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Security boost for high season

By Atchaa Khamlo

POLICE in Kathu are boosting their presence on the streets of Patong for the high season.

The move follows Kathu Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakhao meeting his top officers on Monday.

Col Arayapan called for his officers to ramp up security, in terms of crime suppression and safety, and to work towards reducing the number of accidents involving tourists during the coming months.

The result is more checkpoints and more officers on the street, with an extra presence after the bars close.

To make the extra security possible, officers will be working extra shifts and some will be pulled from desk jobs.

Col Arayapan told the *Gazette*, "We have set where the checkpoints in Patong will be and there will be more officers on duty from 2 to 3am."

The superintendent reminded his officers that bars in the enter-



Kathu Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakhao

tainment zone are to close at 2am, and that police are to ask entertainment establishments to switch off their outside lights and make sure they do not make "too much" noise during high season.

"Special officers have been set to look after cases of stolen cars and motorbikes," Col Arayapan told the *Gazette*.

"Every month we receive reports about stolen motorbikes and stolen rented cars.

"Some of these motorbike owners left the keys in their bikes in

front of their houses, and some car and motorbike rental businesses were careless in renting out their vehicles.

"They were not specific when recording the homeland of the person renting the vehicle and some of their cars were driven out of Phuket.

"So officers will remind people to be more careful with their motorbikes, and we will talk with business operators to find ways to protect their vehicles," he said.

As for thieves working Patong Beach, Col Arayapan said plainclothes police will be patrolling the sands, keeping a close watch on tourists' belongings.

"Many foreigners have had belongings stolen on the beach, but didn't report it to the police.

"Many leave their belongings on the beach while they go swimming. Thieves watch them and steal their belongings while they [the tourists] are in the water.

"Now there will be more plainclothes officers keeping an eye out along the beach and reporting any thieves they see," he added.



Patong Municipality's 'Pearl of the Andaman' float leading the parade, complete with its own angel of the clam. Photo: Janpen Upatising

The carnival is on

THOUSANDS of people joined in the annual Patong Carnival parade on Wednesday evening.

Held every year for the past 25 years, the week-long carnival is held to usher in the tourism high season.

Starting at 5pm with Patong Municipality's Pearl of the Andaman float, the parade continued for three hours.

School bands and the traditional ladyboys dressed in

glamorous outfits marched along the streets, from Phang Muang Sai Kor Rd, along Prachanukroh Rd then along the beachfront.

Each float in the parade stopped briefly in front of Banana Disco, longest running disco in Patong, to present a quick performance expressly for Patong Mayor Pian Keesin and Vice-Governor Weerawat Janpen before moving along.

– Janpen Upatising

Christmas comes early for Phuket pauper

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

ONE of the poorest elderly residents of Rassada received a special gift this year: A complete renovation for his dilapidated, old house.

Put "Uncle Put" Nuengraksa, 73, was identified by Rassada Municipality as the most needy among five candidates living in the sub-district.

His ramshackle abode in Soi Ta Tan, near the Rassada Municipality offices on Ratsadanusorn Road, was deemed in dire need of repair – especially its leaky roof.

At the hand-over ceremony held at the

refurbished house on December 13, Rassada Deputy Mayor Ampol O-Art handed Uncle Put his house registration book and a collection of household appliances for him to enjoy in his new home, including an electric fan, hot water jug and electric rice cooker.

Mr Ampol said the municipality spent 100,000 baht fixing the five-by-15-meter dwelling, which has two bedrooms and one bathroom. They finished off by giving the home a new coat of paint.

The free home restoration was carried out under the municipality's annual "Homes for Locals" project conducted in honor of

HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's birthday. Deputy Mayor Ampol said the project has been ongoing since 2006, with the municipality restoring one poor family home each year in honor of His Majesty's birthday.

Modest Uncle Put said, "I would like to thank His Majesty and everyone who helped to fix this house. I will live more comfortably in this new house."

Uncle Put was once a fisherman, but back pain forced him to stop working 10 years ago.

Today he gets by with help from his five children, now all adults living in their own houses nearby.



Uncle Put in front of his 'new' home. Inset: The dilapidated house before.

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This Week

Around the Nation

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

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FC Phuket to face Rayong in a nailbiting promotion match this weekend. **Page 39**

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Youth gang guns down 'brave' security guard

AFTER standing up to a gang of young thugs, a security guard was gunned down at a municipal parking lot in Phuket.

Phuket City Police were notified of the murder at 7:40am on December 8 by residents at the new government workers' housing complex off Rattanakosin 200 Pi Road in Wichit.

Officers led by Phuket City Police Chief Wanchai Ekpornpit rushed to the scene, located off the new access road to Saphan Hin from Chao Fa East Road.

Slumped over in a plastic chair inside the guard booth at the entrance was the body of Winai Buathongkham, 54.

Mr Winai died from a single bullet that entered his skull at the base of the ear.

Evidence at the scene, including spent casings and bullet holes, indicated that at least nine shots were fired in the attack.

Police believe the murder was carried out by a gang of young thugs who are well known to them and local residents for criminal activities including car theft, motorbike theft and siphoning petrol from vehicles. Residents



Police inspect the booth where Winai Buathongkham was slain.

saw the gang near the guard booth on the night, hurling insults at Mr Winai, who stood his ground.

Later, about 11pm, they heard loud noises outside but dismissed them as firecrackers and did not go out to investigate, they said.

The next morning a resident noticed no security guard was on duty, then looked inside the guard booth to discover Mr Winai's body.

Mr Winai stood up to the gang by denying access to the parking lot to anyone who was not a resident, they said.

Police believe Mr Winai's bravery and professionalism cost him his life.

Police said the gang members were well known and a request for arrest warrants had already been filed. **– Yodsak Jarana**

German's Phuket stay goes to pot

A GERMAN man in his 30s is facing deportation after being found overstaying his visa and in possession of half a gram of marijuana.

Chalong Police stopped Nico Bergmann, 33, about midday last Sunday as he drove through a checkpoint in Soi Thanuthep.

Officers, led by Lt Col Weerayut Sitthirattanakul, believed Mr Bergmann was acting suspiciously and searched his car.

In his bag officers found half a gram of marijuana, said the police report.

Then police checked Mr Bergmann's passport and found that his permit to stay expired on October 6.

"He faces two charges... The court will probably fine him then we will send his case to Immigration for him to be deported," said



Nico Bergmann faces deportation.

Chalong Duty Officer Boonlert Onklang. "He can come back after that," he added.

Mr Bergmann arrived in Phuket on July 9 to work as a photographer.

He was released on Monday after posting 20,000-baht bail.

Mr Bergmann must stay on the island until his case is heard in court, said Lt Col Boonlert.

Just in case, police are holding his passport until the court verdict is handed down, he added.

An officer at Phuket Provincial Court confirmed to the Gazette today that a date had yet to be set for the case.

Marijuana use is not illegal in Germany and police do not fine people for possession of small amounts, but the drug is listed as a Category V controlled substance in Thailand.

Section 76 of the Narcotics Control Act of 1979 states: "Any person who possesses narcotics of category V shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand baht or to both." **– Atchaa Khamlo**

Get off the booze bus

BUS drivers heading out of Phuket are being breathalyzed before getting behind the wheel.

The alcohol checks are part of the Phuket Provincial Transport Office's annual road-safety campaign in the run-up to the upcoming holidays, drivers on inter-provincial buses are being tested for alcohol before getting on board.

"This is to assure passengers that drivers are not drunk driving," Mr Kanok said.

Renowned as the "Seven Days of Danger", the end-of-year holiday period is notorious for the carnage on Thai roadways. This year the period runs from December 29 to January 4.

Breathalyzer tests will continue



A bus driver takes the test. Photo: file throughout the period, said Mr Kanok.

The PPTO will operate a hotline (Tel: 1584) during the Seven Days to receive complaints and provide information about bus services.

The office is also offering fee car and motorcycle safety checks.

See PhuketGazette.net for details of the checkup locations.

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In brief...

Drugs down, murder up

THERE were five premeditated murders in Phuket last month, according to crime statistics released by the Phuket Provincial Police.

Once again leading the number of reported cases and arrests were narcotics offenses.

Overall 320 people were arrested in 282 cases, a 4.7% decrease year-on-year.

Most of the narcotics seized as evidence were *ya bah* (methamphetamine) numbering 27,712 pills.

There was no year-on-year change in the number of Category I "heinous crimes". Of the five murders reported there were arrests in two cases. The other heinous crimes reported were muggings (three cases) and arson (one case).

Category 2 crimes, "all crimes to the person", fell 33%. Of 20 cases reported, the most common charge was assault: eight counts.

There were also eight attempted murders and three rapes reported during the month.

Phuket to party for health

TO BOOST confidence among tourists that local food is safe to eat and that local health services are reliable, the Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO) will host a "Party in the Park" from December 16 to 18.

The Public Health for Tourism (Andaman Group) Health Station Expo will be held at Queen Sirikit Park in Phuket Town on December 16.

Lined up as attractions are a

"health market", a local handicrafts sale, live music on stage and a fashion show.

Dr Narinrat Pitchayakamint of the PPHO explained that the event was being held to boost public confidence in eating food served at local markets and restaurants and to promote health products and services available in the Andaman provinces of Ranong, Phang Nga, Phuket, Krabi, and Trang.

Major blackout in Chalong

THE Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA) has announced a scheduled blackout along Chao Fa West Road from 9am to 4pm on December 21.

The blackout will affect the east side of Chao Fa West Road, from Wat Chalong to Soi Tharn-Namjai, including Soi Mae Lamai and the Chaiyapruet, Laddawan, Seevalee

2, Munthana and Prueksachart Lake View developments in Land & House Park Phuket.

It will also affect the west side of Chao Fa West Road, from opposite Wat Chalong to Soi Baan Klang, including Soi Glum Yang.

For more information call the PPEA Operations and Maintenance Department at 076-224029.

Two Russian tourists die same day

NIKOLEY Bobrova, 64, rushed to his wife's aid as soon as he saw her in trouble in the strong surf at Karon Beach last Sunday, but could not save her.

Mr Bobrova and his wife Irina, also 64, arrived in Phuket on holiday on December 1.

The couple were due to fly home December 14.

Police said Mrs Bobrova went swimming in a "no-swimming" zone marked by red flags while

her husband kept watch on the beach, they said.

About 10am, she disappeared under the waves. Mr Bobrova rushed to rescue her, dragging her onto the beach and tried to revive her, but to no avail.

Chalong Police duty officer Boonlert Onklang said police presume Mrs Bobrova drowned.

Tsunami warning buoys now deployed

By Janpen Upatising

THE operation to install tsunami direct-detection buoys in the Andaman Sea has concluded and been hailed a success.

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (Seafdec) ship used to deploy the buoys returned to port in Phuket on Thursday morning.

"The operation went smoothly. The first buoy was installed 250 kilometers west of Phuket while the second buoy was installed 150km from Phang Nga.

"The two of them are about 250km apart from each other," said Chayasarn Tonanon of the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC), on board to oversee the operation.

NDWC Director Somsak Khaosuwan told the *Gazette* on Thursday, "The first tsunami buoy



A crewman inspects the tsunami warning buoys on the Seafdec ship.

was installed on December 12. The second buoy installation was finished yesterday.

"Now we need to ensure the data from buoys is sent continuously to our center. We will train officers to have a deep understanding on how to interpret the data.

"Then we will create software to make it easier to read," explained Mr Somsak.

After that has been done successfully the NDWC will set up the website where real-time data will be posted for the public to see, Director Somsak added.

Bird flu begone

WICHIT Municipality Sanitary and Environment Officers and health staff staged a "bird flu drill" on December 8. The exercise was supervised by Muang District Chief Supachai Pochanukul and officers from Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) and the Provincial Livestock Development Office.

PPHO Deputy Director Dr Wiwat Sitamanoch said, "The drill was a routine exercise to train officers and people how to deal with bird flu if an outbreak occurs. Thankfully, there is now no reports of this disease spreading."



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Worn out woman opts for penal retreat

A WOMAN in Khon Kaen caught shoplifting from a 7-Eleven told police she committed the crime because she was bored with her life and wanted to go to jail.

Wipha Chanachuen, 53, said she was tired of working for a living and wanted to rest in an old people's home – but jail was the next best option.

Khon Kaen City Police arrested Ms Wipha on December 8 after being alerted to the crime by the manager of the 7-Eleven branch at Khon Kaen Central Hospital.

Ms Wipha, who has been charged with theft, was caught in possession of a stolen bottle of skin lotion (69 baht), a packet of coffee (30 baht) and a packet of Coffee Mate (17 baht).

Ms Wipha lived alone in a 700-baht-per-month rental room in Khon Kaen City. Working as a

QUEER
news

cleaner at the Department of Medical Technology and Khon Kaen University, she earned just 4,500 baht a month.

With no husband or living siblings, she was bored of the people around her and tired, she told police. She didn't want to "fight" any more, she said.

Ms Wipha said she wanted to live in a retirement home but didn't know who to contact.

So she decided to go to jail, where she would at least be able to get a little rest, she said.

– Thai Rath

DEA 'druglord' souvenirs on hold

THE US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) office in Bangkok has confirmed that its "spot a druglord" souvenirs will not be available in Phuket until the new year.

The souvenir items, a collection of coffee mugs, pens and T-shirts bearing images of some of the DEA's "most wanted" drug traffickers, were initially intended to be distributed this week to coincide with the Patong Carnival on Wednesday, celebrating the arrival of the annual tourism high season.

David McConell, DEA Group Supervisor at the Bangkok Country Office, told the *Gazette*, "There were some issues on organizing a bunch of different things, so it will be postponed until the new year.

"My guess is that it will not be until the first week in February, but we're not 100% sure yet.



Some of the highly anticipated DEA 'most wanted' souvenirs.

"We're trying to coordinate with the Thai authorities right now," he added.

– Atchaa Khamlo

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NIGHT TSUNAMI DRILL

'More to do' in tsunami safety stakes

By Atchaa Khamlo

PHUKET's first-ever night tsunami evacuation drill on December 14 was hailed a qualified success, but officials say more needs to be done to ensure residents in all risk areas are truly ready to conduct an after-dark evacuation.

The drill was conducted at the Rajaprachanukroh 36 School in Kamala, just 100 meters from the high-tide mark at nearby Kamala Beach.

The drill, from 7pm to

9pm, was presided over by new Phuket Vice-Governor Weerawat Janpen.

Coordinating the exercise was the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Phuket office (DDPM-Phuket) and the Kamala Tambon Administration Office.

Hundreds of volunteers, representatives of government agencies and rescue foundation workers took part in the evacuation, as well as the mock search-and-rescue maneuvers that followed.

About 1,000 people took part



A volunteer is assisted by rescue staff



An emergency rescue crew attend to a 'tsunami survivor' during the evacuation drill. Photos: Atchaa Khamlo

overall, DDPM-Phuket officers estimated.

One of the exercises saw rescue workers lower two "volunteer victims" from a tree using ropes and slings.

Many who survived the 2004 inundation in Kamala, which was particularly hard hit by the disaster, did so by scaling trees and waiting for the water to recede.

The night drill drew the interest of the many foreign tourists visiting the area, many of whom did not know an evacuation was planned and who observed the activities with interest.

Volunteer Tourist Police were on

hand to explain the drill to them.

Once the alarm was sounded at 8pm, all participants as well as many people living or operating businesses in the area moved up to the higher floors of the school buildings.

DDPM officers and emergency medical treatment teams searched the area for mock victims and reported back to the control center at the school.

The warning was announced over the school's public-address speakers only.

The National Disaster Warning Center towers nearby did not sound the alarm.

The "night tsunami" exercise comes before a full-scale marine rescue and "survivor" evacuation drill at Saphan Hin and Phuket International Airport scheduled to take place on December 24.

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Laem Phromthep now a no-smoking landmark

LAEM Phromthep, the popular southernmost tip of the island, is now a no-smoking, no-alcohol peninsula.

"The prohibition zone starts at the bottom of the stairs and extends along the hill," Rawai Municipality officer Sanya Kontien told the *Gazette*.

The ban, which also prohibits the drinking of alcohol, began at the end of last month. Signs have been posted to inform visitors at Phuket's iconic tourist attraction.

The signs feature the internationally

understood symbols for no smoking and no alcohol, as well as written warnings in Chinese, Korean, English and Thai.

"First we warn people we find smoking or drinking, but if they ignore our warnings then they may be fined up to 2,000 baht," Mr Sanya explained.

"But we haven't fined any one yet," he added, smiling.

So far municipal officers have warned about 10 people, most of them tourists from China or the West.

"All of them were quite understand-

ing and stopped smoking," said Mr Sanya.

If people ignore repeated warnings from municipal officers, they will call the police, he added.

Eight officers are rostered to enforce the ban at the site, with three on duty at any one time, Mr Sanya said.

"Smoking areas have been established near the car park," he added.

The ban comes as Phuket is about to enter its dry season, during which Laem Phromthep often suffers from small wildfires.

— *Atchaa Khamlo*



One of the new signs warning against smoking or drinking alcohol at the point. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Patong to host UN seminar

By *Atchaa Khamlo*

PATONG has been chosen by the United Nations to host a national convention on its One Million Safe Schools and Hospitals Campaign.

The news came this week during a two-day visit by a delegation from the UN's International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) Bangkok-based Secretariat for Asia-Pacific.

ISDR Regional Program Officer Abhilash Panda said that Patong was chosen because the locations of the town's hospital and schools were good examples for the campaign.

"We absolutely agree for the meeting to be held in Patong, because the UN has already recognized that the hospital and schools in Patong are in safe areas," said Mr Panda.

Patong being a world-renowned tourist destination would also help boost public awareness of the project, he added.

"The campaign is not just for Patong, it's for all of Thailand," he said. Some 200 people from around the country are expected to attend the conference, he added.

"This is very important if any disaster occurs. For example, last



ISDR Regional Program Officer Abhilash Panda. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

week a doctor from Haad Yai told me that a hospital there was inundated during the floods last month," said Mr Panda.

"They had lots of problems. People were separated from their families, some were stranded and there were lots of snakes everywhere. Their daily lives were disrupted, especially the children,

who couldn't even go to school," he said.

A week earlier, Maharaj Hospital in Nakhon Rachasima had to be evacuated because of rising floodwaters.

Abhilash said, "The project proposes that by 2011 a national assessment of the safety of existing education and health facilities

should be undertaken, and that by 2015 concrete action plans for safer schools and hospitals should be developed and implemented in all disaster-prone countries."

Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukhabaan said, "The delegation is now collecting information from us and it depends on them where and when the convention will be held.

This latest development is the second time in a year that the UN has recognized Patong for its work in disaster prevention and mitigation.

On October 13, Deputy Mayor Chairat received on behalf of Patong Municipality a UN award recognizing Patong as a "role-model city" for disaster management planning.

The municipality was selected because it has clear strategies and budget planning to help cope with a variety of disasters including tsunamis, fire, flooding, landslides and disease epidemics, according to the UN committee that selected the winners.

The award ceremony was held on October 13, which is designated as International Day for Disaster Reduction and the Asean Day for Disaster Management.

Rising fuel costs will not affect local Phuket buses

THE move to increase bus fares nationwide will not affect buses operating within Phuket, the local Transport Office chief has confirmed.

The news follows Thai Passenger Bus Association Chairwoman Sujinda Cherdchai meeting Department of Land Transport Director-General Tienchote Chongpeepien on Monday.

The meeting was called by Ms Sujinda, whose group is seeking to increase bus fares by six *satang* per kilometer to cover expenses.

The request follows fuel prices rising 14.7% over the past year, as announced earlier this month by Yanyong Puangrath, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Commerce.

Phuket Land Transport Office Chief Kanok Siripanichkorn explained to the *Gazette* that even if the request is approved, it will only affect buses from Bangkok to the provinces and other inter-provincial routes.



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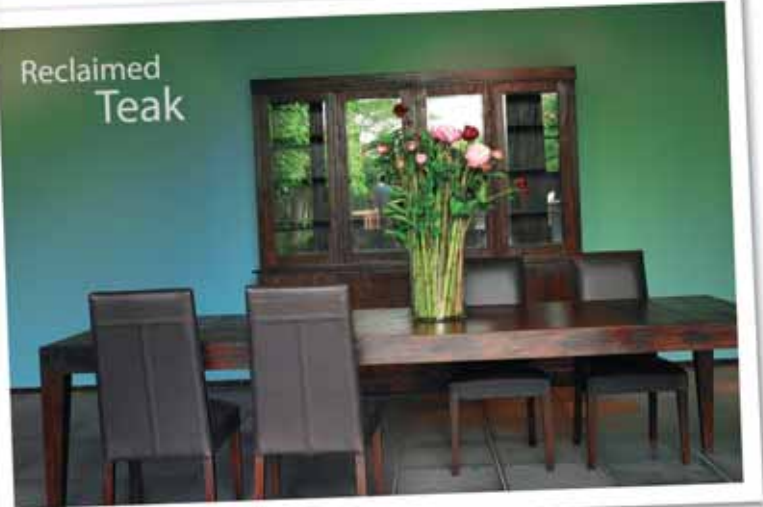
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PCF Race Day

Dragon boat races gather momentum

SEVEN teams have so far signed up or are on the verge of signing for the Phuket Community Foundation (PCF) Race Day dragon boat races at Laguna Phuket on January 23.

With just over a month to go until the event, more groups have expressed interest in entering teams, Race Day organizers expect a final line-up of 12 to 16 teams battling it out for "paddle honors" on the day.

"The amount of interest is very encouraging," said Alasdair Forbes, who heads the PCF's Race Day committee.

"Last time, in November 2009, we had 10 teams. This year we are very confident that we'll have more."

He urged anyone considering racing to sign up sooner rather than later.

"Any team can turn up on the day and get 10 minutes' instruction before they race, but if you want to be really competitive,

you'll need to get some practice before the event."

He also pointed out that dragon boat teams consist of 16 people – a drummer to keep time, one person on the steering oar and 14 doing the hard work. Good teamwork is essential.

"We saw last year that those who had practiced beforehand creamed the opposition. Muscle is one thing, but technique is more important."

Mr Forbes also made a plea for entries in the Home Made Raft Race at the event. "Homemade rafts may be made of anything you can buy, beg or borrow – we don't advocate stealing – but you need to think about your design. It needs to be light, but well made, and you need to test it before race day.

"You also need to think about weaponry. Last year our rules stated that you could not interfere in any way with another raft, but this year you can bring water



The spirit may be willing, but practice is essential for a chance at gold on Race Day, January 23. Photo: PCF

guns, soakers, whatever you can lay your hands on to put the opposition off their stroke."

Race Day will also feature kayak races and a cardboard box race for children – the last one to sink is the winner.

Competitors may sign up on the day for these, but again Mr Forbes recommends preparation and practice for anyone who wants a

medal. "You can see a great deal more information, and download entry forms from the PCF website [phuketcharity.org]."

The highlight of the day will be the second Great Phuket Rubber Duck Race, sponsored by Dream Gallery of Rawai. This year prizes for the race – there are 12 – total about 1.3 million baht, with the top prize being an 800,000-baht cruise

on the five-star sailboat *Silolona* for 10 people.

Tickets for the duck race cost 150 baht or US\$6 each. They can be bought online or from any of more than 30 outlets on the island. For more information, visit www.phuketcharity.org/duck/

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are co-sponsors for the PCF Race Day.

Farewell to 'lost' crewman

THE crew of *Pytheas Aura*, a 14-meter cutter racing in the King's Cup Regatta, woke on December 8 to find fellow crewman, Canadian Joseph James Patrick dead on his bunk.

Police believed he died of a heart attack.

Mr Patrick, 42, had lived on Phuket for several years, staying in the Kata area, a friend told the *Gazette*.

He apparently had worked in the oil industry in Alaska and also as a part-time actor.

Mr Patrick was well known and well liked, his friend said.

"He was always helpful, always ready to lend a hand," he added.



Joseph James Patrick

As part of the crew, Mr Patrick collected a King's Cup daily prize at the regatta party the night before.



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Army 'probably' shot protesters dead: DSI

AROUND THE nation

A STATE investigation has found that three civilians shot dead on temple grounds during this year's red-shirt protests were "probably" killed by Thai elite forces.

The report by the Department of Special Investigations also showed that Japanese cameraman Hiro Muramoto was likely killed by the Thai military.

The findings contradict claims by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva that the deaths were caused by armed elements among the protesters.

The report, which was seen by Reuters, concluded that on May 19 Thai special forces on an elevated railway track fired into the grounds of Wat Prathum Wanaram, where thousands of civilians were seeking refuge.

Six people were killed by high-velocity rounds during the incident.

"There is a reasonable amount of facts, evidence and witness accounts to believe that (three) deaths resulted from security officials' actions on duty," the investigators said, according to Reuters.

The report recommended that police investigate further.

There was not enough evidence to draw conclusions on who caused the other three deaths, the report said.



Red shirt protesters carry pictures of Japanese cameraman Hiro Muramoto and others who died during the anti-government rally early this year. Photo: Nation

Asked by Reuters to comment on the report, Mr Abhisit said, "The next step will involve the judicial process so we can't react to any incomplete information."

The findings are likely to be used as ammunition by the red shirts and the opposition Pheu Thai party allied to them.

Pheu Thai has demanded the government take responsibility for the 91 deaths during the 10-week protests that were eventually dispersed on May 19.

According to the report, the temple had been declared a "safe zone" for the elderly, women, children and the infirm while the dispersal took place.

When gunshots rang out, wit-

nesses reported scenes of chaos outside the temple. One witness reported seeing soldiers firing from the elevated railway line into a medical tent inside the temple grounds. Two nurses were killed.

In a separate incident on April 10, Reuters cameraman Hiro Muramoto was killed by a high-

velocity bullet to the chest.

A witness quoted in the report said Muramoto "collapsed as gunfire flashed from the direction of soldiers."

The Thai government is yet to release the report into Muramoto's killing, despite demands by the Japanese.

Senators oppose pay rise

FORTY senators opposed the government's move to hike salaries for politicians, claiming many MPs and senators are incompetent and undeserving of more pay.

Cabinet on Tuesday approved an across-the-board pay raise for all civil servants, parliamentarians and political office holders.

MPs and senators' basic salary will be boosted from 62,000 baht to 71,230 baht per month, plus an allowance of 42,330 baht. The new pay structure will apply after the next general election.

But Senator Somchai Sawaengkarn said a number of lawmakers did not deserve more money.

At least seven or eight elected representatives frequently skipped the parliamentary meetings, he said.

Instead of a raise, MPs and senators should face tougher checks and punishment for their attendance records, he said, suggesting pay suspension for those missing more than half their scheduled meetings.

Senator Rosana Tositrakul said she objected to giving a raise to political office holders.

"I don't think the majority of people could stand the pay hike when they frequently witness the collapse of House meetings due to lack of a quorum," she said.

By-election flop spurs election speculation

OPPOSITION party Pheu Thai failed to make gains in by-elections last week, prompting speculation the government may call a snap general election.

Coalition parties won four of the five constituencies contested in the December 12 polls, with Pheu Thai taking the fifth.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said he was "satisfied" with the results, but warned they could not be taken as an indication of what would happen in a general election.

Five seats were up for grabs: Bangkok Constituency 2, Ayudhaya Constituency 1, Khon Kaen Constituency 2, Nakhon Ratchasima Constituency 6 and Surin Constituency 3.

The seats were vacated when the Election Commission disqualified their MPs for holding shares in firms with state concessions, thus violating the Constitution.

According to unofficial results, Democrat and former Bangkok Governor Apirak Kosayodhin won more than twice as many votes as Puea Thai candidate Apicha Lertpatcharakamol to win in the capital.

Chart Thai Pattana candidate Kuakul Danchaiwijit won the seat in Ayudhaya, while the Bhumjai Thai party won seats in Surin and Nakhon Ratchasima.

The Pheu Thai party won by a landslide in Khon Kaen Constituency 2, a stronghold of support for the party's patron, Thaksin Shinawatra.

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The hitchhiker

I would like to propose two specific ways of helping end the death grip the local transport syndicates hold over the island. The first is to introduce more *songthaew* along important thoroughfares.

We know from experience that nobody is brave enough to incur the wrath of tuk-tuk drivers in Karon or Patong by setting up a service between those towns, but why isn't there a *songthaew* service running from Bangkhu Junction (north end of the bypass road) to Chalong Circle and back?

The need for this route is obvious and I don't see who would oppose it. It would also cut down on traffic in key areas, such as around Kajonkiet and Darasamuth schools, during rush hour.

There seems to be an unspoken rule in place that all *songthaew* need to start and stop at Downtown Market in Phuket Town. This mindset really needs to change.

The other solution I would like to see is slightly more radical: hitchhiking.

Given the woeful lack of good public transport options, many cars travel with just a driver and no passenger.

Let's all give it a try. If you need to get from A to B without a vehicle, try sticking your thumb out. If I happen to be driving past I will give you a lift, free of charge.

Somchai Huasaikul
Koh Kaew

Airport Imam: the quiet achiever

Re: *Phuket Gazette, Issues & Answers: Call to prayer a bit too*

Phuket's price point is just about right

A REPORT by a UK-based website recently listed Bangkok as ranking 31st among 32 major cities around the globe in terms of cost of living.

Although the report did not directly address the situation here in Phuket, it nevertheless set off a great deal of debate in our online readers' forum.

A common complaint among expats funding their activities here on fixed incomes from abroad is that Phuket is an increasingly expensive place to live. This is, of course, the result of the sustained rise in the value of the baht against most Western currencies.

Inflation also looks likely to continue given recent economic indicators, which were recognized by Cabinet with its recent passage of a 17-baht minimum-wage rise, from 204 baht to 221 baht per day, for workers in Phuket.

Although the most generous increase awarded to any province in the country, the wage rise still represents just an 8.3% increase for Phuket's poorest workers. This is slightly higher than the 5% boost approved for state officials, but far less than the 14.8% increases that our lawmakers – almost all multi-millionaires (in baht) – have proposed to get themselves through these difficult times.

Unlike elected officials, most Phuket residents – Thais and foreigners alike – have

Phuket Gazette

little or no control over the situation except to work harder and economize.

Fortunately, predictions that the rising baht would have a strong negative effect on tourism this high season appear not to have materialized – at least not yet. Tourism industry analysts say occupancy rates are high across the island and that booking rates indicate they could hit 100% during the upcoming peak period.

Some have theorized that the rise of the baht is part of a long-term trend that will eventually see the Thai currency restored to a rate of around 25 baht to US\$1. The baht sat at that fixed rate for years before the 1997 financial crisis came along and its value plummeted after it had to be floated in global currency markets. If this chilling scenario comes true it will have an immense impact on the tourism industry.

But perhaps it is still too early to panic. The most important issue is just how pricey Phuket is compared with rival destinations. The current state of affairs is that Phuket still represents good value for money for most visitors – and it is up to all of us to do our best making sure it stays that way.

are not the same.

In a real *moo baan*, once the sun comes up then the village is awake. If you're sleeping in or too lazy to get up and greet the day, that's your problem.

Damien Evans
Chalong

Christmas drill 'disrespectful'

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket's first night tsunami drill hailed a success, December 15*

It seems disrespectful to people arriving from Christian countries to have a tsunami drill on Christmas Eve.

Hotel owner in Patong
Gazette forum

Queer is cool

Although I'm often horrified by the eccentric content of the *Phuket Gazette's* Queer News section, there is no getting away from the fact it is easily the most entertaining part of the paper.

Not only does it regularly have me "rolling down the aisles" after reading it, Queer News has also given me genuine insight into several bizarre superstitions some Thai people live by.

Of particular interest is learning about the various off-the-wall things rural Thai people believe will bring them good luck.

The recent story about an enormous monitor lizard strolling into a family home, and the family keeping it because the father heard it brought good luck, was wild.

The photo attached to the story, with the lizard beside the mother holding a very young child, was priceless.

Bob Barking
Chalong

loud, December 4

I read with interest the recent issue about the call to prayer at the mosque near Phuket International Airport being too loud.

To this I hold high praise indeed for Imam Samarn Dumluck of Baan Bang Malao Mosque, who replied to the request to turn down the volume.

His consideration for others while respectfully maintaining

the right of Muslims to practice their faith is to be commended.

Personally, I do not object to the call to prayer being played. Waking to the call with the sound of a beautiful singing voice being carried through the rubber trees just before dawn remains one of my favorite memories of living in Rawai about 10 years ago.

I have read similar complaints

before in the *Gazette*, and sometimes I think the foreigners have a point, and other times I feel that if the *farang* don't like living in a Muslim neighborhood, then they should move.

I do wonder if some of those "whinging *farang*", as I have heard them called, have ever lived in a real Thai *moo baan* – not a Western-style development where Thais also live: The two

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Issues & Answers...

Renewing a Thai driving license

My five-year Thai driving licenses for a car and a motorbike both expire in February 2011.

I went to the driving license office in Phuket Town to ask what I need to bring to renew them and what the cost would be.

I was told at the inquiry desk that I could renew them up to three months before they expire and would have to bring a two copies of my passport, proof of address from Phuket Immigration and a copy of my work permit.

The lady told me it would cost 680 baht for the five-year car license and 480 for the five-year motorbike license. I found this a bit odd as I paid only 150 baht for each when I first got them.

Also, I do not have a work permit as I have been retired for nine years. Could someone please confirm the renewal cost and whether or not a work permit is needed?

Peter
Patong

Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/
IssuesAnswers

Kanok Siripanichkorn, Chief of Phuket Land Transport Office, replies:

The documents required for renewing a five-year car driving license and a five-year motorcycle driving license is a copy of the "face page" in your passport and proof of address from the Immigration Bureau.

A copy of the applicant's work permit is not required.

The annual fee for a car driving license is 100 baht. So it is 500 baht for five years.

The smart card fee is 100 baht and the fee for processing the application is five baht.

It should be 605 baht in total.

Similarly, the annual fee for a motorcycle license is 50 baht. So it is 250 baht for five years.

The cost for the smart card is also 100 baht and the fee for processing the application is five baht.

So, the fee for a five-year motorcycle license should be 355 baht.

However, if the address of an applicant has changed from the last time he or she applied for a car or motorcycle driving license, there will be the charge for 50 baht for registering the change.

We also provide plastic cases to protect the smart cards at 10 baht each.

So, the total cost for a five-year car driving license should not exceed 665 baht and the total cost for a five-year motorcycle driving license should not exceed 415 baht.

Free-range meat

Where can I buy free range meat on the island? Is there a supermarket that sells it or even a

Youth, save now

FIRST PERSON

I DON'T think today's younger generation have learnt the lessons from the last Asian economic crisis in 1997 when many young people lost their jobs.

I would not like to see a return to that particular chapter but if we do not learn from past and prepare for unexpected change, there is the possibility a similar situation could reoccur.

Today, young people who have just started working and earning a salary may not have much understanding about how to spend their money wisely and save for the future.

They seem more interested in having everything all at once, such as mobile phones, cars and houses.

Moreover, they are not being careful about how they live their lives.

There is nothing wrong with going to nightclubs, but alcohol is not cheap, and young people seem to be spending most of their time and money on these activities.

The younger generation need to limit their nightlife activities or they will not be able to save any money.

They should try to be disciplined and force themselves to save what they can afford each month, because savings on your bank statement can help when you want a loan for a car or house down the line.

It is their future and life, so they should start planning what they are going to do about it.

One of the basics is to save 30



Manager of the Phuket Branch of Bangkok Bank, **Mayuree Suksomboon**, has almost 40 years of experience in banking and finance. Here she talks about why the younger generation need to save for their future.



Photo: Nicolas Asfour/AFP

per cent of your monthly income. Once this initial saving gets larger, they can go further by investing their money in funds or stocks.

But they should be careful and make sure they learn about investments such as stocks, funds, deposits and insurance.

Young people need to study more about investment opportunities and talk to brokers and financial experts before making any financial decisions.

This will limit the impact if there is a mistake. They should select the types of investments that are suitable for them, because each

one comes with different risks.

They should at least try to ask themselves how much risk they are willing to accept and choose the investment that matches their interests, while also asking themselves what they really want and then set a financial plan to achieve it.

I want to see younger generations have a secure life, because we do not know what will happen in the future. We do not know how the economic situation will be in the coming years and whether another economic crisis like that in 1997 might return.

Red-shirt super men of the streets

Island View

By Andrew Jennings

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



NOT ALL BAD: Motorbike taxis are there when you need them.

SO THERE I was on Thursday night, seeking shelter from a down-pour on the stoop of a 7-Eleven in Phuket Town, when my friend turns to me and says, "Ah nuts to this rain, call a taxi will you?"

The brazen delivery of the line instantly got my back up, so I responded with my best Travis Bickle "You talkin' to me" impression. He refused to let it go, "Come on we're late, call me a taxi". Again my response was swift, "Okay, you're a taxi."

His blank reaction to arguably the oldest taxi quip in the book told me what I'd long suspected about this particular friend: He is a few noodles short of a *pad thai*.

With our friendship on the line, what could possibly save us? And right on cue, out of the damp mist of a December night, came our very own red-shirted superman: a motorbike taxi driver.

That our two-wheeled savior was older than Hugh Hefner and sported the number 69 on his vest seemed to thaw the icy silence between my friend and me.

The incident got me thinking about several other choice encounters with the motorbike taxi fraternity.

Recently I was parking my own motorbike on a street in Phuket Town when a motorbike taxi approached me beeping its horn.

I wondered what on earth this man could want. He pulled up next to me and pointed to the back of his bike. It turned out he was actually asking if I required the use of his service, despite the fact I was still sitting on my own motorbike. Needless to say I was left scratching my head.

That was until a week later when I got completely lost in Phuket Town searching for Provincial Hall. I ended up abandoning my motorbike on the side of the street and jumping on a motorbike taxi so I wasn't late for a meeting. You see, method to their madness.

The language barrier has proven

problematic. One evening I was a passenger on a motorbike taxi and in a bit of a rush. The driver, again a rather old gentleman, was taking his time.

Trying to explain about getting his skates on, I was greeted with smiles and plenty of pointing in various directions.

I decided an alternative method might eliminate the communication problem. So using an ancient technique favored by jockeys rather than motorbike passengers, I gave the driver a gentle reminder squeeze with my legs and remarkably my trusty steed put the boot down.

And only this week I mistakenly overpaid for a motorbike taxi ride. I was about to ask for my money back, but noticed the elderly gent manning the bike seemed genuinely delighted with his unexpected windfall.

He gave me a hug and quickly went on his way before I knew what had happened.

I didn't have the heart to chase him down, and anyway, who doesn't enjoy a hug during the Christmas season?

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

specific farm I can go to and buy my meat from? Please help: I am getting hungry.

Charlotte Merryweather
Chalong

Phanuwat Thakhot, Store Manager at Central Food Retail Co Ltd, Phuket Festival Branch, replies:

Free-range pork sold under the brand name Natural Meat has been available at Central Food Hall since August 11. The meat is sent directly from Bangkok.

The pigs are raised free of artificial hormones and antibiotics.

Our chicken meat is not free-range, but the meat is free of growth hormones.

Our board members are currently looking into selling free-range chicken and beef products, just like the free-range pork we currently sell.

Maitree Cheevataranakorn, an officer in the Animal Husbandry Division of the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office, replies:

It is very difficult to find free-range meat in Phuket. There is not much demand. But we are trying to explain to people in Phuket about how good it is for their health to eat meat from animals raised on free-range farms.

Electricity supply, or lack of

I just moved into a duplex in Rawai and my problem is that the electricity supply is only 182 volts and not 230/240 volts.

An electrician tested the supply side of the meter and then called the power company. They sent out two men to fix the problem, but to no avail. The supply is basically good enough to run lighting but that's about it. For example, if I were to use my toaster, it takes about 10 minutes to toast and ends up similar to crisp bread.

Also, my refrigerator motor runs very hot and now I am having to turn that off to allow it to cool down.

I have been advised that the lack of voltage is a fire hazard as the appliances are rated to run on 230/240 volts and could easily overheat.

My landlady also rang the power company, but has not had a satisfactory conclusion.

Jon McCrea
Rawai

Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority Deputy Manager Vichan Praenam replies:

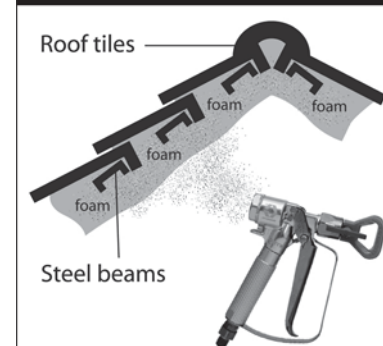
Thank you for bringing this to my attention. We need such feedback in providing electricity supply and it helps us plan for future demand.

Anyone who experiences this kind of problem, please inform us as soon as possible and we will send an officer to your house to find out precisely what the problem is.

Once we know, we will fix any problems on the supply side, such as by installing more electricity lines or a transformer.

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TAT focus on green tourism for 2011

New eco-tourism strategy to lure European and Middle East market

By Anand Singh

THE Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) 2011 marketing strategy for Europe and the Middle East will focus on golf, eco-tourism, health and wellness.

At an international meeting involving seven TAT offices from across Europe, this plan was finalized with consideration paid to the prevailing economic conditions, demographic changes and evolving consumer lifestyles.

According to TAT, more tourists from Europe and the Middle East are demonstrating a stronger demand for sustainable tourism products.

International buyers, sellers and media agencies will be invited to join this campaign, which will also include special events to be held in Thailand, according to TAT.

In the past eco-tourism has proved popular with European markets, such as the United Kingdom, Germany and Scandinavia.

However, experts in Phuket's eco-tourism sector are skeptical about TAT's marketing campaign.

Mr Dave Williams, Managing Director of Paddle Asia, an eco-tour company based in Phuket, doubts whether TAT's mass tour-

ism oriented policies can be made compatible with its aim to promote eco-tourism in Phuket and nearby regions.

"I have been operating eco-tours in Phuket for 19 years and this is not the first time TAT has vowed to work towards sustainable tourism.

"On the contrary, TAT has mostly focused on mass tourism and sustainability has been less of a concern," said Mr Williams.

Paddle Asia provides eco-tours within Phuket and its neighboring provinces, often to young people and international school children from Thailand, Singapore, the Middle East and America.

Mr Williams said the trips he organizes are designed to be fun, educational and have as little impact on the environment as possible.

"Most of our customers are affluent people with high incomes that are looking for quality eco-tours.

"By running smaller groups we often have to charge a bit more to make the business viable, but also because we aim to make as little impact on the environment as possible. As such, environmentally friendly tours sometimes cost more.

"With the economy in Europe

still not fully recovered, it seems only wealthy people are willing to pay for tours that prioritize environmental protection.

"Sustainable tourism is therefore somewhat of a luxury," Mr Williams explained.

In this respect, the TAT goal of increasing tourist numbers rapidly is the exact opposite of what eco-tourism is all about, according to Mr Williams.

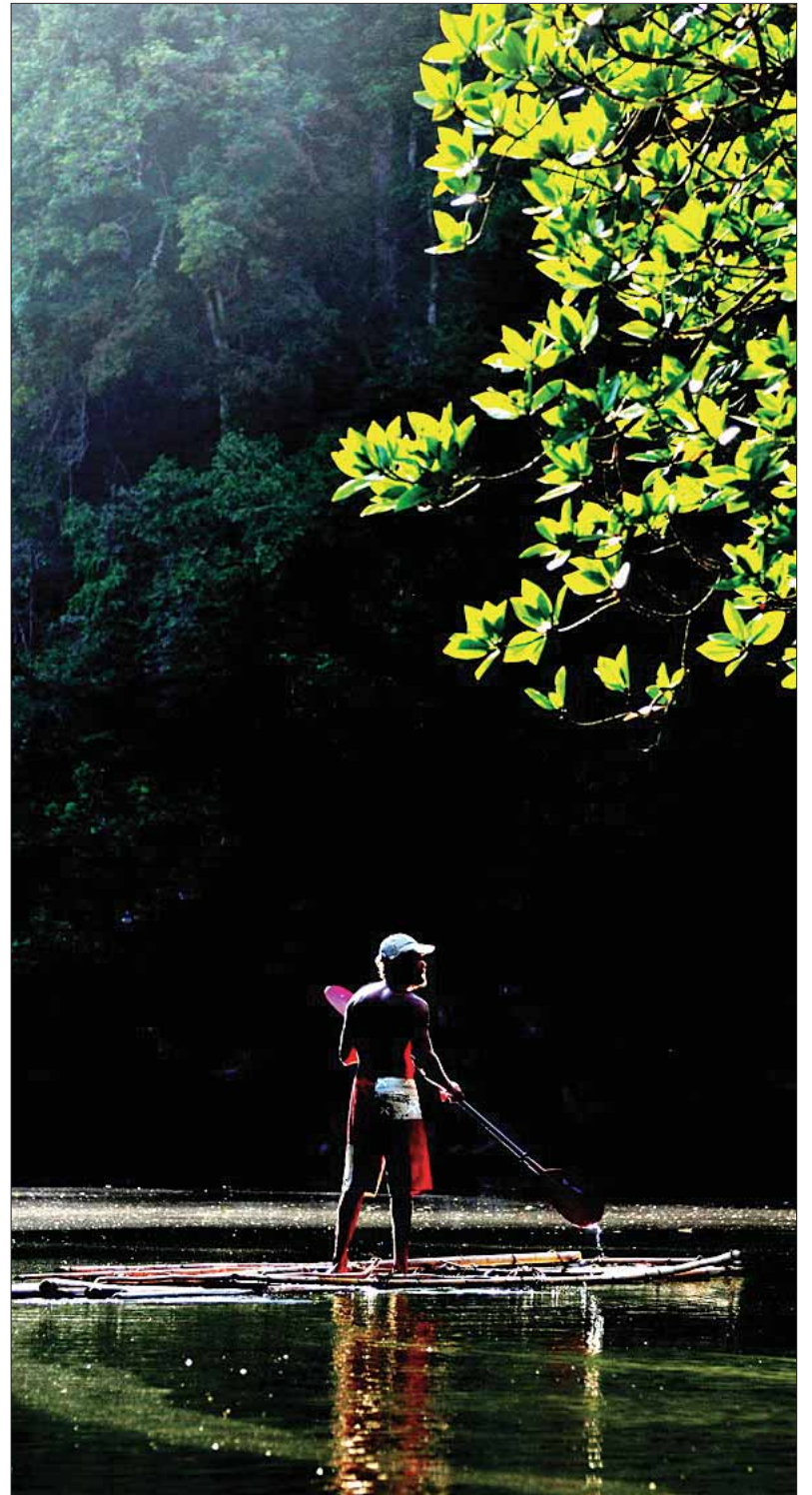
However he added that it is not impossible to achieve sustainable growth whilst preserving the environment at the same time.

"Eco-tourism policies should focus on sustainability, not short-term profits, therefore eco-tourism should see a gradual not rapid growth overtime," he said.

"Aside from preserving the environment, sustainable tourism also means working towards fairness for company employees.

"It should create lasting jobs and benefits for the people who depend on the industry," stated Mr Williams.

GOING GREEN: TAT is launching a new campaign designed to suit those living greener lifestyles.
Photo by Jim Welch



High-speed train to help visa-runs

THAILAND's Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban has announced that work on the Nong Khai-Bangkok-Padang Besar high-speed train will start next year and be completed in four years.

Nong Khai is a northern Thai town on the Laos border often transited by foreigners in Phuket

on visa runs to the Laos' capital.

This means the new high-speed rail line will run over 100 kilometers east of Phuket and won't pass the island on its run between Bangkok and Padang Besar, a border town in the northern part of Malaysia. On a recent visit to China to discuss the project in detail, the

Chinese Government asked that the drafting conditions and parliamentary approval procedures be sped up before the construction contract is signed early next year. He also said he had asked China to provide soft loans for project construction.

— *The Nation / Phuket Gazette*



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Bangkok the cheap option

IN WHAT can only be good news for Phuket and the Thai tourism industry, Bangkok appears as the second most affordable city in the world, according to a list compiled and published by PriceRunner.com last week.

Oslo tops the list of the world's most expensive cities, and each of the Scandinavian capitals appears in the top seven.

According to a report from ScandAsia.com, the Norwegian capital was the most expensive of the 32 cities reviewed in PriceRunner's 'International Price Comparison Survey', topping the list for the fourth year running.

The survey found that prices in Oslo were a third more expensive than the global average. Stockholm, Helsinki and Copenhagen took places 4, 6 and 7, respectively.

Meanwhile, Bangkok came in at number 31, outdone only by Mumbai where prices were 27% lower than the global average.

The survey looked at a range of products that included everyday items such as milk and petrol as well as luxury items and technology.

To put the cost of living in Thailand in perspective, here are some price comparisons of a few everyday items:

- a can of Coke: €2.10 (84 baht)
- a liter of milk: €1.82 (72 baht)
- a Big Mac: €5.49 (218 baht)

The list of cities, with the percentages indicating the margin above or (-below) world average prices:

Ranking / City / Margin

1. Oslo 35.3%
2. Sao Paulo 27.1%
3. Sydney 20.5%
4. Stockholm 15.5%
5. Reykjavik 14.9%
6. Helsinki 11.5%
7. Copenhagen 10.6%
8. Tokyo 9.8%
9. Paris 8.3%
10. Rome 4.4%
11. Dublin 2.0%
12. Cape Town 1.6%
13. Amsterdam 0.5%
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20. Buenos Aires -3.0%
21. Moscow -4.8%
22. Budapest -6.1%
23. Berlin -6.7%
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25. Prague -8.1%
26. Vilnius -13.3%
27. New York -14.5%
28. Shanghai -14.8%
29. San Francisco -16.2%
30. Dubai -16.2%
31. Bangkok -19.8%
32. Mumbai -26.9%

— Phuket Gazette

Centara to launch new chain of hotels

CENTARA Hotels and Resorts, one of Thailand's largest hotel groups, is set to launch one of its newest hotel brands, the three-and-a-half star Centra chain.

It is hoped the launching of Centra will enable the group to effectively compete in the middle and lower income tourism market, the fastest growing segment in the industry.

The first Centra property, Centra Ashlee, is scheduled to open in Patong in late December.

According to Ms Boonjira Chotikunchon, Sales and PR manager of Centra Ashlee Hotel Patong, the hotel will offer three-star facilities, with services matching those of four-star hotels.

"The Centra Ashlee Hotel Patong is the first property to be managed under this new brand. You could say it is a model project for Centara to test the lower and middle income tourist market.

There are plans to open a Centra hotel in Krabi and Pattaya as

well, if Centra Ashlee proves successful," Ms Boonjira said.

The Centra Ashlee Hotel Patong, located opposite Hard Rock Cafe, is expected to have its soft opening before the end of this year, and according to Ms Boonjira it will be a trendy hotel with 110 rooms, mostly of a similar superior type.

"The hotel will be self-service oriented. We aim to target lifestyle tourists looking for budget holidays, hence a lot of services expected of upper class hotels, such as bell service, will not be provided. However we will offer a diverse range of facilities, including: a fitness center, restaurant and swimming pool," added Ms Boonjira.

The Centra Ashlee will be the sixth hotel in Phuket operated by the Centara group.

They recently held the soft opening of their latest five star hotel, the Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket, located at Karon Beach.

— Anand Singh



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A story with a hole in the middle

Books

By James Eckardt

Freedom

By Jonathan Franzen

THE late American novelist Wilfred Sheed once wrote that writers are envious by nature and will, for the slightest reason, gladly scratch each other's eyes out.

I imagine many a writer turned green when Jonathan Franzen, the first writer since Stephen King in 2000, made the cover of *Time Magazine* earlier this year.

Born in St Louis 51 years ago, Franzen's natural turf is the Mid-West and his topic the family. His big third novel *The Corrections* proved his breakthrough and won the US National Book Award in 2001.

Nine years later, he has produced another big novel, *Freedom* (HarperCollins, London, 2010, 562pp). A family novel once again, with two love triangles spanning two generations stretching from college days in the 1970s to the present day.

In short, *Freedom* starts off great, sags badly in the middle and races to a triumphant end in which love prevails and you're happy it does because you've come to care deeply about the characters. The novel should really be called *Goodness*, because that's its central theme.

With great narrative authority, Franzen opens his novel about Walter and Patty Bergland from the point of view of their neighbors in an area in St Paul, Minnesota, which is gradually becoming yuppiefied.

The couple were the pioneers and give advice to the newcomers.

Their children are Jessica and the wildly independent Joey, who shocks the neighborhood by going off to live with his teenage girlfriend Connie Monaghan and her white trash parents next door.

The narrative then switches to an autobiography of Patty as suggested by her therapist, written in the third person.

Now we learn that Walter was the roommate of a rock star at the University of Minnesota. Richard Katz is everything Walter is not: tall, handsome, wicked, driven, a great



taker of drugs and women. Walter is a teetotaler, vegetarian idealist, passionate about ecology and overpopulation. He is the model of goodness to which Richard and Patty aspire. Patty is a basketball star, attracted to Richard but settling for Walter, which accounts for her bouts of depression later in life.

In the next generation, Joey goes to the University of Virginia just

before September 11, 2001.

Connie stays home, depressed, working as a waitress, still in love with Joey, as she has been since childhood.

Joey's roommate Jonathan comes from a perfect, rich Jewish family. He is instantly smitten by Jonathan's gorgeous sister, Jenna, a heartless beauty.

Both Joey and his father Walter fall under the sway of the very rich. Joey gets involved in a scam selling defective Polish trucks to coalition forces in Iraq.

He travels to Paraguay where he finds the mother lode of Pladsky A10 truck parts.

"A line of rust-rimmed truck hoods lay semi-fallen like toppled dominoes; axles and bumpers were jumbled in piles like giant old chicken bones; engine blocks were strewn like the droppings of a T. Rex." Joey makes a fortune on the deal. Walter falls into a scheme to strip mine a mountain in West Virginia in return for the establishment of a bird sanctuary.

A mining magnate, friend of Dick Cheney, has set him up in a fancy

foundation in Washington.

On the top floor lives Lalitha, his assistant, a beautiful Indian American who is obviously enthralled by him. She and Patty simply ignore each other.

Walter, Jessica and Lalitha set up a planning meeting with Richard Katz, the rock star, who has agreed to head a summer campaign of concerts in support of Walter's project.

His motives are to rekindle a brief adulterous romance with Patty.

Here is where the novel sags. There are huge chunks of boring dialogue here and throughout the novel wherein Walter sets forth his idealistic political beliefs.

He yammers on and on about overpopulation, global warming, endangered species, corporate greed and in the end, he becomes both tedious and unbelievable. The paragon of goodness, he is the fatal hole in the center of the novel.

The pace picks up toward the end again when focus pulls away from the Berglands and narrative is turned over to neighbors again and we learn how 54-year-old couple and their children have turned out.



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- 3) *61 Hours* – Lee Child (390 baht)
- 4) *The Girl Who Played with Fire* – Stieg Larsson (420 baht)
- 5) *The Monster in the Box* – Ruth Rendall (420 baht)

Jailed Nobel icon wins book deal

POETRY by imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo is coming out in the US in 2012, AFP reports.

Graywolf Press will publish the 54-year-old Chinese dissident's bilingual *June Fourth Elegies*.

Liu is serving an 11-year sentence for subversion after he co-authored an appeal for human rights and political reform in China.

The book, which has not come out in China, refers to the June 4, 1989, suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations at Tiananmen Square.

Liu was a leading activist at the demonstrations and the book is divided into 20 sections, each recalling a different aspect in a series of anniversary memorials.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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Andaman Players' Pirates take center stage

THE Andaman Players new musical comedy, *The Pirates of Phuket*, takes to the stage of Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort in Patong tonight, offering some sage advice for anyone considering a change of vocation.

For instance, it's well worth thinking twice before settling on "Evil Genius" as your new career path.

As the Players ably explain in this Christmas pantomime, it's not a job that will suit everyone. Cunning plans are not easy to come by at short notice; taking over the world is a 24/7 commitment, and the profession is not conducive to a settled family life.

Just ask Dr Hugh Man Pu. According to the new stage show, "Sinister International Seductress" and "Avaricious Empire Builder" are also professions to be avoided, if Madame Hata Mari and Captain Francis Sleight are anything to go by.

And, while being a princess does have its privileges, Princess Pashtina is the first to admit that being rescued all the time can have its drawbacks – especially as you don't get to choose the handsome prince who will do the rescuing. So, who are all these diabolical characters? And who are the Pirates of Phuket? Make your way to Le Meridien this tonight to find out.

If you can't make tonight's performance, fret not, a repeat performance will be staged at the Green Man in Chalong on December 26. Tickets are available at the venues. The show is presented by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV.

For details visit andamanplayers.com or see their Facebook page.

– *Phuket Gazette*



Smoking hot show

THERE'S something exciting happening at the JW Marriott and Anantara resorts and that something is Panatta "Mam" Bunthanom, the creative director and choreographer for evening shows at these resorts.

Currently she is presenting her new show *Goddess of Fire* at the Marriott every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at sunset. A second show is opening next door on Monday and Thursday at Anantara.

Mam got started with her career when she was Stage Manager at Bangkok's trendy Bed Supperclub where she produced shows for seven years.

When her family, which includes Phuket designer/sculptor John Underwood, invited her to work on Phuket, she decided to bring her costumes, her dances and her designs to the island. Mam works with a talented team of dancers.

"I work with Thai classical themes found in our dance culture but I give them a contemporary interpretation which I hope makes them more powerful and dynamic".

Often, Mam is the star of the show. She is the *Goddess of Fire*.

– *Bruce Stanley*



Panatta "Mam" Bunthanom

Jackson back in the charts, but is it him?

MICHAEL Jackson fans this week got their hands on the pop icon's first album since his death.

But "Michael", a 10-song collection of previously unheard material with collaborations from the likes of Lenny Kravitz, 50-Cent and Akon, has been slammed by critics who say the record is average at best – and a fraud.

Most of the songs were at various stages of completion when the singer died last year, but some tracks herald from the singer's Thriller-era.

Breaking News sparked a fierce Internet protest following the album's release this week, claiming it wasn't really Jackson's voice on some of the tracks.

Record company Sony – which plans to release a series of new Jackson albums – was forced to defend the record after fans and even Jackson family members questioned its authenticity.

"Michael" was number 11 in Amazon.com's top sellers as this newspaper went to print.

In Britain, music weekly *NME*'s reviewer said the album was saved by the last two tracks: *Behind the Mask*, described as "brilliant" and the Thriller-era ballad *Much too Soon*.

The remainder of tracks get a lukewarm review from *NME*, but point to commercial success for the posthumous album.

– *Fraser Morton*

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Hospitality to make you giggle

From 'fruit craving' to 'toothbrush for two' arrangements, the world of hospitality is not as straightforward as you would expect. Here's some English-language howlers we found out on our travels...

LOCATION, LOCATION

WE INVITE you to experience a seaside retreat of boundless splendor that will inhibit your memories forever.

- [We are] located atop a magnificent slop along the world famous on the North of Chaweng Beach.

- Reception is at the end of the road in the middle of a roundabout.

- Both parts of the hotel are a bit out of Karon but there is a tut tut provider right outside.

- There was construction going on next door so you are slightly overlooked by workers when going for a swim.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

ONE morning my girlfriend found a live worm in her salad. Later, mentioned it to the manager and all he said was "that's not good".

- Hotel's own restaurant is the beast on the Kamala Beach!

- The last time I was in Phuket I got food poisoning and I wasn't sure if it was the food there or not.

- Jim Thompson currently has a few brunches on the island.

- Enjoy a laid-back buffet and tantalizing BBQs by the beach side or select one from our imaginary cocktails.

- Enjoy our comfortable restaurant for breakfast, lunch and dinner, or if you wish you can of course have all of our culinary delights severed on your private terrace.

PRETENTIOUS, MOI?

WE DO not pretend to be anything, but an idyllic hideaway built in an untouched rainforest environment, half way between of [deleted] and [deleted]. A place to unwind and where one can listen to nature at its best.

BACKPACKER ISSUES

WE LATER spoke to other people who moved from our room because one of them slipped through the floor due to a broken plank of wood.

When we turned off the bathroom light, the TV sometimes went off. Other times, the TV stayed on but the AC turned off. At one point my husband turned on the shower, which had a fluorescent light above it, and received a brief electric shock! At that point we decided using the electric Jacuzzi tub filled with water might not be a very good idea.

DENTIST'S ADVICE

ONE thing to say, avoid this place like the plague!

HOW'S THE VIEW?

WE BOOKED only a few days in advance and were advised that there would be "no sea view". We took the room, not minding, only to find that not only was there no sea view, but no windows at all. Staff very friendly, has spa, but when we came there was some problem with swimming pool: There was no water.



RAVE REVIEW

SET ABOUT 50 meters up a very steep hill, oh, sorry, that's just the lobby, you'll have to mountain goat it another 50 or so to get to your room. Crampons and pitons are not provided so the hike up is daunting at best.

IF YOU SAY SO

PRAGNANCY is not allowed!

- You can renew your vowels on the beach.

- Clients should squirt their muscles with fresh water before the massage in order to stimulate and warm them up.

MOZZIE ISSUES

WHEN we asked for some misquote spray, and a pair of slipper, it took an additional three follow-up calls before the housekeeper turned up after 90 minutes with a bottle of misquote spray in his hand.

— Sam Wilko

Stolen snowmen, cheese beer and cat flap news



crazy fool's newsround

THE SILLY season gripped the UK last week, amid a flurry of snow and opportunistic burglaries, one woman dialed 999 to report the theft of her snowman.

"There's been a theft outside my house", read the transcript from the lady in Kent. "I hadn't been out to check on him for about five hours, but when I came out for a fag, he was gone."

"You just don't expect someone to pinch your snowman".

FANCY a pint and a nibble? Try Belvoir Brewery's new cheese beer



called the Blue Brew.

Made with Stilton, which is infused during the fermenting stage, this tipple will set you back UK2 pounds (94 baht) per bottle.

Nigel White, secretary to the Stilton Cheese Makers Association, said "We know that cheese is incredibly versatile and transforms the simplest

of everyday snacks – we now know it can add real character to beer".

A CAT flap is now available for overweight kitties.

A recent survey in the UK found that a quarter of cats are obese. The new flap comes with paw recognition and a conveyor belt to carry portly pussies to their feeding bowls.

Did you know Leonardo Da Vinci invented the cat flap? Strange but true.

See www.cfnr.co.uk for more of Crazy Fool's rants on news and sport.

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Jimmy Nixon

JIMMY Nixon is a legend at the Blue Canyon Country Club. He was a long time friend and golf partner of the late Tom McNamara, founder of the famous Baan Rim Pa group of restaurants.

"Tom and I played golf together for many years, first at the Phuket Country Club and later at Blue Canyon. Playing golf was an important part of his marketing strategy for his restaurants, a great place to meet potential guests. We had a lot of fun playing what we called *Vegas Junk Match*. Golfers came from around the world to play with us."

Jimmy first came to Phuket on a round-the-world trip in 1980. The memories of the island and the abundant marine life when he went scuba diving, and the golf at Phuket Country Club and the local tennis courts, stayed in his mind.

When he semi-retired in 1988 from a successful real estate career in his native Ontario, Canada, he decided to spend his remaining years playing golf on the island with his good buddies.

He says he was a born salesman. After finishing school he enrolled at the University of Toronto to pursue studies in psychology. It was there that he discovered his talents for marketing and merchandizing.

"I worked in advertising, producing all the paraphernalia for big

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

events. These included T-shirts, hats and other innovative items for promotion. It was a fun time. I would work three weeks a month, then fly to Hawaii for the fourth week. I worked with one of Hawaii's largest shirt manufacturers."

Jimmy lived on the north shore of Oahu in a remote area where the local Hawaiians lived. He spent his days surfing some of the world's largest waves. After his one-week holiday, he'd head back to Toronto for work.

On one of his Hawaiian holidays he met a realtor from Tucson, Arizona, who offered him the opportunity to sell property in what was then a very dynamic market.

"In the 1980s, condos on golf courses in Arizona were selling very well. I spent a few years having a very successful time. I then moved back home to Toronto and worked for REMAX and local developers. Again, it was a good climate for the real estate market."

In 1988, he set up a home at the Andaman Beach Suites at Patong Beach and spent the next few years

working in Toronto on real estate deals for six months, and playing golf and tennis in Phuket for the rest of the year.

"Eventually, I was able to retire and spend all my time in Phuket.

"I love it here. It just gets better all the time. Now there are so many places to do things and have fun with friends. Sure there's more traffic, but I always like to think positive. There are plenty of negative expats here, but they tend to get a bit boring."

After 13 years living in Patong, Jimmy bought a condo at Blue Canyon to be near his favorite Canyon course and his many friends. He plays golf every day. In addition, he works out at the gym four days a week and spends another two days on long distance mountain bike rides, mostly around Phang Nga province.

"I really believe exercise is the way to keep fit, look and feel great. Every day I walk seven kilometers by just having a round of golf at Blue Canyon."

Jimmy speaks fluent Thai and counts many of the local people as his best friends.

"If you decide to live in a foreign country, you need to bond with the locals. I still miss Tom, but I keep in touch with his family and of course I still love a night out at Baan Rim Pa."



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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Safe and sound

New airport security measures in place to make traveling to the US safer, but not everyone is happy...

By Alastair Carthew

EXPOSED breast implants, a demand to “keep your hands off my junk [penis]”, a viral Internet protest campaign that failed and full body scan airport security machines that give a ghostly on-screen image of a naked body—without the genitals exposed.

Sound like just another day in the life of Patpong in Bangkok or Bang La road in Patong? Nope. It was for real during the recent American Thanksgiving Day holiday in November when a percentage of the 24 million Americans who took to the skies were subjected to the new airport security screening machines.

Latest statistics from the International Air Transport Association, an aviation industry body, shows North American airlines posted a 12.4% demand increase in October 2010 over the same month in 2009.

With a capacity increase of almost 12% North American airline load factors were at 82.5%, the

highest of all regions. So with the threat of terrorism attacks on airlines a constant in a market that has bounced back from a horrible few years, American authorities have been working hard to ensure tight security, but reduced passenger discomfort.

That is where the new scanners come in.

The man who said “don’t touch my junk” was not impressed. His loud protest touched a nerve and the incident, involving an intrusive “pat down” at an airport, of course in this day of new media and citizen journalism went viral on the internet. The “blogosphere” was alive with the sounds of conflicting viewpoints.

Why did the US Transport Security Administration [TSA] introduce the new measures? Simple. One Umar Farouk Abdulmatallab, the so called “underwear bomber”, who tried to blow up an airliner last Christmas. The US also has 14 countries where it will be doing country-based profiling of nationals entering the country: Af-



ON SHOW: New security scanners at US airports are causing quite a stir with passengers.

ghanistan, Algeria, Cuba, Lebanon, Libya, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

Yet civil libertarians in the US went ballistic over the infringement on their rights from both the body scanners and the alternative “pat down” body searches passengers had to undergo if they refused to pass through the scanner. Some had justifiable concerns about the amount of radiation the scanners emit. However, it is estimated that the amount of radiation exposure is equivalent of two minutes exposure during a flight.

Significantly, the new scanners were being tested at Boston International Airport, which asked to be the first to receive the machines because two of the four September 11 airliners that crashed into the Twin Towers in New York, the Pentagon in Washington and into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, took off from Boston.

So what did all the fuss achieve? Actually exactly what the TSA intended. Queues at airports were decidedly shorter. Only around 2% of the expected 24 million travelers were actually



US security officers conduct a thorough search. Photo: Markusram

subjected to the pat downs. And the public was overwhelmingly on the TSA’s side.

A poll by the *Washington Post* newspaper found nearly two-thirds support the new full-body security screening as most say they put higher priority on preventing terrorism. About 50% said the new pat down was unjustified.

However, Cathy Bossi, an experienced flight attendant and breast cancer survivor, was not impressed on November 20 when she was forced to display her

breast prosthesis during a pat down at a North Carolina airport.

The poor TSA was definitely heavily criticized, but this appeared to be disproportionate to the public support it received for the procedures. As one blogger said: “The TSA’s job is not to be adorable. It’s to be infallible and also, apparently, to suffer being unfairly maligned.”

As many people on the Internet observed: “what’s the alternative?” Another “underwear bomber”

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

December 18-24. Paul Emery at Six Senses Sanctuary

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December 18. 4th Annual Phuket Kart Race

From 10am-9pm at Phuket Kart Speedway track in Kathu. There will be races with local Phuket drivers during the day with one VIP race raising money for a local charity. Drinks and food will be available for purchase. Contact Pramot Kolan T:076-202085, E: phuketkart@patongbeachthailand.com or W: phuketkart.net for more information about the event.

December 18. The Pirates of Phuket. Musical Christmas Comedy

The Andaman Players take to the stage for the premiere performance of this year's Christmas musical comedy – *The Pirates of Phuket*. Tickets are 400 baht per adult and 200 baht per child. Book early for the best seats. From 5-7pm at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort. Contact Yosita Artikit on T:076-370100 or E: yosita.artikit@lemeridien.com for more information.

December 24. Christmas Eve at Friendship Beach



A magical time at the Friendship Beach Resort from 6pm, featuring a scrumptious assortment of holiday favorites with imported roast turkey, apple sausage stuffing, cranberry port sauce and a huge selection of appetizers, desserts and side dishes. Enjoy live music with local favorites The Little Rock Band and a special holiday welcome drink. This special buffet is 950 baht+ for adults and 290 baht+ for children. Contact Margy on T:089-9087486 or Charlie on T:089-7285304 for more information, or E:chef@friendshipbeach.com to find out more.

December 18. Sundowners at 360 Bar

On the third Saturday of each month at The Pavilions Phuket from sunset onwards. Enjoy funky chill-out tunes from Jay Le Shark and half price beverages all night long. Stand a chance of winning a stay in one of the new Plantation Pool Pavilions. Contact Linda on T:076-317600, E:rm.phuket@thepavilionsresorts.com or visit W: thepavilionresorts.com for more information.

December 18. Royal Phuket Marina Belly Dance Party

Enjoy an evening of live belly dancing at an Arabian dance party. Local belly dancer Melissa will teach you the hottest moves. Get there early for dinner and drinks, then shake and shimmy to mesmerizing Middle Eastern beats. From 8pm-10pm at Les Angeles, Marina Boardwalk. Contact Murat on T:081-7973364, E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com to find out more.

December 19. Phuket Yacht Club Christmas Fun Day

Christmas "Last Chance" Regatta and Family Fun Day in Ao Yon. Food will be served at 1pm so get there early. Santa hopes to make it, so please bring a small gift with your child's name clearly labelled on it. Games and activities on the beach for kids, and races for dinghy sailors. From 10am-4pm. Contact T:086-1200752, E:phuketyachtclub@gmail.com or visit W:phuket yachtclub.info to find out more.

December 20-24. British Soccer Schools Christmas Camp at PIA Sports & Leisure Club

BSS will be heating up the Christmas break with their highly popular five-day Brazilian Soccer Camp on a Floodlit Limonta Soccer Pro, FIFA-approved soccer field. For boys and girls, ages 6-16. Sign up early to avoid disappointment. Contact Martin Hill on T:076-336000, E:bss@phuketinternationalacademy.com or visit W: phuketinternationalacademy.com for more information.

December 20-January 9. Kids Adventure Camps at PIASLC

Children from 7-12 years old can join the holiday fun with a wide variety of activities to choose from to keep them busy. Each day from 9am-4pm kids will participate in activities including snorkeling, kayaking, trips to the water parks and ATVs. PIA members receive a 10% discount. Contact Martin Ware on T:076-336000 or E:activities@phuketinternationalacademy.com to find out more.

December 20-21. Royal Phuket Marina – Gift Fair

From 5-9pm at the RPM Boardwalk. Arts and crafts, textiles, jewelry, souvenirs, clothes and much more on sale, along with famous classical dance performances by the Russian Culture Center. Visit W:royalphuketmarina.com for more information.

December 24. Christmas Eve dinner – Royal Phawadee Village

Enjoy a variety of Christmas specialities on the menu from 7-11pm. 3000 baht per adult and 1500 baht per child. Contact Bao on T: 084-849 2122, E:bao@phawadee.com or visit W: royal-phawadee-village.com to find out more.

December 24. Christmas Eve Gala at Six Senses Sanctuary

Enjoy a Christmas Eve Gala to be enjoyed with Live Jazz, cocktails by the pool, tofu nog, glu wine and Christmas carols. After dinner, a classic Christmas film will be featured in our outdoor movie theater. Contact Santiago Lopez at fbd-naka@sixsenses.com for more information.

December 31. New Year's Eve Celebration and Buffet Dinner

From 6pm at Friendship Beach Resort, Rawai. Featuring imported beef filet, grilled salmon filet, award winning barbecue ribs, seafood, desserts and much more. Party all night with The Big Bamboo blues-rock band. Free Champagne at midnight, party favors. Great fireworks displays from our waterfront restaurant and bar. Price is 1,250 baht+ for adults and 390 baht+ for children. Contact Margy on T:089-9087486, Charlie on T:089-7285304 or E:chef@friendshipbeach.com for more information.

December 31. Catch Beach Club – New Year's Eve party

New Year's Eve Beach barbecue from 8pm and Countdown Beach Party from 10pm. 7,500++ baht per person. Enjoy a sumptuous buffet and an unforgettable New Year's Eve. Free flow drinks. Special international guest DJs. Contact T:076-316500, E: chariya@twinpalms-group.com or W: twinpalms-phuket.com to find out more.

December 31. New Years Eve at Six Senses Sanctuary

The evening starts at 7pm with a cocktail which will be followed by fresh and refined continental sea-themed food prepared in the outdoor living kitchens. The party will include dance performances, magic shows, fireworks displays and DJs. Dance the night away and welcome the New Year with joy and well-being. Price is 6,855 baht net. Contact Nancy on T: 076-371400, E:pr-naka@sixsenses.com or visit W:sixsenses.com/sixsensesancuaryphuket to find out more.

January 1. New Years Day

The International New Year is widely celebrated throughout the Kingdom of Thailand as a public holiday.

Free Computer Clinics

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December 19, 26 – Chalong, January 2 – Patong
January 9 – Laguna, January 16, 23, 30 – Chalong

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DANCE OFF: Schools from various provinces around the south came together at Central Festival last week for the Teen Dancercise Thailand Championship. Photo by Atchaa Khamlo



HOSPITALITY: Cape Panwa Hotel hosted a tour on board the Panwa Princess Yacht for their special guests, TUI Nordic Group management, recently.

Keeping art alive



ARTIST: Mediumrare, a new exhibition by artist Pui Ngowsiri was recently unveiled at Bo(ok) Hemian Arthouse on Thalang Road. Photos by Atchaa Khamlo



HEDONIST: Musician Jason Winder found plenty to be happy about at the exhibition, even in the face of de

YOUR
Phuket

QSI day of culture

QUALITY Schools International (QSI) Phuket held an International Day on December 9, with students wearing their home country's traditional dress and taking part in a variety of cultural performances.

It was a chance for the students to exchange gifts, sample food from different countries and have fun.

Before the performances began at 10am, Santa turned up at school to visit the lower elementary classes, with the three and four year olds wide-eyed in awe of the big man with white hair.

After Santa's surprise visit, preschoolers and kindergarten students shared their rendition of *Take Me Out To The Ball Game*, followed by the seven to 10 year olds, who presented a dramatization of *The Polar Express*. Then came the 11 year olds with a powerpoint presentation titled *Around the World*, highlighting their diverse cultural backgrounds.

It seems to have become customary at QSI for students to woo their audience each year with their Thai dancing skills.

From the youngest dancer— a four-year-old — to the high school seniors, they all demonstrated the poise and grace of accomplished Thai dance performers. To top off the day's celebrations students enjoyed homemade, traditional Christmas fare made by parents.

— Anneliese Storm



Georgia Feekins with Santa



LITTLE DANCERS: Students display their Thai dancing skills.

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New music generation

Students from the Siam Kollakarn Music School joined the Yamaha Music Fair at Central Festival recently, taking part in a variety of songs and performances. Locals also got the chance to try out some of the musical instruments on display.



It's all very festive at Movenpick



FESTIVE: Children from the Life Home Project Foundation (LHFP) sing Christmas carols at a tree lighting ceremony at Mövenpick resort in Karon. The resort's management made their annual donation to the foundation.



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Mom Tri's Kitchen

kata beach

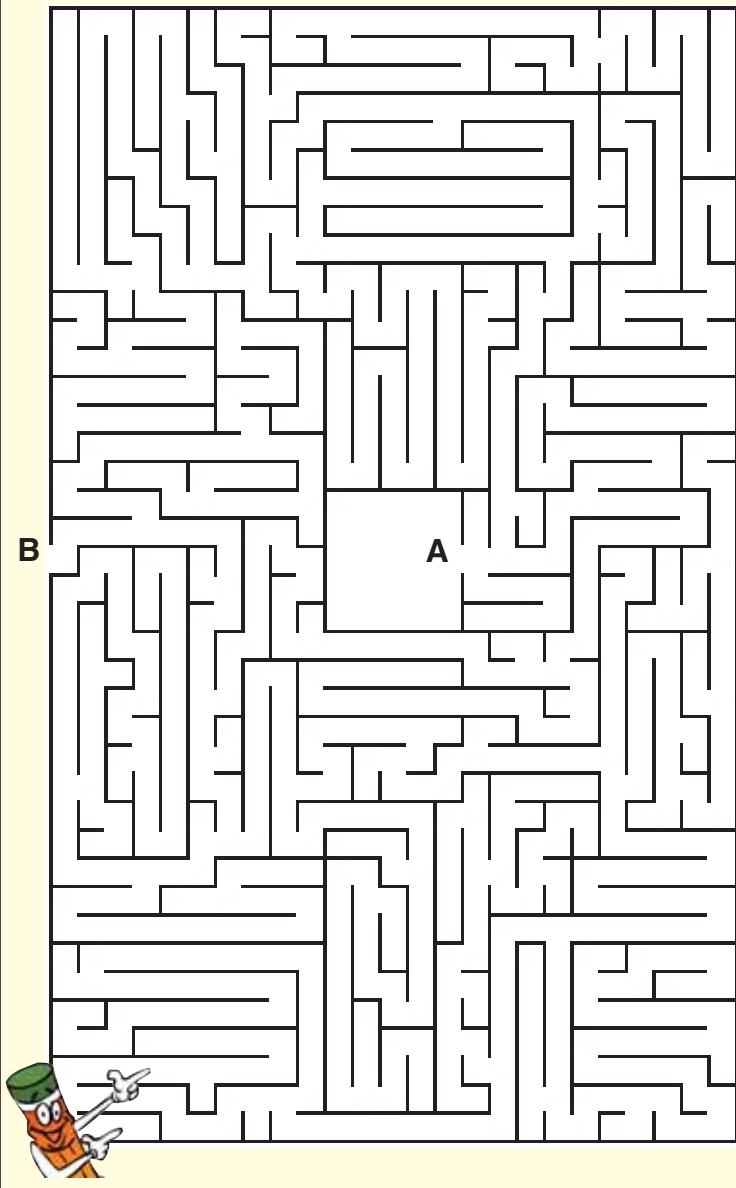
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A *Gazette* staff member completed this maze in three minutes. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.

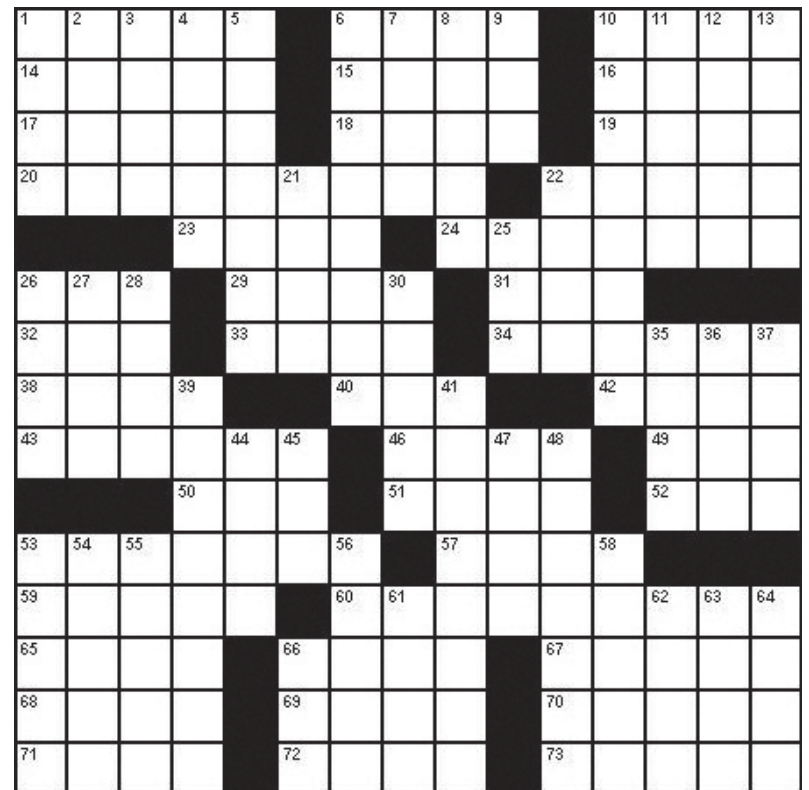


Across

1. Pianist Rubinstein
6. Not feminine
10. Bustles
14. Cool
15. Pituitary hormone
16. Bric-a—
17. Domesticates
18. Emperor of Rome 54-68
19. Bit
20. Inexact
22. Type of sanctum
23. Other, in Oaxaca
24. Roguish wit
26. Botanist Gray
29. Snack in a shell
31. Cooking container
32. Little drink
33. Mild oath
34. Prima ballerina
38. Ballet bend
40. Actor Chaney
42. Not e'en once
43. Seals
46. Workout count
49. Campaigned
50. Domestic animal
51. Attack a fly
52. Afore
53. Picture
57. Cancer's critter
59. Pungent bulb
60. Abbreviated
65. Swank
66. Thin stratum
67. — at the office
68. Advantage
69. Commedia dell' —
70. Lawsuits
71. Antlered animal
72. Belgian river
73. Grim

Down

1. Against
2. Quantity of paper
3. Compact by pounding
4. In — (unborn)
5. Floral ornament
6. More than crazy
7. Deck quartet



8. Scatter
9. Comic Margaret
10. Limereick town needs 1,000 kilos; Abing —
11. Honeybee
12. Western
13. Fearsome
21. Jutting rock
22. — Rhythm
25. Big galoot
26. Cairo cobras
27. Bank deposit?
28. Western Samoa capital
30. Smells
35. Able was —

36. Goneril's father
37. Sea eagle
39. Boss
41. Johnny-come-lately
44. Hammer end
45. RR stop
47. Henry VIII's sixth
48. Science of bodies at rest
53. Carried
54. Battery terminal
55. Spree
56. Consumers
58. Sired
61. Detest
62. American space agency
63. Always
64. Writing table
66. Express

Provided by BestCrosswords.com.
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Puzzle solutions on page 33

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Your workaholic tendencies may cause disruption to domestic harmony this week. Those Capricorns who would like to end the year on a peaceful note are advised to plan ahead to ensure more free time during the upcoming holiday period. Another earth sign colleague can be trusted to take more tasks onboard, but water signs will be unreliable. Those with a birthday in the week ahead will learn a lot from travel in the coming year.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Developments concerning your personal finances are forecast to put a smile on Aquarians' faces this week. The stars suggest that an ongoing dispute with bureaucracy should be solved to your satisfaction. Romance is subject to uncertain astral conditions – if you are involved with a fire sign, expect sparks to fly this weekend. Those seeking a soul mate could be charmed by Scorpio. Wear a piece of agate to encourage clearer perception.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Pisceans are advised to concentrate on their own affairs this week. It appears that friends or family members could try to involve you in their prob-

lems. This could result in not having enough time to prepare for your holiday celebrations. The stars suggest that your luck with money will increase during the second half of December and the year should end with your bank balance healthier than you hoped for.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Arians are forecast to be forgetful early next week – set reminders to avoid missing important appointments and deadlines. Having unresolved personal issues on your mind could be the cause of this, but the stars suggest that answers will be forthcoming midweek. In the realm of romance, you may be taken aback by a new partner's hints concerning expensive Christmas gifts. The number eight can bring good fortune this weekend.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): A burst of fresh energy comes at the right time for those born under the sign of Taurus. The stars predict that you will be spending little time at home this week. Those with guests staying over the holiday period should take their needs into consideration before planning a trip. Creative inspiration can come from a dream you have this weekend. Wednesday and Thursday are good for romance.



GEMINI (May 22-June 21): A personal project shows signs of bearing fruit, which comes as a welcome development to many Geminis. However, money matters need to be handled carefully this week. Balancing finances during the remainder of December will probably require downsizing your holiday plans. If you are shopping for gifts this weekend, take a water sign friend along to get creative, economical ideas. A romantic partner has a confession to make.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Cancerians keen to achieve closure should be able to do so this week. If this situation relates to work, a fire sign has the right skills to advise you. An attractive air sign helps you leave a failed relationship behind this weekend. Those committed may be happy to hear that their partner has given up the idea of relocation. Wear light pink to encourage a happy frame of mind.

LEO (July 24-August 22): A chance meeting early next week results in getting the advice you need concerning a business related problem. Leos may be frustrated because they have to wait until the New Year to continue with this project. Where romance is concerned, the stars suggest that you may be expecting too much from someone. Lucky days for finances are Tuesday and Wednesday. Wear the color apricot to encourage relationships to flourish.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Virgoans who have been tempted to take a new direction in their careers find good reason to stay where they are. The stars predict that you will hear something to your advantage at work early next week. There is also a slight chance that your holiday plans will be disrupted by new responsibilities. A romantic partner is tiring of one of your habits. Wear steel gray to promote a sharper intellect.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Money matters go your way this week. This is a beneficial time to finalize agreements or start new savings schemes. Those Librans whose partner has a more casual attitude are

advised to discuss long term financial planning, so that the New Year can commence on firmer foundations. A water sign friend you fell out with earlier this month is ready to reconcile differences. Monday is the best day for this to happen.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): With the holiday season fast approaching, the temptation to overspend is high for those born under the sign of Scorpio this week. Your desire to impress others should be addressed as the stars suggest that personal finances could be a negative issue at the end of the month. Affairs of the heart are fairly well starred, although those with a partner are forecast to have some explaining to do this weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Sagittarians should have something to celebrate this week. Financial gain is forecast and the stars indicate that this is likely to come from overseas. Where romance is concerned, your high standards could cause friction in a new relationship – Sunday is an auspicious day to reach compromises. Those looking for love are enthused by a meeting with Taurus this weekend. Wear rose pink to encourage a more relaxed attitude.

PROPERTY Gazette

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Get out of town in half the time

By Janpen Uptising

THE new Phuket Town road linking Chao Fa East Road and Saphan Hin will be officially opened on December 24.

"The public should be informed officially that the road is finally finished and ready to use," said Governor Tri Augkaradacha, who will preside over the ceremony. The 684-meter road, currently known by its temporary name as Sai Phang Muang Kor Rd, is already open to motorists.

Construction began in early August, when former Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop presided over the ground-breaking ceremony by operating a compactor.

However, the road will be closed to traffic from 3pm on

December 24 to allow for the celebrations to take place near the Office of Primary Industries and Mines.

Anchalee Vanich-Thepabutr, Deputy Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, is expected to attend.

Although the full program of entertainment to take place on the day has yet to be confirmed, a choir and the acclaimed Plukpanya Municipal School band are expected to perform.

The 24-million-baht road was built under the Department of Rural Road's "Dust Free Road" initiative and funded by the Thai Khem Khaeng (Strong Thailand) fiscal stimulus package.

The road connects Sakdidet Soi 1 and Chao Fa East Rd, passing though two plots of Treasury



SHORT WAY HOME: The new road connects Sakdidet Soi 1 and Chao Fa East Rd. Gazette Graphic

Department land covering a total of about 20 rai.

The first plot, about 12 rai, is currently assigned to the Industry Ministry's Primary Industries and Mines Office (PIMO), Region 4. The second 7-rai plot is used by the Phuket Juvenile Observation and Protection Center.

Governor Tri also said he

would like to see the road become a "walking street" in the future, possibly with street vendors, in order to make the street another attraction for Phuket Town residents to enjoy.

"The main point is to make this road become well-known to the public," he added.

The road should provide some

improvement to long-suffering commuters in the area, but is unlikely to quell local outcry over the need to complete Sakdidet Soi 7, a project which has been held up by over a decade because it would involve the destruction of protected mangrove forest.

— Additional reporting by Pimwara Choksakulpan

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The final frontier of space



Property Watch
By Bill Barnett

FOR those looking to indulge in life's luxurious moments, Phuket has always been an Asian trump card destination.

Instead of a magician pulling a rabbit out of a hat, it has been the innovative private pool villa sanctuaries prompting collective oohs and ahhs from our guests.

Back in 2006, an enterprising Hong Kong solicitor and hospitality entrepreneur Gordon Oldham opened The Pavilions on a hillside, overlooking Layan Beach and Laguna.

Sinful pleasures were touted in provocative, playful adverts which used the tagline "no tan lines", and bragging openly about the total absence of those tacky welcome drinks and institutionalized hotel buffets reminiscent of public school days or, for the darker personalities, feeding time in jail.

At some resorts, the only thing that's missing is a warden or perhaps someone with a name tag and a shotgun saying: "Get back in line, mister. Punch your timecard and do your time."

Now four years later comes the next step forward in the journey of the boutique resort. Headlining is an expansion of 24 new pool villas with a twist.

The new product has been described by the hotel as individual retreats. Now this does sound nice, but what sets this apart from the herd is each has its own personal 60-square-meter "my very own



ALONE AT LAST: The Pavilions takes pride in privacy. Photo: The Pavilions

private spa".

Spacious, spaciuous, and spantastic are the first words that enter my mind. Since the dawn of time, after a hard day avoiding falling meteorites, outrunning dinosaurs and just keeping track of the tribe, it's been mankind's luxury to kick back in your very own steam bath and retire to a Zen-themed courtyard to chill out.

For this latest project, leading resort architect Fredo Taffin of Espace Concept Bali teamed up with Phuket-based roof and Hong Kong interior designer Rene Ozorio, whose credentials boast stints at Jim Thompson and the development of his very own line of Chinaware. Ozorio was wooed – or possibly Shanghaied – aboard the merry ship to instill what boils down to an Internet inspired date night. The result is a fresh East meets West story for the first time.

Zen and now, now and Zen, the



guilty pleasure of space is flouted with a pouting set of ruby red lips: 18 pool pavilions tilting the scales at 275 square meters apiece and then even grander six plantation pool villas built by top of the line contractor DCM touting 400 square meters each.

If space were sin, this place would be ablaze. Sin seems to have a certain impact on people, flaming up their passions like a Mai Tai on fire at the tiki bar.

Boredom continues to run amok at so many island hotel offerings, with herds of guests driven insane by the sterile atmosphere of same-sameness. One could even say a new traveler's disease of "insamny" is on the

rise, like thermometer mercury on a scorching hot day.

As I stare through the bars on my window of ordinary life, Pavilions has brought a welcome breath of fresh air to my troubled soul, for a few moments at least.

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



In brief...

Laguna incentives

LAGUNA Phuket has launched a special holiday incentive with 15 year financing.

Three options apply with 30% down payment and interest pegged at MLR (bank minimum lending rate) + 2%, 40% down and MLR + 1% or 50% and only MLR.

The special terms apply to the Laguna Village townhouses, detached residence, Dusit Pool Villas and Banyan Tree units. Excluded are the Lofts and Deluxe Residences. Packages are also available during high season for the first 20 buyers.

HBA eyes budget hotels

ONE of the best known names in hospitality interior design HBA (Hirsch Bedner Associates) are setting up a section for budget hotels.

Under the name Studio, regional offices in India (New Delhi) and China (Shanghai) are set to capture Asia's two leading pipeline tigers.

Part of the mandate for the group will be smaller boutique hotels, mixed use and limited service properties which had previously fallen out of the design firm's business mix.

For now a surge at the lower end of the spectrum in high-traction markets is too irresistible to ignore.

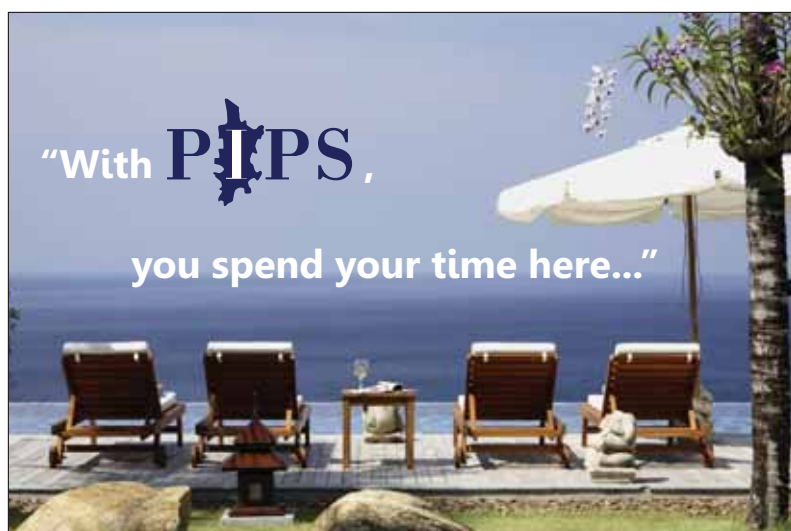
Agents abroad

PHUKET property agents and developers are heading abroad to promote the island's real estate.

Luxury Properties Showcase in Beijing from December 10-12 is one such destination.

The three-day event at the Ritz-Carlton hotel will promote luxury properties from domestic and international sectors: high-end condominiums and villas, golf and marina properties, private island, shared ownership, wealth management and lifestyle brands.

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Giving berth to style



WATER WAY TO LIVE: The Grand Villa at Royal Phuket Marina is one of six luxury homes with private access to yacht berths. Photo: RPM

FOR those not in the know, Phuket has been voted Best Maritime Destination Asia for the past two years. Adding to that accolade is the stylish Royal Phuket Marina being ranked among the best marinas in Asia.

Think that's swish? Wait until you see the Royal Waterfront Villas at RPM. With only five units built they are by definition "exclusive".

"These villas are unique. They are the only properties with direct access private boat berths leading to the open water cruising of Phang Nga Bay," says Lyndon Howard Phillips, RPM's Director of Sales.

Asked his favorite feature of the units, Mr Phillips, says, "It has to be the private 23m [75-foot] berth. Nowhere in Thailand is this available."

Priced at 130 million baht apiece, the villas have been on the market for 12 months. Two have been sold and one is currently reserved, he explains.

There is a sixth villa, the Grand Villa, but

that one is the private abode of RPM developer Gulu Lalvani and is priced at US\$10 million – that's about 300 million baht.

"These particular properties will appeal to the discerning yachting fraternity. Both the sold villas owners are keen sea lovers," says Mr Phillips.

"And as berthing space throughout Asia becomes more scarce, these properties attract more interest," he adds.

Three of the units were completed in 2009-10. The remaining two are ready to complete within six months, earlier depending on whether a buyer requires specialist home automation or other custom installations.

The exteriors feature traditional Thai style roofs and other Thai-design cues, yet the interiors are very modern, light, airy and contemporary, making good use of space.

The covered area of 748sqm, compris-

ing five bedrooms, two Jacuzzis, six bathrooms, three steam rooms, a European kitchen and a Thai kitchen, a living room and cabana with Jacuzzi rooftop.

Each unit comes with its own garden, leading to the private boat berth. The garden is home to a 20-meter saltwater pool with built-in Jacuzzi and separate wet bed.

A Japanese-style sunken dining sala is located at one end of the pool, next to the marina, for outdoor dining.

Also in the garden is a pagoda with a swinging day bed together with a "wet bar" area with sink, serving area and cold storage for drinks, snacks and other entertainment necessities.

Inside the units, all beds are king-size and all four baths in each unit are Janzen Jacuzzi or Chromo Therapy Onzen tubs.

The kitchen appliances are Franke halogen hob, composite sink and draining board, extractor hood oven and microwave oven, indoor barbecue grill for entertaining small parties and two Samsung fridge freezers.

The overall design makes use of natural light and delivers a simple, clean style. Bringing the style together are flourishes, such as stonework around the bathtubs and cotton panels on the ceilings.

The furniture in each unit has been brought direct from Bangkok and Chiang Mai, and the interior designed was developed in-house, using a decor style described by its creators as "tropical contemporary".

Home entertainment is provided through a Samsung wide flat screen TV with Blu-ray DVD system. There is a Nuvo iPod docking system in each room, allowing each iPod user to listen to others' iPod music.

Now that's swish.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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Tip of the week

Festive flowers

IN MANY Western countries, Christmas means red-berried holly, white-berried mistletoe, a blue spruce and a beautiful fir tree in which we stack the presents under.

Since none of these plants grow in the tropics, we need to look elsewhere for our festive flora.

In Thailand, the poinsettia is the most favored alternative when looking to decorate your home in accordance with the festive theme. A relative of the crown of thorns, it is now appearing in garden centers all over Phuket.

A pot plant that will grace the festive table, its attraction is the bract of bright red “flowers” – which are actually modified leaves – that crown the plant.

Recent cultivars include an attractive cream variety and even one with greenish bracts. Keep it away from drafts of cold air, especially in air conditioning.

As for a Christmas tree, don't be tempted by imported fir tops – which will assuredly die in Thailand's hot and humid climate.

Instead, go for a Norfolk Island pine. It is actually a tropical conifer. It looks good and can be kept in its container for Christmas next year.

The bloomin' name game



MORBIDLY BEAUTIFUL: Plumerias are also known as “Dead Man's Fingers” in Australia. Photos: Swami/Graham Crumb

Gardening

By Green Sleeves

MOST tongue-twisting Latin names of plants are associated with so-called “discoveries” by Western botanists or explorers.

For example, the *Plumeria* is named after Charles Plumier, the *Bougainvillea* after a certain Monsieur Bougainville, the golden trumpet or *Allamanda* after Switzerland's Frederick Allamanda.

The original classifier of plants, Sweden's Carolus Linnaeus, based his *Systema Naturae* (1735) on shared physical characteristics.

Most of his findings have stood the test of time, but to this day botanists are still re-christening plants and changing the scientific orders, families or genera to which the plants belong.

This is not so with plant names in Thailand. With a few exceptions, they carry the same names



used by generations upon generations of Thais.

However, one interesting exception is the frangipani, or *Plumeria*. For a long time it was called the *lantom*, a word which connotes sadness or sorrow.

Why? Because it was associated with ghosts and graveyards, with Buddhist cremation grounds and Muslim cemeteries.

If you visit the Islamic graveyard between Wiset Road and the sea, just down the beach from Friendship Beach, there they will be. Nowadays, the Thai name for the frangipani is *Leelawadee*, a graceful and upbeat name that does justice to an elegant shrub.

And now it is cultivated everywhere. The frangipani is related to the *Nerium Oleander*, sharing with it the same poisonous milky sap. There the similarities end, for the frangipani's young stems are round, green and soft – hence the Australian nickname for it, the

“dead man's finger”.

Only later do the branches turn into the familiar thick, gray stems.

The shrub has a very open structure and the large, handsome leaves, tend to appear at branch terminals. For this reason it is a good choice to use in a “mixed border” of plants, as it allows plenty of light and air to filter through to smaller shrubs.

However, the frangipani's root system is compact, so it grows well in a container.

Its glory is the beautiful clusters of five-petaled flowers that burst forth from the branch ends.

They carry the most intense fragrance, especially at dusk, when the flowers attract the sphinx moths that seek to pollinate them. Traditionally used in Hawaiian leis, these individual blooms are used throughout Phuket to decorate water-filled bowls and vases in hotel foyers and spas.

Though there are four distinct species, the most popular cultivars are derived from *Plumeria Rubra*. The most common color is creamy white, but newer varieties can be pink, yellow, or even deep red.

Another popular, “rainbow” hybrid has pinkish petals that shade to yellow at the center.

Included with the hybridization of the species are larger blooms and lush foliage as well as a greater range of sizes.

There are now dwarf forms as well as vigorous varieties that can reach four meters in height.

Frangipani are one of the easiest tropical shrubs to grow in Phuket. For a start, they are not fussy about soil and they prefer full sun. Phuket gets so much sun, allowing them to do fine in filtered shade.

The one thing they do not like is wet, cold soil conditions. Put one in a dank spot, and it will throw in the towel. Frangipani are equally easy to grow from cuttings. Since the mature plant doesn't mind severe pruning, you will probably end up with several lengths of stem after taking the scateurs to your shrubs.

Use a light potting medium with plenty of sand to permit rapid drainage, and keep your cuttings for a few days to allow them to dry out. Then plant them about three inches deep in your mix. That way, as with *Euphorbias*, you will minimize the risk of root rot.

The frangipani ranks high up on the Top 20 list, both for looks and fragrance. It is also easy to start and to keep going in your garden.

Its only shortcoming is that it has a period of dormancy when the leaves tend to discolor and fall – and it is very prone to rust.

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8.49 million baht (price reduced from 11.5). 3-bedroom Balinese villa in Rawai with 762sqm of land area, 178sqm of living area, and a private pool. Fully furnished. Tel: 076-381482, 087-383 5453 (English). Email: fretif@hotmail.com

SALE: 2-BEDROOM APARTMENT

New condo in central Patong. 6th-floor unit with a pool and gym, and a good view. Top quality. Price: 8 million baht. Freehold. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

BANG TAO HOUSE FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom with TV and ADSL. Tel: 080-627 6207. Email: zuuets@gmail.com

LUXURY GOLFVIEW VILLA

State-of-the-art 4-bedroom villa, close to BIS and 12 min to Patong Beach. 16.8 million baht. Tel: 076-321445, 089-724 7211. Email: julien@phuketimmo.com

NICE NATAI LAND

25 rai for lease at 6 million baht each. 200 meters attached to beach-main road. Okay to be subdivided into plots. Tel: 081-719 2984.

BRAND-NEW CONDO

Mid Town, Royal Place Project. Studio condo, fully furnished, reasonable price. Tel: 086-476 9612.

68 RAI THALANG LAND

1.2km from Thalang Junction. On the way to Ton Sai waterfall. Excellent for a housing project. Tel: 081-719 2984.

KATHU LUXURY POOL VILLAS

Close to BIS and Patong Beach: 2 and 3-bedroom villas with swimming pool. From 8.5 million baht. Tel: 076-321445, 089-724 7211. Email: info@botanvillage.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-cottages.com

TOWNHOUSE IN SUPALAI CITY RESORT

near Super Cheap. 3 floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Land area: 84sqm. House area: 162sqm. It has a master bedroom with aircon. Price: 2.5 million baht. Contact Amnuayvit. Tel: 081-693 2441. Email: amnuayvit@ttmaxnet.com

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

11 RAI HOBBY FARM

200km from Phuket. 1 hour to Surin island. With Chanote title. Price: 4 million baht. Tel: 089-594 4017.

PATONG BANGLA RD

Fully vendor financed. No deposit required by foreigners. 3 million baht for 10 years; 4 million baht for 7 years; 5 million baht for 5 years. Includes Chanote title. Tel: 087-881 7600. Visit website: shophousephuket.com

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: helena.klaic@pick-place.si Website at: www.maikao.info

KATA SEAVIEW

Land with a nice seaview. 7 rai with Chanote title. Please call for more info. Tel: 081-639 9571.

NAI HARN ON THE BEACH

Beach-front land in Nai Harn. 15 rai with Chanote title. Yellow area for sale. Tel: 081-639 9571.

58 RAI IN TAKUAPA

Palm oil farm 10 years old, trees house. Price: 10 million baht. Tel: 089-594 4017.

HOUSE FOR SALE IN NAI HARN

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with 200sqm land. Price: 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-693 9571.

PATONG BANGLA RD

Fully vendor financed. No deposit required by foreigners. 3 million baht for 10 years; 4 million baht for 7 years; 5 million baht for 5 years. Includes Chanote title. Tel: 087-881 7600. Visit website: shophousephuket.com

LAND IN NAI HARN

1-20 rai plots in Nai Harn and Rawai areas. Please contact for more info. Tel: 080-528 8578.

THE HEIGHTS PHUKET

Ocean, pool & mountain view. Price: 19.5 million baht or best offer. Tel: 086-883 9815.

HOME FOR SALE IN RAWAI

A 2-storey house with 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircons, fans, a water filtering system, and storage space. In a nice area, with mountain views. Price: 5.9 million baht. Must see! Tel: 081-270 6310.

LAND IN RAWAI

Best land, from 1.8 million baht for 464sqm. Many plots to choose from. Tel: 084-111 3977 (English & Thai). Email: stefan@stefan.asia Call or mail for further details. Fotos and details, check website at www.stefan.asia

PATONG TOWER 1 BEDROOM

Modern, fully furnished 1-bedroom apartment. 68sqm, freehold. Price: 6.5 million baht. Tel: 081-088 8099.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Baan Suan Loch Palm. Price: 9.5 million baht. Contact: Wannisa. Tel: 088-765 1826.

NAI HARN APARTMENT

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

Live in Cherg Talay?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
Chaba Supermarket



Simply write out your ad, pay for it and leave it with
Khun Na. Tel: 076-325586 or 081-3977307.

GAZETTE CLASSADS – they work because they're **PAID!**
Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published
simultaneously and **FREE** in the **Gazette Online!**

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads
at **www.phuketgazette.net**

Live in Rawai?
Place your *GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS* at
'The Network' property office

The map shows a central intersection with a black circle. To the left is Silvan Road, with an arrow pointing left towards Rawai. Above the intersection is an arrow pointing up towards Kata-Karon. To the right is Chalong Pier, with an arrow pointing down towards Chaofa East Rd. Further right, an arrow points up-right towards Phuket Town. A black square with the word 'NETWORK' and the text 'The Network' property office is located on Silvan Road, just below the intersection.

Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it
with Khun Anna (086-478 0201)

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're PAID!
Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published
simultaneously - and *FREE* - in the *Gazette Online*!

The *Gazette Online* is always on top in Google!

THAILAND'S LEADING BROKERAGE & NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP



Please visit our website for more listings

► Riviera M400 (2006)

- Tn Volvo D6 30hp duoprop diesels
- Raymarine E120 chartplotter with auto pilot
- 3.1M dingy with new suzuki 4-stroke outboard
- New full boat awning and cleats for cockpit
- Onan 7kva generator
- Victron battery charger
- Electric toilets
- Thai registered

9,200,000 THB

► Swan 42CS (2007)

400,000 Euro

► Voyage 500 (2005)

\$850,000 USD

► Searay 195 Sport (2007)

850,000 THB

► Cobalt 276 (2010)

\$115,000 USD

leemarine.com

Dealership Office
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket
Contact: Martin Holmes
Tel: 076 238 803
Fax: 076 273 319
Email: info@leemarine.com

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

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

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

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18FT SPEEDBOAT



In very good condition, with an overhauled 90Hp Yamaha engine. Price: 370,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 085-253 4429.

19FT RIB FOR SALE

With a 100Hp, 4-stroke engine, built in a stainless steel tank. Comes with a trailer. Also includes a 7-inch color chart plotter, fish finder, outboard bracket, life vests, 2 anchors and a bilge pump. Price: 650,000 baht. Email: alistair@aimdb.net

GULF CRAFT 36' 5.5 MILLION BAH



Perfect for island-hopping in safety and comfort. Can be used as a private charter boat (17 Passengers + 3 crew) and comes with optional tour contracts with five-star resorts. Contact Ross for more info and photos. Must sell now! Tel: 084-744 2240. Email: ross@funboatcruises.com For more details, please visit our website at http://www.funboatcruises.com/mvsting_deck

FIBERGLASS BOAT

30-foot monohull. Needs work. A bargain at 200,000 baht. For further details, please email: jkgk24@hotmail.com

INFLATABLE DINGHY

Lodestar 2.6m dinghy. Hypalon construction with 5Hp Yamaha outboard. Fitted launching wheels. Super condition. Price: 65,000 baht. Please contact for more details. Tel: 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

PROPELLOR

Stainless Steel Propeller! 13-1/4" X 15". Fits Suzuki or Evinrude. Hubs available for other engines. Price: 5,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

REMOTE SEARCHLIGHT

Guest stainless remote operated, motorized, 12v spot / floodlight. In excellent condition. 7,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

DINGHY WANTED

Inflatable, without outboard engine, 4.5 to 6 meters in length. Must be in good condition. Call for more info. Tel: 084-712 7451. Email: info@mobydick-adventures.com

MOTORSAILER


Neptunian motorsailer. VHF, GPS, depth, radar, autohelm. 2 cabins. Full galley. Single handed, blue-water cruiser. Tel: 081-968 1437 (English). Email: bobedward1@hotmail.com

£29,000 ONO

38ft steel videos sailing yacht. Nice condition. Inspections in January ashore at Langkawi. Call for more details. Tel: +44-013-06640898. Email: brianralphgoodwin@yahoo.com

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:



1	A	R	T	U	R	6	M	A	S	C	10	A	D	O	S	
14	N	E	A	T	O	15	A	C	T	H	16	B	R	A	C	
17	T	A	M	E	S	18	N	E	R	O	19	I	O	T	A	
20	I	M	P	R	E	C	I	S	E	22	I	N	N	E	R	
23	O	T	R	A	24	W	A	G	G	E	R	Y				
26	A	S	A	27	T	A	C	O	30	P	O	T				
32	S	I	P	33	E	G	A	D	34	E	T	O	35	I	L	E
38	P	L	I	E	40	L	O	N	42	N	E	E	R			
43	S	T	A	M	P	S	46	R	E	P	S	48	R	A	N	
50	P	E	T	51	S	W	A	T	52	E	R	E				
53	T	A	B	L	E	A	56	U	57	C	R	A	58			
59	O	N	I	O	N	60	S	H	O	R	T	E	62	N	E	D
65	T	O	N	Y	66	S	E	A	M	67	I	G	A	V	E	
68	E	D	G	E	69	A	R	T	E	70	C	A	S	E	S	
71	D	E	E	R	72	Y	S	E	R	73	S	T	A	R	K	

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

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

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

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐
☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)
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Please Deliver To:

Street address

City State or Province Zip Code

Country: _____



To ensure clarity, please airmail. Do not Fax!

Looking for a boat bargain? From 995,000 Euro down to 549,000 Euro - 1997 20M PRINCESS TOP CONDITION

WWW.PRINCESS4SALE.COM

Visit the website for more information. Sales by Lee Marine, Andrew de Bruin. Tel: 081- 894 1530.



Laguna Holiday Club, the fastest-growing Vacation Club in Asia, is urgently seeking:

Sales Representatives

English, Russian, Chinese (Cantonese and/or Mandarin) and other multi-language speakers

Salary, benefits, generous commissions, and easy hours

Call... 076-362400 Ext.4404-4405
career@lagunaholidayclub.com

Career Opportunity

VS Asia Co., Ltd. was established in Phuket, and over 35 years experience in professional printing & information technology and post-production for clients in Europe, Asia and worldwide.

Text & Layout Editor

Job Description:

- Knowledge of German language
- Work with text-editing program
- Art or imagination in design
- Team work and cooperating with related departments

Qualifications:

- Male/Female, Thai National Only
- Fluent German language in reading + writing
- Good knowledge of computer (Windows or Macintosh) and Internet
- High responsibility and punctuality
- Able to work as a shift with team or independently

Salary & Welfare:

- Salary, Social Security Insurance, Tax, Food, etc.
- Incentive bonus: depends on quality, skills and experiences.

Interested applicants apply at:
VS Asia Co., Ltd. (Human Resource Department)
 42 Moo3, Palai2, Chaofa Rd., Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130
 Tel. (00)66-76-380600 Fax. (00)66-76-380605 Email: info@vsdma.com



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, Thepkasatri Rd, Koh Kaew
 A. Muang, Phuket 83000
 Tel: 076-273555, ext 205 Fax: 076-615240

PADI DIVE INSTRUCTORS

PADI dive instructors required for Khao Lak high season. Must speak German/English and have sales ability. Tel: 086-274 8358. Email: nbingley@gmail.com

DUTCH SPEAKING

Customer care representative wanted. Negotiable salary. Call now. Tel: 084-628 2629. Email: gianni@ictned.eu

MULTILINGUAL RECEPTIONIST

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

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

TEACHER WANTED

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

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

Ability to teach across all Key Stages essential.

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

50,000BHT+

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

SALES EXECUTIVE/RM

Five years experience in property sales or hotel management required. Tel: 076-318400, 081-989 5466 (English & Thai). Email: cilcon@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.bangtaotropicalresidence.com

REPRESENTATIVE FOR BOOTH

Tropical Properties is looking for a motivated Thai person to work at our permanent booth at Jungceylon. No experience required. Training provided. Good knowledge of English is essential. Salary + commissions. Tel: 076-345700, 087-882 2856. Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

STAFF FOR OFFICE

Thai lady with good English for working in dive center office. Send CV or call. Tel: 085-222 4140, 085-222 4041. Email: dasa@lovediving.net

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. Email: careers@pp-intl.com

GERMANY COMPANY

That sells electrics seeks a sales engineer in Phuket. A minimum of 2 years' electrical experience. Must have car. Tel: 02-673 9857-9. Email: hr@th.jungasia.com

NEED FOOT MASSAGE SPECIALIS

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

VILLA MANAGER REQUIRED

Must have excellent spoken and written English skills. Experience in property and people management essential. Good communicator, structured and system-oriented. Thai National required. Tel: 084-848 0000. Send CV and salary requirement to info@villachangrajang.com



REQUIRED for IMMEDIATE start in BALI

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

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

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

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



BANYAN TREE
— PHUKET —

Phuket, Thailand – Bordered by the golden sands and gentle waves of the Andaman Sea and within a cluster of 5-star hotels in Laguna Phuket lies Banyan Tree Phuket, a luxury resort in the Phuket tropics exuding rest and tranquility. A paradise of extraordinary natural beauty, it is no wonder Banyan Tree Phuket has earned accolades from leading magazines the world over. A 'Land of Smiles' indeed under the sheltering canopy of the Banyan Tree.

To date, the Banyan Tree Group manages and/or has ownership interests in over 20 resorts and hotels, over 60 spas, in excess of 60 retail galleries, as well as two golf courses.



Banyan Tree Phuket

Banyan Tree Phuket is currently seeking highly motivated and result oriented candidates with IDEALS to join our professional team in the following positions:

Director of Engineering
 Chief Engineer
 Executive Housekeeper
 Sales Manager
 Revenue Management Manager
 Security Manager
 F&B Service Manager
 Assistant Financial Controller

Key Requirements:

- Minimum of 3-5 years of experience in the field or position
- Good command of English
- Strong Managerial skills
- Ability to lead, motivate and develop a team of individuals
- Ability to work under pressure
- Capable of preparing reports and presentations in English
- 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
 Banyan Tree Phuket
 33, 33/27 Srisoonthorn Road
 Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110
 Fax: 076 325 013

www.banyantree.com • www.angsana.com • www.lagunaphuket.com

Looking for a job?

Looking for a better candidate?

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WEST SANDS VACATION CLUB
Mai Khao Beach, Phuket

Be a part of something fantastic! West Sands Vacation Club is seeking additional outgoing, motivated individuals to join our growing fun-filled family. Competitive salaries and benefits.

Sales Executive	2 Positions
Sales Team Leader	1 Position
TO Sales Executive	1 Position
Russian Sales Executive	1 Position
Russian Marketing Executive	1 Position
Thai Marketing Executive	2 Positions

Send resume or CV with recent photo to mark@west-sands.com



BAR AND PROMOTION STAFF WANTED!

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

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

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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

Reporter (3 positions)

The successful candidates will be Thai nationals with initiative, outgoing personalities and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car. Knowledge of Burmese (1 position), passion for sports (1 position) is an advantage.

Good salaries for the right candidates.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to Oh@PhuketGazette.Net
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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

HEXACON PROPERTY
STAFF WANTED

We are looking for professional staff for our expanding property company in Phuket.

We are looking for English, Russian, Italian, German, French, Spanish and Thai-speaking sales staff with experience in the property business.

We want good sales people, based on high commission, as well as an experience accountant.

Our strategy is to represent a select group of the best projects on and around Phuket.

This could include condominiums and villa projects in the best locations.

Our strengths are that we work internationally, have substantial knowledge about Phuket and that our staff speak several languages such as Thai, Russian, English and Scandinavian.

If you have what it takes please submit a resume / CV, a recent photo and expected salary to: michael@hexacon-property.asia

We need the following staff:

- 1 Accountant / Secretary (Thai Only)
- 10 Sales with good experience
- 5 Sales person for our booths in Jungceylon and Patong area (Thai only)

HEXACON PROPERTY Co., Ltd.
1 Moo 8 Chaofa West Road, Chalong Sub-district, Muang Phuket District, Phuket Province, Thailand
Website: www.hexacon-property.asia

ERAWANA
www.erawana.com

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
E-mail: info@erawana.com

ROYAL PHUKET MARINA

Royal Phuket Marina is Asia's most sophisticated and high-tech yachting haven, a world-class destination combining luxury waterfront living with a state-of-art marina, is now looking for enthusiastic and motivated candidates in the following position:

Sales & Marketing Manager (Expat or Thai National)

Job Descriptions and Responsibilities:

- Take charge of all sales and marketing activities
- Provide leadership to the day-to-day operations of the sales and marketing department, while maintaining focus on the company's strategic goals
- Develop the strategic marketing plan for all projects
- Develop, maintain and improve business relations with all customers of the company
- Operate with outside agents and other service providers
- Develop, implement and manage eMarketing strategies, plan activities for the assigned RPM products, which align with brand strategies; ensure KPIs (key performance indicators), and other goals/objectives will be met or exceeded

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in a real estate and / or marketing related field
- Minimum of 5 years experience in sales & marketing management capacity in real estate, residential sales is a must
- International experience with a large real estate developer is a major advantage
- Developed communication and presentation skills
- Strong motivational, innovative, and interpersonal skills
- Proven leadership ability to influence, develop, and empower employee to achieve objectives

Interested candidates please sent fully detailed CV, recent photo, current and expected salary with other related documents to:

HR Department
Royal Phuket Marina
68 Moo.2 Thepkasattri Rd, Kohkaew, Muang, Phuket
Tel: 076-360833-38 Fax: 076-360840 Email: praserm@royalphuketmarina.com

PURCHASE MANAGER

Audio / Visual and electrical company. Must have good experience in dealing with supply companies, import, and logistics. Fluent Thai and good English speaker and strong personality preferred. Please send email: daragh@techworx-projects.com or fax CV to 076-325144. For further details, please see our website at www.new.techworx.biz

WANTED - IT DEVELOPERS

Asia Web Direct is seeking IT developers with 2 years experience. Great working environment. Send your resume now. Email: recruitment@wotifgroup.com

PADI DIVING INSTRUCTOR

Required for dive center on Phi Phi. Urgent. Please send to email: jkgk24@hotmail.com

SENIOR HOUSEKEEPER REQUIRED

Senior housekeeper required. Thai national, must speak English, good salary. Please e-mail info@villachangrajang.com

GRAPHIC / WEB DESIGNER NEEDED

Tel: 086-060 7712. Please email us for details. Email: thepixelstudiosjulie@hotmail.com

STAFF WANTED, BYD LOFTS

– 3 Waiter / Waitresses
– 1 Sous chef
– 2 Cooks
– 2 Hotel wine shop sales persons
– 1 Receptionist
Tel: 076-343024, 081-476 1871 (English), 086-272 0111 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-343028. Email: umi@bydlofts.com

WEB / LOGO DESIGNERS

Seeking website and logo designers. Tel: 084-628 2629. Email: gianni@ictned.eu

PREMIER HOLIDAY CLUB PHUKET

Seeking admin assistant (2 positions), receptionist (2 positions), HR assistant (2 positions). Tel: 076-326292. Should submit a resume with a recent photograph to email: admin@premierpropertyleisure.com or fax: 076 -326 293. Website: www.premierpropertyleisure.com

Employment Wanted**LOOKING FOR A JOB**

A Russian woman with university education in English. Tel: 080-627 6207. Email: zuuets@gmail.com

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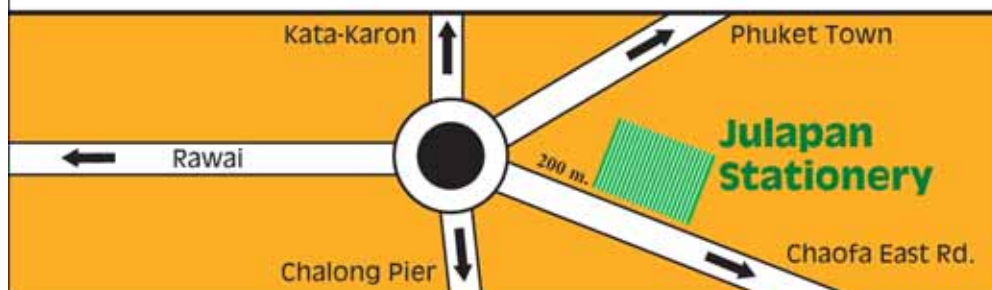
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Only natural, Evolution wins

James Goydor

AN EXCITING week of sailing ended in chaos at the 2010 Phuket King's Cup Regatta when strong winds and swell last Friday night pushed several yachts ashore at Kata Beach.

Three one-off races planned for the next day were canceled after four boats beached on Kata's shore and seven boats were caught in the surf break.

Although it was the first time in 24 years of the event that a day's racing had to be abandoned, organizers were thankful the King's Cup Series had already been decided on Friday afternoon, before the strong winds hit.

The unprecedented weather conditions did not put too much of a dampener on what was otherwise excellent week of top-class sailing at the regatta.

Ray Roberts on *Evolution Racing* won the Racing Class, seeing off a spirited late challenge from Asia Yachting Grand Prix archrival Neil Pryde on board *HiFi*.

Going into the penultimate day of the series Pryde knew nothing less than two wins from the two races on the day would suffice if he were to overhaul Roberts.

It proved to be a scintillating day's racing, with Pryde winning one race and the other ending in an extremely rare dead heat.

Speaking after his victory, Roberts admitted that the drawn race had proved decisive.

"Had it not been for the dead heat it would have been a much more nervous day. There would have been a lot of pressure on, but that's sailing. People lose gold medals at the Olympic Games because of millimeters," said Roberts.

"Throughout the week we've had a quite reasonable wind and it has seen really good close racing. It was good sailing and a good fun regatta," he added.

Flying the flag for Phuket was Peter Dyer on *Team Sea Bees* in the IRC 2 class and he didn't disappoint as he clinched the series win courtesy of a first-place finish in race seven, ahead of arch rival Wiwat Poonpat's *Royal Thai Navy 1*.

The win was particularly sweet for Dyer, racing in his seventh King's Cup, as he was denied victory last year when *Royal Thai Navy 1* registered two first-place finishes on the final day.

"It has been a good week. Last



WINNERS: Evolution Racing won the 24th Phuket King's Cup Regatta last weekend. Photo: Guy Nowell

year we started fast and finished slowly. This year we started slowly in the first race but we got better every day," said Dyer.

"You can never write off *Royal Thai Navy 1*. I don't think their boat is any better than ours. I don't think their equipment is any bet-

ter than ours. It is down to the way they sail and they sail it very, very well.

"I said at the start of the week there would only be a point in it and I'm looking forward to racing against them again next year," he added.

Elsewhere Matt Allen's *Ichi Ban* triumphed in the IRC 1 class for the third consecutive year, while David Liddell's *Miss Saigon* won the Multihull Class after a dramatic final day left them a point ahead of Henry Kaye and Fergus Wilmer's *Thor*.

JSSL Arsenal tourney a success despite wild weather

THE JSSL Arsenal Soccer School paid its third annual visit to Phuket last weekend for the Phuket 7's tournament held at the British International School (BIS).

Despite heavy rains lashing down for most of the day, over 200 parents and children turned out for the event.

A total of 25 teams took part with 11 representing JSSL and the remainder made up of local sides.

It turned out to be an excellent weekend for Phuket's rising soccer stars who won four out of the five age groups.

Teams representing the Phuket Youth Soccer League clinched the Under-7 and Under-13 sections, while Darasamuth School claimed top honors in the Under-9s and Over-15s.

Elsewhere in the Over-15s,



Youngsters battle it out in the rain.

Quality Schools International (QSI) Phuket won the hearts of the crowd, as the only all-girl team put on a series of brave performances against the boys, but went on to lose all their games.

The Youth Football Home Phuket won the Under-13 section,

while JSSL Arsenal came out on top in the Under-11 division.

All players that took part received a medal.

Martin Hill, manager of the two Youth Soccer League teams, felt the inclement conditions over the weekend played their part, but that the kids still enjoyed the tournament.

"It is a shame the high season's

weather is going to arrive late this year. The annual tournament is usually played in 28 degree heat with wall to wall sunshine. This year it was played in heavy rain with players unable to run with the ball, passes not reaching their targets and low scoring games," he said.

"Despite all of this, the children enjoyed the challenge the weather

threw at them and all came off the field filthy but with a big smiles on their faces," he added.

Registration for next year's Youth Soccer League will take place on January 15 at BIS and the season will start on January 22nd.

For further information contact E: martinhillphuket@hotmail.com.

— James Goydor

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Bring it on Rayong

Andrew Jennings

FC PHUKET'S promotion fate will be decided over the next seven days as they gear up for two vital home games at Surakul Stadium.

The Southern Sea Kirin slipped back to third place in the Thai Regional League Division 2 playoffs after falling to their first defeat in Group B at the hands of Chainat FC last weekend.

Comfortable 3-1 victors at home, Chainat moved top of the group, one point ahead of both Phuket and Rayong FC.

Sarach Yooyen was the only goalscorer for Phuket in the defeat.

In recent weeks Phuket, Rayong and Chainat have been involved in a titanic struggle to secure one of the two promotion places on offer to

Division 1. With only two rounds of games remaining, the decision on the final placings will go down to the wire.

Rayong visit Phuket on Sunday for a mouth-watering encounter that should make the promotion picture into clearer focus. Kick-off is at 4pm.

Victory for Phuket will put them in pole position for Division 1 football next season, however defeat to Rayong – coupled with Chainat beating Loei City – will spell the end of Phuket's promotion dream.

Phuket's final fixture is against Samut Prakan on December 25 at Surakul Stadium

Their fanatical green-shirted support will be hoping Phuket will still have a chance of going up to Division One heading into the fixture.

BATTLE CRY: FC Phuket's Thawin Butrasombat. Photo: Apinun Saithong



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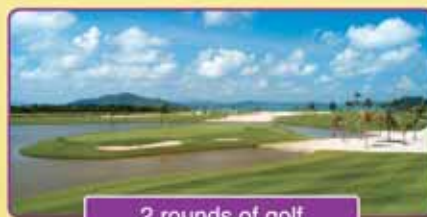
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