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The 'Light Up Phuket' lighting of candles on Patong Beach will start at 6pm. Photo: Warisa Temram

Tsunami memorial services

MEMORIAL services to pay respects to those who died in the 2004 tsunami will start at 8am on December 26 with a multi-faith ceremony at the Tsunami Wall of Remembrance in Mai Khao.

"Those who lost loved ones and people who live in the area will join with community leaders at the ceremony, which will include Buddhist, Muslim and Christian services," said Raywat Sombathong of Mai Khao Administration Organization.

"The ceremony will end with the attendees laying flowers at the wall under the names of the countries that lost nationals in the 2004 tsunami here in Phuket," he added.

The traditional "Light Up Phuket" candle-lit ceremony will be held on Patong Beach, starting at 6pm.

Police step up search for Facebook girl, 12

By Stephen Fein and Chaityot Yongcharoenchai

POLICE in Phuket have contacted their Bangkok counterparts for assistance in the now nationwide search for local schoolgirl Samudchaya "Nong Pin" Yanpunya, who disappeared more than two weeks ago.

Nong Pin, a 12-year-old student at the Baan Talad Neua School, was last seen leaving an internet cafe near the entrance to Soi Lor Rong in Phuket Town on the afternoon of December 6.

After subsequent questioning of teachers and friends proved fruitless, the girl's desperate mother Samruay Saenthaweesuk reported the disappearance to police.

She then visited the Phuket Reporters Club office at Phuket Provincial Hall to seek help from the public in locating her daughter.

With no leads forthcoming, she even turned to fortune tellers for information. One said she had run-off with a "rich tomboy", while the other said she was under the control of a local *mah song* spirit medium named "Dum".

Mrs Samruay fears her daughter, who went to live with her grandparents in Wichit, near



Fears for Nong Pin's safety skyrocketed after a Phuket hotel security guard was arrested for raping teenage girls he met through Facebook.

Phuket Town, after she and her husband broke up, may have been abducted by a predator who stalked her using the popular social networking website Facebook.

Like many Phuket youths, Nong Pin was a regular user of

the world's most popular website. She told her grandparents she was going to the internet cafe that day to do homework, but it is strongly suspected her real intention was to communicate with friends through the site.

Given her enthusiasm for Facebook, it is disturbingly notable that activity on Nong Pin's Facebook account virtually ceased since her disappearance.

Mrs Samruay, who only learned to use the site after her daughter's disappearance, said the only noticeable activity was the posting of an "avatar" photo on her "wall" last Sunday. Mrs Samruay said she thought the low-resolution image resembled her daughter, albeit with darker skin.

That same day a "friend request" to Nong Pin's Facebook page was accepted, but the new "friend" received no reply to her message to Nong Pin.

Friends at work told Mrs Samruay the avatar photo did not resemble her daughter, however, so she later accepted that she was likely a victim of "wishful thinking" driven by the need to know her daughter was still alive.

Following reports that a Phuket hotel security guard was arrested in Nakhon Sri Thammarat last weekend and charged with the rape of three girls he met on Facebook, Mrs Samruay contacted police to see if her daughter had fallen prey to the same predator.

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No arrest warrant issued for MMA brawler: Police

By Chutharat Plerin

POLICE have confirmed to the *Phuket Gazette* that an arrest warrant has not been issued for MMA fighter Junie Browning, who has not been seen since his involvement in two serious brawls last week.

"We have not asked for an arrest warrant to be issued because it's not a very serious case."

"We have drafted a summons, requesting that he [Browning] come to the police station, but have not served it as we don't

have his address," said Capt Chianchai Duangsuwan of the Chalong Police.

"Currently, we have notified Phuket Immigration of our interest in Mr Browning, but as yet we have not notified police stations outside of Phuket," he added.

Capt Chianchai said the US embassy in Bangkok had contacted him about Mr Browning. "An embassy official called me to inquire about the case. It would seem that each party is stating their own version of the story. This could go on forever," he said.

Mr Browning this week emailed to the

Phuket Gazette a detailed account of his version of the incidents, which was posted online in its entirety, but vehemently denied the accusations against him.

Regarding Mr Browning's version of events, Capt Chianchai said, "Any email he has sent [concerning this matter] can be used as a collateral evidence in the court."

"However, for any kind of case against him to proceed in court, he must first present himself to the court in person," Capt Chianchai said.

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Junie Browning (pictured) said the fights started after he was attacked, unprovoked.

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This Week

Business



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A diver's last chance: Phuket's hyperbaric chamber. **Page 18**

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Indigo Pearl & Bensley Design Studios. Luxury in space. **Page 27**

Sport



Phuket cricket. Laguna give the Leopards a mauling. **Page 46**

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Phuket hosts DMAT international rally

By Chutharat Plerin

DISASTER medical assistance teams (DMAT) from across Thailand will pit their skills against DMAT teams from Japan, Korea and Sri Lanka first-ever International Medical Rally to be held at Sirinath National Park, Nai Yang, on December 23.

Taking part in the event are DMAT teams from Chiang Rai, Khon Kaen, Udon Thani, Nakorn Sri Thammarat, Krabi, Phang Nga and Phuket, explained Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO) chief Sak Tanchaikul.

"There will be 10 teams of five people in each in the competition," a fellow PPHO officer explained to the *Gazette*.

"Seven of the teams will be from Thailand. The others, from Japan, Korea and Sri Lanka, will also take part in the competition. They are all expert in disaster-response skills," she said.

"Ten stations will be set up in Sirinath National Park, where the



Phuket DMAT teams will pit their skills against DMAT crews from Japan, Korea and Sri Lanka in the first ever International Medical Rally at Nai Yang Beach on December 23. Photo: Gazette file

teams will have to respond to simulated emergencies such as assisting in delivering a baby, responding to a mass-injury accident, or dealing with a head injury sustained from the victim falling from high up," she said.

"We will have ambulances on site, but we do not want people to panic because it's just an exercise. We will post signs to tell people that the rally is on.

"Tourists are welcome to watch the competition," she added.

Driver charged over death of pregnant resort worker

THE driver of the six-wheeled truck that struck and killed 27-year-old resort worker Arayada Budsayakul on the Patong beach road last month has been charged with reckless driving causing death.

Ms Arayada was four months pregnant when she died in the accident on November 8.

Lt Pathapee Srichai of Patong Police told the *Gazette* that the driver, Rattana Kumsin, 40, will face the criminal charge in court soon. "He has confessed to the charge. I am compiling the paperwork now to file with the court," he said.

Lt Patapee explained that Rattana was charged immediately after the incident, but the delay in processing the criminal charge came at the request of Ms Arayada's family.



Arayada Budsayakul, 27, died instantly in the accident. She was four months pregnant at the time.

They wanted Ms Arayada to be cremated first and for the family to discuss the incident with Mr Rattana before criminal charges were placed against him, Lt Patapee explained.

During discussions with the family, Mr Rattana agreed to pay 500,000 baht to the family.

One of the witnesses to the

accident told the *Gazette*, under the condition of anonymity, "The truck was packed with Burmese laborers. It clipped Arayada's motorbike while she was driving slowly in the left lane waiting for the truck to overtake her."

The motorbike fell to the ground, spilling Ms Arayada into the path of the truck's back wheels, he explained.

"As I was a witness to the accident, I went to the police station to give a statement. While I was there I saw the driver... He had just taken an alcohol breathalyser test," the witness said.

Mr Rattana, who did not flee the scene, was found not to be under the influence of alcohol and was released without bail, confirmed Lt Patapee.

— *Atchaa Khamlo*

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'Drink spiking' thieves on the rise in Patong

TOURISTS visiting nightspots in Phuket should not leave their drinks unattended as there have been incidents of people having their drinks "spiked" with potent sedatives in recent weeks, Tourist Police volunteers have warned.

Frank Tomensen, Group Leader of the Phuket Tourist Police Foreign Volunteers in Patong, has instructed his patrol units to be on the lookout for victims who may appear impaired or disoriented.

While there is usually no lack of such people on any given night in Patong, "spiking victims" might display somewhat different behavior from those of classic alcohol inebriation, he explained.

In two recent cases, victims are thought to have had a "date rape drug", possibly gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), slipped into their drinks.

"In two incidents that we are aware of, the victim had an odorless and colorless substance added to their drink while at a bar on Soi Paradise.

"The effects take about 15-20 minutes to set in, rendering the victim helpless.

"In both cases it is known the victims were robbed," Mr Tomenson explained.

Patong hotel pays out robbed Aussie tourists

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE management of a Patong hotel this week paid about 150,000 baht in compensation to an Australian couple who claimed their room safe was robbed of 255,000 baht.

Australian tourist Jim Nagi, 44, said he first noticed cash missing from the safe in his hotel room at the Andaman Beach Suites Hotel in Patong on December 8.

"At first, I thought I lost about 700 Australian dollars from the \$12,000 that was in the safe, but I wasn't sure so I did not report it to the hotel," he told the *Gazette*.

"Later, on Monday [December 12], I tried to open the safe with the combination code. I tried twice, but I couldn't open it, so I went down to inform the receptionist, who used the master key to open the safe. That's when we found that \$7,500 had gone," he said.

He reported the theft to Patong Police that day, but had heard nothing since, he told the *Gazette* on Monday.

The couple, who checked in to the hotel on December 4, moved



Aussie tourists Jim Nagi and Sharyna Wong were reimbursed AUS\$3,750 after they reported their room safe was robbed. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

into another room the next day.

The hotel owner agreed to pay the Aussie tourists half the \$7,500 after meeting the couple.

Mr Nagi's partner, Sharyna Wong, 30, said, "We first met the hotel manager on Saturday [December 10], and he implied that we made up the story so we could claim the money back on insur-

ance. I explained to him that if we claimed this on insurance, we would get only \$250 back.

"Besides, we came here for a holiday. We don't want to spend time making reports to the police and having discussions about this. It's a waste of our time," she said.

At the meeting, Thuwanan Peanawan, director of rooms at

the hotel, told Mr Nagi that the hotel management was "still not comfortable" with the incident and were questioning all staff, including maids and receptionists on duty around the time the money was reported stolen.

"It seems nobody knows anything about this," he said.

However, one of the hotel receptionists told the *Gazette*, "Mr Nagi brought people from outside to stay in the room without our permission and we are not sure whether one of them stole his money."

During the meeting, it was discovered that the hotel CCTV security camera installed on the floor where the couple was staying was "misaligned".

"The CCTV camera was pointing too high. It could show the elevator doors opening and closing, but we couldn't even see if any people were inside. Besides, the CCTV camera showed just a part of that floor. We could not see who was using the staircase," Ms Wong told the *Gazette*.

The couple departed Phuket for Australia aboard a 6pm flight on Monday.

MMA brawler Browning 'only wanted for questioning'

From page 1

US Embassy Spokeswoman Kristin Kneeder told the *Gazette*, "We are aware of the case and are providing all appropriate consular assistance. Due to the circumstances of this case, we are unable to provide additional details.

"Any time a US citizen is the victim of crime or has been accused of a crime, the US Embassy provides detailed information on the host country legal system and retaining counsel, and communicates with the individual's family, if the individual wishes us to do so.

"While in Thailand, US citizens are subject to Thai law and must work within the Thai justice sys-



Junie Browning said he was struck over the head twice from behind.

tem to resolve any legal issues. The US Embassy endeavors to ensure that US citizens in Thailand are afforded the same rights under Thai law as the citizens of any other country," she said.

Search for Facebook girl goes nationwide

From page 1

Police assured her the cases were unrelated, she told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

Phuket City Police Duty Officer Tada Sodarak told the *Gazette* the same day, "This case is one of the most difficult missing person cases we have faced. Normally when we are searching for someone, we track their movements by monitoring their mobile phone transmissions. Nong Pin has a mobile phone, but she did not bring it with her, so we can not track her," said Lt Tada.

He recently reported "no progress in the investigation" to his superiors in the case file, he admitted.

"Mrs Samruay informed us of people she thought Nong Pin might have run off with. After questioning, all were dismissed as persons of interest. We

reviewed video images from the CCTV camera of the Internet cafe where Nong Pin was last saw, but she left on her own," he added.

While stopping short of conjecturing over the possibility of abduction, Lt Tada said, "Nong Pin seems like a trouble child. Her parents separated, she spends most of her time away from family at the internet cafe [talking to friends in cyberspace].

"I understand how Mrs Samruay would feel as the mother. I have already contacted the police in Bangkok to help us search nationwide. I also informed all police investigators, asking them to be on the lookout and inform us if they find Nong Pin," he said.

Anyone with information that may help locate Nong Pin is asked to call Mrs Samruay at 087-284 8380 or Phuket City Police Station at 076-212115.



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Escape from Patong

French preteens back in France, role of Belgians revealed

By Stephen Fein

THE two French girls who spent eight months on the streets of Phuket are now back in France, where they are undergoing evaluation by social workers.

The girls, 12-year-old Manel and her sister Chaima, 11, have been reunited with their paternal grandmother and are now in the care of French social services.

Meanwhile, the *Gazette* has been informed of the important role played by two Belgian men in securing the girls' return to France.

One of the Belgians, who asked that his name be withheld, was at Patong Police Station on November 18 for a drunk-driving offence when he met the father of the girls in a holding cell.

The father gave the Belgian his mother's number and asked him to call her and inform her of the girls' situation.

Back in Belgium, the man called the grandmother, and one of his own relatives living in the Nai Harn area, to ask for assistance.



Patong Tourist Police volunteer Narada Hanks (left) with Manel, 12.

Chaima was living in a Patong guesthouse, while the more independent Manel divided her time between Kamala in the day and Soi Bangla by night.

The grandmother wired the Belgian 20,000 baht to pay for unpaid hotel bills in order to get back the passports of the two girls, which were being withheld in lieu of payment.

He turned this money over to

French Consul Pierre Blondel, who worked with Tourist Police to get the passports back. Chaima, her passport recovered, flew out in early December with the consent of her father, who signed a consent form from a Bangkok Prison.

Manel was finally spotted on Soi Crocodile by Tourist Police Volunteers on the night of December 8 and flown home a few days later. Both flights were courtesy of the French government.

The grandmother told the Belgians that she was furious with her son for squandering an inheritance of almost a million baht during his eight-month stay in Phuket and for neglecting his daughters.

The grandmother said she had no intention of sending him any more money. At last report he was still in a Bangkok prison cell, unable to come up with the funds to pay the court-ordered fine for his drug conviction.

"The mother won't pay his return fare to Europe or anything else, so he could be in Thailand for a long time," the Belgian said.

Battle to kill off polio intensifies

THE PHUKET office of the World Vision Foundation in Thailand, operating under the Supanimit Foundation, last week stepped up its anti-polio campaign, in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) push to eradicate the debilitating disease.

Supanimit Foundation workers, joined by Phuket Provincial Public Health Office officials, targeted Burmese communities in and around Phuket Town and elsewhere around Phuket.

The anti-polio task force – which also included many members from Phuket Rotary clubs – divided into three main teams to cover Phuket Town, Kathu and Thalung, explained Surachet Thummanon, an officer with the Supanimit Foundation.

"The Phuket City team divided into two groups. Myself and two Burmese officers from the Front Social Network [FSN] covered the Rassada community, Saphan Hin and behind the main branch of Super Cheap.

"The other teams, which also



An ideal environment for polio to thrive. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

included FSN workers, covered areas outside of Phuket Town," he explained.

"My team administered anti-polio vaccines to more than 180 kids in three communities," Mr Surachet added.

Although the teams started their rounds at 7am, many Burmese children were not at home because their parents took their children with them to work.

"We will return in the evening to cover the rest of the children," Mr Surachet said.

The teams will continue their anti-polio campaign in Phuket on January 18, he added.

– Chutharat Plerin

Keyed up for Red Cross Fair



Gov Tri and his wife Naline (4th and 3rd from right), president of the Phuket Red Cross, pose with this year's top prize, a Honda City sedan.

THIS year's Red Cross Fair will be held at the central stage at Saphan Hin, in Phuket Town, from December 29 to January 8.

The opening ceremony, starting at 6pm on December 29, will feature a fireworks show, and performances by nationally-renowned acts will be staged nightly.

As in years past, the most anticipated event will be the charity lucky draw and its many prizes.

This year one lucky person will be driving away with a Honda City car. The Red Cross Society has also provided a motorcycle, two gold necklaces, three refrigerators, four 21-inch televisions and 30 desk fans as additional prizes.

"This year, we have had to reduce the value of the grand prize

from a house to a car due to flooding in central Thailand," Sarawut Rakkhao of the Thai Red Cross Society office of Phuket said.

"The Red Cross always asks for a donation from the government to assist in buying the prizes for the fair. This year we asked for a smaller donation to avoid diverting government money from flood victims," he added.

Those who are feeling lucky enough to win the grand prize, or who just want to support a worthy cause, can buy tickets at the Thai Red Cross Office of Phuket, the Provincial Operations Center at Provincial Hall, or at the event itself.

Prizes will be drawn at 10 pm on January 7.

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Port project gets push from Cabinet

By Chutharat Plerin

DEPUTY Minister of Transport Kittisakdi Hathasongkorh on December 16, vowed to support plans to expand Phuket's Deep Sea Port, which have run aground over its environmental impact assessment (EIA) report.

At a meeting at the Deep Sea Port, Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut explained to Mr Kittisakdi that his office had been working for more than a year on having the EIA passed.

"The EIA does not seem to be working. It has caused a lot of problems," he said.

Wathanachai Raunglerpanyakul, director of Chaophaya Terminal International Co Ltd, which has the government concession to operate Songkhla and Phuket Ports, said not one local resident has agreed with the Phuket expansion project.

"The residents are afraid that the runoff from the construction and extra activity will affect the water so much that it will affect them making a living. Not one person has agreed with the project, and so the EIA has not

been approved," he said.

Mr Wathanachai explained that the project, which was reported to cost more than 100 million baht, includes extending the dock by 60 meters so two large ships can dock at the same time.

"This involves dredging about 4,000 square meters of underwater earth. We will also install two large mooring poles in the bay," he said.

Mr Wathanachai explained that the dock is 360 meters long, which can accommodate only two ships, each not longer than 173 meters long, at the same time.

"The problem is that bigger ships are now coming to the port, especially cruise liners. So far the biggest one has been 270 meters long, which does not leave enough room for another ship," Mr Wathanachai explained.

In keeping his commitment to support the local community, Mr Wathanachai said that cruise liners were given priority to dock at the port, even if it meant forcing a cargo ship that is halfway through loading or unloading to move offshore.

"We earn just over 100,000 baht



Bigger port facilities will allow more of the larger ships to unload meaning more revenue coming into Phuket.

each time a cruise liner docks here, but we earn about 500,000 baht from each rubber cargo ship that uses the port and we earn from 1mn to 1.5mn baht from wood cargo ships," he said.

This causes problems for the owners of the goods being transported because it delays how long they must pay to use the ship, which can cost up to US\$30,000 a day, he said.

"I'm afraid if this continues, no cargo ships would come to the port," Mr Wathanachai said.

Another problem was that government concession contracts were for periods of five years only.

"We have had the contract to run the port from the Treasury Department since 1988. The first concession was for 10 years, but since then each contract has been for only five years, which does

not leave us enough time to invest in big projects," he said.

After hearing the issues currently hindering development of the port, Mr Kittisakdi said he agreed with the plans to expand the port's capacity.

"I will present this to Cabinet and support it. As Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra is supporting investment, I do not think this would be impossible," he said.

TB outbreak sparks call for migrant crackdown

AN OUTBREAK of tuberculosis that has hospitalized nearly 60 Burmese workers has prompted the Phuket Immigration chief to call for a more integrated approach to tracking their growing numbers on the island.

Phuket Immigration Superintendent Panuwat Ruamrak said problems arise from the nature of the island's labor-intensive construction industry, which causes workers to jump from project to project and change employers frequently.

"Currently each department keeps its own statistics. We need to have a more efficient database, because over the next five to 10 years the numbers are going to increase a lot," he said.

"Another thing that concerns me is that over the

past three months, 57 foreign workers have been sent to us after having been diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB)," he said.

Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Chamnan Pannabon said, "In 2010, we deported 242 migrant workers in a total of 246 reported cases. In 2011, we deported 226 workers in 130 cases. We do not know exact number of foreign migrant workers in Phuket, but we are still able to handle them. The situation is under control," he said.

"On the positive side, they help us in terms of [coping with] the labor shortage. However, it has also caused some social problems since we lack an efficient management system," he said.

— Warisa Temram



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Lending a gentle touch

By Atchaa Khamlo

DETECTIVE Nucharee Longkaew, 27, of Phuket City Police Station, recently tasked with the formidable job of interviewing female victims of sex crimes in Phuket Province, is now ready to start her challenging duty.

Despite having received no specialized training for dealing with traumatized women, who may have been violently abused or raped, Capt Nucharee is confident that her police training, character and experience is equal to the task. Another positive being that, as a woman, she can empathize with the victims.

As reported previously by the *Gazette*, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong, informed the honorary consuls at their quarterly meeting, that he had appointed Capt Nucharee to investigate "sensitive" crimes, notably sexual abuse and rape against women.

"The official letter arrived about a month ago, however, as yet

there have not been any sensitive cases that require my skills," Capt Nucharee told the *Gazette* this week.

"Not only will I investigate rape cases, but also other cases where a victim doesn't want to speak to a male police officer, such as domestic violence cases," she said, adding that her remit extends to taking statements from the children of foreigners, a particularly difficult interviewing scenario.

However, in her new role she will only assist in such cases, not actually take over the role of lead investigator.

"I will only be interviewing the victims. Other aspects of the investigation, including the collection of evidence, remains the

remit of the relevant police station's investigating officers," she said.

As with most policing agencies worldwide, there is a set procedure for crossing inter-departmental boundaries. The Phuket police are no different.

"Officers from police districts outside of Phuket Town will have

'I want women not to be afraid to report crimes.'

– Capt Nucharee



Captain Nucharee is ready to listen, but in the meantime the everyday police work goes on. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

to contact [Phuket Provincial Police chief] Cdr Pekad, who will send a letter authorizing me to interview the victim.

"According to the regulations, I have to get the order from the commander before I can investigate cases in other jurisdictions," said Capt Nucharee.

In reality the process will be much shorter. "A request for my involvement is likely to come by telephone. Cdr Pekad believes that the necessity of a formal letter before I can react is a waste of time. A formal letter requesting

assistance can be a retrospective action.

"Also, if the incident occurs within the Muang Police District, no authority is needed," she said.

Should a woman want to report a crime, but is reluctant to talk in front of male officers, she can request to speak with Capt Nucharee.

"The investigating officer will contact Cdr Pekad directly, who will task me to attend the investigation," she said.

Capt Nucharee explained that such interviews are likely to be

conducted at the police station where the complaint was lodged.

"However, I'm quite prepared to visit victims in hospital if necessary. Otherwise the victim will be interviewed in a private room with only those officers necessary. They might include another female officer and a translator provided by the prosecutor or a consul.

"I'm glad to help in these cases and now that we have a female officer dedicated to them I want women not to be afraid to report crimes," she said.

Yvon Van Eyersen cremated in Phuket

FRIENDS and Red Cross officials gathered at Wat Saen Suk on December 14 for the cremation of Yvon Van Eyersen of Belgium.

Mr Van Eyersen passed away early on the morning of December 13, immediately after staff at Vachira Phuket Hospital turned off his life support apparatus.

The Belgian suffered a stroke early some time last week.

He then slipped into a coma before being declared brain dead by doctors.

Acting on his final wishes, Yvon's vital organs were removed from his body and donated.

– Stephen Fein



Khon Kaen crazy nicking knickers

POLICE in Khon Kaen nabbed a thief with an unusual haul last week – more than 1,000 pairs of used women's underwear.

The kinky culprit, Pathanin Kawikul, 26, told officers he used the undergarments – which he stole over a period of more than five years – for sexual gratification.

Police were alerted to Mr Pathanin's bizarre activities when Phornphat Saetiao, 25, complained that a young man had stolen a pair of her underwear from her room in downtown Khon Kaen before fleeing on a scooter.

Officers traced the registration number of the bike to Mr Pathanin's 58-year-old mother Charoenphorn Sombatkamrai.

When police arrived at the house in Nai Muang Subdistrict, Khon Kaen, they found Mr Pathanin and arrested him.

The suspect admitted that he stole Ms Phornphat's underwear.

He led the officers into a deserted house next door, where officers were surprised to find Mr Pathanin's gargantuan underwear collection.

The suspect had enough pairs of ladies' panties to fill three sacks. Most had been worn – and were unwashed.

Police took Mr Pathanin into custody.



The suspect told police that he only stole used underwear and that he used it for masturbation. He said he had been doing so for more than five years.

Mrs Charoenphorn said her son had graduated from university and was soon to receive his bachelor's degree. However, she had noticed some strange behavior in her son over the past three years, she said.

Mr Pathanin liked to cut his fingers with a knife and watch the blood flow over his hands as if he could not feel pain, she said.

He also liked to spend large amounts of time in his room on his own.

The family had already taken Mr Pathanin to a mental hospital, where he had been given medicine, but his condition had not improved, she said.

She said that she and her husband were too poor to get proper treatment for their son as they worked mending clothes by the side of the road.

Source: Thai Rath

THE SURFACE

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Row erupts over Thaksin passport

THE government may have a fresh legal battle on its hands after the Foreign Ministry reissued fugitive ex-prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra a passport.

Opposition leader Abhisit Vejjajiva, whose government revoked Mr Thaksin's travel privileges following his conviction on corruption charges in 2008, said the Democrat Party was considering suing senior officials involved in returning the passport, claiming the move broke ministry regulations.

The affair "would mark the beginning of the end" for Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's government, he added.

After being pressured by the opposition, the government last week admitted that Mr Thaksin was issued a passport on October 26, at the height of this year's flood crisis.

Mr Thaksin requested the passport on October 25 and collected it at the Royal Thai Embassy in

AROUND THE nation

Abu Dhabi, the Foreign Ministry said.

"This normal passport has nothing to do with extradition or whether [or not] he's innocent, but only his nationality," said ministry spokesman Thani Thongphakdi.

"No government agency, including the police, judiciary and Interior Ministry, opposed the reissue of Thaksin's passport," he added.

But the Democrat Party slammed the government for issuing a passport to a convicted criminal.

Two weeks ago, Foreign Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul had told reporters that Mr Thaksin would receive his passport "very

soon", even though the ex-premier had already received the document, the party pointed out.

Democrat spokesman Chavanond Intarakomalyasut accused Mr Surapong of lying to the public. Mr Thani countered that the minister had merely been uninformed about the situation.

Mr Chavanond also said that the issuing of the document had broken a ministerial regulation prohibiting the issuance of a passport to a person with a criminal conviction.

In a seething editorial, *The Nation* daily newspaper said the move meant Thailand had "emerged from the flood waters to go straight into the political fire".

"One side will say Thaksin is still a criminal convict, thus the covert stunt that took advantage of a nation in flood panic was not just a betrayal, but an act of contempt for the country's rule of law," the paper said.

Mr Thaksin remains a highly



Thaksin Shinawatra, a passport but with no immunity. Photo: Gazette file

polarizing figure in Thailand, loved by the rural poor of the North and Northeast, but loathed by much of the Thai establishment.

In 2008, the Criminal Court convicted him of conflict of interest for signing off on a land deal involving his life when he was prime minister. He fled Thailand

to escape the two-year jail sentence resulting from the conviction, which he said was politically motivated.

He currently lives in Dubai and travels on a Montenegrin passport. The former telecoms billionaire has a number of investments in African mining concerns.



TRANSGENDER EMPOWERMENT: Katoey make it air-side. Photo: The Nation

Ladyboy hostesses reach for the skies

THAILAND's first transsexual air hostesses took to the skies earlier this month, serving customers on a flight from Bangkok to Surat Thani for new airline PC Air.

The airline made headlines earlier this year when it announced it would be the first carrier in Thailand to accept applications for air stewardess positions from transsexuals, more commonly referred to as "ladyboys", or *katoey* in Thai.

PC Air, whose name derives from the initials of owner Peter Chan, said it prides itself on its equal opportunities policy.

One of the new transgender recruits, 22-year-old Tanyarat Jirapatpakorn, told Reuters that the move signified "the beginning of the acceptance of transsexuals in Thailand, giving the opportunity for us to work in various fields..."

"Maybe in the future we can get any job that transsexuals never did

before, such as police, soldiers or even pilots," she said.

Levels of acceptance of transsexuals in Thailand are already recognized as among the highest in the world, with ladyboys a common sight in shops and the service industries.

Mr Chan said that the new recruits were fully trained according to aviation standards and that they "might provide better service because they understand both males and females".

The airline, which specializes in charter flights, has also hired 19 female and seven male attendants.

The qualifications for the ladyboy hostesses were the same as for females in that they were required to talk and walk like women, the airline said.

PC Air runs domestic flights, as well as international services to Asian destinations including Japan and Korea.

'Da Torpedo' gets 15 years

IN THE third high-profile conviction for lese majeste in a month, leading red-shirt activist Daranee Chanchoengsilpakul, known as "Da Torpedo", was sentenced to 15 years in jail for defaming the monarchy.

Mrs Daranee was arrested in July 2008 over the content of three fiery speeches she made at red-shirt rallies that year.

The verdict followed the previous 18-year sentence she was handed in August 2009, which could not be enforced because she filed an appeal against the closed-door trial.

In her petition, Mrs Daranee demanded that the Constitution Court provide a legal interpreta-



Daranee Chanchoengsilpakul, 'Da Torpedo'. Photo: The Nation

tion of the trial, claiming it was unconstitutional.

The Constitution Court ruled in February that the confidential trial was not unconstitutional but ordered that the previous sentence be revoked and the case be tried

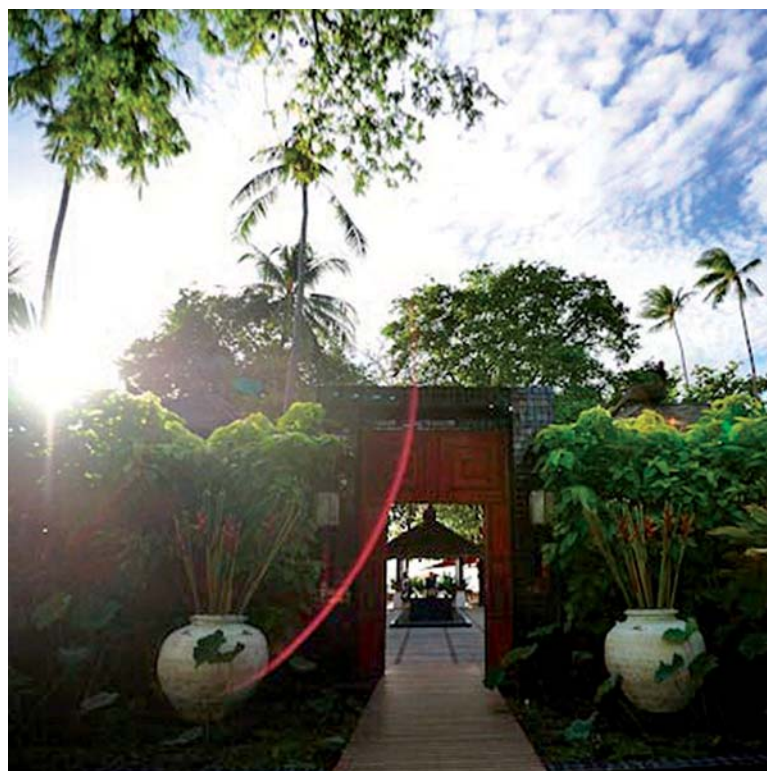
again relying on the same testimonies.

After hearing the latest verdict, Mrs Daranee said she would not appeal because she did not believe in the Thai judicial system.

She added that she would not seek a royal pardon, either.

Last month, 61-year-old Amphon Tangnoppaku was sentenced to 20 years in jail for sending offensive SMS messages about Her Majesty the Queen.

Mr Amphon, who has cancer, was accused of sending the four offending text messages to a personal secretary of former premier Abhisit Vejjajiva in May last year.



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Taking a gamble on tour cruises

WITH Phuket's Deep Sea Port being targeted for a huge upgrade (see page 6) and existing tourism industry infrastructure, the island has great untapped potential in the global cruise ship industry – not just as a port of call but also as a port to call home.

Mention the words “cruise ship” and “Phuket”, and most readers will conjure up memories of the disgraceful blockading by taxi drivers in recent years of the Phuket Deep Sea Port, the only logical location in Phuket to develop a cruise ship port on the island.

Many cruise ship operators in the region currently drop anchor off Patong, where a floating pier is moored in the high season, the only time weather permits. This is a shame because cruise ship tourism is potentially a lucrative year-round proposition for Phuket, which has a virtually unbeatable array of onshore activities to offer visitors. These ports-of-call also encourage first-time visitors to return to explore further – and spend more money.

Unfortunately, the Deep Sea Port is too far from Patong, Phuket Town or popular destinations to make them very attractive to cruise ship passengers, who typically enjoy only a morning or afternoon in port. As such, unless the current transport situation can be vastly improved, its appeal will largely remain limited to all but military vessels on extended R&R visits.

Upgrading the facilities at the port to accommodate Thai-flagged cruise ships is one concept that has until now been given little or no attention in the local press. As a major regional port, the port already has most of the infrastructure needed, including a petrochemical tank farm and container facility, to provision even the largest seagoing vessels. There is also a great deal of public land available for expansion.

One area of particular interest should be casino gambling, which remains illegal in Thailand and its territorial waters. Most cruise vessels worldwide have casinos on board, allowing punters to enjoy games of chance while in international waters.

Many arguments have been put forward asserting that casinos being illegal in Thailand not only costs the nation untold billions in lost revenue to casinos set up along its borders, but also perpetuates an underground industry in the country that fuels state-sector corruption while undermining the democratic process by financing vote-buying. Estimates by the The National Economic and Social Advisory Council have put the scale as high as 800 billion baht annually.

Establishment in Phuket of “casino cruises” of the type already popular in many other parts of the globe would not only be a logical first step to the development of Phuket as a regional hub for the cruise ship industry, but would serve as a boon to the economy and an elegant way around the queasiness of our legislators when it comes to legalized gambling on our shores.



Martial arts: a split decision

For..

Re: Gazette online, Manhunt launched for Phuket MMA brawler, December 14

One shouldn't put blame on the Muay Thai community. Ninety-nine per cent of the fighters show great respect to the island and behave very well. I would say most of them behave better than other “types” of tourists. One rotten apple spoils the bucket. Anyway, I hope they catch him soon and that it becomes clear who did what [to who]. There's always two sides to a story.

Andy
Gazette Forum

... and against

Re: Gazette online, Manhunt launched for Phuket MMA brawler, December 14

All the facts are not clear so we shouldn't judge anyone yet. One thing is for sure, there seems to be a lot of these MMA, BJJ [Brazilian jujitsu] and Muay Thai tourists getting into lots of serious trouble in Phuket, including bar-fights, robbery and murder.

I thought these guys learned respect and self control as part of their training?

Tony
Gazette Forum

Motorbike mayhem

Re: Gazette online, Phuket police step up student road safety campaign, December 6

If the authorities really cared about safety, they would be out on the roads stopping all the traffic violations. I was on my motorbike on the bypass road near Chalong today and lost count of the number of vehicles, especially other motorbikes, traveling in the wrong direction – no helmets,

Letters to the Editor

underage drivers, jumping lights, turning without warning, etc. But of course the authorities don't care, so nothing will change.

Dave Lombardi
Gazette Forum

Accidents waiting to happen - again

Re: Gazette online, Russian man run over by Phuket parasailing boat, December 12.

I am not surprised that this has happened. For the last few years in Patong there have been designated swimming areas bordered by buoys which have resulted in safe swimming areas where jet-skis and speedboats could not enter. This has not happened [at Kata]; therefore it was only a matter of time before someone was severely injured or killed.

JulianK
Gazette Forum

Dark market forces

Re: Gazette online, Experts call for consistency with 'Brand Phuket', December 1

You can “brand” Phuket all you like, through marketing and advertising, but unless the authorities address the scams, rip-offs, crime and the tuk-tuk/transport issue, Phuket will continue to slip behind neighboring countries in relation to tourism, and more recently, expats residing here. As the article mentions, bad news stories go around the world in seconds, due to the internet, and Phuket has many each week.

Bob
Gazette Forum

Downwardly mobile

Re: Gazette online, Austrian tourist stabbed, robbed by Phuket youth gang, December 7

Firstly, how can 12 and 13-year-old kids drive motorbikes in Thailand without a driving licence? I've seen small kids as young as age 10 driving motorbikes, their short legs nearly 8-10 inches off the ground. But the police seem to be interested only in fining drivers without helmets. The underage kids should drive bicycles – not motorbikes.

Kash
Gazette Forum

Talk the talk or walk the walk

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Vice Gov calls for Patong to 'be nice' to tourists, December 3.

The void between the image and the reality of Phuket is nothing short of stunning. These are the very same people who drop litter two feet away from a bin outside 7-Eleven, empty an ashtray out of the window of a car or throw takeaway wrappers from a bike then drop garbage on the beach. People who know how to take every cent from whoever they can... will be nice to tourists? Optimism is great, but let's get real.

A Williams
Gazette Forum

Fanelli gets lucky

Re: Gazette online, No appeal in Fanelli case: Phuket prosecutor, December 1.

Fanelli should think himself lucky that it was only 10 years. If he had committed the crime in the US, it could have been worse. Possibly fatal.

M.H.N.
Gazette Forum

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Burmese in frontline in battle against polio

FIRST PERSON

AS A Burmese person, I am very glad to have the chance to help other Burmese, but it really doesn't matter if you are Thai, Burmese or Mon; there is no need to be racist, especially when dealing with illnesses.

I had been working as a laborer in Koh Sireh for seven years before I heard that the World Vision Foundation of Thailand (WVFT) Phuket office, operating through the Supanimit Foundation, needed Burmese employees. I applied for the job and got it. I have been working for them ever since.

There are about 10 Burmese working at the foundation. We are called the Front Social Network.

I work as an officer's assistant at both the foundation and Vachira Phuket Hospital. I'm at the hospital on Tuesday and Friday and I work at the foundation on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

At the foundation I translate and help officers prepare whatever is needed for Burmese in the pre-natal, Tuberculosis (TB) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) departments. I also help administer polio vaccines. Burmese workers are the real target of the WVFT Phuket's efforts.

The pre-natal clinic is open every Monday at the foundation and we usually receive more than 30 Burmese women every Monday.

I also am an assistant in the pre-natal and TB departments in Vachira Phuket Hospital, because



Khin Khin Soe, 36, is from Mawlamyine, Burma. She is a high-school graduate who has been living in Thailand for 15 years. Khin Khin Soe spends her spare time in the fight against HIV, TB and polio in Burmese communities of Phuket.



Khin Soe administers polio vaccine at Burmese camp. Photo: Warisa Temram

some Burmese people can't speak Thai, so they need a translator for the patients. This is an example of the cooperation between the foundation and the hospital, as both places are working together on the TB clinic.

I am willing to help anyone, not just Burmese. When I work at the hospital there are more than 90 patients per day and only eight or nine of them are Burmese.

Sometimes I go out with WVFT Phuket teams to visit Burmese communities and camps to explain

how they can protect themselves from HIV and to give them some basic information about TB, which is done under Global Fund Round six and eight programs.

In my spare time I take Thai classes at the hospital and I search for Burmese workers suspected of having TB, such as someone who has been coughing for more than 14 days.

I am glad to work with WVFT Phuket. I have a job, earn money and meanwhile I enrich my life by helping people.

Tesco Lotus captures 'moral' high ground

DON'T get me wrong here, I believe in saving the planet as much as the next guy. However, I get really annoyed when certain companies base their whole marketing strategy on shouting loudly how green they are while their stock in trade business involves pumping god-knows what into the environment of a third-world country. So what if the company spends a couple of million on practicing to be green? Great. I'll bet that the amount spent on "green" projects doesn't even scratch the profit margin and is probably written off against tax.

While on the topic of hoodwinking the green-aware public, let's not forget to mention the big retailers of Phuket who have signed up to a memorandum of understanding that they will cease issuing plastic bags for the sake of the environment. This is the biggest con since the Greeks left a gift at Troy.

Tesco (UK) pulled off this marketing coup (scam) a while back. In one fell swoop, they reduced their cost overheads and, get this, increased their profits, all the time clinging tenaciously to the moral high-ground. How did this happen? Simple. Most of us reuse the plastic bag, thoughtfully provided (cost overhead) by the supermarket, to bag up our household rubbish. With that source gone, we were forced to buy purpose-made black plastic trash bags (profit) from the same outlet that used to give bags free with the shopping we did there! And the best thing of all, they looked good in the process.

But it's different in Phuket, I hear you say. Here they're producing 84,000 cloth bags to be

Island View

By Henry Martin

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



A recycler putting plastic bags to good use. Photo: Mattes

distributed by the Phuket Energy Office. Good point, but for how long are these 84,000 free cloth bags going to be available? I'll bet the next batch won't be free, even if they're ever made, which I doubt. So where do we end up? Retailers smiling smugly in profit and landfill sites full of black plastic instead of white.

Are plastic bags a serious environmental damage issue? Yes, most people believe they are and I'm no exception.

I know issues of waste disposal, natural resources and sustainability are complex and becoming more pressing each year. This is why I get so irate when I see big companies climbing on the gravy train and using it as a cash cow. Does anyone believe the companies mentioned in the article would have signed up to the deal if it would have cost them to stop issuing plastic bags?

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

Long-stay visa for man married to Thai

I have been married to a Thai citizen for almost 37 years.

We have been living abroad and are thinking about returning to Thailand so my wife can be near her mother who is in her late 70s.

As a man married to a Thai citizen, is it possible for me to get a long-stay visa without having 800,000 baht deposited in a Thai bank? We have plenty of money to live on.

**SiamRick
Phuket**

Phuket Immigration Superintendent Panuwat Ruamra replies:

You must meet the same visa requirements as everyone else. You must first be living in Thailand and have the necessary funds in a Thai bank account [to get the visa].

The exact amount necessary depends on your situation. You

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

Submit your issue at

www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

can get these details by visiting the Phuket Immigration Office.

As an example, since you have a Thai wife, you must deposit between 400,000 and 800,000 baht into a Thai bank account. This is a mandatory visa regulation.

You should come to the Phuket Immigration Office where we can help you with this situation or call us at 076-221905.

But where will the children play?

I have a six-year-old son and would like to know if there is an

organized football league that he can play in.

**Terry Devine
Rawai**

An officer at the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) Tourism and Sports department replies:

Currently, we don't have a sports program for kids. The next OrBorJor sports camp for kids will be in April and May next year.

The camp will include table tennis and football, and will be open for kids age four to 14. Thais or foreigners are welcome to join the camp.

More details will be released next year.

For more information please contact the OrBorJor Tourism and Sports department before April next year at 076-217087.

Martin Hill, Head Coach - Brazilian Soccer Schools Phuket, replies:

We are looking for girls and boys for U11 and U14. The Fair Play League (FPL) season will



Youngsters at the recent Brazilian Soccer Skills camp at BIS.

start on January 14 at the British International School.

The cost for playing in this league will be 500 baht for the whole eight-week season, thanks to our shirt sponsors and venues.

Players will receive a full playing uniform plus a FPL medal and the chance to play at the best football facilities Phuket has to offer for around eight weeks.

Matches will take place at the following facilities: British International School (BIS), Youth Football Home (YFH), Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC), Quality Schools International

(QSI) and Headstart International School (HS).

Squads will be split into balanced teams for evenly matched games. U11 squads will have 11 players (six-a-side) and U14 squads will be made up of 12 players (seven-a-side).

We are currently also seeking interested coaches and assistant coaches for the FPL season, free training will be available.

Those interested in either signing their child up for the next FPL eight-week season or getting involved as a coach or assistant coach should send inquiries to bssphuket@icfds.com.

Superyacht industry flourishing

By Steven Layne

MIGRATORY birds aren't the only ones moving south to escape plummeting temperatures in the northern hemisphere. South Asia is rapidly becoming the preferred winter destination for owners of superyachts – motor yachts in excess of 30 meters or 100 feet.

Indeed, an increasing number of these luxurious leisure ships can be sighted off the shores and islands across the South Pacific and Andaman Seas, with Phuket as a focal point.

"The number of superyachts being transported to Phuket for the winter season is up 25 per cent from last year," said Bas Nederpelt, Director of Sales for De Vries, one of two ship yards in Holland where world-renowned Feadship yachts are constructed.

"Due to increased fuel costs and the perceived threat of piracy, among other factors, it's becoming more common for owners to ship their vessel for long distances via dock transport, and then fly to their destination," he added.

Bas himself flew to Phuket last week to attend the annual Asia Superyacht Rendezvous, the longest running superyacht event, and largest gathering of superyachts in Asia.

Speaking exclusively with the *Phuket Gazette*, Bas explained that the primary reason Feadship has continued to be a principle sponsor of the event for all 11 years is for brand building.

"Feadship yachts are made almost entirely for export – we rarely design a yacht for a Dutchman. So, overseas markets are important to us. For more than 10 years we have recognized that Asia is an important and growing market. In the 1990s we established sales offices in Singapore and Tokyo which didn't work out too well.

"However, we want to continue to increase awareness [about Feadship brand] in Asia and believe that sponsoring a fun event that is more social and less business oriented is more cost effective than advertising in magazines," he explained.



WINTER CRUISERS: Director of Asia Pacific Superyachts Thailand, Charles Dwyer (left) and Bas Nederpelt (right), sales director of De Vries Feadship shipyard said South Asia is contending against the Caribbean as a preferred winter cruising hub for superyachts.

"Phuket is one of the nicest places for cruise yachting and there are little to no restrictions when compared with other destinations in the region. The high end market want only the best and wealthy people go to the nicest places in the world.

"So in the summer, they cruise around the south of France and in the Caribbean for winter. However, as awareness [about Phuket] increases, more are choosing to come here instead. Phuket is an ideal regional hub with companies that can offer all the services and technical support to yacht owners," he continues.

"The establishment of various new marinas is another positive indicator. Indeed there is potential and opportunity for Phuket to become a world hub, year round – not just seasonal," he said.

As for Feadship's key market groups,

'Penny wise, pound foolish. Some officials have overlooked what this industry can contribute to the local economy.'

– Charles Dwyer

Bas said, "We've noticed more Russians coming to Phuket, and we have a strong presence in Russia." He noted that other key markets also include the Middle East and the United States, where Feadship generates a large volume of sales from its Florida office.

Charles Dwyer, Director of Asia Pacific Superyachts, a co-sponsor of the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous, concurred with Bas that increased awareness and infrastructure, the wide availability of resources and services, and the general sense of security are the main factors influencing the continued growth and prosperity of the local yachting industry.

He added, "Superyacht owners are starting to get bored with the same old waters. In the summer, they're in the Mediterranean and then go to the Caribbean for the

winter, then back to the Mediterranean and so forth, for years on end. At the same time, people are realizing that Asia provides many new cruising grounds. Phuket, Koh Samui, Bali, Sri Lanka, Langkawi, the Maldives and Bali are all part of, and due to benefit from, this shift," he said.

Asked whether any competition destinations in the region are a threat to Phuket, Mr Dwyer pointed out that unlike other industries, destinations feed one another in the yachting industry. "Sailors starting in Bali will ultimately continue to Singapore and then up to Langkawi and Phuket, and it works both ways. They always end up coming to Phuket, but the region as a whole benefits," he explained.

Both Charles and Bas agreed that "red tape" is the biggest hurdle for future growth. Charles elaborated. "When compared with places like China, Phuket and Thailand are a lot more lax with regulations. And it is for this reason that Phuket stands to benefit tremendously from the expanding Chinese high end market, who are buying yachts and bringing them to Phuket to cruise.

"However, Thailand marine officials should reconsider its regulations."

He continued, "For example, a boat owner needs a special generator or pump that is only made in Europe. Instead of having it shipped to Thailand where it would be subject to a heavy import duty, what many will do is have it shipped to Langkawi, duty free and have it installed there.

"And while they're there they will of course get duty free fuel and other things before coming to Phuket.

"While Thailand was looking to get the import duty, not only did they not get it, but they lost out on the jobs for the 10 people it would have took to install the equipment. Penny wise, pound foolish. Some officials have overlooked what this industry can contribute to the local economy."

Also see yacht design story on page 14.

Phuket's Happy Air relaunches services

BOUTIQUE carrier Happy Air resumed services last week for flights from Bangkok to Ranong, but the airline still has not set a date to resume its Phuket - Haad Yai service.

Speaking from the company's office at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok, Happy Air sales and marketing representative Onkanya Chaisit said thrice-weekly (Friday,

Sunday, Wednesday) flights between Bangkok and Ranong resumed on December 16.

Ranong is a popular destination among "visa runners" and Bangkok residents who like to gamble, as it is the jump off point to the Andaman Club Casino resort on the Burmese island of Thahtay Kyun.

Happy Air resumed service from Suvarnabhumi to Mae Hong Son, Mae Sod and Nan on December 23. These services are offered on the carrier's small fleet of Saab turbo-prop aircraft, Ms Onkanya added.

The carrier would like to resume its Phuket - Haad Yai route, but as yet has not set a specific date.

"Perhaps some time next year," Ms Onkanya said.

There is currently no direct service linking Phuket and Haad Yai, the two largest international airports in the south of Thailand.

– Stephen Fein



HAPPY ENDING: Happy Air ground attendants pose for a picture after the airline announced it would resume some of its flights this month.

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Weeding out hype in a health-conscious market

HEALTH and environment are two buzzwords that are being heard a lot nowadays across the globe and Phuket is no exception.

Health-conscious segments of local markets continue to grow and an increasing number of producers are looking to exploit this consumer base. What was once a niche market has turned into an 'eco green everything' fad.

Indeed, many consumers, producers and suppliers, will struggle to explain the difference between 'organic' and 'chemical-free', among other things.

In an exclusive interview with the *Phuket Gazette*, Martin H.J. Smetters, Managing Director of Pura Organic Foods Limited, shed some light on the topic.

"The Thai government is trying to stimulate organic farming but unfortunately, clarity is still a major issue," said Martin, whose company is a leading organic food distributor in Phuket and southern Thailand.

"The term 'chemical-free' cannot be compared to organic farming as chemicals are used from the time of seeding until a short period before harvest, when the use stops. The chemicals and pesticides used 'disappear' during this final period. However, since chemicals were used for 90 % of the growth period, such produce is subject to damage and other alterations in taste, color, shape, size and nutritional value," he explained.

"I've seen a study that states that non-organic food has lost 50 per cent of its nutritional values over the last 50 years and in order to get the same nutritional value that our grandparents did 50 years ago we must eat twice as much today. With Organic produce this



WHOLESOME: Fresh produce from the Thanyamundra Organic farm (above and below left) is distributed in Phuket by Pura Organic Co Ltd, who also distribute organic dairy and poultry products (below, right).



is less the case," he added.

From its base in Thalang, Martin explained that Pura Organic supplies a wide array of fresh and truly organic produce to hotels, resorts and restaurants in Phuket and the southern region.

With a focus on high-quality organic produce, it distributes vegetables such as kale, green long beans, red long beans, Chinese radish, lettuce, pak choy, all kinds of lettuce, wild rocket, regular rocket and winged peas; herbs, including four different kinds of basil and coriander; and fruits such as papaya, pineapple, passion fruit, longan and mangosteen; in addition to organic dairy products such as



milk (cow, buffalo and goat) and cheese, eggs and chicken.

"In total, Pura now carries over 800 organic products. One of our main local suppliers is the Thanyamundra Organic Farm in Surat Thani, next to Khao Sok National Park," Martin said, noting that the organic farm is certified under the Agricultural Certification of Thailand (ACT) standard.

"This particular farm is on a 60 rai parcel of land located about two hours north of Phuket, and is attached to the 10-rai Thanyamundra Organic Resort which was recently chosen by Agoda as one of Asia's Top 10 Eco-Boutiques," he said.

"As our associate, the farm sells us their entire harvest, which we then distribute throughout the south, mostly in Phuket," he explained.

While the company sources a lot of its fresh produce locally, its entire supply network comprises a total of 40 sources nationwide including those in Surat Thani, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Nakhon Ratchasima and Mae Hong Son provinces, Mr Smetters added.

"Pura has had some problems due to a logistic issue caused by the recent flooding, but since our main product lines are fresh produce, most of this is flown directly into Phuket from all over Thailand," he said.

Martin went on to explain that while official certification and reputation is important, it cannot be relied on unconditionally.

"We initially believe and trust our organic sources, but try to make it a point to personally visit their production and distribution facilities to see if they meet Pura's quality requirements," he said.

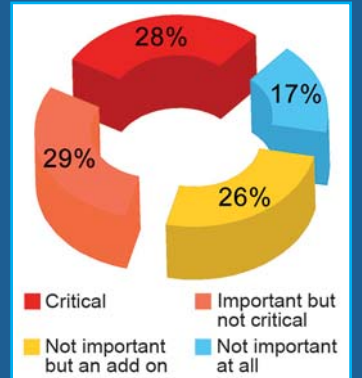
"Over the past 14 months, we have taken some products with certified organic sources off our list simply because after visiting the farm we didn't feel comfortable with the quality and standard observed," he added.

"On the other hand we feel very proud to carry products from non-certified sources who have shown us comfortable levels of organic correctness. Pura Organic Foods Ltd is very willing to help the small farmer who makes an effort to be organic and whose efforts are often pressured by unfair trade practices," he added.

Martin himself has been eating organic food for over 20 years and said he has not had to take a single day off for sick leave.

Pura Organic will soon open its new shop and office at 66/20 Moo 7, Thepkasattri in Thalang, on the 402 between the Thanyapura entrance and the Shell Station. For more information, see W: puraorganic.org
— *Phuket Gazette*

Gazette poll: Booze pricing and tourism



IN THE wake of consumer item shortages resulting from recent flooding, the *Phuket Gazette* conducted a poll about the significance of alcohol pricing to the local tourism industry.

Over 57% of respondents believe reasonably-priced alcohol is either important or even critical to Phuket's attractiveness as a tourist destination.

The island suffered a shortage of certain alcoholic beverages after floods in central Thailand disrupted operations at production facilities and distribution networks.

Overall, 28% voted reasonably-priced alcohol was "critical", while 29.4% voted it as "important" – the most popular response overall.

More than 25% said reasonably-priced alcohol was not important, as alcohol was only an "add-on" for people living in Phuket or here on holiday. The least popular response, at 17%, was that having reasonably-priced was not important at all "because many people enjoy Phuket without alcohol".

While 62% of both tourists and local foreign residents felt affordable booze as critical or important, more than 70% of Thai nationals said reasonably-priced alcohol was not important to Phuket.

Biz owners agree with wage hikes

MORE than 70 % of 5,381 Phuket business owners surveyed by the Phuket Provincial Labor Office said they agree to the minimum wage being raised to 300 baht per day.

The news was announced last week at a meeting of Phuket officials including Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha, Phuket Provincial Labor Office Chief Suttipong Saisakares, Phuket Provincial Commercial Affairs acting Chief Jarus Phetpakdee and representatives of employers and employees.

"Hotel owners would like to introduce the increase gradually, and would like to see more qualified employees working in the tourism industry," Chief Suttipong said.

"From January to [the end of] November this year, there were more than 42,000 persons who registered with the Labor Office as seeking work.

"Of those, 33,763 persons were de-registered as they had already

found employment," he said.

Although he described the unemployment situation in Phuket as in a constant state of flux, "depending on the tourism season", Chief Suttipong said that employers had reported that the unemployment rate had fallen in Phuket in general.

Workers representative Wichit Dasantad said, "Increasing the minimum wage to 300 baht a day should not be a problem, as the Phuket economy is continually growing, especially the tourism industry."

Increasing the minimum wage in Phuket would attract more workers to the province, which would help alleviate the current labor shortage in the job market, he added.

The minimum wage in Phuket is set to be increased from 220 baht to 300 baht per day on April 1 next year. — *Warisa Temram*

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Is Phuket cheaper?



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

HARDLY a day passes when somebody doesn't ask me, "Woody, should I buy a laptop (phone, desktop computer, iPad, printer, camera, TV) here in Phuket, or is it cheaper in the US (or Bangkok, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Seoul, Europe)?"

Once upon a time, it was relatively easy to answer that question. Times have changed.

Three or four years ago, prices in Bangkok – particularly Panthip Plaza – ran about 15 per cent cheaper than Phuket. You could find individual fluctuations from time to time, but there was a definite increase in prices here in Phuket, for just about everything, from paper to laptops, phones to scanners.

Those price differences have largely evaporated. Bangkok computer retailers, such as JIB Computer, now have branches in Phuket, and the Phuket shops charge the same prices as in Bangkok's Panthip Plaza. Some even use the same price sheets. Other low-margin retailers, particularly in the basement of Big C and on or near Phang Nga Road in Phuket Town, have kept up.

For consumer electronics, Power Buy isn't the cheapest in Thailand, but it's close. Other Bangkok chains also sell at the same price here as in Bangkok. It's rare that you'll find anything significantly cheaper in Bangkok – although the selection is greater at Panthip.

By comparison, Bangkok tends to be a little more expensive than Hong Kong, Taipei, Seoul, or even occasionally Singapore. Five years ago, I flew to Hong Kong to buy a gorgeous 30-inch monitor, and saved enough to pay for the plane fare. That just wouldn't happen to-

day. Specific brand name items might run 10 per cent cheaper in Hong Kong or Singapore – but at the same time, other items run 5 to 10 per cent more (I'm looking at you, Dell). I've come to the conclusion that going out of the country just isn't worth the airfare, lugging the hardware, dealing with customs, or worrying about the warranty.

The one place where you can consistently find lower prices is the US. I can hear the guffaws all the way out here. But it's true: on some items, particularly expensive big-name items which are cheaper in the US than just about anywhere in the world.

One big exception is Apple. The iPad 2 (16 GB with 3G) costs US\$629 in the US. The same rig in Phuket goes for 19,900 baht, which is about US\$637 at current exchange rates. The warranty is identical so there's no reason to buy an iPad outside of Thailand.

If things are frequently cheaper in the US, it immediately raises the question: how much cheaper? I've found two web sites that tell you not only how much items sell for in the US (and some in Europe). They also show you the price history, so you can see where prices have been, and possibly get an idea of where they're headed. Everybody wondering if they pay too much here for a specific piece of electronics should hop over to both sites and see how well local prices stack up.

The first site, camelegg.com, tracks prices at Newegg – one of the pre-eminent online electronics retailers in the US – that sells computers and computer equipment, of course, but also televisions, cameras, kitchen appliances, refrigerators, washers, calculators, shredders, BBQ grills, bug zappers – and popcorn machines.

The second site, Decide.com, also tracks prices and shows you

historical graphs, but it has two additional twists. Firstly, the database at Decide.com is enormous and covers hundreds of competing stores. Secondly, the people behind the site have put together some fancy programming – aided by human observers – and they make an educated guess on whether it's better to buy something now, or to wait and see if something better is coming down the track.

Let me show you how this works. Say you're in the market for a new DSLR camera. You've looked around and settled on a Canon EOS 600D with an 18-55 mm Canon EF-S IS II lens. You can find that camera at several locations in Phuket (the cheapest I found was 29,900 baht). If you go to Decide.com, you'll see that the camera – known as an EOS Rebel T3i in the US – can be bought for US\$655 (about 20,500 baht) from a lesser-known mass retailer and up to US\$708 at B&H (a reputable mass retailer with a long track record). Prices in Europe are higher.

The Decide.com web site recommends that you go ahead and buy it now, because of an anticipated price increase of up to \$60 in the next two weeks.

Flipping over to camelegg.com, you'll see that Newegg lists it for \$899 right now, but seven weeks ago it was at \$849. I'd be willing to bet that the price will come down at Newegg after Christmas.

Conclusion: you can save 7,800 baht by buying the camera at B&H in the US – providing you can get it here without incurring any shipping charges or customs duties. If you want to buy it from Newegg, the price in the US is only 1,900 baht cheaper than it is here.

No, I didn't end up buying the camera but I sure felt better about prices in Phuket after looking at comparable prices in the US.



HONG KONG BARGAIN: Is it really cheaper? Photo: jayneandd

Prices can work the other way around, by the way: living in Phuket can have advantages, in a strange way. If you follow me on Twitter (@PhuketLiveWire), you saw a warning about skyrocketing hard drive prices that I published in InfoWorld several days before the big spike arrived. In the US, and around the world, the price of large hard drives just about tripled in the course of a couple of weeks, in late October.

If you were looking for a hard drive about that time, and you saw my tweet, you could've run out to one of the many retailers in Phuket and picked up a

hard drive at something close to the original price. The folks in Phuket didn't follow the sudden worldwide rise in prices for 24 to 48 hours after they'd hit worldwide.

Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the Phuket Gazette sponsor free Wednesday afternoon computer help clinics around the island. See the Gazette Guide for times and locations. Follow Woody on Twitter: @PhuketLiveWire, or "like" his page at facebook.com/SandwichShoppes.



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A modern gold rush

AS MY latest trip to the UK continues, I was thinking "What can I get my dearest for Christmas this year?"

I'm not the biggest fan of shopping trips and love nothing more than having a fixed plan in place to minimize the whole experience.

Being Christmas though, I thought I should give this a little more time and thought and really push the boat out.

Walking down the high street it's clear to see that the economy in the UK this year has hit hard times. Everywhere I look, I can see the endless "sale" signs in shop windows and there seems to be a lot less people pounding the streets looking for bargains than I can remember in past years.

Wearing my festive Santa's hat, I thought I would treat my other half to a ring, necklace or bracelet this year. I walked into the first jewellers I came across to have a look at some of the items on offer. There were no signs in this shop window offering bargain sale prices and I nearly fell over when I asked the shop attendant to show me some of the gold rings he had displayed. If there has been one

Island Investor

By Anthony Lyman

commodity that has not taken a big hit in recent times it's gold.

In tough economic and financial times, gold has been seen as a safe haven for investors to deposit in and wait until things look a little more prosperous.

This high demand has pushed the price of gold up to record levels recently and many believe that this will continue for the foreseeable future. In 1999, Gordon Brown sold off 400 tons of the UK Gold reserves at approximately US\$256 and US\$296 per ounce for 2.3 billion pounds sterling. When gold reached US\$1500 per ounce that same figure would have been worth 12.95bn pounds sterling, and how the UK could benefit from that amount now cannot be understated.

As with everything, hindsight is a wonderful thing and the continuing increase in the price of gold is nothing short of incredible.

With the continued worldwide economic woes, many experts foresee gold reaching US\$2000

per ounce, and all the signs point to this increase as there is certainly no quick fix to the economical problems many countries are currently facing.

Gold seems to have stabilized at around the US\$1600 – US\$1700 per ounce figure after a temporary drop, but as markets continue to be uncertain, this could still provide an attractive investment opportunity over the next 12 months.

As many of the worldwide major currencies weaken, will there be many more places for investors to turn? As always, a commodity such as Gold can be quite volatile so this is not something for the faint hearted and should be held as part of a larger portfolio. This however means that the perfect Christmas gift is now a lot more expensive than it would have been several years ago. I'm sure it will all be worth it to see my beloved on Christmas day with a shining gold necklace waiting to be put around her neck. She'll be delighted even if my bank account isn't!

For more information contact alyman@montpeliergroup.com



A WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT: Gold will last even if a relationship won't.

Google's top ten searches of 2011



IT IS that time of year again when people look back at the year that's been and compile lists.

Google have been doing this for the past 11 years and call their compilation of year's most popular searches the Year-End Zeitgeist which means "the spirit of the times".

To compile the 2011 Year-End Zeitgeist, Google uses the aggregation of billions of queries people typed into the search engine then filters out spam and repeat queries to build lists that rank in order of the largest volume of searches.

Globally the top ten were, at number one, 13-year-old Rebecca Black who made a big splash on the internet with the release of her pop single "Friday" which went viral, receiving over 167 million views on YouTube.

Google's new social networking site, Google+, came in at a strong second with Ryan Dunn an American reality television personality killed in an alcohol-related car crash at number three.

Casey Anthony, a mother

charged with killing her young daughter was number four while the release of Battlefield 3, a first-person shooter video game, came in at number five.

The anticipated release of the iPhone5 (which turned out to be the iPhone 4S) was number six., while British singer Adele came in at number seven.

At number eight a Japanese script search for TEPCO (owners of the Fukushima Daiichi power plant) were the first non-Latin term to make it to the global fastest-rising list while Apple founder the late Steve Jobs and iPad 2 placed 9th and 10th, respectively.

The list of fastest-falling Google searches search terms whose popularity plummeted in 2011 was topped by Myspace, a social networking pioneer that has been eclipsed by the likes of Facebook and Google+. The fastest-falling list also included Hi5, another social networking site and Baidu, a Chinese search engine.

– Marc Mulloy

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Asia is seventh heaven for Chapman's yacht designs

British yacht designer Jody Chapman visited Phuket to attend the recent Asia Superyacht Rendezvous

By Bruce Stanley

BORN into a family of architects in England, it is hardly surprising that Jody Chapman became interested in product design and eventually graduated with an Honors degree in Industrial Design from the University of Brunel in Surrey.

He later went to work for the luxury car manufacturer, Austin Martin, where he used his design talents on the V8 Vantage. Jody also worked with a team of engineers who produced Jaguar and Landrover models.

After six years, he decided that he wanted to work in a smaller company where his own design ideas could be realized. He joined a firm, as project manager, that designed boats built around the world. Jody explains that he has tried to draw inspiration from sources other than superyachts and often cites automotive cues. His favorite ever car is a P4 Ferrari which he claims "is a near perfect icon where performance has been interpreted by artists and craftsmen".

"I believe many of the innovations in world class cruising and racing will occur in Asia so I have moved my design studio to Singapore," he explained. "Europeans are building their yachts in Asia due to the much lower construction costs whereas Asians are looking for yachts in Europe as they are more brand conscious. I hope to be able to offer bespoke interiors and exteriors to both markets."

Jody plans to bring innovation and his creative personal vision to yacht design in the region.

"I'm incorporating Asian design concepts such as *feng shui* and regional building materials like bamboo, moveable screens and open spaces to update interior spaces on yachts. The quality of light is incredible in



ANDARA YOU HAVE IT: Jody intends to bring innovation through creative personal vision to Superyacht design in Asia.

Southeast Asia and I'm intrigued about using it in my design vocabulary," he continues. "I think that yacht design tends to lag behind the innovations in architecture. So I'm hoping that the dynamic economies of Asia will be a good place for my design ideas.

"Design and construction of yachts can happen

with teams working from a variety of locations. Each part of the design process can be made from a separate studio that must coordinate with the owner or their representative. The whole process can be very bureaucratic and challenging. I believe I can simplify the process of design and

construction and speed up the entire process in getting a finished product to the client," said Jody.

With a background in and a passion for architecture Jody has always felt that yacht design has a tendency to lag behind and a lot can be learned from contemporary Asian interior design. One of his



INSPIRATION: A 1967 330 P4 Ferrari. The iconic mix of artistry, craftsmanship and performance according to Jody Chapman.



Jody Chapman of Seventy Seven Design



FENG SHUI: Asian design concepts will be fundamental to Jody's work



President's Design Award winner 2011, 26 Cable Road in Singapore.

pleasure yacht. He also plans to diversify his design work into creating fresh interiors for corporate jets.

"I like to work with clients who have an open mind and are interested in looking to the future of design. I expect to be very busy," said a smiling Jody.

A glittering finale

WITH the action on sand and sea complete, invited guests and VIPs gathered at the Surin Hotel on the final evening of the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous for a lavish international feast hosted by media sponsors Boat International and laid on by the Surin Hotel.

Thai dancing and live music performances added to the ambiance, while a slideshow of professional photos was projected onto a big screen to showcase the weekend's highlights. Master of Ceremonies Martin Carpenter thanked all the sponsors and participants for their support in making such a magnifi-



A salute to the next ASYR in Phuket.

cent sailing event possible. The crew of S/Y Silandra V were then honoured with the traditional "Spirit of the Rendezvous" award and the assembled throng joined them in looking forward to the 12th Feadship Asia Superyacht Rendezvous next year in Phuket.

"When we learnt about this event 11 years ago we immediately came onboard as principal sponsor," said Bas Nederpelt, Marketing and Sales Director for Feadship. "We certainly intend to continue supporting the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous in the future."

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A call to arts

By Bruce Stanley

THE first annual ThinkDesign Art Festival will be held from December 27 – 30, at the Royal Phuket Marina and will showcase the talents of over 150 visual and performing artists from Thailand and around the world.

This is the largest gathering of creativity on the island since the Phuket Andaman Painting Exhibitions held over ten years ago.

Michael Earle, an American architect who has extensive work experience in Spain and Dubai, is the producer for this inaugural ThinkDesign Art Festival.

“Since I moved to Phuket and

began producing ThinkDesign magazine, I’ve become aware of how much talent there is in the local art community. I’ve also noticed that there is little contact between this great local art and the expat community whose homes have large wall spaces. I’m hoping that this festival will open a dialogue whereby the international residents and visitors will embrace the talent produced both on Phuket and in Thailand.”

Michael has spent months exploring the galleries and ateliers of painters, sculptors and poets on Phuket. The result is a festival that will highlight a large collection of traditional painting



A painting by husband and wife team Remy and Chatriya Serivivatanawong.

and sculpture and include video and performance art. He is assisted by local sculptor, John Underwood, who has erected a quarter kilometer of exhibition wall space.

In addition, he has invited international artists whose work sits in respected collections throughout the West.

“I’ve invited Gomez Bueno to present his wildly exciting canvases of urban life in America.

He is a social critic and political artist who works in large format paintings. He uses strong graphic design language that reminds the viewer of the Pop Art movement of the 1960s.”

Also invited to the show is Christian Develter, a Belgian artist, who has a strong following of collectors drawn to his bold use of mixing oil and acrylic colors of iconic figures that reflect the popularity of contemporary

Asian painting.

The ThinkDesign Art Festival will also include popular Phuket painters Marilyn Band, Map Abday and Robin Gillow.

“I’ve looked at painters and galleries all over the world, and I believe that painting on Phuket can compete with artists anywhere. I’m really happy to be able to bring well deserved attention to these artists,” said Michael.



Gomez Bueno works in large format paintings but also murals that animate the streets of Los Angeles.



Marilyn Band last exhibited her work at Mom Tri’s Boathouse years ago.

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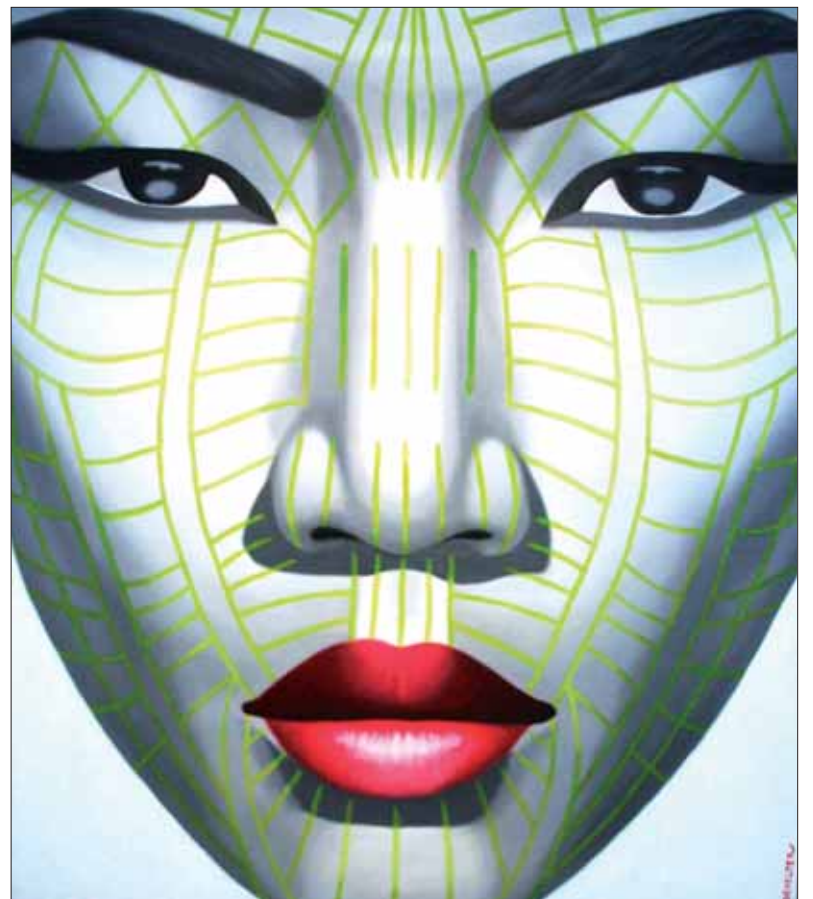
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Christian Develter has a strong following of collectors drawn to his bold iconic figures that reflect the popularity of contemporary Asian painting.

Feat of a dancer



Matthew Harding visits Yaowawit School as part of his current world schedule to record a new dance video

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

INTERNET sensation Matthew Harding recently visited Yaowawit School in Phang Nga to record a section for his new video which will feature the schoolchildren performing with "Dancing Matt".

The filming and publicity are part of efforts to encourage donations for the school and to help promote the Tourism Authority of Thailand's latest campaign "Go Thailand: All that is missing is you".

Sabine Kraus, manager of Yaowawit School which is part of the Children's World Academy Foundation, was asked if being part of Matt's tour would benefit the school.

"We are, of course, interested in playing a role in this video because we can reach a lot of people globally who may be interested in our work or may want to visit or help financially," said Sabine.

On Matt's arrival at the school, he showed his two videos of dancing around the world to the children. The images clearly impressed the youngsters who inquired about

how Matt danced in many unusual situations including the desert, under water, among throngs of people and even among jellyfish.

Matt was treated to a performance of Thai-folk dancing by the children who then taught him a few basic moves. Not easy – even for an experienced dancer.

After some practise, the children were ready to perform for the cameras, but with a bunch of kids enjoying themselves, eventually composure gave way to hilarity.

However, the recording was a success and Sabine was delighted with the day's activities as a positive emotional development experience.

Matt was beaming following the afternoon's exertions.

"That was a lot of fun. I had such a great time. All the kids have such great spirit and they are excellent dancers – not shy at all.

Being taught the Thai-folk dancing completely exhausted me," said Matt.

With 120 children who are parentless or who come from poor families, the school aims to provide free primary education until the children reach high school.



Sabine Krauss



YOU CAN DANCE IF YOU WANT TOO: Children from Yaowawit school enjoying their day with "Dancing Matt" and even teaching him a few steps. Photos: Pimwara Choksakulpan

"Monthly expenses are about 800,000 baht. Roughly half of this is covered by the Swiss Education group plus charitable donations and our own income from accommodation and farming – so we still have a big gap to fill," Sabine said.

Those interested in donating to the school, can contact the project manager Sabine Kraus T: 082 2838 355 or E: sabkrs@gmail.com or visit the school site at childrensworldacademy.com See the children's dancing with Matt in his latest video at wherethehellismatt.com.

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NEW YEAR'S EVE
Pearl of the Andaman Gala Event
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incl. one glass of champagne

Christmas in the chamber

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THOUGH only some divers know all the words to the *Twelve Days of Christmas*, every diver has heard or knows by heart a couple horror stories of "getting the bends".

From our training and bar room chat we get the picture of a panicking diver disregarding protocol and bolting for the surface. As they shoot towards fresh air, the nitrogen accumulated in their tissue during the dive turns into rapidly expanding bubbles, possibly headed straight for the brain.

Those scenarios are extraordinarily rare, and though the exact causes of decompression illness (DCI), also known as "the bends", and the formation of nitrogen bubbles isn't completely understood, the cure, a treatment in a hyperbaric chamber, is right here in Phuket, but that's really not the place to spend your holidays.

"It's not so much [about] messing up," said Patrick Schindler, Operations Co-coordinator for the hyperbaric chamber at Phuket International Hospital.

"People say, 'You can't be bent' you followed your computer, followed your tables; your dive was good.' That doesn't matter so much," Patrick explained.

Each person is different and without researchers getting proper funding it's not possible to fully understand why bubbles develop

in some individuals and not others, or why some people who do develop bubbles have symptoms and some don't.

Many dive professionals have only a superficial understanding of DCI, due to its rarity, yet they are expected to teach it to the members of the dive community. This is one of the reasons Patrick offers his time to educate them and the general public about DCI and hyperbaric chamber procedures. The next five day seminar will be held in either April or May.

The hyperbaric chamber at Phuket International Hospital is only one of four chambers in Phuket, serving the entire west coast of Thailand. What the white-WWII-submarine looking contraption, or more precisely, pressure vessel for human occupancy, does is increase the air pressure around a person while they breathe 100 per cent oxygen. This increases the amount of oxygen that can be absorbed by the body, which helps eliminate the nitrogen in the patient's system.

Most DCI cases that are handled at the Phuket International Hospital are the less serious ones. Sometimes people show up a couple days after diving and have lost sensation in their pinky finger or are suffering from persistent joint pain, one of the many places bubbles can accumulate.

"Denial is the biggest issue for all illnesses. People just go back to whatever island they were on and come to Phuket the next day or even later," Patrick said.

People make up excuses for



UNDER PRESSURE: Kwanruethai Kuru, the accountant at the Hyperbaric Services, sits next to the demand valve oxygen mask patients use during their typical five hour "dive" in the chamber. Photo Isaac Stone Simonelli

skin rashes and many of the symptoms of DCI. They often explain the rashes as unnoticed encounters with jellyfish or a sudden allergic reaction to neoprene.

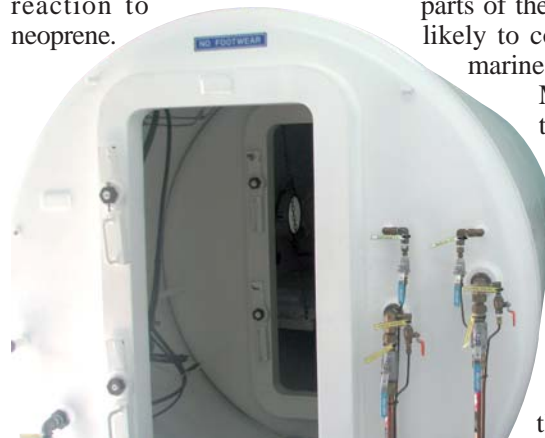
Avoiding the obvious fact that the rashes have developed only on their abdomen or hips, which were covered by the wetsuit as well as other parts of their bodies and thus unlikely to come into contact with marine stingers.

Many of these symptoms of DCI can disappear in a couple of hours or over-night, often allowing divers to justify getting back in the water the next day, instead of following up on the issue by consulting the Sub-aquatic Safety

Service (SSS) Recompression Chamber Network or a doctor who fully understands DCI and its symptoms.

"The next day, feeling better they return to their holiday diving. First dive – okay, second dive – okay and then, sha-pow! They get three times worse," explained Patrick.

Despite being on a stunningly beautiful island for the holiday season and participating in an activity with a reasonable safety record, divers shouldn't neglect to call the SSS Recompression Chamber Network on +66 810 819000 if they have any concerns or show any signs of DCI.



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Quick Facts:

- Neurological symptoms after dives, which can include mood swings, dizziness, muscle weakness, problems with balance and coordination, memory loss, confusion, hearing and sight issues are serious signs of DCI

- "Marbling" over the abdomen can also be a sign of a DCI.

- SSS Recompression Chamber Network is available 24 hours a day to provide assistance and advice on dive related medical concerns.

- A typical chamber "dive" costs US \$1,000 per hour.

- Hyperbaric chamber therapy can be used to help heal many injuries outside of DCI. Classical examples are skin flaps and diabetic ulcers.

Alone again

Part two of Russell's delve into doggie dilemmas



Dog Whisperer

By Russell D Russell

IN PART one of our look at Canine Separation Anxiety we identified some of the many reasons and symptoms for its onset, so here in part two, we'll look at various ways of treating it.

However, it's important to note that you should always consult a canine behaviorist first so that problem behavior can be correctly identified prior to implementing a modification program. There's no point trying to modify separation anxiety if that's not really the issue.

Now separation anxiety, can be tricky and in truth, can be annoying. To add insult to injury, many owners want to yell at or punish their dog for the excessive vocalization, or other behavior associated with the anxiety, but this can make the problem worse by increasing the dog's need for social contact developing what's called Learned Helplessness.

Feeling nervous? Okay, here's the science bit: The nervous system is responsible for behavior and is divided into two sections: the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) and the peripheral nervous system (nerves and some sensory organs). The nervous system works closely with the endocrine system, which is responsible for chemical coordination in the body.

The nervous system conveys information from one place to another by neurons or nerve cells. Chemical secretions called neurotransmitters travel from one cell to another. They contain and convey information. Some of the more important neurotransmitters are dopamine, norepinephrine and serotonin. Got that?

Dopamine is involved in motor coordination and reaction time. A deficiency can cause inability to learn, irritability, anxiety and a decline in endorphins (a dog's natural pain killer). Dopamine influences the brain's pleasure center and a decline in this neurotransmitter can result in a diminished positive feeling.

Norepinephrine is related to adrenaline. It is responsible for your dog's energy level. A depletion of this can cause your dog to shut down and display signs of lethargy and depression.

Serotonin regulates mood, pain and arousal levels. Low levels of

serotonin can result in aggression, impaired learning, anxiety and obsessive behavior.

Now, when a dog becomes overstressed the nervous system releases norepinephrine and dopamine, which causes a suspension of the part of the brain responsible for learning and higher thought process, previous learning, impulse control and social inhibition. Previously learned coping mechanisms may become inaccessible which can provoke species-typical coping mechanisms (chewing, digging, urinating/defecating, vocalizing).

Addressing the problem

There are a number of ways to treat separation or isolation anxiety, and in many cases it's largely a combination of a number of them - but remember, all dogs are different so consult a canine behaviorist first.

Pharmacology:

A major contribution to the treatment of separation anxiety is a drug called clomicalm, which helps by increasing the serotonin levels in the brain which in turn decreases the level of fear, stress and anxiety experienced by the dog. But lots of people aren't keen on taking antidepressants themselves, let alone giving it to their dogs.

Nutritional Intervention:

Stress puts greater nutritional demands on your dog so if your dog is not currently eating a high quality dog food then you could consider a change. Lower quality dog foods frequently contain a large quantity of corn which is also thought to decrease the level of serotonin in the brain (although I'm not a nutritionist, so don't quote me.)

Mental Stimulation:

Possibly the best way to help your dog, is to encourage active participation and focused enjoyment of something. You can increase mental stimulation in your dog by feeding part of his meal in a fun ball or hide portions of his meal around the house when you leave. One of the best ways to stimulate your dog mentally, is obedience training.

Physical Stimulation:

A tired dog is a well behaved dog. Exercise stimulates the production of serotonin and is a way for your dog to release all of his energy appropriately. When you start exercising your dog start out slow and increase the amount of time and the level of the exercise. You know your dog, so you'll know what's too much and



MOPING: Ignore the dog and simply go about cleaning up. Do not punish your dog. Photo: Hector Garcia

what's not enough, but it is a good idea to have your dog examined by a veterinarian first to make sure there are no issues that may have an impact on your exercise program such as obesity, arthritis, hip dysplasia, etc.

Second Dog Syndrome:

Dogs are social animals and are generally happiest when in the presence of other dogs. Many people believe that getting another dog will treat the current dog's anxiety, but that often backfires and can actually increase the stress on your current dog. In many separation anxiety cases, the dog has developed a hyper-attachment to humans, so another dog makes no difference.

Scent Item:

Providing your dog with a soft item that smells like the attachment object or person can sometimes help in minor cases. The best way to accomplish this is by wearing a t-shirt to bed and leaving it with your dog in the morning when you leave.

Here one minute, gone the next:

For the first 15-20 minutes after you arrive home or before you leave completely ignore your dog.



BUZZING: Exercise stimulates the production of serotonin and is a way for your dog to release all of his energy appropriately. Photo: Mike Baird

This means no eye contact, no speaking, and no fast, noisy activity. The goal is to reduce the contrast between your presence and absence. If there is damage or mess in the house, ignore the dog and simply go about cleaning up. Do not punish your dog!

Remember, this is not your dog's fault and he is not acting this way to get back at you for leav-

ing him. Treatment for Separation or Isolation Anxiety takes time, patience and lots of work but you can make a difference.

For more information on Canine Separation Anxiety, or to inquire about training classes contact the Thailand Canine Academy on T: 089 588 4050, E: canineworld@me.com or check out W: tk9a.com.



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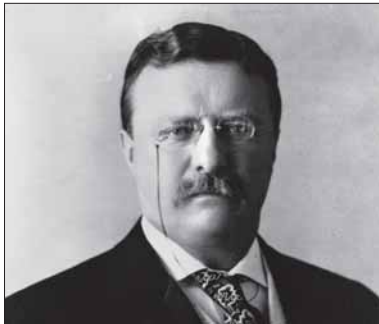
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Teddy's final adventure



DOUBT TEAM: (left to right) Rondon, Kermit, Cherrie, Miller and Roosevelt.



Roosevelt in 1904. Photo: Pach Brothers



LEGEND: Colonel Theodore Roosevelt in his traditional rough rider uniform.

Books

By James Eckardt

THERE is a large and growing shelf of books about Theodore Roosevelt, most recently James Morris's acclaimed biographical trilogy.

National Geographic writer Candice Millard has taken a different tack, concentrating on his last great adventure in *The River of Doubt* (Anchor Books, New York, 2006, 416pp). Subtitled "Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey" this is the tale of his descent in 1914 down the wild and uncharted Rio Duvida, or River of Doubt, in the middle of the Brazilian Amazon. The source of the river had previously been discovered by Brazil's legendary explorer Candido Rondon. Now the two men proposed to map its length northward through a unknown gauntlet of rapids, waterfalls, whirlpools and hostile Indians.

Roosevelt's trip to South America had originally been conceived as a leisurely junket, a lucrative speech tour culminating in a ride down the known branches of the Amazon. Instead, Rondon proposed a voyage of real discovery and Roosevelt eagerly accepted.

Just to reach the river took a month of hard slogging through the Brazilian uplands in a massive safari train reminiscent of Roosevelt's celebrated hunting trip to Africa after he had left the White House. He was obliged to shed most of the men and gear for the final trek, leaving a crew of 22 dangerously short of food. Backing up the two co-commanders of the Roosevelt-Rondon Scientific Expedition were two strong and able young men: Rondon's lieutenant Joao Lyra and Roosevelt's son Kermit who had accompanied him on the African safari. Kermit had learned Portuguese while engineering in Brazil and he and Lyra would provide the strong

young backs in the forefront of the heavy work of portaging their dug-outs up the raging river.

The obstacles were formidable. "Even in an age when great feats of discovery were almost commonplace, a descent of the River of Doubt would be audacious. Not only was the river unmapped – its length and direction unknown and each whirlpool, rapid, and waterfall a sudden and potentially deadly surprise – but it coursed through a dense, tangled jungle that had a dark history of destroying the men who hoped to map it."

Two Indian tribes lived on the east and west banks of the river. They would remain hostile to white people until the late 1960s. They chose, however, not to attack the little group of interlopers, but to keep them under observation and take the gifts of steel knives and hatchets they left behind. Only Rondon's favorite hunting dog was killed by a five-foot poisoned arrow.

"As the journey wore on, the Amazonian jungle, which had never seemed welcoming, had begun to feel not just dark and dangerous, but inescapably oppressive," the author writes of the group's plummeting morale. "It was a sensation that most outsiders who plunged into that dense, inscrutable wilderness experienced, and it left behind an indelible, almost violent impression."

By the end of six weeks, Roosevelt was near death from malaria and an old leg injury that had become badly infected. He would lose 55 pounds, or a quarter of his body weight. He was often delirious. For Roosevelt, the expedition was becoming an ordeal of inhuman proportions, testing his strength and resolve as nothing he had encountered in a lifetime of self-imposed physical challenges.

Half-starved, riddled with malaria and dysentery, weakened by overwork and swarms of blood-

sucking insects, the expedition members fought their way up the river till salvation appeared in the form of a rubber-tapper's hut.

In the end they would travel 1,000 kilometers of a river that Rondon renamed the Rio Roosevelt. A major tributary was renamed the Rio Kermit. An Amazonian state three times the size of England was eventually named Rondonia. The legendary explorer would live until he was 91, though his young lieutenant Lyra would drown in the rapids of another river in 1916. Broken in health, Roosevelt would die three years later, at 61. His son Kermit, the young scion of so much talent, energy and discipline, would descend into depression and alcoholism and kill himself in wartime Alaska in 1943.

Canice Millard tells this sad tale with the urgency and suspense of a thriller. Finally, it is a harrowing tribute to the desperate courage of heroes.

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An impossible sequel



CRUISE CONTROL: Action hero again.

Director: Brad Bird
Actors: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg, Paula Patton, Josh Holloway
Genre: Action / Adventure
Phuket release: December 15

FOR lovers of a good action movie *Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol* hits all the right buttons.

Directed by Brad Bird (*The Incredibles* and *Ratatouille*) the film is about Russian terrorists who steal nuclear missile launch codes to try to start World War III.

The IMF is shut down when it's implicated in the bombing of the Kremlin, causing Ethan Hunt and his new team to go rogue in order to clear their organization's name.

But the story line pales in value to the astonishing action feats which includes Tom Cruise scaling Dubai's Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world, with a gigantic sandstorm rolling in on the horizon.

This is Bird's first venture into live-action films after working with Pixar's blockbuster animations, and he certainly knows how to think big.

Almost 30 minutes of the film was shot with 70mm IMAX cam-

eras giving Bird takes every conceivable advantage of the extra clarity and oversized frame to build excitement – which he does with a thumping soundtrack.

Simon Pegg (*Paul* and *Shaun Of The Dead*) provides the comic relief, as he and Cruise sneak into the Kremlin using gadgetry that would put James Bond's tech team to shame. Paula Patton brings poise and warmth to the requisite spy-babe role, and Jeremy Renner (*The Hurt Locker*), plays a charming data analyst with a secret.

Simple yet effective stunts, such as Cruise leaping onto a moving van are beautifully filmed, and despite Cruise nearing 50, he plays a convincing action hero.

Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol throws in a couple of nice surprises in its final minutes, which leaves you wanting more impossible missions from Bird soon.

– Phuket Gazette

Pranee Sakulpipatana

ANY recently renewed interest in traditional Phuket culture can simply be attributed to the dedicated work of one woman, the vice-president of the Thai Peranakan Association (TPA), Pranee Sakulpipatana.

Dubbed as the "Phuket local historian", an articulate Ajarn Pranee, as she is known to Phuketians, explains that the TPA exists as a body to revive the traditions of the Chinese people who settled here over two hundred years ago and whose influences have made Phuket what it is today.

"Peranakan" is a Malay word meaning "descendant". It is used in reference to the Chinese immigrants of the 16th Century who settled along the Malay Straits, married indigenous peoples and embraced local customs. However, they fiercely adhered to their roots and identity. Local traditions such as ancestor worship, Chinese New Year, and vegetarianism are some of the legacies left by these people. In Peranakan communities, the men are called *Babas*, and the women *Nyonyas*. In Phuket, Peranakans prefer to be called collectively as *Babas*.

"I believe that the real Chinese are overseas Chinese. Even though we don't speak the language, we preserve and honor our ancestral traditions, more so than those in mainland China. Those people have been diluted by modernization and the Cultural Revolution," she said.

Belonging to the Baba lineage her-

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

self, Ajarn Pranee grew up in a family of textile merchants on Thalang Road. "I loved it there, surrounded as it was with merchant shops full with yards of beautiful batiks and fine European laces. I used to listen to my grandmother's advice to women buying dresses for special occasions. My grandmother was a treasure trove of local knowledge. I find it a shame to let that disappear with time," said Ajarn Pranee.

Ajarn Pranee's strong urge to revive Peranakan culture in Phuket encouraged her to seek help from local politicians, among them Phuket MP Anchalee Wanich, who became the founding president of the TPA.

Although the enterprise started small, Ajarn Pranee wasted no time in creating networks locally and abroad. Realizing that Phuket *Babas* were only part of the bigger picture of Peranakan communities in Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia – Pranee and her associates, attended numerous symposiums and seminars, each time more inspired than ever to match the work of the TPA to standards of its southeast Asian counterparts.

In a drive to publicize the Phuket *Baba* culture and raise awareness in Thai people, the TPA organizes a series of cultural activities. Thalang Road in Phuket old town, with its distinct Sino-European architecture, has become home to numerous Peranakan events; weddings; fashion shows; Chinese New Year celebrations and mock-ups of open air markets of the past.

Ajarn Pranee has become the ambassador of Phuket *Baba* culture and has spread her mission even farther afield. She has written numerous articles for magazines and has published a book titled *Window into a Phuket Baba Wedding*, both in Thai and English.

But a woman's work is never done. In the offing is a plan to construct a *Baba* museum in the old town, using the old Chartered Bank building to showcase banking businesses from the early part of the 20th Century and the life experiences of a local *Baba* woman. Although funding is still being sought, Ajarn Pranee is hopeful that the museum could open in early 2012.

Fiercely proud of her heritage, Ajarn Pranee practices what she preaches. "My friends and I try to wear *Baba* outfits (batik skirt and a lacy blouse) everyday. Mind you, nowadays it has become quite a fashion statement even among the younger generation," she says proudly.



About Thai Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Thai Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket as an *international* community, and, often, for having made those contributions through successful social and/or working relationships with foreigners. This implies some foreign language skills and an interest in interacting with different cultures. They are people who in our experience help make the lives of expats far more enjoyable here than might be the case without them.



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Phuket jet-skis on the rise

PHUKET: The Phuket Marine Office has decided to take it easy on jet-ski rental operators who haven't registered their jet-skis, the quarterly meeting of Phuket's honorary consuls was told at Phuket Provincial Hall yesterday.

"Since we started managing jet-ski rental operations in 2007, we have had 219 jet-skis [for rent]. However, we are still trying to control the number of jet-skis [for rent]. However, we have found 70 jet-skis that are unregistered," Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut told the consuls.

The Marine Office is not planning to take legal action against the offending jet-ski operators, but instead has asked them to cooperate with his office's efforts, he said.

The 70 jet-skis are planned to be brought into the system and registered under a specially created category with the Phuket Marine Office.

"Also, the jet-skis will be registered for particular zones, which means that jet-skis being rented out in Patong cannot be used in other areas," he added.

The primary aim of the move is to be able to make sure that all rental jet-skis in Phuket are covered by first-class insurance, said Chief Phuripat.

Phuket jet-ski operators with unregistered jet-skis will not be punished, in the hope they will join a scheme and get first-class insurance.

25th Phuket King's Cup Regatta to start in early December

Phuket Regatta, Asia's biggest and most popular Regatta, will start in early December. Each in the south of Phuket from the third to

FC Phuket to battle Warriors in Saraburi on Saturday

FC Phuket returns to action tomorrow evening when they will face Warriors of Saraburi FC.

A 6pm kickoff at the Saraburi Provincial Administration Stadium, the match follows a 41-day hiatus from league play for the team. The match is a relief period that allowed several footballers, including Phuket's Sarach Yooyen, to compete in the 26th Southeast Asian Games in Indonesia as well as give players and coaching staff who were affected by flooding an opportunity to tend to their homes and families.

It is because of the floods that Phuket Coach Somporn Wattana will not be heading the team this weekend.

In his place will be Assistant Coach Apichart Mosika. Apichart, a 57-year-old native of Nakhon Si Thammarat, started training the team on November 18.

Club Secretary Soranun Sanae explained, "Coach Somporn's house in Bangkok has been flooded and he needs time to take care of this, and has asked his friend, coach Apichart, to help."

In 2010, Apichart was head coach for Division Two side Rayong FC.

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Two Chefs Kata Center and Two Chefs Karon are serving our great Christmas plate.s For only 695 baht you will get a big mix of all the classic Christmas food, such as Christmas ham, different kinds of herrings, smoked salmon and much more you cant miss it. Also, at Two Chefs Karon we have our House band playing so there is going to be a great party. Reservation at 076-330065, katacenter @twochefs-phuket.com or visit twochefs.com.

December 24. Christmas Eve Dinner Buffet and Party

Live Music with the fabulous Big Bamboo Band featuring a delightful Holiday Buffet with imported roast Turkey, stuffing, cranberry and all the trimmings, fillet of Salmon, roast Duck curry, and a large selection of Appetizers, Salads and Desserts on December 24 from 6 to 11:30pm at Friendship Beach Waterfront Resort, Rawai Beach. Welcome glass of holiday punch. Adults: 1,200 baht ++; Children under 12: 350 baht ++. Contact Charlie at 089-7285304 or Kartoon at 087-4190239, chef @friendshipbeach.com or visit friendshipbeach.com.

December 24. Love Is All Around - This Christmas Eve

Christmas is a time for reuniting with happiness and joy. It's that time of the year when the air is filled with lively exuberance, when spirits soar in joyous merriment, families and friends unite to share precious new moments while re-living old traditions. Experience a grand international buffet, the 20 piece Bangkok

December 30 to 31. Phuket Ealectronic Music and Dance Festival

This two-day festival from 7pm to 2am at Karon Beach that will showcase an exciting line-up of more than 30 DJs from both Thailand and around the world.

Top Thailand-based DJs include Jay Montonn Jira and Dome Pakorn Lum, Mark Brain, Slick and Domination, winner of the Best Video DJ of the World Contest in Dubai 2011.

Fashion TV, the world's Number One fashion and life style channel and co-organizer, will feature this exciting event through their channel to audiences around the world.

This mega-event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and partner Blue Wave 90.5FM, the island's main radio station.

Contact Nan at 086-3405600, media1.rakchatgroup@gmail.com.



Symphony Orchestra, the Andaman Band, a Christmas Choir ... and Santa Claus! 6,000 baht net per person. Special offer for Phuket Residents: 30 per cent discount plus a bottle of fine wine! From 7 to 10 pm at The garden at Katathani Phuket Beach Resort. Contact Food and Beverage Department on 076-330124, fb@katathani.com or visit katathani.com.

December 24. Christmas Salsa

After the overwhelming success of our Salsa Nights, and by popular demand, we are delighted to invite you to our Salsa Event on Christmas Eve, from 8pm to 12:30am at Les Angeles restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina. Dine and Dance the Cha-cha, Bachata, Samba & Rumba Live on the Boardwalk outside Les Angeles. Christmas Menu is available. Dress: Colorful. Contact Murat at 081-7973364, muratc @royalphuketmarina.com or visit royalphuketmarina.com.

December 25. Christmas Lunch and Dinner at Scruffy Murphy's Patong

Join us on Christmas Day for Scruffy's delicious Christmas special: A big plate of roast turkey, roast pork and crackling with roast potatoes, apple and cranberry sauce, stuffing and homemade gravy. Christmas pudding with hot custard for dessert from 11am to 10pm at Scruffy Murphy's Patong. Only 499 baht with a free bottle of local beer or a glass of wine. Reservations on 076-292590, info @scruffymurphy sphuket.com or visit scruffymurphysphuket.com.

December 25. Christmas Carvery

Join us Christmas day for our Roast Carvery Buffet from 11am to 11pm at Molly Malone's Irish pub Phuket on Patong Beach Road. We will be offering: Roast turkey, Australian roast beef, roast pork with crackling and honey baked ham. All served with roast potatoes, sweet potato mash, homemade stuffing and pumpkin cream soup. Includes Christmas pudding and a free bottle of local beer or glass of wine. Free soft drink refills for all kids. Only 1,200 baht for adults and 299 baht for kids under 12. Resevation at 076-292771, info @mollymalones phuket.com or visit mollymalonesphuket.com.

December 25 to 26. A Thanyapura Wonderland and Boxing Day Family-Fun Run

Come through the looking glass and join the Thanyapura f te on Christmas Day. The Mad Hatter will pre-side over this festival of fun from 11am to 3pm at DiVine Restaurant,

surprising you at every turn with the aura of magic, music and madness. Enjoy: The sumptuous buffet spread includes such familiar holiday treats as roasted turkey, grilled beef tenderloin and much, much more. Cost: 2,000 baht per person. Boxing Day Family-Fun Run on December 26. Work off the Christmas festivities by jumping right back into action. Bring your family out for Thanyapura's Boxing Day fun run and brunch. Time: 8am onwards. Distance: 2km, 5km, 8km. Reservation Food and Beverage desk at 076-336000, divine@thanyapura.com or visit thanyapura.com.

December 25. Christmas Lunch

Les Angeles is delighted to invite you to Christmas Day Lunch from noon to 2:30pm at Les Angeles in Royal Phuket Marina. 1,300 baht++ per person, subject to 10 per cent service charge and applicable government tax. Kids menu is also available, for 600 baht net, including a Christmas gift. We look forward to seeing you. Contact Murat at 081-7973364, muratc @royalphuket

marina.com or visit royalphuket marina.com.

December 25. Chicago Steakhouse Christmas Lunch & Dinner

Join us at Chicago Steakhouse Phuket for our Annual Christmas Lunch and Dinner from noon to 10:30pm on Patong beach. Starter: Roasted pumpkin soup with cinnamon creme. Main: Butterball turkey, honey baked ham, sausage stuffing, sweet potato mash, creamed onions, cranberry sauce and pan gravy. Desert: Hot apple pie with whipped cream and ice cream. Only 895 baht for adults and 395 baht for kids under 12 years. Includes free glass of wine and special Christmas salad bar buffet. Reservation at 076-344366, info@chicagosteakhouse phuket.com or visit chicagosteakhousephuket.com.

December 25. Traditional Christmas Dinner at the Islander

Enjoy our traditional 3-course Christmas dinner at the Islander restaurant from 1 to 9pm, Soi Patong Resort. Menu includes a prawn cocktail starter, main course roast turkey with all the trimmings, Christmas pudding with custard for dessert plus a glass of house wine (red or white) all for 895 baht. Reservation at 076-342685, kanhathamyorm @hotmail.com.

December 27 to 30. Think Design Magazine Phuket Art Festival 2011

Varied artists from all over the world will be participating in the "Think Design Magazine Phuket Art Festival 2011" from 11am to 8pm at Royal Phuket Marina. Painting, sculpture, performance, video art, music, art teaching for kids and many special events will be on offer. A portion of the proceeds will benefit two Phuket charities, the "Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation" and the "Soi Dog Foundation". Help us with our mission of making Phuket a true cultural destination! Admission is FREE. Contact at 088-4463188, info @thinkdesignmagazine.com or visit thinkdesignartfestival.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

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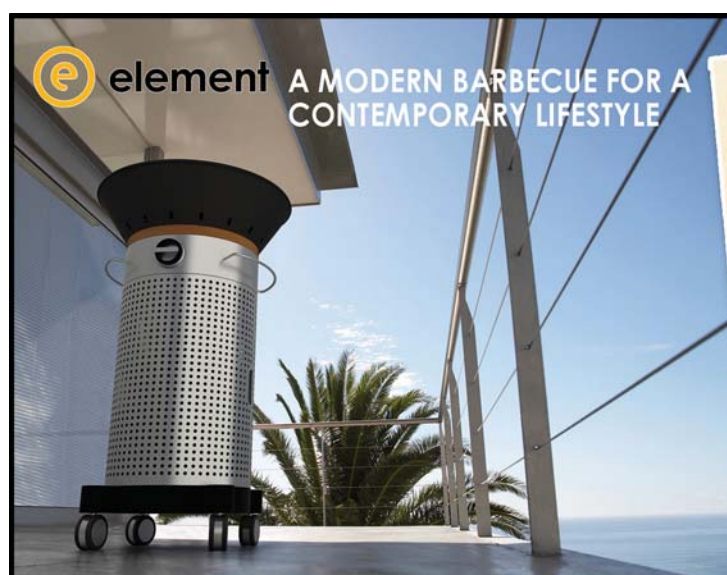
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GOODWILL TO ALL: Indigo Pearl Resort treated 121 children from Phuket Sunshine Village to a Christmas Brunch.



Fabrizio and Valentina DiMichelis at the Tratt's opening.



A Trattoriabuongustaio sunset with Kym Wilson and David Mancini.



HO HO HUM: Visa runners to the Andaman Club in Myanmar are greeted with this happy Santa Claus on arrival.



QUITE A MOUTHFUL: The Trattoriabuongustaio opened its Sunset Lounge Bar at Nai Harn Beach with a fantastic party.



GRUMPY OLD MEN: Birthday buddies Ovadia and John celebrated their joint birthdays at The Family restaurant in Rawai.



MEM-ORABLE DAY: Phuket Gazette staffer Passara "Mem" Kaewbumroong will now share her affections with her new husband Sivarin Phaonthong-Ngarm and the adorable labrador puppy given to her by Gazette publisher John Magee while John's wife Janpen Arno looks on.



SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS: Two Christmas markets were held to raise money for charity (from left) Luisa Scarpa Nyke Raya, Blaize Vander Laan, Gemma Fae Kealy, Mark Norris and Chantal Fernandes.



FEEDING ARTISTS: An Art Dinner was held at Andara Resort recently (from left) Sona Neuhaus, Daniel Meury, Catherine Morel, Stephen Hadden, Gabriel Cardona and Khun Paitoon.



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YOUR Phuket



SUPER: Phuket and superyachts seemed to be made for each other as seen at the recent 11th Asia Superyacht Rendezvous.



SAX APPEAL: Lots of Saxy men at the International Jazz Festival held at Central Festival (Clockwise from top left) Man (Thailand), Marate (Russia), Patchara Dila (Vietnam), Mr Saxman (Director of Festival – Thailand), Norman King (UK), Jacob Dinesen (Denmark) and Julian Chan (Malaysia) Photo: Christian Mouchet.



BLOWING HIS OWN: Trumpeter Steve Canon (USA). Photo: Christian Mouchet



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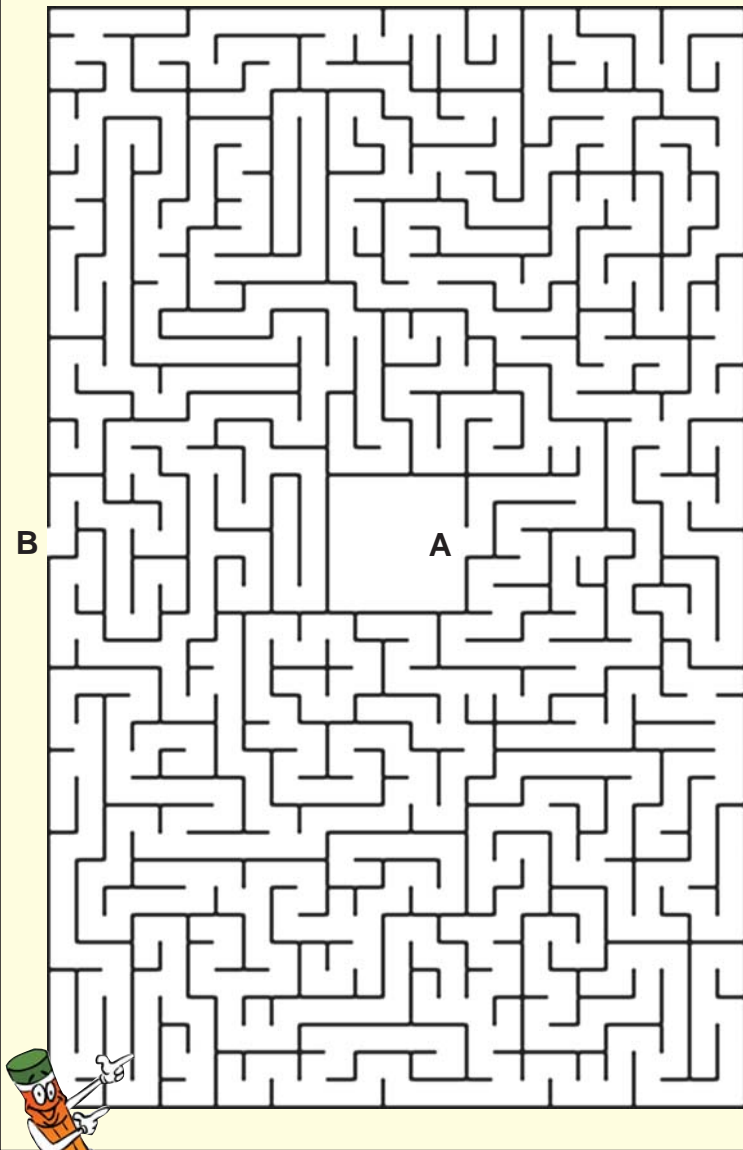
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A *Gazette* staff member completed this maze in 30 seconds. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.

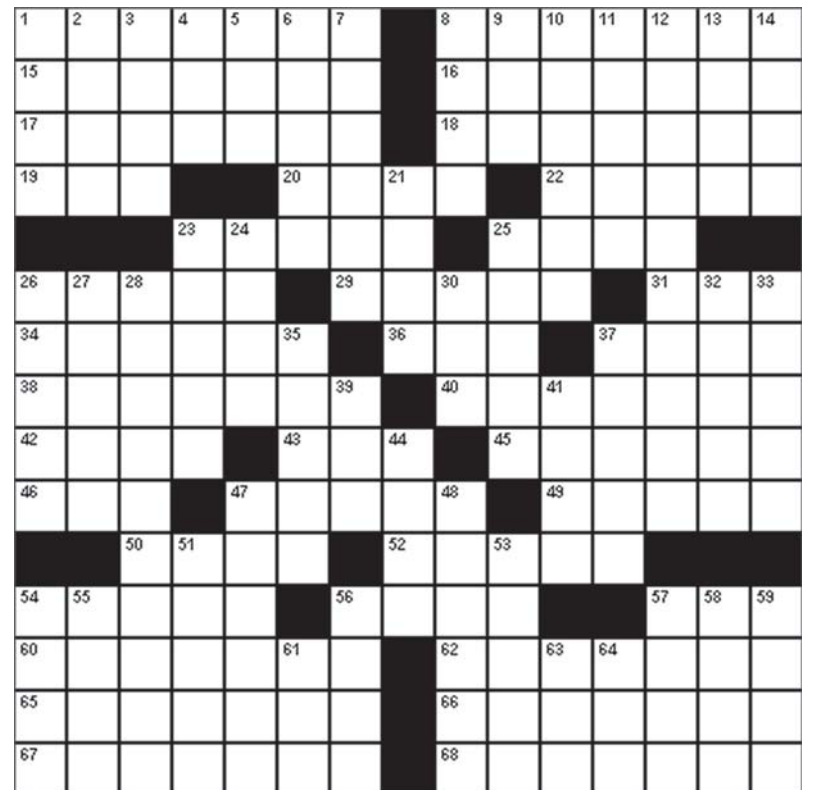


Across

1. Letter
8. Confident
15. Tropical cyclone
16. 1992 David Mamet play
17. Cavalry soldier
18. Emily Dickinson, e.g.
19. Some MIT grads
20. Trick
22. Roman goddess of the hearth
23. Portion
25. Spanish muralist
26. Mine prop
29. Brewery kilns
31. In the know
34. Playground retort
36. 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
37. Antitoxins
38. Mounted sentry
40. Eye issue
42. Actor Ken
43. --- the season...
45. Lead on
46. "Treasure Island" monogram
47. Sleeveless garments
49. Chocolate source
50. "Believe" singer
52. Absolute
54. Crazy as ---
56. Bassoon relative
57. Ad ---
60. The drone pipe bagpipes
62. Abundantly supplied
65. Guitarlike instrument
66. Animate
67. Went in
68. Between sunrise and sunset

Down

1. Diminutive suffix
2. Combustible heap
3. Wall St. debuts
4. HBO alternative
5. Best
6. Lerner's partner
7. Physicist Fermi
8. Deal (with)
9. "Evil Woman" band
10. "Speed" star
11. Spud



12. Ether
13. Part of MIT
14. American space agency
21. Cordelia's father
23. Communion plate
24. --- Rhythm
25. Range
26. Relish
27. Shampoo brand
28. Discount again
30. Moo --- pork
32. "All My Children" vixen
33. Stroll
35. Aquatic mammal

37. Lute of India
39. Frozen Wasser
41. Suffix with exist
44. Stump
47. Person that sells
48. Hoarded
51. Crowd
53. "Lovergirl" singer --- Marie
54. French clergyman
55. Advance
56. Like a line, briefly
57. First name in jeans
58. Bit of gossip
59. Nota ---
61. Bauxite, e.g.
63. Carry on, as a trade
64. Blotto

Provided by BestCrosswords.com
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Puzzle solutions on page 41

CAPRICORN (December 22-

January 20): Capricorns who couldn't summon enthusiasm for the festive season should be pleasantly surprised by a low-key Christmas. The stars suggest that another earth sign friend or family member will ensure that you enjoy quiet celebration. Those with a birthday this week are forecast to appreciate simple pleasures more in the year ahead. Where romance is concerned, absence could make your heart grow fonder than you imagined. Your lucky color is holly berry red.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):

Too much worry about things beyond your control could put a dampener on the Christmas period for Aquarians. The stars advise making more effort to ignore situations that can't be altered. Other air signs and some water signs will provide the laid-back company you need during the holiday season. In the realm of romance, follow your head not your heart where a relationship with an earth sign is concerned. Your lucky color is snow white this week.

PISCES (February 20-March 20):

Pisceans who are away from their usual environment during the holiday

season could be feeling like a fish out of water. The stars predict that this will help you to appreciate that home really is where the heart is. Those who are looking for romance should have their hearts warmed by a meeting with a fire sign this weekend. Wear the color cinnamon brown to encourage a sweeter mood.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

After expecting that they would have a quiet stay-at-home Christmas, Arians are likely to receive a cluster of last minute invitations this weekend. The stars advise that accepting one from an influential air sign business colleague will make a good impression. In the realm of romance, those who recently separated from someone special are forecast to have a chance of reconciliation. Wear sparkling silver to brighten your energy.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Those Taureans who were unsure about accepting a holiday invitation from a recently made acquaintance will be glad that they did. The stars forecast that such celebrations will result in new friendships being made, and a meeting under the mistletoe with a water sign could be the icing on your Christmas cake. Prosperous days for finances

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

are Tuesday and Wednesday. Your lucky color is mandarin orange.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Geminis are likely to be blown away by a partner or close friend's generosity this Christmas. There are signs that the person concerned is about to repay your helpfulness earlier this year in a big way. Romance with fire signs is well starred, but a relationship with another air sign could be put to the test when their reluctance to tell the truth shows. The color gold can bring good fortune this week.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Those born under the sign of Cancer are predicted to be full of seasonal spirit this week. Those who had a disappointing Christmas last year will be ready to make up for that. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, learning more about an earth sign helps you to see that this person has hidden depths. Money matters are well starred on

Thursday. Your lucky color this week is dark chocolate.

LEO (July 24-August 22):

Taking a break from routine helps Leos to see how much they needed a rest. The stars suggest that stretching the holiday period a little further would be a good move. There are hints that your gift to a partner is not quite what they had in mind; it may be hard to convince them that it's the thought that counts. The color candy pink can bring good luck on this weekend.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23):

The stars suggest that some Virgoans' plans for the Christmas and New Year break could be affected by last minute work demands. A fire sign is predicted to try and avoid their responsibility, but you should put your foot down firmly. There are signs that family members overseas are thinking of a reunion early in the New Year. Wear the color cranberry red to encourage a festive feeling.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):

The stars indicate that a work or business related issue will be solved more easily than you anticipated. This should leave those born

under the sign of Libra to enjoy themselves more during the holiday season. Ideas bubbling under now should encourage you to make a positive start on the New Year. Expect some interesting surprises in your Christmas stocking. The color ivy green brings good luck.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):

Your Christmas spirit is forecast to be stirred by encouragement from another water sign. Those Scorpios who wanted to take distance from tinsel and turkey will be pleased that they had a change of heart. The stars indicate that passing the festive season in a social whirl will encourage you to get out and about more in the New Year. The color plum can bring good luck.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):

The stars advise that mixing business with pleasure in the holiday season could cause problems in a personal relationship. Those who thought they could multi-task during the days ahead are likely to find that their partner has other ideas. Single Sagittarians see an opportunity to get closer to an earth sign they have had a crush on. Finances are well-starred on Wednesday and Thursday. Your lucky color is cream.

PROPERTY Gazette

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

Indigo's new pearl revealed

INDIGO Pearl, in partnership with Bensley Design Studios, have unveiled their latest design creation.

The hotel's much anticipated new Private Pool Villas are a key phase in the resort's multi-million dollar transformation to position Indigo Pearl as an "all suite and villa" property.

Each of the seven secluded Private Pool Villas is set within a walled garden, offering spacious indoor and outdoor accommodation.

Ranging in size from 550 to 2,500 square meters, each villa comprises two bungalows; one dedicated as a bedroom and the other as living space. A private, individually designed swimming pool also features with each residence.

The living pavilion houses a lounge, dining area and boutique-size spa, complete with massage beds, steam showers and a sauna while a large decking area merges the inside and outside spaces.

The bedroom pavilion features a king size bed with his and hers fixtures throughout the bathroom which also includes an indoor and outdoor shower, a jacuzzi and walk-in wardrobe.

Phuket's industrial heritage has influenced the décor with a black and grey theme throughout. Design homage is paid to the area's "black gold" past using bold lighting, polished metal, exposed beams and riveted furnishings. Each villa is individually designed using these aesthetics as a foundation.

The three Pleasure-seeker Residences can be inter-connected opening up a three-pool, four-bedroom suite for large family gatherings or, as an exclusive party venue. At 2,500sqm, this is the largest villa on the island according to Indigo Pearl.

For more information visit indigo-pearl.com



A BEAUTIFUL MINE: The décor of each villa is inspired by Phuket's industrial heritage.



BOLD AS BRASS: The living room.



DOUBLE DECKER: Internal and exterior spaces merge by way of a large deck.

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE: (From left) Debbie Dionysius, Susan Usher, Stephen Paine, Anchalika Kijkanakorn, Olivier Gibaud and Chantal Fernandes.



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

LIFE in the brick house is in full holiday swing. Gargantuan cement trucks ante for position alongside monster buses teeming with an endless array of travelers.

Despite a rising urban swell that is pushing development heavenwards, there has to be more to Phuket's economic success story than bricks, mortar and an endless

amount of infinity swimming pools.

I tend to travel in Asia a lot these days, from prime resort islands to bustling international gateway metropolitan cities. Often, conversation turns to my home field and what's unique or special about the island.

Hitting my mind's eye rewind button one tends to realize that these chats tend to center around ideas, successes and inspiration which were created by mankind (make that people to be gender correct), and not just ultra villas, posh luxury ho-

tels or branded shopping.

My Phuket comes down to a field of dreams where individuals have the ability to become a latter day Columbus (I'm going to forgo the entire debate on who discovered the New World), but Chris seems a likely idiom for a journey without maps.

For all the bar jockeys, grumpy old men (women and children included), pessimists and generally glum lifeless personalities, please read on at your own risk. Despite

what the Mayans say, 2012 will not be the end of the world and I see no proof that your wished for demise of Phuket is anything but a seriously troubled mind.

With our Christmas Holiday spirit, I'd like to take a few moments to give a high five and a pat on the back to some well deserving individuals who represent how anyone can come to the island and make positive changes.

Let's start out with wonder woman Debbie Dionysius who heads Destination Marketing at Laguna Phuket. She has been a key player in the initiatives which have brought Brand Phuket on a global trek. Starting with the Laguna Phuket Triathlon, then a marathon and now the Ironman 70.3 Asia Pacific Championship.

With organizing skills that would be the envy of many a government diplomat and the ability to pull off big events with style and success, she continues to pump up the volume to an attractive growing number of visitors.

For me, she is without a doubt the island's personality of the year for 2011.

Next up is Susan Usher (aka Lady Pie). Yes, long before the world went gaga, Susan, who is one of the hardest working and tireless individuals I know, started up a small Aussie pie shop.

Putting herself on the line in the entrepreneurial start up was never easy, but today you can travel from North to South, East to West in Phuket and never be far from an outlet carrying her products.

However, it doesn't stop there, in Bangkok and elsewhere in Thailand, the Lady Pie brand has continued to surge with Susan as the hard working front of the business.

As for gentlemen, real estate developer Stephen Paine has put a footprint of upscale luxury here and delivered on promises. Starting out at Surin Heights and now at Nai Thon's Malaiwana, the bar has continued to be pushed higher.

Successfully selling ultra villas that bring high net worth individuals here is not easy task, but Stephen has brought out the best in the projects he is involved with.

Word of mouth continues to be the best promotion and for the properties he has sold, the wider benefits to Phuket have to be appreciated

with perhaps the kudos – good job.

Longtime hotelier *extraordinaire* Olivier Gibaud went from international hotel chain mainstay to key player in the development of home-grown icon Twinpalms.

Continuing to innovate from a design resort, fantastic weekend buffet, Catch Beach Club, Bake and Flame, he is without a doubt someone who changed the playing field and brought a fresh breath of air to his particular industry.

While charity begins at home, Chantal Fernandes brings boundless enthusiasm, charm and a huge amount of heart to every aspect of her life. Shifting gears a few years ago from her work at the luxury Amanpuri resort, she embraced an opportunity to raise her young children and take on a key role in Phuket's evolving charity landscape.

I find it hard to even keep track of what big event, organization or outreach is her current focus. Certainly her work with the Sisters of the Good Shepherd has positively impacted the needy kids and families here. All I can say is she must have a boatload of red bull stashed next to her house, given her boundless energy and true dedication to the cause at hand.

Last and certainly not least is Anchalika Kijkanakorn of the Aleenta Resort just over the bridge in Greater Phuket. She remains a great example of Thai leadership with her developing hotel brand, but more importantly she has championed the Pure Blue Foundation.

Holding regular fund-raising events which aim for coral reef restoration and taking a long term view of putting something back into the tourism sector remain highly admirable qualities.

So there you have it. I may be wrapping up with a Hallmark greeting card moment, but the point is that people make Phuket such a special, thriving and a wonderful place to live.

For those on the sidelines, perhaps this is a wake up call that game time is here. Leadership goes by example and for the individuals mentioned, thanks for your contributions to Phuket.

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



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Istana Phuket design claims global award

PRISM Estates have won the Best International Architecture Award (Multiple Residence) as developers of the Istana Phuket residential estate at Naithon Beach.

The International Property Awards (IPA) ceremony was held on December 12 at the Savoy Hotel in London, England and produced in association with Bloomberg TV and Google.

The award validates the architectural vision of Richard Shearer, Managing Partner of Prism Estates who collaborated with Gary Fell and his team at GFAB Architects to create 19 individually-designed residences with architecture based on bespoke design and environmental harmony.

Prism Director and Head of Sales, Richard Cohen expressed his delight walking away with the accolade.

"We are thrilled and humbled by this award. Gary Fell and his team at GFAB Architects outdid themselves with supreme attention to

detail, cutting edge engineering/technology, and a design that will continue to be admired for generations. We are also quick to point out this award could never have come to be without the incredible support of the entire Istana team including CPS Group, the interior design team at A2Zen and the construction team at Hat Yai Nantakorn," he said.

The IPA are open to residential and commercial property professionals from around the globe and are split into regions covering the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the UK.

Companies selected as winners are then invited to attend an awards presentation for each region and selected regional winners go onto London for the world finals.

Istana Phuket villas are still available for sale with prices ranging from US\$4.25 million up to US\$8.45mn for the seven bedroom Villa 19. For further details visit eden-oasis.com.



VIEWTIFUL: The amazing US\$8.45 million "Villa 19" which has seven bedrooms.

Floods won't harm Phuket construction sector: P-REA

FOLLOWING a seminar held over the weekend, Phuket real estate developers are less worried about the impacts of the flooding in central Thailand on the construction industry supply chain.

Tanan Tanphaibul, President of the Phuket Real Estate Association, said members had worried that massive government-funded reconstruction of parts of Bangkok and the Central Plains region might have a negative impact on the building industry on Phuket by siphoning away material and labor supplies.

To learn more, they invited several

speakers to their "Phuket Real Estate Trends Following the 2011 Disaster" seminar, held at the Royal Phuket City Hotel.

The members were reassured following a talk by Theerasak Svetsila, sales and service director of Siam Cement's distribution firm SCG Network Management, who forecast a 10.8 per cent increase in construction industry revenue nationwide to over 900 billion baht, much of it led by government mega-projects.

Mr Tanan said there were still concerns of a labor shortage in the central region

that could lure workers north. Many low-wage workers from Burma had fled home during the inundation and it was still unclear if and when they would return, and in what numbers.

Assoc Prof Manop Pongsathat of the Chulalongkorn University Faculty of Architecture said the floods could spur greater numbers of wealthy Bangkok residents to buy second homes in tourist destinations such as Phuket because many believe that this year's flooding would not be the last.

— *Warisa Temram and Stephen Fein*



Phuket Real Estate Association President Tanan Tanphaibul (right) moderated the talks.

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Rambutan: Looks and tastes great



HARVEST TIME: Thailand's South is the largest producer of rambutans in the world. Photo: Zephyrbunny



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

OF THE glorious trees that grace our island gardens, there are many small varieties that are considered ornamentals primarily on account of their decorative blossom.

These include the flame bean (brownia or *sok phuang*), the erythrina (*thong lang* or coral tree), the abutilon or Chinese lantern, and the orchid tree (bauhinia or *chong ko*).

Of course, a complete list would be much more extensive, but for my money, none of these should disappoint the gardener who wants both color and verdant foliage.

But there are many small trees grown here not so much for their looks as for their usefulness. Indeed, more traditional Thai gardens tended to emphasize

such trees because of their obvious value as a food source.

Again, the choice is large, but the first tree to come to mind is the rambutan, or *nephelium*, a fruiting species that fits neatly into our size category since it reaches a height of only three or four meters.

The rambutan originates from the Malay peninsula, so it is perfectly at home and is extremely popular here. In fact, Thailand is the world's leading producer of rambutans, especially the area around Surat Thani.

The distinctive reddish-green rounded fruit are covered with fleshy, pliable spines, and look a bit like sweet chestnuts. Rambutans suddenly appear in huge mounds at markets and on supermarket shelves at this time of the year. The rind peels off easily to reveal sweet, white, translucent flesh, sometimes slightly acidic, which encases a glossy brown seed. Delicious.

The tree itself is attractive enough to be popular in gardens.

It has evergreen leaves, a rounded crown and blooms with white flower clusters. When it bears its abundant, colorful fruit, this tropical species looks good.

The floods this year have destroyed many commercial orchards in Thailand. As a consequence, the rambutan has not been as widely available as usual. Although rambutan trees can be grown from the large seeds inside each fruit, the fruit from trees grown from seeds tend to taste sour, thus seedlings are normally propagated from grafts.

However, it should be easy enough to find a hermaphroditic (both male and female) container plant in your local nursery in order to produce the goods.

So why not grow one yourself in your own patch? Your Thai neighbors will certainly be impressed.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, you can email: drpaccampbell@gmail.com



Thinking inside the box

Decor

By Marc Mulloy

BEING an interior designer often involves "thinking outside of the box" yet sometimes the opposite is true.

Heading up such a team of designers and artists is Irish-born Brian Woulfe who, after two years on the island, recently held the lavish opening of his "Designed by Woulfe" offices at Baan Wana Park in Thalang.

On arrival at his plush, purple,

cubist office/studio there is no immediate indication as to how he was able to recycle this artistic haven from eight standard shipping containers, yet walk around the side and it is possible to see the original doors bearing cargo information.

One of the advantages of having such a unique space is the possibility of using the modules to great effect when displaying furnishings or artwork. On this occasion the containers were the perfect backdrop to the bold Pop Art of his friend, Belgian artist

Christian Develter, who has come down from Bangkok to exhibit his large paintings at several events on the island culminating in Phuket's inaugural *Think Design* Art Festival at Royal Phuket Marina from December, 27-30 (see page 16).

Brian Woulfe has already established himself on the island as a designer with impeccable taste and fresh ideas. His "bespoke" services include listening to his clients' ideas, understanding their tastes and parlaying this with his knowledge into design classics.

Phuket high-end clients already include Malaiwana and Kata Rocks and with the launch of these new offices it is clear that Brian Woulfe has other designs on Phuket.

Visit [W: designedbywoulfe.com](http://W:designedbywoulfe.com) for more information.



WOULFEMAN: Brian Woulfe offers bespoke services to his clients.



SELF CONTAINED: The offices were created from eight standard shipping containers. The original markings are left on some for effect.



AMUSING: Christian with his model.

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Properties
For Sale

HOUSE IN ISARN



Roi Et City. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, parking. Land: half-rai. Price: 2.9 million baht. Tel: 085-471 5043.

LUXURY VILLA,
PHUKET LOCH PALM

Plot: 650sqm. Own water, solar. Living Area: 280sqm, furnished, carport, 80sqm pool, 4 bed, 4 bathrooms, 5 flat TV, ADSL, Cable TV. 19.5 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 088-381 0012. Email: office@palm-beach-entertainment.com

2 HOUSES IN KAMALA
5.9 MILLION BAHT

Charming house, 140sqm living area with two bedrooms, plus separate guest house with 70sqm living area with one bedroom located in a beautiful green garden in the middle of Kamala, quiet residential neighborhood. The garden has space enough to build a pool. This functional home is perfect for those who are happy to receive guests or want an extra house to let out. 10 minutes walk to Kamala Beach. The house has a sheltered quiet location on a very beautiful garden with BBQ facilities. Fully furnished house and guest house with air conditioning, room for car and motorcycle. Nearby are many shops and restaurants. Only 5.9 million baht. Email: thailandmarcus@gmail.com Tel: 082-807 2392. Please see our website at www.hyrphusphuket.se/Objekttill salu_32.html

CONDO PHUKET
COUNTRY CLUB

Freehold condo for sale at Phuket Country Club in Kathu. 132sq, big balcony, 4th floor, on the golf course, all renovated. 4.5 million baht. Email: sebasver@hotmail.com

RUBBER FARM



107 rai, 250,000 baht per rai. Near Taksin University, Koun Khanon, Phattalung. Tel: 087-399 6216.

LAND IN PHANG NGA

26 rai, sea view, mountain view, waterfall. Nor Sor 3 Gor. Price: 235,000 baht per rai. Tel: 083-684 8789.

PATONG STUDIO
28SQM

Freehold, all new & furnished. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 089-971 5664. Email: ronny2507@hotmail.com

HOUSE ON SURIN
BEACH

Unique location directly on Surin Beach! Only private villa on the beach which also has wonderful views over the beach and the Andaman Sea. House with 2 bedrooms and large glass sections overlooking the sea. Two terraces of which one is a 70sqm rooftop terrace. This terrace can easily be converted to additional approximately 50sqm of living space (two bedrooms and a bathroom), which still leaves a roof terrace of 20sqm. Price: 9.9 million baht. Tel: 082-807 2392. Email: thailandmarcus@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.hyrphusphuket.se/Objekttill salu_16.html

PHUKET ALLAMANDA
RESIDENCES

1 deluxe condo unit (duplex house), fully furnished, set within the unique Phuket Laguna complex with balcony right over the lagoon. 3 bedrooms, roof terrace with sala, etc. For sale or long-term lease. Tel: 081-737 0365. Email: utaipan@yahoo.com

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

PATONG TOWER
CONDO

Modern, fully furnished, 65sqm, 1 bedroom, Good view, great rental returns. 5.5 million baht. Tel: 081-088 8099.

LAND & PROPERTY
FOR SALE

6 rai sea and mountain view land for sale in Cheng Talay. Fantastic views and close to Tesco Lotus. Also BUSINESS PARK for sale on 1.7 rai near to Laguna. One large modern office 255sqm, with two three-bedroom houses set in landscaped gardens with pool. Located in Pasak on the main road near Laguna, and 20 minutes from the airport. Tel: 081-920 6976. Email: cherngtalay@gmail.com Website: www.cherngtalay.weebly.com

BEACHFRONT CONDO

2 bedrooms on top floor. Freehold. North Patong. Price: 8.9 million baht (reduced from 9.7 million baht). Tel: 086-276 5117. For photos, please email jhshand@gmail.com

GREAT
OPPORTUNITY
LAND

for sale with condo project, 274sqm sloping block on quiet street overlooking lake. Just off bypass road in Phuket Town. Fantastic location 2 mins from Lotus, 5 mins from Central. Comes with plans for contemporary 7-storey condominium development. Amazing value at only 7 million baht. Contact owner Khun Nina. Tel: 089-729 6244. Email: nina.phuket@hotmail.com

LAND & HOUSE

in exclusive 22-house estate. Apply by calling. Tel: 083-503 7655.

PATONG TOWER-
CONDO FOR SALE

Large 2-bed condo for sale. Fantastic sea views. Foreigner freehold. Top-end luxury including all furniture etc. 19 million baht or nearest offer. Tel: 082-813 3824 (English). Email: showbus1@msn.com Website: www.patongapartmentcondo.com

TWIN VILLA
IN KAMALA

For sale with rental income, very good money. 10 mins' walk to beach, fully furnished, 6 bedrooms, on 500sqm land with Chanote title. Freehold or leasehold. Price: 14.5 million baht. Call owner. Tel: 080-698 3028. Email: suchada_villas@hotmail.com

1 RAI 39SQ WAH
LAND

Land for sale in Bang Jo. Easy build land. Good location. Price: 4.2 million baht. Tel: 087-893 5052 (English), 086-547 1188 (Thai).

MODERN POOL
VILLA

Stunning 3-bedroom pool villa, 5 mins from Laguna. 600sqm plot in peaceful location. Finished to a very high specification. Must see. Selling price: 12.9 million baht. Tel: 084-994 9303. Email: phuketpoolvilla.info@gmail.com

SUPERB
CONTEMPORARY
VILLA

5 bedrooms. Between Boat Lagoon & BIS. 120sqm swimming pool, fully furnished. 26 million baht. Tel: 082-276 4314, 082-276 4318. Email: caronitk@hotmail.fr See our website www.phuketfinder.com

CHALONG - PREMIUM
LAND

For sale. Great investment! 3.6 rai (9 million baht/rai) land plots near Dive Supply. Ready for villa development. Please contact Bow. Tel: 080-529 6928. Email: bow.jariya@gmail.com

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BANGTHONG,
KATHU LAND

for sale. 83sq wah, Chanote. Close to Tesco (5 minutes). Price: 2.3 million baht. Tel: 081-956 6457, 089-646 4786.

SALE: LAND AT
NAI YANG BEACH

3 plots: 400sqm each. 5 mins from the beach. Chanote title. 2.6 million baht per plot. Contact Khun Nan. Tel: 087-091 8331. Email: chiangmaibeltrade@hotmail.com

PRIVATE SALE OF
HALF A RAI

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

30 RAI IN TOWN

Flat land near Dowroong School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

VILLA FOR SALE

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool, land 1 rai, Nai Ham. Price: 14.5 million baht. Contact Shanna. Tel: 088-443 8704.

LAND AT
CHERNG TALAY

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

VILLA FOR SALE



3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool. Land 1 rai at Nai Ham. Price: 14.5 million baht. Contact Shanna. Tel: 088-443 8704.

BEAUTIFUL LAND
NEAR BEACH

3 rai 40sq wah in Nai Yang. 6 million baht per rai. Contact Khun Nan. Tel: 087-091 8331. Email: chiangmaibeltrade@hotmail.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

3-BEDROOM HOUSE

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

FULLY FURNISHED
HOUSE SALE

Chao Fah Garden Home 3 in Koh Kaew near BIS, 10 mins to Lotus. 2 beds, 2 baths, 2 aircons. Nice living & kitchen room, car park, fully furnished. Ready to move in. 2.85 million baht near Boat Lagoon. Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

LUXURY APARTMENT

In Kamala, 64sqm, freehold, full resort, facilities. 3 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 083-982 9105.

NEW BUILDING
IN PATONG

6-storey building on Phang Muang Rd. 200m to Jungceylon, 8 bedrooms, 9 bathrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 081-569 6984, 085-692 4949. Email: exit_1969@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE
IN KOH KAEW

Opposite Boat Lagoon, near BIS. 59.4sq wah, 2 floors, 3 bed, 4 bath, telephone, internet, pool, main road. Price: 3.6 million baht. Tel: 081-958 0373.

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Contact Yupin Sidler at Tel: 081-817 4805, 080-890 5187.
Email: residler@gmail.com



3.5 RAI BEACH FRONT LAND

in east Mai Khao. Perfect for villa development, 12 million baht per rai. Contact Bow. Tel: 080-529 6928. Email: bow.jariya@gmail.com

CHALONG HOUSE

New 2-bedroom house for sale. Detached, close to sea, large walled garden. Price: 2.2 million baht. Tel: 089-817 4864.

LAND SEAVIEW FOR SALE



Koh Yor, Songkhla. 3 ngan 14sq wah. 3.7 million baht. Tel: 087-399 6216 (Thai)

RAWAI PRIVATE VILLAS

Comfortable and safe one-storey houses just 500m from Rawai Beach. 174sqm, 3 bedrooms, large living room with dining and kitchen area, parking, swimming pool and sala. Tel: 085-575 3300 (English), 086-574 2815 (Thai). Fax: 076-281399. Email: andrey@phuket9.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket9.com

2 BUILDINGS IN PATONG

4 storey building on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd. 12 bedrooms, 14 bathrooms. Fully furnished and in business area. Tel: 081-569 6984, 085-692 4949. Email: exit_1969@yahoo.com

POOL VILLA RAWAI

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, 80% finance, 0% interest, 20% deposit. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

VILLA ON 1 RAI

In Nai Harn, private, quiet. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool. Must see. Price: 12.5 million baht. Tel: 087-209 5174.

50SQM STUDIO

with kitchen and sea view in Patong. Sold freehold for only 2.49 million baht. Tel: 080-5199777 (English), 080-699 0993 (Thai). For more info go to: zarpazorealestate.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=244

HOUSE IN KHAO LAK



Bang Lud, 2 beautiful 3-bedroom villas and 3-bay carport and storage. Set on 5 rai including 1 rai lagoon. Lovely view. Located in quiet Western-style village with restaurants and shops. Beach only 10 mins' walk. Investment opportunity and/or development. Price: 8.7 million baht. Owner returning to UK. Contact Andy for more info. Tel: 001-44-7715394550. Email: as.ac@hotmail.co.uk

NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO



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

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE



Furniture, aircon, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Behind Phuket Wittayalai School. Price: 2.4 million baht. Tel: 081-397 2620.

HOUSE IN KAMALA



For sale. 2 houses on land. 1 ngan 89sq wah. Chanote title, near mountain, peaceful and safe, 10 minutes from the beach. 7.5 million baht direct from owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

SALE / RENT CONDO RAWAI

Quiet area, nice and clean, 300m from the beach. Tel: 080-078 0931 (Thai). Email: rawareservation@yahoo.com

PATONG 2-BED CONDO FOR SALE

Spacious 98sqm. 2-bed, 1-bath condo for sale. 2 years old. Fully furnished. 7.9 million baht. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

BEST LUXURY VILLA



In Nai Harn. Great location close to beach. 3 stunning bedrooms. All with indoor/outdoor bathrooms. This villa has the lot: pool, jacuzzi, ducted aircon, high ceilings. Best quality furniture and fittings, European kitchen, laundry, electric gate. The list is endless. 16.5 million baht. Can't find better. Tel: 082-281 3422. Email: cjasr_import@yahoo.com.au

LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



Pa Khlok. 1 rai 13.6sq wah with Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd. 11 km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 3.8 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

850SQM PLOT, 1.5 MILLION BAHT

Nice land plot located in a quiet estate development with underground electricity and security next to Mission Hills Golf Course. For sale: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 081-343 0777.

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Thai-Balinese style with L-shaped design. 2 garden view bedrooms with open-plan living and modern kitchen, 2 en-suite bathrooms. Located near BIS. Premium quality. Land size 144sqm. Price from 3.7 million baht. Tel: 084-293 7923, 080-648 9622 (English). Must visit us: www.phuket-aurasia.com

OCEAN VIEW LAND BANG TAO



Luxury hillside project, over 1,000sqm. Price: 5.5 million baht. Next to river w/waterfall. Road, utilities. Tel: 084-445 8880 (English). Email: philipagordon@yahoo.com

TWIN VILLAS AT NAI YANG



Only 600 meters from beautiful Nai Yang Beach, this modern pool villa is perfectly located. Featuring a chic, clean-cut design coupled with a choice selection of quality materials and furniture, this villa is a promising investment for holiday seekers and permanent residents. Price: 10.2 million baht. Contact Khun Penprapa. Tel: 087-898 9646. Email: penprapa2526@gmail.com

BAAN SAIYUAN VILLA



Detached house in Rawai 98sqm, 3 bedrooms. Price: 9.5 million baht. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

FREEHOLD STUDIO PATONG

28sqm freehold studio. New renovated bathroom. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 087-268 0680 (English). Email: mattias@phuketdreamliving.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketdreamliving.com/

SURIN BEACH: HOUSE & GARDEN

3 bedrooms, 2 toilets, fully fenced c/w large garden. Outdoor kitchen and living area. Tel: 075-664600, 086-941 0410 (English & Thai). Email: here@fastmail.fm Please see website & link to photos at www.see.rental.here.fastmail.fm/

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STUNNING VIEW HILLSIDE LAND

B1	B2	B3	B4
A1	A2	A3	

6 plots at Nai Yang Beach, Chanote title. 350sqm each. 2.5 million baht per plot. 5 mins from the beach. Has inside road, water access, wall. Plot A1 is luxury villa for sale. 9.9 million baht. Contact Khun Nan. Tel: 087-091 8331. Email: chiangmaibeltrade@hotmail.com

NEAR BIS

6 bedrooms, 600sqm/1,000 sqm. 14m pool, fully fitted, kitchen, maid QTR. Price: 20 million baht. Tel: 084-185 4746. Email: idwian@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

2.5 floors, 5 mins to town, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Good for stay! 2.85 million baht. Tel: 083-506 9155. Email: sumitra.saetan@gmail.com

LUXURY APARTMENT PATTAYA

Top location Jomtien, fully furnished 36sqm, sea view, private access to the beach, parking, 24-hour security, quiet. 1.8 million baht. Tel: 087-066 8669. Email: joe_anusara@yahoo.com

AMAZING VALUE LUXURY VILLA

In Thalang, close to PIA/Thanyapura and new Tesco Lotus. 5 bed, 4 bath, 17m pool, 1,890sqm land. Owner wants quick sale hence below market price of 23 million baht. Excellent investment. Tel: 076-338320, 081-272 7556, 086-694 3033. Fax: 076-338320. Email: thegarden.kptphuket@uk2.net For details please see our website: www.thegarden.kptphuket.com/

Property Classifieds

Properties For Rent

NICE HOUSE IN THALANG TOWN

fully furnished, 2 bed, 2 bath, aircon, cable TV, full kitchen. Good location in town. 5 min to Tesco Lotus. 15 min to the airport, near Laguna area. Can negotiate for one-year contract. Please call to Wa. Tel: 089-874 2960.

PATONG, FOR RENT

Hillside location, complete sea view, swimming pool. 200sqm house, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, huge lounge, aircon, UBC, carpark. 40,000-50,000 baht per month. Contact Mike. Tel: 087-268 1170. For further details, please see our website at www.luxuryhouses.phuket.com

LAND FOR RENT OR SALE

Near Mission Hills. 4.5 rai with bungalow. Tel: 083-649 1218.

KATA HILL HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, aircon, living, dining, kitchen, car park, internet and Cable TV. 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827. Email: nij017@hotmail.com

4-BED VILLA FOR RENT

Fully furnished, Great location, 10 mins to Central, Int schools, Golf courses. Available Jan 20. Min 1 year. 75,000 baht/month, owner pays common area, pool, gardening. Tel: 076-321738, 083-967 5777 (English & Thai), 083-967 5888 (English). Fax: 076-321738. Email: jenjira5@hotmail.com

NORTH OF THALANG, NEAR PIA

New 3-bedroom home in secure estate, fully furnished. 15,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-892 6340 (English & Thai). Email: garry.kirkland@vacationclub.com

STUDIO FOR RENT

In Phuket Town, fully furnished, kitchen, aircon, TV. Near Dowroong School. 5 mins to Central, Big C. Rent: 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-719 7015.

HOUSE FOR LONG-TERM RENT

In Cherng Talay. Single house, 240sqm, with furniture, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big living room and parking for 2 cars. Located at "The Valley 2", not far from the Laguna area. Rent at 22,000 baht per month. Interested? Please call for more details or to view. Tel: 089-009 1006, 081-568 1120.

NAI YANG HOUSE FOR RENT

Quiet, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, aircon, satellite TV. Only 500m to Nai Yang Beach and 2km to airport. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-667 1844 (English & Thai). Email: slarti@onthenet.com.au



houseinphuket.com

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

THAI STYLE HOUSE & POOL

fully furnished, 2 storeys, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, aircon, living, dining, car park, garden, Internet & cable TV, 60,000 baht/month. Tel: 089-725 0779 (English & Thai). Email: bitong1@yahoo.com

KAMALA APARTMENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, cable TV, WiFi. 10 minutes to beach. 30,000 baht per 1 month. 50,000 baht per 2 months. Start from Jan 1. Tel: 084-716 0502.

SEAFRONT HOUSE 22,000 BAHT

50% off our regular price of 45,000 baht. 50% is for one year rent paid in advance. No weekly or monthly rentals. 55 and older wanted. Newer 2 and 3-bedroom seafont furnished houses, 180sqm. Starting price: 22,000 baht. Tel: 089-591 0840. Email: remote kan@yahoo.com

LAND 2.3 RAI AND 4 HOUSES



For rent by owner at Bang Tao Phuket. Price: 2 million baht/year net. Tel: 089-288 3047.

30,000 BAHT MONTHLY RENT



Thai Dream Villa guesthouse. 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, furnished, kitchen, living room, laundry, garden, 2 terraces, WiFi, cable TV, 2 motorbikes. Good profit. 300m from Rawai Pier. Warranty 50,000 baht. Low key money. Available February 1. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.thai-dreamvilla.com

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.

KATA SEAVIEW WESTERN APART



1-bedroom, great sea view, penthouse, 100sqm, with huge terrace, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, ground floor 115sqm with 60sqm covered terrace. Sat TV, Internet, fully furnished, fitted kitchen, parking. Tel: 084-840 1262. Email: north8east98@yahoo.com

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Stylish serviced apartments. Studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Rooftop pool, Free WiFi. Also beachfront condo available. Tel: 081-892 0038. For further details, please see our website at www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

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Furnished studio with 42" TV, kitchenette, aircon., cable, WiFi, parking. Long term rent 24,000 baht/month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

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1 & 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, longterm, near Chalong Circle. Tel: 089-475 1200 (English & Thai). Email: info@welcome-inn.com For further details, please see our website at www.welcome-inn.com

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Fully furnished, bed, bath, kitchen, living. Good area. 7,500 baht per month. Tel: 081-541 9734. Email: Chavej432010@hotmail.com

KATA SEA VIEW VILLA

Top location, 3 bedrooms, Rooftop spa, 17m pool. Immaculate. Available now long/shortterm. Tel: 083-182 2170. Email: i.charles69@yahoo.com

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On Thepkasattri Rd. Near Super Cheap. 150sq wah. Long-term rent: 150,000 baht per month ono. Lease 5 million baht. Tel: 089-646 4786, 081-471 9331, 081-535 1208.

BALINESE POOL VILLAS

Luxury boutique villas available for short or long-term rent. Swimming pool, two or three bedrooms. Rates from US\$89 per night. Tel: 076-384691, 087-264 9695. Email: enrico@easyhomephuket.com For further details, please see our website at: <http://villasuksan.com/gallery.htm>

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For rent, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, swimming pool, car park, very secure. Contact Khun So (owner). Tel: 081-344 4473, 081-862 2962.

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1-2 bedroom, furnished house, beautiful garden. Chalong area. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311.

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Rawai pool guesthouse, 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, furnished, kitchen, laundry, covered parking, WiFi, cable TV, 2 motorbikes. Good profit. 300m from Rawai Pier. Warranty 50,000 baht. Low key money. Available now. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.thaidreamvilla.com



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Holiday rentals - 4 bedrooms with super sea view. Available Jan 8-19, 2012. 20,000 baht daily or sell at 23 million baht. Tel: 086-982 2888 (English & Thai). Email: prim_purdue@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0QYoy73_X8

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In Phuket Town. 20,000 baht/month. Surface: 45sq wah (180sqm).

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Call 081-868 7676 or 089-868 2268 for more information or house inspection.

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Hotel, bar, pool. 9 bedrooms, 9 bathrooms, furnished, kitchen, lobby, laundry, garden, WiFi, cable TV, 2 motorbikes. Good profit. 100m from Rawai Pier. Warranty 100,000 baht. Low key money. Available February 17. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.thai-dreamvilla.com

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New townhouse for rent. Near BIS and Boat Lagoon.

- 88sqm of luxury living
- 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms
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Position : Assistant Resort Manager
We are seeking an adventurous, motivated and experienced person to join us to work on the beautiful remote Island called Koh Pra Thong for the period of October through April.

Responsibilities:
Assisting Resort Manager in daily resort operation but mainly responsible for all administrative functions such as handling daily bills for the resort, bookkeeping, vendor payments, correspondence, and maintaining accurate reservation records.

Requirements:
1. Male or Female - Aged 28 years and up
2. B.A Degree
3. Good spoken and written English and Thai.
4. Good literacy with Microsoft Office
5. Pleasant personality, service-oriented and good problem-solving skills
6. Prefer Hotel/Travel or customer service-related experience.
7. Experience with billing and knowledge of PayPal system is an advantage

Interested candidate please send resume, a recent photo and expected salary to Khun Pissa Tipsombut Email: pena@goldenbuddharesort.com
www.goldenbuddharesort.com

Pinetree Development Services

We are principally engaged in the development and management of a large-scale mixed property development project in Phang-nga, Thailand. The site, located within the Thai Muang district, is planned to develop as an all-season resort with high-end residential real estate, hotels and other facilities. To achieve this aim, we invite high-caliber professional individuals to join our site team based in Thai Muang (30km north of Phuket).

(1) Assistant Accountant (Ref No. P01/11)
Prepare monthly account, AP, GL and bank reconciliations, liaise with Revenue Department on tax matters, review accounting documents and make appropriate accounting entries.
• Degree holder in accounting with 3 years' accounting/auditing experience
• Construction accounting experience will be a definite advantage
• Excellent command of spoken and written Thai with good spoken and written English
• Well versed with Microsoft office applications

(2) Accountant (Ref No. P02/11)
Prepare monthly account, financial statements and reports, handle tax matters, check and verify accounting entries and other ad-hoc accounting duties.
• Degree holder in accounting with 5 years' accounting/auditing experience
• Construction accounting experience will be a definite advantage
• Excellent command of spoken and written Thai with good spoken and written English
• Well versed with Microsoft office applications and accounting software

(3) Document Control Officer (Ref No. P03/11)
Responsible for documentation administration and records management of the project, manage and supervise the organization of a significant project document control system and software.
• Tertiary qualified with solid experience related to administration and records
• Good computer literacy, some programming experience is an advantage
• Detail-minded and with fluency in both written and spoken Thai and English

(4) Legal and Company Secretarial Officer (Ref No. P04/11)
Assist Legal Department and Company Secretarial Department on enforcement of corporate compliance issues, assist in simple translation work and ensuring proper and timely delivery and sign off on important documents from headquarters.
• Degree holder in Law with at least 3 years' relevant experience
• Experience in handling company secretarial documents and legal documents
• Experience in handling translation between English and Thai
• Excellent command of spoken and written Thai with good spoken and written English

(5) Planning Officer (Ref No. P05/11)
Assist in preparation of planning submissions and building permits' documentation, prepare strategic programmes like design, procurement and construction schedules, review site progress reports, monitor and review development schedule trends and reporting delays, and recommend corrective action.
• Degree holder in Civil Engineering with at least 5 years' relevant experience
• Knowledge of full project lifecycle incl. design and procurement and planning software
• Experience in handling translation between English and Thai
• Excellent command of spoken and written Thai with good spoken and written English

We offer attractive remuneration package and fringe benefits to the right candidate. If you have the ambition to create an exciting and rewarding career, please send us a cover letter highlighting your expertise and strength together with your detailed resume and expected salary immediately via email to recruitment@pcpd.com.

RECEPTIONIST
Hotel in Patong requires female receptionist with good English skills. 2 days off per week. Tel: 081-892 1621.

LOOKING FOR NANNY
Starting from Dec 23 to Jan 14. Must be fluent in English. Please send email to: bharti.schneider@gmail.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

International company is looking for a Personal Assistant to one of its top managers. Key responsibilities:

- Remote management of the tasks and appointments
- Type and dispatch all correspondence
- Supporting director to manage workflow and output
- Establish and maintain efficient management of liaisons with relevant individuals, external organizations, etc, locally and abroad

– Arrange and co-ordinate meetings and business trips, visa and travel

– Support our overseas partners

– Guest relations: arrangement and coordination

– Travel arrangements, booking hotels, flight tickets, driver coordination, etc

– Any other duties as requested by the director

Requirements:

- Female, 26-30 years old
- University degree
- Fluent British English and Fluent French

– Proven experience of administrative work

– Advanced PC user

– Experience of working within an international environment, international organization, NGO and/or private sector multinational

– Experience of dealing with different time zones

– Excellent organizational skills

– Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written

– Proven ability to work under time pressure

– Well presented, with bright, confident personality

– Flexible and mature approach with ability to work unsupervised.

Please send CV to: peter.mkey@me.com

FEMALE STAFF WANTED

Shop helper for Khao Lak base shop. Salary with accommodation included. Tel: 076-344814.

HOTEL MANAGER

Experienced hotel manager required for 16 room hotel with bar and cafe. Manager duties: marketing, keeping accounts, online bookings, overseeing operations. The successful manager must also implement procedures so the hotel runs smoothly. Salary to start at 25,000 baht, then will increase on performance basis. Tel: 085-921 5134. Email: terry.oz@me.com For further details, please see our website: www.lemongrasspatong.com

STAFF NEEDED

Phuket Cable Ski Park. Looking for staff. Thai nationals only.

- Waitresses
- Cooks
- Barmen
- Cashier
- Machine Operators
- Thai manager (with good English)

Please contact Noinoi. Tel: 086-477 1485.

MAID/COOK FOR A HOLIDAY VILLA

English speaking maid who can also cook Thai food needed for a vacation villa in Kalim. Good salary and room available if required. Start immediately. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

JOB WITH A SEA VIEW

Office Admin - Secretary (Thai) needed for property sales office in Naithon. Fluent in English and Thai (speaking, writing, computer skills, email, Internet) required. Tel: 084-840 7624 (English). Email: sales@vistadelmarphuket.com

RESTAURANT MANAGER

Modern and fancy wine bar and restaurant is looking for an experienced manager. If you are good team leader, if you are an extroverted person and you love the permanent contact with customers, then you might be the right person to love this job and fulfill our expectations. This job comes with a good salary and nice accommodation if required. Tel: 075-662099, 089-873 0201 (English), 081-978 0602 (Thai). Email: andy@chilloutkrabi.com For further details, please see our website: www.chilloutkrabi.com

DANISH STAFF

Danish-speaking female, 20-30 years old. Send CV & photo to: rainforestjob@gmail.com

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Experienced, loving and caring nanny. Working for a happy nice expat family. Good salary with benefits.

Tel: 088-760 6922.

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NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

Chalong kindergarten is looking for experienced teacher for class of 10-12 children ages 3-7. Mon-Fri 8-4. Start January 4. Tel: 080-624 7060. Please send resume to: phuketpreschool@yahoo.com

SALES MANAGER AND SECRETARY

Sunrise Ocean Villas located at Ao Por is looking for motivated staff: female, 23-35 years old. Must speak English, with good computer skills. Salary, bonus and commission. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE HEAD CHEF

Medium-size hotel in Patong is looking for an experienced Executive Chef. The successful applicant should have at least 5 years' experience, speak good English and be familiar with high-end quality catering, including weddings, parties and boat catering. The position entails the management of two hotel-size kitchens and the staff therein. The applicant should be highly motivated, organized and punctual. This position is perfect for a self-starter who enjoys being part of a dynamic and successful team. Remuneration is negotiable. Applications to be submitted to: phuketgolfer@gmail.com

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- ▶ 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

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- The ideal candidate must have a good command of English, be currently or has previously worked in the field of real estate marketing and have strong background in high-end real estate marketing.
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Position: Office Administrator & Marketing Executive
Summary Responsibilities:

- ❖ Assisting Manager in executing a wide variety of details that involve the direct mail, email broadcast campaigns, outbound calls, marketing trade shows and events, public relations, other marketing plans. Interfacing with counterparts and building up relationship with marketing suppliers, agents and customers.
 - ❖ Attending tradeshows, company sponsored promotions and events.
 - ❖ Preparing standardize presentations, charter proposals, agreements, and other documentation when needed. Handle booking of charters, and ensuring the customers will be satisfied with the luxury Windy boats and service.
 - ❖ Manage petty cash and ensure accurate, timely and cost-sheet for charter and boat management. Perform a series of secretarial functions for the Manager.
- Salary: Negotiable + intensive + allowances

Bachelor degree in related field, a background within the marketing field will be an advantage. Good command of English language both speaking and writing and computer skills. Good communication skills, out-going personality, self-motivated, and capable to work without close supervision.

Contact khun Bow: jariya.sungdong@windyboats.asia
Mobile: 080-529 6928



Secure Wealth Management Portfolio Analyst (full time)

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Remuneration: thb 30k - 35k / month + annual bonus

Working Place: Office in Phuket Boat Lagoon

Applicants must:

- ▶ be female and of Thai nationality;
- ▶ speak and write excellent English;
- ▶ have a university degree in finance or business;
- ▶ have a minimum of three years' experience in finance or business;
- ▶ have strong PC skills, in particular MS Excel;

The role consists of:

- ▶ investment portfolio performance analysis and reporting;
- ▶ investment product analysis and new product research;
- ▶ regular client contact, including new client account opening and ongoing account administration;
- ▶ liaison with our trading platforms and banking partners.

Please send your curriculum vitae to:
Jaruan Naksalab, assistant to Managing Director:
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Operations / reservations officer

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- Computer, Internet, E-mail and MS Office literate essential
- Self-organized and willing to accept the challenge of a very demanding position.
- Articulate with good interpersonal skills to work in a team.
- Able to work under pressure, tight deadlines and flexible work hours

The remuneration package will be commensurate with the successful candidate's qualifications and experience. Interested applicants should send their curriculum vitae indicating their work experience, present and expected salary with a recent photograph to:

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7/3 moo 2, Soi Parlai 83130 Phuket
Tel: 076-282906 Fax: 076-282867 Mobile: 081-893 9925
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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

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Send resume with recent photo to:
manit.pimparien@lemeridien.com

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High traffic location, open for business, complete with pool table, sound system and bar stock. 250K key money plus 18K monthly. Tel: 085-475 3312 (English), 084-063 4213 (Thai). Email: jimmylogs@hotmail.com

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Make a profit of 40,000 pm and enjoy free accommodation. Busy little laundry business in Patong. Easy to run with 3 staff. Price 590,000 baht or offer. Tel: 087-267 9280 (English), 081-077 2989 (Thai). Email: philsk@ihug.co.nz

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Traditional Thai massage business includes beauty salon and separate bar. Close to Central Patong. Tel: 084-625 8405.

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Hotel, bar, pool. 9 bedrooms, 9 bathrooms, furnished, kitchen, lobby, laundry, garden, WiFi, cable TV, 2 motorbikes. Good profit. 100m from Rawai Pier. Warranty 100,000 baht. Low key money. Available 17 February 2012. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.thaiddreamvilla.com

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SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:

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15	T	Y	P	H	O	O	N	16	O	L	E	A	N	N	A
17	T	R	O	O	P	E	R	18	P	O	E	T	E	S	S
19	E	E	S					20	W	I	L	E			
								21							
								22	V	E	S	T	A		
								23	P	I	E	C	E		
								24							
26	S	P	R	A	G			28	O	A	S	T	S		
34	A	R	E	T	O			36	R	H	O				
38	V	E	D	E	T	T	E	40	U	V	E	I	T	I	S
42	O	L	I	N				44	T	I	S				
46	R	L	S					48	V	E	S	T	S		
								50	C	H	E	R			
								52	U	T	T	E	R		
54	A	L	O	O	N			56	O	B	O	E			
60	B	O	U	R	D	O	N	62	R	E	P	L	E	T	E
65	B	A	N	D	O	R	E	68	E	N	L	I	V	E	N
67	E	N	T	E	R	E	D	69	D	A	Y	T	I	M	E

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International Sport

Manchester battle for top dog

MANCHESTER City manager Roberto Mancini believes his club could finally break their Premiership duck, taking into account they only have to face their closest challengers at the Etihad Stadium.

City have beaten all visitors at home so far this season, including an entertaining win over Arsenal 1-0 last Sunday. Of course any loss by the Gunners is immediately followed with Arsene Wenger bemoaning decisions by match officials. However, a disallowed Van Persie effort ruled off-side warranted his latest outburst.

Wenger added that they will try to win the league, but a twelve point deficit does not bode well. In truth, his concerns lie more in securing fourth place to qualify for Champions League football next

season which is by no means guaranteed with anyone of seven teams vying for top honors.

A packed Christmas fixture list will keep fans glued to the TV with Sir Alex Ferguson desperately wanting to be top of the pile on New Year's Day. Only two points separate City and Man Utd making Ferguson's wish list possible with the added incentive that in recent years the top team more often takes the title come May.

Snow may not be the only disrupting factor to the festive fixtures. Trade union ASLEF may strike on Boxing Day and with no London underground trains operating both Arsenal and Chelsea's home matches may be postponed by 24 hours.

— *Phuket Gazette*



ITALIAN JOB OR SCOTS CLAN: Manchester rivals Mancini and Ferguson are hoping their respective teams will top the Premiership going into 2012. Photo:AFP

Sport briefs...

NFL: The Green Bay Packers finally lost in the NFL going down 14-19 to the Kansas City Chiefs, though have already won their division, and a play-off place along with six other franchises.

FOOTBALL: Liverpool's Luis Suarez has been handed an eight match ban and a 40,000 fine after being found guilty of hurling racist remarks at Manchester United's French defender, Patrice Evra.

Liverpool are standing by the Uruguayan player and have requested that Evra be investigated for remarks made to Suarez during the same match.

FOOTBALL: Barcelona completed an incredible year winning the Fifa Club World Cup, trouncing Brazilian side, Santos 4-0 in Yokohama.

The Spanish club possess the La Liga title, the Champions League and the Spanish Super Cup.

Quins stun Toulouse

HARLEQUINS, current runaway leaders of the Aviva Rugby Premiership gave themselves a chance of securing a berth in the Heineken Cup knockout stages with an unexpected victory away to group leaders Toulouse.

It was a tense game of rugby with a yielding pitch which required constant repair throughout.

Scores from Mike Brown and Joe Gray put Quins into a 15-3 lead, until Toulouse scored 16 unanswered points which included a Yoann Maestri try scored under the posts. Jean Marc Doussain was in good kicking form with a conversion and two penalties. At 19-15 down it appeared there was no way back for the Londoners.

In desperation Harlequins committed themselves to every tackle, and were prepared to in-



Harlequins celebrate after winning at the Stadium Municipal in Toulouse, southern France. PHOTO: AFP/PASCAL PAVANI

fringe during rucks to slow the constant threat of Toulouse.

Quins substitute winger Tom William, managed to turnover possession and Mick Evans' pinpoint kick was picked up by Mike Brown who scored his second try of the game.

Evans then put the game beyond

doubt with two more penalties, despite Nick Easter being sin-binned 12 minutes from time, and Toulouse's Doussain diving into the corner for his side's second try of the day.

Harlequins director of rugby Conor O'Shea said that the 31-24 away win felt like winning the Heineken Cup final itself.

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE				
TUESDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2011 21:53 UK				
TEAM	P	GD	PTS	
1 Man City	16	35	41	
2 Man Utd	16	23	39	
3 Tottenham	15	13	34	
4 Chelsea	16	15	32	
5 Arsenal	16	7	29	
6 Liverpool	16	7	29	
7 Newcastle	16	2	27	

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES				
MONDAY, 26 DECEMBER 2011 20:00				
Chelsea	VS	Fulham		
Arsenal	VS	Wolves	22:00	
Bolton	VS	Newcastle		
Liverpool	VS	Blackburn		
Man Utd	VS	Wigan		
Sunderland	VS	Everton		
West Brom	VS	Man City		
Stoke	VS	Aston Villa	02:45	
TUESDAY, 27 DECEMBER 2011 00:00				
Swansea	VS	QPR		
Norwich	VS	Tottenham	02:30	
FRIDAY, 30 DECEMBER 2011 02:45				
Liverpool	VS	Newcastle		

The Italian connection: match-fixing scandal

CRISTIANO Doni, former Italy and Atalanta midfielder has been arrested along with 17 others, by Italian prosecutor Roberto Di Martino in connection with match-fixing and betting accusations.

Di Martino claims evidence shows contact with criminal groups organized across the globe, from Eastern Europe, South America to Singapore. One suspect arrested stated that the match-fixing had been occurring for 10 years, Di Martino said.

The investigation follows the Italian Football Federation's disciplinary committee actions who banned several players, including Doni in August this year.

Atalanta matches in Serie B were those looked at, although three Serie A matches involving other clubs at the same time were also examined by the committee's investigation, named "Last Bet".

In a similar scandal Juventus



ARRESTED: Cristiano Doni, former World Cup midfielder. Photo: Ago76

were regulated to the Serie B five years ago, while points penalties were also handed to Lazio, AC Milan, Fiorentina and Reggina for attempting to influence refereeing appointments. — *Phuket Gazette*



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Southern regional rivalry set for Division One next season



IN CONTROL: Pattalung's Kitsada Sakaew with the ball. Photo: Pienglom Phakpan



PITCHED BATTLE: Krabi's Somkit Chamnansin digs in. Photo Apinun Saithong

By Steven Layne

TWO more Southern Thai football teams, Krabi FC and Pattalung FC, will join FC Phuket in Thai Premier League Division One next season, following the conclusion of the 2011 Division 2 Champions League promotion playoffs last weekend.

Another Southern side, Songkhla FC, is also likely to remain in the first division.

At the climax of a thrilling two-month campaign, Krabi's promotion was sealed with a last-minute goal in a do-or-die match last Saturday night against promotion contenders Rayong FC.

In front of a standing-room-only crowd at Krabi Provincial Stadium, the Andaman Eagles' equalizer came only moments after Rayong FC scored the game's first goal – at 89 minutes.

What appeared to be the *coup de grace* came on a perfectly weighted goal line shot from Rayong's Tinnapop Srisatit, whose celebrations concluded with him prostrating himself in front of a sizable contingent of ecstatic supporters in the visiting stands.

Had the score remained 1-0 to

the referee's final whistle, Rayong would have redeemed their failed campaign for promotion last year, while Krabi would have had to start from scratch again next year in the Division 2 southern region league.

However, as fate would dictate, the home crowd's 'silence of defeat', coupled with the visiting stands' roaring victory celebrations, were premature.

But even as scores of grim-faced Krabi fans were filing out to beat traffic, the Eagles mounted an intense and sustained attack. Several corner kicks were finally rewarded, with a goal deflected off the head of Thaweephong Charoenroob and finished off by Ghana import Bernard Linford.

Celebrations in Thailand's South lasted through Sunday, when the Southern league runners up, Pattalung sealed promotion with a 2-0 win over Bangkok region league champs Kasetsart University.

Meanwhile, FC Phuket, unable to get promoted or be relegated from Division 1, drew 2-2 in their match on Saturday in Bangkok against last-placed Thai Honda FC.

Phuket saw leads slip away



BIG LEAGUES: Krabi players ecstatic about promotion. Photos: Apinun Saithong

twice in the first half, during which all the match goals were scored. Poramut Krongborisut drew first blood in the 23rd minute. This was answered 10 minutes later by Thai Honda's Sutin Anukool.

Niran Panthong scored in the 38th minute to put Phuket up 2-1, but Sutin struck again with his second just four minutes later. Despite Thai Honda's desperate efforts, the score remained 2-2 to the end of the match.

With only two matches remaining, the draw was not enough for Thai Honda to escape relegation.

The second team to seal relegation to Division 2 next season was RBAC FC, who suffered a 5-0 pummeling at the cleats of PTT Rayong on Sunday.

The other two relegations spots are undecided, with the likes of Chiangmai FC, Samutprakan Customs United, Bangkok FC, Air Force United, CT Chanthaburi, Suphanburi and JW Rangsit among the sides that could find themselves in Division 2 next season.

In addition to Krabi and Pattalung, Nakhon Ratchasima FC and Ratchaburi FC were also promoted to Division 1. The two

southern teams are scheduled for a Division 2 third-place match at 6pm on Christmas Day, to be held at the neutral Trang Central Sports stadium in Trang Town.

Meanwhile, the Division 2 championship match between the Korat Swat Cats and the Ratchaburi Dragons will be held on Christmas Eve, at 6pm at the Ayutthaya Central Sports Stadium.

While the likes of Buriram FC and Chainat FC will both bid farewell to Division 1 after only a single season – having each clinched early promotion to the elite Sponsor Thai Premier league – the third and final promotion spot is contested by Big Bang Chula United (60 points, two games remaining) PTT Rayong (53 points, three games remaining), and Songkhla FC (48 points, four games remaining).

The BBCU "Pink Panthers" will seal promotion if they win one of

THAI DIVISION ONE LEAGUE TABLE			
WEDNESDAY, 21 DECEMBER 2011 21:00			
TEAM	P	GD	PTS
Buriram FC	31	60	76
Chainat FC	31	30	63
Chula Utd	32	15	60
PTT Rayong	31	24	53
Songkhla FC	30	13	48
Bangkok Utd	31	5	48
FC Phuket	31	4	44
Saraburi FC	31	7	43
Rajpracha FC	30	-11	42
Suphanburi FC	32	-2	38
Airforce Utd	30	-15	38
JW Rangsit FC	31	-10	36
Bangkok FC	30	-10	35
Chanthaburi FC	32	-16	35
Customs Utd	31	-14	32
Chiangmai FC	32	-18	29
Rbac FC	32	-29	25
Thai Honda	32	-33	24

REGIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION 2	
Ratchaburi FC	
Korat FC	
Krabi FC	
Pattalung FC	

their two games – against Buriram and Airforce United.

If Chula United can not win or draw, PTT Rayong will be promoted if it can win each of its three remaining matches, against Bangkok FC, Customs United and Thai Honda – or win two and draw one, considering its superior Goal Difference over Chula.

Songkhla FC have an even thinner margin of hope that would require them winning all four of their remaining matches, against Thai Honda, Rajpracha, Bangkok FC and Customs United, and only hope that both BB Chula United and PTT Rayong do not exceed 60 points while each depreciating in their goal difference ratios.

Such overwhelming odds will likely see the Southern Fighting Bulls remain in Division One next season with Phuket, Krabi and Pattalung along with 14 other teams from around the nation.

At the time of going to press, Phuket was

hosting Suphanburi FC at Surakul Stadium. For results of that match, check the *Phuket Gazette* online.

The Southern Sea Kirin's next match will be on Christmas Day against Air Force United at Surakul Stadium. Kickoff is set for 6pm.

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Sport

Westwood wins at Amata Spring

LEE Westwood claimed the inaugural Thailand Golf Championship and a US\$158,000 prize purse last Sunday at the Amata Spring Country Club in Chonburi.

The 38-year-old from England fired a three-under-par 69 in the final round to defeat South Africa's Charl Schwartzel by seven shots following a four-shot overnight lead.

Westwood's 22-under-par 266 aggregate total, fourth victory of 2011 and 37th career now moves him up to second place on the World Golf Ranking table.

Masters champion Schwartzel narrowed the lead down to three shots on the back nine with an eagle on the 11th hole, but a bogey on 14 ended his challenge as

Westwood cruised home.

A career low of 60 in the opening round and a 64 on the second day matched the Asian Tour's 36-hole record of 20-under-par, but a 73 on day three put paid to any further heroics in the Asian Tour's final tournament of the 2011 season.

"It means a lot. Any win does. It's special this week because of the difficulty of the golf course, and whom I was up against over the weekend. Charl [Schwartzel] is the Masters champion and he's had a great year. Twenty under after two rounds, it's yours to lose really with an 11 shot lead. There was pressure involved," said Westwood.

The way I putted on the back nine was great. It means a lot, gives me a

lot of confidence. I've been working on this for the past four or five weeks and it was time to hole some of these under pressure," he said.

Schwartzel lamented his bogey on 14, but admitted he was up against an inspired opponent.

"I pulled him back to within three shots after 11 holes. It felt pretty good especially against a player like Lee. He made two great birdies on 12 and 13. I had a very bad lie on 14 and made bogey. That was a big swing there. If it wasn't for Lee, I would have probably won the tournament," said the 27-year-old.

Michael Thompson of the United States claimed third place while local Thai star Chawalit Plaphol finished tied fourth to emerge as the



ALL SMILES: Lee Westwood shows off the Thailand Golf Championship trophy at Amata Spring Country Club in Chonburi.

top Asian finisher alongside England's Simon Dyson on 276.

It was a day of drama for the Tour hopefuls with South African Keith Horne securing 61st place on the Order of Merit to claim the final Tour

card for 2012 ahead of Filipino teenager Miguel Tabuena by a mere US\$250. Dutchman Guido Van Der Valk jumped from 83rd to 59th after finishing a creditable sixth with a 73.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Olympic kayak berth a first for Thailand



ROLL WITH IT: Husslein Hermann Ludwig will compete at the London 2012 Olympic Games in the Kayaking event and becomes the 19th Thai athlete to secure an Olympic spot. Photo: hermannhusslein.de

BORN in Germany, canoeist Husslein Hermann Ludwig, is the latest Thai athlete to make the cut for the London Olympics next year.

The 26-year-old finished second in the men's kayak slalom in the recent Asian Canoeing Championships in Sichuan, China, giving the Rowing and Canoeing Association of Thailand (RCAT) their first-ever Olympic berth in kayaking.

"We sent six Thai athletes to the Asian meet, which ended on Monday, but only Ludwig made it

through. The championships served as the Asian Olympic qualification tournament," said Captain Parat Rattanachaiyaphan, the RCAT's assistant general secretary.

"This marks the first time in our history that a Thai kayaker will compete at the Olympics. We plan to send him to England beforehand to prepare.

"The Games organisers have given competitors the green light to sharpen their skills at the venue. By training at the actual competing venue, Ludwig can get acquainted with local conditions.

Last year, he finished fourth in the Guangzhou Asian Games and he now carries the RCAT's medal hopes at the Olympics."

Ludwig, who is training under a Slovenian coach, becomes the 19th Thai athlete to qualify for next year's London Olympics.

He joins one athlete each from archery, athletics and skeet & trap shooting, two swimmers, three each from the boxing and taekwondo associations and seven weightlifters.

— *The Nation*

5th Para Games title for Thailand



THAILAND fell 17 short of their target of 140 gold medals yesterday but underlined their regional supremacy in the 6th Asean Para Games, in Solo, Indonesia.

On the final day of the five-day biennial sports tournament for the disabled, Thailand stretched their domination to a fifth overall title in succession.

Hosts Malaysia captured the overall crown at the inaugural Games in 2001 but since then, Thailand have won every edition

- 2003 in Hanoi, 2005 in Manila, 2008 in Nakhon Ratchasima and 2010 in Kuala Lumpur, where they fought tooth and nail for a huge haul of 157 gold medals.

Along with their 123 golds this year, Thailand collected 96 silver and 73 bronze medals.

More than 1,500 athletes from 11 countries took part in the Games, vying for a total of 422 gold medals and the overall crown.

The Burmese capital of Naypydaw will host the next episode, in 2013. — *The Nation*

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Laguna take top spot after demolition of the Leopards

LAST year's Island Furniture T20 champions Laguna faced the dynamic youth team of the Leopards in the season's sixth match and the final league encounter of 2011 at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) on Sunday.

A convincing victory was needed by Laguna if they were to move to top of the table going into the new year. The Leopards are of course competing for league honors, but their focus is on honing their match play in readiness for the 2012 National Youth Games cricket competition being hosted at the ACG.

Unfortunately, the Leopards' match experience on Sunday was reduced to that of spectator and a lesson in batting. Laguna scored 329 runs from their allocated 40 overs and with that total set a new ground record.

An unbeaten 84 from Andrew Cole was the highlight of a comfortable Laguna innings which was helped by loose bowling from the Leopards that in the end cost 64 wides and 11 no balls.

If the Leopards bowling was costly their batting proved inexpensive to the Laguna bowling attack with the young guns trudging off the pitch, all out after just 10.3 overs.

Matters could have been a lot worse had Laguna not removed their opening bowlers early on with Val Guiraud (2 wickets for 4 runs) and Sami Ullah (5 wickets for 2 runs including a hat-trick), both of whom decimated the Leopards in the opening 4 overs which presented a remarkable scoreboard showing 7 runs for 7 wickets.

The Leopards got off to a flying start after being put into bat by Laguna when AF Uphama dismissed youth team coach and Laguna

opener, Bill Stahmer, with the second ball of the first over from a delightful in-swinging delivery.

Compared to a jubilant Leopards side Laguna were visibly stunned, but opener Damian Clowes (51) playing his first match of the season, took charge and worked a credible half century. Darren Shaw (39), who replaced Stahmer, and Clowes went on to post a solid 122 run partnership backing each other well between the wickets which gave Laguna the base for their record innings.

At the 10 over interval, Laguna were 43 for 1 wicket, but had the Leopards held their catches both Clowes and Shaw could have been back in the pavilion much earlier.

Nineteen overs went by after the first wicket before Clowes was eventually dismissed with the score on 123. Andrew Cole came in at number four and showed his repertoire of strokes by despatching loose deliveries to all sections of the ACG.

Shaw's wicket fell in the 27th over with the score on 168 and Cole was joined by Mario Piazza (42) whose efforts helped provide an 85 run partnership. Piazza and his unorthodox batting style immediately gored into the Leopards bowling attack, slashing for boundaries at every opportunity.

By the third interval, Laguna were 198 runs for 3 wickets and aiming for a total of 250, but Cole had other plans. Within eight overs Cole and a flurry of other batsmen amassed another 100 runs to shoot past the 300 mark with Sami Ullah, also appearing in his first league match of the season, notably chipping in with a quick fire 25 from just 10 balls.

With the last ball of the Leopards innings delivered, Laguna had rocketed to 329 runs for the loss of 7 wickets and new batting record. Pick of the bowlers for the Leopards were AF Uphama (1 for 31 from 8 overs) and TP Suttiprapha (1 for 38 from 8 overs).

Three exhausting hours in the field clearly took its toll on the Leopards, reflected by opener and



TITLE HOPES: Man of the match Andrew Cole and Laguna Captain Sameer Kahn pose with Mr Alan Cooke.



Cole clubs another boundary.



Clowes playing a cover drive.



Good spirits after the game.

captain, PM Suriya being clean bowled by Laguna's 16-year-old speed demon, Valentine Guiraud, in the first over.

Sami Ullah supported Guiraud from the opposite end and trapped opener, TM Suttiprapha lbw and then demolished the stumps of PA Mahthong to compound the Leopards collective misery and fatigue.

Guiraud continued his onslaught of accuracy and pace in the third over by clean bowling AB Kaewliporn, but it was the fourth over that proved utterly calamitous for the Leopards. Ullah spared not an ounce of reserve and decimated the Leopards middle order. By the end of the over, wickets taken had matched runs scored at 7 for 7 which also included a hat-trick and no runs scored off the bat.

Umpiring official, John King, had his Sunday lounge turn into a work-out, having to update the scoreboard

with the continuous loss of wickets.

Mercy was shown by Laguna captain, Sameer Kahn with the introduction of leg-spinner, Darren Shaw in the fifth over.

With the opening speedsters removed from the bowling attack, the Leopards managed to push the score along and were 9 wickets down for 38 runs at the completion of 10 overs. Batsman "First" (8) came in last for the Leopards, but with their fate already sealed they could only add one run before finally yielding at 39 runs all out after 10.3 overs. Laguna's best bowlers were Sami Ullah (5 wick-

ets for 2 runs) and Valentine Guiraud (2 wickets for 4 runs).

Man of the match was Andrew Cole, with Sami Ullah claiming second spot and Damian Clowes taking third.

The comprehensive win puts Laguna on top of the league table with the Village, each having 12 points.

Liquid Lounge Lizards take on Island Cricket Club on January 8, 2012. For those who still can't get enough, a boxing day (26 December) match at the ACG sees the Northern Hemisphere XI take on the Southern Hemisphere XI from 10am onwards (see below).

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Fair Play to Brazilian Soccer Schools

The 2012 Fair Play League is ready to kick off



SAMBA BOYS: Last year's successful U8 team with BSS coaches

ORGANIZED by Brazilian Soccer Schools Phuket, The Fair Play League for boys and girls will resume on January 14, 2012 at the British International School (BIS).

Tawan Sea Adventures and The Yorkshire Inn have stepped in as title sponsors which has enabled the registration fee to be set at 500 baht per player for the full eight week duration of the FPL.

Players will receive a full playing kit and the opportunity to play at the best football facilities Phuket has to offer including those at BIS, Youth Football Home, Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club, Quality Schools International and Headstart International



The format will follow an age group and team size set up with Under 11s playing six-a-side and the U14s playing seven-a-side matches. The U11s will have a panel of 11 players per team while the U14s will have a panel of 12 players per team to choose from.

Once registration has concluded, BSS Phuket organizers will select each team to ensure balance and fairness for the games

With an expected increase in numbers for the 2012 FPL, Head Coach of BSS Phuket, Martin Hill, is also appealing for additional coaches and assistant coaches to join his team.

To secure your place in the FPL 2012 or for further information contact bssphuket@icfids.com.

Phuket Lomas rugby talents rewarded



LOMAS PLAYER OF THE YEAR 2011: Jirayut Sarsat receives his award from Mr Alan Cooke MBE and applauded by Mr Pat Cotter.



U16s award Best Forward : Charin Tongkom; U12s award Best Forward : Sivakorn Sedtha (blue shirt); U16s award Best Back : Wallrapong Srihapun (green shirt); U12s award Best Back: Jaruwit Lotongkom (pink shirt); Most improved player 2011 award U16s : Sombut Premhirun (red shirt); Most improved player 2011 award U12s : Jeerasak Khuntep (yellow shirt). Also pictured: (from left to right) Michael Whippy, Ken Somchai, Panom Samoh, Roelien Muller (Director ACF), Alan Cooke (owner ACF), Khun Pon, Khun Yaam and Pat Cotter

LOMAS PLAYER OF THE YEAR in action for Phuket Vagabonds





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