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25 Baht



A 'mah song' (spirit medium) during last year's festival. At least he brought his umbrella.

Vegetarian Festival returns

THIS year's Vegetarian Festival will get underway with the raising of the *go teng* lantern poles at Chinese shrines across the island on September 26.

Despite the seasonal heavy rains, thousands of tourists are arriving on the island to join the nine-day festival, which includes knife-ladder climbing, walking through fire, street processions and wrapping up with the traditional 'bonfire of best wishes' at Saphan Hin at midnight on October 5.

For our full program of what's happening where and when, see our special report on page 6.

Photo: Christian Mouchet

'Baby dumping' rise sparks stateless alarm

By Warisa Temram

THE rising number of babies being abandoned on Phuket is causing alarm among the authorities, with the director of the Phuket Shelter for Children and Families voicing concern that babies who cannot be identified possibly becoming "stateless".

The shelter has been notified of more than 20 babies being abandoned since October 1 last year. The actual number is probably far higher, said Jiranan Jiamjaroen, the shelter's director.

The most common reasons behind the baby dumping were parents being unable or unwilling to care for them on their own.

"Such cases typically involve single young mothers who unintentionally became pregnant. In these cases it is very difficult to track down the parents and the babies need long-term care," Ms Jiranan said.

Such were the causes for the most recent case, that of a boy



A nurse tends to an abandoned baby at Vachira Phuket Hospital. Inset: Jiranan Jiamjaroen says the number of abandoned babies is rising.

not even one year old being abandoned in the back of a pickup truck on Kwang Road.

Shelter workers were able to

track down the parents and reunite them with their child, but the family remains under close watch by shelter workers, she said.

Another form of abandonment comes when parents leave their children with friends, babysitters or in nurseries and never return to collect them. In some cases the care-givers do not know the names or contact details of the parents and are unable to contact them.

To minimize the number of such incidents, Ms Jiranan urged people providing childcare services to record the names and ID numbers of the parents.

Ms Jiranan believes that many of the abandoned babies are the children of migrant workers from other provinces, though it is impossible to know with certainty in most cases.

"Most of the abandoned babies are left without birth certificates or other forms of identification, making their already bleak prospects for the future even worse as 'stateless people'," she said.

She urged anyone experiencing family problems, or aware of possible child abuse, to call the shelter's hotline: 1300.

MoF heavies step up for convention center

By Chutharat Plerin

MINISTRY of Finance General Inspector Prasit Suebchana met Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkhaosutthirak this week to reaffirm that his ministry will fight for Phuket's convention center to go ahead.

The international convention and exhibition center (ICEC) project stalled early this month when the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) announced that the project's plan had failed its initial environmental evaluation (IEE) assessment.

However, Mr Prasit, who is also the vice president of the Treasury Department's standing committee for the ICEC, said he had met many local residents who told him

none of the "failures" held any credence.

"Treasury Department officials discussed the issues with Phuket provincial government, business agencies, local organizations and local residents to see what the facts are," he said.

"As for the site being a location where sea turtles lay their eggs, I had the chance to inspect the area, and people there said they had not seen sea turtles at that part of the beach for a long time... They said sea turtles lay eggs at another part of the beach - not the ICEC site," he said.

Regarding complaints by the MNRE that the project site was home to what they called "Phuket's last forest", Mr Prasit replied, "I have now seen the area. It is not a forest. Most of the area is already bare.

"The trees that are there now will remain untouched and kept as a protected area in accordance with the project plan."

The project plans also came under scrutiny following reports that the center, under its current planned design,

would not be "tsunami-proof".

"The local people I spoke to said the tsunami [in 2004] only caused some flooding in that area. Nothing was destroyed. The



Prasit Suebchana

tsunami hit Mai Khao Beach about 500-600 meters away, so the area [for the planned ICEC] is not in a tsunami-risk zone," he said.

As for criticism that the center would not be "worthwhile" in terms of investment, Mr Prasit said the Treasury Department will again report its position on this to the MNRE.

"The Ministry of Finance and Phuket authorities believe the ICEC is worthwhile. The ICEC is needed by Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi. It will help the economies of these provinces," he said.

"The Treasury Department will push for the ICEC to go ahead, even though it might be delayed, because we have to represent the fact that the ICEC is not going to cause any issues," he said.

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This Week

Beach protest flare



Dawn raid removes beach vendors from disputed land. **Page 5**

Veg Fest rules



The dos and don'ts we can expect during this Phuket festival. **Page 6**

Business



Rice prices are likely to increase due to latest rice policies. **Page 10**

History



Luang Pu Supha's life has spanned three centuries. **Page 17**

Books



The WWII tale of a plane crash in Papua New Guinea. **Page 18**

Sport



Quiksilver surf Thailand competition is now under way. **Page 44**

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Battle for Surin Beach stalls after failed raid

By Chutharat Plerin

THE saga over the stalled clearing of a restaurant encroaching on Surin Beach continues, with the restaurant owners refusing to remove structures and local authorities planning to file yet another report.

Pla Restaurant was spared from a raid last Wednesday morning when a multi-agency task force of no less than 30 officers acting under an order from the Governor was expected to arrive and take action.

Organized to coincide with the passing of a 30-day notice to vacate, the raid was called off after a last-minute missive from Thalang District Chief Narunart Suwanpratheep requesting that no action be taken against the restaurant at this stage.

Oddly, it was Mr Narunart who back in July this year instigated the investigation into the restaurant's encroachment on the beach, when he asked Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor) president Manote Panchalad to inspect the site.

Yet Mr Manote has told the *Gazette* that he had not given up. "Now I have to file a report within 15 days," he said.

The fight over the right to extend the restaurant up to the water's edge has resulted in ac-



Beach-goers stroll past Pla Seafood on Surin Beach, the subject of complaints about encroachment on public land. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

cusations over double standards and influence by "mysterious" people.

"They said we are encroaching on public land, but you can see all along Surin Beach right up to Bang Tao Beach that the beach is being encroached upon," said Charoen Singkaew, who helps run the family-owned restaurant.

"We are just trying to make the beach look better. We dug this sand from the water right in front of the restaurant. When we remove our tables and decorations [each night when the restaurant closes], everything is fine. We didn't destroy anything," he added.

Somsak Boontapatipa, the head of the family-run restaurant, was just as angry. "Why do we have to be the only restaurant to be

pulled down? Everyone builds on the beach," he said.

Mr Somsak alluded to unspecified "local complexities" that were influencing the issue.

Yet Mr Manote stands resolute in taking action.

"There is no reason to hold off on this. You can see it with your own eyes and they know what they are doing," he said.

"I know they want to talk to me privately, but this is not up for negotiation. They cannot build anything on the beach. If you see anyone else do it, please report it to me," he said.

"And if they are accusing someone of receiving some benefit from this, please feel free to speak up and name who that person is," he added.

PATA seeks Phuket Chapter

THE Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) will hold a joint seminar on developing tourism in Phuket at the Movenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket on Saturday, September 24.

Joining forces with the formidable Skai business network, PATA's aim for the event is to lay the foundation to form a Phuket chapter. Highlighting the importance attributed to the event is that PATA CEO Bill Caldwell will be attending.

Among the benefits of having a Phuket PATA Chapter, apart from the obvious high profile of PATA and its role in international tourism, is that through a Phuket Chapter tourism development projects in Phuket may become eligible for PATA Foundation



PATA CEO Bill Caldwell

grants, such as historical preservation of or education about Phuket Town, a PATA spokesperson told the *Gazette*.

Speakers at the event include Luzi Matzig, CEO, Asian Trails; Bert van Walbeek, PATA Thailand Chapter Chairman; and Ben Montgomery, PATA Director of Chapter Development.

Rubber barriers saving lives

OLD car tyres being used to create median strips along Chao Fa West Road in Chalong have reduced fatal accidents by almost 100 per cent, say Phuket police.

The rubber barriers comprise tyres stacked three high, tied together and painted red and white.

"We have installed these stacks on the median of dangerous sections of road," explained Chalong Police Station Superintendent Col Krittapad Dej-intorrasorn, who formerly went by the name of Wichit Intorrasorn.

"The tyres work very well at night. They help reflect light and encourage drivers to slow down," he added.



The 'go-kart track' style dividers have reduced fatalities to zero.

The rubber barriers have been set up at traffic accident "black spots", such as the entrance to Soi Kuktanode on Chao Fa West Road and the first curve heading up Kata Hill from Chalong to Kata.

Some locations will be upgraded to have permanent median

strips installed, such as from Baan Chalong School to Chaitaram Temple (Wat Chalong).

Col Krittapad said the number of reported accidents and the number of fatalities at all sites where the rubber tyres have been set up had fallen since the medians were installed.

"The number of road accident deaths has fallen by almost 100 per cent compared with the same period last year," said Col Krittapad.

Last year, four people died in accidents at the black spots in July alone. There were no traffic-accident deaths at any of the locations in July this year, he said.

— *Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai*



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Experts warn of water woes

By Stephen Fein

MEETING Phuket's growing demand for water will depend largely on local communities developing new resources and integrating the provincial supply network, experts said this week.

The news came at a public hearing on Wednesday, when Dr Pakorn Ditthakit of Bangkok-based Scan Consulting Ltd explained the findings of a study.

His 10-member team was commissioned by Phuket Provincial Office to conduct research on Phuket's water needs in the face of growing demand due to rising population.

At the hearing, Dr Pakorn explained that the focus of the study is to develop plans addressing water supply over the next 20 years.

The study will include flood prevention and water quality issues, he added.

The report will cover the entire island, from urban users supplied by the Provincial Waterworks Authority (PWA) to consumers on smaller municipal systems and rural residents relying on ground-water resources.

Despite abundant rainfall averaging some 2,500mm annually, the



The 590-million-baht plans to redevelop the areas around Phuket's main reservoirs include camping grounds, nature walks and a botanical garden.

island has experienced worsening shortages in recent years due to the continuing growth of the tourism industry, Dr Pakorn said.

In the short-term, avoiding water shortages will depend on the ability of each community to introduce small-scale projects on their own, he said.

"Such projects would include construction of dikes and new storage basins, increasing capac-

ity of existing reservoirs and dredging new canals," he added.

He said long-term measures for Phuket would include linking up the island's two main reservoirs, Bang Wad in Kathu and Bang Neaw Dum in Thalang, with the island's planned third reservoir: the Klong Krata now under construction in Chalong.

Linking them by expanding and connecting the PWA network

Reservoir plans move ahead

AS PART of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization's (OrBorJor) plans to spend 590 million baht on developing the areas surrounding Phuket's two main water reservoirs as recreational areas, OrBorJor President Paiboon Upatising has mandated that the areas must include jogging tracks and bike lanes.

"I would like work to start by 2013 so we can have green parks on the island for Phuket residents, as I promised," he said at a public hearing this week.

The budget for redeveloping the Bang Wad Reservoir area would be about 223 million baht. Four zones would be established: 1)

Service zone; 2) Seminar zone; 3) Botanical garden and recreational zone; and 4) adventure zone.

"The Service zone will be at the present parking area, while the Seminar zone will be at the Irrigation Department office, where we will build a seminar building with a capacity of 200 people," said Somluk Bunnarong of hired consultants Phisut Technology.

The botanical garden and recreational area would include an educational path under the theme "Local Seedlings".

"The adventure zone, at the south end of the reservoir, will include a jogging track and a 'dam island'," Mr Somluck added.

would boost supply to popular tourist areas, he said.

Asked if projects such as the desalination plant in Karon were part of the long-term strategy, he said, "No, no, no... We have to rely on surface water resources first."

The high cost of pumping and treating water from the sea resulted in a prohibitive unit charge of over 40 baht per cubic meter.

"It was only a short-term solution," he said.

Pumping water from the Ratchaprasa Reservoir in Surat Thani would be a viable option from an engineering standpoint once the PWA supply network is fully integrated, but opposition from NGOs and local residents in Surat Thani and Phang Nga would probably render such a project impossible, he added.

Guard confesses to maid slash-murder

A SECURITY guard has confessed to the murder of a maid at a workers' guesthouse in Phuket last night.

Patong Police duty officer Weerapong Rakkito identified the deceased as 39-year-old Nuanchawee Sarating, until the time of her death the maid at the guesthouse in Kalim.

At about 9:45pm, her body was found face-up outside her room under the four-storey guesthouse, opposite The Lodge resort on Phra Barami Soi 5.

The apparent cause of death was a single stab wound near her left collarbone.

The murder weapon, a 35-centimeter blade, was found nearby along with a necktie matching that worn by the guesthouse security guard Narong Sripetch, age 23.

Mr Narong went on duty at 6pm, but was nowhere to be found after the discovery of the body.

Police investigators proceeded to Mr Narong's rented flat on Soi Kok Moo (Soi Pig Sty), off Siriraj Road at the south end of Patong.

There they found Mr Narong, along with his bloodied uniform.

Under questioning, Mr Narong said he killed Ms Nuanchawee out of revenge after she admonished him for opening guests' rooms.

He told police she had no right to do that, and until the murder

he had never had any problems with anyone.

However, a check of his criminal record told a very different story.

According to his record, he was released from Surat Thani Prison last month after serving a four-year sentence on a murder conviction in that province.

In addition, there was an outstanding warrant for his arrest issued by Surat Thani Provincial Court on August 16. The charges included breaking and entering, assault and rape.

Despite his criminal background and current fugitive status, he was somehow hired by a local security firm and assigned to work at the guesthouse.

- Phuket Gazette

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Sailors rescued from Andaman storm

TWO foreigners sailing to Phuket from Langkawi in Malaysia are safe after being rescued from turbulent seas by the Royal Thai Navy off the coast of Satun on Monday morning.

Vice Admiral Choomnoom Ard Wong of the Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command at Cape Panwa, Phuket, was notified of a distress call from the sailing yacht Aqua at 1:45am.

Sailors Gionata Bellagamba from Italy and Luke Lockyer from South Africa reported that they could not make landfall at the southern Thailand province of Satun due to strong winds and large waves.

The Royal Thai Navy dispatched a rescue vessel at 2am,



The yacht under tow to Satun.

arriving to render assistance at 4:30am, according to a report.

The report said the two sailors were found floating in the water and the boat was suffering a battering from the surly weather.

With Mr Bellagamba and Mr Lockyer safely on board, the Navy vessel took Aqua under tow.

Both vessels arrived at a safe port at Satun at 8 am.

"We checked the weather conditions and they were fine, otherwise we would have never taken a long trip on an eight-meter boat," Mr Bellagamba said.

"We chose a more coastal path to always have GSM [mobile phone] contact, but we got trapped between a large and unsuspected five-knot freshwater current coming from Trang and a storm with gusts of 50 knots.

"We were never in the water, nobody can survive at night in a five-knot current," he added.

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NEW BRANCH 'SAMUI'

Man marries ladyboy, Muslim family furious

A MUSLIM man's marriage to a 16-year-old ladyboy has collapsed after drawing a storm of criticism from the local community, who claimed the wedding was against the principles of Islam.

Leaflets were circulated in the family's village in Paera subdistrict in Satun claiming the "sacrilegious" binding of lovers had caused recent flooding in the province.

Ismael Langji, 18, is now claiming he was tricked into marrying 16-year-old Anurak Janyu or "Nong Dada" and thought "he" was a "she".

Mr Ismael's family even took the step of traveling to the office of Satun Provincial Islamic Council to hold a press conference to denounce the marriage.

The family claimed they only allowed Mr Ismael to marry Nong Dada because they didn't know she was transgender.

If they had known Nong Dada had been born a man, there was no way they would have allowed their son to wed her because it is forbidden in Islam for a man to



marry a man, they said.

They had only met Nong Dada a few times and she looked exactly like a woman in every respect, so there was no reason to suspect she wasn't quite as she seemed.

Explaining Mr Ismael's attraction to Nong Dada, the family said Mr Ismael was "brain damaged" and "easily influenced by others".

They claimed they had already held a wedding party, but had yet to hold the more important Islamic marriage ceremony. As such, he had not actually violated the principles of the religion. They added that they did not support gay marriage, as many in the area had incorrectly assumed to be the case.

Things got worse when Nong Dada's father and mother arrived at the Langji family press confer-

ence. A loud quarrel broke out, with the Janyu family denying there had been any deception involved.

Mr Ismael had already been sleeping with Nong Dada at their home for at least a month and knew very well that she was a ladyboy. They had welcomed him warmly into their family and treated him as their son-in-law, they said.

However if they had known the union of the two men was against Islamic law, they wouldn't have allowed the pair to have anything to do with each other, they said.

Mr Ismael, for his part, said he had no idea Nong Dada had been born a man since they had only known each other a little over a month.

As for the bride price, the Langji family had given the Janyus 30,000 baht and a one-bahtweight gold necklace for Nong Dada's hand in marriage.

The Langji family said they would ask for it back once tensions eased and appropriate negotiations had taken place.

— *Manager online*

Tensions

Karon Beach vendors accused of encroachment have alleged police abuse in the destruction of their restaurants and arrest of an owner. The *Phuket Gazette's* Janpen Upatising reports on the dispute and efforts to find a solution.



The remains of the restaurants in front of the Centara Grand Hotel.

TENSIONS flared between police and beach vendors last Sunday when officers razed restaurants in a dawn raid on Karon Beach, sparking claims that excessive force was used in the arrest of one of the shop owners.

The three restaurants, located in front of the Centara Grand Beach Resort, were run by brothers Nawin "Dam", Daeng and Lek Pongkathin, who said they had been operating restaurants on the beach for the last 26 years.

Lek, the youngest of the brothers, told the *Phuket Gazette* that he arrived at the beach at 5am to find "about 100 officers" already at work.

"The tents and kitchen of my restaurant were the first to go," he said.

"Nobody spoke to us. The first thing that happened was that [Phuket Provincial Police] Commander Pekad Tanti-pong ordered officers

to remove our stuff. They took only about one hour to pull it down," Mr Lek said.

"All we asked was for them to wait for 30 minutes to an hour for reporters to come. But they didn't want to. They wanted to get us out of the area," he added.

Mr Lek explained that local residents and family members formed a circle around the three brothers to stop police from removing them.

"The officers surrounded us, then they pulled the others out of

the way until they could get us," said Mr Daeng.

"We did not use force. We said we would go to the police station by ourselves. But we needed them to wait for reporters," he said.

Mr Lek said that wasn't the case for the police, who he claims punched him in the neck.

"Later, we followed Nawin, who was taken to Chalong Police Station and charged with destroying the environment," said Mr Lek.

Mr Lek and Mr Daeng admitted they worked on public land.

"But we didn't try to take the public land as our own. We just wanted to make a living there," said Mr Lek.

"It is unfair. If they say we are working on public land, then why can other people do it? How about the others who can do the same on the same beach? This is a double standard.

"I think it is because our restaurants are in front of the Centara Grand Resort," said Mr Daeng.

Mr Lek also said the brothers were given no eviction notice.

Yet, Chalong Police Deputy Superintendent Narong Laksanawimon told the *Gazette* that the brothers long knew the forced removal was coming.

The Centara Grand Beach Resort filed complaints to Karon Municipality and the Phuket Provincial Office about the encroachment and a toilet built on



Mr Lek Pongkathin

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flare in beach eviction



Mr Daeng being removed from the scene by officials.



Mr Lek down on the ground while being forcibly removed.

Karon Beach about three years ago, he said.

"The Phuket Governor at that time, Wichai Phraisa-ngop assigned relevant authorities to investigate. The authorities formed a committee and they found that Dam [Nawin] and his brothers had encroached onto the beach," he said.

"When we last spoke to them eight months ago – I was one of the committee members – we asked them to improve their restaurants so they looked better. Having toilets built on the beach like that was not beautiful.

"But they did not agree with our request and so the committee decided to proceed with legal action," Lt Col Narong said.

"Before we removed them [last Sunday], we had been through so many talks, but it didn't work. The situation was long past negotiations because they refused their chance eight months ago," he added.

Lt Col Narong said any force used in removing the brothers was necessary.

"Officers from Karon Municipality and Muang District Office were instructed to proceed with the removal while police officers were present to take care of security," he said.

The trouble started when other beach restaurant operators tried to stop officials from pulling down the restaurants and then blocked officers from removing the brothers from the beach.

"If we had let them stay, they might have obstructed officials

from doing their duty in removing the restaurants. We surrounded them to stop them from entering the removal area and in the end we needed to physically remove them because we wanted to take them to police station," Lt Col Narong said.

"Dam has been charged with encroaching on public land and physically obstructing Karon Municipality and Muang District officials from doing their duty," he added.

Mr Nawin posted bail immediately after his arrest.



Mr Lek's wife, Jan, displays pictures of when they first started their restaurant on Karon Beach 26 years ago.

However, the officials involved still sympathize with the brothers' need to make a living, Lt Col Narong said.

"We are still talking with them about what we can do to help them so they can have a place to make a living," he said.

Karon Municipality allows a group of beach vendors to make a living on the beach, he explained.

"The members of this group are allowed to operate on the beach. That is why umbrella and sunbed operators and massage businesses

are allowed on the beach.

"The problem is that Dam and his brothers have to be members of this group if they want to work on the beach. If they are not in the group, Karon Municipality cannot help them," he said.

An officer at Karon Municipality's Social Welfare Division, who asked not to be named, said that the "group" was established five years ago. The group exists to allow local residents to use public land on the beach to work, she explained.

Within the group, operators are classified according to the type of work they engage in, such as massage services; umbrella and sunbed rentals; jet-ski rentals; longtail boats for hire; speedboats; and food and beverage providers, she added.

"To become a member of a group, the operator needs to be registered as living within the Karon municipal area," the officer said.

"The person wanting to operate a business on the beach also needs to seek permission from the members already operating in that business.

"This is because having new operators set up on the beach will reduce the revenue of the current vendors. If the members agree to let that person operate, they will let Karon Municipality know," she said.

"Karon Municipality is not the one who gives final permission [to operate on the beach], the current members [of the group] are," she said.

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Return of the Gods

THE annual Phuket Vegetarian Festival this year will begin just before sunset on September 26, when participating Chinese shrines across the island raise their *go teng* poles and recite incantations to invite the Jade Emperor and Nine Emperor Gods to descend from the heavens.

At midnight, nine lanterns are hung from each pole, marking the start of the nine-day festival.

The festivities begin in earnest the next day, with two days of prayers and ceremonies to make offerings to the gods, ahead of a full schedule of traditional activities to invoke purification of the mind, body and soul.

First to get ablutions underway on September 30 will be devotees, called *mah song* ("spirit mediums"), at Tae Gun Shrine in Baan Nabon, Wichit, from 8:30pm, and at Sui Boon Tong Shrine and Sapam Shrine from 9pm.

The climbing of knife ladders will continue on October 3 at Cherg Talay Shrine from 7:59pm, at Bang Neow Shrine and the Lim Hu Tai Su Shrine in Samkong from 8pm, at Tae Gun Tai Shrine in Baan Pasak from 8:30pm, and at Bangkok Shrine from 8:45pm.

A more family-oriented ceremony will be observed at Tha Reua, Yokkekeng and Jang Ong

The 10 Rules of the Vegetarian Festival

1. Keep physically clean
2. Keep kitchen utensils clean, and them keep separate from utensils used for preparing non-festival dishes
3. Wear white
4. Observe appropriate "physical and mental" behavior
5. No meat eating
6. No sex
7. No alcoholic drinks
8. People in mourning should not attend
9. Pregnant ladies should not watch any of the rituals
10. Women in menstruation should not attend

Source: Tourism Authority of Thailand

Shrines from 8pm, at the Tae Gun Shrine in Baan Nabon, Wichit, from 8:30pm, and at Sui Boon Tong Shrine and Sapam Shrine from 9pm.

The climbing of knife ladders will continue on October 3 at Cherg Talay Shrine from 7:59pm, at Bang Neow Shrine and the Lim Hu Tai Su Shrine in Samkong from 8pm, at Tae Gun Tai Shrine in Baan Pasak from 8:30pm, and at Bangkok Shrine from 8:45pm.

A more family-oriented ceremony will be observed at Tha



A 'mah song' spirit medium joins the Vegetarian Festival last year. Photo: Christian Mouchet

Festival in world focus

THE annual Worldwide Photo Walk will this year coincide with the photo spectacle that is the Phuket Vegetarian Festival.

As part of what is described as "the largest global social event for photographers", the Photo Walk in Phuket will take place on October 2, giving photographers from around the world a chance to participate.

The best photos from each walk will be submitted to the global judging committee based in Florida.

It is the first time the annual event has coincided with the Vegetarian Festival, which should give local photographers taking part in the international

competition a big advantage over other photo walkers with less dramatic subject matter. In 2010, more than 30,000 photographers walked in over 1,000 locations, taking six million images in a single day.

Local photographer Karim Khamzin from PhuketPhotoPro.com is organizing the Phuket walk, which will start at the Bang Neow Shrine in Phuket Town at 7am.

Due to the early start, there will be a pre-event meeting at the Royal Phuket City Hotel's Cafe 154 at 12:30pm on Saturday, October 1.

For more information, contact Karim (Tel: 086-266 4406; Email karim@PhuketPhotoPro.com) or visit WorldwidePhotoWalk.com.

Reua Shrine from 8:45pm. After devotees bathe with hot oil, a ceremony will be held during which blessed strings will be tied onto children's wrists as a mark of purification.

"Bridge crossing" ceremonies to further confirm purification will be held at Sapam Shrine and Jang Ong Shrine from 8pm, while devotees at the Tae Gun Tai Shrine in Baan Pasak, Thalang, will bathe in hot oil from 8:30pm.

The festivities continue on Oc-

tober 4, with a bridge crossing ceremony at Jui Tui Shrine at 8:09pm and bladed-ladder climbing at Jang Ong Shrine at 8pm.

Fire walking will be performed at Bang Neow Shrine, Lim Hu Tai Su Shrine in Samkong, Tae Gun Tai Shrine in Baan Pasak and Gim Su Ong Shrine – all at 8pm, and at Cherg Talay Shrine at 8:09pm and Bangkok Shrine at 8:30pm.

October 5, the final day of the festival, marks a day of prayer of

ceremonies to bid farewell to the gods, before a massive bonfire sendoff at Sapan Hin at 11:45pm and a rousing racket of fireworks through to midnight – the official closing time of the festival.

The shrines go into cleanup mode on October 6 and before sunset, sometime between 4:30pm and 6pm, depending on the shrine, the *go teng* poles are lowered to mark that the gods have returned to the heavens... until next year.

Major street processions

September 27. Choor Su Gong Naka Shrine, 8am: Phuket Town.

September 28. Sapam Shrine, 7am: Phuket Town.

September 30. Tae Gun Shrine (Baan Nabon), 7am: Chalong, Rawai and Karon. Lim Hu Tai Su Shrine (Samkong), 7:19am: Phuket Town.

October 1. Jang Ong Shrine, 6:30am: in Sapam. Kathu Shrine, 7am: Kathu to Patong Beach. Tae Gun Tai Shrine (Baan Pasak), 7:15am: Baan Pasak and Baan Don Market. Tha Reua Shrine, 7:30am: Phuket Town. Choor Su Gong Naka Shrine, 2pm: Baan Naka. Sapam Shrine: 7pm: Sapam.

October 2. Bang Neow Shrine, 6am: Phuket Town. Cherg Talay Shrine, 7:30am: Thalang District. Gim Tsu Ong

Shrine (Baan Don), 8:45am: Mai Khao village.

October 3. Jui Tui Shrine, 8am: Phuket Town. Gim Tsu Ong Shrine (Baan Don), 7:30am: Baan Don, Baan Kian, Baan Sakoo, Nai Yang, airport, Muang Mai.

October 4. Kathu Shrine, 7am. Phuket Town. Tha Reua Shrine, 6:30pm: Thalang District. Yokkekeng Shrine, 7am: Phuket Town. Tae Gun Shrine (Baan Nabon), 7am: Chalong.

October 5. Sui Boon Tong Shrine, 7am: Phuket Town. Bangkok Shrine, 3pm: Sapam and Bangkok.

* All participating shrines stage street processions from their shrines to Saphan Hin for the final farewell bonfire. The processions are scheduled to arrive at Saphan Hin between 11:45pm and midnight.

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Malaysia warns on travel to South as bombs kill four

MALAYSIA has warned against non-essential travel to southern Thailand after four of its nationals were killed in a multiple bomb attack that ripped through a popular tourist area last Friday.

The deaths mark the first time tourists have been killed for several years in Thailand's southern insurgency, which has claimed around 4,800 lives since 2004.

The attack happened on Friday night, when three bombs exploded simultaneously in Sungai Kolok in Narathiwat province.

Motorcycle bombs exploded outside a

karaoke bar and Chinese charity association, while a car bomb blew up outside the Merlin Hotel.

Besides the three Malaysian tourists – including a three-year-old boy – who died at the scene, rescue worker Seksan Rojpasiri, 38, later succumbed to his injuries. A further 74 people were injured, with 40 hospitalized and seven seriously hurt with broken limbs or burns to more than 50 per cent of their bodies.

Malaysia's foreign ministry issued a statement Sunday advising travelers to avoid southern Thailand until the security situation improves, AFP reported.

Thai authorities claimed the bombing was in retaliation for a major drug bust in Sungai Golok three days earlier.

Defence Minister General Yuthasak Sasiprapha said the bombing was the work of insurgent sympathizers who had joined with illicit drug syndicates to make money, challenge state power, discredit the government and intimidate people.

Region 4 Army commander Lt General Udomchai Thammasararat said security would be tightened in Sungai Kolok to prevent more attacks and that officers would continue to crack down on the trade in illicit items that is reportedly funding the unrest.



Bombs tore through a popular tourist area in Narathiwat province. Photo: The Nation

Prachathai editor awarded for courage as net giants fret

CHIRANUCH Premchaiporn, the editor of the Prachatai news website who faces up to 20 years in jail for breaching Thailand's Lese Majeste law, has received the Hellman/Hammett award from Human Rights Watch for her commitment to free expression and courage in the face of persecution.

The honor comes as some of the world's best known internet companies – including Google, Yahoo and eBay – warn that the law could result in serious damage to Thailand's economy if it is not reformed.

Mrs Chiranuch was one of 48 people from 24 countries who received Hellman/Hammett grants from the New York-based human rights watchdog.

"The award-winners have faced persecution for their work, generally by government authorities seeking to prevent them from publishing information and opinions," Human Rights Watch said.

Mrs Chiranuch is currently being tried under both Article 112 – the section of Thailand's Criminal Code enshrining Lese Majeste –



and the Computer Crimes Act, which is often used in tandem to prosecute those who insult the monarchy online.

But Mrs Chiranuch is not accused of insulting the monarchy herself. She is being prosecuted for failing to remove Lese Majeste comments posted anonymously on the Prachatai web forum quickly enough.

The contents of the comments cannot be reported.

Mrs Chiranuch is the first Thai to win the Hellman/Hammett, which Human Rights Watch has administered since 1989.

In a statement posted on Prachatai, Mrs Chiranuch thanked Human Rights Watch but added: "Even though this award gives me support, and encourages me to face the threats on the rights and freedoms of expression which makes me grateful at

the same time it also makes me feel sad."

"We cannot deny that the significance of me being the first Thai who receives this award means that this is an indicator that the freedom of expression in this country has drastically declined since the 19 September 2006 coup," she explained.

Last week the Asia Internet Coalition, a Hong Kong-based lobby group including companies such as Google, Yahoo, Skype, eBay and Nokia, warned that the increasingly frequent application of the Lese Majeste law could have a serious impact on internet commerce.

Of particular concern was Mrs Chiranuch's case, it said. "By holding an intermediary liable for the actions of its users, this case could set a dangerous precedent and have a significant long-term impact on Thailand's economy."

"Changing the way the internet works in Thailand by denying intermediaries the protections they are granted in most countries around the world could have a significant detrimental impact," it claimed.



Mrs Chiranuch was awarded for her 'courage in the face of persecution' by New York-based Human Rights Watch. Photo: The Nation

Flood toll reaches 112

THIS year's flood death toll reached 112 on Monday as monsoon weather continues to batter Thailand's North and Northeast.

In the latest fatalities, a father and his two daughters drowned when their boat capsized in the Tha Chin River in Chai Nat province, 150 kilometres north of Bangkok, DPA reported.

The national flood operations center said 26 provinces remained under water with almost half a million households affected.

Department of Water Resources statistics show that more rain has fallen in recent months than in the same period for the past 30 years.

Professor Thanawat Jarupongsakul, a lecturer at the Unit for Disaster and Land Information

Studies at Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Science, said the La Nina effect was partly responsible for the flooding.

La Nina conditions were expected to ease in March. Instead, they got stronger again this month when the monsoon trough remained over the country for longer than it normally does, he said.

Kasikorn Research Center estimated that economic damage to the country's agricultural sector caused by flooding would likely reach 20 billion baht this year.

Flood water has already swamped millions of rai of farmland. A large part of the country's rice basket, which covers Suphan Buri, Ayutthaya, Chai Nat, Pathum Thani and Nakhon Sawan, is inundated.

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Hotels need reason to come clean

THE *Phuket Gazette* wishes Governor Tri Augkaradacha the best of luck in his efforts to make legal the unknown hundreds of unregistered hotels on the island – he is certainly going to need it.

According to figures from Gov Tri's office [see facing page], there are just 279 hotels with a total of 31,014 rooms legally registered with the province. In contrast, there were over 43,000 rooms in more than 700 "accommodation establishments" registered with another government agency: the Tourism Authority of Thailand. The actual number of hotel rooms in Phuket is undoubtedly much higher because all establishments with more than four rooms available for rent on a daily basis are classified as hotels under the Hotel Act.

Phuket Tourist Association president Somboon Jirayus estimates that the number of rooms-for-rent by the day in guesthouses, serviced apartments and similar establishments on the island at over 50,000.

Typically-priced at about 500 baht a night, a room in one of these establishments is clean and comfortable, air-conditioned, equipped with wi-fi internet and a cable television service with 80 channels or more.

While the ubiquitousness of so many cheap accommodations continues to lure in ever more visitors, many in the upper end of the hotel industry spectrum understandably cry foul that so many of these establishments are able to operate outside the law, avoiding taxes and ignoring safety regulations.

Gov Tri is realistic in admitting that lax enforcement by the government in the past has allowed the current situation to develop and that some "negotiation" may therefore be needed to correct it. The *Gazette* doubts, however, that simply trying to persuade illegal operators to register "for their own benefit" is going to lead to significant change. After all, how many among us would actually pay our income taxes honestly and on time if we didn't have the threat of an audit hanging over our heads? Disincentives to register are especially high among guesthouse and serviced apartment owners, whose guests are predominantly free, independent tourists not on package tours. In their view, registration as a hotel simply opens a Pandora's Box of new rules and regulations that would need to be adhered to at considerable cost.

It is worth noting that some registered hotels refuse to pay the one per cent room revenue tax to the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization, despite periodic threats of legal action.

The fact that ministerial regulations released in 2008 to clarify the terms of the Hotel Act have had little effect on the situation on the ground in Phuket comes as no surprise. This is mainly because so many operators have no real incentive to comply with the Hotel Act in the first place.

– The Editor



Keep the MICE in Bangkok

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Tourism: Miracle Years for 'Amazing Phuket'?*, September 18

No need for a convention center; keep these things in Bangkok and limit the number of hotel rooms for the Phuket area.

Close down illegal hotels, stop illegal squatting, clear beaches of illegal businesses and uphold the law for all environmental matters.

Teach people also not to just throw garbage anywhere – treat nature with respect.

Then, maybe Phuket could have a future. Otherwise it will soon end as another Pattaya.

Bjarne
Gazette forum

Clean it up and tourism will return

Couldn't agree more. Clear out all the illegal stuff, get rid of the "three t's" – tuk-tuks, tailors and touts – and install proper pavements, public toilet facilities, rubbish bins and affordable public transport.

Educate those in public services with knowledge of tourist requirements and with manners to match. Return Phuket to its former "Jewel of Andaman" status.

The tourists will flock back and there will be money for all.

Logic
Gazette forum

They never left...

"Tourists will flock back"? Did they go away someplace? Patong has been full of tourists all low season this year. For us, business was even better than in the high season last year.

Rs
Gazette forum

Letters to the Editor

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

Tit-for-tat with THA and TAT

Re: *Phuket Gazette, Hotel supply cap 'pointless', Sept 17*

I think the the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) will add a "grandfather clause" to allow all illegal accommodations to operate legally.

If there are 43,571 legally registered rooms and over 50,000 unlicensed rooms, they stand to gain a tremendous amount of income.

Henry Hotelier
Patong

Forum a haven for mindless mouths

There were a lot of people jumping on the complaint wagon over Soi Dog's addition of a cat hospital and, I must say, this behavior disgusts me.

There is a lot of negativity among a certain element of Phuket society that is largely baseless and simply spiteful.

There seem to be a lot of ill-informed, ill-intentioned loudmouths out there who rarely take the time to research an issue, much less appreciate the brighter side of life.

Sure, criticism is essential to progress, but be wise in who or what you criticize lest you make a fool of yourself.

Instead of hopping on the *Gazette* website and trash-talking, grab a beer and enjoy a sunset at the beach.

I don't see how bad-mouth-

ing an organization that is so visible and hard-working is more entertaining than actually calling them up and asking them where they got the money, and possibly – I know this may be tough for some of you – chipping in a bit yourself.

Positive man
Earth

Gun-face shot only fuels the fire

Re: *Gazette online, Worldwide Photo Walk: Phuket event to focus on Vegetarian Festival, September 17*

Shoving a couple of guns through one's face has absolutely nothing to do with tradition or spiritual practices and publishing such disgusting images does nothing but encourage these attempts to get attention.

Please don't give them the attention they seek, *Phuket Gazette*!

bob
Gazette forum

Suffering, death not culturally exclusive

Who decides what constitutes other people's traditions or spiritual practices?

There was once a man who allegedly chose to suffer physical torment, even death, to redeem the sins of others.

There are graphic images of that horror in every church on Earth, shown to every child.

Complain about that, if you like. It's understandable if it disgusts you, but don't be too quick to judge beliefs you don't understand.

Pete
Gazette forum

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Gov to bring illegal hotels into the fold

LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR

STATISTICS as of September 12 show that there are 279 hotels with a total of 31,014 rooms legally registered with the province.

As for hotels operating without permission, there are 117 that we are aware of.

The owners of these hotels are running businesses without initial environmental evaluations (IEEs) or environmental impact assessments (EIAs), or were built without the necessary construction permits from local authorities.

There are also apartments, guesthouses and condominiums that offer daily accommodations and other services that fall under the Hotel Act, so they should be registered as such.

I would like to bring both of these groups into the system and have them legally registered. I have been working on a policy to help achieve this and I held a meeting with the [illegal] operators to inform them of my efforts – I will help them make it right.

I admit that in the past, the government sector was lax in terms of enforcement, so now I need to compromise with them – both for their benefit and ours.

For a start, the government would benefit from increased tax revenue from these businesses. Second, it would be good for them in terms of marketing and in obtaining investment funding. Currently, hotel operators go abroad on [promotional] road



Tri Augkaradacha, Phuket's 43rd governor, was promoted to the top job on October 1, 2010, when he set tourism promotion as his prime policy objective. Here he talks about the problem of unregistered hotels, a stalled road project, and the coincidence that he and PM Yingluck Shinawatra are both alumni of the same university in the USA.

shows many times a year. Customers and travel agencies always make deals with legally-registered hotels. Also, hotels that don't have legal registration documents are ineligible to apply for investment through proper channels. Some must seek loans from informal funds that charge high interest rates.

For the proposed road project under the high-voltage power pylons from Phuket International Airport to the bypass road, this project was initiated by former governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop as an alternative to Thepkrasatri Road.

Though there has not been much progress on this project, we still maintain it as part of our yearly development plan. We are now in the process of [trying to] expropriate 207 plots of land from 175 different owners. Some have agreed to provide the required land, but some have not. Once we acquire all the necessary plots we will continue by doing the EIA and seeking a 450-million-baht budget.

There are concerns that it will not be safe to have a road under

high-voltage power lines. People ask what will happen if a car crashes into one of the pylons – will the whole island be blacked out? Or would exposure to electromagnetic radiation from high-voltage lines be dangerous to drivers?

The Phuket Highways Office and Phuket Provincial Office are responsible for this project, so it will fall to them to study these issues and find the best solutions.

You asked about the fact that I earned my master's degree from Kentucky State in Frankfort, Kentucky, also the *alma mater* of current prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra. I did study in the same field [public administration] and university as PM Yingluck, who also got her bachelor's degree at Chiang Mai University.

However, I studied at these places about 15 years before her and we don't know each other personally.

At any rate, she is my boss now and I see she is performing well to the best of her abilities. I will take action to put her policies into practice in Phuket.

Soi Dog in it for the long haul

Island View

By John Dalley

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

already purchased to the same developer. As was reported at the time, this would have had a big impact on the stray population here which is currently under control and falling.

The trust committee was well aware of the situation and made an even larger donation to the land purchase. When construction started, it was clear from feedback from our international fundraisers that they were confident the target would be reached. An offer to double donations from a major donor in Germany contributed significantly to this view and, as announced this week, the purchase of the land was completed ahead of schedule with the actual price paid reduced to about 9mn baht.

SDF are therefore delighted to be staying in Phuket. SDF continues to be managed by volunteers both here and overseas, where it is a registered charity in six countries. It now has an advisory board of experienced business professionals who are currently drawing up a 10-year business plan. It was recently described as one of the fastest growing charities in the world and its aims are to expand throughout Thailand in the coming years. However, following the successful appeal, its headquarters will remain in Phuket and we are grateful to local residents who helped make this possible.

Issues & Answers... ...asking the questions that affect you...

Do Phuket cops arrest drunk drivers?

Can you get arrested for driving a car or motorcycle under the influence of alcohol in Thailand? If so, what are the penalties?

Sam
Gazette online

Maj Sarawut Chuprasit, chief of Kathu Traffic Police, replies:

Yes, you can and will be arrested. We test drivers with a breath analyzer at checkpoints set up almost every night.

In accordance with Thai law, you are not supposed to have more than 0.05 per cent blood alcohol content when operating a motor vehicle.

If a driver tests a little higher than that, we will take into consideration whether they appear able to drive safely, because Phuket is a tourist destination.

Those deemed unable to drive will be arrested.

Suspects have the right to request bail and post a 10,000 baht

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bail bond. Those who are not released on bail are jailed and sent to court on the next working day.

If you confess to the charges, the court will fine you about 5,000 baht, after which time your bail will be refunded.

Orachorn Attaveelarp of the Phuket Public Health Office replies:

According to the law and the information I have, if you are charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, you will certainly have to go to court. The fine will be from 2,000 baht to 10,000 baht, or three months imprisonment, or both. It depends on the court.

Besides a fine and imprisonment, you may be sentenced to do public service.

I don't think you can deny the charges because when you blow into the breath analyzer, a printed report is produced. You cannot deny the results and that report is legal evidence in court.

I used to be present at checkpoints with police officers and, usually, if the results of the breath test show that you're not too much over the .05 per cent blood alcohol content limit – around .06 or .07 – they'll ask you to stop at the checkpoint, take a rest and freshen yourself up.

After an hour, you have to blow into the machine again. If the results show you are below the legal limit, you will be let go.

The end of the road?

About four months ago, workers finished laying new pipe along the beach road in Karon, but the road was never repaired.

The potholes are now big



Work on the Karon Beach Road may finish in October.

enough to swallow a tuk-tuk and since there is only one usable lane, it's just a matter of time before there is a head-on collision. When is this project going to be finished?

Hans Paul
Phuket

Sarayut Wasinanont, an officer at the Karon Municipality Civil Engineering Division, replies:

The construction project was the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority's first trial of burying electricity cables on the island – they buried power lines as well as

CAT telecommunication cables underground.

That project is finished and now it is up to Karon Municipality to fix the road surface.

We have the budget and have had a construction company working on it for about a month now. It's about 40 per cent complete.

We are trying to have it completely finished by the end of October – before the high season begins – but it's been raining a lot lately, so we're not sure it can be done on time.

Local, export rice prices set to rise

By Steven Layne

MENUS in Phuket and across Thailand will soon be revised with the price of rice set to jump as a result of the Yingluck administration's changes to the rice mortgaging scheme.

Pitched as a mechanism to increase rice farmer's incomes and spending power, the controversial program – first implemented by the Thaksin administration six years ago – will offer increased rates on rice for loans to farmers who agree to pledge their yields as collateral.

The new rates, effective on October 7, will increase to 15,000 baht per ton for unmilled paddy rice and up to 25,000 baht per ton of milled Jasmine rice – up from pre-election rates of approximately 8,000 and 13,000 baht per-ton, respectively.

Since the collateral (the rice) essentially takes the form of the payment for the loan, farmers benefit from an increased guaranteed income while the government stockpiles the surplus of the country's and region's most consumed commodity.

However, the downsides of the program, including implications for both domestic-consumer and international-export markets, are beginning to take form in the economic horizon.

"We've been informed that our [shelf rice] prices will increase between 6 and 10 per cent next month," said Kwanruen Talungjit, Purchasing Manager of SuperCheap, one of Phuket's largest wholesale and retail rice distributors.

Kwanruen explained that much of the rice sold at SuperCheap is grown in the north-eastern region and transported to Phuket

through a Bangkok-based distributor.

She said that the reason why some varieties of rice, such as Malboonkrong and Chat brand, have recently had a lower price index in Phuket compared to Bangkok is because of excess stock supplies in addition to local competition factors.

"We've kept our prices low to keep our customers happy. Our stock supplies have allowed us to keep the price steady, but as the price goes up and our stock runs low, profit margins get smaller," she said.

Acknowledging the effect of this policy on consumer prices, a source in Phuket's Department of Internal Trade

asking not to be named, told the *Phuket Gazette* that consumers on the island shouldn't be too concerned.

Increased rice prices won't have the same level of impact on food prices as say pork, eggs and chicken, he said, explaining that the scheme will mostly affect the prices of packed rice and premium grade rice bound for the export market.

"Sacked rice, which is cheaper than packed rice, will still be sold in Phuket at a competitive price," he said.

Some economic analysts have projected that the scheme will cause the price of exported rice to jump 30 per cent, which will give the world's number two rice exporter,

Vietnam, an opportunity to surpass Thailand.

As of September 21, 2011, the Agricultural Futures Exchange of Thailand (AFET) settlement rate for a ton (minimum 15 ton purchase contract) of 100 per cent Thai Hom Mali Rice Grade B was set at 31,500 baht for October 2011 contracts and 32,300 for December 2011 through May 2012.

Ammar Siamwalla, a prominent economist at the Thailand Development Research Institute was quoted in a *Nation* report last week, "Thai consumers may have to queue to purchase cheaper rice...But rice export rivals, such as Vietnam will gain substantially," he warned.



RICE PRICE RISE WISE? Thai rice farmers given increased rates on loans. Photo: IIRI Images

Consumer Prices

	Current	Change %
Rice*	36.85	2.65
Eggs**	40.8	0.00
Pork***	147.5	-4.84
Chicken****	77.5	0.00
Soy Bean Oil	53.75	0.00
Palm Oil	41.5	0.00
Diesel	28.43	0.00
Benzine 91	36.71	-0.81
Gasohol 91	33.68	-0.88
Gasohol 95	36.71	-0.81

*per kg for 100% Jasmin Rice (Malboonkrong brand)

** per dozen as of Sep 21 for class three eggs

***per kg as of Sep 21 for pork tenderloin

**** per kg as of Sep 21 for gutted whole chicken

Source = Department of Internal Trade

Sri Panwa is ready to pilot minimum wage

ONE of the island's most luxurious hotels says it's ready to pilot daily minimum wages of 300 baht, after the government named Phuket as one of six provinces

(and Bangkok), where higher pay will be introduced first.

Songkran Issara, the managing director of Charn Issara Development, which runs the Sri Panwa hotel in Cape Panwa, said the company was ready to support the government's policy because in Thailand there was a large wage gap between people in the lower end of the workforce and those



NO PROBLEM HERE: Sri Panwa's ready to support the policy that aims to minimize wage gap. Photo: Sri Panwa Phuket

in higher positions.

Mr Songkran said that most of their hotel employees already received more than 300 baht a day anyway and the company would not be unduly affected by the policy.

Employee wages account for 50 per cent of the costs of investment in the hotel business, he said.

However, higher wages are likely to have an impact on other industries, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, he said.

Nevertheless, Mr Songkran said he was confident that the government's policy to lower corporate tax from 30 per cent

now, to 23 per cent in 2012, and 20 per cent the following year, would help operators shoulder the burden of higher labor costs.

The government has announced it will launch the policy

in six provinces and Bangkok on January 1, 2012: Bangkok, Phuket, Samut Sakhon, Pathum Thani, Samut Prakarn,

"Most of [our] hotel employees already received more than 300 baht a day anyway and the company would not be unduly affected by the policy."

– Songkran Issara, managing director, Charn Issara Development

Nonthaburi and Nakhon Pathom.

These provinces already have the highest wages in the country, with minimum pay at 221 baht per day in Phuket, and at 215 baht in the others.

Later, the policy will be rolled out to the remaining 70 provinces.

On October 15, the government will present detailed plans to the Tripartite Wage Committee – the council comprising government, business and labor representatives that approves wage changes.

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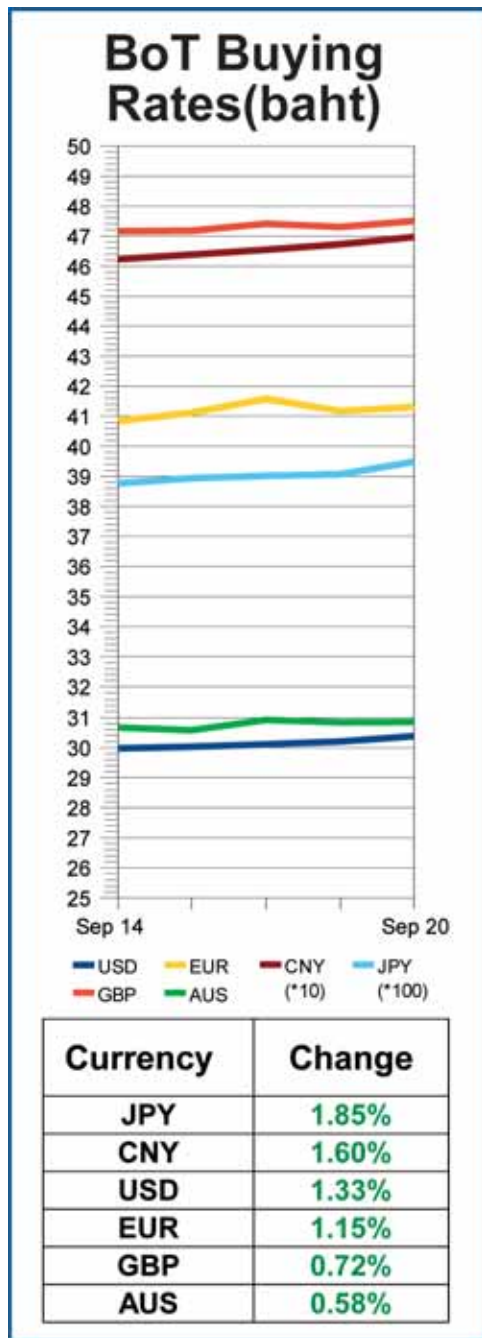
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MAYBE IT'S THE COLOR: 3,900 Mazda 2s have been sold so far this year, 30 per cent of which were sold to foreigners. Photo: by MSVG

Mazda 2 success boosts targets

MAZDA Phuket is boosting sales targets this year due to the popularity of the new Mazda 2 model with the island's motorists.

The trend reflects the growing popularity of small cars as Phuket's roads become increasingly congested.

Thanaphum Hongyok, deputy managing director of Mazda distributor Anuphas Trading, said the company now expected to sell 800 cars this year, up from the old target of 700.

"Now, eight months [into the year], the company has already sold more than 500 vehicles. Because of that, we expect to hit our target quicker than we thought," he said.

Mr Thanaphum said that Mazda Phuket, including all distributors, would sell 1,100

vehicles this year without difficulty. Last year the company sold 700.

In the first seven months of 2011, there were an estimated 6,000 new vehicles sold in Phuket. In the whole of the previous year only 8,000 were sold, suggesting that sales are likely to be far higher this year.

Phuket motorists are becoming increasingly interested in small cars, in particular B-Class cars such as the Mazda 2.

Mazda Phuket's marketing plans will see it holding road shows on the island in a bid to stimulate the market for small cars.

Today, 30 per cent of new car buyers are foreigners, with the rest being local Thais. Mazda Phuket aims to tap these customers by ensuring they get the chance to

test its vehicles. It believes that once a potential buyer has driven one of its vehicles, they are much more likely to make a purchase.

Mazda Phuket's success this year has been more broadly repeated throughout Thailand.

Shoichi Yugi, managing director of Mazda Sales (Thailand), said the company expected to sell 42,000 vehicles this year, up 20 per cent on the previous year.

The success of the new Mazda 2 model, which the company says has a higher spec than other models of its class on the Thai market, has resulted in a 34 per cent rise in sales of the car to 3,900 so far this year.

Famous developers sweeping Phuket

FAMOUS Bangkok developers are queuing up to invest in Phuket's rapidly expanding real estate sector, with projects by Land & Houses, Supalai and Sansiri all being greeted by buyers with excitement.

But local firms are not being left behind as big names like Phuket Villa, Chao Fa Garden and Phanason stand ready to launch new projects.

Phuket Real Estate Association president Thanan Tanpaiboon said the real estate market was growing and changing rapidly, both in terms of the types of investments and the parties investing.

"Phuket's real estate market is 100 per cent dependent on tourism and when tourist numbers are good, the real estate market thrives," Mr Thanan said.

The foreign buyer market has recovered fairly well from the recent slump, with Russian buyers in particular helping to boost the market. Many Russians who have been regular visitors to the island are purchasing condominiums here as second homes.

North Phuket is favored by foreign buyers, with an area stretching from Cherng Talay to Mai Khao being particularly popular.

A group of Russian investors

are building Mai Khao Dream, a development comprising a hotel, villas and homes worth billions of baht.

Also popular is Saiyuan Road in Rawai, where many foreign-funded projects have sprung up in recent months.

"Right now the zones that are most active are the areas of Mai Khao and Nai Yang," said Mr Thanan.

"The old families of Phuket are starting to sell off the land because the price is good. There are investors from Central Thailand coming in and sweeping up the land to invest in hotels, accommodation and condominiums in order to be ready for the Phuket International Convention Center project," he explained.

The Thai market is continually expanding, with many new projects being opened famous developers from Central Thailand such as Land and Houses, Supalai, Pruksa and Sansiri. These developments have had a good response from customers on the island, since the brands are trusted and able to deliver their projects on schedule.

Piya Prayong, deputy managing director of Pruksa Real Estate, said that many more Bangkok developers were likely to invest in Phuket in the future.

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Building a future

By Atchaa Khamlo

THREE young boys from a government school in Phuket Town will fly to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates to compete in the World Robot Olympiad (WRO) 2011 in November.

Pakin "Paper" Boonlom, Tipok "Nueng" Kinkobsin and Boonyarit "Tel" Pulsen – all 11 years old – won their age category in a national competition in Bangkok last month.

The ingenious youngsters built a robot that actually picks up and disposes of trash. Their autobot, as per competition rules, was made from Lego bricks and other components.

However, the trio were not the only students from Muang Phuket Municipal School on Phun Pol Road to pick up a prize in the national contest, held at IMPACT Muang Thong Thani.

Three 15-year-old fellow students in Mathayom 3 – Rachi Hansamut, Siriwat Khua-run and Tapi Sritirat – won third place in their age category by building a robot that mixed all the ingredients necessary to make *tord mun pla* (Thai fish cakes). The machine even cooked them in a deep-fat fryer.

The accolades won in the contest are the proud results of a program run by Sophon Prateep Na Talang, who heads the "Lego course" at the school.

"We started sending teams to robot-building competitions about eight years ago. Our school has done well. This is the third year we have had the opportunity to compete in robot competitions abroad," he said.

"Last year, we went to the Philippines, but we didn't win any awards. Two years ago, we sent a team to South Korea and won the honorable mention award," he added.

Lego classes are compulsory for students in Prathom 3 to 5 (ages 9 to 11) but optional for older students at the school.



TECHNO-THREE: A Lego robot that picks up garbage built by Tipok Kinkobsin, Boonyarit Pulsen and Pakin Boonlom (above left to right).

"It seems to be working very well as the students quite like the classes. All students learn the basics of building Lego robots, such as how to build the robots themselves and how to write the computer program to make the robots perform."

"The basic Lego building element helps to develop their creative thinking and the students must combine this with technology. Any students who show talent or deep interest in the program are given our full support in learning more," Mr Sophon explained.

"This does not affect their normal classes as we set the Lego class as part of the curriculum, and I have a few teachers to help me with some parts of the course, such as developing the artistic elements of the projects and teaching the students how to present their projects to competition judges," he said.

The teaching formula seems to be working, especially for young Pakin, Tipok and

Tel, who took two months to build their cleaning robot.

"My father was the first to buy me Lego bricks and I have been building Lego toys for two years now. I like it. I can spend about four hours a day playing with Lego when I have the time," said Pakin.

Teammate Boonyarit was the same. "I have been playing with Lego for two years now and I spend two hours a day making things with Lego. We also spend time practicing with our Lego robots for going to Abu Dhabi," he said, excited.

Young Tipok was also looking forward to going overseas. "This is the first time I have come first in a robot competition. I'm very happy to go to the competition in Abu Dhabi. Even though there will be many teams in the competition, I think we have a 50-50 chance of winning," he said.

The trio's obvious enthusiasm has shone

through, said their teacher, Mr Sophon.

"I only gave them some hints on how to improve their robot, but the rest they figured out for themselves," he said.

Yet, a great challenge lies before them.

Mr Sophon said that about 50 teams will be competing in the WRO from November 18 to 20.

"All of them will also be winners of national competitions in their home countries", he said.

The honor of winning in that competition will be glory only. The WRO offers no cash prizes – only trophies, medals and certificates will be bestowed on the winners.

As such, the budget to send Pakin, Boonyarit and Tipok to the UAE to compete has yet to be confirmed.

"The budget will probably come from Phuket City Municipality and the children's families," said Mr Sophon.



PIWC gala to raffle exclusive trip

A SPECIAL prize will accompany the festivities at this year's annual gala party of the Phuket International Women's Club, which will be held on an exceptional date.

The special date is Friday, November 11 – the 11th day of the 11th month of the 11th year. That's why it's dubbed as a 'Once in a Lifetime...Make a Wish' experience.

Qatar Airways, a major sponsor of the occasion, is donating a dream destination prize of two return flights to any of their destinations throughout the world.

Instead of putting this great prize up for auction, tickets will be sold in advance, and the prize will be raffled during the event at the Hilton Arcadia Spa & Resort at Karon.

A 500-ticket limit has been placed on the 500-baht raffle tickets. Any raffle tickets that are not sold before the event will be on sale the night of the event. All raffle prizes will be drawn at 11 minutes past 11pm on the night of the event.

"There was a very good reason for deviating from our traditional Saturday event," said Sue Arnulphy, a member of the organizing committee.

"It is a special day in our lifetimes, like being able to see Halley's Comet, and it is worth celebrating."

"And the raffle prize is something special. Where else could you win what's equivalent to a trip around the world for just 500 baht?"

In addition to the raffle prizes, there will also be some live auctions and silent auctions.

The party at the Hilton, a long

time supporter of the PIWC, starts at 6.30pm, will include live entertainment, great food and free-flow wine. Dress as you wish.

Event tickets are 3,000 baht each, with an early bird discount for tables of 10 booked and paid for before the end of this month.

For table tickets please contact Maria at T: 08694 32133.

For the special Qatar prize raffle tickets please contact Carole at T: 08758 21332.

PIWC Annual Gala Party

When: November 11, 2011

Where: Hilton Arcadia Spa & Resort.

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'Going ape' in the trees of Chalong

Phuket's new Xtremadventures park offers a full-on arboreal experience

By Nicholas Altstadt

ZIPPING, climbing, crawling, balancing and swinging through the trees of Phuket is no longer left to the domain of the monkey.

The island is now home to an adventure park unrivalled by others in size and an innovative first in all of Asia. Xtremadventures Phuket – owned by Frenchman Gilles Bassi and a partner – was opened in Chalong this June.

"When I came to Phuket, I realized there was nothing like this, so I thought it would be great to have one," Mr Bassi said.

The park is made up of 69 stations ranging from "very easy" to "challenging" and Asia's very first "Accro Spider" which makes use of nets to catch people when they fall and is ideal for young children – all the way down to four years old, Bassi said.

Adventurers testing the rest of the park must use a harness, and a combination of carabiners, ropes and a pulley.

Under the constant eye of professionally trained staff, guests must clip on to safety lines before having a go at the challenges: You can walk a tightrope, swing from platform to platform, soar on a flying fox, attempt "Asia's

highest tree climb" (25 meters) and zipline back to Earth.

How far you want to go depends on you, but this lanky, 192-centimeter primate can say that "challenging" does mean "challenging".

Experienced climbers will note that the safety equipment and quality of the park are top-notch, with all gear imported from France.

Bassi enlisted the help of his friend-cum-business partner Raphael Jamgotchian who was a partner in what is now France's largest tree adventure park.

Raphael and a French team built Xtremadventures Phuket over 2.5 months. It was then certified by a team from Ceres Control France, which is required for all such parks in EU countries.

"I absolutely did not want to play with safety – if people want to have good fun, it must be done in 100 per cent safety," Bassi said.

All ten staff members at the park have been trained by Raphael in special safety and rescue procedures, Bassi added.

For information about the park and discounts for residents (expats included) visit their website at xtremadventuresphuket.com or call 076 383 689.



SLACKER: The slackline was one of the more intimidating, yet surprisingly fun attractions. Photos: Nicholas Altstadt



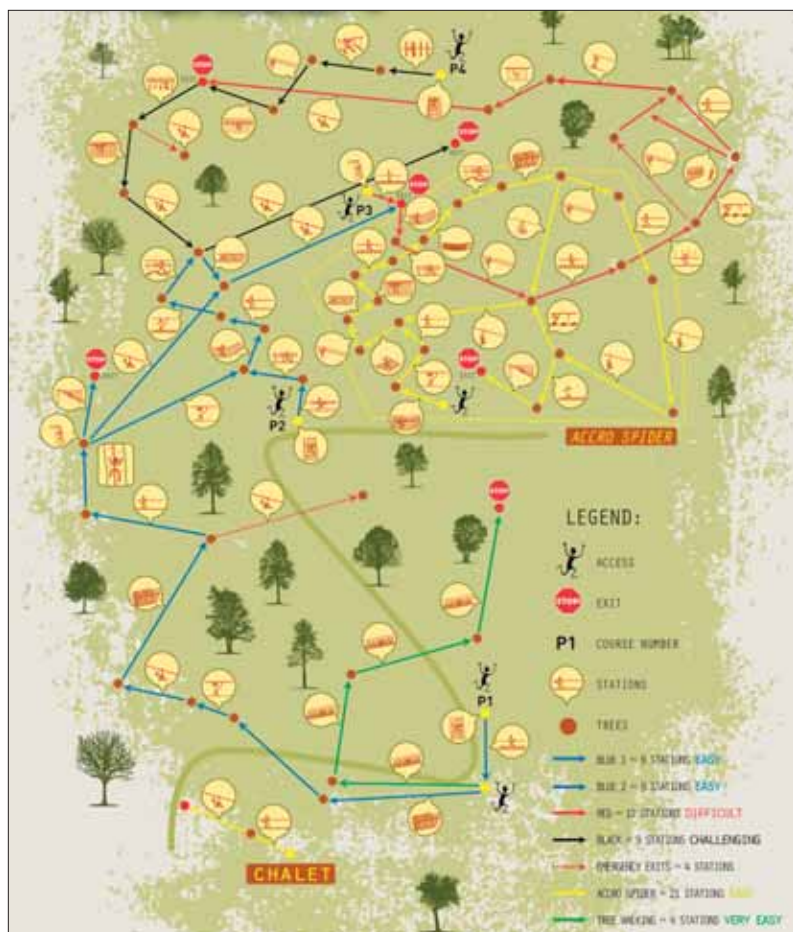
Zippering through the trees.



Photo: Xtremadventures Phuket



Xtremadventures General Manager Kurissara Kiratiwat and guide Aom.



Course map Image: Xtremadventure Phuket

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Pinky's Place: Why it's hip to be seen there

By Fraser Morton

THIS PLACE is so laid back the staff come here to hang out when they're not working. The Gallery Café By Pinky is straightforwardly cool. Simple but delicious menu items, music to suit the hipster tone of the décor and staff who know how to mix business with pleasure.

It's like 'Cheers', but with better looking, petite staff, and without the awful soundtrack.

Thirty something co-owner Tuangporn "Pinky" Jatikavankh, knows a thing or two about how to design a menu to cater to European tastes – a large majority of her customers.

She spent six years in England where among other things she refined her culinary skills at Le Cordon Bleu London. She also picked up an English accent and a love for English football (she's a Manchester United fan).

"I still love British food, especially full English breakfasts, and this is one of our most popular dishes we serve today," Pinky said.

Coffees, cakes, homemade sodas and burgers, toasties and tasty sweet treats, all are deliciously moreish and reasonably priced.

While expats nursing hangovers are a mainstay at The Gallery in the "am" on weekends, they are not



NICE BUNS: The Bacon Cheers Burger. Photo courtesy of The Gallery

alone. They rub shoulders with Thai university students and young professionals who mill around chatting with staff while sipping on coffees and green teas.

It's more of a social club than a café. People waft in and out. Some don't even buy anything. Tourists amble by, see the crowds and wander in to fish for freebie tourist information, which the staff is more than happy to oblige.

The open-air main façade is another bonus. It's welcoming and inviting. The street is an un-

enthusiastic leap away from the café and the din of street noise acts as the percussionist to the Indie music playing in the café, a quintessentially Phuket vibe.

"I still love British food, especially full English breakfasts"

Café manager Agradeth "Amann" Tanhemnayu, 29, is known by pretty much everyone in Phuket Town. He's a character people come to see here.

Easily recognizable and not easily forgettable by his dress sense and haircut, he is the glue that has set many Thai-foreigner friendships over his 12-year stint in Phuket.



BREAK TIME: Co-owner Tuangporn "Pinky" Jatikavankh. Photo: Fraser Morton

You'll understand what we mean when you meet him - he's quite sociable, and likes to chat.

That's the panache that café s like The Gallery have. It's why we go. Sure, the food is great, but it's also for the people. Don't come expecting to stay tight-lipped for too long, it might seem out of place.

And The Gallery's popularity has meant a great year for business.

British co-owner Simon Thomas, 36, said plans are in motion to take The Gallery brand to other areas in Phuket, and even further afield in Southeast Asia.

Simon first opened The Gallery as an antique store in the building next door to the café in 2005.

In 2008, he and Pinky added a café to the store, which became hugely popular, prompting them to buy the building next door, which the two-storey café occupies today. Currently, the upstairs is being turned into a sports bar, due to open next week. Yes, football matches will be shown.

This is a great little place to hang out, sip coffee and make friends. You can even "cheers" late into the night, as in high season the bar stays open until midnight.

Opening Hours: Low Season, 8am to 10pm; High Season, 7am to midnight. **Location:** 106 Rassada Road, Phuket Town **T:** 076-211775



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Drive past Allamanda and the Laguna Golf Club, turn to the left after you cross the Banyan Tree Bridge and you find yourself in full view of the beach.

A good starting point is the Lotus restaurant from where a 15-minute walk takes you to the Dusit Hotel.

Next to the Lotus is the smaller Laypang restaurant where the owner often does the cooking herself.

On the way you pass many other restaurants, such as Som, Tum and the Green Leaf. Almost next to it is the Sheraton Grande

with Gekko, a small bar and restaurant right on the beach.

A little further up, past the Beach Bar & Restaurant and the Wave Bar, you arrive at the Dusit. You can go in and take the 300 meter paved seafront path along the beach to the hotel's beautifully situated Casuarina Restaurant.

Walking back, if you have timed it right, you will see a sunset view on the horizon of the Andaman sea that will make everything else disappear and leave you in awe at the perfect scene. You wonder at how cool, after the scorching heat of the day, the orange ball of fire looks as it dips into the deep blue water!

At Bangtao, as you walk back to your car, you forget the jumble of bars and restaurants.

The feeling uppermost in your mind is that of the beauty and perfection of nature as seen in the sunset.

You are purged of negative thoughts proving Daniel Quinn, the American author of *Ishmael*, right in saying: "You can't watch a sunset and then go off and set fire to your neighbor's tepee"!

A lifetime

PRAH Mongkol Visut is one of Phuket's most revered monks. Locals fondly refer to him as 'Luang Pu Supha'.

On September 17 Luang Pu Supha celebrated his 115th birthday, unofficially making him the oldest living man in the world.

Luang Pu Supha was born in 1896, since then the revered monk has seen drastic and unimaginable change in his century long lifetime. He has seen five Chakri monarchs ascend the throne and he was 37 years old when a council of democratic reformers seized power from King Rama VII, ending the absolute monarchy that had ruled the country for centuries. For the first time in history, the reformers replaced the absolute rule of the king with a democratic system.

Luang Pu Supha was also there when this fragile democracy was taken away and replaced by a military dictatorship under Field Marshall Phibun Songkram. He was there when the country's name was changed from Siam to Thailand in 1936. Whereas there may be some people remaining today who were born during the turbulent period of the Second World War, Luang Pu Supha was already well into his forties when Thailand was forced to ally with the Japanese and give them free passage into the country.

As a monk, Luang Pu Supha is known throughout the country for his dedication to fostering Buddhism throughout his long life. As a person who has had the rare opportunity to see three different centuries, people are intrigued, just to imagine what those old eyes have seen.

Luang Pu Supha was born in the province of Sakon Nakhon, about 115 years ago. When he was seven years old, his father took him to a nearby temple to study with the

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

monks. When he was nine years old, he was ordained as a novice monk in a temple in Ubon Ratchathani province.

It is said that one day a visiting monk who was on pilgrimage came to Luang Pu Supha's village when he was young. On meeting him, the monk predicted that Supha would devote his life to Buddhism and become a prominent figure in religion. He asked Supha not to forget him and to come back and visit him one day when he was ready.

Supha lived and studied at the temple until he was sixteen years old, learning Buddhism from a monk called Prah Ma Ha La. At the age of sixteen, Prah Maha La gave him a choice and asked him whether he wanted to study Pali and become a Buddhist theologian or whether he wanted to study meditation. Supha chose the latter.

When the time came, Supha decided to leave the temple to find the monk that had predicted his future. As fate would have it, Supha found the monk meditating under a tree. The monk, who was called Prah See Tat, tested and trained the young Supha's patience and tolerance, observed his table manners and worked him hard to see if he could endure. Prah See Tat also taught him about meditation.

Shortly after, the young novice undertook his first pilgrimage to 13 different temples. He crossed the Mekong River from Nakhon Phanom into Laos. The journey was arduous and tested his mettle. He had to trek through thick unpopulated forest where he could not ask for alms and had to live



SUPERCENTENARIAN: Luang Pu Supha was given an honorary doctorate on his 115th birthday. Photo: K. Tree

off leaves and the bare sustenance the jungle provided. Prah See Tat, realizing his endurance and commitment, decided it was time to ordain the novice into monkhood in 1917.

Supha journeyed with Prah See Tat, crossed the Mekong River back from Laos and traveled until they reached Pu Kwai Mountain. The ordination ceremony took place in a nearby cave. Other monks that had been meditating in the area also participated in the ceremony. After he was ordained, Supha was given the name "Kantha Seelo".

Throughout his life, Luang Pu Supha undertook several pilgrimage trips through harsh terrains. He traveled north and crossed the border to Burma and encountered many dangerous adventures. Luang Pu Supha recalled it as his most exciting pilgrimage. He also traveled to India by boat, risking storms and violent seas for almost two months. Being in a non-Buddhist country, it was hard to ask for alms which meant that some days he had to go hungry.

He eventually reached the foothills of the Himalayas where the icy chill of the mountains proved hard to bear for a monk who wore only thin orange robes suited for warmer climates. He had to brave the harsh climates, walking more than eight kilometers, three to seven days a week in the harsh cold, in order to ask for alms.

Luang Pu Supha traveled extensively during his lifetime in order to visit different sites of pilgrimage, during a time when traveling was dangerous and hard. His only motive was his faith and his love for Buddhism. He returned to Phuket in his 60's and dedicated his time to helping the sea gypsies. The world's oldest man now resides at the temple named after him.



Luang Pu Supha was born before this Phuket landmark was even built.





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DIE HARDS: In 1945, three people survived a plane crash in Papua: Corporal Margaret Hastings (left and middle), Sergeant Kenneth Decker (right) and Lieutenant John McCollord (not shown).

A forgotten tale of a plane crash in tribal New Guinea

Books

By James Eckardt

Mitchell Zuckoff is a hack journalist and a very good one. His specialty is dredging up old forgotten stories and making them new again. His latest effort is *Lost in Shangri-La* (Harper Press, New York, 2011, 384pp). "Escape from a Hidden World - A True Story" is the subtitle of this tale of a plane wreck and rescue in New Guinea during the latter days of World War II. At the time, the story made headline news and the three survivors were feted from one end of the United States to another. They are long since forgotten but Zuckoff brings them back to life again.

Lieutenant John McCollord, Sergeant Kenneth Decker and Corporal Margaret Hastings, a petite, beautiful, spunky corporal in the Women's Army Corps, were the only survivors of a sightseeing C-47 transport plane that went down

in New Guinea's Balien Valley amid Stone Age tribes with no knowledge of the outside world.

The outside world wasn't aware of them until 1938 when playboy American explorer Richard Archbold flew over a valley inhabited by over 60,000 tribespeople who grew sweet potatoes and raised pigs and killed each other.

"They did not fight for land, wealth or power. Neither side sought to repel or conquer a foreign people, to protect a way of life, or to change their enemies' beliefs, which both sides already shared. Neither side considered war a necessary evil, a failure of diplomacy, or an interruption of a desired peace. Peace was not waiting on the far side of war. There was no far side. War

moved through different phases in the valley. It ebbed and flowed. But it never ended."

The 22 military passengers on the C-47 were on a sightseeing mission over the valley when pilot error

"...dozens of nearly naked black men, their eyes shining, their bodies glistening with soot and pig grease, their hands filled with adzes made from wood and sharpened stone, emerged from behind the curtain of leaves."

caused it to crash into a mountain. After two days of recuperation, the three survivors fought their way through jungle and streams into a clearing. Here they set out yellow tarpaulin covers from life rafts to signal rescue planes

and, sure enough, were spotted by a B-17 bomber. They had been lost for three days.

Gradually, the survivors came to the realization that the clearing was not an accident. They were in a garden of sweet potatoes and rhubarb. Then they heard voices.

"The jungle rustled and shook. As survivors stared helplessly in that direction, their fears took human form: dozens of nearly naked black men, their eyes shining, their bodies glistening with soot and pig grease, their hands filled with adzes made from wood and sharpened stone, emerged from behind the curtain of leaves."

Would they be killed? There were some votes in that direction but the final decision was to help them. Essentially, a quarter of the way into the book, the story is over. The rest is the mechanics of rescue.

Nine elite troopers are parachuted into another part of the valley, a clearing that turns out to

be a designated battlefield or no man's land that separated the territories of the warring Logo-Mhael and Kurelu clans. The troopers are quickly surrounded by 200 armed warriors.

"Although some natives thought the visitors were spirits, others believed they were warriors like themselves who had escaped a massacre...They felt certain of one thing: the strangers were not their Kurelu enemies, so they had no immediate need to kill them."

The three survivors were eventually rescued in a daring glider mission and returned to a heroes' welcome in the United States.

Then they faded back into obscurity. Margaret married, divorced and raised two children while working at a clerical job in Rome, New York.

During a reunion of three survivors and glider pilots in 1974, she remarked: "Fear is something I don't think you experience unless you have a choice. If you have a choice, then you're liable to be afraid. But without a choice, what is there to be afraid of? You just go along doing what has to be done."

Asked if she'd like to return to New Guinea, she replied: "You bet!" She died of cancer four years later.

Movie releases in Thailand

For show times, go to www.phuketgazette.net/movies/
Dates subject to change without notice.



Abduction

Release Date 22 September

Director John Singleton

Genre Action | Thriller

Starring Taylor Lautner, Lily Collins, Alfred Molina, Sigourney Weaver, Jason Isaacs

A teen finds himself in mortal danger after realizing that his entire childhood has been built on lies.

Apollo 18

Release Date 22 September

Director Gonzalo Lopez-Gallego

Genre Sci-fi | Thriller

Starring Lloyd Owen, Warren Christie, Ryan Robbins

Officially, Apollo 17, was the last manned mission to the moon. But a year later, two American astronauts were sent on a secret mission to the moon.



Cars 2

Release Date 29 September

Director John Lasseter

Genre Action | Adventure

Starring Owen Wilson, Michael Caine, John Turturro, Michael Keaton, Jason Isaacs

Star race car Lightning McQueen and his pal Mater head overseas to compete in the World Grand Prix



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Farewell, and Welcome

THEY say that all good things must come to an end. For me it is time to say farewell to those readers who have enjoyed reading the 134 profiles I've written about some of Phuket's most visible expats over the past two and a half years.

Of course there are many important foreign residents whom I have missed, and some whom I've not missed but who declined.

Writing these personal histories has been rewarding and challenging. The interviews have been the best part. I've gotten to hear the reasons why so many talented people have chosen to make Phuket their home. Many initially arrived on Phuket to deliver a boat, build a home, run a resort, or open a dive shop or a restaurant – and have found themselves connected to the great, enigmatic and unpredictable but wonderful life of this tropical island.

So many of the expats I've interviewed have had stellar careers in other parts of the world, including Europe, America and the Middle East, but have found happiness here.

These foreigners have successfully faced the obstacles of setting up a business in a very different culture where the challenges can be daunting – for some, rewarding; for others, insurmountable.

Some have come with substantial financial resources and others have arrived with nothing. They have all made important contributions to the process

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

of developing Phuket into one of the world's great success stories as an international community.

The stories in Expat Gallery have been fun to write, but I know that most of the readers are charmed by the sketches that Peter Child has drawn each week. I remain in awe of his talents at capturing the essence of a person's character in small details.

When I scheduled an interview, I took a couple of photos of my subject and sent them to Peter, along with some personal comments. He converted this into an animated personality with astonishing insight. I admire his talent in all 134 of the sketches.

I must thank John Magee of the *Phuket Gazette*, who invited me to write these columns. Expat Gallery was his idea and he has been the careful editor who fitted my work into the columns each week.

Finally, I want to thank each of the 134 expats for sharing their personal stories with me. They have all taken time out of busy schedules to do this. The result is a rich mosaic of men and women who have had dreams that inspired them to live here.

Though Expat Gallery is at an end, John wants you to know more of the 'international Thais' on Phuket – some well known, some not – who have made the island so much nicer for the day-to-day life of a foreigner than it might have been without them.

As foreigners, we often do not get to know many of the hardworking, honest Thais whose families have in some cases lived here for several generations. Their stories are always interesting, and it is hoped that 'Thai Gallery', which starts in this space next week, will help expats to better understand who, locally, has been so supportive and contributed so much to enable Phuket to develop into the cosmopolitan community it now is.

Nanthapa ('Nu') Pengkasem will be writing these Thai profiles. Khun Nu has lived around the world, most notably in the UK for 11 years, as the wife of a British career diplomat.

She is a talented photographer, writer and artist who worked in Nepal, France, Indonesia, Malawi and several other places.

Khun Nanthapa is Thai and truly international in her outlook and view of the world. Indeed, she herself would make an excellent subject of Thai Gallery. Besides writing for the *Phuket Gazette*, she is completing her training to teach yoga and hopes to support the island arts community.

I know I am leaving this page in very capable hands.



By PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

About Expat Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Expat Gallery" were chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket, and for having made those contributions through 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 not always clear. Some are not in business at all, but they all have one thing in common: when there's a *Who's Who in Phuket*, they'll be in it.

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Phuket Promise: The beach guards 'will be back'
PHUKET: Lifeguards will soon be back on the beaches in greater numbers and with more new lifesaving equipment, Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) President Paboon Upatising has confirmed to the Phuket Gazette. The news follows the February 26 expiration of the contract for the Phuket Lifeguard...
March 6, 2011
Full Story

Greater Phuket: Shock TAT report on stinking beach
PHUKET: Despite regulations of the local village government stipulating that garbage not be placed out for collection before 8pm, trash continues to be dumped on Krabi's Ao Nang Beach in broad daylight. Tourists say they don't like it. The stink and the unsightly mess are a source of harsh complaints not only from tourists....
March 1, 2011
Full Story

Phuket lucky license plate auction raises more than B123mn
PHUKET: The sixth annual "Lucky License Plate Auction" held in Phuket Town over the weekend raised 23,504,500 baht. Kanok Siripanchikorn, chief of the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO), has told the Phuket Gazette. "I am very happy with the revenue raised - it's five million baht more than last year," he said....
March 1, 2011
Full Story

Phuket Police target ladyboy meth users
PHUKET: Almost fifty per cent of the ladyboys rounded up in a sweep of Phuket's Soi Bangla area last night tested positive for methamphetamines, Patong Police say. The random testing, led by drug suppression division inspector Akanit Danphithuksart, targeted transsexuals along Soi Bangla and

Events Calendar
The island's NEWSpaper... since 1993

Add Your Event

Date	Hours	Title
Mar 7 - 13	08:00 - 23:30	RPM Facebook: Guess the Beach Game
Mar 7 - 11	21:00 - 01:00	Mango House Festival
Mar 12	07:00 - 16:00	Transforming Felicity and Adversity at Mind Centre
Mar 13	20:30 - 12:30	Salsa Night @ Les Angeles
Mar 16	08:00 - 12:00	Phuket Yacht Club Kid's sailing
Mar 17	10:00 - 12:00	Celebrating The Burgundy Grand Crus by Drouhin
Mar 18	19:00 - 22:30	Phuket International Women's Club AGM and lunch
Mar 19	10:00 - 14:00	Curry Fridays
Mar 20	19:00 - 23:30	FREE Computer Clinic - Chalong
Mar 25	20:30 - 10:30	SIX of the Best in Phuket
Mar 26 - 27	10:00 - 12:00	Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron Island Regatta
Mar 26 - 31	08:00 - 17:00	Bacon and Stone Visual Arts Exhibition
	11:30 - 23:30	

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

September 21-24. QuikSilver Thailand Surf Competition 2011

The event will be held from September 21 to 24 at the north end of Patong Beach near the Graceland Hotel. While most of the activities will be held on the beach here, some or all surfing heats may be moved up to neighboring Kalim Beach as conditions require. Other than bigger and better prizes, new this year will be a Master's Division for competitors 35 and over. The competition is now part of the Asian Surfing Championship (ASC) tour with contests held in Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Thailand. Contact: Puttaraksa at T: 02-6520792-3 E:quiksilverteam@quiksilver.in.th or visit W: quiksilverthailand.com.

September 25. Thanyapura Arts & Organic Farmer's Market

Turn Sunday into something special for you and your family at the Thanyapura Arts & Organic Farmer's Market from 11am to 4pm. Activities: • Art Exhibition • Open House to Sports Club with free access to Fitness Centre, Kids' Club, Tennis Courts (Club Membership information available) • Balanced Naturally Products, Jewellery, Kids Swimwear, Local Crafts, Baan San Fan, Live Music, Brunch at DiVine Restaurant at 650 baht per person. 350 baht for kids. Brunch with free flow sparkling wine: 1,100 baht per person. Contact: Jo at T:076-336000 E:jo@pia.ac.th or visit W:thanyapura.com.

AOCAP

Alternative Ownership Conference Hotels and Resorts - Asia Pacific

2011

October 9 to 11

From 8.30 am to 6 pm at Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok.
The Alternative Ownership Conference Asia-Pacific provides a platform for Resort Developers and Operators within Southeast Asia to meet and discuss exciting new concepts which are now appearing in the region, and which offer developers greater scope and flexibility in their master-planning and execution. The AOCAP Conference will provide an opportunity to learn more about concepts such as Branded Residences, Condo-hotels, Buy-to-Use-and-Let, Destination Clubs, Fractional Ownership and Private Residence Clubs, and how they can be successfully introduced into a resort's menu of recreational real estate offerings.
This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.
Contact Chanut at T:089-5127030 E:info@aocap.org or visit W:aocap.org.

September 27 to October 5. Vegetarian Festival 2011

This Annual Festival is always held during the ninth lunar month of the Chinese calendar. Although the origins of the festival are unclear, it celebrates the Chinese community's belief that a strict vegetable only diet will purify the mind and body. Sacred rituals are performed at all the Chinese temples in Phuket. The processions from each temple show strict vegetarians, known as devotees,

ostensibly possessed by gods, piercing their tongues, cheeks and other parts of their anatomy with sharp implements. The devotees apparently feel no pain and show no sign of real injury.

September 27 to October 3. Ceramic Sculpture/ Adult Visual Art Class

Ceramic Sculpture and Pottery Wheel Course for Adults. Our pottery course teaches throwing techniques on the pottery wheel, and hand building and sculpture through clay. Cost 300 baht per person per session, plus materials, plus fire charge of 500 baht per course. Adult Visual Art Classes allow you to explore your individual style under the guidance of professional artist Luxsana (Nok) Charernsri. Drawing and Painting Class: Thursdays, from 8.15am to 10am. Water Color Class: Saturdays, from 9.30am to 11.30am at Phuket International Academy Day School. Oil and Acrylic Painting Class: Saturdays, from 1pm to 3pm. Cost: 300 baht per lesson for members; 500 baht per lesson for non-members

(excluding materials). Contact: Jo at T:076-336000 E:jo@ pia.ac.th or visit W:thanyapura.com.

September 27 to October 3. Stilts Walking/Sculpture & Recycle Course for Kids

Stilts Walking - Juggling Sticks - Hula Hoop - Creative Dance - for kids aged 6 years+. Learn how to balance yourself by using different tools to develop body flexibility, strength and coordination. Juggling, Walking on Stilts, Creative Dance, Poi or Bolas, Pantomime, Sticks, Hula Hoop. Wednesdays from 3.45pm to 5pm. Saturdays from 10am to 11.30am; cost

3,000 baht per person per 10 classes. Sculpture & Recycle Course: Express your emotions and imagination through your hands to art. Tuesdays from 3:45pm to 5pm. Saturdays from 11.30am to 12.45pm; cost 3,000 baht per person per 10 classes at Phuket International Academy Day School. Contact Jo or Greta at T:076-336000 E:jo@pia.ac.th, greta@tamburellarte.com or visit W:thanyapura.com.

September 28. Skippers Quiz Nights

Join our Wednesday Quiz Nights here at Royal Phuket Marina, the first of which is September 28 from 7.30pm to 10pm. This event will be followed by October 26, November 30, January 25, February 29, March 28, April 25, May 30 and June 20. The events start at 7.30 pm. Happy Hour prices and prizes! Contact: Staff at T:076-271583 E:pahay@netvigator.com.

September 29. Thursday Special

Les Angeles introduces our new, weekly Thursday Special starting September 29 onward from 7pm to 10pm. We are delighted to offer this promotion on our selected menu "Come 4 Pay 3". This gives you a 30 per cent discount on your food and beverage. The evening will also be complimented by a live duo band. Contact: Murat at T:081-7973364 E:muratc@royalphuketmarina.com or visit W:royalphuketmarina.com.

September 30. New Orleans Night

New Orleans Night at Two Chefs Karon from 6pm to 2am. As usual, we will set up a big buffet with amazing food. This time it will be Cajun-Creole Style with Cajun boiled Crayfish, Seafood Jambalaya, fresh oysters and a lot more. Our house band will entertain and there will be a lot of happenings. You get all this for only 495 baht (VAT included). Reservation at T:076-286479 E:karon@twochefs.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

Free Computer Clinics

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

September 25 - Chalong

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CHECK PLEASE: Marriott Vacation Club represented by Mr. Garry Kirkland and Mr. Ludy Gutierrez (fourth and fifth from left) donated 109,269 baht to Khun Noppasorn Siripakde Director of Human Resources, JW Marriott Resort & Spa (third from left) to help renovate the Hongyok School as a part of The Habitat Organization project.

YOUR Phuket



RESPECT: British International School celebrates traditional Wai Kru Day.



HULKS: Danish FC Phuket fans in Phuket town celebrating a win.



SOWING THE SEEDS OF LOVE: Sabine Kraus and Dave Williams planting rice for the Yaowawit school Project.

WHERE DO I COME FROM? Kajonkietsuksa Kindergarten recently hosted Heritage Day, a celebration of cultural heritage through music, stories, craft activities, national costumes, games and food.



NORTHERN LIFESAVERS: The North Phuket Resorts Association on Mai Khao beach comprising of SALA Phuket Resort and Spa, JW Marriot Phuket Resort & Spa, Anantara Phuket Villas and the Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa conducted their annual lifeguard training with the Aquatic Academy at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club.



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IRISH EYES ARE SMILING: Irish Honorary Consul, Hélène Fallon-Wood (left) seen here with Khun Peung and Adrienne Dunne.



ROCK 'N' ROAR: The Roaring Bhoys provided the music.



PARTY TRIO: (from left)Tania Cheerful, Sarah Corley and Rebecca



HELLO SAILOR: Grenville Fordham, Commodore of Ao Chalong Yacht Club pauses for some light refreshment.



Günther Nutt and Gordon Anderson



TIMES 2: Tommy Corley and Mile

88

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The Impossibly Possible Quiz

General Knowledge

1. What play is the longest running play in history?
2. What are the occupations of "the three men in a tub" fairy tale?
3. What was the first rock-n-roll song to hit #1 on the charts?
4. What celebrity had to issue an apology in February 2005 after her T-Mobile Sidekick II was hacked and all of her celebrity friends' phone numbers, which had been stored in the device, were posted on the internet?
5. What sport has a hooker in a scrum?
6. What manned US space program eventually put 12 men on the Moon?
7. Edwin Jarvis serves as butler to what superteam?
8. What artist was struck in the face with a mallet by an envious rival, disfiguring him for life?
9. What river runs through Baghdad?
10. What actor played the school principal in E.T., only to have his scene cut when Spielberg decided that his presence would be too distracting?
11. What poet wrote the following lines? "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I ...I took the one less traveled by."
12. What per cent of all human beings ever born are alive at this very moment?

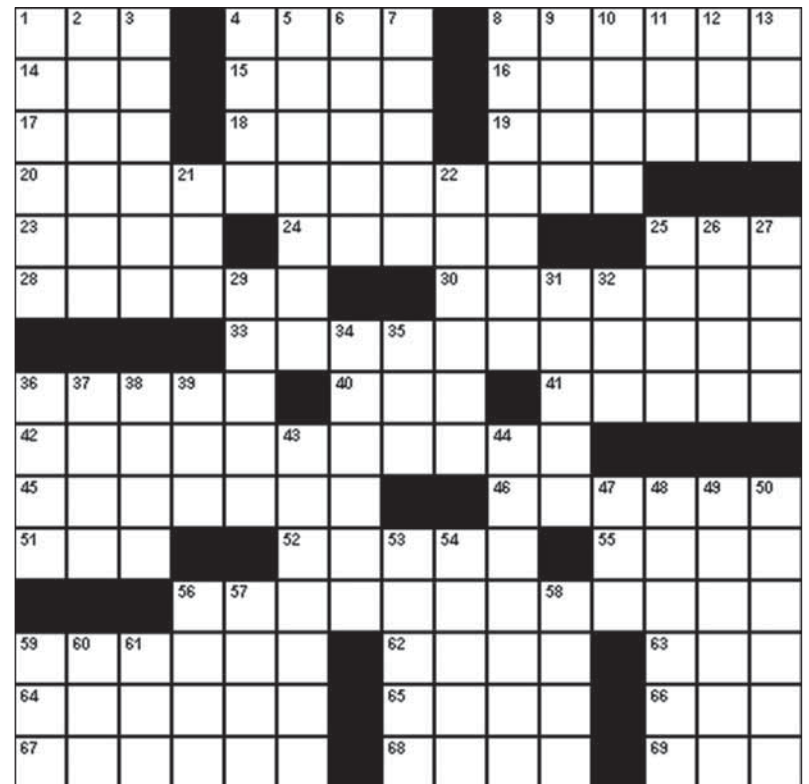
Quiz answers on page 39

Across

1. Cushion
4. Fast fliers
8. Beyond
14. Alias letters
15. Other, in Oaxaca
16. Blossom
17. Edge
18. Overlay with wood
19. Theater district
20. Act of implanting
23. Busy as —
24. Photo finish?
25. Drag
28. Island in central Japan
30. Shaped like a hood
33. Crimson
36. Israeli desert
40. — see it...
41. More wan
42. Collapse of the lungs
45. Japanese musical instrument
46. Shipworm
51. Beast of burden
52. Gives a 9.8, say
55. Fiber source
56. Producing stupor
59. Peace salutation
62. He sang about Alice
63. The Company
64. Complete
65. Chow —
66. Recipe abbr
67. Blush
68. Hook's helper
69. "— loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah"

Down

1. Outcast
2. With hands on hips
3. Moist
4. Caribbean dance music
5. Submachine gun
6. Hackneyed
7. Gannet
8. Kenyan, Nigerian, or Congolese
9. Advertising award
10. Horse color
11. Nocturnal bird



12. A collection of articles
13. Hit sign
21. Bandleader Brown
22. River in SW Asia
25. Follow
26. Magazine founder Eric
27. Will of "The Waltons"
29. Busy places
31. Pass into disuse
32. Writer LeShan
34. Doze
35. Botanist Gray
36. American space agency
37. Greek letters
38. Precious stones

39. Actor Wallach
43. Earwax
44. I've been framed!
47. Baseball stat
48. Builds
49. Pertaining to Denmark
50. Recorded
53. Crews
54. Violinist Zimbalist
56. Aforementioned
57. Shipping deduction
58. Circle at bottom, point at top
59. Sun talk
60. Hydrocarbon suffix
61. Old Ford

Provided by BestCrosswords.com.
Used with permission.

Puzzle solutions on page 39

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):

A calmer astral atmosphere is predicted for those born under the sign of Libra this week. With a more relaxed outlook on life, you will be in touch with people who can help you get ahead in the world of work. A water sign deserves to be forgiven for chickening out of an obligation. If your birthday falls during the week ahead, expect to find more motivation in the coming year.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):

Scorpios should find that taking a break is more affordable and easier to do than they thought. Those whose summer holiday was a non-event are encouraged to push the boat out and sail away for a while. The stars suggest that you will benefit from the fresh energy this provides. There are signs that a romance which has been troublesome from the start will be left behind.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):

Finances fall under the spotlight for Sagittarians this week. A mixed money bag lies in store, with emphasis on mistakes being made during calculations mid-week. On a brighter note, an earth sign friend is forecast to pay back a debt sooner than you anticipated. The

stars suggest that those who are ready to move on after becoming single will enjoy meeting an earth sign this weekend. Wear the color lime green to get noticed.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):

Work-related plans are likely to fall by the wayside this week when Capricorns learn of new circumstances. A fire sign is forecast to irritate you by beating around the bush, but water signs can be relied on to give direct information. Your light hearted approach to romance appears to be the opposite of what a new air sign partner is seeking. Tuesday is the best day for an honest conversation.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):

Your priorities are set to change this week when another air sign comes up with reliable information. Aquarians' ability to think quickly should enable them to take the necessary steps towards success. Where personal relationships are concerned, your charisma attracts a fire sign this weekend. Those already committed may learn that their partner is jealous of an innocent friendship. Make this weekend a time to remind them where your heart really lies.



PISCES (February 20-March 20):

Pisceans can think more clearly during the last week of September. This is useful as the stars suggest that a quick decision will be called for on Wednesday or Thursday. If this is work-related, there are signs that the remainder of this year will be a time for you to move fast forward. There are hints that your cheerful mood could be overwhelming for another water sign who is down in the dumps this weekend.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

Arians continue to see the sunny side of life during the last week of September. Your luck at work continues to be strong and developments in your personal life are well-starred, with emphasis on a water sign showing the way towards relocation for those who are ready to move. Where a romantic relationship with another fire sign is concerned, Arians can dream on, but a water sign is waiting patiently in the wings.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Slowing the pace of your life as September draws to a close is advisable. The stars indicate that October will bring more activity than you anticipate, with emphasis on travel. Taureans who thought they were content with being as free as a bird could be compromised when an air sign shows romantic interest. Those already committed are forecast to have some explaining to do this weekend when their partner raises a sore point.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Geminis are forecast to be coasting towards an easier life during the last week of September. The only slight downside could occur this weekend when a partner has enough of your couch potato tendency. Meeting them halfway should be an option that works. Those who are single could find that a fire sign becomes the apple of their eye. Auspicious days for money matters are Wednesday and Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Those born under the sign of Cancer should allow nature to take its course this week. There are hints that you may be tempted to rush certain

matters and this is bound to backfire. If business is far from booming, the stars suggest that the trend will reverse when October gets underway. Romance with a fire sign is best left simmering until both parties are more certain of their feelings.

LEO (July 24-August 22):

A more harmonious period lies ahead for Leos. As September draws to a close, there are signs that satisfying progress will be made at work. One long-term project is forecast to be finalized ahead of time and ideas you have for new endeavors are well received by people who are hard to impress. In the realm of romance, the stars advise treading lightly where an air sign is concerned.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23):

Virgoans run the risk of being called a wet blanket this week. Your lack of enthusiasm to join in social activities is forecast to be disappointing to others. Those who have too much on their minds should approach a sensible water sign friend or family member for advice. Lucky days for finances are Sunday and Monday. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, your chances of meeting a soul mate increase as September draws to a close.

PROPERTY Gazette

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Brand Andara and investing in Phuket

The American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) Greater Phuket chapter held an event last week where record crowds turned out to hear Hong Kong billionaire Dr Allan Zeman give his thoughts on what it takes to make any business venture successful.

By Marc Mulloy

HUNDREDS of Phuket developers, resort industry professionals and business people packed into the chic Silk restaurant at Andara Resort and Villas in Kamala to hear what the "Father of Lan Kwai Fong" had to say.

Mr Zeman came to fame in Hong Kong when he purchased an entire block in the city's Central district in 1984 transforming it into the world-renowned restaurant and nightlife area known today.

Twenty years on he was invited to become the chairman of Hong Kong's Ocean Park and managed to increase profits there despite the opening of Disneyland Hong Kong.

"When you do business in a foreign country, the most important thing to learn is to first understand the culture of your customer. Where does your customer come from? What are they used to doing?" Mr Zeman said.

"Culture takes many, many centuries to change, so if you

want to be successful, the most important thing you can do is adapt the way you do business to fit into the culture.

"Those of us that are living out here in Asia are very lucky. There is a tremendous shift from west to east, a paradigm shift. Europe as we know it, in many ways is a basket case, the same with North America. China is slowly starting to lead the world and has US\$3.25 trillion in reserves, America is bankrupt and Europe is not much better off. So, the wealth is really coming out here," he added.

After building his dream holiday home, Chandara, in Phuket, Allan Zeman realized the potential of the high-end resort market here and built Andara Resort & Villas and the Plaza Surin boutique shopping center. He believes Phuket has a great future.

"I've always been enchanted with this island. There's a magic here: there's the Thai culture, the food, the beaches, the weather, the natural environment. I'd say this

place is blessed. I've always said that it's one of the best places in the world," said Mr Zeman.

Given the success of Andara, which is now nearly sold out, the *Phuket Gazette* asked if there will ever be an Andara 2.

"You want to keep some exclusivity for current owners, so Andara will not expand. But we will be doing a sister project, Suandara, which is down the road and we're getting the land registered and all the necessary requirements.

"We are also building a new, bigger plaza across the road from Surin plaza with 54 shops, a restaurant on top, glass lift, elevators - a special landmark.

"Another lesson I have learned is that there is only 'first class'. Whatever business it is that you're in, always aim to be the best. If you aim for first class, you may end up in business class. If you aim for business class you may end up in economy. If you aim for economy, you'll go broke," Mr Zeman warned.



WORDS TO THE WISE: Dr Allan Zeman explains his business philosophy while kindred spirit and Royal Phuket Marina founder, Mr Gulu Lalvani looks on.

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PROPERTY

Phuket Airport tipped to reach breaking point

With tourism numbers surging, Phuket International Airport is expecting a record four million passenger arrivals for the year 2011.

AS ARRIVALS to Asia's leading resort destination in the first half of the year increased 20% over the same period in 2010 and an unprecedented number of new hotel rooms opened, sagging infrastructure is creating a widespread danger to the island's tourism industry.

In the changing dynamic of guest demographics the Patong area which accounts for 35% of the 43,571 accommodation rooms on the island has edged into the mainstream. Patong-wide occupancy hit 82% in the first half of the year, with China and Russia now taking a quarter share of the market.

Numbers are straining the handling capacity of the airport with Airports of Thailand (AoT) expecting 7.95 million passengers this year, which will exceed the stated capacity (6.5 million) by 22%. A US\$ 164 million expansion plan that will increase handling to 12.5 million by 2014 will only start construction next year and tourism operators are increasingly concerned over mounting delays by travelers.

First half hotel trading by volume markets saw a surge in Phuket's average occupancy across all hotel tiers to 73%. Key market metric Revenue per Avail-



able Room (RevPAR) moved up to its highest level since the global financial crises in 2008.

The island's top 5 tourism source markets to date are China, Russia, Australia, South Korea and Sweden.

Somehow Phuket has gone into a retro stage where tour groups, wholesalers and the mass movement of visitors are once again the norm rather than the exception.

A leading indicator in the cyclical development was shown in 2010 when charter flights hit their highest ever level equating to a 153% increase in year on year growth.

Commenting on a steady rise in airlift, Laguna Resorts and Hotels Plc Managing Director Michael Ayling said "The increase in the number of direct flights into Phuket is resulting in better air accessibility into Phuket and affordability of travel to the destination.

As long as the infrastructure keeps pace with the increased numbers of tourists, expansion of hotels and faculties that are well planned and implemented, the ho-



ARE WE THERE YET ? AoT expects 7.95 million passengers this year which will exceed the stated capacity (6.5 million) by 22%.

tels will be able to properly manage their room rates in line with the supply and demand dynamics."

Investment into Phuket's hospitality sector has strong positive business sentiment with a supply pipeline for the island of 6,968 rooms. This will see an increase of 16% by the end of 2014.

As the northern part of the island is preparing for work to start on the new International Convention and Exhibition Center, Minor International's Bill Heinecke said "We have reviewed opportunities to expand our very successful Anantara Vacation Club and Mai Khao is the destination of choice for a new 100 key resort that is set to open in late 2012."

Looking towards the future,

increasingly the number of existing hotels will face the necessity to upgrade, rebrand, or downgrade market position while transaction activity is expected to remain active.

In this business, either you move forward or go backwards, there is no standing still.

Unfortunately progress now faces increasing waiting time and delays at the island's international gateway and progress by the tourism industry could be derailed without a greater sense of urgency by AoT and immigration officials.

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

In brief...

ACCOR's economy brands get shuffled

THE HOSPITALITY industry is buzzing over the announcement that global giant ACCOR is consolidating its growing economy offerings into as single *Ibis* umbrella.

Ibis going forward will offer three products with the core *Ibis* brand becoming the omnibus namesake.

All Seasons looks to be headed to the bin with conversions of these properties to be called *Ibis* styles. While the, none too familiar name in Asia, *Etap* is set to change to *Ibis* budget.

Lest anyone be confused ACCOR still does have a budget tier with its *Formule 1* which is being retained.

At the end of the day, under new ACCOR Chairman and CEO Denis Hennequin's stewardship, who is ex-McDonalds, the consolidation of brands makes sense in terms of scale of delivery and critical mass.

Laguna Property has new sales director

THE REAL estate arm of Laguna Phuket has appointed Lyndon Philips as Director of Sales for Banyan Tree Residences and Laguna Property.

Phillips is well known on the island having worked at Royal Phuket Marina and Engel and Voelkers -Thailand.

He will report to Dan Simmons who is Group VP for Banyan Tree, Angsana and Laguna Property.

Absolute's Private Residence Club

ABSOLUTE World have commenced construction of the oceanfront development *The Beach* in Koh Samui.

Set to operate as a private residence club the project is located in Thong Krut and is designed by the international firm Yoo.

With a combination of suites and penthouse units the concept of shared ownership is expected to gain market momentum faster than straight unit sales.

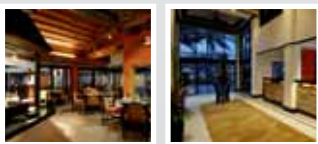
Private residence clubs are not a new product in the global context but in Asia it's still in its infancy. Hotel groups such as Banyan Tree have successfully launched destination clubs with a good deal of success.

LAGUNA

PROPERTY RESALE

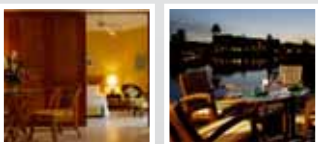
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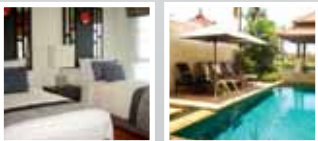
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Foreign currency exchange risks

Property Legal

By International Law Office

MANY foreigners who have decided to buy a residential property in Thailand are required to use funds held in foreign currency in their country of origin.

Property transactions in Thailand utilize myriad ways in which a buyer pays the purchase price to the seller. For instance, a buyer may be required to make payments to the seller upon signing of the sale and purchase agreement, followed by installment payments in accordance with the construction's progress and then a final payment on completion. In some cases, full or part payment is made against registration of title transfer.

No matter what terms of payment may have been agreed between the parties, an important issue that applies to most property purchases by foreigners in Thailand is that of currency exchange. Whenever a buyer has the currency for his property purchase in a bank account outside of Thailand and the parties agreed

to a sale and purchase price in Thai baht (which is the usual case), the buyer is required to remit his foreign currency into Thailand in an amount equivalent to the agreed Thai baht purchase price.

A crucial issue to consider is that currency exchange rates experience volatile fluctuations; therefore, the amount of foreign currency equivalent to the agreed Thai baht purchase price may vary considerably from the date the contract was signed until the time payments are due. This may result in a buyer being required to paying far more (in foreign currency) than he originally anticipated.

For a buyer who may not have sufficient monetary reserves, this increase may cause his inability to pay on time, leading to his default of the sale and purchase contract. Such a scenario should be considered by a risk aware buyer, particularly in these days of economic uncertainty, as a default in payment may have severe consequences such as the termination of the sale and purchase agreement by the seller and/or forfeiture of all monies paid to the seller de-

pending on the agreed terms.

Another relevant factor to consider when buying a property with foreign currency is the place and time of the currency exchange into Thai baht. Exchange rates may significantly differ depending on where the actual money exchange occurs. Usually, there is a material difference between an off-shore exchange rate set by a bank outside of Thailand and the on-shore exchange rates quoted by Thai banks. Therefore, a buyer may find it problematic to determine in advance the exact amount of foreign currency required to be transferred into the Thai baht bank account of a seller in order to make payment of a certain Thai baht amount due.

Furthermore, buyers should investigate if their property purchase is subject to certain laws or regulations requiring remittance of foreign currency into Thailand and its subsequent conversion to Thai baht. For instance in case of a condominium unit purchase foreigners are usually required to instruct their bank outside of Thailand to transfer foreign currency into Thailand (where the purchased property is located) in amount equivalent to the Thai baht sale and purchase price of the unit. The receiving Thai bank would then make the applicable conversion at the time of



CASHING IN: Exchange rates may significantly differ depending on where the actual money exchange occurs.

credit of the currency into a Thai baht account in Thailand.

In addition, the purpose of the remittance and name of buyer is required to be disclosed under the payment instructions provided to the remitting bank. Otherwise it may result in a buyer being unable to collect the documentation from the money receiving bank in Thailand showing all details usually required by the competent land department office at the time of registration of title transfer. The same documentation may be required to be presented to your bank when applying for the repatriation of funds received upon a subsequent resale of a property.

To summarize, before entering

into a legal agreement for the purchase of property in Thailand, all potential buyers should conduct a careful investigation into all the legalities and risks involved.

To avoid pitfalls and traps for the unwary, a buyer would be well advised to consult with a reputable law firm and professional advisors prior to signing any contracts or making payments for the purchase of a property in Thailand.

This article is written by International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd. and is for informational purposes only. In case of inquiries, please contact Michael Greth, Consultant E:michael@ilo-phuket.com or T:076-2221915 for more information.

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PLANTING some ground cover plants is a practical move that will add exceptional interest to your garden. For now, I'm going to pass on the most common ground cover plants in Thailand such as the spider lily and the spiral ginger, both of which attain heights of over 50 centimeters, and are practically employed in undercover environments all over Phuket. Instead, I will describe those unobtrusive plants that hug the ground, and rarely trouble their loftier neighbors.

Ground cover plants are valued for several reasons. They look decorative, they provide a sort of natural mulch by aiding the retention of moisture and most importantly, they perform a valuable function in carpeting those bare and unsightly areas in shrubberies and borders. They can also be used in containers where their foliage provides an attractive contrast to grander incumbents of pots such as *Euphorbias* or desert roses, shrubs which reach skywards, unimpeded.

Common throughout the tropics is *Tradescantia spathacea*, a member of the spiderwort family, and more familiarly known as 'Moses in a boat'. It has characteristically dense rosettes of lance-shaped leaves that are dark green and often glossy above, and purple underneath.

Though it hails from Mexico, this vigorous grower is available in garden centers everywhere in Phuket, usually potted in small plastic containers. The fleshy root system is shallow, and the plant can easily be propagated from cuttings, especially if you remove a small piece of root with the stem.

Because it's an understory plant from the tropical woodlands, it likes moisture and some



"Moses in a boat" flowers (top and bottom left); *Tradescantia spathacea* content beneath taller flora (right). Photos: vitopingo, sigusr0, InspireKelly

shade, though the leaves may lose their purplish underside in very low light. This is hardly a problem in Phuket, but it's an issue sometimes when the spiderwort is grown as a house plant in temperate areas, as it often is.

Here in Phuket, it can be grown outdoors, singly or in clumps, and its neat habit makes it suitable as a border plant, or for edging pathways. By the way, it got its name because the small, white, three-petaled flowers, appear between boat-shaped bracts in the axils of the leaves.

As with so many plants, hybrids are beginning to appear in garden centers in Phuket. Look out for a pretty, variegated cultivar with striped foliage in shades of yellow, pink or deep purple.

The purple heart or *Tradescantia pallida*, is another much

cultivated member of the family. Again, it may be a familiar houseplant to European and American readers. Its leaves are a similar lance shape, but are a striking shade of smoky purple. It has small pink flowers, but it's also grown for its foliage.

It is less durable than its relative, has brittle stems, and a trailing habit. The other small drawback is its attractiveness to slugs and snails – you may need to protect your new plants with slug bait.

As with 'Moses in a boat', it needs some sun to produce its most attractive hues. However, it's even easier to propagate from cuttings, so beg a few snapped off stems from a friend if you want to introduce it to your garden. Given the right conditions, it will spread quickly. Yours truly has many flourishing in pots



alongside their bigger brethren.

A less widely known plant is *Hemigraphis alternata* which comes from Indonesia. Like the purple heart, it has a trailing habit, and is often seen in hanging baskets. The oval leaves are metallic green on top and purple below.

Already cultivars are appear-

ing, one with turned down leaf edges (*exotica*), and another with long, notched foliage (*repanda*). To discover them though, may require some undercover detective work in local nurseries.

If you have a question, or a garden that you would like featured, E:camelotdatura2011@yahoo.com

Tip of the week

Caring for orchids

EVERY Thai garden should have its share of orchids. They are the biggest and perhaps oldest single group of perennial herbs, and have arguably the widest range of forms and colors of any flowering plant.

Contrary to popular belief, orchids are relatively easy to cultivate. They have aerial roots and they are mainly epiphytic – their natural tendency is to anchor themselves to forks and crevices of tree limbs. Only a few terrestrial orchids grow in

conventional soil, so not surprisingly, they need relatively little water, and most thrive in filtered sunlight.

Of course there are variations. Orchids with thick, leathery leaves need more sunlight than those with long thin foliage. The former retain moisture by means of a waxy cuticle which limits evaporation. In the garden, they are best grown in hanging baskets which offer some similarities to their natural conditions.

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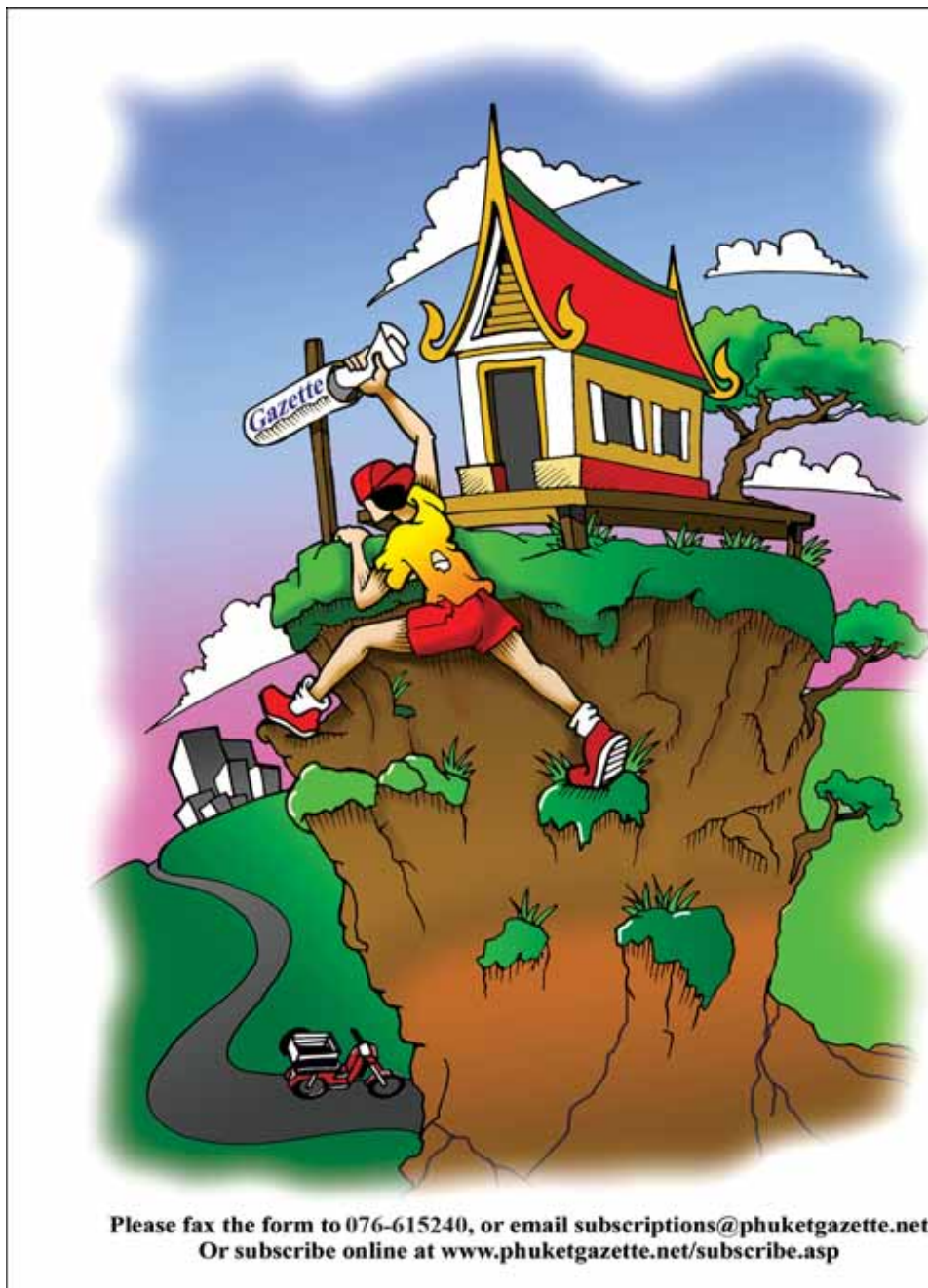


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Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
Chaba Supermarket



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!

Properties For Rent

KAMALA MODERN TOWNHOUSE



Good for living in or as office, next to road. 2 bedrooms with aircons, 3 bathrooms. 18,000 baht per month furnished; for sale at 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-397 1303, 087-385 4180.

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, and car park. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

EXCLUSIVE HOUSE NAI HARN

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool, jacuzzi, 800sqm land. For long- or short-term rent. For further details, please see our website at www.phuketqualityhouse.com

PATONG 30SQM APARTMENT



Long-term rent, Jacuzzi, internet, TV, safe, kitchen, aircon. 15,000 baht per month. 9 floor building. 5 mins to Bangla Beach. Tel: 083-393 6700. Email: graffi.roberto@gmail.com

HOUSE IN PATONG

Newly furnished modern house with 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, spacious dining area and stylish open western kitchen. Living room with balcony. Full aircon. All extras: LCD television, Internet, satellite. Quiet setting. 27,000 baht per month. Please call for more info. Tel: 084-185 8536.

12,000 BAHT/ MONTHLY RENT



Apartment, pool, fully furnished, WiFi, cable TV, kitchen. Cheap lease with private financing for foreigner 10-30 years. 100,000 baht yearly rent. 200 meters from Rawai Pier. Tel: 089-054 5271. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.thai dreamvilla.com

POOL VILLAS FOR RENT

1,2,4 bedrooms, Bang Tao area. Fully furnished. 17,000 baht. Tel: 085-674 6786.

2 B/R CONDO FOR RENT PATONG

Luxury fully furnished condo. Swimming pool, etc. Tel: 084-523 1714 (English). Email: bern@global.net.au

SEAVIEW 2 BEDROOM CONDO NAI HARN

Fully furnished, quiet area, aircon, pool, TV, Internet, laundry, 2 terraces - 25,000 month. Tel: 088-445 6108. Email: thekimbha@yahoo.com.au

2 BEDROOM RAWAI CONDO

60sqm, fully furnished, top floor, aircon, cable TV, pool. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-039 3784 (English). Email: tominphuket@gmail.com

READY TO MOVE IN! 14,950B/M



long term only. 5 mins to British School. Fully furnished with modern fitted kitchen, including oven. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with hot showers, full aircon. W/ machine. Shared 12m pool. Tel: 084-690 9144.

PHUKET VILLA DOWROONG



House for rent, 55sq wah, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, no phone line, unfurnished. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-270 9093.

KATHU HOUSE FOR RENT

Single house with swimming pool, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons, hot shower, fully furnished. Near golf course. Rent 28,000 baht per month. Sale: 7 million baht. Tel: 081-440 0101.

THAI VILLA AND POOL NAI HARN

Soi Naya, Nai Harn. Luxury rent: 40,000 baht per month. Contact for more information. Tel: 081-270 5126. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

THE GREENHOUSE POOL BUNGALOWS



In Chalong, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, cool, green, quiet with ADSL, cable and aircon. Price: 13,000 baht per month. Contact John. Tel: 081-979 1976.

SUNSET PLAZA KARON



Condos for rent/sale. 1 or 2 bedrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 083-440 0091 (Sona), 086-3029742 (Kae).

LONG-TERM RENT

1 bedroom, fully furnished. House near Chalong Bay. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311.

DELUXE OCEAN VIEW CONDO, KARON

Furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. Available short or long term 29,500 baht per month, 1 year. Tel: 076-486624, 086-281 9311. Email: phuket.seaviewcondo@ymail.com

FULLY-FURNISHED HOUSES

2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Near Panwa Bay. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at <http://panwagreen.weebly.com>

BED AND BREAKFAST

Phang Nga/ Phuket Bed and Breakfast - 2,500 baht per night. Just 20 minutes from Phuket Airport and one hour away from the chaotic beaches such as Patong. Enjoy Phang Nga's most beautiful Bed and Breakfast with access to the entire home. Enjoy the peacefulness and unspoiled paradise in a small timeless village. The home has all modern amenities, including a beautiful swimming pool, while offering the original classic lifestyle that emanates the tradition of Thailand. Very near local pristine natural beaches by the Andaman Sea. The home is limited to only 3-4 rooms, but we do everything possible to organize our guests to a maximum of only 2 sets of guests at a time. If you are a family we will organize the house for your exclusive usage for 4,000 baht/night with your choice of a traditional Thai or Western breakfast. House includes full-time staff that will cater to your every need. Tel: 081-926 3286 (English & Thai). Email: miakcg@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.phangnga.realty.com/real-estate-in-phangnga.php?t=5

CONDO IN PATONG

1 bedroom, nicely furnished at Phuket Palace. Pool and parking. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 1621.

2 RAI WITH HOUSE FOR RENT

Layan, 2 bedrooms, 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-714 8391. Email: andreapaoletti1@hotmail.it

CHEAP KAMALA RENT

1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, aircon, fully furnished, free internet, cable. Long term: 7,000 baht. Tel: 081-826 7287.

PATONG STUDIO 28SQM

Aircon, fridge, TV, DVD and ADSL. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-971 5664. Email: ronny2507@hotmail.com

ROYAL PLACE CONDO



1 bedroom on the 7th floor. Cable TV, fax, refrigerator, washing machine, living room, internet, car parking space. Rent: 15,000 baht/month. Fully furnished, swimming pool, fitness. For sale 2.6 million baht. Tel: 081-893 9493 (Thai), 081-891 2333 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-223237. Email: anusara@phuket.biz

SEAVIEW CHALONG-RESIDENCE



5-bedroom-pool villa on 1 rai of land. Brand-new construction near Wat Chalong on the way up the hill. A huge 685sqm of living area. Fully furnished. Attractive terms. Modern European kitchen. Big seaview pool terrace with sala and attractive bar area. Security alarm system, stereo, remote gate entry, phone, video. Monthly long-term rent 160,000 baht. WiFi, cable TV, maid, pool cleaner and gardener included. By owner directly. Tel: 085-654 4011, 089-404 0737. Email: schulz.th@gmx.de

BUNGALOW FOR RENT

Long-term lease: 16,000 baht per month. 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, unfurnished in Chalong. Tel: 089-922 2800. Email: simonchinner@yahoo.com

POOL VILLA IN RAWAI

Fully furnished, with 3 bedrooms near Lotus Rawai, in quiet and secure area. Tel: 089-472 9870. Email: d_chaibut@yahoo.com

LOVELY APARTMENTS



Phuket Town and also available close to central, cable TV, internet, security, swimming pool, gym. 15,000 baht to 20,000 baht PCM. Can also supply motorcycle and truck. Tel: 081-539 9612, 087-633 1472. Email: chrispalmer56@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT NEAR LAGUNA

in Soi pasak, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, internet, A/C, car park, long term 16,000 baht/month. K. Jureeporn. Tel: 087-274 0680 (English & Thai). Email: noegabriele@hotmail.com

THE ONE! BEACH HOUSE

At Kamala, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, European style. 75,000 baht/month. Includes all services. Available September 15 until December 15. Tel: 081-894 3839. Email: ayearlikenoneother@gmail.com

ONE BEDROOM BUNGALOW

Rawai quiet location, aircon, TV, kitchen. Price 8,000 baht. Tel: 086-279 0837.

2-BEDROOM TWIN HOUSE



in Phuket Town. 20,000 baht/month. Surface: 45sq wah (180sqm). - 2 storeys: ground floor with living room, kitchen, bathroom, terrace, garden and parking lot. - Top floor with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 balconies and living room. - Peaceful area in a nice neighborhood (and uncommonly large roads)

- Only minutes away from Bangkok Hospital Phuket and Central Festival
- 24-hour security
- Clubhouse with swimming pool
Call 081-868 7676 or 089-868 2268 for more information or house inspection.



houseinphuket.com

Rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Welita

50,000 BAHT YEARLY RENT



or lease, studio at Rawai condotel, quiet, furnished, cable TV, fridge. Cheap lease with private financing for foreigner 10-30 years. 200 meters from Rawai Pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.haidreamvilla.com

2-BED APARTMENT IN PATONG

120sqm apartment with 10sqm balcony. Large sunken living/dining room, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Full built-in kitchen, storeroom. European standard. All aircon. Tel: UBC, WiFi, etc. 20,000 baht, long term pref. Tel: 081-185 8536.

HOUSE FOR RENT KAMALA

House for rent in Kamala. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, with TV and computer. Includes large pool. Tel: 086-971 9776. Email: Natacha_phuket@hotmail.com

500 B/DAY OR 10,000 B/MONTH



Rawai bar pool guesthouse. Affordable rates, standard and family room with aircon, fridge, WiFi, cable TV. Car and motorbike for cheap rent. 100 meters from the Rawai Pier. Tel: 076-284716, 081-416 1072. Email: info@rawaitan.com Website: www.rawaitan.com



URGENTLY REQUIRED!!!

The famed and legendary Boathouse in Phuket, set on the amazing beach of Kata, was recently acquired by Montara Hospitality Holdings, and has just been totally redesigned and beautifully renovated. We are currently urgently looking for the following positions:

Management Level	Front Office	Kitchen
Financial Controller Sales & Marketing Manager Re Ka Ta Beach Club Chef Re Ka Ta Beach Club Manager Purchasing Manager	Receptionists Driver & Bellboy	Chef de partie - Western cuisine
	Housekeeping	Engineering
	Room attendant	Painter Electrician Engineer
	Food & Beverage	
	Bartender Waiters/waitresses	

Interested applicants, please e-mail full resume and a recent photograph to sales@boathousephuket.com or panwadee@boathousephuket.com

Boathouse
182 Koktanode Road, Kata beach, Phuket 83100, Tel: 076 330 015
www.boathousephuket.com



bitsiren | Bespoke IT and Marketing Solutions |

Senior Web Developer / Technical Project Leader

BitSiren, an IT/web/marketing communications agency, is expanding its dynamic team of professionals in Phuket. Potential applicants can find the job description and qualifications and skills sets required for the position by visiting www.bitsiren.com/about-bitsiren/career.html.

This is a unique opportunity to join a company where talented and motivated applicants are welcome. BitSiren offers a competitive compensation package including: 5-day work week, health insurance and social insurance contribution. If you are a hard-working professional who meets the job criteria and would prefer to work in a modern office using state-of-the-art tools with a supportive team, please forward your CV (English language) with a cover letter to: recruitment@bitsiren.com

BitSiren Co. Ltd., 113/228 Anuphas Golf Ville Moo 7,
T. Kathu, A. Kathu, Phuket 83120, Tel: 076 319 179

SALES PROFESSIONAL-BKK OR KL

Various sales and marketing roles for native English speakers or other nationals with exceptional/fluent English speaking abilities. Excellent earning potential, unlimited for certain roles. We are looking for highly motivated self starter types looking to stay in the region. A proven track record in sales is a must. Please send email to careers@faramond.com

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

TLI are seeking an experienced, fluent English speaking Thai Landscape Architect to join our expanding Phuket office. Tel: 076-620099. Please forward resume including photo and expected salary to info@tropical-landscaping.com

YOGA & PILATES TEACHER

Qualified yoga and pilates teacher required for high season guests, in Surin area. Please send CV to admin@esxoasia.com

THAI STAFF NEEDED

Must speak English. Basic salary, commission and contact included. Patong area. Tel: 081-270 1370. Email: m@bayshoreprojects.com

WEB CONTENT MANAGER

For IT company. English speaking Thai national, degree in philology. Must have good knowledge of English and good computer skills. Tel: 076-304117. Email: gws.marinina@gmail.com



What is your story?

- Do you want to be the best?
- Do you enjoy delivering a higher standard?
- Are you passionate about your career?
- Are you a positive team player?
- Would you like a 5-day work week?
- Would you like free transport to and from Phuket Town?
- Would you like international career guidance and coaching?

If you said YES to the above then please submit your CV with cover letter stating the position you are applying for to email address recruit_phuket@anantara.com

Contact Human Resources Department,
Anantara Phuket Villas Tel: + 66 (0) 76 336100-9 Ext 552-553
Fax: + 66 (0) 76336166



Positions Available

Food & Beverage

- F&B Manager
- Restaurant Manager
- Infinity Bar Manager
- Bar Supervisor
- Bartender/Bartendee
- F&B Supervisor
- Hostess
- Waiter/Waitress
- Waiter/Waitress (part-time)

Engineering

- Shift Engineer
- Handyman

Housekeeping

- Villa Attendant (part-time)
- Uniform & Florist

Housekeeping

- Reservation Officer

Spa

- Therapist

Kitchen

- Executive Sous Chef
- Sous Chef
- Demi Chef
- Chef de Partie
- Commis II
- Cook Helper
- Steward (part-time)

Diversions

- Kid Club Attendant
- Water Sport (part-time)

A successful candidate will need to possess average or above average English communication skills.

Join us to create your own story! Good Luck!

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

SUB-EDITOR

- ▶ Able to write news stories in clear, concise English
- ▶ A team player
- ▶ Willing to work extended hours
- ▶ Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- ▶ Have the initiative to delve into the facts to make a good news story
- ▶ Newspaper experience and/or layout skills, especially PageMaker

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and samples of work published in print or on the internet by email to Oh@PhuketGazette.net

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

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

New IT Company is seeking Graphic Designers to join our rapidly growing company. A creative mind and willingness to work as part of a team is a must. Skills required: Adobe PhotoShop (HTML not compulsory). Monthly salary is 20,000-35,000 baht. Tel: 086-951 3478. Email: kirrin.lis@iecki@nriteam.com

CREW POSITION ON LIVEABOARD

Thai male or female, age 20-35. Good organizer, neat, tidy and pleasant. English language skills essential. Work-and-learn attitude more important than previous experience. Salary: 15,000 to 20,000 baht, depending on capabilities and experience. Tel: 076-398370. Email: info@nautica-diving.com

EXPERIENCED PHP PROGRAMMERS

Internet Marketing Company in Bang Tao is seeking experienced PHP Programmers to work as part of our highly creative development team. You must be able to demonstrate a "can do" attitude, be flexible, adaptable and have an outgoing personality.

Skills Required:

- PHP & MySQL Development
- xHTML & CSS
- JavaScript & jQuery
- Good command of the English Language

Salary range: 35,000+ depending on experience.
Tel: 080-081 6484 (English).
Please contact email: admin@nriteam.com

FLASH ACTION SCRIPT

Designer and Programmer opportunity with professional company in Phuket. Email: kirkasia@hotmail.com

MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR LEADER

Amazing Bike Tours are seeking more guides to join our team. Must speak good English and be passionate about biking. Thai Nationals only. Tel: 087-263 2031. Email: info@amazingbike.toursthailand.asia

SYSTEM ADMIN (LINUX)

Small, dynamic Internet Marketing Company in Bang Tao seeks flexible, adaptable System Admin with a "can do" attitude. You will:

- Install, support and maintain servers, software, application components and other computer systems
- Setup servers and supporting services to accommodate application migration requirements
- Ensure a robust backup and restore policy with effective contingency planning for service outages and other problems
- Perform user administration (setup and maintain accounts)
- Undertake scripting and light programming
- Monitor system performance and network communication and verify that peripherals are working properly
- Have a good understanding of computer security (e.g. firewalls and intrusion detection systems)

Attractive salary for the right applicant, depending on qualifications and experience. Tel: 080-081 6484 (English). Email: admin@nriteam.com

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



wine connection
DELI & BISTRO

In the frame of rapid growth,
we are looking for the following candidates

- Bakery Chef : 1 Position**
- Bakery Sous Chef : 1 Position**

- Thai Nationality
- Minimum 3 years of experience as the same position with record
- Ability to manage team of 10 staffs
- Must have a through knowledge of the materials, methods and equipment direct used in preparing bakery/pastry
- Good Benefit for the right candidate**

Please send the resume to hrrcruitphuket@wineconnection.co.th
or call 076-282 411 and 081-895 3314 for further information



Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

- ▶ Thai national (able to read, write, speak fluent Thai)
- ▶ Ability to communicate clearly in English
- ▶ Clear thinking in order to identify what makes a good news story
- ▶ Initiative and enthusiasm to track down the story
- ▶ Photography skills
- ▶ Able to manage own time effectively
- ▶ Knowledge of Burmese an advantage
- ▶ Driver's license

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to Oh@PhuketGazette.net

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



PHUKET ADVENTURE GOLF

Do **YOU** want to share the "Adventure" with us?

We are currently looking for dynamic
"Team Members" to join Us!

POSITIONS

- ▶ Sales & Marketing Person
- ▶ Restaurant Supervisor
- ▶ Bartenders
- ▶ Waiters/Waitresses
- ▶ Cooks (Western and/or Thai Food)
- ▶ Pizza bakers
- ▶ Golf kiosk Attendees

If you believe you can be an asset to the team, please send us
your updated resume to: manager@phuketadventuregolf.com
Tel: 080-1427342.
www.phuketadventuregolf.com

Benefits: Bonus • Insurance
• Paid holiday (full) • Free meal • Free uniform
• Take part of the tip-sharing

-More than a game... Open NOW!




British International School, Phuket

British International School, Phuket is looking for candidates to fill positions in the following areas:

- **System Maintenance**
- **Steward**
- **Building Maintenance**
- **Housekeeping**
- **Pantry (Cook Helper)**

- **Teacher's Assistant**
Qualifications
- Thai National
- Bachelor's Degree in related field
- Teaching qualifications and experience with child care / teaching experience preferable
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills
- Love to take care of children
- **Primary Secretary Assistant**
Qualifications
- Female, Thai national
- Bachelor's Degree in related field
- Excellent English, computer literate and good people skills
- Able to coordinate with other departments in academic capacity

Benefits: uniform, group insurance, provident fund and etc.



59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road,
Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
Tel: 076-335555 # 2113, 2110
Fax: 076-335573
Email: patcharakornt@bisphuket.ac.th or
sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th



Scandinavian Divers

One of Phuket's biggest Dive Centers has free positions in the following departments:

1 Accountant, Chalong office, Phuket
1 Thai booking staff, Chalong office, Phuket

For the accountant the following qualifications are needed:

- Able to speak and write English
- Minimum 2 years of working experience in accounting
- Knowledge of QuickBooks an advantage
- Knowledge of official papers as work permits, TAT license and related company papers an advantage.

For the Thai booking staff the following qualifications are needed:

- Knowledge of the English language
- Knowledge of the dive business
- Knowledge of hotel locations on Phuket
- Knowledge of working with a computer
- Presentable and flexible

Interested candidates are welcome to Email a resume immediately. We will then call you to make an appointment for an interview.

Chalong: Phone: 076-383052
Email: info@scandinavian-divers.com

HANDYMAN
For house & boat. You have good skills in all sorts of maintenance & repair work? Please send us your brief resume. Email: boatjob1234@gmail.com

MR CYRIL
Looking for lady who speaks Thai, English and French very well, good experience. Salary 10,000-20,000 baht per month. Contact for more info. Tel: 080-143 8523, 084-898 1065.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT ANALYSTS
Technical Support Analysts - Helpdesk (Inbound Call Center) in Bang Tao. This role requires a strong understanding of computers, an outgoing personality and a flexible, adaptable, "can do" attitude.

Skills required:

- Previous customer service experience
- Clear spoken English and excellent written skills
- Able to resolve simple technical issues and use judgement to escalate complex service issues
- Able to follow prescribed processes, managing cases from end to end to maintain service levels.

The successful candidate will benefit from a friendly and exciting place to work with plenty of opportunity for excellence and hard work to be recognized and rewarded.

Salary range: 25,000+ depending on skills and experience
Tel: 080-081 6484 (English). Please contact email: admin@nriteam.com

TIMESHARE CLOSERS WANTED
Patong's newest and fastest selling deeded Holiday Ownership concept wants top closers to join our team. Exceptional package which includes flights, accommodation and top benefits. Tel: 083-396 1918 (English), 084-308 3688 (English). Email us your CV today. Email: bigdogphish@gmail.com

WEB CONTENT WRITER-BANG TAO
Working with us, your role as a Content Writer will be as part of a highly creative development team. A creative mind and willingness to work as part of a team are a must. You must be able to demonstrate a "can do" attitude, be flexible, adaptable and have an outgoing personality, plus:

- Excellent English skills with a flair for writing original, unique, fresh, creative content for websites
- An eye for detail and a knack for editing and proof reading
- Good research skills and the ability to write informative short articles and online content such as ezines
- An understanding of what makes effective, user-friendly websites which maximize user-retention
- An understanding of keywords and meta tags with the ability to write web page titles, meta tag descriptions, alt tags for images, etc.
- Sales and Marketing background preferred
- Attractive salary for the right applicant

Tel: 080-0816484. Email: admin@nriteam.com

THE SWEETEST JOB ON PHUKET
We need Thai staff for our candyshops in Kata, Karon and Patong. You must speak basic English, be organized and service-minded. Full time with good salary. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-888 1819. Email: marie@phuketgodis.com

MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR LEADER
Amazing Bike Tours are seeking more guides to join our team. Must speak good English and be passionate about biking. Thai nationals only. Tel: 087-263 2031 (English). Email: info@amazingbiketours-thailand.asia

WEB PROJECT MANAGER/FRENCH
Must have experience in programming, software development and project management. Tel: 086-478 0322. Email: kannika.liva@gmail.com

F&B MANAGER CAPE SIENNA
Seeking a creative, experienced, outgoing professional with great customer service and management skills. Send CV to: frank@cape-sienna.com

THAI STAFF NEEDED
Work in the sun. Must speak English. Basic salary, commission and contacts included. Patong area. Contact Mike. Tel: 081-270 1370. Email: m@bayshoreprojects.com

FRANCHISE ASSOCIATE
Brokerages available in Phuket and Pattaya to sell businesses and property. Full training and set up given. Fees apply. Tel: 087-034 0568. Email: phil@tsba.info

SECRETARY WANTED
Full-time, speaks English. Please contact for more details. Tel: 089-652 5664.

STAFF REQUIRED FOR NEW HOTEL
Reception staff, four waitresses or waiters, four bartenders or barmaids, two cashiers, two accountants. Contact Victor. Tel: 088-819 1976 (Thai). Fax: 076-366204. Or send email: admin@hemingwayshotel.com

CREW POSITION ON LIVEABOARD
Thai male or female, age 20-35. Good organizer, neat, tidy and pleasant. English language skills essential. Work-and-learn attitude more important than previous experience. Salary: 15,000 to 20,000 baht, depending on capabilities and experience. Tel: 076-398370. Email: info@nautica-diving.com

ELECTRICIAN BOAT REFIT
If you are a professional please send us your brief resume. 1,500 baht per day. Email: boatjob1234@gmail.com

POLE & LAP DANCE
Instructor wanted. Foreign or Thai. Tel: 080-324 5481. Email: newnightsport@gmail.com

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

Articles For Sale

KINDLE FOR SALE

Gen1, 6-inch screen + case. Paid 8,000 baht, selling for 5,000 baht, includes lots of books. Tel: 087-266 7514.

PIONEER DJ EQUIPMENT



2 x Pioneer CDJ 800 Mk 2s, Pioneer DJM 600 4 channel mixer housed in a brand-new flight case, 1 x Crown amp in cabinet, 2 x XXL Speakers. 80,000 baht ono. Tel: 087-086 9821. Email: jpoole-robb@knightsbridges.com

15 OCT AUCTION EVENT THALANG

Saturday 15 October 2011, Souththailandauctions invites you to join the auction event for many kind of products. Please visit website for more details and conditions. Contact us soon. Tel: 076-313235. Fax: 076-281283. Email: accounts@souththailandauctions.com Website: www.souththailandauctions.com

AQUARIUM FOR SALE

200x60x80. 960 liters. 12mm glass. Including outside filter and pump (1.5m³/hour), skimmer system for marine fish and UV lighting. Paid 27,000 baht for everything. Selling for 15,000 baht. Email: poloyaux@gmail.com

SAILING HALL OF FAME

The classic Hobie 16 Catamaran. Lots of fun and easy to sail. Good condition. New wires and beach wheels. Assorted spare parts. 150,000 baht. Email: supanova999@yahoo.com

LIVING SALE

- Vibration workout machine. Model: FLABÉLOS FL. 3,000.
- The fast track to great abs (for press)
- Running track DM fitness
- LG TV 47"
- LG DVD home theater system
- DVD player Phillips
- Forsen camera. Model: Sanden intercool.
Contact Natalie for pictures. Tel: 083-636 1435. Email: natadubai@inbox.ru

HITACHI PROJECTOR

CP-X445 LCD. Cost 73,000 baht. 35,000 baht ono. Free tripod screen 90". Email: m.allen.phuket@gmail.com

7 PIECE FURNITURE SET

Like-new condition, priced for quick sale. Includes large matching mirror not shown in photo. 19,500 baht for entire set. Tel: 081-892 3559 (English & Thai). Email: siamtexan@gmail.com

ALPINESTARS BOOTS

Alpinestars No Stop Trials boots, brand-new, never worn, size 11 (US). Price: 10,000 baht. Tel: 081-367 2916.

ARAI HELMET

RX7 Corsair Kenny Roberts replica, brand-new, never worn. Size XL. 15,000 baht. Tel: 081-367 2916.

CROSS-STITCH

Many finished cross-stitch pictures for sale. For pictures and prices on request. Email: labobv@telfort.nl

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

COLD ROOM / CHILLER UNITS

2 Sets of compressors + control panels for a cold / chiller room. Ideal for hotel / restaurant. 150,000 baht. Tel: 089-650 3940 (English). Email: info@swmeat.com

ESPRESSO MACHINE 45,000 BAHT

Double arm ASCASA Coffee machine with grinder (as new). Ask me for more details. Tel: 081-375 0016, 081-375 0016. Fax: 076-344057. Email: gphuket@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL GRILL

Stainless-steel, rotating grill and gas lava stone grill for sale. Tel: 089-251 0785. Website: http://sedara.net/pgad1.htm

RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT

From Lucky Kitchen for sale. 3 burners, steak grill, soup pot. Tel: 081-810 5559.

Bulletins

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

For Phuket info (English) call 081-7372246, 081-8954763 or email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

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

Bangkok Hospital - Phuket City
Fri 7 PM

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

Green Man Pub - Chalong
Tue, Thu, Sat 1 PM

Stereo Lab Restaurant - Surin Beachfront
Mon and Thur 9:30 AM

Scandinavian Meeting - Karon
Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April)

Tel: 086-9440460 Swe, 085-4647450 Swe

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

AILING WITH KIDS

Phuket Yacht Club are seeking instructors and sailors with experience, qualifications and enthusiasm to support sail programs on a regular basis. Call Donna. Tel: Tel: 086-120 0752. Email phuketyachtclub@gmail.com

SPONSOR A CHILD

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

NEWLY ARRIVED

International British clairvoyant, medium and author John Campbell. For private consultation. Tel: 080-1482197. Website: www.johncampbell.com

Business Opportunities

KATARESTAURANT

3+3 year contract, rent only 8,000 baht per month. No yearly fees. 400,000 baht ono. Tel: 081-891 9461.

LAUNDRY SHOP FOR LEASE

Patong area, on main road, 220,000 baht, fully equipped. Rent: 8,500 baht per month. No key money. Tel: 089-232 9807.

BAR FOR SALE

550,000 baht, near Family Mansion in Soi Patong Gym, Patong Beach. Tel: 089-731 4077.

SHOP FOR RENT

62sqm, Rawai, on main road. 1 year rent: 200,000 baht. Airon. Tel: 089-822 7547 (English), 085-471 5043 (Thai).

BAR ON BANGLA ROAD

Fully equipped bar with 2 TVs (42" and 29"), big freezer, stereo, etc. Contract for 35 months with low rent, only 8,700 baht per month. For sale quick due to relocation. Only 1.2 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 089-875 8187 (English). Email: topbergren@hotmail.com

SPA MASSAGE SHOP

For takeover. All new furniture and decorations. Takeover costs 750,000 baht. Rent for shop is 17,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-419 0106.

CAR WASH FOR SALE

On main road in Nai Ham. Have shop next to C.W. Yearly contract. Only 370,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 088-168 5032.

BEAUTY SALON FOR RENT

Nanai Road, Patong. In busy Nanai Sauna complex. Ongoing business. Fully equipped. TV, aircon. 18,000 bath per month. Tel: 076-346172, 082-286 5171 (English & Thai). Email: nanai.sauna@yahoo.com

BAR AND RESTAURANT

Large, modern and very clean bar and restaurant for sale in the heart of Patong. Complete with 3 TVs, pool table, bedroom, full kitchen, 4 bathrooms. 3 million baht (negotiable) for 3-year contract. Must be seen! Contact Craig. Tel: 084-443 9350 (English), 081-767 2971 (English & Thai). Email: gunnecraig_2000@yahoo.com

PARTNER WANTED

For Mexico 8 Latin restaurant. Opening in Patong soon, near Jungceylon. Tel: 084-744 1184.

Available For Rent Offices / Showrooms

40/80-160 sq. meter ground floor units

PLAZA DEL MAR Entrance to Laguna Phuket



Please contact Khun Nong for more details

Mobile: 087-266 8400 Email: plazadelmar@gmail.com

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

- Julapan Stationery (Chao Fa East Rd) Tel: 076-282254
- KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) Tel: 076-280400
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282403

PATONG

- Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-344521-2
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-290468
- Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) Tel: 076-342275

PHUKET CITY

- Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: 076-232398
- Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd) Tel: 076-258369
- iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone Tel: 076-255425

CHERNG TALAY

- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (main entrance road to Laguna Phuket) Tel: 076-325586
- Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)

RAWAI

- The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-613173

KARON

- EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd) Tel: 076-396911

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EuroStyle Tailors



Simply write out your ad, pay for it and leave it with Khun Anand. Tel: 076-396911 or 081-536 5550.

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Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** in the **Gazette Online!**

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PROFITABLE LAUNDRY BUSINESS

A profitable laundry business located in a two-storey house in Patong, which includes full accommodation. Regular clients of guesthouses/small hotels, with seven machines in total along with steam generator irons and other equipment. Currently employing two staff. Priced to sell at 590,000 baht. Tel: 087-267 9280 (English). Email: philsk@ihug.co.nz

BUSY CAFE IN PHUKET TOWN

Prime location in Phuket Town. Selling because partner is leaving the country. Busy all year round and super busy in high season. Guaranteed profit from the first month you own. Tel: 090-176 5416. Email: g_for_golf@hotmail.com

CAFE BAR FOR SALE

In Patong, 120sqm, fully equipped. Price: 300,000 baht. Contact Alex. Tel: 081-495 4761.

11 UNITS APT-HOUSES FOR SALE

Off Nanai Road; newly renovated; secure income with little work, long-term rentals; Chanote title; sale by owner; detailed sales folder available. Only 7.9 million baht. Tel: 087-265 0652 (English). Email: gisbert1@gmx.net

KAMALA BAR FOR SALE

Large bar on main road. Good takings, 3 flatscreen TVs, stock, furniture, pool table, bedroom with separate shower & WC. Call Peter or Chompoo. Tel: 084-844 3504.

GYM FOR SALE IN KARON

Professional Gym (including 3 bedrooms), seaview, motorbike hire, 600sqm. includes all equipment, motorbikes, TV, DVD, website, LTD registered. Offer around 3.3 million baht (excludes rent). Call Andrew. Tel: 083-280 0087.

PATONG GUESTHOUSE

For sale. 5 rooms, 22 seat restaurant. No key money. 2+3 year lease. Price: 1.2 million baht. Tel: 080-361 5356. Email: pelleviktorsson@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT FOR SALE IN KARON

Or rent, very new, 120sqm, aircon, TV, bathroom, terrace includes all dining and cooking equipment. Sale: 590,000 baht, or rent 25,000 per month. Contact Andrew. Tel: 083-280 0087.

PATONG GUESTHOUSE

8 rooms, internet cafe and apartment. Asking price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 085-794 6530.

SHOP FOR RENT

Nai Harn area, on main road. Great location. Only 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 088-169 1071.

Business Products & Services

BUDS NURSERY KINDERGARTEN

Phuket's oldest bi-lingual international child care facility. High-quality, time-proven schedule and curriculum. Experienced native English teachers to teach ages 1½ - 6. Mon-Fri 8am - 5pm. Bus service available from Patong, Karon, Kata, Phuket, Rawai and Chalong. Tel: 076-282 232, 080-624 7060. Website at: www.buds-phuket.com

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◀ 5,500 baht, valid up to 10 years
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38/3 BANGYAI RD MS PHUKET (BEHIND BIG C)
TEL: 084-0068736 FAX: 076-209058
Email: iaa@intllicense.com

www.phuketvisa.com

1,500.-	Daily Visa Run To Ranong Border. Fully Includes Food - Drink - 10\$
1,800.-	Daily Visa Run To Andaman Club Resort Casio & Spa. Fully Includes Food - Drink - 10\$
4,000.-	To Penang, Malaysia to apply for New Visa. Includes: 3 Star Hotel, Food & Drink. Single Room. By VIP Van (Night time)

BUSINESS VISA 15,000 B. MARRIED TO THAI PERSON VISA 25,000 B.
ONE YEAR VISA FOR AGE UNDER 50 YEARS 25,000 B.
RETIREMENT VISA 25,000 - 32,000 B.

Trip To	Day	Aug.'11	Sep.'11	Oct.'11	Free pick up around island
Malaysia	Wed.	3, 17, 24	7, 21, 28	5, 12, 19, 26	
	Sun.	7, 14, 21	4, 11, 18, 25	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	

WE ARE FULLY QUALIFIED LAWYERS AND NOTARIES
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64/46 Moo 1, Chao Fa Road, Tambon Vichit, Muang Phuket District, Phuket 83000. Email: phuketvisa@hotmail.com
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- Divorce
- Property Legal Services
- Thai Wills
- Tax & Accounting Services
- Dispute Resolution
- Notary Service

CONTACT US NOW FOR A FREE CONSULTATION!

Bangkok Main Office
(BTS Asok or MRT Suksumvit stations)
22nd Floor, Interchange 21 Building
Suksumvit Rd., Corner Asok Rd.

Phuket Branch Office
365 Srisoonthorn Road, Cherm Talay, Talang, Phuket

www.gam-legalalliance.com info@gam-legalalliance.com

PHUKET-MAID.COM

Phuket house cleaning service provides professional maids, flexible schedules, several cleaning option. Tel: 081-958 8452.

STUDIO 38

- Sign
- Media
- Advertising

Please contact K.Pu 086-698 6544. Email: p.studio38@gmail.com

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Are you running a restaurant, hotel, bar, resort, health spa, country house or any combination of these and would you like to?

- Take back control of your business finances.

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- Keep track and manage your valuable inventory.

- Cut down on food or beverage service delivery times so that more customers can be served at a faster rate.

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Tel: 085-784-3043.

Visit our website for more info

www.ghbs-pos.com

Club Membership Available

BLUE CANYON

family golf share: 950,000 baht, transfer included. Tel: 081-956 0526. Email: tuenjai1@hotmail.com

BLUE CANYON MEMBERSHIP

Blue Canyon Individual and Family Membership. 950,000 baht including transfer fee. Tel: 081-685 9754 (English). Email: bernardwmoran@gmail.com

Club Membership Wanted

LOOKING FOR MEMBERSHIP

at Blue Canyon. Please offer. Email: a_cipolat@hotmail.com

Computer

ENGLISH COMPUTERMAN

Sales, service, repair, WLAN. Free help by telephone. Tel: 076-384385, 084-625 7744 (English). Fax: 076-384385. Email: computermanphuket@gmail.com

Personal Services

LEARN THAI AT HOME

From an experienced Thai teacher (male). Tel: 084-447 5257. Email: mikeroper2003@hotmail.com

LEARN ABOUT THE LATEST

Healthy culinary trend – raw foods! Have you been interested in learning to cook the healthiest food in minutes? Learn how to be a home raw foods chef for yourself, friends and family. Come take our raw foods cooking course offered daily at Phuket Raw Cooking Academy in Rawai. For more information call Melanie or Khun Margy at 089-908 7486. Email: margy.phuketcleanse@gmail.com, melanieprocter@gmail.com

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www.facebook.com/tingnoidwf
tingnoidwf.multiply.com

TATTOO REMOVAL

We remove your tattoos. Tel: 083-362 4144, 080-718 1686. Website: www.tattoo-remove.info

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Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
Taurus Travel

Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with Khun Kai (076-344321-2)

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Live in Chalong?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
K L Mart


Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with Khun Laddawan (076-280403)

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 - Volvo IPS Sportfish function
 - Watermaker
 - Auto Pilot
 - Tender
 - Upgraded Onan 11kw generator
 - Full Raymarine electronics package
 - Professionally maintained
 - Outriggers and live baitwell
 - Underwater lights
- Bluewater 41 (1978)** \$115,000 USD
- Schionning 1480 (2008)** \$688,000 USD
- Cruiser 540 Express (2004)** \$549,000 USD
- Azimuth 43S (2009)** 459,000 Euro

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.com

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

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

HYPALON DINGHY



2.9 meters with engine, excellent lightweight tender. 27,500 baht. Tel: 081-397 7598.

MAXUM 1800 SR-2000 135 HK

18-foot American fiberglass Bowrider with trailer. Price: 495,000 baht. Tel: 089-932 5175 (English), 080-145 0082 (Thai). Email: wojdkowbengt@hotmail.com

NEW CATAMARAN FOR SALE

Sail or motor. 34 feet. 1.45 million baht. Tel: 080-692 8468 (English & Thai). Email: joe_anusara@yahoo.com

TWIN SUZUKI OUTBOARDS

2x140 hp 4 Stroke Suzuki Outboard. Engine model: DF140 WTXK. Engine number: 983162. Only 158 hours. Tel: 076-270703, 087-265 4268 (English). Email: henkt@hku.hk

FISHING BOAT FOR SALE

Fishing boat 45ft (Taveechock) Price: 1,200,000 baht, Length: 45 ft, Breadth: 11ft. Tel: 076-379640, 081-979 7048, 089-291 9698 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-379640. Email: Theyachts@hotmail.com

CHALOMARK DINGHY

40Hp and 50Hp engines, can seat 8 people, like new. Price: 180,000 baht, ono. Tel: 089-652 5664.

KITESURFING GEAR

Wainman Boss 12m kite 2010-11 model, like new. Surf-kiteboard epoxy 510, surftech with footstraps, dakine bag. All for 41,000 baht. Contact Eric. Tel: 085-781 1691. Email: lubberic@yahoo.es

FIBERGLASS BOAT

36 feet with 2 Yamaha 200Hp engines. Just re-conditioned. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

BARGAIN BOAT SALE

Absolute bargain. 36ft fiberglass speed boat. Email: Pkthai1@gmail.com

21' BAYLINER

Bowrider Yamaha 225Hp, 370 hours. Thai registered. Mooring at Yacht Heaven, opposite marina office. 380,000 baht. Contact Peter. Tel: 089-872 6164. Email: labobv@telfort.nl

RAYMARINE RADAR AND NAV

One RL80C chart plotter with card reader. One RL80C without. One RC520. One L755 (needs new CPU). One 4K radome. All for 55,000 baht. Tel: 087-624 8816 (English). Email: tkreit@attglobal.net

BAYLINER 285 CIERA FOR SALE

Year 2005, 9 meters, easy to drive, good condition. Very economical Mercruiser petrol engine (5.7 liter MUG MPI, 300HP, FWC, cooled with antifreeze). Sleeps 6 people includes a stove, microwave, toilet, fridge, 2Kva Honda generator, Sea Eagle dinghy with 6hp Suzuki 4-stroke. Davit system, windlass, trailer and much more. Thai registered. Used only 1 season. Price: 2.4 million baht (negotiable). Tel: +7-902-833 2837. Email: kirill_tar@yahoo.com

55-FOOT CATAMARAN

With 6 double cabins and 105sqm sails, 2009. It's something to do. Price: 800,000 baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

SWISS CATAMARAN 24FT



Perfect fishing boat in fiberglass. 2 Honda 4-stroke engines, each 50Hp with hydraulic system. Simrad Navigation Plotter electric. Ankerwinch. Built in 2004, running time only 300hrs. Including 4-wheel aluminium trailer. New price: 1.6 million baht. Now: 550,000 baht. Please Contact K. Aree. Tel: 089-474 5168.

SPEEDBOAT FOR SALE

Length 27ft, year 2007, fiberglass hull, 35kt engine, Honda 225Hp. Price: 760,000 baht. Contact Stan. Tel: 087-518 1347.

DIVING VESSEL FOR SALE

Spacious and very well maintained dive boat for sale capacity 65 people. Tel: 075-662099, 089-873 0201. Email: andy@chilloutkrabi.com

43-FOOT CRUISING CATAMARAN

2 double cabins, 15sqm saloon. In composite, not finished! Price: 680,000 baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

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Tesco Lotus Phuket Town

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SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:

COFFEE break

1	P	A	D		4	S	S	T	S		8	A	C	R	O	S	S
14	A	K	A		15	O	T	R	O		16	F	L	O	W	E	R
17	R	I	M		18	C	E	I	L		19	R	I	A	L	T	O
20	I	M	P	L	A	N	T	A	T	I	O	N					
23	A	B	E	E		24	G	E	N	I	C		25	T	U	G	
28	H	O	N	S		29	H	U		30	G	A	L	E	A	T	E
					33	I	N	C	A	R	N	A	D	I	N	E	
36	N	E	G	E	V		40	A	S	I		41	P	A	L	E	R
42	A	T	E	L	E	C	T	A	S	I	S						
45	S	A	M	I	S	E	N		46	T	E	R	E	D	O		
51	A	S	S		52	R	A	T	E	S		55	B	R	A	N	
					56	S	T	U	P	E	F	A	C	I	E	N	T
59	S	A	L	A	A	M		62	A	R	L	O		63	C	I	A
64	E	N	T	I	R	E		65	M	E	I	N		66	T	S	P
67	R	E	D	D	E	N		68	S	M	E	E		69	S	H	E

Impossibly Possible Quiz answers:

- "The Mouse Trap" by Agatha Christie
- Butcher, baker, and candlestick maker
- Rock Around the Clock (Bill Haley) 1954
- Paris Hilton
- Rugby
- Apollo
- The Avengers
- Michelangelo
- Tigris
- Harrison Ford
- Robert Frost
- 5-10%

Aircraft For Sale

YOUR HELICOPTER

Flying and owning your own helicopter has just become possible. Free complete flight instruction course with your purchase. Email: pat@aeropromgr.com For further details, see our web site at www.aeropromgr.com/newsletter/index-no2.html

HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?

If you have an aircraft for sale or an interest in aviation and wish to learn how to fly or buy an aircraft or arrange a private flight, etc, please contact Pat. Email: pat@aeropromgr.com For further details, please see our newsletter at www.aeropromgr.com/newsletter

ZENAIR CH701 FOR SALE

Zenair with loaded cockpit, including Dynon Flight Instrument system. Beautiful STOL aircraft. 100 horsepower. Beautiful flying machine. Cruise about 70 kts. Stall about 25 kts. Take off distance about 50 meters. All metal. Looking for a share partner (however, new regulations on 5-year permit in Thailand make this difficult). Call Suchard. Tel: 081-810 4510. www.phuketflying.com

CORVUS PHANTOM



This is a new, 2-seat, low-wing airplane that is all composite. Certified as ultralight and LSA. It has 17hrs on the airframe and 20 hrs on the Jabiru 3300, a 6-cylinder, 120hp engine with a 3-bladed prop. It has the Dynon FlightDEK-D180 EFIS/EMS glass panel and the Garmin SL40 VHF radio, Garmin GMA 340 audio panel, and Garmin GTX328 mode S transponder. Analog instruments are Ulma vsi, alt, and compass. The following options are included: extended 110ltr fuel tanks, hydraulic toe brakes on both sides, parking brake, cabin heat, canopy tarpaulin, custom made cover for entire airplane, Garmin 296 GPS, and 2 GCA-4T headsets. Price: 4 million baht. Tel: 089-825 6729.

CESSNA 172P

With full IFR for 3 million baht. Everything on the aircraft is new, including Garmin Aera 500. Interior and exterior was redone in 2010. The engine has 700 hours with TBO at 2,000. Dual nav/dual com, EGT, transponder, etc. Registration: HS-SEX. Cost: 2.8 million baht. Location: Best Ocean Airpark (near Bangkok). Email: sonny@salientgroup.net.

TECNAM P-92

-Price: 1.5 million baht
-Registration: U-B08
-Year of Manufacture: 2002
-Equipment: Full standard equipment
-Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs.
Aircraft is based at Klong 15
Contacts: Tharee. Tel: 081-840 8418

Aircraft Service

GENERAL AVIATION IS ALIVE

Aero Pro Management has new offices, a flight school, and maintenance services opening 15th October at the Best Ocean Airpark, a 45 min drive South of Bangkok. Email: pat@aeropromgr.com For further details, please see our newsletter at www.aeropromgr.com/newsletter/index-no3.html

Aircraft Sharing

DIAMOND DA-20 KATANA (1/3 SHARE)

1/3rd share for sale at price to be negotiated. Registration: HS-JON. Built 1995. Full standard equipment. Engine is Rotax 912A3 with 638hrs. Aircraft has recently undergone full 600hrs check and has hardly flown since, due to waiting for new registration papers. Propeller: Hoffman V352F. Thai C of A, valid until 2012. Aircraft is based at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra, Chonburi. Contact Edwin Wouters. Tel: +62 81908424618. Or email: eawouters@yahoo.com

DIAMOND DA-20 KATANA

Registration: HS-AXL. Year: 1995. Equipment: IFR, Dual Nav/Com, ADF. Engine: Rotax 912 F3 (700 hrs SMOH). Propeller: Hoffman V352F (10hrs SMOH). TTAF: 4,660hrs. Thai C of A, valid until 2012. Price: 2.25 million baht (half share also available). Aircraft currently based at Nok Airfield in Chiang Mai. For more info and pics Contact Jon Malnick. Tel: 084-222 3945. Email: jonm66@me.com



Notice from Thai Flying Club: There is a very nice Piper Cherokee airplane at the Thai Flying Club (TFC) in Bang Phra. It has fallen into disrepair. Someone took out the seats and some other parts... and then went away.

Owner Wichai Pettongkam loves this airplane and wants to get it back in the air. If you like flying and might want to be a partner in the plane, please come to the TFC to have a look, or contact **Khun Tom** (email tom@thaiflyingclub, Tel: 089-092 2711). Or talk to **Khun Wichai** directly on 081-633 7082.

Khun Wichai does not want to sell the plane, but would welcome a partner who can help to get it flying again. This could be a very good opportunity for someone to get a share in a nice airplane for a very good price. All negotiable.

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Contact Tony Scragg at 081-906 3250, or email tony_scragg@hotmail.com

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Challenge trophy a sizzling success

By Neil Quail

BLISTERING heat heralded the first Phuket Rugby Challenge Trophy played at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) on Saturday, and DEA Tigers from Hong Kong are the inaugural champions.

Using the International Rugby Board (IRB) approved synthetic surface at TSLC, Bedok Kings and DEA Tigers from Hong Kong, the Singapore Bucks and host club Phuket Vagabonds descended on the facility in Thalang for 40 minute games in a round-robin format.

Also on the card were under 13 and under 15 challenge matches pitting the Phuket Lomas and Krabi in their respective age groups, but rescheduled exams put paid to Krabi travelling and the juniors were left to challenge each other.

DEA Tigers and Singapore Bucks got the tournament underway and a midfield rucking battle ensued. The difference in the end



Steve Wood (right) of the Aussie Bar presents the trophy to the captain of DEA Kings RFC.

between the teams were three breaks from the backs which yielded a scoreline of 15-0.

Phuket Vagabonds and the Bedok Kings took to the heating arena next, and although Phuket scored first, Bedok proved too strong and ran in three tries and converted one for a 17-5 victory. Sadly for Phuket, their captain Dan Ashbum was injured in a tackle and had to retire from the

tournament for treatment.

The Lomas under 13's and under 15's then combined for a match which provided the senior players respite in the covered grandstand from the inferno outside, and also entertainment from the youngsters, who exhibited some wonderful running and handling skills.

With three games remaining for each team to play it became glaringly obvious that the heat was already taking its toll and a decision was reached not to play the cup and plate finals, and simply conclude the tournament on a league basis.

In game three, DEA Tigers notched up their second victory with a 17-0 win over the Bedok Kings. The tournaments' fourth game highlighted the Vagabonds struggle for players, going down 31-5 to the Singapore Bucks. Game five between the Vagabonds



STAGGERED: Singapore Bucks attack is halted by the Phuket Vagabonds defense at the first Rugby Challenge Trophy at TSLC. Photos: Neil Quail

and DEA Tigers was reduced to a 10s encounter with the Hong Kong club securing another emphatic win. In the end, DEA Tigers were declared winners of the first Heineken Thailand sponsored Phuket rugby challenge trophy. Singapore Bucks took second place with Bedok Kings and the Vagabonds filling third and

fourth places respectively.

Awards for the first Rugby Challenge Trophy event were handed out to the Lomas and Bedok Kings at TSLC by Giles Leonard, director of operations. Later at the Aussie Bar in Patong owner, Steve Wood presented the trophy to DEA Kings.

Phuket's 70.3 Ironman gets Kailua-Kona slots

IRONMAN 70.3 Asia-Pacific Championship at Laguna Phuket has scored a major coup by securing 30 qualifying slots from the World Triathlon Corporation for its prestigious 2012 Ford Ironman World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

Laguna is one of only three worldwide Ironman 70.3 triathlons to offer 2012 Kona slots and the only one in Asia-Pacific.

The legendary Ironman World Championship in Kailua-Kona, contested each October on a lava landscape course and considered one of the world's toughest, is regarded as the "Holy Grail" of triathlons and participation is coveted by triathletes worldwide.

The Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific Championship on December 4 will be the first of the three Ironman 70.3 races offering 2012 Kona slots. The others are St Croix in the US Virgin Islands on May 6, 2012 and Hawaii on June 2, 2012.

The Ironman 70.3 event will be the climax of a unique Tri-Fest on the island that begins with the Laguna Phuket Triathlon on November 27 followed by a week of triathlon-related training and social activities around the Laguna Phuket destination resort.

"Securing 30 Kona slots is a real boost for us and underlines our integration into the worldwide community of prestige top tier triathlons," said Debbie Dionysius,



HOLY GRAIL: 70.3 Phuket entrants will compete for Ironman slots in Hawaii.

Assistant Vice President of Destination Marketing for Laguna Phuket.

"These 30 Kona slots will be a major draw card for triathletes worldwide. We hope to attract more than 1,000 entries and see the cream of triathlon talent here at Laguna for what promises to be a spectacular race challenge and a unique triathlon festival," she said.

Murphy Reinschreiber, Ironman and WTC managing director Asia-Pacific, said: "The slots are being offered to ensure ample 2012 qualifying opportunities, given the current uncertainties of our 2012 full distance race schedule. Their availability is a one-off opportunity

that is sure to generate enthusiasm in the worldwide triathlon community."

The Ironman World Championship in Kailua-Kona, originally a combination of the Waikiki Rough Water swim, the Around Oahu Bike Race and the Honolulu Marathon, is a full Ironman consisting of a 3.8 km swim, a 180.2 km bike ride and a 42.2 km run.

Ironman 70.3 triathlons such as the Ironman 70.3 Asia-Pacific Championship are half the full Ironman distance with a 1.9km swim, a 90.1km bike ride and a 21.1km run.

The Phuket Gazette is a proud sponsor of the Laguna Phuket Ironman 70.3.

- Phuket Gazette

Young gun slinger



SLING SHOT: Dylan Young takes a turn at the 2010 Singapore GP circuit.

PHUKET'S speed-merchant Dylan Young will race at this weekend's JK Asia Racing Series in Singapore.

The 22-year old has secured a place for the premier open wheeler support category to the Singtel

Singapore Formula One event running from September 23 to 25.

Dylan has local Phuket luxury car dealer Auto Express to thank for his position on the grid and will also represent the Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation.

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Sport

FC Phuket ride the bull in southern showdown



FORWARD: Gasquet (left) and Nadal (right) ensure strings face the target.

Lengthen your contact, don't follow through



Tennis Tips

By Travis Bertram

THIS week's tennis tip is on length of contact. Length of contact is the length of the swing forwards at the moment of impact with the ball.

Forget the term "follow through" and promise to never say it again! Follow through is most commonly taught as wrapping your arm around your body. What this does is shorten the swing.

For a right-handed player's backhand, following through shortens the swing too far to the right, winding up in mistakes into the bottom of the net or mistakes too far to the right.

Instead, lengthen your contact forward, towards your desired target which is the opponents court in front of you.

Looking at two different backhands, Rafael Nadal's double-handed backhand and Richard Gasquet's single-handed backhand, you can see that their strings are facing the court in front of them although the ball has already left their strings.

This is what length of contact looks like. A great drill is to practice hitting into the opponents alley from your service line then moving to three-quarter court, and then to the baseline hitting fifteen strokes into the alley at each depth.

This will teach you to lengthen your contact forwards as you move back. You can do this with a friend or on your own with a ball machine or drop hitting.

Travis Bertram of Peter Burwash International (PBI) is Tennis Director for Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club. For information on their tennis academy visit W: thanyapura.com



COMPOSED: Wiratrot Chanteng denies Songkhla attack. Photo: Football Siam

THAI DIVISION ONE LEAGUE			
Team	P	Pts	
Buriram FC	23	54	
Chula Utd	23	51	
Chainat FC	23	45	
Songkhla FC	22	38	
PTT Rayong	23	38	
Bangkok Utd	24	38	
Rajpracha	23	38	
FC Phuket	23	35	
Saraburi FC	23	32	
Airforce Utd	22	27	
Suphanburi FC	23	26	
CT Chantaburi	23	25	
Customs Utd	23	25	
Bangkok FC	23	22	
JW Rangsit FC	23	21	
Chiangmai FC	24	17	
Thai Honda	23	17	
RBAC FC	23	16	

MATCH RESULTS			
TPL DIVISION ONE			
Saraburi FC	1 - 1	Rajpracha	
Customs Utd	1 - 0	CT Chantaburi	
Bangkok FC	3 - 0	Airforce Utd	
Chiangmai FC	1 - 2	Chainat FC	
PTT Rayong	1 - 0	Suphanburi FC	
Songkhla FC	0 - 1	FC Phuket	
Thai Honda	0 - 2	Buriram FC	
Bangkok Utd	1 - 1	Chula Utd	
RBAC	3 - 2	JW Rangsit FC	

FIXTURES			
TPL DIVISION ONE			
September 24		4pm	
JW Rangsit FC	VS	Bangkok Utd	@ Thupateme
September 24		6pm	
Chula Utd	VS	Songkhla FC	@ Army Stadium
Buriram FC	VS	Customs Utd	@ I-mobile Stadium
September 25		4pm	
Rajpracha	VS	RBAC FC	@ Mahidol University Salaya Campus stadium
CT Chantaburi	VS	Saraburi FC	@ Sakdidee
Bangkok FC	VS	Chainat FC	@ Chalerm Phrakiet, Bang Mod
September 25		6pm	
Airforce Utd	VS	Thai Honda	@ Thupateme
FC Phuket	VS	PTT Rayong	@ Surakul Stadium, Phuket
Suphanburi FC	VS	Chiangmai FC	@ Central provincial sports

Tickets 50 baht/adult, 20 baht/child

FC PHUKET picked up their second away-win this season in a match played on Sunday evening at Tinsulanond Stadium in Songkhla Town, conquering southern rivals Songkhla FC with a final score of 1 - 0.

The lively match was played before some 23,000 fans, the largest crowd Phuket has played in front of all year.

About 300 Phuket fans had made the six hour trip from Phuket by bus, van and truck - some departing Phuket as early as 4am.

As a primer to the match, the Songkhla "Fighting Bulls" fan club hosted "The Hulks" fan club in a friendly futsal match in which the hosts prevailed 6 - 4. This was followed by a treating to "Khao Yum" (herbal rice).

Phuket fans had shown similar hospitality on June 25 when Songkhla fans were in town for the Phuket - Songkhla match that ended in a goalless draw.

Luckily for Phuket, Songkhla would have to play this match without two key strikers, Panai Kongkaphan and league scoring leader, Chayene Santos, both suspended as a result of previous bookings. And to make matters worse, Japanese midfielder Ryohei Maeda was carried off the pitch after sustaining an injury just 15 minutes into play.

Phuket took control early on. Questionable officiating denied the Southern Sea Kirin two goals in the first half, however, driving up emotions among Phuket fans. The

Southern Sea Kirin's perseverance paid off in the 70th minute after a free kick by Sarach Yooyen was headed into the back of the net by Jongrak Pakdee, silencing the home crowd for the third and final time.

Though armed guards were posted throughout, their presence was more for the safety of officials, who have received much criticism from fans in recent weeks.

No official clock was on display, but one fan's unofficial timekeeping clearly indicated

Songkhla was given a full 10 minutes of extra time. This gave them enough time for a handful of fruitless attempts at an equalizer.

Phuket prevailed in the end, giving Songkhla only their second loss at home this season.

The result marks Phuket's 3rd league victory in a row, complementing last week's win against Bangkok United and their victory on August 21 against RBAC.

Now on 35 points with ten matches remaining, Phuket are in 8th place, just 3 points shy of Songkhla, PTT Rayong, Bangkok United and Rajpracha, each with 38 points. Phuket will host PTT Rayong this Sunday at 6pm. Rayong are coming off a home win after beating Suphanburi 1-0. The last time Phuket and Rayong met was on April 10 in Rayong. In front of a crowd of 2,105 Phuket lost the match as a result of a 47th minute goal by Brazilian, Diego Martins.

-Steven Layne

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WE certainly do love our FC Phuket yet little is known about the players off the pitch. Following is this week's player profile and interview for fans to cut out and collect.

17



BIO

Wiratrot "Too" Chanteng

Born: November 14, 1981

Position: Defender

Height: 175 cm

Weight: 70 kg

Nationality: Thai

Hometown: Chonburi

Q. Apart from FC Phuket who is your favorite football team?

A. Buriram PEA and Manchester United

Q. Who is your favorite football player(s)?

A. Niwet Siriwong (Pattaya Utd) and Rio Ferdinand (Man Utd)

Q. What has been the biggest challenge of your career?

A. Finishing 6th in the Thai Premier League in 2010 with Pattaya United

Q. If you were not a football player, what would you like to be?

A. Government officer because I graduated in Political Science

Q. What do you like about Phuket?

A. I love the cheering and fans, white sand beaches and clear water.

Honda racing at Saphan Hin



POWERED DREAM MACHINES: Honda racing cars weave their way through a demanding street course at last weekend's annual meet in Sapan Hin. Photo: Dean Noble

HIGH octane fumes filled the nostrils of Phuket petrol heads last weekend with two days of Honda street car racing at Saphan Hin Park in Phuket Town.

The annual event is part of Honda's nationwide racing circuit where over 60 Honda vehicles are separated into five categories.

Pro Cup A,B was won by Singha Honda

Total Team Thailand. Team Dixcel-Bridgestone @ Speed Sunoco Racing took the Civic One title. Team Club Racing Twin Cam were victorious in Club Race. Team Waxy Sunoco Jun placed first in Jazz One and Pro Cup C was won by team X-IR Cappa Skunk2 VTEC By Amm.

- Phuket Gazette

Irish Times race three



BIRD'S EYE: A unique shot of Roger Kingdon's *Moto Inzi* during race three of the Irish Times series at ACYC. Photo: Graham Collar.

THE IRISH Times series took to the waters off Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) for race three on Sunday with five boats in the hunt for honors.

Good winds met the crews on a course which was set to take the fleet around Koh Dokmai Is-

land. Multihull class competitors were quick off the mark and after initial problems, Roger Kingdon's *Moto Inzi* took first place.

Chris Jongerius' *The Frog* and Alan Carwardine's *Sidewinder* finished second and third respectively.

Gone fishing

RAWAI Beach Fishing Club (RBFC) held their 6th freshwater fishing competition of 2011 on Tuesday at AC's Fishing Park in Thalang.

Colin Robertson won the event with his catch of a 12.2kg Mekong catfish. Jan Van Anderson caught the most fish with three Mekong catfish, two redbtail catfish and one Siamese carp.

For information on fishing competitions contact Warren Crowe T: 081 270 4291



Photo: Dean Noble

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Rise of the Quiksilver surfers

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

QUIKSILVER Surf Phuket Thailand Competition 2011 started on September 21 and runs until Saturday September 24 at Loma Park, Patong Beach.

As this edition of the *Phuket Gazette* went to print the surfing competition had just begun with the first round of the mens long board (9ft board) event. Twenty-four surfers entered to compete in this section.

First round of the mens and females short board (board less than 7ft) section was scheduled for Thursday.

This year's short board competition for men has 52 professional surfers from different countries across the globe.

Famous surfers participating in this years exciting event include Jakarta born Lee Wilson, Bali

born, Marlon Gerber – both Indonesian champions. Sumbawa born Pepen Hendrix, Bali born Wayan Merta while Jamie Smiths and Noppasit Boonchuay are representing Phuket.

Phuket's young surfing star, Annissa Flynn, is competing in the female short board section.

Champions of each category will be decided on Saturday, the last day of competition.

Apart from surf competition, there are many fun activities to occupy participants and spectators throughout the event including surf clinics, fun and games offered by Nok Air and Roxy.

On Sunday a special surf show will be presented by Quiksilver boardriders at 3.30pm, followed immediately after by the awards ceremony.



Photo: Dean Noble

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