg. He excelled in his work and in August 1966 was sent to Bangkok to develop the pharmaceutical business.

"I recall Bangkok in the 1960s as a true 'Venice of the East'. It seemed like heaven. I still recall the beautiful flame tree blossoms over the canals."

Dirk became Managing Director of one of the largest German pharmaceutical firms, Boehringer Ingelheim, in 1969 before he was

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

30. He and his wife had a daughter while in Bangkok and adopted two Chinese Thai twin girls who had been abandoned at the hospital.

He spent the 1970s working as a regional manager in Europe before moving to a Swiss pharmaceutical firm in the Philippines.

"I wanted the freedom and independence of fulfilling my own dreams. In Manila I had 500 staff reporting to me."

Dirk established a school in Manila for German speaking teachers and students but later decided to return to work in Thailand.

"I always enjoyed working with the Thai people as they have a natural sense of confidence about themselves and their culture. Also, the country became more open with more political freedoms."

He returned to Bangkok in 1982 to manage a staff of 200. By the time he retired in 2000, his business had grown from annual sales of 200 million baht to 12 billion, and the staff to more than 1,000.

But earning money was not the only joy in Dirk's life. In 1996, he

became interested in antique and historical maps of Asia. In 1997, he opened Old Maps & Prints Co Ltd at the River City complex in Bangkok. The business is now the largest such dealership in Asia.

He also enjoyed collecting Thai and Burmese antiquities, and in 2000 opened Gallerie @444, also in Bangkok.

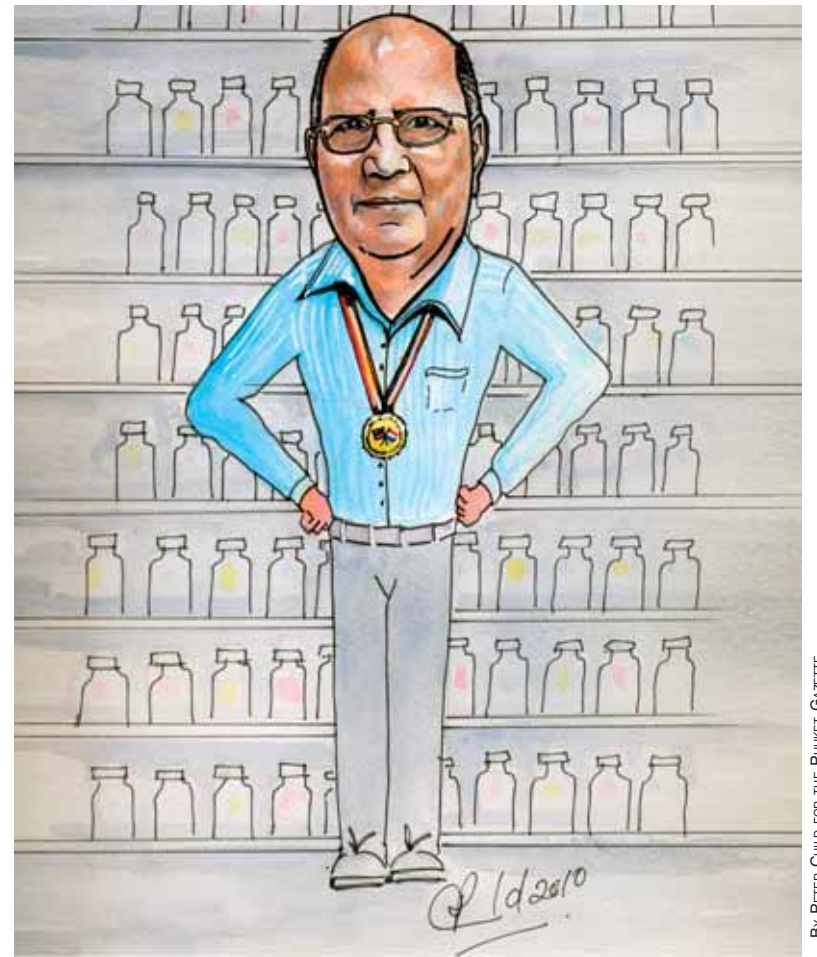
He was then asked by the German Embassy if he was interested in becoming his country's Honorary Consul in Phuket.

"Actually, I've always avoided government officials as I like to be independent, but I accepted and moved to Phuket in January 2002. I was appointed the following year."

He planned to sail on his catamaran and enjoy his retirement but found himself so busy with his official duties that he eventually sold the boat.

Dirk is now not only sorting out passports for Phuket's 1,400 German citizens, and visas for Thais wishing to visit his country, but also assisting with complicated family matters involving Germans.

"Currently, I am seeking donations for a six year old boy with a Burmese mother and a German father who has died. He is a bright child who deserves an education. Anyone interested in helping this child can call me on 089-668 3635," he says.



By PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

About Expat Gallery

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

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Please be assured that all money raised will go into our scholarship fund and will be used to support Thai students, helping them to complete their education.

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

November 27-30. Palazzo dinner show discount

Phuket residents pay half price when the Palazzo Theater & Restaurant in Kathu opens for its first season. Palazzo invites local residents to the first European dinner show in Phuket for half price deals through November from 7-11:30pm. Price includes a four-hour spectacular show and five-course dinner for 1,600 baht only. (The usual price is 3,200 baht). This offer is limited! Tickets can be purchased at Palazzo. Discount applies only to residents of Phuket in possession of an ID card or work permit. Two tickets per person maximum. Contact Wat on T: 084-6298833 (Thai) or Alex on T: 082-8101518 (English), E: mail @phuket-palazzo.com or visit W: phuket-palazzo.com for more information.

November 27-30. Chet Collins at Six Senses Sanctuary

Upon meeting with you, Dr Chet will select manual treatment techniques based on your physical needs and goals. Let Dr Chet's 15 years clinical and field experience allow full consideration of underlying medical conditions when determining the appropriate techniques to use for your treatment. Your treatment goals may include accelerating your flexibility, rapidly resolving a specific physical condition, or optimizing your wellness plan results. Prices are 13,500 baht for 90 minutes, 9,000 baht for 60 minutes and 5,000 baht for 30 minutes. Contact T: 076-371400, E: pr-naka@sixsenses.com or visit W: sixsenses.com/sixsensesanctuary

December 4-11. Phuket King's Cup Regatta



From 8-10:30pm at Kata Beach Resort. The Phuket King's Cup Regatta is Asia's biggest and most prestigious yacht race. Inaugurated to celebrate the 60th birthday of His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej in 1987, the event is now in its 23rd year. The Regatta is organized by the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee under the auspices of the Royal Varuna Yacht Club, in conjunction with the Yacht Racing Association of Thailand and the Royal Thai Navy. The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are media sponsors.

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

November 27-30. Maharlika at Six Senses Sanctuary

Internationally acclaimed Maharlika massage specialist Victor Quemuel is available for your needs. Prices for the Maharlika massage are 7,500 baht for 70 minutes, Maharlika thread peeling facial for 7,500 baht for 70 minutes and Maharlika VIP Ritual (facial and massage) for 12,000 baht for 90 minutes. Contact T: 076-371400, E: pr-naka@sixsenses.com or visit W: sixsenses.com/sixsensesanctuary Phuket for more information.

November 27-Dec 15. RPM – Spot the Difference

Royal Phuket Marina is launching a free entry contest on facebook.com/royalphuketmarina. All

you need to do to win their fantastic grand prize of a boat trip for two to Phang Nga Bay, Phi Phi or Krabi, a spa treatment for two, or a dinner for four at Les Anges' is "Like" their Facebook page and guess the exact number of differences between the two pictures shown (in the picture's comments section). Terms and conditions apply. Contact Michael Forrest on T: 081-9588199, E: michael@royalphuketmarina.com or visit W: royalphuketmarina.com for more information.

November 27. Roger Moore at Six Senses Sanctuary

Roger Moore from the UK, has studied numerous health, holistic-fitness and wellness techniques for more than 20 years and has worked with a variety of world-renowned healing Masters. From Taoist to Native American healers. The UK's Tatler magazine rated Roger as "one of the top-ten therapists worth traveling around the world for." He uses a variety of healing methods to ensure every person receives a profound and enriching healing experience – such as personal development techniques, Reiki, intuitive healing, aquatic therapy, Chi Nei Tsang abdominal massage and Native American sweat-lodge therapy. Price per session with Roger is 9,999 baht for 60 minutes. From 9am-6pm at

Six Senses Sanctuary on Koh Naka. Contact T: 076-371400, E: pr-naka@sixsenses.com or visit W: sixsenses.com/sixsensesanctuaryphuket for more information.

November 27. SALA's Chillin & Grillin BBQ

Join SALA Phuket for an Ocean BBQ. DJ Tom will set the mood for the afternoon, spinning groovy beach tunes with live percussion. Children can enjoy the pool and loads of garden games. Chef Jan will be serving up his usual mouthwatering barbecue fare, including Australian ribeye, slow-smoked pork ribs, grilled veggies, fresh salads and all the fixin's. 950 baht ++ per person, including a bottle of Peter Lehmann shiraz or unoaked chardonnay per couple. Contact Tibor Baan on T: 076-338888, E: fbphuket@salaphuket.com or visit W: salaphuket.com for more information.

November 27. Taste Gallery Opening

Taste Gallery is a platform for artists from all over the world to show their creations. We work closely with young Nepalese, Tibetan, Newari and Thai artists who continue age old art traditions. Our aim is to represent original artwork from talented artists who use traditional techniques with contemporary ideas. From 7-8:30pm. Contact Jade on T: 087-886 6401 or E: gallery@tastesurinbeach.com for more information.

November 27. SKAL Phuket Anniversary & Spectacle Dinner

SKAL International Phuket presents Asia's premier magic spectacular Illusionist Joe Conrad. Watch and enjoy his spectacular illusion show. Additional event highlights include charity raffles, live and silent auctions, costume competition and much more. Fantastic prizes are waiting for all the winners. Entry at door costs 2,595 baht. Contact Blandine Cressard (President) on T: 089-7877465, E: contact@skalphuket.org or visit W: skalphuket.org for more information.

November 28. 17th Laguna Phuket Triathlon

Southeast Asia's premier multi-sport event, the 17th Laguna Phuket Triathlon 2010, will take place from 5:30am-2pm. This internationally renowned event is known as the Race of Legends has completely sold out in the last four years and promises to be bigger and better than ever this year, with an expected field of over 900 athletes taking part. The triathlon comprises a grueling 1.8 kilometer swim, 55km cycle and a 12km run. The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are official media sponsors for this event. Contact Naravadee Swangridht on T: 076-362300, E: naravadees@lagunaphuket.com or visit W: lagunaphukettriathlon.com for more information.

Free Computer Clinics

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

November 28 – Chalong, December 5 – Patong,
December 12 – Laguna, December 19, 26 – Chalong
For more info contact Woody T: 076-290 468

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Knockout 7th birthday at Rawai Muay Thai

RAWAI Muay Thai owners Tuk "Rawai" Chokkuea (front center, blue vest) and his wife Diana Campillo (front center) with their daughters Elle, 5, and Jina, 2, celebrated the camp's seventh anniversary on November 13.

"It seems like only a few years

ago we were one of the only camp's in Phuket. Muay Thai tourism is only set to grow, and we are glad to be a part of it," said Mrs Campillo.

The couple didn't pull any punches when it came to the day's festivities, with over 200

locals and boxing students turning out in force to kick-start another year at the camp.

Thai dancers and sparring bouts between students provided the day's entertainment while revelers noshed on an all-day buffet and partied into the night.

Casa Blanca

Casa Blanca's manager Behi Kanani (left) and her sister, PR manager BJ. Photos: Atchaa Khamlo

NEW BEGINNINGS: Casa Blanca and Persian restaurant opened its doors this weekend in Patong.



Hooray for healing

Dr Orawan Kitchawengkul (center) and the founder of Royal Phuket Marina (RPM) Gulu Lalvani (pink shirt) chaired the soft opening of the new Dr Orawan Holistic Institute 1988 branch at RPM. The clinic will provide holistic beauty and wellness treatments.

The Kitchen collective



MOD SQUAD: King Kitchen staff (above) celebrated their launch party at the Key Hotel in Patong recently with guests (right). Photos: Atchaa Khamlo



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ALL WHITE: Casa Blanca partners (above, from left) Baron Kanani and Somnuk Korkeaw with Fadil Ipekli.



Deputy Mayor of Patong Chairat Sukhabaan (left) also attended the opening.



A girl takes part in a 'Noppamas' beauty pageant.

Loy Krathong

PEOPLE throughout Phuket and across the Kingdom took part in the annual Loy Krathong festival last Sunday. From Mai Khao to Rawai, floats adorned with flowers and alight with candles were set adrift at sea, on canals, lakes and rivers to send off any traces of bad luck from the past year. Activities enjoyed in most places on the day were krathong floating, krathong-making contests, Thai traditional dress and dance shows and "Noppamas" beauty pageants for young ladies. The festival is seen by Thais as an opportunity to spend quality time with loved ones and family.



Costumes were a big hit in town.



Photos: Atchaa Khamlo/Apinun Saithong



ANOTHER QUALITY PROJECT FROM LAND & HOUSES Land & Houses Park Phuket



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Puerk-Ampai

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 167 sq.m.



Ladachon

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 172 sq.m.

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

- * 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>



Location Map

The Impossibly Possible Quiz

1. Japan is also known as _____?
2. Which one of Pablo Picasso's paintings is an anti-war symbol?
3. Who formed the band The Quarrymen?
4. How many feet are in a fathom?
5. Ringo Starr narrates which children's TV series?
6. What is the collective noun for a group of owls?
7. What did Howard Carter discover in 1922?
8. Who wrote *Moby Dick*?
9. If a diamond is the hardest mineral, what is the softest?
10. In the nursery rhyme, what is Friday's child?
11. What part of his body did Charlie Chaplin insure?
12. In what film did a Rolls Royce Phantom III have the number plate AU1?
13. What F1 driver was nicknamed The Professor?
14. Who became the first cricket player to score 500 runs in first-class cricket?
15. What is the phonetic alphabet word for U?
16. What is the world's oldest infectious disease?
17. Who played Pink in the movie *The Wall*?
18. Who was offered the Israeli presidency in 1952, but turned it down?

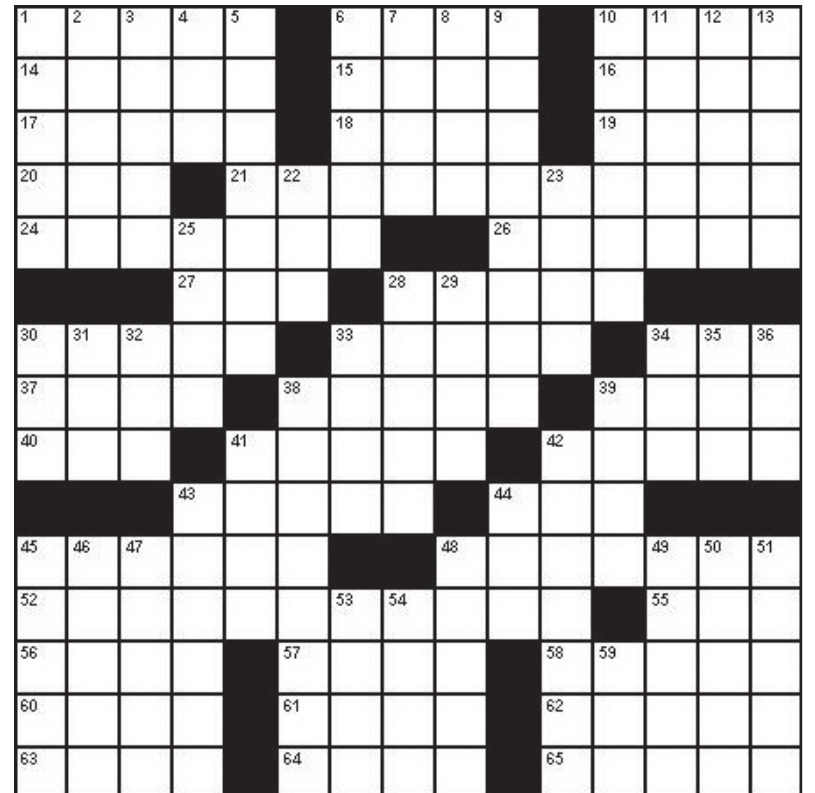
Quiz answers on page 29

Across

1. Fall bloomer
6. Agitate
10. ___ Romeo
14. Dough
15. Alleviate
16. Soft ball brand
17. High up
18. I smell ___!
19. Gnarl
20. Letters on a Cardinal's cap
21. Place in time
24. Nuns
26. Kitchen utensil
27. Actor Stephen
28. On top of the standings
30. Expert
33. More unfavorable
34. CIA forerunner
37. Dies ___
38. Goddesses of the seasons
39. "___ sprach Zarathustra"
40. Accelerate
41. Business accounts
42. Mix smoothly
43. Refuse
44. Go quickly
45. Plea
48. Sinning
52. Extremely conservative
55. Narrow inlet
56. Shrivelled, without moisture
57. Departs
58. Chirp
60. Bakery fixture
61. Med school subject
62. Cavalry weapon
63. Hotbed
64. Back of the neck
65. Adlai's running mate

Down

1. Accumulate
2. Conductor Georg
3. Implements
4. Mischievous person
5. Heavy napped woolen fabric
6. Joins
7. Diamond cover
8. Golfer Aoki
9. Turned backward



10. Short sock
11. Russian revolutionary leader
12. Became ice
13. Later
22. Baseball stat
23. Church recess
25. Corner
28. Eating implements
29. Some nest eggs
30. Russian space station
31. 100 square meters
32. 6th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
33. Courts
34. Cheer for Manolete

35. Nine-digit ID
36. Turf
38. Hoodlum
39. Actor Baldwin
41. German sausage
42. Two wheel vehicle
43. Respectable
44. That girl
45. Bad lighting?
46. Annoy
47. Trims
48. Stickum
49. Ain't right?
50. Bridget Fonda, to Jane
51. Ribbons
53. Mrs Chaplin
54. Tide type
59. Gives birth to

Provided by BestCrosswords.com.
Used with permission.

Puzzle solutions on page 29

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Talk is cheap this week. Some Sagittarians could be persuaded to pass a story on, but the stars suggest that this could land you in trouble. You are advised to concentrate on your own affairs as the final days of November could entail unforeseen events. On a personal level, a romantic relationship is affected by your partner's unsettled mood. Those with a birthday in the week ahead will enjoy more financial security in the coming year.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Capricorns who were planning to turn over a new leaf in the New Year may have reason to start making radical lifestyle changes beforehand. There are signs that you will be inspired by a fire sign friend this week. A business proposition that you were pessimistic about earlier this month could become appealing when conditions are made more favorable. Your emotional balance becomes stronger which has a positive effect on romance.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): This week the stars would like to remind you that nothing ventured is nothing gained. Aquarians are not usually reluctant to try something

new, but a recent downturn in luck has probably taken its toll on your enthusiasm. However, there are signs that a change of fortune is just around the corner. Friendships are well-starred, with focus on differences being put aside. The number four is lucky this weekend.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Controlling spending should be the aim for Pisceans this week. December is predicted to be an expensive time as there are signs that a family reunion will require your financial support. Where love is concerned, Cupid aims to help you make a romantic connection with Virgo this weekend. Work is complicated when a new colleague shows they will do anything to get ahead. Turquoise promotes relaxation.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Your outlook remains mostly good during the last days of November. When December commences, there are signs that problems related to a forgotten debt will occur. In the realm of romance, Arians are advised that there is a fine line between showering someone with affection and going overboard. This is a fortunate week for mislaid items to come to light. The number eight can bring good luck this weekend.



TAURUS (April 21-May 21): The area of personal relationship continues to be affected by an unsettled astral atmosphere. Avoid stirring up unnecessary arguments by keeping your tendency to over-dramatize situations under control this week. A calmer period is set to start during the first week of December. Where business is concerned, Taureans will be able to draw on confidence they gained from experiences this year. Wear the color cream to encourage a sweeter mood.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Somebody who has supported you through thick and thin is forecast to need help this week. Geminis may need to rearrange their schedules in order to do this – sudden work commitments are also forecast to demand your attention midweek. Your romantic outlook begins to be influenced by more benevolent astral conditions. Commitments are highlighted between now and the middle of December.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Cancerians will have to make up their minds on the spot midweek. Faced with quick decisions, your usual instinct is to retreat into your shell, but this won't be a viable option. An earth-sign friend can offer useful tips, but a fire sign acquaintance is too biased. Where finances are concerned, a debt that has been weighing you down is forecast to be eased after discussions on Monday or Tuesday.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Leos have cause to remember that home is where the heart is this week. After a busy socializing period, there are signs that you will be content to devote time and energy to domestic matters. Those with a partner could need to use their powers of persuasion in discussions about house renovations or relocation. If you are single, a Taurean's romantic interest could be just what you've been waiting for.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Where business is concerned, say what's on your mind this week to avoid unnecessary misunderstandings. The stars suggest that Virgoans who end November in a clear space will be able to make the most of all

that December has to offer. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, you should make more effort to leave the past behind. A new partner is growing tired of your excess emotional baggage.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Librans could be feeling rebellious this week. If you are tiring of the same old routine in your working life, the stars suggest that the possibility of change is yours for the taking. Making contact with old colleagues could lead to opportunities. If trust is becoming an issue in a romance, it could be time to ask yourself how much you really want this relationship. The number nine can bring good luck this weekend.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): The stars indicate that a friendship is on the verge of becoming a business oriented one. However, you are still advised to put all agreements in writing. Monday is the most auspicious day to schedule meetings for. Where romance is concerned, parting is painful but absence will make your heart grow fonder. Investments – particularly relating to property – are well starred until the middle of December. The number five is lucky this weekend.

PROPERTY Gazette

News | Construction | Gardening | For sale | For rent | Classifieds

Plan breaks ground with Sabai Village

By Alexandra Andersson

DEVELOPERS Plan Estate Co Ltd broke ground on their Sabai Village residential project in Kathu last week as off-plans sales for the 119 units moved past 40%.

The two-story townhouses and detached houses will start popping up on the 13 rai plot by January, with construction set to be completed by August 2011.

Plan Estate are managing all aspects of the 270-million-baht project, including design and construction.

Building on their well-established reputation, Plan Estate's

Sabai Village is the latest project by the Bangkok-based company. Plan Estate is part of Plan Group, a subsidiary of MBK.

Previous successful projects by Plan Estate in Phuket include The Indy II in Koh Kaew and Baan Suan Loch Palm, but this latest project signifies a step away from top-end real estate.

The Garden Villas at Baan Suan Loch Palm start from 11.25 million baht. Prices for the unfurnished houses at Sabai Village range from 1.599 million baht to 2.7 million baht.

"With this project, we are focusing on the middle tier [property

market] because the top end has not been selling as well recently," said Sales Manager Damrongsak Toongngern.

Mr Damrongsak predicts 75% of Sabi Village clientele will be Thais, and that this development will particularly appeal to people who work in Patong but want to live somewhere quiet.

"This project is small, but it is very good value for money and the location is nice," he said.

The site is surrounded by hills and is very close to both Loch Palm and Red Mountain golf courses.

Security, gardening for the communal areas as well as trash

collection services will be provided for residents of Sabai Village.

The plots for the 119 homes have been marked on the land and Mr Damrongsak says the units are selling fast, despite mortgage payments being slightly higher than for most developments of this sort.

"Plan Estate is a well-known developer, and people trust that we know what we are doing so they feel able to make the higher payments for a better quality project.

"It also ensures that we only attract serious buyers rather than speculators" he said.



COMING TO KATHU: Work has begun on Plan Estate Co Ltd's Sabai Village residential project.



Damrongsak Toongngern

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One price to suit all

THE WHOLE PACKAGE:
More families are opting for
all-inclusive holidays.
Photo : Flickr

DESPITE a somewhat tarnished image by the recent World Cup fiasco, the French have indeed enriched the lives of many by leaps and bounds.

From top-shelf champagne and wine, to fine food and aromatic cheese. I can almost smell those wonderful breads baking as I pound the computer keys. Art has always been at the forefront of French culture, and a roll call of Renoir, Monet and Gauguin has made an impression the world over.

As we all know, the latter headed off to the tropics to live an island life of palm-fringed, white-sand beaches in Tahiti and the Marquesas. Sound familiar?

Mango culture figures heavily in the evolution of French hospitality giant Club Med, whose beginnings can be traced back to the 1950s as the brainchild of Belgian Gerard Blitz.

Ownership of the all-in franchise was later acquired by noted Frenchman, Baron Edmond

Adolphe de Rothschild.

Over the years the operating concept of a membership club, which shifted from its origins of an association into a capitalist venture, has been loosely retained.

At the height of its popularity in the 1960s and '70s, Club Med gained a reputation as a swingers' paradise for singles and couples but where no money changed hands. Instead, a payment system of beads prevailed.

In the Caribbean an entire niche market of all-inclusive resorts later evolved, including the Super-Club and Sandals resort chains, though the marketing tone for these was solidly on burgeoning hedonism.

Within two generations, from the postwar baby boomers to generation Jones, the scene wildly changed and today Club Med has firmly shifted its focus

onto the family holiday and activities market. The attraction of all-in-one vacations has been firmly embraced by institutions such as Disney, a growing cruise market and even here at Laguna Phuket.

Restaurants have been a leading proponent for years on the buffet concept of one price for all you can eat, with its origins winding back to the time of the ever-popular smorgasbord.

The attraction for value today stems from the global economic



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

melt down. While funny money still exists, everyone including the

rich, the aspiring rich and even middle and lower-level income earners all now keep a closer eye on where their money is being spent than they did before 2008.

In Phuket, the broad tourism market has seen a bulging middle tier driven by a markedly different consumer profile.

Travelers from China, India, Eastern Europe and the Middle East are increasingly taking their place on the island's collective sun lounge.

Recently Twinpalms management group, who operates the eponymous Surin resort, brewed up a new offering for their Baan Yamu operation and by year end will be up and running as the all-inclusive Clubyamu.



ALL IN: Family-orientated activities are high priority for many holidaymakers.

The cornerstone of the concept is a wide range of family activities, trips to nearby islands and the entire cost of a stay in one lump sum.

From the time you book, you know how much the vacation will cost up front, including food, drinks and tours.

Knowledge is power and perhaps all you have to do is turn to social networking sites of some of the "add on" low-cost airlines to find just how much negative feedback is flouted by dissatisfied customers.

The bulk of the complaints stem from surcharges, extra charges and promotions that highlight one price but later inflate it to something closer in proportion with Lady Gaga's ego.

Viewing this year's crop of new visitors, as packed Pegas-Touristik buses speed along Phuket's thoroughfares, one can

see beyond doubt that package tourism on a much larger scale is the flavor of the season.

True value remains in the eye of the consumer as do changing tastes and economic circumstances, but even a blind man can see that filling hotel rooms during the low – or "no" – season over the next few years is going to take imagination.

As more and more hoteliers on the island find themselves staring into the abyss of the "risk and reward" wishing well, the emerging all-inclusive market may very well incite a domino effect of more aspiring "club beds".

Now if I could just find a way to swap those beads for a bottle or two of French Margaux.

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

LAGUNA

PROPERTY RESALE

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- 2 beds 2 baths Apartment
- garden view • freehold
- fully furnished

3 Allamanda 2-Bedroom Suite THB 7.9 M



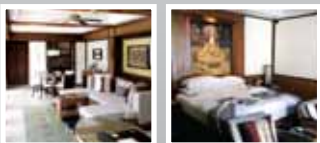
- 2 beds 2 baths Apartment
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4 Sheraton Island Villa THB 19 M



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BoT tighten lending to real estate market

THE Bank of Thailand's plan to tighten lending for real estate loans has triggered concern in the property sector.

With rising fears of a market bubble, the bank made public plans to impose new guidelines for mortgages aimed at increasing risk reserves by a large amount.

Given that resulting costs will impact the banks, a domino effect for interest rates to go up can be expected. This could subdue widespread speculation in the domestic market regarding the surging supply line of entry level condos.

Some estimates place Thailand property's contribution to GDP as high as 8%, with the contribution to the wider economy running into double digits. Property firms listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand have recorded a high level of dividend payments over the past few years while the emerging Property Fund sector provided strong investor returns.

Consumer credit and challenges in debt formation could create obstacles next year.

— **Bill Barnett**

Mandala condos held in high esteem at property awards

MANDALA Condominiums, a collection of 24 large apartments with private pools, was recognized at the Thailand Property Awards in Bangkok recently.

The awards are widely recognised as the "Thai Oscars" of the property industry.

Mandala won the Best Condominium Development in Phuket based on the cost per square meter price of each of the developments in its category.

Mandala saw off strong competition from other Phuket projects such as Andara Apartments, Baan Yamu and the Royal Phuket Marina.

Mandala, located at Laguna, was the only condominium project recognized at the awards.

At the Phuket site, sixteen condominiums, including two penthouses, are still for sale.

The "highly commended" award is particularly significant to the project's developer Staffan Nordstrand who launched Mandala at the beginning of the global financial crisis in September 2008.

Getting the project up and



AWARD WINNER: Mandala Condominiums at Laguna was recognized at the Thailand Property Awards.

running when the world economy was in tatters, and without any presale purchases, was a tough challenge for Mandala developers.

But in the past few years progress has been made.

Eight apartments were sold last year and Mandala is about to

enter the high season as one of the island's only completed new developments. And the recent accolade in Bangkok is seen all round as a boon for the development.

"We are proud of this award as it acknowledges Mandala's commitment to high standards,"

says Mr Nordstrand, a Swedish national who has operated a construction business in his homeland since 1974.

"We achieved this by following tight international building standards," he added.

— **By Duane Lennie**

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Violet flower rates high for vivid color

Gardening

By Green Sleeves

THUNBERGIA is next on the Top 20 list of garden plants because they will readily grow in a situations few plants would tolerate, and they bloom wonderfully.

Oddly, few gardening books or articles on line offer much about *Thunbergia Erecta*. But it's an omission that should be rectified. After all, it is one of the very few flowering shrubs to produce blooms of a color somewhere between violet and blue, a color so rich that one of its names is King's Mantle, a reference to the tyrian or royal purple of these trumpet-shaped flowers.

They are complemented, moreover, by their deep yellow centers. A delightful combination. Only the butterfly pea, or *Clitoria Ternatea*, has flowers of a similarly intense blue.

The King's Mantle has an upright habit – hence its Latin tag of *erecta* – and has dark, evergreen foliage which is slightly rough to the touch. It will develop into a fairly compact bush, and, since it is not invasive it can safely be put next to smaller plants.

It will only require support if



Photo: Nicolas Gent

The *Grandiflora*, a relative of the *Thunbergia Erecta*, is also popular here.

planted in a windy spot, or if too much rain makes the shrub heavy.

It is arguably best planted at the back of your garden's border, or against a wall, since it will tolerate a fair degree of shade. There, it should flower more-or-less constantly.

If *Erecta* never produces a mass of blooms at the same time, at least it will flower with reliable consistency. The blue trumpets sometimes appear unexpectedly, since the buds are small and inconspicuous. A pleasant surprise.

Erecta is a tough, woody shrub; so it will take easily from cuttings and soft wood slips. It will also germinate from seeds, as the appearance of seedlings beneath the mother plant may occasionally tes-

tify. There is also a rarer variety with white trumpets.

Garden books are usually much more interested in another type of *Thunbergia* – *Grandiflora* – which as its name suggests, is a prolific bloomer. *Grandiflora* or the Bengal clock vine is very different from *Thunbergia Erecta*.

Native to India, it is an extremely fast-growing, vinous shrub with bigger, heart-shaped, leathery leaves that are somewhat lighter in color. While *Erecta* takes its time, *Grandiflora* is in a hurry to get on with things.

Indeed, planted next to a small tree, it will completely cover it in a year or so. It is an invaluable plant for the gardener wanting to drape a trellis, gazebo, wall or fence.

The vines hang down after the manner of those of the morning glory. Viewed at a distance, it might be mistaken for an *Ipomoea*. The tubular flowers are less obviously trumpet-shaped and not the same gentian blue.

They are however, produced in some profusion, are up to three inches long, and hang down in long clusters. They vary in color from sky-blue to lilac, but there is also a white variety.

Because of its pattern of growth, the clock vine will need some struc-



Photo: Tanaka Juuyoh

VIBRANT: The *Thunbergia Erecta* has a unique and appealing color.

tural support, and will likely need pruning from time to time.

It will also need rich, moist soil for it is, in common with most rapid growers, a heavy feeder.

Full sun or filtered shade should allow it to develop with characteristic vigor. Another *Thunbergia*, *Laurifolia*, has smaller but similar flowers, and narrow leaves. It is less widely available.

If you consider both varieties,

Thunbergia rates well on the Top-20 list, since each is so different. Both are visually impressive. *Erecta* due to its vivid and unusual tubular flowers and *Grandiflora* because of its prolific blooming capacity. Both are low maintenance and relatively disease free.

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

Tip of the week

Getting to grips with shrubs

THE staple of any garden, almost anywhere, is the shrub.

Shrubs are usually defined as woody perennials.

In other words, this means that unlike herbaceous plants which have soft stems, shrubs have woody or ligneous branches.

Unlike annuals and biennials, they have a life span of more than two years.

Indeed some shrubs may last for 20 years.

Once over a certain size, they tend to start being referred to as trees.

The other main advantage shrubs enjoy over annuals is that they have deeper root systems, which are needed to support the heavier and more substantial top growth.

As a general rule, this means that they cope better with periods of drought (succulents are an exception), and with high winds and torrential rain.

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135sqm complete freehold. 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, a living room, a western-style kitchen, a drinking water system and a terrace. Price: 4.9 million baht. Nice view. Tel: 076-293149, 081-824 1385. Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

1/2 RAI OF LAND

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

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

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Freehold with 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms at a secure and quiet location. Price: 11 million baht. Tel: 081-091 3621.

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

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Beautiful plot in front of resort, 648 sqm, 162 sq wah, Chanote, ideal for family house. Seaview toward Chalong. 4.5 million baht only. Inquiries by email please until 23 Nov. Or call the resort to visit the site. Tel: 076-289399, 081-539 5373, 081-536 5846 (English). Fax: 076-289389. Email: phuketresorts@gmail.com

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Kata Ocean View phase 4, unit K.10. 53sqm. Seaview. Price: 4.4 million baht. Tel: 087-897 0501. Email: aleksa79@inbox.ru

PATONG SEA VIEW CONDO

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VILLA IN NAI HARN

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large veranda and garden, quiet location, 3.3 million baht. Tel: 081-894 1660 (English), 081-077 0133 (Thai). Email: cottrell@tttmaxnet.com

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

VERY SPACIOUS EUROPEAN



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

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

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3-BEDROOM HOUSE

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

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SEAVIEW LAND

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

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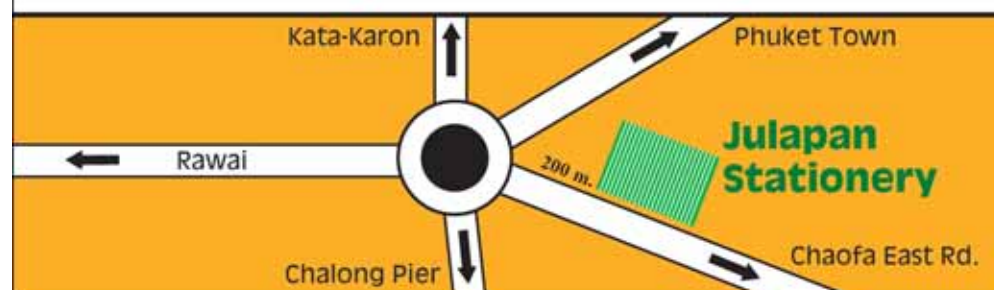
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6.3 meters LOA, Marine grade aluminum construction. 115 Suzuki 4-stroke with 110-liter fuel tank. Imported trailer all like new condition. Asking 1.2 million baht. See at Max Marine showroom. Call for more info. Tel: 076-617269 (English & Thai). Email: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

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13 meters, purpose-built big game fishing boat. Totally rebuilt. Hino 200Hp Diesel plus the latest electronics. Price: 4.5 million baht. Serious offers considered. Tel: 082-2183177. Email: deudale@yahoo.co.uk

RIVIERA M430 (2005)

In excellent condition, twin Mercury 425Hp. Selling for: US\$249,000. Website: www.boatshedphuket.com

RACING YACHT FOR SALE

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

SEABOB

Offshore, no limit. High performance product. For further information, please contact Alex. Tel: 081-955 5569.

MOTORSAILER

Neptunian motorsailer. VHF, GPS, Depth, Radar, Autohelm. Two cabins. Full galley. Single handed, blue water cruiser. Tel: 081-968 1437 (English). Email: bobedward1@hotmail.com

43 FT ROBERTS CRUISING YACHT

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

DINGHY FOR SALE

New Quicksilver, 2.7 meters, soft bottom, inflatable keel, hypalon. Price: 60,000 baht. Tel: 081-817 8377 (English & Thai). Email: bucephalus1950@yahoo.com

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES**Crossword puzzle:****Impossibly Possible Quiz answers:**

1. Nippon 2. Guernica, 1937 3. John Lennon 4. Six
5. Thomas the Tank Engine 6. Parliament
7. Tutankhamun's tomb 8. Herman Melville 9. Talc
10. Loving and giving 11. Feet 12. Goldfinger
13. Alain Prost 14. Brian Lara 15. Uniform
16. Leprosy 17. Bob Geldof 18. Albert Einstein

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

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

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

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐

☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)

☐ Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)

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City

State or Province

Zip Code

Country: _____

Last 3 digits on back of card

To ensure clarity, please **airmail**. Do not Fax!

NEED FOOT MASSAGE SPECIALIS

We are seeking staff for a new shop at Big C. A good income. Tel: 081-537 6866.

50,000BHT+

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

MULTILINGUAL RECEPTIONIST

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

MAID / CLEANING

Maid/cleaners needed. Good work, good salary. Motorbike required. Kamala/Bangtao. Tel: 083-634 5772. Email: pierre@husiphuket.se

PERSONAL ASSISTANT WANTED

Assist businessman a few times every week in running business dealings with Asian supplier and UK customers as well as liaising with UK office and warehouse distribution centre. Very good English speaking Asian but not necessarily so, as long as she is rather bright and willing to commit herself to the job. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

DIVE INSTRUCTOR: SALARY +

Salaried position plus for qualified Dive Instructor. If you are patient, fun, can talk to anyone and love beginners, contact us with your resume/experience. Tel: 081-917 6822 (English). Fax: 076-388770. Email: dive@worldwidealoha.com

TEACHER WANTED

HeadStart International School, Phuket, is currently seeking qualified, experienced and caring teachers for the following positions:

- Thai Principal, Primary
- PE
- French
- Art
- Mandarin

Ability to teach across all Key Stages essential.

Tel: 076-612876, 081-895 1131 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-612877. Please email CVs with referees to school@headstartphuket.com



ONLINE JOB APPLICATION
HOTEL - ACCTING - SALES - IT - WEB DESIGN - F&B
www.KARON-PHUKET-HOTELS.com /JOB.htm

Phuket Gazette

In connection with a major expansion in its **Classified Advertising** business due to the launch of the newspaper's Nationwide Edition, the *Phuket Gazette* seeks to add three **Classified Advertising Administrators** to its existing team of five.

Qualified candidates will be:

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged at least 26
- ▶ Service-minded with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai

and should have:

- ▶ A Bachelors Degree from a recognizable university
- ▶ A good sense of organization and respect for details
- ▶ Knowledge of basic office software

Knowledge of InDesign, Pagemaker or Quark Express would be a plus.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Tassanee Suwannarat, Classifieds Manager, at Nee@PhuketGazette.Net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555, ext 205 Fax: 076-615240



LA BOUCHERIE RESTAURANT
soi sansabai

Due to the expansion of our business, La Boucherie Grill and Steakhouse is currently looking for the following positions:

Waiter / Waitress	4 Positions
Bartender / Bartendy	2 Positions
Maid	2 Positions

Interested applicants please call Khun Bao at 084 84 9 2122 and submit current resume, expected salary with photo to the email : bao@phawadee.com

Professional Property Management Solutions

Phuket's premier property management company is looking for suitable, qualified candidates for the following positions:

Guest Services Coordinator**Qualifications:**

- Good command of spoken and written English essential
- 1 year experience in hotel or property management
- Computer literate

Please send your application with a recent photo to Human Resource Dept. Phuket Island Property Services Co.,Ltd (PIPS)
393/2 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Road, Chermgtalay, Phuket Thailand 83110

Tel: 076 270 750, Fax: 076 270 751, Email: personnel@pipsphuket.com

TRISARA

Trisara, Phuket's most exclusive resort consists of the award winning resort hotel and spa plus 27 magnificent residences, which are managed and rented by the resort for the owners.

A unique opportunity exists for three professionals to join our team. We are seeking energetic, creative individuals to fill the following positions.

Director of Sales & Marketing (Expatriate)**Events Sales Manager****Guest Database / E-Commerce Manager****Chief Accountant / Accounting Manager**

If you are an energetic, organized and result-driven team player who is looking for a challenge at the highest level of standards, send your resume and a recent photo to;

Human Resources Director

60/1 Moo 6, Srisoonthorn road, Thalang, Phuket
Email: hr@trisara.com
Tel: 076-310350 Fax: 076-310299

**Phuket Orchid Resort & Spa**
Kata Group Resorts, Thailand

An award winning 524 room hotel with a large convention center, located in the center of Karon Beach requires:-

■ Assistant Sales Manager

- Minimum 1 year experience in a 4 star Phuket hotel
- Good knowledge of all Phuket based agents
- Self motivator with good organizational skills
- Knowledge of government departments for MICE

■ Trainee Sales & Administration

- Recent Graduate
- Good knowledge of English

Please send resume to:-

Personnel Department of Kata Group: personnel@katagroup.com

Phuket Orchid Resort & Spa is part of the famous Kata Group of Hotels with exceptional benefits and family values both in and out of the work place

Tel. 66 076 396 519 - 23 Fax. 66 076 398 313

www.katagroup.com

**REQUIRED for IMMEDIATE start in BALI**

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

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

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

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

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



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

KITCHEN	
Head Chef	BHT 20-25000
Demi Chef De Partie	BHT 15000

RESTAURANT	
Assistant Restaurant Manager	BHT 20-25000
Hostesses	BHT 15000
Waiter/esses	BHT 12000

BAR	
Bar Manager	BHT 30000
Barmen	BHT 15000

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

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

A successful company active in hotel management and property business is seeking:

Secretary / Office Manager

Key responsibilities:

- Coordination between, tour agents, clients, suppliers, staff members
- Developing and updating marketing materials
- Preparing the bookkeeping for the accountant
- Coordinate with government authorities
- Update websites and answer emails
- Establish relationships between our company and business partners
- Personal Assistant to work closely with the directors

Requirements:

- Previous proven successful experience in the hospitality and/or property industry is highly desirable
- Driving license
- Fluent in Thai and English, both spoken and written
- Computer literacy (MS Office, Excel, etc.)
- Bachelor's degree

Please reply with CV, references and expected salary to claudstrey@gmail.com



The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

Advertising Sales

- ▶ Thai, age 26 and up with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Bachelor's degree in marketing or related fields
- ▶ Experience in sales and marketing
- ▶ Good command of spoken & written English
- ▶ Must have own transportation and drivers license

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to na@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240



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Martin on 0878 88 00 16 or info@famousphuket.com



KOELBL & LEHMANN CO.,LTD.
3.5 Soi 3, Bangkok Rd., Muang, Phuket

We are manufacturers of high quality Bavarian and German sausages in Phuket town since 2009. We are looking for motivated candidates to work with us.

- 1. Key Account Assistant (1 position)**
- 2. Administrative Officer (1 position)**
- 3. Purchasing (1 position)**
 - Female, aged 25-30 years
 - Good command of English or German at a conversational level and willing to learn new things
 - Computer literacy (MS Word, Excel, etc.)
- 4. Marketing (Part-time) (1 position)**
 - Good command of English or German
 - Possessing a valid car driving license would be an advantage
- 5. Driver (1 position)**
- 6. Driver's Assistant (1 position)**
- 7. Housekeeper (1 position)**
 - Male, aged 25-35 years
 - Possessing a valid car driving license would be an advantage
- 8. Packing Staff (2 positions)**
 - Female, aged 25-35 years
- 9. Production Staff (2 positions)**
 - Male or Female, aged 25-35 years

Please contact us: 076-246621, 081-580 6101
Fax: 076-246622

Email to: Info@kandl.asia or jane@kandl.asia

For more information about us, please visit our website at www.kandl.asia

BOUTIQUE MANAGER

In Surin required. We are seeking an energetic and well-groomed Thai lady to work as the manager of a beautiful new boutique in Surin. The successful candidate must be friendly, enthusiastic and knowledgeable about fashion. Must have very good English and sales skills. Prior experience in fashion retail is an advantage. We offer an attractive salary with benefits. Tel: 076-364007. Please send your CV to email: bliss@online.com.kh or finance@rjmthailand.com

HOME CARETAKER KAMALA

Seeking English speaking Caretaker with driving license for private home. Duties: Driving kids to School, shopping, normal cleaning of house, laundry, assisting with home management. Frie days a week, Mon-Fri. Good job with attractive salary. Start immediately. Tel: 076-385502, 082-534 3344. Email: henrik_oesten@yahoo.com

IRON BED SHEETS

We are looking for someone to iron bed sheets. This is part-time work. Tel: 085-789 5701, 085-474 6216. Email: chanisara.guesthouse@gmail.com

STAFF WANTED - ALL POSITIONS

Thurmann Group is rapidly expanding and seeking qualified full- and part-time staff in various positions for its companies with different levels of experience and skills.

We are currently looking for:

- Waiter/Waitress
- Restaurant Manager (Thai)
- Club Manager
- Sales & Marketing Manager
- Purchase Manager
- Personal Assistant
- Bartender
- Cashier
- Safety Instructor for trampolines
- Marketing & Sales Executive
- Cleaner

Tel: 076-341613, 087-418 1365. Interested candidates, please email your curriculum vitae: schmidt.timo@gmail.com

TELESALES

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

WEBMASTER POSITION

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

TEACHERS WANTED IN PHUKET

Satree Phuket School is seeking a native English speaker to teach science full-time and another candidate to teach math part-time. Starting salary is 30,000 – 35,000 baht, with 4 weeks of paid holiday, government health care, and 3,000 baht housing allowance. Minimum requirements: bachelor's degree or above, plus TEFL or CELTA certificate or equivalent. Send your CV with a covering letter to: joeynho@gmail.com, toptip4736@yahoo.com, nong64@live.com, a_pupata_nun@windowslive.com, arayaphan@hotmail.com. Tel: 084-666 3557, 089-647 9085, 089-587 1018, 086-945 9280.

NEW MODELING AGENCY PHUKET

looking for new faces. Men minimum 175cm, women min 165cm, and kids of all ages. Free casting 10am-8pm every Saturday until 25 December. Up Creative Agency, 32/12 Moo 5 Srisoontom Rd, Chermgtalay (opposite Lotus). Tel: 080-324 2385 (English). Fax: 076-325779. Email: info@uptoview.com

PHUKET BABYSITTING

Phuket's first professional babysitting service is looking for staff. If you speak English, like children, and can work either part or full time. Please contact us. Khun Tracey: 084-745 1222, Khun Joy: 081-797 1497. Email: info@phuketbabysitting.com

Employment Wanted

THAI ENGLISH TEACHER

Do not have BA, but studied at university for 3 years and then had to leave due to family problems. I went on to teach primary students for 5 years. I am currently studying for the 4th year to complete my BA. I am an experienced Thai English teacher but can also teach Maths, Social Studies, etc. I was always in the top of my class in school and university and have many awards and certificates for my teaching and my students. Tel: 082-805 2672 (English & Thai). Email: kanwara2007@hotmail.com

Articles
For Sale

DOG/CAT CAGES

Pet cages in two sizes: Big (2m x 1m) and small (1m x 90cm). Also have some cats. Tel: 081-271 8923 (English & Thai). Email: garfield_catfarm@yahoo.it

SNORKEL ITEMS

Stratos adjustable fins, venturas mask, snorkel scubapro, boots, gloves, rubber suit. Price: 4,200 baht. Tel: 087-993 8737.

GAS OVEN

Large gas oven for sale, 3 months old, little used. 22,000 baht. Tel: 089-197 7438 (Thai), 088-168 8145 (English). Email: olay1@yahoo.com

WIFI, TELEPHONE, FAX

WiFi unit, a telephone, and a fax for sale cheap. Tel: 086-953 8616. Email: harlequinjen@gmail.com

WHEY PROTEIN
FROM USA

Optimum Nutrition, Dymatize, Gaspari, MuscleTech, BSN Supplements available now. Free shipping anywhere in Thailand. Vitamins, Protein, BCAAs and other supplements. Shop online now. Paypal accepted. Tel: 082-415 9925. Email: bill@naiharnygm.com Website at: www.naiharnygm.com/store/

POND BIO FILTER
FOR SALE

Pond Bio Filter Model CBF-1100 1.0 Hp. with UV Light. Included submersible Pump Arwan model:KSV-151. New release price: 30,000 baht. Second hand price:12,500 baht. Tel: 076-273087, 081-978 5901 (English), 081-956 3775 (Thai). Fax: 076-273 087. Email: moose@waterworkwarehouse.net

SMALL TOSHIBA
FRIDGE

Small Toshiba Fridge. 6 months used. 3,000 baht. Tel: 088-442 2770 (English). Email: malila_ec@hotmail.com

DOG CARRIER

'Pet Cargo' airline approved carrier for large dog. Used once. 76cm high x 94cm long x 74cm wide. Originally 11,000 baht. Will sell for 5,500 baht. Tel: 081-845 1492 (English). Email: curtlorina@gmail.com

TABLE AND CHAIRS

A very unique and trendy bamboo table and 4 chairs in good condition. Paid 30,000 baht selling for 10,000 baht. Tel: 089-150 2909 (English). Email: artchampagne@hotmail.com

TEAK, RATTAN
FURNITURE

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

HOOKAHS AVAILABLE
FOR BAR

New hookahs in stock to add to bar or restaurant. Email for catalog. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: thailand.shisha@gmail.com

SONY PS3 &
ACCESSORIES

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

Bar &
Restaurant
EquipmentPIZZA OVEN, MIXER,
SS SINK

2-door refrigerator, freezer, stainless steel cook top, gas tank for sale. Tel: 086-276 7608.

Bulletins

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

For Phuket info (English) call 081-8912895, 081-8954763 or email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

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

Bangkok Hospital - Phuket City
Fri 7 PM

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

Green Man Restaurant - Chalong
Tue 1 PM

Scandinavian Speaking
Meetings-Karon
Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April only)
Tel: 086-9440460 Sive. 082-2765998 Ngr

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

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

Business
OpportunitiesPARTICIPATION
WANTED

I am looking for an active shareholding in a company on Phuket, preferably in a technical branch - not in the tourist branch. Tel: +49-173-314 4282 (English). Email: rsdreieich@googlemail.com

CHALONG DINER

At a prime location on Chaofah Road. Fully equipped. Nice layout with custom-built cooking area. Price: 320,000 baht. Tel: 080-706 1350.

TRAVEL DESK &
INTERNET CAFE

In Kata Beach Center, Soi Casa del Sol, on the terrace of a high class hotel and in the middle of huge hotels. Nice place to rent for tourism office, internet cafe, motorbike and car rentals, etc. 20,000 baht per month for 3 years plus key money. From 1/12/10. Tel: 085-789 5701, 085-474 6216. Email: chanisara.guesthouse@gmail.com

HOTEL FOR RENT

Nice 4-storey hotel with 20 fully furnished rooms, a restaurant, a Jacuzzi pool, and a roof garden. On Nanai Rd with a magnificent view of Patong. For rent (4.5 years). Tel: 081-693 9642.

BANG TAO BAR &
RESTAURANT

Prime tourist location. 160 square meters. Excellent investment and renovation opportunity with high income. Tel: 082-275 7737. Email: scubarick@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at: www.c2phuket.com/misc/detail.php?post_id=41588

OTOP BAR

OTOP Bar in Patong for sale. Newly renovated, ready to operate (kitchen and toilet). 650,000 baht. Tel: 084-327 7906 (English & Thai), 083-102 0256. Email: hdpeaches@yahoo.com

RESTAURANT FOR
SALE

In central Kata with a 3-year contract. Rent: 12,000 baht per month. Fully furnished. Tel: 089-594 2820.

YOU MAKE THE
PRICE

Urgent sale of new, nice coffee shop. Price: negotiable. Contact Carlo. Tel: 087-886 0448.

PRIME RETAIL SHOPS

Due to family commitments, 2 prime retail spaces are now available on the Kata high street, Phuket, and in Chaweng on Koh Samui. Your business will thrive from either of these locations. Ideal for fashion boutique, tailor, gift shop, pharmacy, eyewear or restaurant, etc. Long term lease available. Tel: 089-731 6814 (English & Thai). Email: cameronjhansen@yahoo.co.uk

MASSAGE SHOP
PATONG

Located on beach road. Rent at 18,300 baht a month. Quick sale at only 150,000 baht due to relocation. Tel: 084-058 2410 (English), 085-819 8524 (Thai). Email: jaques.carl@yahoo.com

DIVING BUSINESS

Part of established Diving Business for sale. Own boat and equipment. Tel: 081-970 0160 (English). Email: darrenwking1@hotmail.com

KARON GUESTHOUSE

12 rooms well-furnished with spacious bar / restaurant area with 40+ seating. Unique interior design. At good location on main road between Karon and Kata. Rental price: 1.9 million baht. Rent: 65,000 baht per month. Great deal! Contact Dave for more info. Tel: 081-891 9461.

RESTAURANT
FOR SALE

Prime location in Patong opposite post office on Rat-U-Thit Rd. Tel: 084-847 8626, 081-124 8051. Email: mingrestaurant@hotmail.com

BAR FOR RENT IN
PATONG

Simply the most beautiful venue in Patong. Tel: 087-881 7600. Website: ivybarphuket.com

FOR SALE ON
PHI PHI ISLAND

A charming, well-equipped bar/restaurant with a first-floor apartment. On a 7-year contract with a renewal option for another 10 years. Low monthly rent. Can register company with capital for 2 work permits. Tel: 086-277 8190. Email: sawade.e2010@hotmail.com

ROOFTOP RESTAURANT
FOR RENT

On the top floor of Sinthavee Hotel, Phuket Town. Convenient for a restaurant or bar. Also, a discotheque on the 2nd floor (with license). Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

PATONG STEAK &
GUESTHOUSE

At a prime location. A spacious grill restaurant/bar with 70 seats, 6 rooms and excellent equipment. Available for rent on a long-term lease. Tel: 081-894 0570. For further details, please see our website at http://www.hermanns-phuket.com

11 UNIT APTARTMENT-
HOUSE

Off Nanai Road in Patong. Newly renovated, secure income with little work due to long term rentals. Includes Chanote title. Sale by owner. Price: 9.8 million baht. Tel: 087-265 0652 (English). Email: gisbert1@gmx.net

BAR FOR SALE

With accommodation on Bangla Rd in Patong. Email: migs2008@live.ie

BEST BAR /
RESTAURANT IN TOWN

10 year lease! Low rent. Great revenues. 120 seats + living accommodation. Must see. 6.9 million baht only. Tel: 085-252 4236 (English). Email: erik.stoffer@psa-int.com

BAR FOR SALE

Soi Tiger. Phone for details. Tel: 087-676 1926 (English & Thai). Email: shaunrice@btinternet.com

MINIMART LAUNDRY
BIKE RENT

Located at major intersection. Accommodation. Parking. Income of 30,000 baht net per month. Price: 500,000 baht. Tel: 085-619 7492. Email: lmarrable@hotmail.com

OFFSHORE BAR
FOR SALE

Offshore Bar (Nanai Rd & Nanai 2). Price: 1.6 million baht. Expiry: April 2012 (two high seasons left). Get in touch for further details. Please contact for more information. Tel: 088-382 9074 (English). Email: g.frea@btinternet.com

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ONLY ONE YEAR VISA FOR UNDER 50s 45,000 B.
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Trip To Malaysia	Day	Oct.'10	Nov.'10	Dec.'10	Free pick up around island
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	Sun.	3, 10, 17, 24, 31	7, 14, 21, 28	12, 19, 26	

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Dinghy

Andrew Jennings

THE inspirational performances by Thailand's sailors at the 2010 Asian Games can provide the catalyst for the rising stars of the Phuket Dinghy Series to go on to emulate.

Thailand sailing is on a high after picking up three gold, one silver and two bronze in the sailing categories at the 16th Asian Games, which closes on Saturday.

Thonburi native Noppakao Poonpat, who clinched the gold medal in the Women's Dinghy Optimist Class, is a regular visitor to Phuket.

Noppakao comes from a famous sailing family and her brother, Wiwat, is a two time winner at the Phuket King's Cup Regatta.

In September she visited the Sailing of Phuket sailing school for the first round of the Phuket Dinghy Series, spending time with the young sailors and offering them helpful pointers.

The final event of the Dinghy Series for Optimist class sailors



will take place on the opening weekend of the 2010 King's Cup Regatta on December 4 and 5 off Kata Beach.

The Regatta began life with a strong dinghy presence back in 1987, and following its tentative reintroduction in 2009, the organizing committee has gone one step further this year by establishing the Dinghy Series.

This grass-roots approach is aimed at encouraging more young sailors to take up sailing.

"The dream is to continue with the Dinghy Series every year and hopefully be able to move each event to different parts of the island. The problem seems to be getting enough boats for each event," stated Duncan Worthington, one of the organizers of the series.

Vikings net sportfishing title with final day flurry

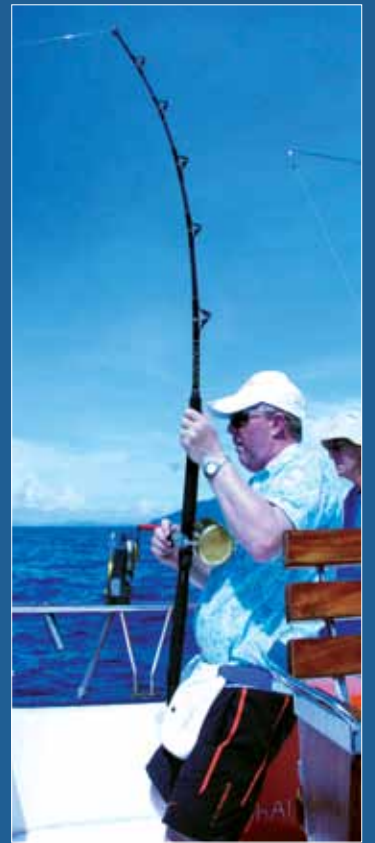
THE Danish Vikings reeled in victory at the 2010 Phuket International Sport Fishing Tournament last Saturday with most points overall.

The Danes, led by Laust Bendiksen, brought their three-day points total to 649 with a sailfish catch and release on the final day of competition.

Winning the speedboat category were first time participants and all ladies team, Saltwater Sass (US) with 106.2 points, followed by the Nauti Boys (Canada/UK) with 55.4 points.

The Vikings took the slow boat category, with the Hong Kong Mandarin (406.2 points) finishing second.

This year's event saw 14 teams take part, netting a total of 12 sailfish, one marlin and 563 kilograms of other fish.



WINNING CATCH: The Danes' final-day sailfish grab secured

Each catch and release of sailfish was awarded 75 points, and 225 points for marlin.

— Nicholas Altstadt

Fair Play League

THE Phuket Fair Play Football League will return in early 2011 and promises to be bigger and better than ever.

The league, originally set up to allow children from the Youth Football Home (YFH) the chance to play football alongside the British International School, has expanded to include youngsters from other bilingual schools.

The driving force behind the league in the early days was Hannu Tuukkanen, manager of YFH.

Mr Hannu was eager to get the boys from YFH to mix with children from different schools and social backgrounds.

For the first time next year the league will be organized by Brazilian Soccer Schools and will have a number of sponsors. All shirts will be sponsored by both The Yorkshire Inn and Tawan SEA Adventures.

Martin Hill of Brazilian Soccer Schools is delighted that local businesses have decided to come

forward and support the league.

"This competition provides a rare opportunity for children from all over Phuket to get the chance to play football together in a social setting," he said.

"It gives boys an opportunity to forge friendships. Having the support of the Yorkshire Inn and Tawan SEA Adventures will also greatly reduce the cost of the kits, meaning that no one will miss out because they can't afford to play.

"I am also grateful to Lemon Grass House who will be sponsoring the banners," he added.

League registration will be held at Royal Phuket Marina – next to Les Anges restaurant – on December 5 from 10am to 12pm and December 19 from 10am to 12pm. The cost will be 300 baht per child for the entire season.

There will be an under-16 league and under-13 league. For more information visit W: bssphuket@icfids.com

— James Goyder

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BSS Christmas Camp
Brazilian Soccer Schools (BSS), hosted at PIA Sports & Leisure Club's floodlit Limonta "Soccer Pro" FIFA approved soccer field will be heating up the Christmas break, with their highly popular 5 day Brazilian Soccer Camp. For boys and girls, aged 6 – 16 years old
20th – 24th December, 2010
From 9:00am – 1:00pm
Sign up early to avoid disappointment! Limited space available.

Kids Adventure Camps

Kids go on adventure this Christmas with PIA Sports & Leisure Club. Children from 7 – 12 years old can join the fun with a wide variety of activities to choose from. Each day will combine a range of adventurous activities from snorkelling and kayaking to water parks and ATVs. Packages include transfers, snacks and refreshments.
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BIS touch rugby tourney open to all

BRITISH International School Phuket will host a "touch rugby" mini tournament on Saturday December 4.

The tournament and post-event gathering at the Spice Island, Boat Lagoon is open to everyone – no matter what your gender, age or fitness level.

You do not need to know the rules as they will be explained to you beforehand, and individuals will be placed in teams.

Each six aside mixed team must have one female or primary aged player on the field at all times.

Anybody interested in taking part is asked to assemble at 2:30pm at British International School on December 4 – enter through Gate 3. The tournament is expected to finish around 5pm.

To register, E: rex_grey@mac.com or call T: 088-4459861.

– Andrew Jennings

FC Phuket make a point

By Andrew Jennings

FC PHUKET maintained their unbeaten run in the AIS Regional League playoffs thanks to a scoreless draw against Loei City last Sunday.

The two points dropped up north did see the South Sea Kirin slip back to third place in the Group B, however they remain level with second placed Chainat FC on 10 points but with an inferior goal difference.

The share of the spoils against Loei means Phuket have drawn four of their six games in the playoffs.

With just four games remaining and only the top two teams in the group promoted to Division 1, Phuket will need to start winning games if they are to keep their promotion dream alive.

Their home form this year has been imperious and with three of their last four games taking place on home soil, promotion is still

in their own hands.

In other matches in Group B over the weekend, Chainat FC rediscovered their scoring touch by beating Samut Prakarn on the road 4-2, while leaders Rayong FC were held 1-1 by Bangkok FC.

Next up for Phuket is a showdown with bottom of the table Bangkok at Surakul Stadium on Saturday evening. Kick-off is at 6pm.

The team from the capital are yet to win a game in Group B – drawing three and losing three.

However, Bangkok will arrive in Phuket with their tails up following a creditable draw against table toppers Rayong FC on Sunday.

Rayong sit in top spot on 12 points thanks to three wins and

three draws. Phuket face them at home in their second last game.

FC Phuket will be hoping for plenty of vocal support on Saturday evening against Bangkok as they go in search of a vital win.

Admission is 50 baht for adults, 20 baht for children. Alcohol is allowed in the stadium but glass containers are forbidden.

Visit W:phuketgazette.net for breaking FC Phuket news.



Midfielder Diarra Ali has been in outstanding form all year. Photo: Apinun Saithong

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