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Long Live The King!

TENS of thousands of people lined the streets of Bangkok on November 22 for a glimpse of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who made his first public appearance in nearly a year.

The number of those gathered was a testament to how deep their devotion, love and respect for the beloved King is.

It was no small coincidence that the event was to open two bridges and a flood gate for the benefit of the public.

His Majesty has made a lifelong contribution to projects that directly benefit the common people, be they farmers, city workers or fisherfolk.

As many people in Phuket may remember, it was only after His Majesty's visit to Patong that he decreed that a road be built to the then-sleepy Muslim village, paving the way for Phuket to become the world-renowned tourist destination it is today.

His Majesty's dedication to improving the lives

of millions has inspired countless Thais to great heights and to help their fellow countrymen.

These feats range from gold medals won at the Asian Games in China last month to the mini-dams being built in the hills of Phuket to help alleviate the island's chronic water-shortage problem.

People from around the world have been flying in to Phuket to take part in the King's Cup Regatta, held each year to commemorate His Majesty's birthday on December 5.

The annual event marks the auspicious occasion with a sail-past tribute, appropriate for a monarch renowned for his love of sailing and accomplishments in the sport.

In keeping with the true spirit of His Majesty, this year any sailor may join the event.

This Sunday, which is also Father's Day, families across Phuket will honor the 83rd birthday of the Father of the nation.

May he reign in peace.

Long Live The King!



Kamala to host 'night tsunami' drill

PHUKET will stage its first "night tsunami" evacuation drill in Kamala later this month.

Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Phuket chief San Jantharawong announced the drill will take place at 8pm on December 14.

Students, tourists, residents, business operators and related organizations are all be expected to participate, Mr San said.

At the time of going to press, assembly points for the drill had yet to be decided on, but the evacuation routes will be clearly posted, he said.

Honeymoon ends in tragedy

THE deaths of two Chinese tourists in a jet-ski smash on Wednesday has so far prompted no moves to improve the safety of people who rent out jet-skis, or swimmers, at popular Phuket beaches.

Honeymooners Zhao Qiang and his fiancée Chu Fang, both 28, died on Wednesday morning after the jet-ski they were riding slammed into a catamaran.

Police confirmed to the *Gazette* that the accident occurred nearly a kilometer offshore from the south end of Patong Beach.

Both of the couple suffered severe trauma to their necks, chests, arms and legs.

The couple rented the jet-ski from Manas Promniyom and that Mr Zhao drove it from the beach,



An officer inspects the jet-ski.

but rain began to fall about five minutes later, reducing visibility to about 50 meters, police said.

While out on the water, Mr Zhao switched places with Mrs Chu.

Police believe it was her first time operating a jet-ski.

Witnesses told police that the

jet-ski plowed into a big wave.

This might have frightened Mrs Chu, causing her to grip harder on the throttle, accelerating the jet-ski into the anchored catamaran.

The couple arrived last Sunday with an Asia Company tour group of Chinese tourists, including family members.

The tour group went to Koh Hei (Coral Island) on Wednesday, but Mrs Chu said she was sick and did not go. Her fiancée, Mr Zhao, stayed back with her.

The family members returned to Phuket after the day trip only to learn that the honeymoon had come to a tragic end.

The couple were due to fly home Thursday morning with the

rest of the Asia Company tour group.

The guide leading the tour group told the *Gazette* that he expressly told the tour group not to rent jet-skis, as most of them could not drive well and many Chinese tourists had accidents in the past.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong dismissed the accident as driver-related.

Asked about the possibility of creating zones expressly for jet-skis, or expressly forbidding jet-skis, or about requiring people renting jet-skis to have at least a car or motorbike license, Maj Gen Pekad said there had been "no progress" in those areas.

— Yodsak Jarana

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This Week

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Task force expected to start rounding up illegal workers this week. **Page 5**

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Hungover? *The Gazette* has found the perfect cure for you. **Page 18**

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Read up on marketing your rental property online. **Page 24**

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

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Sport



FC Phuket take top spot in the fight for promotion to Division One. **Page 39**

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Foreigner appointed provincial advisor

THE Governor's Office of Phuket has appointed American James A. Mabey as Economic Development and Foreign Affairs Advisor.

A consultant to many large-scale businesses in Phuket over the past five years, Mr Mabey is no stranger to provincial affairs. He has assisted several governors in dealing with this vital sector of the economy, but until about a week ago his work on behalf of the province has been low profile.

Governor Tri Augkaradecha and Vice-Governor Nivit Aroonrat are now allowing the American, who has an MBA from Prince of Songkla University and lectures at several of Thailand's leading universities, to take a more visible role.

Mr Mabey is formally attached as an advisor to the offices of both the Assistant Permanent Secretary of the Interior in Bangkok and V/Gov Nivit. He is fluent in Thai, written and spoken, and often



James A Mabey

finds himself in a bridging role over five dialects of the language. He's also fluent in Mandarin, Spanish and Laotian.

Originally from the west coast of the US, he spent time in Central America when he was a teenager and moved to Asia in 1999. He has lived in Phuket for five years.

"I have enjoyed the opportunity to work together with governors and vice-governors throughout Thailand. I try to keep my focus on simplifying issues and finding win-win solutions for both local people and the foreign companies who support the local economy by doing business here."

Vice-Governor Nivit said, "Mr Mabey is an indispensable part of my team. He has a very good understanding of Thai government, our laws and our ideas on economic promotion."

"Based on that, we wanted Mr Mabey to help us give advice to people when they are trying to set up a business here, or when they have business problems."

"Ideally, we wanted somebody who could help give advice to organizations before they actually have any problems at all," he added.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Phuket scores big baht for Asian Beach Games 2014

TOURISM and Sports Minister Chumpol Silapa-archa on Monday had good news for sports development on the island.

Phuket had applied for 700 million baht to develop and prepare the island to host the Asian Beach Games 2014.

Instead, the central government has approved nearly a billion baht, he said.

"Phuket will host the Asian Beach Games in 2014, and right now I've got nearly a billion baht available for the event. The event will make Phuket more famous," Mr Chumpol told the 200 attendees at the grand opening of the Westin Siray Bay Resort & Spa Phuket.

The minister also floated the idea of land reclamation in Phuket. "Phuket could be like Dubai and create more land for development," he said.

"I felt a little scared when the plane was landing at the airport," he added, pointing out that per-



Tourism and Sports Minister Chumpol Silapa-archa in Phuket.

haps the runway could be extended into the sea as is done at many international airports. He cited Hong Kong as an example.

Reflecting on his previous visit to Phuket, Mr Chumpol said, "This is the first time in nearly 20 years that I've been to Phuket, and there have been many changes."

"For example, Kata-Karon was quiet countryside in the past, but now it's much more developed."

Regarding complaints from foreign tourists, the minister said, "I would like local organizations to focus not only on the money generated by tourism, but to also take good care of our tourists."



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Patong traffic to stay one-way for annual carnival

By Atchaa Khamlo

PLANS for this month's 25th Patong Carnival are beginning to take shape, yet the project to reverse the direction of one-way traffic in the town is no closer to completion.

Patong Municipality officials had intended to begin running the one-way system counter-clockwise before the start of the carnival on December 15.

It was confirmed at a Patong Municipality meeting this week that the new traffic flow system would not be ready in time for the carnival.

"The new road system will remain the same, because management will not be ready in time [for the carnival] and it has yet to be decided when the road will be reversed," said Patong Carnival organizer Jutharat Putthalak.

The current system has traffic running north up the beach road and south down Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road.

In an online poll conducted earlier this year, only one-third of *Phuket Gazette* readers believed reversing the direction of one-way traffic would make travel in Patong more convenient.

Open-air performances during the six-day event will start at 7pm each night and take place at the end of the beach road on Patong Beach.

The event is expected to attract up to 10,000 party goers.

During the carnival, the main stage at Bangla Park, next to the police box on Patong Beach, will host traditional performances by local musicians.

A second stage set up at the football field across from Loma Park will see popular Thai artists entertain the crowds.



HRH Sirindhorn receives a welcoming garland at the SOS Children's Village in Koh Kaew. Photo: Kamonpat Rikakorn

HRH Sirindhorn responds to SOS

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn opened the Kindergarten Building at the SOS Children's Village Phuket in Koh Kaew on November 23.

The orphanage, built following the 2004 tsunami, is the fifth SOS Children's Village in Thailand.

At the home, children are brought together into "new" fami-

lies, with each SOS family having one SOS mother and 10 children living together.

The SOS Village in Phuket has 12 family houses where up to 120 children can find a new home. The village also includes the director's house, a house for the "SOS aunts" (women training to become SOS mothers and family helpers

who support the SOS mothers and fill in for them when they are sick or go on holiday), a service building and a community house with a medical room, a store and an administration area.

HRH Sirindhorn also officiated the opening of the Don Bosco Home in Bangsak, Takuapa, in Phang Nga province the same day.

Raid on 'pirate family' nets 10,000 discs, six arrested

POLICE arrested six members of the same family and confiscated more than 10,000 CDs and DVDs in a raid north of Phuket Town today.

Phuket's top-brass police led a sortie of 30 officers in the early-morning raid on three adjacent homes on Soi Han Farang in Koh Kaew.

Inside the houses, police caught the family literally in the act of pirating discs.

The officers found thousands of CDs and DVDs along with computers, disc duplicators and other equipment for copying discs.

Police also seized four pickup trucks and two three-wheeled motorcycles that the suspects al-

legedly used to deliver the pirated goods around the island.

The total value of items seized as evidence is estimated to be at least 10 million baht.

Dang Laolee, 54, from Ubon Ratchathani province, confessed to being the pirates' ringleader. The rest of the suspects arrested were her relatives, she said in her statement.

Mrs Dang told police she had rented the three houses to use as a pirate disc factory for the past two years.

They could produce more than 1,000 discs a day, she said.

Her relatives peddled the illegal

discs at tourist attractions and markets across Phuket, Mrs Dang said.

The products were also sold to vendors in Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga.

The six arrested have been charged with producing and selling copyright products without permission.

All confessed to the charges against them. — *Yodsak Jarana*

Big bikes to roar into Phuket

MORE than 2,000 bikers from around Thailand and Southeast Asia are set to come roaring into Phuket next month for the Southern Big Bike Party and Charity 2010.

Organizer Kittiwong Jan-sattham met Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha at Provincial Hall last week to finalize arrangements for the event, activities for which will be centered at Saphan Hin Public Park December 17 and 18.

The activities will include contests for the best custom design and classic bikes, memorabilia

auctions and live performances from artists including veteran rockers Hin Lek Fai.

Safety will be a theme throughout the festival, with a campaign to ensure all riders and passengers wear helmets.

All profits will be donated to Vachira Phuket Hospital and other public organizations in Phuket.

As well as boosting tourism, bikers would promote safety to tourists this high season by wearing safety helmets, Governor Tri said.



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Growlers tapped for lotto numbers

THERE's a well known – if slightly crude – expression in the United Kingdom: "As happy as a dog with two dicks".

But how happy is a dog with two vaginas?

Anyone wishing to find out should pay a visit to Udorn Battasao, 29, who lives in a village in Mukdahan province.

Mr Udorn is the proud owner of "Bendy", a three-month-old puppy gifted with two sets of genitals.

At first sight, it's clear Bendy is no ordinary dog. She has an extra leg sprouting out near the ankle on her back-left leg.

But five-legged dogs are hardly news to seasoned Queer Newsfolk.

When Bendy lies on her back, you can see what's got the residents of Mr Udorn's village really excited: her extra vagina.

The organ, on her groin on the same side as her extra leg, looks just like a normal vagina, though it doesn't have an opening.

QUEER news

As is usual for rural Thailand, residents of the village are queuing up to see Bendy's bits – in the hope of gleaning the week's winning lottery numbers.

Bendy was the last of seven puppies born to her mother at the start of September.

Mr Udorn inspected the puppies one by one and was surprised to see Bendy's bizarre genitals.

Still, Mr Udorn said Bendy was strong and he would raise her as a normal dog.

He lets her out in the morning to play in the rice fields and brings her home every night with the rest of the puppies.

We can only assume she's as happy as a dog with two...

– Thai Rath

Drugs gone to the dogs

LOCAL authorities expect two puppies now under intensive training at Phuket International Dog School (PIDS) to become effective drug detection dogs by January.

The two candidates, Bebe and Boo Boo, are both four months old. Bebe is a four-kilogram female beagle, while Boo Boo is a male pit bull currently weighing in at seven kilos.

The project is the idea of Muang District Chief Supachai Pochanukul, who in May sent two other puppies, Nin and Chao Kuay, to PIDS for training.

Mr Supachai hopes Bebe and Boo Boo will do better on the course than their predecessors, who flunked out after two months of training.

PIDS's owner Wichai Chidchio told the *Gazette* only a very small percentage of dogs are naturally cut out for drug detection work.

"Bebe and Boo Boo have been undergoing basic obedience for two months. Two weeks ago we



Boo Boo in training.

decided they had the right temperament for the work and also began training in drug detection.

"The next step will be to take them to public places, abandoned homes and other sites where they might conduct actual drug searches," he said.

"These dogs work better than any drug-detection equipment. Suspects sweat when drug dogs approach because they know they cannot hide the scent or bribe their way out of the situation.

– Pimwara Choksakulpan

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Buses for the new route should be ready by March.

New Pink Bus route announced

PHUKET's award-winning "Pink Buses" will ply a new route between Saphan Hin and Rassada early next year.

Paiboon Upatising, president of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO), told the *Gazette* that the new route will be serviced by eight new vehicles, known locally as *po thong*.

It will be the third PPAO Pink Bus route to be introduced.

"We are assembling two new buses each month... so the buses should be ready by about March next year," he said.

"The buses will operate from 6am to 8pm, the same service hours used on the first two routes.

"If this new route is well received by the public, it may be expanded [from Rassada Pier] to Koh Sireh in the future," Mr Paiboon said.

The PPAO will make an announcement when the exact route

the buses will travel has been finalized, he said.

Early next year four additional buses will join each fleet of eight vehicles currently serving of the existing two routes, he added.

Route 1 runs from Big C to Saphan Hin, while Route 2 operates from Super Cheap to the Fresh Market on Chao Fa East Road.

Fares are 10 baht for all journeys and free for children.

As for the illuminated signs now installed at all 73 bus stops, the PPAO is waiting for electricity meters to be installed before turning them on after dark.

The same applies for illuminated route map signs installed at 10 selected stops.

"Once the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority installs the 83 meters we can turn the lightboxes on at night," said PPAO technician Pornchai Ngosurachet.

Police denied drug-test center

THE Office of Forensic Science has denied Phuket police permission to set up its own Scientific Crime Detection Center.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong explained the request was turned down due to the lack of experienced officers to staff the center.

"Urine tests [for drugs] must be overseen by experts. If the urine samples are not well kept and protected, the investigators them-

selves may be infected by it," said Maj Gen Pekad.

Another reason put forward in declining the request was inadequate facilities, he added.

"We don't have a waste-disposal system as used at hospitals or medical science centers. Both can destroy materials using an appropriate system, and therefore protect their officers from becoming infected," he said.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Illegal worker sweep to start 'this week'

By Janpen Upatising

THE multi-agency task force of government officers responsible for rounding up all illegal foreign workers throughout Southern Thailand is expected to start operations this week.

The news follows a meeting of representatives of the five regional teams in Bangkok last Friday.

Noppadol Ployudee, Chief of Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO), will lead the team for Southern Thailand.

"I have received the order from the meeting that they [the task force] could start their mission in the South within this week, and it will end on September 30 next year," Mr Noppadol told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

"The mission is to monitor, suppress, arrest and prosecute all foreigners found working illegally without the proper permit – as well as their employers," he said.

"We will submit reports of the

- Employers to be targeted
- Daily reports to be submitted to Deputy PM Sanan

operation to Deputy Prime Minister Sanan Kachornprasart every day," he added.

"We are now waiting for the equipment and vehicles from headquarters. Once they give us the signal, we will start the operation immediately," he said.

Mr Noppadol's team consists of about 21 members from Royal Thai Police, Royal Thai Army, Royal Thai Navy, Department of Provincial Administration, Department of Social Development and Welfare, and Department of Employment.

"Our team will be divided into three smaller groups, according to

the zone. One of the three teams will be responsible for Phuket, Ranong, Phang Nga and Krabi.

"We will go into areas such as restaurants, massage parlors and department stores," he said.

The Phuket provincial task force concluded its operations on November 28. "It is also possible that we may combine the provincial team with the regional team," Mr Noppadol said.

"In some provinces, we will request support from authorities such as Immigration Police, District Chiefs and provincial employment offices," he said.

The Phuket provincial squad arrested 72 Burmese and three employers during their raids.

"I am satisfied with the number of illegal employees arrested. But as for the numbers of employers, I think it is relatively small. As there were a high number of illegal workers arrested, the number of employers arrested should be high too," Mr Noppadol said.

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Lin Ping is a hit. Photo: The Nation

Thailand wants more panda

THAI authorities are to ask China for permission to keep Lin Ping, the first giant panda born in Thailand, in Chiang Mai Zoo for two more years.

Lin Ping has become something of a national obsession since she was born in May last year.

The cub, whose name means "Forest of Ice", even features on her own TV Channel, which broadcasts her every move to Thai viewers 24 hours a day.

But Lin Ping remains the property of China. She is due to be returned in May next year.

Thai officials will meet senior Chinese wildlife conservation officials for talks on the cub's future December 20.

Confident in the panda staying, zoo officials have already planned to renovate the creatures' enclosure.

The renovation will begin in 2012 at the cost of 28.5 million baht, according to the Thai public relations department.

Dems off the hook, for now

THE Democrat Party escaped dissolution on Monday when the Constitution Court dismissed a case that could have seen the prime minister banned from politics.

The ruling is likely to anger the political opposition allied to former PM Thaksin Shinawatra and fuel its claims of "double standards".

Two parties allied to the exiled billionaire were dismissed on similar grounds in recent years, paving the way for PM Abhisit Vejjajiva's coalition government to take power.

The Election Commission (EC) filed the case against the Democrats in April, accusing the party of misusing campaign funds.

The party allegedly spent 23 million baht of a state election grant on advertising while only permitted to spend 19 million.

The court declined to adjudicate on whether the Democrats were guilty, dismissing the case on a legal technicality.

Four of six judges ruled that the EC had exceeded a 15-day deadline to file the complaint, throwing the case out.

If the ruling had gone the other way, the party could have been dissolved and its executives banned from politics for five years.

Two opposition parties have already met a similar fate. After the coup which ousted former prime minister Thaksin, the court in May 2007 dissolved his Thai

AROUND THE nation

Rak Thai party for electoral fraud.

In December 2008 the Thaksin-allied People's Power Party was also dissolved on electoral fraud charges. The ruling allowed the Democrats to form Thailand's current coalition government.

The dissolution case has been highly controversial. In October the opposition Pheu Thai Party released a video appearing to show a Democrat MP attempting to influence a senior court official.

The official, Pasit Sakdanarong, was fired as secretary to one of the judges for damaging the court's reputation.

Three of the nine judges originally set to rule on the case withdrew to take legal action against Mr Pasit.

Despite the ruling, the Democrats are not yet in the judicial clear.

The party could also be dissolved in a separate case in which it stands accused of unlawfully receiving a 258-million-baht donation from TPI Polene, a cement manufacturer. A ruling on that case is expected within six months.

— *Phuket Gazette*



ALL SMILES: PM Abhisit and the Democrat Party survived their latest trial. Photo: AFP

Burmese refugees flee fresh violence

MORE than 1,000 Burmese refugees poured into Tak Province in North Thailand on Sunday to escape renewed fighting between Karen rebels and the Burmese army.

Refugees sheltered in a temple and a Thai school in Pop Phra District, reported exiled Burmese news magazine *The Irrawaddy*.

The fighting began when a splinter group of the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) ambushed government troops in Phaluu village in Karen State on Friday night.

The same brigade attacked the

border town of Myawaddy on November 8, the day after the Burmese elections, leading to fighting and the displacement of around 15,000 refugees into Thailand. Five Thais were injured when a rocket propelled grenade landed over the border in Mae Sot District.

The DKBA faction is refusing to join the Burmese army as a Border Guard Force. The faction is among several ethnic armies who oppose the plan, leading to widespread fears of civil war in Burma's outlying ethnic states.

Many analysts expect the Bur-

mese military to attempt to "clean up" the rebel groups once a new government has been installed in Naypyidaw, the Burmese capital.

Six ethnic militias with a total of around 60,000 fighters are known to have signed a mutual defence pact, pledging to help each other if attacked.

Fears of conflict are leading to an influx of drugs into Thailand. Groups such as the United Wa State Army are believed to be flooding the country with meth-amphetamines in a bid raise funds to buy arms.

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Day 1: The First Night

On the way to the arrival hall, there are lots of brochures for visitors - Bali maps from various tour companies. You can't miss out the taxi counter and there is a fixed price list depending on which area you are heading. From airport to Seminyak (where I will be staying at Tune Hotel Jln Double Six, Legian) cost Rp 60,000 and it takes about 30 minutes.

The couple, Ben & Susan is both from Germany who are here for 2-weeks holiday and they invited me to join them for the beach tomorrow morning. I feel so lucky! As I needed to check out the beach and more importantly, I make new friends! Upon reaching the hotel, the check-in process was smooth (There is a requirement to pay deposit of Rp 45,000 which is refundable - all you need to do is return the towel upon check-out).

I decided to head over to the beach. The Double Six beach is about 5 minutes walking from the hotel. Most of the eateries located in JL. Double Six are western restaurants, few bars and night club but maybe it is Friday night, and it was pretty quiet.

Day 2: Surfers, sunset at Tanah Lot & secret alley!

After breakfast, it is time for sun, surf and beach! The beach is still pretty empty when we head over there and according to Ben & Susan, the beach over here is more quiet than Kuta.



Tanah Lot



PURA ULUNDANU

"What is most memorable about the land of Gods is not just the touristic attraction but what lies beneath it - the friendliness and kindness of the people, the beautiful temples and the Balinese culture which is one of its kinds"

Both of them are learning surfing, so they rented a surfboard to practice for 150,000 IDR for the entire day. All the benches on the beach are owned by respective stalls - it is free for use if you rent surfboards from them.

Lying down at the bench is just so heavenly, with wind blowing and people strolling by the beach (ahem, hunks and babes alert) and watching the surfers in action (even the dogs jumped to the wave for some actions!). There are a lot of trinkets sellers who will approach to sell the trinkets, offer hair braiding, and manicure and pedicure services. If you are not interested, just smile and politely say 'No, thank you'. I wonder if Phuket would be the same?

In Bali, to visit the tourist attractions, it is not possible to go about without a tour guide especially when I don't know how to ride a motorbike. My initial plan is to visit Bali via cycling which I found out in the end, is a crazy idea.

The sky was turning dark and I was worried that I will be unable to view the sunset at Tanah Lot but luckily when I got there, the sun is in its glorious state. There are a lot of trinket shops on the way to the temple for souvenir shopping.

What's next? To meet Ben & Susan at JL. Legian, Kuta (take a cab from the hotel cost Rp 48,000) which is pretty packed with tourists and cars? The traffic is bit packed which reminds me of the traffic in Jalan Sultan Ismail in Kuala Lumpur. They brought me to a secret pub that is located in a dark alley where it is popular among the Scandinavians and Nordics (sorry, I was told to keep this secret place a secret *lips sealed*) for great deals for the drinks and wonderful crowd

Day 3: Balinese Boreh, Babi Guling & Oleh-Oleh

After a long partying night, what's best other than pampering me to Balinese spa? I choose Balinese Boreh (Rp 165,000 tax included). Mak Rai, my masseuse is superb as just by looking at my body structure she identified the stiff back and shoulder and gosh, it was so nice that I fell asleep twice during the 1 ½ hour massage process which uses spice oil followed by Balinese Boreh body mask made from warming spice to the body helps soothe aching muscles. I definitely enjoyed Balinese spa as compared to traditional Thai massage which to me, hurts a lot.

Brunch was babi guling at a local store in Kuta (Rp 30,000) and a stop at Bali biggest souvenir store, Krisna Oleh Oleh Khas Bali which is like a one-stop souvenir retail shop as it have a variety of souvenirs ranging from food to clothing, to handicrafts, accessories and many more! This is the right place to shop for awesome souvenirs at very affordable prices! It is on the way to the airport so let the driver know to make a quick stop for Balinese souvenirs.

AirAsia have launched Phuket-Bali, the only airline connecting 2 paradises and is available for booking at

<http://www.airasia.com>

Afterall, Bali & Phuket is same-same but different!

**Are you thrilled to try out
BALI - PHUKET together like us?? :)**

-Swee Ping-



SENJA DI PANTAI KUTA

Police seeking 'white guy' sneak thief

POLICE believe a Caucasian man carried out a burglary in Kalim around midnight on November 23, while the Canadian homeowner and his wife were asleep in their bedroom.

In all, about US\$5,000 in electronic items were stolen from the home on Kalim Soi 7.

CCTV footage taken from inside the estate shows a man climbing over a wall and entering an unlocked building to obtain keys and then calmly letting himself into the home.

The Canadian homeowner told the *Gazette* that other neighbors saw a white Honda Jazz parked for hours in a suspicious location near the estate's perimeter wall on the night of the robbery.

They then saw a "white man" exit the car and walk along the property at about midnight, he said.

The neighbors recognized the man, as they had seen him repeatedly driving around the area on a motorbike earlier this month, he added.

Dutch ambassador praises Phuket's honorary consuls

NETHERLANDS Ambassador to Thailand Tjaco van den Hout last night praised the work of honorary consuls, saying it was a "thankless" job requiring the consuls to be available at all hours to attend to often "grisly" affairs.

"I am so happy to have a consulate here to take care of an estimated 1,500 to 1,800 Dutch residents in this part of Thailand," he said.

The number of Dutch nationals coming to Phuket and neighboring areas is continually increasing and is currently more than 200,000 a year, he added.

The ambassador was speaking at the official opening of the Netherlands Honorary Consulate in Phuket, marked by a party at Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket last night.

Addressing Phuket's top government officials, local Dutch residents and other honorary consuls gathered for the occasion, Ambassador Van den Hout voiced



Netherlands Ambassador to Thailand Tjaco van den Hout (left) with Seven Smulders, the Dutch honorary consul for Phuket.

his high esteem for Seven Smulders, the Netherlands Honorary Consul for Phuket.

"It's not just his great pedigree and fine experience which makes

him suitable for this role, he has actually held a very prominent position in the field of national promotion and he has done that with great distinction," he said.

"The role of honorary consul is a thankless one. It requires you to be available at any moment day or night and for very little reward, because it is an honorary position," said the ambassador.

Mr Van den Hout pointed out that Mr Smulders had been acting as the de facto Dutch honorary consul for the past 18 months. "In that short time he has had to deal with some grisly consular tasks, and he has done that in that very proper manner," he added.

Mr Smulders passed the compliment on to his counterparts. "I would like to express my gratitude to my colleagues, other honorary consuls. I feel privileged to be officially a part of this formal association and look forward to working with you in the future."

The Netherlands Honorary Consulate is located at the Dara Hotel on Chao Fa West Road Tel: 076-304096-7. Mobile: 084-8529279. Email: dutchhonoraryconsulphuket@gmail.com

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Rino in need

DESPITE the initial success of last week's life-saving heart surgery, one week on, 10 year old Rino Mangon Vogt, who suffer from Ebstein's anomaly, received two lots of bad news, the *Gazette* has learned.

The first bad news came when cardiologist Dr Poomiporn Katanyuwong turned off the external pacemaker used to regulate Rino's heartbeat and Rino collapsed into slumber.

"He passed out and started snoring and when we woke him he seemed confused. This means his repaired heart is probably beating too slow," said Rino's father, Ritchie Newton.

At this point he was told that Rino needed a second operation to install a permanent tiny pacemaker next to his son's heart.

This smaller operation took place at 8pm on Tuesday night and was a success, but has led to another problem: how to pay for the device.



Rino after Tuesday's operation

"We had enough donations to cover the initial operation and after care but did not expect this added expense of about 6,000 euros (236,000 baht). So far we have had another 2,000 euros in donations but need another 4,000 euros (157,000 baht) to pay the hospital bill," said Ritchie.

Anyone who wishes to help Rino with donations can do so by visiting the website rinosheart.com

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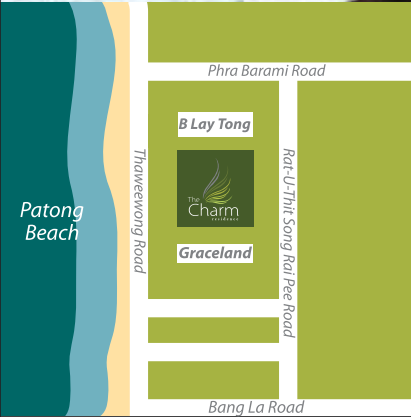
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Smoke out the 'farang scum'

Re: *Phuket Gazette*, Task force to target all illegal workers, November 27

Well, well, well. I read that a task force is preparing to sweep Phuket targeting "all illegal workers". The first demographic that comes to mind is the large population of mostly Burmese migrant workers, and I'm sure they'll be targeted.

However, the chief of the Employment Office pointed out that the team will target and arrest "any foreigner found working secretly without a work permit," not only Thailand's migrant neighbors.

This is good news, and I hope to see it enforced. I find the illegal Western workers in Phuket to be much more of a nuisance than their Burmese counterparts.

The Burmese work tirelessly building, cleaning, serving, cooking, and all the rest, then retire to their homes or camps early in the evening.

The Western illegal works tirelessly promoting, nagging, pitching timeshares, drinking at noon, operating shady businesses through a bar girl "wife", and so on.

I say target the *farang* scum specifically and leave the Burmese, Lao and Cambodian workers alone.

Simon Wargel
Phuket town

When being a guest is just not enough

Re: *Phuket Gazette*, Issues & Answers: Do I need a 'business visa' to work online, November 20

The more I read about the

Launching an idea against fire hazard

THE festive season is nigh upon us and tourists from around the world continue to pour into Phuket in what is shaping up as banner high season for tourism – at least terms of visitor arrival figures.

Use of *khom loy* ("fire lanterns") is increasingly common during festivals in Phuket and the night sky above our island was full of the glowing objects during the recent Loy Krathong festival.

With the monsoon season due to end soon, the skies are clearing and conditions for releasing the lanterns improving.

This fact, coupled with the rise in tourist figures and the profits to be made from entertaining them, seems a sure fire recipe for a record number of lanterns being released in the upcoming months.

The sight of one of the lanterns slowly rising aloft certainly holds a romantic and quintessentially Asian appeal, but too much of anything is never a good thing. Excessive, uncontrolled use of *khom loy* is now becoming a problem, both in terms of safety and the environment.

As the age-old adage goes: "What goes up must come down".

While mankind's successful launching of never-to-return space probes may have rendered that statement technically inaccurate, we have yet to hear of a *khom loy* achieving the escape velocity needed to carry it into the heavens.

They invariably return to the land, or as often the case in Phuket, into local waters that are already overburdened with man-made

Phuket Gazette

debris. During New Year celebrations in Patong, it is a common sight to see them land on and around the many very expensive yachts anchored in the bay.

During the Red Cross Fair last year, lanterns were being sent off in windy conditions from an area next to the central stage. Many narrowly passed over the heads of hundreds of people eating at tables set up nearby. Another flew into the branches of one of the pine trees that surround the area, setting it alight. Despite the obvious hazards the operator was creating, at no point did any official step in to tell the operator to give it a break.

Similar near misses occur all over the island and there have been reports of burn injuries over the years.

The dangers posed by *khom loy* was a topic at the recent gathering of honorary consuls with the governor. It is already against the law to release them without a permit, yet rogue vendors are ever-present at large, public festivals.

The situation could be rectified overnight if existing laws were enforced. Police wouldn't even have to arrest offenders; consistent on-the-spot seizure of stock would probably be enough to dissuade them from trying it again.

Let's do this and restrict the *khom loy* to only hotels and other private events organized by people who have respect for the law.

pay tax on his earnings?

Hmmm...

Let's try across the pond. Would, say, an Eastern European man be allowed to stay in the US and make money from his websites without having a Green Card?

So, if it's pretty clear from these two examples what the general rule might be, what's with even asking the question – which raises my final point: Isn't the fact that this man didn't ask the authorities himself enough of a hint at what the answer is?

Some days it's just tiring...

Terry Seagram
Phuket town

Feeling the blues

I still get the feeling Phuket is wrongly famed as just a seedy beach haven, swarming with beery expats, swindling locals and countless girly bars.

What should not be overlooked is the unadulterated charm of the old quarter of Phuket town.

There may not be a beach, but strolling through the area I was again left impressed by the beauty of the Sino-Portuguese buildings and the elaborate Chinese shrines and Thai temples.

Only last Sunday night there was an open-air blues gig out on Soi Romanee.

The band were superb and the intimate atmosphere felt a million miles away from the bland madness of Patong's party scene.

There is a similar gig this Sunday for HM The King's birthday. So if blues music is your thing, I recommend popping down to Soi Romanee for a look.

Pleased with Phuket
Thalang

"issues facing foreigners" here in Phuket, the more embarrassed I am of being a foreigner. The "Do I need a 'business visa' to work online?" Issue & Answer posted recently got my goat.

For this fine gent wanting to know if he needs a work permit to earn money while working (hint) his websites, let's say he is, for example, a Pakistani-born man residing in but not a citizen

of the UK making money from websites that are not in English and appeal to a market not in the UK.

Gee, would he need a National Insurance number and have to

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Issues & Answers...

Call to prayer a bit too loud

I live near the airport and not too far from a mosque. When I moved here about three years ago, we could hear the praying in the mosque and that was absolutely no problem.

Last year before Ramadan, the mosque put up one speaker on the street and this year before Ramadan they put up another three.

In the "old days" this was a Muslim area, but now it is more of a mix of Muslims, Buddhists, foreign residents and tourists.

Sometimes, especially on Fridays and during Ramadan, the speakers are very loud several times a day and sometimes for more than one hour.

My question is, can the mosque put up speakers wherever they want and as many as they want without any respect for the non-Muslims in this area?

I respect them but would also like them to respect those of us who

are not Muslim. Who can we talk to about this?

Imam Samarn Dumluck, of the Baan Bang Malao Mosque, replies:

We have had many speakers set up for about a year now, but sometimes people turn the volume up to level two or three, which is too loud.

We can turn the volume down to level one, probably starting this evening [November 29].

The call to prayer is given five times a day, as it is part of our religion to do so.

We started broadcasting the call to prayer about five years ago, especially during the holy month

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of Ramadan, throughout which calls will be done a few more times around 8pm or 9pm.

A lawyer with the Sakoo Tambon Administration Organization (TAO) replies:

People can file a complaint about this problem at the TAO office along with a copy of their ID card and passport.

The documents will then be given to the Sakoo TAO president for consideration.

If the problem is outside of our ability to handle, the complaint will be forwarded to the district or provincial authorities.

If you have any questions, please contact the Sakoo TAO at 076-205328.

Who can stop illegal dumping?

Between Mission Hills Golf Course and the Sea View Caves people are dumping everything

From Burma to Thailand: an educated perspective

FIRST PERSON

COMPARED to Thailand, the quality of the education system in Myanmar [Burma] right now is quite low.

Regarding university education, I'm not that satisfied that graduates in Myanmar are of the quality to go on and work in the fields of their study.

I suppose the best university in Myanmar would be the University of Medicine in Yangon [Rangoon].

It's the most difficult to get into, because they want to maintain the quality of the university. If their graduates are not good enough, people could die as a result of their treatment.

I think the Myanmar Government mostly focuses on maintaining the quality of the University of Medicine, and for the rest, I don't think they really work.

We don't have a system like the one in Thailand. The only way to get into a university is to pass a government exam. Exam takers are ranked based on their score on the government exam.

The top 300 or 400 students will get into the University of Medicine, with the next tier going into computer science or engineering.

It is said that Burmese people have a higher level of English-language ability than Thai people due to Myanmar's past as a British colony.

It is true that we still use British English and are strong in English grammar in Myanmar, but I feel Thais are better at applying



Originally from Rangoon, Burma, **Mr Nyan Bo Bo** holds a master's degree in technology from Thammasat University Bangkok. He currently lectures web programming and software engineering at the Prince of Songkla University Phuket. Here he contrasts the education systems and graduate opportunities between his native Burma and Thailand.

the language in real life. Unlike Thais, we don't have the same chances to talk to foreigners because not as many visit Myanmar.

With a lot of foreigners around, Thai students have more opportunity to practice their English.

Burmese students only study from grammar books and learn how to construct sentences – not much real-life application.

When I was in 8th or 9th grade, my school had three computers.

Since we only had three, the teachers picked the best students from each class and allowed them to study computers. So I didn't have the chance – it was very competitive.

Ten years ago, before I left Myanmar to continue my bachelor's degree at Assumption University in Bangkok, the Internet was not very popular in Myanmar.

I didn't know about all the knowledge I could gain from the Web and how much of the world I could see on it. I was amazed by the technology when I first came to Thailand.

I had only started studying about

computers one month before coming to Thailand – I just learned the basics, like how to turn on and off the computer and how to use Microsoft Word and Excel.

However, when I began my first computer science course in the first year of my bachelor's degree at Assumption, I really felt: "Wow, it's cool. I'm in love with it."

It's such a surprise that something I didn't know anything about ten years ago is now my profession.

Right now people in Myanmar are starting to use the Internet. They now have a chance to see how technology is advancing throughout the world. Hopefully they will catch up as much as they can.

I feel that Burmese people don't have much opportunity to go outside Myanmar. Some of them are really smart but they don't get to see the world outside.

They are unaware that there are a lot of opportunities to do a master's degree or PhD outside of Myanmar.

They don't have a chance to reach their full potential.

English soccer a local distraction

Island View

By Andrew Jennings

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



Phuket's 'boys in green' had a record season. Photo: Apinun Saitong

IT WAS the late-great Liverpool manager Bill Shankly that once famously stated, "Some people believe football is a matter of life and death. I'm very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that."

Perhaps Shankly's remark is more than a sport, it is a religious devotion. It is a lifestyle. It is a national love affair. It is what brings people together and makes them happy.

In many countries soccer is more than a sport, it is a religious devotion. It is a lifestyle. It is a national love affair. It is what brings people together and makes them happy.

The game can cross religious divides, while at other times incite ancient tribal rivalries.

It brings rich and poor together to one place with one unified purpose: to support their team.

Every weekend I walk past bars in Phuket packed with locals and foreigners huddled around large television screens watching live English Premier League soccer.

Granted, there is nothing wrong with this, the Premiership being the worldwide sporting behemoth that it is, but I feel its presence often blinds soccer fans to what is right on their doorstep.

I would hazard a guess that the majority of folk watching Premiership games in these bars have no idea that Phuket has its own soccer team on the verge of creating its own little piece of history.

FC Phuket are closing in on promotion to Division 1 of the Thai League for the first time and

face three make-or-break fixtures in as many weeks that will decide their destiny.

The Thai League may not boast the stars of the top European leagues, but the standard is still high and the atmosphere at home games is always superb.

It is one thing watching a soccer game on television from the comfort of a bar stool, but an entirely different experience visiting a stadium to watch one in person.

Going to a game is always a far more engaging experience, where you can savor the sights and sounds that can make a match day such a wonderful spectacle.

With two of FC Phuket's remaining three games on home turf over the coming weeks, I think every soccer fan should try and get down to Surakul Stadium and support their push for promotion.

Sure as Shankly said himself, "What a great day for football, all we need is some green grass and a ball".

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

from concrete to rubbish and then trying to burn it.

I hate to say this, but concrete doesn't burn and why is no one monitoring this?

Tom
Pa Khlok

Woranan Karanam, assistant administrator at the Pa Khlok Tambon Administration Organization (TAO) replies:

We will assign an officer to inspect and clean up the trash and after that we will find out where it came from.

Burning trash is not allowed in residential areas because it causes pollution. We will first give notice letters to people living in the area informing them of this. If we find someone continuing to burn trash, we will give a second notice directly to that person. If the problem continues, we will report it to the Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO).

If you would like to report illegal dumping or burning of trash, call the Pa Khlok TAO at 076-529500 ex305.

Our office is open from Monday through Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm.

Thipkukhon Silaphan, an officer at the Phuket PPHO, replies:

The first thing we will do is assign someone to inspect the area and find out the source of the problem.

In the meantime, we will clean the area and post signs prohibiting dumping and/or burning of trash.

If the problem continues, we will issue a warning or notice letter to the person responsible.

The Public Health Act B.E. 2535 Chapter 5 Section 28 states that:

Sources of nuisance: In the event of an occurrence that may cause annoyance to residents in the neighboring area or expose persons to the following, it shall be a source of nuisance.

Section 28: In the event a nuisance occurs in a private place, the local official shall have powers to issue a written order to the owner or occupant of such place requiring him to abate the nuisance within a reasonable period of time

as specified in the order and, if he deems it expedient to prescribe the method of abatement of such nuisance or the method of prevention of future nuisances, to specify such method in the order.

In the event of noncompliance with an order of the local official pursuant to paragraph one, the local official shall have powers to enter to abate such nuisance and may take measures necessary to prevent future nuisances, and if the nuisance was caused by the action or omission to act or consent of the owner or occupant of the place, they must bear the expenses incurred therein.

In the event it appears to the local official that the nuisance occurring in a private place may cause serious harm to health or impact on the living conditions suitable to the livelihood of the population, the local official may issue a written order forbidding the owner or occupant to use or permit any person to use such a place in whole or in part until the local official is satisfied that the nuisance has been abated.

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Sponsorship driving success

CAR and boat lovers alike will be happy to hear Jaguar will return to Phuket with its latest prestige model, the XJ. They will be offering free test drives for selected guests during the Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) 2011 in January.

The return of Jaguar to the island follows their highly successful sponsorship drive with Six Senses Phuket Raceweek for the past two years, creating an affinity of the classic marque with luxury yachts.

PIMEX 2010 made US\$30 million in deals, hosted more than 85 companies and featured 35 yachts in the water, making it the biggest boat show in the region, said PIMEX organizer Andy Dowden.

He expects PIMEX 2011, to be held at Royal Phuket Marina from January 6-9, to draw 6,000 visitors, including over 2,000 trade visitors.

This is where Jaguar will be looking to build on their success. "We saw a marked improvement in sales following our experiential marketing event at Six Senses Phuket Raceweek 2009 and 2010," said Mick Razza, Jaguar Director for Overseas Operations.

Mr Razza praised Paul Poole (South East Asia) Co Ltd, the Bangkok-based independent marketing consultancy that brought



VROOM VROOM: The latest Jaguar models are speeding back to Phuket.

Jaguar and yachts together.

"Paul Poole handled a first-class, 360-degree marketing campaign at Six Senses Phuket Raceweek that rivalled any of the best platforms we have used in the past," he said.

Paul Poole (South East Asia) Co Ltd specializes in commercial sponsorship and partnership marketing.

"The company works with both rights holders and brands – acting as a catalyst by bringing them together and maximizing the relationship," explained Mr Poole.

Sponsoring Phuket Raceweek offered Jaguar an opportunity to

align its brand with the Asian yachting fraternity, showcase its cars, give potential buyers a chance to drive the cars, increase awareness of Jaguar's range, engage its regional partners, VIP customers and prospects.

In securing sponsorship, the company negotiated rights for Jaguar including the right to title, branding, media, DVDs, experiential marketing, hospitality and networking, and merchandising.

"Managed correctly, sponsorship is one of the best ways to extend brand visibility and broaden

awareness across a wide range of audiences by a subtle and long-lasting reinforcement of the brand and its values," said Mr Poole.

Jaguar's association and activation program with the event enabled them to hit many business objectives, he added.

Among them, last year Jaguar realized a 6:1 return on investment in terms of sales of cars as a result of orders taken at the event.

"This grew to 12:1 in 2010, making the sponsorship a very cost effective business decision with a real result," said Mr Poole.

Sponsorship also availed greater exposure for Jaguar. "Six Senses Phuket Raceweek annually generates over US\$4 million of media through televised coverage of the event, PR and advertising," said Mr Poole.

At PIMEX 2011, Jaguar will showcase the new XJ, XFR and XKR. The new XJ, recently voted 2010 Car of The Year by UK-based *Professional Driver Magazine*, and award winning XFR and XKR models, will be exhibited inside the main hall.

Keeping in theme with supreme machines on water, show models of the XJ will be on a floating dock in the marina.

– *Phuket Gazette*

In brief...

Bangkok Air concentrates on Indian market

BANGKOK Airways will begin its Bangkok-Mumbai service early March next year, when it will also expand its Bangkok-Dhaka route. Currently, Bangkok Airways flies to seven domestic routes and their fleet consists of eight ATRs, three Airbus A320s and six Airbus A319s.

Dusit wins international award recognition

DUSIT Thani Laguna Phuket won Thailand's Leading Beach Resort, Leading Golf Resort, and Leading Spa Resort at the World Travel Awards 2010 Grand Final in London last month. The World Travel Awards represent one of the highest accolades hospitality companies can achieve.

Business Air go for Korea

BANGKOK-based airline Business Air will increase flight frequency on its Phuket-Incheon, South Korea route. This will increase Business Air's four weekly flights to Incheon from Phuket, to five. Business Air also plans to increase its Bangkok - Incheon flight service to seven times a week. "We have served more than 60,000 passengers since we opened late last year. Still, more demand is coming," said Anucha Tiwari, the airline's Chief Executive.

Paresa wins big at home

PARESA Resort collected two prestigious accolades in the inaugural Thailand Boutique Awards this year. They won the Award for Nature & the Environment and Best Boutique Accommodation for Thailand's southern region. The Thailand Boutique Awards recognize the country's boutique hotels with between 4-50 rooms.

Tourists come in boatloads

NO FEWER than five cruise ships arrive in Phuket every month, each generating at least 1 million baht in tourism revenue.

Central Festival's 5bn baht facelift

CENTRAL Retail Corporation (CRC) has announced a 5 billion baht facelift of the Central Festival Phuket shopping mall that will include the opening of its fourth floor.

The renovation will be completed by the beginning of next year. It is intended to cash in on the recovery of the Phuket tourism industry and high growth projections in the retail sector throughout Thailand.

About 150 million baht will be spent by 300 retail tenants to renovate their stores in the complex.

The country's retail industry anticipates a growth of 7%-8% this year, the highest in five years, said Thanapon Tangkananan CRC vice president for business development and former president of the Thai Retailers Association.

Central Festival Phuket will be

relaunched in February as "The South's Best International Lifestyle and Shopping Destination".

Lertvit Pumipitak, CRC executive vice president for business development, said the renovation will increase total retail space of the mall from 40,000-53,000 square meters.

The new fourth floor, will be occupied by 20 shops with total retail space of more than 4,500sqm.

The number of tenant stores at Central Festival Phuket has increased by 15%, with 30-40 new outlets opening when the renovation is completed.

With the renovation the company expects to increase shopper traffic at Central Festival Phuket by 20% to 25%. The mall now attracts between 10,000 and 15,000 shoppers a day, of whom 40% are foreign tourists, Mr Lertvit said.

Wilaiporn Pitimanaaree, general manager of Central Festival Phuket, said sales by its retail tenants increased by between 12% and 15% year-on-year in the first 10 months.

Sales are expected to grow at the mall by more than 20% during the last two months of this year, driven by the high season.

– *The Nation*

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Centara and Kata Rocks on board for King's Cup

AS PHUKET gears up for the King's Cup Regatta, to be held from December 4-11, two local businesses, the Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket in Karon and Kata Rocks, have signed up as sponsors of the growing annual event.

The regatta this year has attracted 97 entries totaling at about 2,000 people, together generating an estimated 100 million baht for the local economy.

Duncan Worthington, Regatta Media and Communications Director said, "We're very happy to welcome on board Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket, and we look forward to working together for this regatta, and beyond."

Denis Thouvard, general manager of the resort, said, "The Phuket King's Cup Regatta is an iconic event on the island, which has attracted participants from around the world for more than 20 years.

"We are sponsoring the regatta because it is a very prestigious and internationally famous event, which gives abundant positive



Duncan Worthington (left), Media and Communications Director of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, with Denis Thouvard, GM of Centara Grand.

publicity to Phuket, and promotes the island as a holiday destination."

The new five-star Centara held its grand opening on November 27 and has already joined the regatta's party circuit.

The resort will host the post-racing prize-giving party on December

10, the penultimate day of racing.

meanwhile, as a co-sponsor of this year's event, Kata Rocks will be hosting the first Race Day of the week-long regatta, a closing party and a prize giving ceremony on December 6.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Rising fuel prices put pressure on retailers

DIESEL prices were raised by 40 satang per liter last weekend, due to higher demand and the increasing cost of pure biodiesel.

The hike in diesel prices is likely to add to transportation costs and may affect retail prices for consumer products in Phuket.

According to Disanuwat Panya, personnel manager at Tesco Lotus Phuket, the rise in diesel prices will probably increase transport costs for many consumer products that have to be brought to its store from other provinces.

However, Mr Disanuwat said it is unlikely that the hypermarket will pass the additional costs on to consumers.

"Tesco Lotus does not usually increase retail prices in response to increased costs.

"I admit that the diesel price increase will inevitably raise our costs, but we rarely pass on such additional costs to our customers."

"In most cases we simply absorb the increase in costs and try to keep retail prices as low as possible.

"With the exception of a few



Diesel prices are on the up.

categories of consumer products, most of our prices will remain unchanged," he said.

According to reports from *The Nation*, Saran Rangkasiri, an executive at PTT said that demand for diesel has been on the rise due to the winter period.

Fuel prices have also risen due to lower unemployment in the US, which this month has seen unemployment rates drop to its lowest level since July 2008.

Price of locally produced biodiesel has also risen by 3.50 baht per liter over the past two weeks.

The increase in price of biodiesel is also a contributing factor, pushing up domestic prices of diesel.

— *Anand Singh*

Hospitality group invests heavily in Phuket tourism

HOSPITALITY firm CCT Group has joined with Chinese investors to build a 2.5 billion baht hotel in Phuket.

The Westin Siray Bay Resort and Spa, which is on 18 rai and contains 264 rooms, held its official opening November 29.

CCT Group owns 70% of the property, while investors from Hong Kong and mainland China hold 20% and CCT family members own the rest.

President Wichit Prakobkosol said it was the group's biggest investment since entering the tourism business 20 years ago.

The new property will become its flagship product in terms of revenue as well as profit over the next three years.

Currently, annual group revenue is 100 million baht.

This is expected to increase to 500 million baht next year, with

400 million baht generated by the new hotel.

Mr Wichit said the Westin Siray Bay Resort and Spa would focus on international markets, as it is managed by Westin, which is part of global hotel chain operator Starwood.

In his view, Phuket will remain relatively immune from the political chaos that has hit destinations such as Bangkok and Chiang Mai in recent times.

The island remains the country's most popular resort destination, Mr Wichit said.

"At least three more airlines from the Middle East have started direct flights into Phuket. Moreover, airlines from India and China have also increased frequency.

"The move shows that more tourists prefer Phuket to Bangkok," he added.

— *The Nation*

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An ocean of endless stories

Books

By James Eckardt

ATLANTIC

By Simon Winchester

A GOOD writer can make any subject interesting. Journalist Simon Winchester is a 66-year-old from the UK who studied geology in Oxford and has written 20 books covering topics such as the Krakatoa eruption, the 1906 California earthquake and Argentina (where he was jailed as a spy during the Falklands War).

His new book *Atlantic*, is subtitled "A Vast Ocean of a Million Stories" (Harper Press, London, 2010, 498pp).

Winchester cleverly tackles the immense and fluid subject of the Atlantic Ocean through a narrative scaffold, much like Jacques's famous "All the world's a stage" speech in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*.

The concept is the seven ages

of man from infancy to old age.

Thus he begins with the birth of the Atlantic 170 million years ago as a slender body of water which grew as single giant continents of Pangaea broke up into the Americas, Europe and Africa.

He moves naturally into the earliest human habitation in a cave by the sea near Cape Town to the early explorations by the Phoenicians, the Vikings and the Portuguese.

He then explores the Atlantic in literature and art, the military campaigns fought at sea from Trafalgar to the Falklands, to the boom in transatlantic commerce and immigration to the environmental ills – overfishing, pollution, global warming – of its middle age.

Finally the reader arrives at its death, 250 million years from now, when the continents will fuse again into another Pangaea, known as Pangaea Ultima.

Along the way, we're treated

to endless fascinating nuggets of information. It was only in 1986, for example, that a young American marine biologist, Penny Chisholm, discovered in the Sargasso Sea a tiny blue-green algae, measuring one 200th the width of a human hair in circumference.

It lies at the absolute bottom of the food chain – and is the most abundant species on earth. It also supplies one fifth of the world's atmospheric oxygen.

With the historical and scientific information, Winchester supplies anecdotal tales from his life as a journalist, reporting from Canada to South Africa, and everywhere in between. This allows for occasional poetic flights.

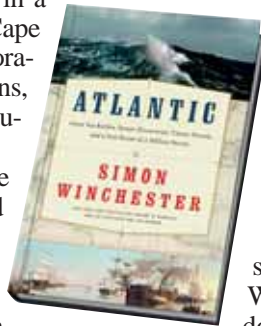
"But the Atlantic is surely a living thing – furiously and demonstrably so. It is an ocean that moves, impressively and ceaselessly. It generates all kinds of noise – it is forever roaring, thundering, boiling,

crashing, swelling, lapping. It is easy to imagine it trying to draw breath... And it has a psychology. It has moods, sometimes dour and sullen, on rare occasions cunning and playful' always it is pondering and powerful."

There are boring patches. I found it hard, for example, to make my way through the history of

navigation, but then Winchester will turn to another subject and pique my interest again. The book is also lavishly illustrated with photos, engravings and maps that keep bounding along with the narrative.

The Atlantic is a perfect example of the fusion of an endlessly curious author to an immense subject – with a million stories to tell.



Bestsellers

English language books in Thailand



- 1) The Girl Who Played With Fire – Stieg Larsson (420 baht)
- 2) The Lost Symbol – Dan Brown (390 baht)
- 3) The Monster In The Box – Ruth Rendell (420 baht)
- 4) The Spire – Richard North Patterson (420 baht)
- 5) Twenties Girl – Sophie Kinsella (420 baht)

Behind the pages Haruki Murakami

'Everyone may be ordinary, but they're not normal'
– Haruki Murakami

IN THE case of Japanese author Haruki Murakami these words ring very true.

The award winning writer was born in 1949, and has since produced more than 30 acclaimed novels and short stories.

What makes him extraordinary is the inner workings of his mind and imagination, revealed in his novels through a masterful juxtaposition of reality and the supernatural.

His stories detail the mundane realities of daily life, setting a scene of tedium and routine familiar to us all, and then unexpectedly he throws in speaking cats, fish falling from the sky, or bizarre eroticism.



The reader is guided between these extremes through seamlessly composed prose. Murakami's choice of words and sentence structure is simple, yet captivating.

This wildly imagined material comes from a surprisingly tame man.

Murakami lives a reclusive and quiet life with his wife Yoko in America. He is athletic and loves Jazz music.

His unconventional and entrancing stories have been translated into 16 languages. Of these, 10 novels are available in English.

His fourth novel, a nostalgic tale about loss and sexuality *Norwegian Wood* has sold over two million copies since it was published in 1987.

Other popular works include *Kafka On The Shore* and *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*.

– Alexandra Andersson

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AJARN ON LIFE: Philip Williams, also known as 'Bangkok Phil'.

Bangkok Phil talks TEFL in Thailand

In the Classroom

By Eric Haeg

Eric: Why is Ajarn.com such a success? And do you think it's a success?

Phil: Thanks, I think it's because the site tells it like it is. It's not all palm trees and beaches. I guess I'm fascinated by the whole topic of living, working and surviving on the average TEFLer's salary. I've got a lot of time for teachers in that situation and the site is written for them.

What are you most proud of?
That I saw the site's potential.

Any disappointments?
That we haven't got more bloggers. I wrote loads for the site before taking over and I've held

on to some good writers, but not enough seem interested anymore.

Some of the teachers on the site have chosen some interesting CV pictures. What do think when you see those poorly chosen photographs?

When I see pictures of cropped out bar girls or that someone's added a tiny file upside down, I think it suggests the person doesn't care.

What's the most common mistake you see on CVs?

Bad grammar. The odd mistakes are fine, but some of these basic mistakes tell me there's no way I can put these people in a classroom.

Speaking of these folks, Thailand's TEFLers don't exactly enjoy a good reputation – is it deserved?

There are good and bad teachers. It's just that you tend to hear only about the bad ones, so the information gets skewed.

What's the current TEFL climate like in Thailand?

It's a school's market. I think it's tough to make a living here as a teacher and it's getting tougher every year.

Phuket has its fair share of teachers without degrees looking for work. What's your advice for people in this position?

My advice is verging on: "Don't do it". Years ago, anyone

could teach in Thailand, but that's not true anymore. My advice to anyone in their early 40s is: Think very carefully about what it is you're doing. Retiring on a TEFL salary without other income is not something you want to do here.

Cue Phil's faint Brummie accent...

Thailand itself has an undesirable reputation amongst the international TEFL community. Why is that?

I think Thailand is fast becoming a place for young guys to come, do year or two, get it out of their system and then go back to the real world. It's getting more and more like that.

Phuket has teachers routinely getting tenuous language school jobs paying 300 baht an hour. Is that par for the course?

Yes, you find it in Bangkok and you find jobs advertised for less in Chiang Mai. For me, getting up on a Sunday morning to go work for 300 baht an hour is a waste of a clean shirt. I don't say that because I'm fairly financially secure. I used to work for 300 baht an hour on Sundays, but I did it in 1996!

Just one more question: You've been in Thailand 20 years and you've never been to Phuket. What gives?

Phuket's always struck me as a more expensive version of Pattaya. It's too far and when I travel, I tend to travel abroad.

Eric: Phil, your honesty is refreshing and you're welcome on Phuket anytime. We'll fix that Pattaya comparison in one visit.

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Urs Aebi

URS AEBI is General Manager of the Serenity Resort & Residences in Rawai. He came to Phuket at the end of 1999 to work at the Cape Panwa Hotel as Resident Manager, and has spent the past 10 years at the top of Phuket's hospitality industry.

He was born in Berne, Switzerland to a family steeped in the flower business. His father owned a commercial nursery and the whole family became involved in supplying flowers to big customers such as hotels and convention and exhibition centers.

"I wasn't that interested in the family business and took a commercial degree in school. After graduation, I went to the famed ski resort Gstaad and got a summer job as a waiter. Immediately, I was attracted to the service industry."

After completing compulsory military service, Urs was accepted at the prestigious *École Hôtelière de Lausanne*.

"I always wanted to escape living in Switzerland and felt pulled to live abroad. During my hotel course, I was sent to Senegal for management training. When I returned I sent my resume to hotels and resorts around the world."

Urs spent a couple of years in Switzerland after graduation, first at the President Wilson Hotel in Geneva and then at the Victoria

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

Jungfrau in Interlaken. He continued to send his resume to faraway places and was contacted by Amari Hotels and Resorts, who asked him to begin work in just two weeks. He would assist in the opening of the Amari Atrium in Bangkok.

"I had only two weeks to leave my job, sell my car, close up my apartment and say goodbye to my girlfriend at the time. I did it and flew off to a new life."

He immediately adapted to working in Bangkok and was appointed Executive Assistant Manager in charge of food and beverage operations at the Amari Atrium.

"I arrived at a major new hotel in a city where I didn't know how to source what was needed for the restaurants."

"I had to buy everything and I didn't know the suppliers. I spent two years working day and night to get everything in place, and really had little time to explore Bangkok."

By 1996, he was ready to move out of the big city. He was appointed Food and Beverage Director at the

Sofitel Hua Hin, one of Thailand's most historic properties.

Three years later, he was offered the opportunity to advance his career with a move to the Cape Panwa Hotel as Resident Manager. He stayed for five years. When The Racha resort was built on Racha Island, he took his first job as General Manager.

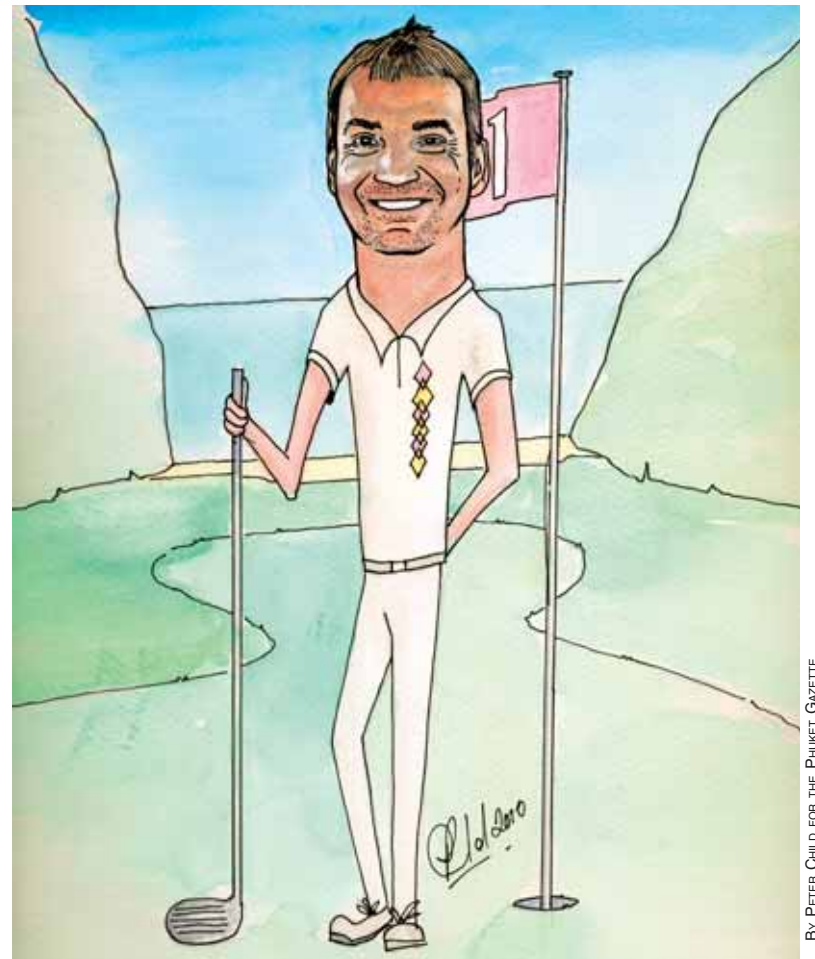
"This was the first five-star resort located on an island off Phuket. I loved working with the Thai staff and there were interesting challenges. Part of the resort was destroyed during the tsunami but we quickly rebuilt."

After three years of commuting from Racha Island to have his weekends with his family on Phuket, he decided to leave. He was hired by the resort chain Alila to develop resorts but found himself traveling more than he wanted.

In 2008, he was appointed Corporate Director of Operations for Aleenta, a five star resort with properties in Hua Hin and Phang Nga.

When he was invited to take over as General Manager at the Serenity Resort in Rawai, he accepted the opportunity as it meant more time with his family at home in Chalong.

Besides playing golf with his wife and children, Urs enjoys his time with the SKAL Club and the *Chaîne des Rotisseurs*.



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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Customize me

The Burnt Tortilla doesn't do 'Supersize', but it is a fast-food spot with big plans to expand its gourmet Mexican fare in Asia.

BREAKFAST at The Burnt Tortilla is a reason to be late for work – and to have a drink the night before.

Doors open at 9am seven days a week, and just a few minutes after you can have your face buried in a Breakfast Burrito (120 baht) – scrambled eggs, roasted peppers, chorizo, sour cream – scorning yourself for polishing off that last bottle of wine the night before.

Splash some tomato and beer-batter salsa on your steaming burrito and the day is already starting to look up.

As you cram the last bite in your mouth and warm salsa and guacamole drip down your chin, your night on the bottle will be a distant memory.

"It really is the perfect hang-over food," says American Owner Colin Stevens.

Customization is key to Colin's vision for his Cherg Talay eatery. With a glass counter holding a treasure trove of 10 salsas, toppings and flavorsome goodies, customers can add their own mix to Colin's menu items.

"We have a fast-food service and shop style, but there's nothing fast about the way we prepare or cook our food," says Colin, a former executive chef at a number of Thailand's best resorts.

Meat receives extra attention here: There's the 12-hour roasted

On the Menu

By Fraser Morton

pork, or the day-long stewed chicken and beef to pique your carnivorous interest.

"Just don't ask for any ground beef because it's not our style," says Colin.

"There's just so many better ways to cook meat."

Fajitas include chicken, beef or fresh tuna (350 baht). Served on a sizzling bed of caramelized peppers and onions with flour tortillas (not burnt, and made in-house), Mexican rice and refried beans are juxtaposed with sauces and salsas of your choice.

This dish is wondrously messy and should only be devoured by hand.

Although provided by attentive staff, cutlery will lie unblemished next to most of Colin's menu items.

Only a spoon is needed to dollop condiments on dishes.

There are a few things you can put your fork in.

The Huevos Motulenos (160 baht), a breakfast of chorizo, beans, corn, peas and carrots served on a fried tortilla, topped with two fried eggs, salsa, cheese and herbs, or the 48-hour Angus Beef Stewed Chili Con Carne (270 baht) are both many a spoonful of pleasure – and underpriced in our view.

Equally sumptuous is the shredded 12-hour Roast Pork Quesadilla (130 baht) with flecks



Anawila and Colin Stevens

of orange peel, cinnamon, and salsa verde, served on a tortilla with a colorful assortment of dips.

Vegetarians need not worry, there is plenty to keep your meat-free diet in check and most dishes can be customized/converted to suit your needs.

Good jalapenos are a rare find on Phuket, but Colin has managed to locate ones with veracious spice and a cooling pickle aftertaste, which aren't used sparingly – another plus.

For drinks: Have a lime, orange or lemon Margarita (120 baht, not in the morning) and

you will no doubt try all three.

For dessert: Try the deep-fried cinnamon coated doughnut Churros (40 baht) or the Kahlua Spiced Cheesecake (70 baht) and



GET IN: Eating at The Burnt Tortilla is a hands-on affair. Photos: Fraser Morton

you'll be glad you did, although your figure won't.

A fair selection of reasonably priced beers and wines are also available to either kick-start your day, or wind it down.

While Colin's an unassuming chap, he's knowledgeable and interested in his customers.

When he's not working 12-hour shifts at the restaurant with his wife Anawila and their six staff, he serves as one of the Asia judges on the San Pellegrino's 50 Best Restaurants in the World awards.

He is also looking to franchise the Burnt Tortilla brand throughout Asia. Part of what Colin calls his "Mexican food movement".

Seeing the locals parked in black leather pews around us, it's obviously a popular little place.

It's all quite social. Few

laughs, bit o' banter, laid back – enjoyable.

Formal dress would look out of place here, so no need for that, though Colin wouldn't mind anyway.

"All types of people come, all are welcome," he says.

Regular trips to Burnt Tortilla could leave you a little portly, but when the food's this good, who's watching waistlines anyway?

As for breakfast at this place, if I lived in Cherg Talay, I'd be late for work every day.

This restaurant is easy to find and has a monolithic red neon sign to point you in the right direction.

Opposite Tesco Lotus in Cherg Talay. For more on this joint, visit their website at W:the-burnt-tortilla.com.

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Friday 24th December 2010

7pm - Midnight

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Adult : THB 5,000 nett

Children : THB 3,000 nett

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

December 4-5. North Phuket Culinary Arts Festival 2010

On December 4, "Infinity sunsets" with Jim Thompson Silk Fashion Show with house DJ Charles Schillings at Anantara Phuket Villas. On December 5, JW Marriott Phuket presents "The brunch of your life", a bounty of sophisticated tastes for the entire family to enjoy. Contact Jorge De la Torre on T: 089-7256994, E: info@eventsthai land.net or visit W: eventsthai land.net for more information.

December 4-5. How to expand love with Jeffrey Hopkins at Phuket International Academy

Jeffrey Hopkins leads us through a step-by-step program to help us open our hearts and minds to the experience of unlimited love. The program at Phuket International Academy (PIA) is based on an illuminating and instructive handbook by the Dalai Lama, titled *How to Expand Love: Widening the Circle of Loving Relationships*, in which he provides everyday guidelines for transforming self-centered energy into outwardly directed compassion. Accommodation is available. Contact Weena on T: 076-336030, E: mtc@phuket internationalacademy.com or visit W: phuketinternationalacademy.com for more information.

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

December 5. Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pac



Laguna Resorts & Hotels and World Triathlon Corporation (WTC) are hosting the inaugural Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific Championship. Laguna Phuket is expected to be the permanent home of this annual championship. The Ironman 70.3 comprises a 1.9km swim, 90.1km cycle and 21.1km run. *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: ironmanphuket.com for more information.

Adulyadej in 1987, the event is now in its 23rd year. Hosted by the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee under the auspices of the Royal Varuna Yacht Club, in conjunction with the Yacht Racing Association of Thailand and the Royal Thai Navy. The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTv are media sponsors. Contact Kae Wattana on T: 076-273380, E: info@kingcup.com or visit W: kingcup.com for more information.

December 4. Christmas fair

Unique cards, tree decorations, handmade gifts and cakes on sale from 3-7pm at Watermark. A fun-filled afternoon for everyone! If you wish to sell your goods, a table costs 400 baht and this goes to charity. Registered Charities

receive a free table. Contact Chantal on T: 089-8742942, E: chantal.fernandes@gmail.com or visit W: watermarkphuket.com for further details.

December 4. RPM Dog charity fancy dress contest

Dog fancy dress contest and agility show by Phuket Dog Park from 6-9pm at the marina boardwalk. Dog portrait printing, accessories and goods for sale. Live acoustic music. Tickets cost 150 baht, and 50 baht from each ticket sold goes to the Phuket Dog Shelter (*Suan Pa Bang Khanoon*). Contest entry inquiries should go to the RPM Sales Office or any of the pet clinics and shops in Phuket. Contact Peter on T: 89-4745253, E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com or visit W: royalphuketmarina.com for more information.

December 5. HM The King's birthday – public holiday

His Majesty The King's Birthday. Also marked as Father's Day.

December 5-10. Escape to Six Senses Sanctuary for a day

Six Senses are offering you a day of health and relaxation at their beautiful wellness resort on Naka Island, near Phuket. You will be met at Ao Po Grand Marina and taken on a short speedboat transfer where your day will start with a wellness consultation. Your visit

includes an 80 minute treatment, choice of fitness activities, full use of the spa and a delicious and nutritious lunch for only 4,999 baht. Contact Nancy on T: 076-371400, E: pr-naka@sixsenses.com or visit W: sixsenses.com/sixsensesanctuaryphuket for more information.

December 7. Kannan at Six Senses Sanctuary

Kannan comes from the South of India and has been practicing yoga for over 20 years. He has practiced advanced yoga techniques with his master and has been honored with numerous titles such as *Yogaraj* (king of yoga) and *Yoga Sironmani* (master of yoga). Private sessions lasting one hour cost 4,000 baht. Five one hour sessions cost 18,000 baht. Seven one hour sessions cost 25,000 baht. Ten one hour sessions cost 35,000 baht. A supplementary charge for extra persons in the class will be 50%

on top of the price. Available until December 31. Contact Integrative Health on T: 076-371400, E: reservations-naka@sixsenses.com or visit W: sixsenses.com/holistic-calendar for more information.

December 8. PIWC Christmas lunch

The ever popular Phuket International Women's Club Christmas lunch will once again be held at Twin Palms, from 11:30am-2pm. All are welcome, but prior registration is essential. Tickets are 600 baht per person. Contact Carole Dux on T: 076-316711, E: info@phuketiw.com or visit W: phuketiw.com for more information.

December 10. Curry Fridays

Enjoy an authentic Indian curry buffet at Navrang Mahal India Restaurant at Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa from 7-11:30pm. All you can eat for only 449 baht nett! Draught beer by the glass for 50 baht nett. Special discount on other beverages. Contact Seemant Raju on T: 076-286464, E: sm@karonseasand.com or visit W: karonseasand.com for reservations.

December 11. A yoga day at PIA Mind Centre

Experience a day of healthy food and yoga in a fun, open and relaxing atmosphere at PIA's Mind Center. Adults will practice pranayama and kids will take a yoga adventure through the jungle of their minds with Barbara Van Oers. 1,200 baht per adult, 600 baht for kids under 16. Contact Weena or Nantaawan on T: 076-336030, E: mtc@phuketinternationalacademy.com for more information.

December 14. Tatonka's dinner

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

Free Computer Clinics

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

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

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High fashion at Da



BEHIND THE SCENES: A model gets her hair done before stepping out onto the catwalk at the DaVinci fashion bash.



GIVE HER A HAND: DaVinci restaurant Harn hosted the "Black is Back" show last weekend which showcased work of two Phuket-based designers including Noelle Adam (above), as some stunning new lines from B designers.

Grenville turns 60



BIRTHDAY BASH: Over 200 guests from Phuket, Bangkok and the UK turned out to help Image Asia's Grenville Fordham (inset) celebrate his 60th birthday at his house in Baan Manik. Grenville has been a pivotal part of Phuket's yachting community for the best part of 20 years.

Hair aff



HAIR RAISING: Teacher Kathy Ma Coulson with her students. Inspiring Designers Against AIDS in Belgium, International School students host a hair and fashion show to commemorate World AIDS Day by raising money for awareness.

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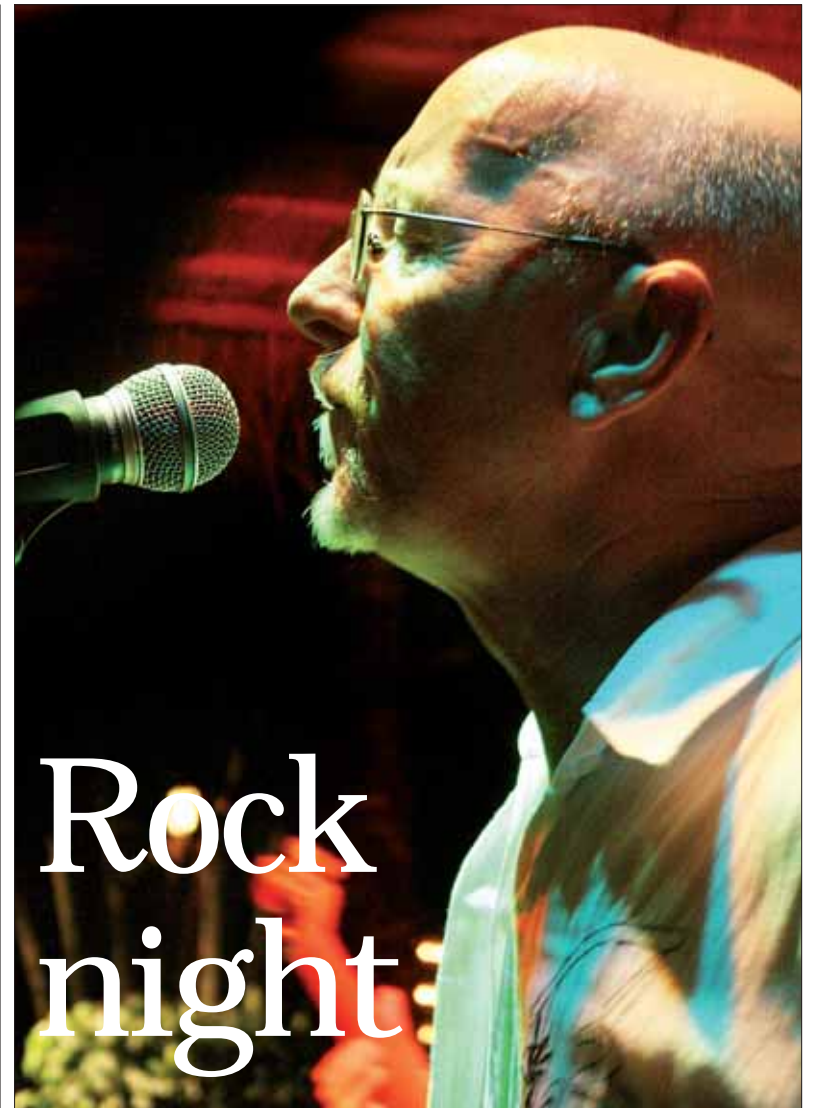
IN BLACK: Taste Gallery in Surin recently hosted a glamorous grand opening party. Models wearing jewelry from the gallery are Yaka Yamaguchi (left), Taste Director Jade Lama and Arati Sureddi.



TEACHING IT FORWARD: Eight Kajonkietsuksa students visited Wat Thepnimit School in Wichit to help students with their English studies as part of a social responsibility program.



FRIENDLY BUNCH: Friendship Beach Executive Chef Charlie Maurer (back) and Restaurant Manager Mannumon Bencha (front, left) with their team – who worked tirelessly all night.



ROCKIN' FRIENDSHIP: Lead singer Tony "Chainsaw" Wilson of blues-rock band Big Bamboo belts out another hit at the Friendship Beach Resort in Rawai on November 30. The "Live Music Extravaganza" drew many well-known local musicians and locals who feasted, drank and partied the night away. Photos: Fraser Morton

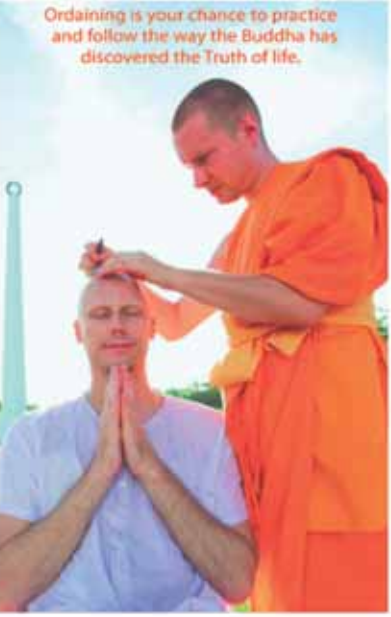


BAMBOO MEN: On bass (left) is Steve Lawrence, lead vocals Tony Wilson, and lead guitar Markus Vogt (right).

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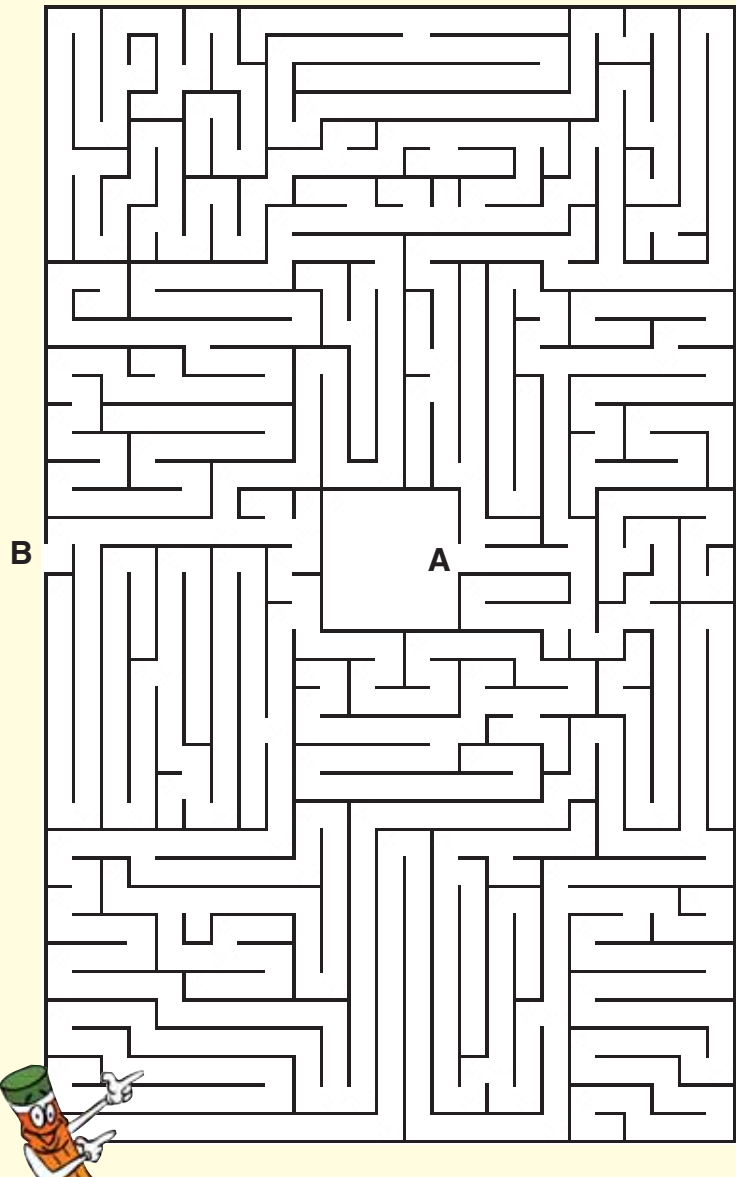


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A *Gazette* staff member completed this maze in one minute. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.

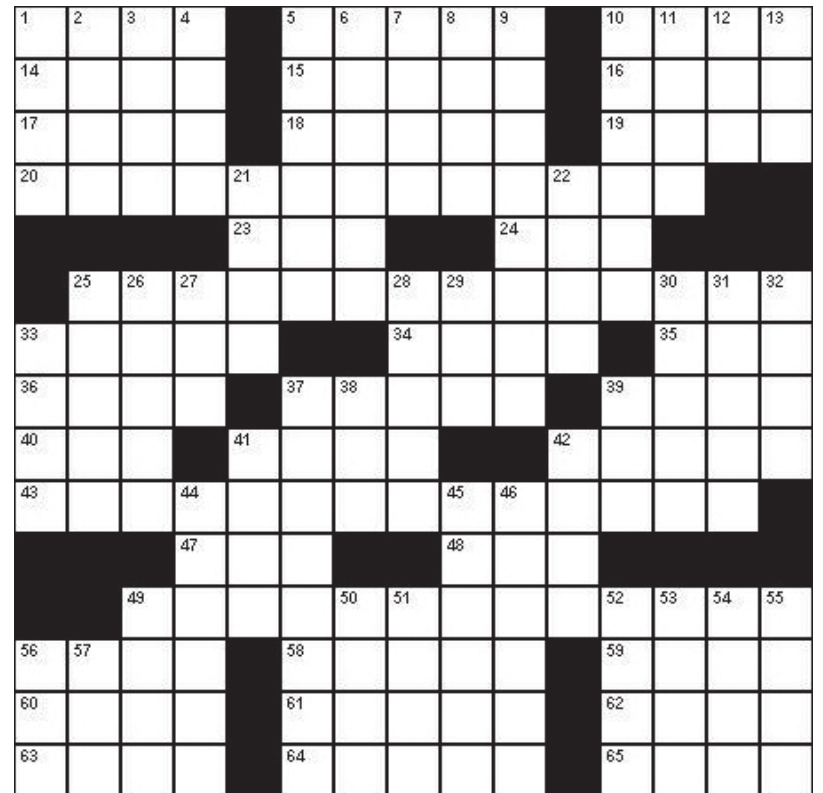


Across

1. Pro —
5. Small hand drum
10. Harden by heat
14. Airline since 1948
15. Mountain nymph
16. Burn soother
17. Sandwich shop
18. Rob, old-style
19. Arrest
20. Make Occidental
23. Man-mouse connector
24. Gasteyer of *Saturday Night Live*
25. Hypothetical
33. Dull finish
34. Commotion
35. Genetic material
36. Dog star
37. Rasp
39. Drops from the sky
40. — loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah
41. Actual
42. Religious offshoots
43. Disease of the heart muscle
47. Break off
48. Prefix with profit or fiction
49. Untiring
56. Choir member
58. Saturn's largest moon
59. Vaporize
60. Agreement
61. Not proper
62. Curse
63. Architect Mies van der —
64. Gives up
65. Calculus calculation

Down

1. Fix up
2. Actor Baldwin
3. Apply powder to oneself
4. Et —
5. Bullfighter
6. Places of contest
7. Defeat
8. Hot rock
9. Capital of South Australia
10. Japanese battle cry



11. Winglike parts
12. Colorful carp
13. Conger
21. Narcotic
22. A big fan of
25. Peter and the Wolf bird
26. Absolute
27. Mom-and-pop org
28. Pisa place
29. Little one
30. Mountain spinach
31. Oneness
32. Lacking
33. Not fem

37. Pertaining to the measurement and representation of the Earth
38. Male sheep
39. Emeritus: Abbr
41. Orange cover
42. Squealed
44. Indicate
45. Recorded
46. Indicates a direction
49. Need a scratch
50. Of high grade
51. Not much
52. Dancing Queen group
53. Male swine
54. Queue
55. Zeno's home
56. Spring mo.
57. Philosopher —-tzu

Provided by BestCrosswords.com. Used with permission.

Puzzle solutions on page 33

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): A water sign's twisted logic in business could frustrate Sagittarians early next week. The stars advise you to present your point of view calmly – Tuesday is the most auspicious day for reasonable discussions. Where personal finances are concerned, expect the best and the rest will follow. Monetary gain is highlighted around the middle of the month. Those with a birthday in the coming week will have better luck in romance during the year ahead.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Your patience and perseverance are due to pay off. Capricorns are forecast to enjoy success during the first half of December. Another earth sign is keen to do business with you and this collaboration is well-starred. Working with air signs is inadvisable as your more practical approach will be a bone of contention. In the realm of romance, Virgo's complements this weekend could be music to your ears.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): December is forecast to be a rewarding month for those born under the sign of Aquarius. Your business outlook is strong and this

trend will continue well into the New Year. A minor challenge this week will involve a water sign's last minute change of heart, but Leo should be ready to pounce on an open opportunity. Those with a partner will be relieved to hear that holiday plans are less ambitious than previously thought.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Pisceans could have to admit that one particular dream coming true is as likely as seeing elephants fly. The stars suggest that a dose of reality will be a good wake-up call this week. As December progresses, a change of career falls under the spotlight – an earth sign is likely to give you good advice. Your luck in romance remains strong until the middle of the month.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Family matters will demand much of your time this week. There are signs that your holiday plans will clash with someone else's – Wednesday is the most auspicious day for seeking compromises. Your romantic outlook becomes calmer, but a close friend needs advice on their own relationship problems this weekend. Those who are single are forecast to be impressed by another fire sign.



TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans' chances of financial gain in December are positive, but will require more effort on your part than planned. This could mean streamlining your holiday plans. Advice from a Virgo early next week goes against the grain, but is worth listening to. Personal relationships are subject to unsettled astral conditions – beware of a water sign misunderstanding your words mid-week. Wearing coral pink can help to soften your romantic appeal.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Chasing after a water sign business contact who promised to deliver is a lost cause. Your luck in dealing with earth signs is stronger. Where your personal life is concerned, Geminis will experience a certain amount of drama in December. Someone whose feelings you were unsure about reveals the truth. Those already committed are reassured by news from their partner this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Concerning business, Aries could be irritated by a decision you make, which will affect future collaboration. However, a Piscean will become a more compatible partner early next year. In your personal life, there are signs that the past is about to catch up with the present. Lessons learned this year should enable you to avoid making the same mistake twice. Put relaxation first this weekend as next week promises to demand your energy.

LEO (July 24-August 22): The stars predict a sparkling start to December for those born under the sign of Leo. This week is an auspicious time to resolve a tricky financial matter. Regarding romance, an Aquarian becomes more interested when a mutual friend sings your praises. Your social scene starts to warm up ahead of the holiday season and you are forecast to hear from an old friend who you lost contact with.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): The stars suggest that one of your dreams may start to look less attractive – a radical change of plan is forecast to keep you busy this week. Virgoans who had too much time on their hands will be happy with new developments. Romance

is also predicted to become more active, with emphasis on reconciliation for those who have been regretting the break up of a relationship earlier this year.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Librans who have allowed the grass to grow under their feet lately are on the verge of doing something about this situation. If this applies to your world of work, there are indications that action can encourage an employment offer. Those who have recently left a romantic relationship behind are heartbroken no longer when Gemini comes along. Finances are well-starred this week – a savings scheme pays off more than anticipated.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Those born under the sign of Scorpio who are feeling lackluster should make more effort to try something different. An Aries friend has some stimulating ideas for new leisure time pursuits. Money matters begin to look more positive as December progresses. Your romantic outlook becomes more hopeful when a fire sign shows interest. Wednesday is an auspicious day for a first date.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Charm coming to Patong Beach

By Alexandra Andersson

CONSTRUCTION work on the beachfront condotel project The Charm Residences will start in April next year and, with a 10% guarantee on returns, it's a development that investors are sure to be interested in.

The properties, located a minute's walk from Patong beach, can be purchased individually as freehold with a condominium title or leasehold with a 30 year lease and renewal options.

Investors can buy the units, using them for either leisure or profit, and leave Charm to manage their investment for them.

Charm aims for 70% of the units to be bought by investors, with the remaining 30% to be owned by Charm. About 20% of the units have already been pre-sold.

Construction consultants

Abuild Co Ltd are heading up structural work on the 246 units spread across the 2,000 square meter (sqm) plot, with a budget of 1 billion baht.

The units will be housed in four multistorey buildings with hotel services and facilities, and include studio apartments (with or without pool access), one bedroom apartments (with or without pool access) and studio or one bedroom duplexes.

Sizes range from 42 to 131 sqm, and prices vary accordingly from 4.5 to 11.7 million baht.

All units come fully-furnished in a modern contemporary style with 40" LCD TVs, a home theater set, satellite TV, high-speed wireless internet access and 24-hour room service.

Three of the buildings will feature lagoon pools and one will have an infinity rooftop pool.



IN NEED OF CHARM: The Charm Residences site is close to Patong Beach. Photo: Promphan Suwansukum

All four buildings will have 24-hour security and spas, lobby halls, restaurants and bars.

The project is due to be completed by mid 2013 and developers, Proliving Co Ltd, hope it will be used for residential and hotel purposes. A 10% return dividend from investment is guaranteed each year by Charm, which targets a 95% occupancy rate for the hotel/residences when completed, giving a 10% capital gain per year.

Project Manager Promphan Suwansukum said, "The exclusive location right on Patong's beachfront will be a huge magnet for investors."

— Additional reporting by Samaporn Janyanon



MODERN VIEW: The condo units will have modern fixtures and fittings.

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DIY online rental made easy



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

WHILE many people are handy at DIY, or "Do It Yourself", projects for home improvements, technology continues to be some sort of strange voodoo for a surprisingly large group of people.

For *Dummies*... books line the shelves of bookstores and online tabs offer "help" but are often a hellish trip to nowhere.

Expats in Asia have often taken the fast track and hired someone to think for them.

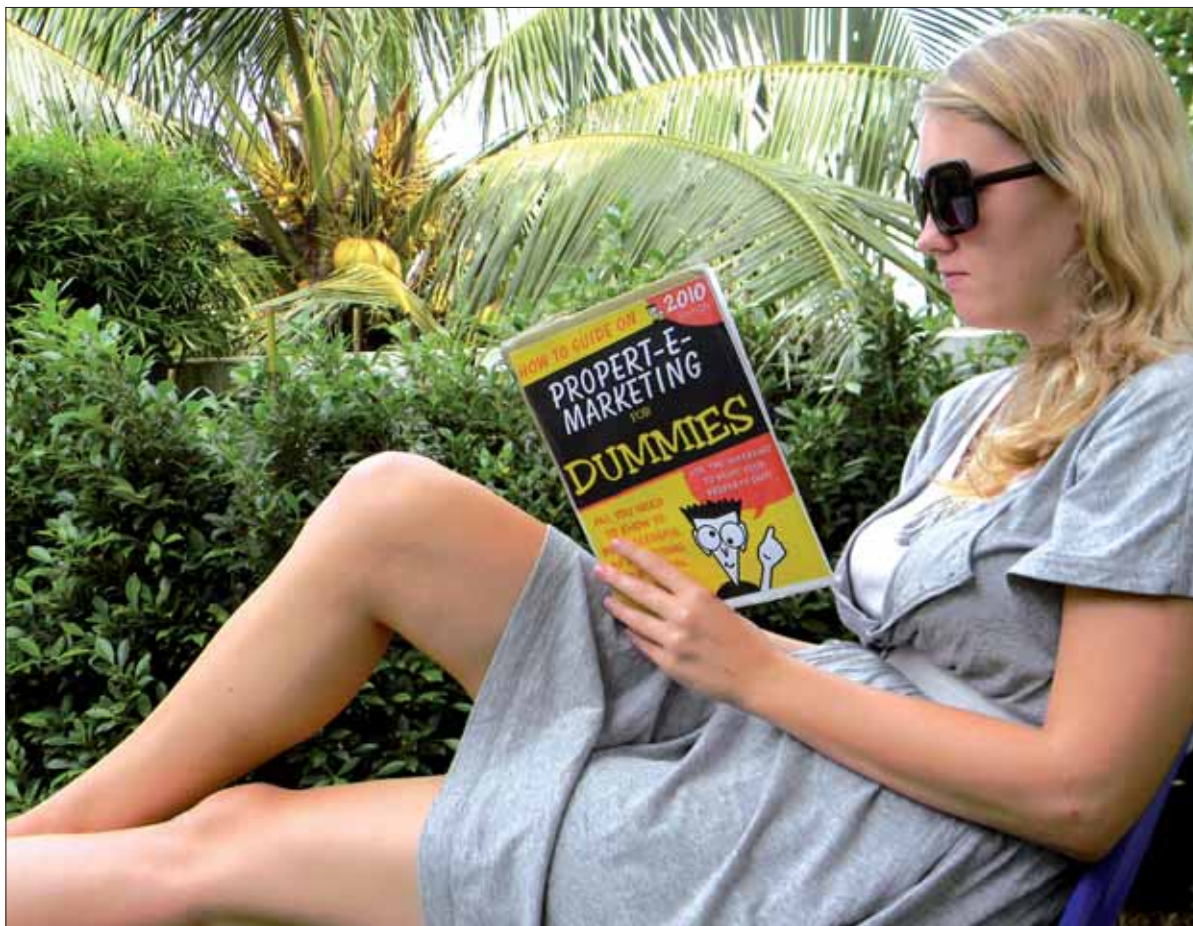
Behaving more like robots than humans, many people act without thinking and automatically reach for cash or a credit card. This seems to have become a growing norm. Perhaps the entire experience could be summed up by the lyrics of the thankfully faded rock outfit Styx, "Domo arigato, Mr Roboto".

Today, what is left over from the island's property high-water mark is a wide variety of resort grade villas, townhouses, condos and apartments in virtually every nook and cranny of Phuket.

Property owners are increasingly enticed, by necessity or whim, to produce cash returns from their investments.

Enter the era of holiday rentals. Supply and demand have somehow changed roles in the middle of the second act and sellers outnumber buyers by no small margin these days.

It has become clear that



DIGITAL DIY: Online marketing is not as scary as less-experienced computer users might think. Photo: Nicky Vermeulen

tourism has not only recovered, but also grown. It's fairly obvious what the "go-to" market is these days.

Arguably, off-plan sales have come to a screeching halt, resembling a set of skid marks left behind from a high-speed stop by an Isuzu pickup with upcountry license plates and tires balder than a well-groomed skinhead.

Agents and brokers flocked

towards makeover projects in order to make those Fortuner payments, with holiday rentals topping the stratosphere.

"If you can't sell it, rent it" seemed a natural evolutionary process. The lion's share of offerings leaned toward premium estate villas, freestanding "ultra villas" or condominiums.

Ocean view properties, beach-front and sections of serviced complexes led the pack.

On came an avalanche of internet sites using the word luxury more times than thought humanly possible.

Luxury welcome mats, luxurious deep wells and of

course, fashion-branded uber luxury toenail clippers on arrival, dazzling the imagination.

Onward to glossy brochures that contained enough dreamy pages to be a thick-as-a-brick padded read, often spotted at various construction sites where they'd been transformed into luxury pillows for slumbering workers.

I've just had a panic attack realizing I'm some 400 words into this dazed yet confused diversion and need to steer this column back to the mission at hand: How you can rent your own property out.

Delving deep into the ubiquitous club sandwich to get

to the good stuff, the logical starting point from "dummiedom" is the internet.

Work arguably creeps in, but from what agents and owners are saying, a large portion of rentals are done online.

Some of the leading sites are FlipKey (TripAdvisor's dedicated vacation rental solution), VBRO, and OwnersDirect – please note: If you don't know to add a ".com" onto these words, then you really are a dummy.

Casting further into these waters are market specific listings like Holidaylettings.co.uk or the global giant Craigslist.org, which does have a Thailand site.

A free local listing portal, PhuketRentHouse is another option.

Newspaper classifieds in both print and online target this segment, with reference to the Vacation Rental section of the *Gazette* as evidence.

The emerging trend for social networking sites such as Facebook is also a great way to target potential tenants, using a network of friends for referrals, and the convenience of visually promoting the product with photo-sharing links.

Last but certainly not least are local agents who offer a wide range of very competent and professional listings and sites.

Spend a few minutes in "Google-land" punching in keywords for your applicable property type and see who pops up the highest.

The next step is to get in touch with the web administrators, and list away.

At long last we finally got to where we were headed. Baby steps, detours and diversions were all part of our amazing race but in the end perhaps a little DIY is good for the soul.

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

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Makham's Best Point

New 'affordable living' condominium project coming up fast at Ao Makham.

THE first of four phases of the Best Point condominium project on Sakdidet Road in Wichit is underway and is expected to be complete by August next year.

Each phase of construction on the 12 rai property includes a building with four floors, housing 77 units.

Prices start from 770,000 baht per unit and range in size from 31 to 62 square meters.

Buyers can opt for either a studio, one bedroom or an inter-connecting sub-divided condo.

About 80% of the units have been pre-sold, with most buyers being university students, foreigners and commuting workers.

The first two buildings of the project have been allocated a 120 million baht budget.

Construction of phase one started in November, and the first of four buildings is expected to be

finished in August next year, ready for buyers to move into the unfurnished units.

Construction work on phase two, the second building, will start in February and will be completed by October next year.

New Style Construction Co Ltd are the contractors for the project, under the direction of Team Estate Co Ltd, who previously developed The Point Condominium near Häfele.

I'll Design Studio Co Ltd has created the interior of the condos.

"The idea is that everyone can own a living place that is ideal for people who do not want to live in a busy area, but still want to be close enough to the city" said Miss Janpim Aewpu, Managing Director of Best Point Condominiums.

She added that it would also suit couples and entry-level workers who still need to rent because they



BEST IN WICHIT: THE first phase of the Best Point condominium project on Sakdidet Road is underway and expected to be complete by August next year.

don't earn enough to buy, and the younger generation, who do not need big living spaces.

"Our strong points are our cheap prices and quality" said Miss Aewpu.

"We have our own construction material factory which supply us with what we need and we

take good care of the materials," she added.

In addition to affordability, another quality developers think will be beneficial to the condominium project is its location.

"It is close to Cape Panwa which is not too crowded or busy.

"There are a lot of projects go-

ing on in Ao Makham now, which aims to attract tourists, and I believe these can bring growth and development to Best Point's location," she said.

The construction start date for the third and fourth phases have yet to be decided, but will offer two more condominiums with 77 units.



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Phuket's darling

THE *hibiscus* is the first flower most people think of when tropical gardens are on the agenda. Romantic associations with Hawaiian maidens tend to reinforce this impression.

There must be few gardens in Phuket that do not contain a plant or six of this species, not only of *rosa sinensis* (the most frequently grown) but other varieties as well.

Although it comes from South China, *rosa sinensis* (or *chaa baa* in Thai) does equally well in the hot-house atmosphere of the tropics.

Indeed, red *Hibiscus* is the national flower of Malaysia, and the flower is seen in offerings and decorations from the South Pacific to Bali.

It is used less in Thailand, in part because there is so much competition from other decorative plants, and also because its flowers last only one day.

This impermanence is hardly a concern to gardeners.

The *hibiscus* blooms so profusely that each bush usually carries a number of flowers at the same time, and the flowers are magnificent.

Originally a shrub with small blooms, the flowers of modern hybrids can be anything up to 30 centimeters in diameter. These trumpet-shaped flowers come in both single and double forms, and in a range of colors possibly unmatched by any other shrub: white, cream, lemon, bright yellow, salmon pink, rich red and more.

The names, such as, California Gold, Blue Bayou, Hula Girl and Toreador are equally exotic.

Gardening

By Green Sleeves

There is even a bluish-mauve variety which is, unfortunately, difficult to cultivate here.

Long established hybrids of *rosa sinensis* however, do well in Phuket and are frequently deployed as a tall barrier or hedge, where their ovate or lobed leaves will form a fairly dense screen. The flowers, of course, are a massive bonus.

One variety, a pink one with smaller flowers, is particularly good in this role, since it is a strong grower and less fussy about conditions.

If the *hibiscus* has a downside, it is that it is very susceptible to fungal mold and white fly, especially if it is rooted in poor soil.

Additionally, do not expect the really striking cultivars you see in nurseries to survive without a fair amount of cossetting.

They were mostly developed in the cooler conditions of Florida and Hawaii.

The Japanese or *coral hibiscus*, on the other hand can be disease free. Much less widely hybridized, it is a pendulous shrub with flowers that hang down in graceful arches from long slender stalks.

Its Latin name, *schizopetalus*, gives the game away. The petals are split into deeply fringed sections, and curl back to reveal a drooping pistil often two or three inches long.

The foliage is dark green and

nicely complements flowers, which are usually a rich scarlet. It is leggy, and may need pruning and propping, but it is a good choice for a wall.

Hibiscus mutabilis is again quite different from the conventional Chinese rose. In fact you would hardly expect it to belong to the family at all.

As its name implies, its double blooms change color from white in the morning, and pink at noon, to a deep red in the late afternoon and evening. They bloom profusely on the last shoots of long, sparsely leaved branches. The foliage is grayish-green.

The shrub, which has a number of names including changeable rose, cotton rose or rose of Sharon, is a remarkably vigorous grower.

They can grow up to five meters high and be in a constant state of bloom, and it is unfussy about conditions, thriving in relatively poor soil and unlike its relatives, in semi-shade.

It is difficult to argue against the *hibiscus*' place in any top 20 list. Most gardeners would vote for *rosa sinensis* on the basis of its unparalleled visual display.

No shrub can match the brilliance of its flowers, but it's not an easy plant, certainly not in its more exotic manifestations.

Mutabilis, on the other hand is easy and flowers just as profusely. However, despite its chameleon properties, it does not have the color range, or the exquisitely shaped blooms of *sinensis*, and it sheds its leaves and flowers everywhere.

Both varieties are as disease prone as they are indispensable.

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



Photo: Alexandra Andersson

TROPICAL BEAUTY: Hibiscus is a beloved bloomer in Phuket.

Tip of the week

Veggies and flowers can be bedfellows

GARDENS the world over tend to have separate areas for vegetables and flowers.

In the average Thai household, the kitchen garden has, until recently, been more important than the flower border. Vegetables after all, are for eating.

But vegetables can be attractive in themselves.

As Normita Thongtham says "a properly designed vegetable garden can be incorporated into the landscape and used to enhance the beauty of any garden."

Plants such as lemon grass (*takrai*) or pandan (*bai toey hom*)

with their long elegant leaves, rapid growing basil (*horapha*), chillis (*phrik kee nu*) with their colorful range of green, yellow and red peppers, the numerous varieties of aubergine, and wild betel (*bai cha plu*) with its glossy, dark green foliage.

All of these will add interesting shapes, hues and textures to any plot.

In any case, the separation of food and flower plants, though traditional, is not essential.

You may as well grow them together, especially if you have only a small space.

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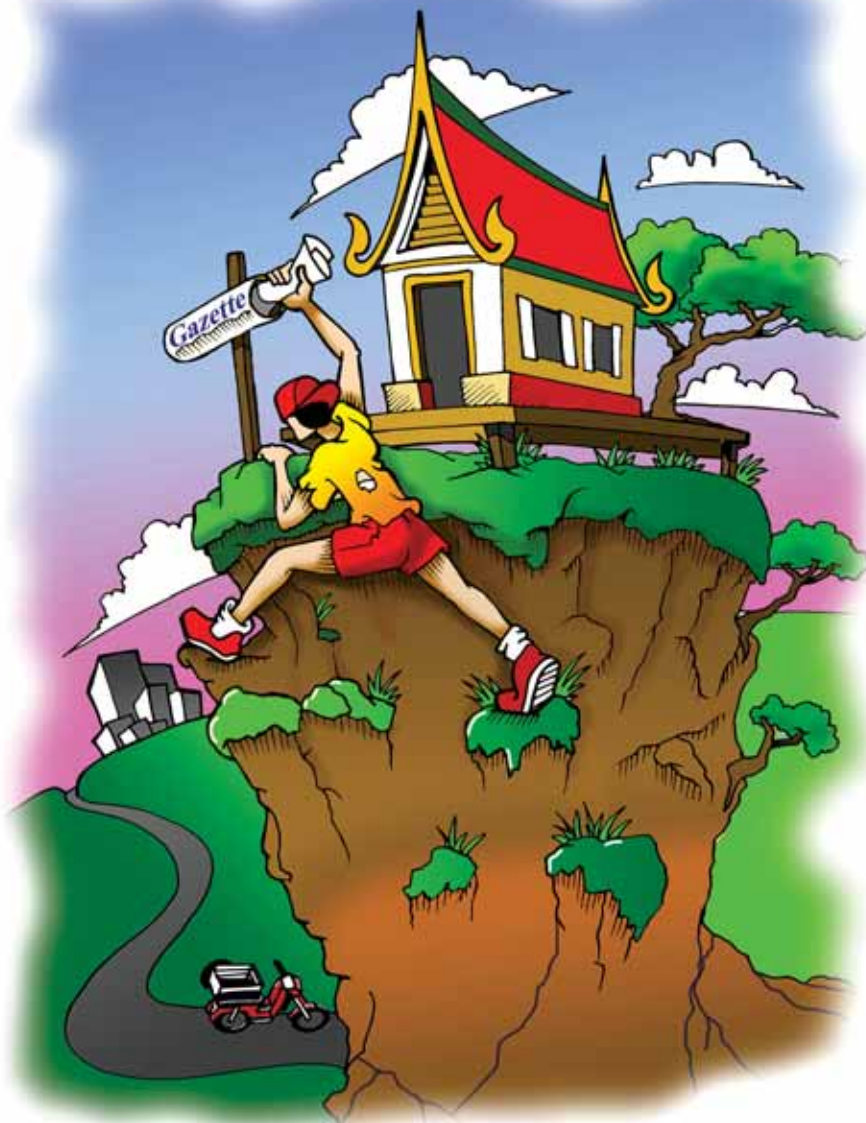
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BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



9.5 rai, beachfront. 5 minutes to Phuket airport. Asking price: 120 million baht. Chanote. Must see. No agents. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

3 RAI LAND IN TRANG



For sale. 3 rai in Baan Po, Muang, Trang. Very good location for business, suitable for house projects. Electricity, access road. Sale by owner. With Chanote. Price: 9 million baht ono. No agents please! Tel: 075-210646, 087-270 9093.

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NICE AND SPACIOUS HOUSE

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

BEAUTIFUL RAWAI POOL VILLA

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

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

FOR SALE

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

BOAT LAGOON MARINA

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

PATONG CONDO 1.7 MILLION BAHT

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

LAND AT PAKHLOK

1 rai, 18sq wah, Nor Sor 3 Kor, Tha-Rue - Pa Khlok - Muang Mai Road. Near Mission Hill. Price 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

(53sq.wah) near the Two Heroines Monument with 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, curtains and kitchen in nice landscape. Price: 2.7 million baht. Tel: 080-520 2989.

TWO TOWNHOUSES

For sale. 2-storey house, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom. Good location and atmosphere. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-956 2406. Email: phatsarar@gmail.com

NICE PLOT

For sale. Near Layan Hill Estate (Manik-Bangjo area). Size: 1,364sqm. Price: 7.2 million baht. Tel: 080-520 2989.

SEAVIEW LAND IN AO POR

For sale. 2 rai, 90sq wah with Chanote title. In Laem Thong, Ao Por. Sale price: 7.5 million baht o.n.o. No agents! Tel: 087-270 9093.

PATONG TOWNHOUSE

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

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

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

RAWAI CONDO

A 28sqm and 56sqm units. With seaview close to the beach. Price: 650,000 baht and 1.3 million baht respectively. Tel: 085-757 3240.

SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE

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

NICE HOUSE 88 SQ WAH

4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons, sofa, cable TV. Near Jomthong Village on Khwang Rd. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 086-774 2034. Email: hataimata@hotmail.com

ROYAL PLACE CONDO

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

4.9MB POOL HOUSE

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

TOWNHOUSE IN PATONG

On Nanai Road. 2 stories, 112.5sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, bathtub, built-in cabinets, kitchen, aircon and car park. 1km to Patong beach, near Bangla Road and Juncceylon. Price 5.5 million baht or nearest offer. No agents! Tel: 087-270 9093.

BEACHFRONT LAND AT MAI KAO

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

1,100SQM LAND PLOTS

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

VILLA IN 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@ttmaxnet.com

NAIHARN APARTMENT

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

PHUKET VILLA

1- and 2-bedroom apartments in a new deluxe condo in central Patong with a 64m swimming pool. Top quality, freehold. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

PATONG APARTMENT

9th floor in a condotel. 28sqm, fully furnished. Ready to move in. 10 minutes to beach. Price: 1.7 million baht. Tel: 089-909 3882.

NAI HARN LAND

Land in Nai Ham Area. Price: 6 million baht per rai. Please call 081-693 9571.

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.

GOLF VIEW VILLA FOR SALE

275sqm top-quality property with 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms on a private hill overlooking the Loch Palm Golf course. It comes with 1 rai of land. Optional pool and jacuzzi. Price: 15.9 million baht. Will be ready in 5 months. Call Khun Noi. Tel: 087-269 8492.

2 LUXURY POOL VILLAS

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

PATONG SEA VIEW CONDO

125sqm unit on 11th floor. Complete freehold in a corner with 2 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms, big living room, western-style kitchen, drinking water system and a terrace. Nice sea view. Price: 9.9 million baht. Tel: 076-293149, 081-824 1385. Fax: 076-293149. Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO

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

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PRICE REDUCTION

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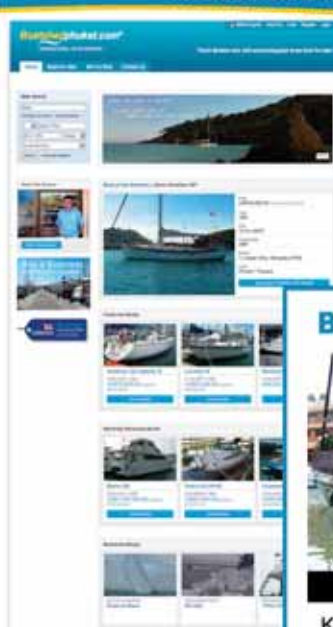
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Fax: 076 273 319
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Email: andrew@leemarine.net

Yacht Haven Marina Office
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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

AZIMUT 46 (2001)

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

BIG GAME FISHING BOAT FOR SALE

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: 082-218 3177. Email: deudale@yahoo.co.uk

BAYLINER 285

Year 2005. 29ft length, 300Hp Mercruiser 350MPI engine, FWC, dinghy with 5Hp 4-stroke Suzuki engine + davit system. Price: 2.4 million baht. Call for more info. Tel: 086-076 0141 (English). Email: kirill_tar@yahoo.com

19FT RIB FOR SALE

With a 100Hp, 4-stroke engine, built in a stainless steel tank. Comes with a trailer. Price: 650,000 baht. Email: alistair@aimdb.net

RIVIERA M430 (2005)

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

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

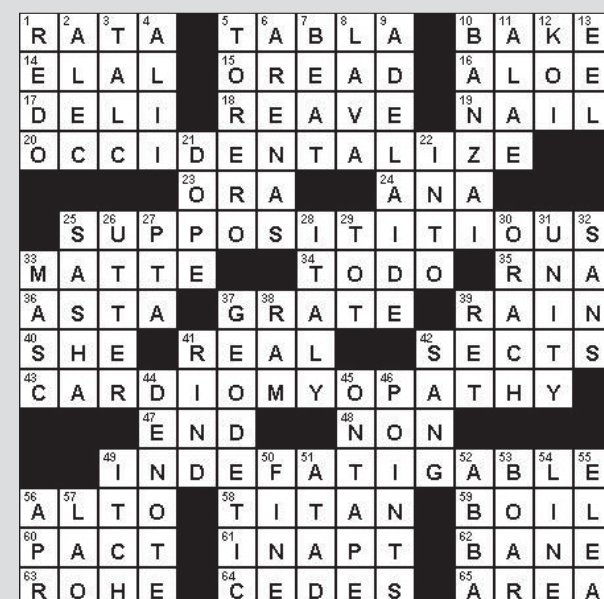
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SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:



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Erawana Co., Ltd. has developed over 100 villas in Phuket since 2003. To support our continuously growing business, we are currently seeking energetic, open-minded individuals who are highly motivated to apply for the following position:

Sales Manager

- Prepare all sales and marketing materials
- Present projects to potential customers
- Support existing customers (after sales service)
- Improve relationship with other sales agents
- Manage entire sales process (legal, land office, etc.)

Please note that this position is only open to native English speakers. Compensation package includes a base salary starting from 50,000 baht, commissions based on sales performance and annual bonus.

If you are willing to work hard and are result-oriented, please send your resume to info@erawana.com. We regret that only short-listed candidates will be notified.

Office Address Erawana Co., Ltd.

19/10 Moo 6, Soi Khok Tanode 2, Baan Don-Layan Rd., Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-275 022-3 Mobile: 089-729 2989
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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

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@windowlive.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, Chongtalay (opposite Lotus). Tel: 080-324 2385 (English). Fax: 076-325779. Email: info@uptoview.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

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

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

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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

Phuket Gazette

The *Phuket Gazette* seeks to fill the following position:

Advertising Sales

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

HOTEL FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

Qualified candidates must have had more than two years' experience in this position. Please contact me for further details. Tel: 076-239707, 083-503 3329, 081-877 9292. Fax: 076-239 708. Email: prakaisiroj@hotmail.com

JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT

Food Importer and Distributor seeking Junior Accountant responsible for credit management and import licenses. Send CV via email. Initial salary: 12,000 baht. Tel: 076-384273. Email: info@buonappetitogroup.com

MAID / CLEANING

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

TEACHER WANTED

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

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Sales Manager
Revenue Management Manager
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Assistant Financial Controller

Key Requirements :

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- Strong Managerial skills
- Ability to lead, motivate and develop a team of individuals
- Ability to work under pressure
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- Working knowledge of local culture

Please submit your application and full resume with recent photo to:

Ms. Prapaipan Reingpat

prapaipan.reingpat@banyantree.com

Director of Human Resources

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- Sales Manager

RESERVATION

- Reservation Sales Agent

FITNESS CENTER

- Fitness Center Manager
- Gym Attendant
- Pool Attendant

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- Security Assistant Manager
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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

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

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

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Champ aims for Ironman gold

By Andrew Jennings

YOU would think after winning one of the most prestigious and grueling triathlons on the planet a week-end off might be in order.

Not so for Australian Belinda Granger.

The newly crowned 2010 Laguna Phuket Triathlon will hardly of had time to wipe the sweat from her brow before lining up in the inaugural Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific Championship at Phuket Laguna on Sunday.

The Queensland superstar smashed a top-class field apart to win her second Laguna Phuket Triathlon title in three years.

Granger saw off the challenge of Great Britain's Emma Ruth Smith, who had to settle for second place, while two-time former winner Samantha McGlone of Canada finished third.

Granger's winning time of 02:55:08 was nearly five minutes ahead of second-placed Smith.

With the Laguna title already under her belt, Granger's focus is firmly fixed on back-to-back titles at the Ironman 70.3

Championship on Sunday.

Ironman is triathlon's ultimate challenge – a single day endurance test consisting of a 3.8km swim, a 180km cycle and a 42.2km run.

Granger said Ironman 70.3 will pose a very different set of challenges.

"The Ironman 70.3 race is four and half hours to complete, compared to three for the Laguna Triathlon, so you have to pace yourself," she said.

"The Laguna race is full blast all the way to the finish line, while there's a bit more strategy in the Ironman. I love the Phuket course because it is extremely technical," she added.

Another 2010 Laguna Phuket Champion, Italian Massimo Cigana, will also be back in action at the Ironman 70.3.

Cigana, from Venice, blew away a top class field at the Laguna Triathlon, which included a host of top professional athletes and more than 800 amateurs from 33 countries, to finish almost 10 minutes in front of his closest rival, Sweden's Frederik Croneberg.

The winner posted an overall



Photo: Apinun Saithong

IRON LADY: Two-time Laguna Phuket Triathlon champ Belinda Granger.

finish time of 02:35:26.

The Italian's performance is all the more exceptional when you take into account he only returned to training 10 days ago following

six weeks off with a foot injury.

Speaking after his victory, Cigana was full of praise for Phuket saying it is his favorite race of the year.

Cameron leads the way at Amateur Open

THE race to become Phuket-Times.Com Amateur Open champion is heating up with five qualifying rounds already completed.

Laong Cameron is the current Order of Merit leader, but only holds a slender five point advantage over second placed Tim Gomez with three rounds remaining.

At the most recent fifth round qualifying event, held at Laguna Phuket Golf Club, Mr Gomez took first place in Division One ahead of Ying Phumklang, with Lt.Col.Yongyut Krongmalai finishing a respectable third.

In Division 2, Ying's 12-year-old grandson Payboon Phumklang clinched top spot.

The next qualifying round is on January 8 at Loch Palm Golf Club.

Contact Neil Taylor or Khun Laong on T:0822803486 (English) or T:0878564426 (Thai) for more information, or visit the website at W: www.phuket-times.com to register.

– Andrew Jennings

FC Phuket go top

FC PHUKET moved into pole position for promotion to Division 1 of the Thai League thanks to a comfortable 2-0 win over Bangkok FC at Surakul Stadium on Saturday night.

A goal in each half was enough to see the home side secure another vital victory in front of their colorful home support.

The victory, coupled with Rayong FC being held at home by Chainat FC, means Phuket now sit top of Group B of the Regional League Division 2 playoffs.

It could not be tighter at the top of the group with only goal difference separating Phuket and Rayong on 13 points, while Chainat sit just two points adrift.

With Phuket set to visit Chainat on Saturday, and then host Rayong the following weekend, the race to fill the two promotion places looks set to go down to the wire.

An early first-half strike from Sarat Yuyen set the tone for Phuket

on Saturday against bottom of the table Bangkok FC.

Phuket eventually made sure of the points when Porramat Klongborrisut popped up late in the second-half to make it 2-0 and maintain their unbeaten run in the playoffs.

Meanwhile, FC Phuket's midfielder Camara Ahmed is making steady progress in his recovery from a heart attack suffered during play against Chainat.

FC Phuket Secretary Sorranan Sanae said there has been little change in Camara's condition and that he remains in a private room in Vachira Hospital Phuket. Ms Sorranan did confirm that Camara could leave hospital in two weeks and be moved to a private apartment, where he will receive 24-hour care.

FC Phuket's next fixture is on Saturday (December 4) away to Chainat FC. Kickoff is at 4pm.

– Andrew Jennings

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Fond of the Honda

By Andrew Jennings

OVER 60,000 motor racing fans thronged the streets surrounding Sapan Hin Park in Phuket Town last weekend for the Honda Racing Fest 2010.

The event, organized by Honda Auto Mobile Thailand and with a budget of over 20 million baht, was the biggest motor racing event ever staged in Phuket, with 90 cars competing for top honors in four classifications.

Phuket was the fifth and final racing location on the Honda Racing Fest 2010 calendar.

Jack Lamvard sealed first place in Class A of the Civic One Make Race, while Kuntasak Kusiri roared to double success in Class B of the Civic Class and then the Jazz One Make Race.

In the Pro Cup, Passalit Pormsombut and Pakorn Rojrunthawee were both victorious in separate races at Sapan Hin Park, but were unable to steal the title from the

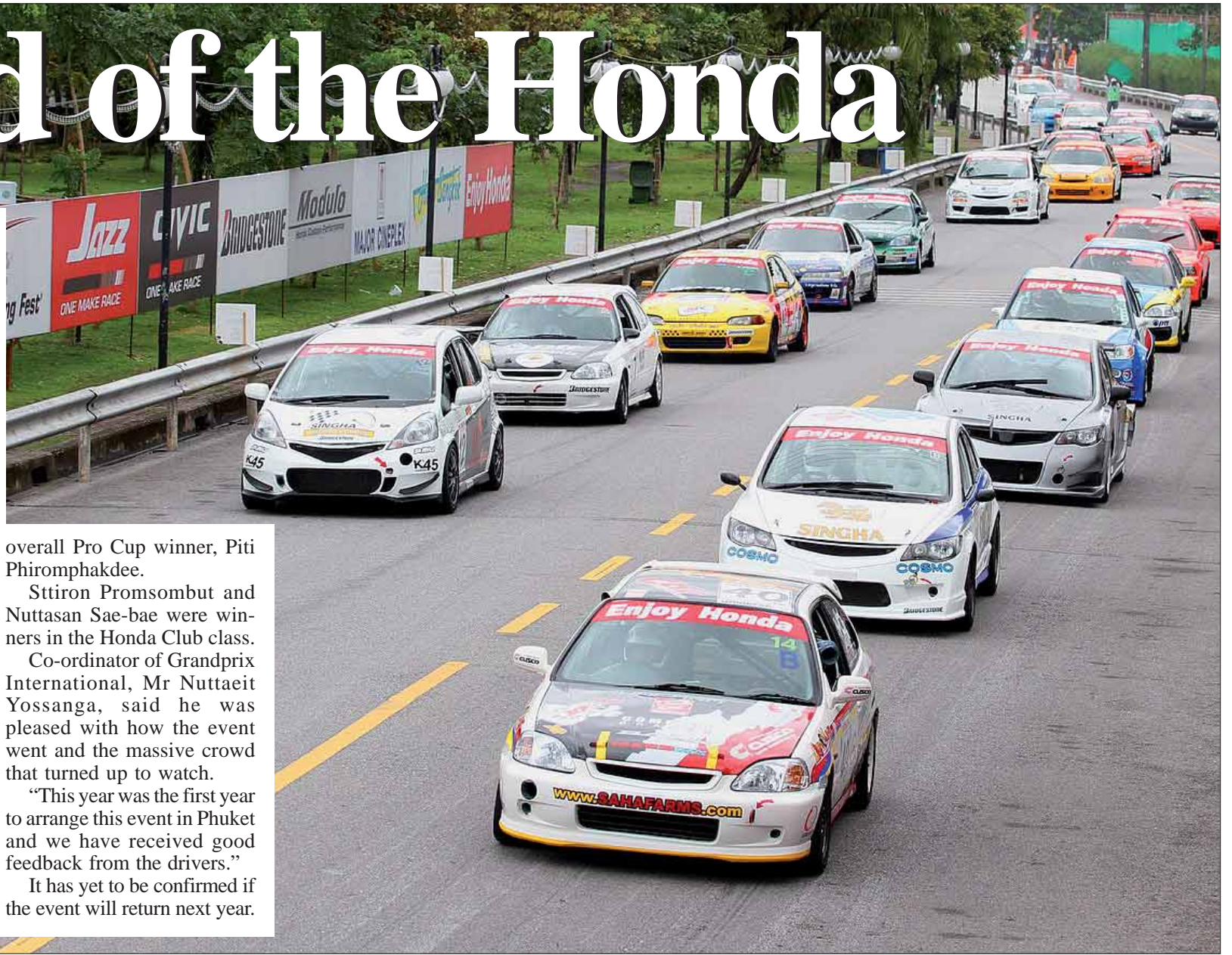
overall Pro Cup winner, Piti Phiromphakdee.

Sttiron Promsombut and Nuttasan Sae-bae were winners in the Honda Club class.

Co-ordinator of Grandprix International, Mr Nuttaeit Yossanga, said he was pleased with how the event went and the massive crowd that turned up to watch.

"This year was the first year to arrange this event in Phuket and we have received good feedback from the drivers."

It has yet to be confirmed if the event will return next year.



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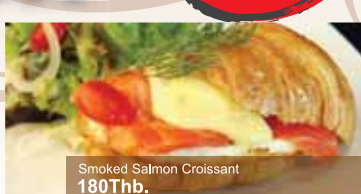
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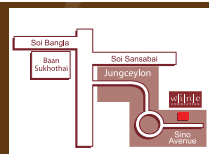
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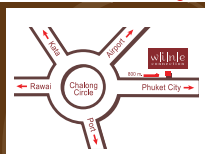
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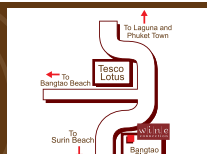
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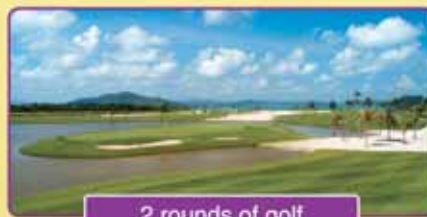
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